



Q4 2024

NEWSLETTER

[HOME | NFDA \(NFLADRESSAGE.ORG\)](https://www.nfladressage.org)

PLEASE FOLLOW NFDA IN REAL TIME ON FB FOR EVERYTHING UP TO DATE

****In This Newsletter****

Get ready For The 2024 Year End Banquet

2025 Show Calendar

Highlighted Jr. Members past and present Anna Kirkpatrick and Arawynn Walters share their experiences with NFDA.

Scholarship recipients Maria Harrison and Beatrice Davenport let the membership know what was/is being accomplished with the NFDA scholarship funds!

Denise Cox "On The High Seas With Steffen Peters"

Ida Norris Experience Information

As we wrap up 2024 it is always great to reflect on the year past and think about all that was accomplished as well as thinking about new goals for 2025. There is MUCH to celebrate for this great club and all the AMAZING members! We could not and would not be NFDA without our priceless team of volunteers both at the shows, and behind the scenes making the organization THRIVE! Looking forward to another memorable year ahead!!!



It Is That Time Of Year!!!!

Please visit the website to get your tickets for the year end banquet! Join us on January 26, 2025 at Maggiano's in the Town Center 12-3.

[Banquet Tickets! | NFDA](#)

*****Please Renew Your Membership On The Website*****

[Membership | NFDA](#)

And Share The Link/Information !

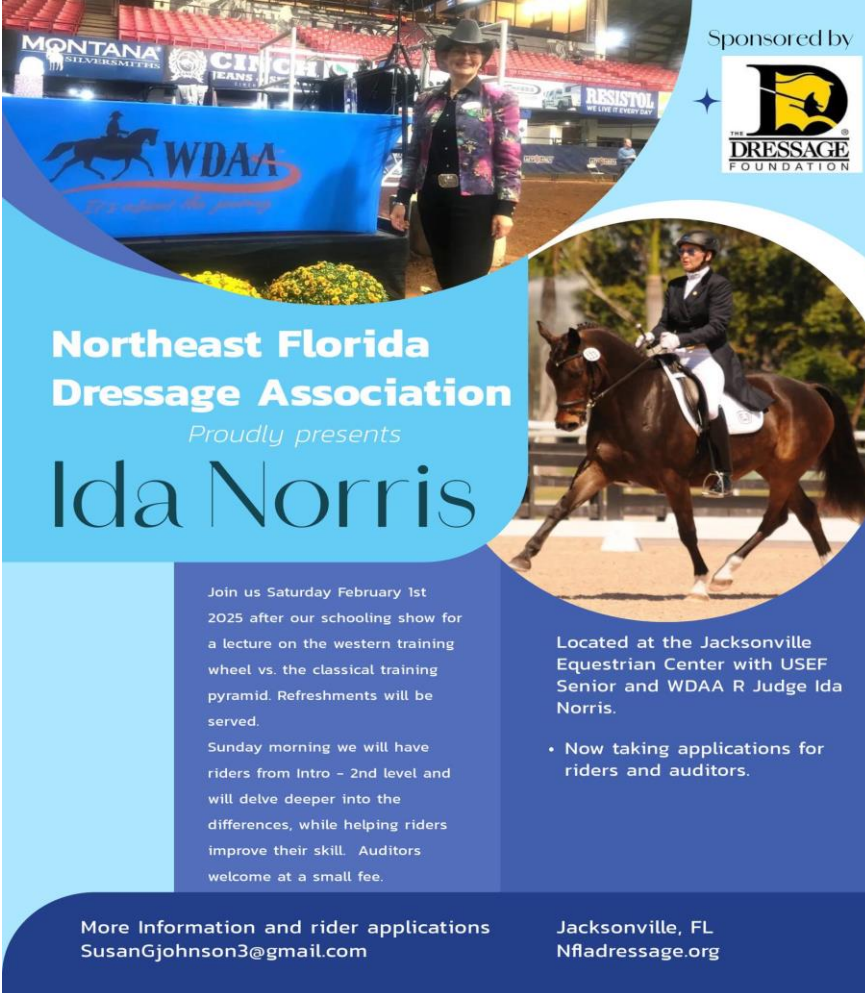
Our club has so much to offer, and we love to see and welcome new faces with both 2 and 4 legs!!!

[*KEEP UP WITH NFDA LIVE ON THE FB PAGE***](#)**

*****IDA NORRIS EXPERIENCE*****

Ida Norris Clinic 02/02/2025 | NFDA

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH THE LINK ABOVE



**Northeast Florida
Dressage Association**
Proudly presents
Ida Norris


Join us Saturday February 1st
2025 after our schooling show for
a lecture on the western training
wheel vs. the classical training
pyramid. Refreshments will be
served.
Sunday morning we will have
riders from Intro - 2nd level and
will delve deeper into the
differences, while helping riders
improve their skill. Auditors
welcome at a small fee.

Located at the Jacksonville
Equestrian Center with USEF
Senior and WDAA R Judge Ida
Norris.

- Now taking applications for
riders and auditors.

More Information and rider applications
SusanGjohnson3@gmail.com

Jacksonville, FL
Nfidressage.org

Sponsored by


Here Comes The 2025 Season!!! We Have Fantastic Judges, Events, Opportunities, and a State-of-the-Art Facility!!! Come Show, Volunteer, Watch, Cheer, and Learn!!! More Events Will Be Added As 2025 Rolls On!

NFDA 2025 Line up

January Year End Banquet - 01/26/25
At Maggiano's St. John 12-3

February 02/01/2025 Charlotte Trentelman "S" & WD R
Ida Norris "S" & WD "R"
02/02/2025 Ida Norris Sunday Clinic

March 03/08/25 and 03/09/2025
Dressage on the First Coast
Recognized English only

April 04/12/2025
Brian MacMahon "S" WD "R"
Silja Knoll WD "r"

May 05/17/2025
Bill Woods USDF R
Lynn Marie Newton WD "R"

August 08/23/2025
Heather Stalker "S" & WD "R"
Megan McGee WD "r"

October 2025
10/11/2025 Double Qualifier Show!
Matt McLaughlin USDF "R"
Michelle Velasco L Grad with Distinction, WD "r"

Nov 2025
Championship 11/15/2025 and Schooling
Show
Judy Downer "S" & WD R
Natalie Lamping "S" & WD R
3rd Judge TBD

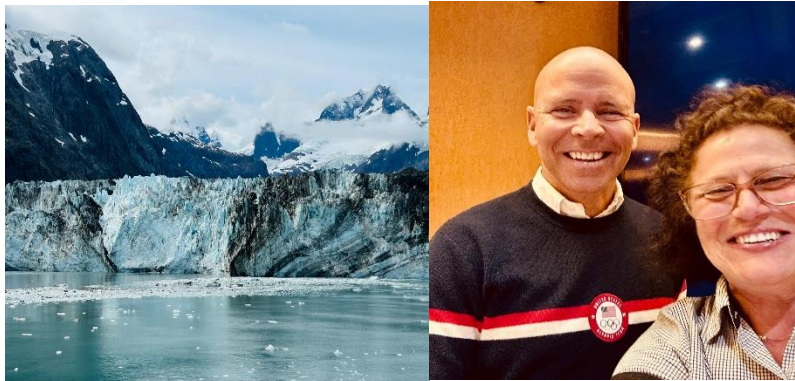
More educational opportunities to be added soon!



LET'S GET THIS
 PARTY
STARTED!

*****Denise Cox Hits the High (and chilly) Seas With Steffen Peters*****

THANK YOU DENISE FOR SHARING THIS WITH US!!!!



I have just returned from the 2024 Sporthorse Cruise to Alaska. One of the speakers was Olympic rider, Steffen Peters. What a privilege to meet this wonderful humble man... I would like to recap some of the information and the talk that I had with him... On our one on one, I asked about being raised in a Horse family... The answer was no, they had a vacation house Where are they road ponies... He and his sister got involved in pony club. His sister didn't continue with it but he did. My question was when did you know dressage was going to be your forte. He said from 1985 when he came to the United States I asked how he got the confidence to ride it higher levels. My own notes are a mess, but I wrote "standard of rideable, staying in front of the leg, horse must have self carriage and you continue to work at it. (I didn't take good notes on that one!). He has a contact in Germany that tells him about good potential mounts... They are usually eight years old or more and at third level at least... He has Talented riders at his farm that will school the horses, but they do not do upper level movements as he has his own buttons for the horse and it would confuse them... he practices one movement at a time, then a walking break another movement then a walking break... He said that is Paramount and keeping the horse fresh and not anticipating upcoming movements the habit or feature that is a no go when looking at horses to purchase is the mouth... The horse must accept the bit and not have tongue moving in and out or trying to get over the bit or very tough mouth... His favorite upper l

level movement is the Piaffe. I asked if he took horses to schooling shows or just does he go to rated shows only he said he may take a horse for exposure and not ride just have them in the warm-up arena, but by the time he gets the horses they have traveled and they have been schooled... His most admired Horseman was Carl Hester. He shares the same love for the animal and puts the welfare of the horse first.

I donated to the club for the NFDA grooming towels for everyone in the group. He was thrilled and asked about one for his groom and his wife. He showed pictures of all the Olympics and his horses. He gets up at 5 to go to the barn, goes to the gym for a workout. His wife is a great cook and he loves her cooking. I asked about riding other elite rider's horses, and he said no. Each rider has their own way of going and at the movements they ask for, there should be no confusion for the horse. I asked if any of the horses have best buddies and companions like sheep that they bring with them. He laughed and said if they travel side by side whether in a plane or trailer, they become best friends and will spend the day calling for each other. He said Mopsie is now at the owner's farm retired but the owner's daughters enjoy riding him. I said you need a tall ladder to get on him at 18.2 hands. Steffen has the greatest respect for his groom, Eddie. He said the venues will now post not only the name of the horse and rider but also include the groom's name. There is not a false pretense about him. I also asked if he had been approached to develop his own lifestyle line of tack with his name. He said he had.

I wanted to add a little more about my talk with Steffen Peters... He said to imagine vaulting in the connection from the line to the horse... It is light. It is not tight, but the contact is there. Imagine pure suppleness. Advice for nerves: "watch your thoughts! The quality of your thoughts affect you riding, your horse and into your own life."

**As ALWAYS All Newsletter Submissions are WELCOME and
APPRECIATED!!!!!!**

kjinusvi@hotmail.com

We appreciate all volunteers in ALL capacities! NFDA doesn't happen without volunteers: [Volunteer | NFDA \(nfladressage.org\)](https://nfladressage.org)



~MEET THE 2025 BOARD MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATE IN A BOARD MEETING~

Please join us in our monthly board meetings via zoom every 3rd Monday at 7pm.

Our board members for 2025:

President: Lynda Overbey

Vice President: Adriana Smith

Treasurer: Kathee Cook

Secretary: Kate Johnson

Members at large: Kirstin Prince, Susan Johnson, Martha Moore, Barbara Cadwell, Beth Gould, and Aurea Thompson.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE MEETINGS, PLEASE EMAIL NFDAPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM TO GET THE ZOOM LINK!

***** Please, encourage others to join our fabulous GMO*****

[Membership | NFDA \(nfladressage.org\)](https://nfladressage.org)

SOME 2024 HIGHLIGHTS ROCKING THE YEAR AT NFDA

Membership goal **100** and celebration

Scholarships awarded each Quarter

(3) Educational Programs : Adrianna Smith, Jean Thornton and Charlotte Trentleman

Century Rider Awarded

Championship NFDA Jackets awarded at Year End Show

******NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOS**

WELCOMED!!! kjinusvi@hotmail.com****

*****VOLUNTEER SHADOW OPPORTUNITIES*****

If you are interested in learning how to Scribe, Score, be a Day Show Manager, or any other positions necessary to execute a successful show but don't have experience, PLEASE seek out a seasoned member, board member, or volunteer and take the opportunity to "shadow" that position. Scribing is NOT scary at all and always proves to be a great learning opportunity! Scoring DOES get you into a "zone" and the numbers make sense! We have a large membership and a very talented group who can help teach those skills which might seem daunting at first but become fun and second nature once you get your feet wet!!

~ HIGHLIGHTED JR MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT~

Anna Kirkpatrick



I joined NFDA while a young rider in college at UNF. My sophomore year at UNF I was determined to form the UNF intercollegiate riding team and I set out to do just that one paper flyer at a time. Not being from the Jacksonville area, I joined NFDA to get to know the dressage community and work to build a network for both the UNF equestrian team and myself. I was welcomed with open arms at NFDA and the club was generous with their time, resources, and even horses when the UNF Dressage Team hosted its first Intercollegiate Dressage Association competition. The thing I loved most about NFDA was if you were willing to devote your time and energy, the community gave back tenfold.

Over 10 years have gone by since my first days at NFDA and despite no longer being in the area, I remain connected to NFDA via the wonderful people I met along the way. In fact, it was my connection to NFDA that bridged my connection with the Tampa bay dressage community when I moved here in 2014. It goes without saying that NFDA was vital to my growth as a young rider and my personal goals within the discipline of dressage but interestingly, my time with NFDA has served me well professionally as I delve into a career that includes practicing equine law. I've been able to connect so many dots in my network that lead back to NFDA. It's one of the most valuable things you can do as a young rider: build a personal and professional network. If you're in the Jax area, there's no greater network for you than NFDA. Stay involved to reap the benefits even 10+ years down the line.

I cherish my time as a NFDA member and board member. I am a better rider, professional, and member of the dressage community because of NFDA's provided opportunities to compete, learn, network, and grow. I am proud to extend NFDA's alumni base to Tampa.

I continue to ride and I am hoping to venture out to local dressage competitions in 2025 with my OTTB mare, "Watchin the Wheels." I also look forward to potentially showing my yearling colt in hand (an opportunity NFDA has afforded many young horses).

To the junior and young riders- embrace the opportunities NFDA provides. There is no time like the present to develop your community while developing your horsemanship.

Happy Riding!

Arawynn Walters



Hi! My name is Arawynn Walters. I was 7 years old when I joined the NFDA. I've been a member for 5 years. Well technically I wasn't a paying member during the 2024 show year but I volunteered for many of the shows. My first show year was 2020. I first started off showing a little red mare named "Miss Little Jill." She was an amazing little Quarter horse who actually earned the Schoolmaster award from the NFDA the one year I showed her. I rode her Intro and Basic level. My second year I started riding a sorrel Quarter horse named DJ. He started having some breathing issues and I was unable to ride him last year. We

competed in Level 1. I was so proud that he earned Highest High Point for his last ribbon. Sadly he passed away in Nov. 2023. He also earned the School master award two years ago. Currently I am riding a sorrel Quarter horse named Duke. We have not competed at any shows yet. We definitely need to work on some things and strengthen our bond before we are ready to compete. My biggest challenge is being afraid to ride new horses I'm unfamiliar with.

The NFDA is such a loving and helpful community. There is always someone to help when you need it. I would love to see more people volunteer, especially to run scores. It always seems like there are never enough score runners. I really enjoy volunteering and getting to meet new people and help throughout the day wherever needed.

If I could give advice to anyone at the shows it would be to not run. I have seen many kids, possibly competitors or maybe siblings, running around the grounds of the equestrian center. If they run past a spooky horse that could end really badly. Please, if you have friends or family that are coming to watch and support you make sure they know not to run around the equestrian center, especially behind a horse and near the show rings.

Anyone who knows me knows that I don't like to wear outfits that match. I love to wear colorful things. I would also like to suggest that the NFDA offers the junior riders more colorful show numbers to make it more fun. Our junior riders are very important because they are the future of the club. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself.

**THANK YOU, JR MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF
NFDA!!!**



***** YEAR END BANQUET TIME *****
SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!

[Banquet Tickets! | NFDA](#)



Show entries are processed and results reported online: [Sign up: Schooling Show | NFDA \(nfladressage.org\)](#)

We appreciate all volunteers in ALL capacities! NFDA doesn't happen without volunteers: [Volunteer | NFDA \(nfladressage.org\)](#)

*****NFDA SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS*****

~BEATRICE DAVENPORT~



Nationals



Regionals

HIPPOLOGY NATIONALS 2024 WAS A BLAST! HUGE THANKS TO THE NFDA FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP THAT HELPED MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ATTEND BOTH NATIONALS AND REGIONALS THIS YEAR. HIPPOLOGY WAS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, WITH INCREDIBLY HARDWORKING CONTESTANTS. HIPPOLOGY CONSISTS OF FOUR PHASES: A TIMED WRITTEN EXAM (150 QUESTIONS), A SLIDES PORTION (50 SLIDES), STATIONS (100 QUESTIONS ON HORSE-RELATED TOPICS), HORSE JUDGING (PLACING FOUR CLASSES OF PERFORMANCE AND HALTER HORSES), AND A TEAM PROBLEM (AN IMPROMPTU PRESENTATION ON A GIVEN SCENARIO). MY INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS WERE: 5TH HIGH INDIVIDUAL OVERALL 4TH HIGH INDIVIDUAL IN WRITTEN TEST 8TH HIGH INDIVIDUAL IN JUDGING IN THE TEAM COMPETITION, WE DID INCREDIBLY WELL: 4TH OVERALL HIGH TEAM 7TH IN THE WRITTEN TEST 5TH IN STATIONS RESERVE HIGH TEAM IN JUDGING CHAMPION TEAM IN THE PROBLEM-SOLVING PHASE AT REGIONALS, IN JULY, MY TEAM AND I HAD GREAT RESULTS. I PLACED 4TH OVERALL, 3RD IN THE WRITTEN TEST, AND 10TH IN STATIONS, AND OUR TEAM EARNED 3RD OVERALL WITH STRONG PLACINGS IN MULTIPLE PHASES. THE KEY TO HIPPOLOGY, ESPECIALLY AT MULTI-STATE COMPETITIONS WITH 50+ CONTESTANTS (OR OVER 200 AT NATIONALS!), IS CONSISTENT STUDYING. PREPARING BY TAKING PRACTICE TESTS, JUDGING CLASSES, AND STUDYING INTENSIVELY IS ESSENTIAL. THE CONTEST COVERS A VAST RANGE OF HORSE-RELATED TOPICS, FROM GENETICS AND REPRODUCTION TO ANATOMY,

EQUIPMENT, DISEASES, BODY SYSTEMS AND MORE. THE NFDA SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWED ME TO INVEST IN A HORSE JUDGING COURSE FROM TEXAS A&M, WHICH GREATLY IMPROVED MY JUDGING SKILLS AND CONTRIBUTED TO OUR RESERVE TEAM RANKING. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE NFDA, AND TO MY 4-H EXTENSION AGENTS, KELSEY IRVINE AND GRACE CARTER FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

WITH GRATITUDE,

BEATRICE DAVENPORT- NFDA YOUTH MEMBER.

~MARIA HARRISON~



REGIONALS 2024'

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR REGIONALS THIS YEAR IN TRAINING LEVEL. PERSEPHONE (PERCY) AND I HAVE HAD A TON OF UPS AND DOWNS DURING OUR DRESSAGE JOURNEY, SHE IS A HIGH STRUNG ENERGETIC RESCUE WHO CAN BE EXTREMELY HARD TO TRAIN, BUT WITH THE HELP FROM MY BRILLIANT TRAINER SUSANNE GRAHAM WE HAVE COME SO FAR THIS YEAR AND GOING TO REGIONALS WAS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG FOR US. OUR GOALS FOR 2024 WERE TO GET OUR RIDERS AWARDS IN TRAINING AND FIRST LEVEL, AND OUR FIRST LEVEL SCORES TOWARDS A FUTURE BRONZE MEDAL WHICH WE ACHIEVED. REGIONALS WASN'T REALLY ON THE WISH LIST TILL I GOT MY FIRST SCORE AT CANTERBURY. GOALS FOR 2025 ARE TO HOPEFULLY GET OUR SCORES FOR RIDERS AWARDS AND USDF BRONZE MEDAL IN SECOND LEVEL, BUT WE HAVE NO RUSH AND DEFINITELY NEED TO TAKE OUR TIME AND LOTS OF LESSONS FROM SUZANNE. REGIONALS WAS SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. PERCY WAS VERY NERVOUS IT'S IN THE INDOOR ARENA, BUT DID WELL IN OUR FIRST TEST IN THE OUTDOOR ARENA WHERE WE GOT A 4TH PLACE. THE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND I WAS THE LAST RIDER OF THE CLASS. PERCY WAS VERY NERVOUS, I WAS CLOSE TO SCRATCHING BUT KNEW IF I DIDN'T GET HER CALMED DOWN AND WORKING THROUGH HER NERVES, IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO GET HER BACK IN AN INDOOR ARENA AGAIN. WE GOT THROUGH THE TEST WITH LOTS OF TENSION, BUT JUST GETTING THROUGH IT WAS A HUGE WIN FOR US BOTH. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE ALL THE OTHER FAMILIAR FACES FROM NFDA AND

EVERYONE HAD SUCH GREAT RIDES. I AM NOT QUITE SURE I'LL TRY FOR REGIONALS AGAIN IN 25' SINCE IT'LL BE IN CONYERS GA, IT'S A FAR DRIVE, BUT IF IT'S BACK AT WEC IN 26' WE'LL DEFINITELY TRY AGAIN. FOR NOW, WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT GETTING READY FOR DRESSAGE ON THE FIRST COAST, AND MY DAUGHTER FREYA WILL RIDE PERCY AT NFDA. THANK YOU SO MUCH NFDA FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP TOWARDS REGIONALS. SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE.

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

[SCHOLARSHIP | NFDA \(NFLADRESSAGE.ORG\)](http://www.NFLADressage.org)

North Florida Dressage Association Scholarship Program



For additional information or questions on
how to apply,

please contact Susan Johnson, NFDA
Scholarship Chair

SusanGJohnson3@gmail.com

Please visit our website for details

<https://www.NFLADressage.org/scholarship>

This program was created to help
open doors for riders to pursue
and achieve their dreams.

DID YOU KNOW...

Monies awarded can be used
toward

- Competitions outside
local shows
- Clinics- either as an
auditor or ride, with
nationally known
clinician
- Educational programs

SPRED THE WORD! APPLY NOW!
Guidelines attached.

******NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOS**

WELCOMED!!! kjinusvi@hotmail.com****

A Region 3 GMO (General Membership Organization) of USDF

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) is the governing body of Dressage in the United States and boasts a national membership of 45,000. Approximately 35% of that membership reside in Region 3, which includes Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Our Mission

The mission of the Northeast Florida Dressage Association is to promote the sport of dressage in our region by organizing clinics, schooling shows, recognized National Dressage Federation Shows, and promote social networking among our members and community at large.

The program of the association is educational and is designed primarily to offer a framework in which individuals can progress with the schooling of themselves and their horses throughout the training spectrum from Introductory to Grand Prix.

