

September 2026

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- Bryanna Cohen on Astro at the 2026 USPC Festival / National Championships at the Kentucky Horse Park.
- Photo Credit: Leslie Potter Photography

GDCTA is a Group Member Organization of USDF



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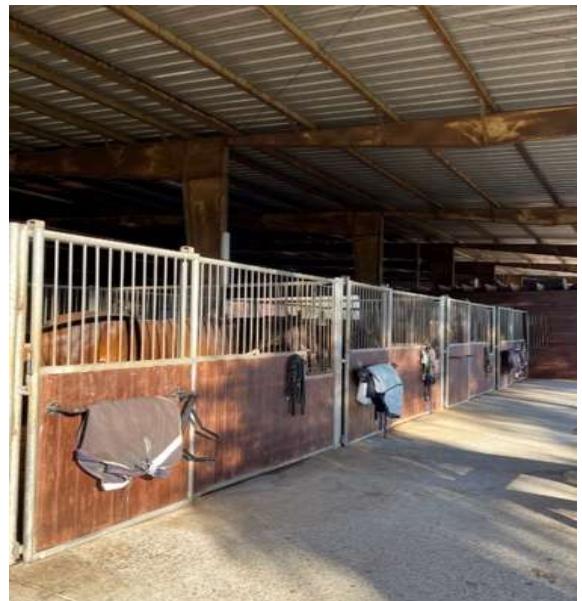
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Bouckaert Farm, in Fairburn, GA, has a few openings for full board. Located 17mi south of downtown Atlanta, Bouckaert Farm boasts 2200 acres of ride out, nearly 100 acres of fenced paddocks, 12 x 12 matted stalls, fly spray system, a 100' x 175' covered ring with microfibre footing, lights, and mirrors, hot and cold wash racks, on site laundry, and climate-controlled tack rooms. Horses are fed Cavalor feed and high quality orchard hay. Bouckaert Farm hosts roughly 35 equestrian competitions annually, so boarders can compete without leaving the property. Board is \$1500/mo., and includes hay, feed, blankets, boots and/or fly kit, and private or small group turnout. Easy hack to competition facility that has 5 large arenas with microfibre footing and a full cross-country course.

Contact: Ric Gray (770) 570-8671; [ricgray@bouckaertfarm.com](mailto:ricgray@bouckaertfarm.com)





# *Dear Members:*

There's a particular kind of magic to dressage season in Georgia once the calendar flips to fall. The humidity finally lets go, the mornings turn crisp (well, cooler anyway), and there's nothing quite like a hack down the trail or a focused school in the ring with that first real breath of cool air. If you've been waiting for the right weather to get back to consistent work with your horse, this is it — enjoy it while it lasts!

This issue is packed with things to keep you learning, riding, and connected all season long. Our Education & Training section digs into the half halt from three different angles — ethology, performance, and classical training — proving there's always a new way to think about even the most familiar concepts. We're also kicking off a six-part series on lateral work, starting with the leg-yield, and celebrating our 2026 Training Grant recipients, who represent the very best of what this organization is about: riders investing in themselves and giving back to the community. Don't miss the recap of Region 3's outstanding showing at the FEI North American Youth Championships, along with results from the Labor Day Classic and Summer Finals Schooling Show.

And now, the big one: the GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships are almost here — October 2-4 at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers. This is always one of the highlights of our year, and it takes an entire community to pull it off. We still have volunteer, vendor, and sponsor opportunities open, and I want to personally encourage you to consider getting involved, whether or not you're competing. If you've never spent a day at Regionals, you're missing something special. There's a unique kind of magic in watching horses and riders bring months of hard work down centerline, and an equally special feeling in knowing you helped make it happen. No experience is required to volunteer — just a willingness to show up and be part of something bigger than yourself. Reach out to Aly Elliott to sign up, or check [GDCTA.org/championships](https://GDCTA.org/championships) for details on vendor and sponsorship packages.

Whether you're polishing your boots for your own ride, cheering from the rail, or helping check in trailers at 6am, thank you for being part of this community. It's you — our members, volunteers, sponsors, and friends — who make GDCTA what it is.

See you at the Horse Park!

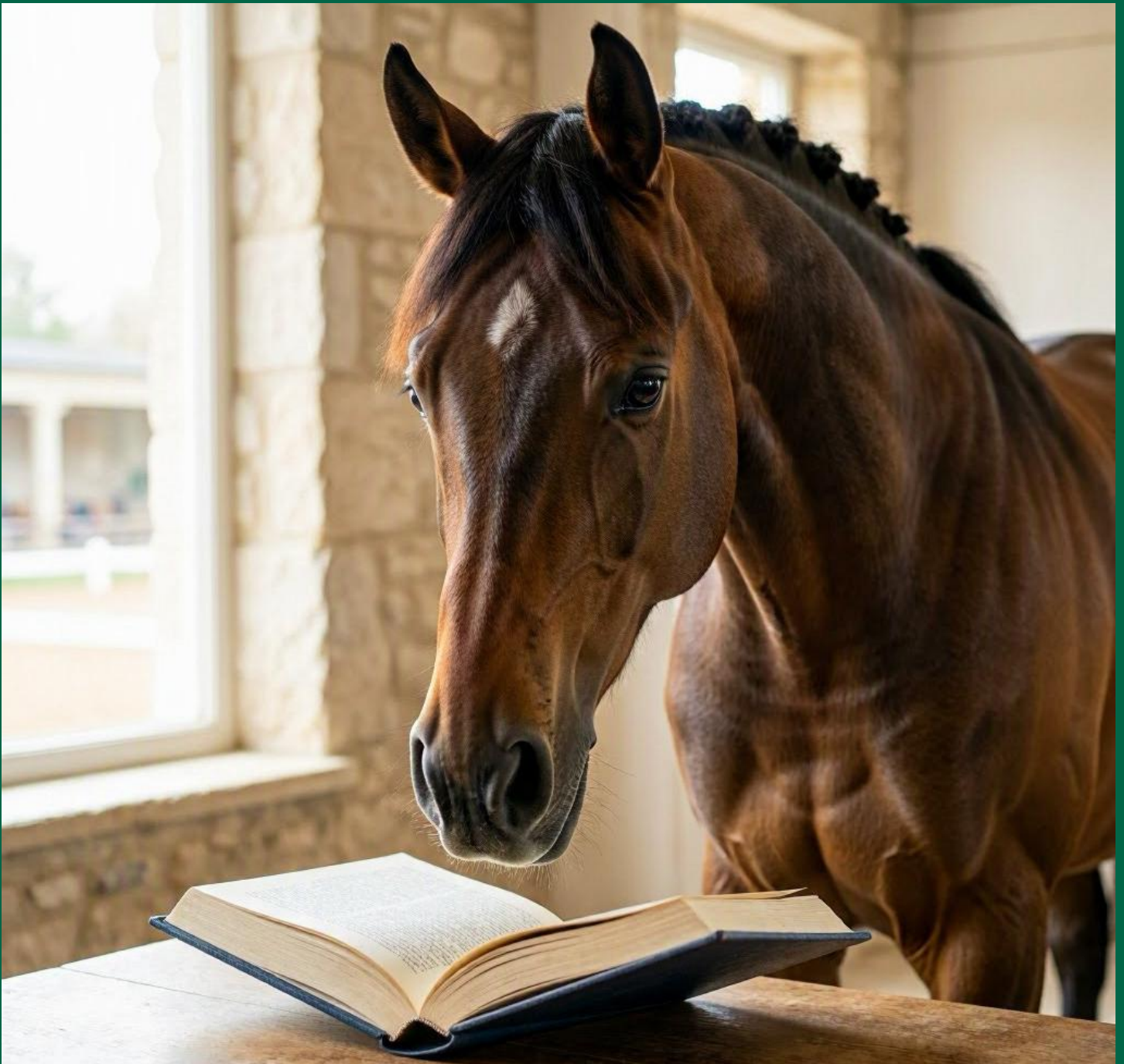
*Caren*

Caren Caverly  
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770-713-4025

# *Education & Training*

*Ride Better • Learn More • Build Partnership*

*Whether you're refining the basics, preparing for your next show, or simply looking to deepen your partnership with your horse, continuous learning is at the heart of dressage. This month's Education Center explores the science behind harmony, introduces key lateral movements, and highlights an upcoming learning opportunity through the GDCTA Kudzu Klinik Program.*



# Congratulations to our 2026 GDCTA Training Grant recipients! 🎉

Each year, the GDCTA Training Grant Program invests in riders who have demonstrated a commitment to growing their skills while giving back to our equestrian community. This year's recipients were selected from a competitive applicant pool and will each receive an \$800 grant to pursue educational opportunities with the trainer of their choice, while sharing their experiences with fellow members through volunteer service, board presentations, and articles for *Collected Remarks*.

Please join us in congratulating our 2026 winners:

- 🐾 **Open:** Beth Stelzlini
- 🐾 **Adult Amateur Dressage:** Karen Bisgrove
- 🐾 **Junior/Young Rider Dressage:** Emily Rawlston
- 🐾 **Combined Training:** Allie Wilson

We can't wait to follow your training journeys and celebrate all you'll accomplish in the year ahead. Congratulations, and thank you for representing the spirit of GDCTA! 💙



## Kudzu Clinic with Joanne Morse

October 17, 2026

Dressage and/or Jumping

Foxberry Farm  
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Dallas, GA

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# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR **USDF EDUCATION BENEFITS**

The United States Dressage Federation offers members a wide range of **FREE**, valuable, educational resources to deepen their dressage education on and off the horse!

## **TO ACCESS:**

- ✓ Sign in to member account
- ✓ Go to USDF home page,
- ✓ Scroll to the bottom,
- ✓ Find "Quick Links",
- ✓ Find the purple/blue tile titled "*USDF University*"

## **ONLINE EDUCATION**

Self-paced learning opportunities covering training, horsemanship, and best practices.

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Join discussions centered on classic and contemporary dressage texts, learn from shared insights and expert perspectives.

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GROW.**



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**Dressage**  
Federation <sup>TM</sup>

W W W . U S D F . O R G

# Half Halts for All: Three Perspectives, One Principle

By Désirée Braganza, Elizabeth King & Cindy McPherson

Riders often hear half halts discussed as though they belong only to advanced dressage. We wanted to challenge that idea by exploring the same principle through three perspectives: mine as an ethologist and longtime dressage learner, Elizabeth King's as a dressage rider and trainer, and Cindy McPherson's as a classical dressage trainer and instructor.

Like many riders, I once thought a half halt was simply a brake, a rein aid used before a corner or when things began to fall apart. Over time, I realized how incomplete that understanding was.

From an ethological perspective, horses are not passive recipients of aids. They are active participants in a continuous feedback loop, constantly responding and offering information of their own. A half halt is therefore not something a rider does to a horse, but something horse and rider create together through subtle adjustments in seat, core, leg, timing and attention.

Rather than an aid, I began to think of the half halt as a question: *Are we organized? Are we balanced? Are we ready to continue?* The horse answers through rebalancing and the rider responds in turn. That exchange transforms a half halt from a mechanical aid into a moment of shared organization.

Elizabeth King sees this same conversation through the lens of performance. "A half halt is a moment of rebalancing," she explains, encouraging the horse to flex the hind legs, creating greater spring and impulsion. Rather than a fixed aid, she describes it as an outcome in which horse and rider reorganize balance throughout a movement. Whether preparing for a transition or organizing the stride before a turn, the goal is the same. Without that moment of rebalancing, rhythm is lost and movement becomes frantic and

Elizabeth also emphasizes that there is no universal formula. Different disciplines require different kinds of balance. Even the rider's own body becomes part of the conversation. A slower breath, an open chest, or a subtle change in posture can influence the horse's balance and timing.

Cindy McPherson approaches the same principle through the lens of teaching classical dressage, where developing feel is as important as technique. She finds it invaluable for students to experience the feel of a half halt on a well-trained horse. "It's much harder," she notes, "when both student and horse are trying to find their balance at the same time."

For Cindy, the first step is organizing your own body. Only then can you feel and initiate change. In practice, that may mean slowing your own body, quietly closing your hand, or shifting your weight back just a tad to tell the horse change is coming. Then comes the most important part: noticing the response. *Was there a flick of an ear? A softening or change in posture? What tells you your horse understood the question?*

She also reminds riders that half halts can take many forms. Depending on the horse and the moment, they may include the seat or correct whip aid to encourage the hind legs to engage and create the impulsion for balance and forward movement. Echoing the words of her teacher, Karl Mikolka of the Spanish Riding School, Cindy encourages riders to "make each change a paper's width, then notice and change accordingly." No two horses should receive exactly the same signal.

While the language and exercises may differ, all three perspectives point to the same conclusion: a half halt is not just an aid but a shared moment of communication, balance and organization between horse and rider.

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-Ashley Marascalco  
USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist

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## About the Authors

**Désirée Braganza, EdD, EBQ** is an applied ethologist trained through the Natural Animal Centre in South Africa and a member of Bodhi Horse Practice. Her work focuses on the lived experience of domesticated horses, integrating behavior, environment and human interaction. Based in Monroe, Georgia, she consults internationally in person and virtually.

**Elizabeth King** is a USDF Bronze and Silver Medalist with a lifelong background in dressage, barn management and horse care. She is the founder of Equine Balanced Support, providing research informed, individualized nutrition programs for horses across disciplines. She consults nationwide from New York and Florida.

**Cindy McPherson** is a classically trained dressage trainer and instructor based in Athens, Georgia, where she teaches riders of all levels, from beginners building confidence to advanced riders refining their skills. She studied at the Massachusetts Dressage Academy under Karl Mikolka of the Spanish Riding School, bringing classical principles to practical, horse-centered instruction. She can be reached at dahrhorse@gmail.com.



*Photo caption: Cindy McPherson and her Quarter Horse-Arabian cross, Lindeys Long Shot, competing at Prix St. Georges.*



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## NEW FOR 2026



USDF/Dressage4Kids  
U-13 REGIONAL MERIT AWARDS

### **USDF/Dressage4Kids U-13 Regional Merit Award**

New for 2026, USDF and [Dressage4Kids](#) are proud to present the USDF/Dressage4Kids U-13 Regional Merit Award. Awards will be presented to the highest and second highest placing juniors, age 13 and under, in the Training Level and First Level Junior/Young Rider Championship classes, at each of the nine Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships. This award is generously supported by Dressage4Kids, which provides educational, competitive, and scholarship opportunities for youth riders.

## High Score Breed Awards



**US Dressage Finals**  
presented by Adequan®

### **US Dressage Finals High Score Breed Awards**

The US Dressage Finals High Score Breed Awards Program recognizes the highest-achieving competitors whose horses are registered with participating breed organizations. This year, thirty organizations will participate in the US Dressage Finals High Score Breed Awards Program. Check out the list and register today!

# Lateral Work Made Simple: A Six-Part Series

*Based on insights from Brett Parbery, Australian Equestrian Team dressage rider and coach*

## #1 Leg-Yield — Teaching Your Horse to Move Off the Leg

Leg-yield is the first lateral movement most riders learn, and it sets the foundation for everything that follows. According to dressage coach **Brett Parbery**, the goal is simple: teach your horse to move away from your leg while staying straight and parallel to the long side.

Start on the quarter line in walk, keeping your horse straight.

Apply your inside leg slightly back and ask for a few steps toward the track. The moment your horse gives you two or three correct

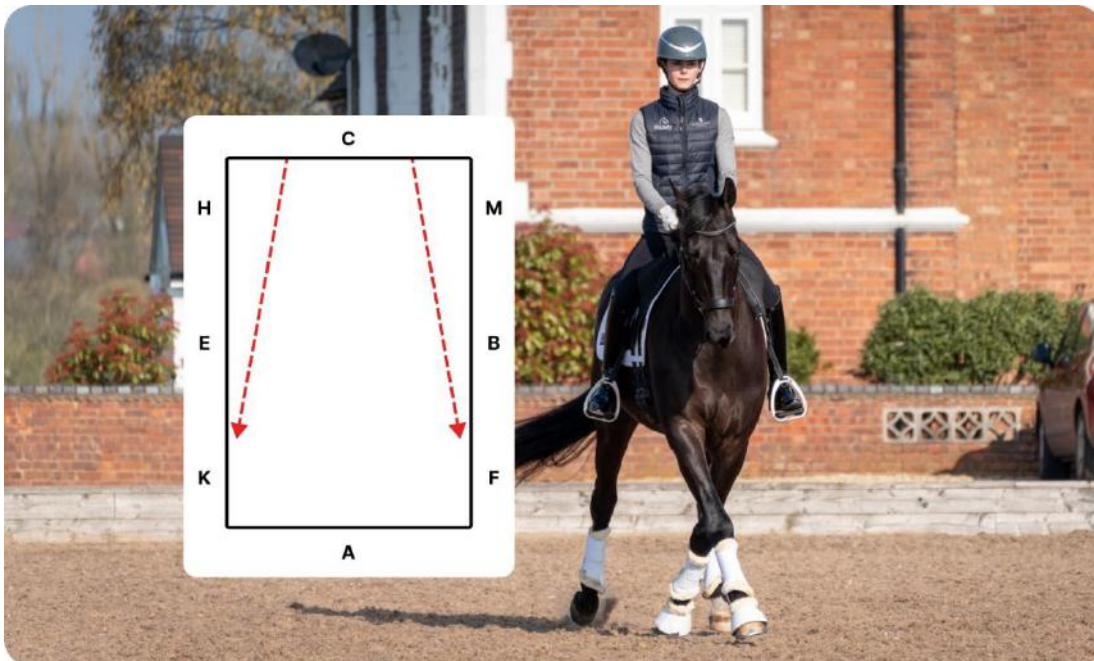
steps, praise him and release the aid. This is the secret most riders miss — reward the try, don't drill the movement.

Once walk feels confident, repeat the process in trot. Parbery is clear on priorities here: **impulsion always comes before sideways movement**. A leg-yield with energy and rhythm is worth more than one with a big crossing step and no push.

Only once the basics are solid should you increase the angle and ask for more impulsion. This is what makes a leg-yield look impressive in the show ring — but it's built on patience, not shortcuts.

**Common mistake:** Riders often ask for too much sideways step before the horse understands the aid. Slow down, reward small wins, and let the angle grow naturally.

**Key takeaway:** Leg-yield is about clear communication first, expression second. Nail the "move off my leg" conversation before you worry about how it looks.



*Dressage is a marathon, not a sprint — and leg-yield is where that mindset starts.*

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*This article is based on Brett Parbery's "Lateral Work Cheat Sheet," shared as a training resource for dressage riders. All technical guidance and pro tips are credited to Brett Parbery, Australian Equestrian Team rider and coach.*

# Events & Competitions

## •Clinics •Competitions •Community

*Bringing together dressage, eventing, schooling shows, recognized competitions, clinics, camps, and educational opportunities into one easy-to-follow event hub. Whether you're looking for your next competition, planning your season, or simply staying connected to what's happening around the region, this section, in addition to the website calendars is your go-to source for all things GDCTA and beyond. Check back each month and never miss an opportunity to ride, learn, compete, and grow.*



# 2026

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2027 Show Season begins October 1, 2026

## October

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## November

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**Jan 1** New Year's Day  
**Jan 19** Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**Feb 14** Valentine's Day  
**Feb 16** Presidents' Day  
**Mar 17** St. Patrick's Day  
**Apr 5** Easter Sunday  
**Apr 6** Easter Monday  
**Apr 15** Tax Day  
**May 5** Cinco de Mayo

**May 10** Mother's Day  
**May 25** Memorial Day  
**Jun 14** Flag Day  
**Jun 19** Juneteenth  
**Jun 21** Father's Day  
**Jul 3** 'Independence Day' day off  
**Jul 4** Independence Day  
**Sep 7** Labor Day  
**Oct 12** Columbus Day

**Oct 31** Halloween  
**Nov 3** Election Day  
**Nov 11** Veterans Day  
**Nov 26** Thanksgiving Day  
**Nov 27** Black Friday  
**Dec 24** Christmas Eve  
**Dec 25** Christmas Day  
**Dec 31** New Year's Eve

**GDCTA Calendar: <https://www.gdcta.org/events>**

# GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships



Oct 2-4, 2026

Georgia Horse Park,  
Conyers, GA

Champions  
*aren't made*  
in one ride.

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*“Champions are made  
from something they have  
deep inside them - a  
desire, a dream, a vision.”*

*-Muhammad Ali*

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GDCTA.ORG

# Before the Bell Rings

## *GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships and AFND Show*

There comes a moment before every GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championship when the Georgia International Horse Park feels almost impossibly quiet.

The arenas are freshly groomed. White rails gleam. Volunteers are checking radios and clipboards one last time. Coffee is brewing. The office staff is checking computers, taking a calming breathe before the fun begins~

Then...

The first trailer rolls in.

And just like that, another Region 3 Championship begins.



Last year's championships reminded us that this weekend is about far more than championship ribbons. Yes, there were champions crowned. There were victory gallops, National Championship invitations, and personal bests. But if you asked

most competitors what they'll remember, many would tell you something completely different.

They'll remember the trainer who believed in them when they didn't believe in themselves.

The volunteer who smiled when nerves were taking over.

The barn friends cheering from the rail after a test that wasn't perfect—but was better than last month.

Those are the moments that stay with you.

That's the magic of Regionals.

For competitors, it's the culmination of months—sometimes years—of early mornings, sweaty summer lessons, countless circles, and the determination to come back after the rides that didn't go according to plan. Every horse arrives with a story. Every rider has overcome something to be there. Simply qualifying is an accomplishment worth celebrating.

But you don't need to be riding down centerline to experience the excitement.

Ask anyone who volunteered last year.



They'll tell you they had the best seat in the house.

They watched future champions take their first steps onto the big stage. They celebrated personal victories that never made the results sheet. They became part of a team that kept nearly a thousand rides running smoothly over an unforgettable weekend. They laughed, made new friends, learned

# GDCTA.org

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**Join us and get involved today!**

Be part of something meaningful this season. Your time and kindness can help strengthen our equestrian community and bring smooth events for all



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- ✓ No experience required

**Contact: Aly Elliott**



**305-748-0092**

more about the sport than they expected, and went home already planning to come back.

And then there are the spectators.

If you've never spent a day watching Regionals, you're in for a treat.

From young riders riding with fearless determination to accomplished professionals demonstrating years of polished partnership, every arena offers something worth stopping to watch. Wander through vendor row. Cheer for someone you've never met. Watch the warm-up rings and see how different horses prepare. Stay for one ride...and somehow, before you know it, the afternoon has disappeared.



You'll leave inspired.

Because Regionals has a way of reminding us why we fell in love with horses in the first place.

It's not really about perfection.

It's about partnership.

It's about watching a horse try its heart out for its rider.

It's about seeing years of patient training come together in six unforgettable minutes.

Most of all, it's about community.

The GAIG/USDF Region 3 Dressage Championships and AFND show have always been bigger than a horse show. They're a gathering of the people who make our sport what it is—riders, trainers, owners, parents, grooms, officials, volunteers, sponsors, photographers, vendors, and fans. Every one of them matters. Every one of them helps create the experience.

So whether you're polishing boots for your championship ride, signing up for a volunteer shift, or simply planning to spend a day ringside with friends...

Come.

Celebrate the victories.

Support the riders.

Thank the volunteers.

Meet someone new.

Be inspired.

Because when the first horse trots down centerline this October, you won't just be watching Region 3 Championships.

You'll be part of it.





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678-712-8060



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HOSPITALITY  
*is in the details*

# Region 3 Riders Earn Top Honors at the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships

Congratulations to all of the talented athletes who represented USDF Region 3 at the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in Traverse City, Michigan. Competing against North America's top young dressage riders, Region 3 once again showcased exceptional talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

GDCTA was proudly represented by:

- **Children:** Austin Hermann and *Genevieve HF* & Brooklyn Young and *Mio Bello Ragazzo*
- **Junior:** Lauren Polk and *Donauwelle P*

The Children's division brought home a medal as well: the combined Region 3/8 team of Austin Hermann and Genevieve HF, Brooklyn Young and Mio Bello Ragazzo, and Region 8's Juliana Sardelli on Cupid earned the bronze medal in the FEI Children's Team Test with a combined score of 204.681, rounding out a strong showing for Region 3's youngest competitors.

The week's biggest celebration came in the U25 Team Championship, where the combined Region 3/6 team of Alicia Berger, Kylee McKereghan, and Erin Nichols claimed the team gold medal. Their consistent performances earned the championship title and capped an outstanding week for Region 3.



The FEI Junior Team Test also brought Region 3 a medal, with Eve Boswell, Bennett McWhorter, and Lauren Polk earning silver with a combined score of 198.273 — achieved with just three riders and no drop score. Junior team coach Dawn Haynie praised Bennett McWhorter's ride as the standout of the day: his score was the highest of all 35 riders in the class, a personal best of 71.182 for him. Haynie credited Eve Boswell and her own student, Lauren Polk, for their strong rides as well, noting how thrilled the team was to see McWhorter's score secure the silver. She also thanked fellow coaches Caren Caverly and the USDF Region 3 Young Riders program for their support, along with Grace Burley, the team's chef d'équipe, for a wonderful week leading the group.



The championships also featured strong rides from Region 3 competitors across other divisions, demonstrating the bright future of dressage in our region.

Congratulations to every Region 3 rider, their horses, coaches, owners, families, and supporters for representing our region with excellence. Your dedication and achievements continue to inspire the next generation of dressage athletes.



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From training to the competition arena, Purina® Performance Horse feeds deliver the nutrition your horses need to stay strong, focused, and ready to excel. Backed by research and trusted by top riders, it's fuel for horses who compete at the highest level.



**CONTACT PEGGY MILES AT 770-241-2222  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FEEDING TRIALS**



Labor Day Classic I & II  
High Point and Special Awards

| Division | Category | Rider and Horse                     | Score  |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Training | JR/YR    | Summer Kroupa & Sephora             | 69.808 |
|          | AA       | Dana Lynn Fisher & Sloe Gin Fizz    | 68.448 |
|          | Open     | Mary Piller & Baghira               | 72.200 |
| First    | JR/YR    | Summer Kroupa & Sephora             | 66.250 |
|          | AA       | Andri Bekker & Box Out              | 67.576 |
|          | Open     | Andrea Pappano & Remarable WRF      | 72.879 |
| Second   | JR/YR    | Nate Melcher & Der Kleine Choco     | 67.714 |
|          | AA       | Samantha Erwin & Tonalistic         | 66.571 |
|          | Open     | Emma Sevriens & Raphael M&M         | 67.286 |
| Third    | JR/YR    | Rachel Frazier & Dein Jolly Jocker  | 62.625 |
|          | AA       | Beth Allen & Dinner for Two         | 62.375 |
|          | Open     | Allison Cyprus & Oceana ISF         | 72.875 |
| Fourth   | JR/YR    | Molly Shewmaker & Sarapero Mor      | 60.556 |
|          | AA       | Lisa Kapp & Bono-O                  | 63.056 |
|          | Open     | Julie Cochran & Nightlight          | 63.056 |
| FEI      | JR/YR    | Alice Burley & S Classic Conversion | 60.588 |
|          | AA       | Sarah Light & Gek Merrieveulen      | 61.765 |
|          | Open     | Sarah Schroth & Morfeo BRH          | 60.294 |

# 2026 Labor Day Classic Dressage Show

## High Point Champions



|                       |         |                                 |        |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Peri Lambros Memorial |         | Sarah Light & Gek Merrieveulen  | 61.765 |
| Vintage               | AA      | Laura Duhamel & Fate's Astaire  | 63.056 |
| Vintage               | Open    | Andrea Pappano & Remarable WRF  | 72.879 |
| Pony I                | High Pt | Molly Boggs & Silverling        | 57.568 |
|                       | Res     | Darcy Sun & Blueridge Starbound | 51.875 |

# HOT SPOT!

Don't miss a moment of the action!

- Stay connected at the horse show grounds
- Share your wins instantly
- Check results in real-time
- Never miss important announcements

Limited WiFi available on grounds – come prepared!

# *Congratulations to all the competitors!*

| <b><u>Saturday</u></b> | <b><u>Rider</u></b> | <b><u>Horse</u></b>     | <b><u>Score</u></b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| CT                     | Carrigan Ingram     | Fernhill Chilli Martini |                     |
| Dressage               | Michelle Gutermuth  | Mr Reebock              | 74.06%              |
|                        |                     |                         |                     |
| Busiest Trainer        | Mirian Bickers      |                         |                     |
|                        |                     |                         |                     |
| Teams (Sat)            | ALE                 |                         |                     |
|                        | Karly Coile         |                         |                     |
|                        | Indi Demeritt       |                         |                     |
|                        | Jillian Bronner     |                         |                     |
|                        | Michelle Gutermuth  |                         |                     |
| <b><u>Sunday</u></b>   |                     |                         |                     |
| CT                     | Catelyn Ruehman     | Ziggy Stardust          |                     |
| Dressage               | Kaley Fuller        | Benjamin                | 70.00%              |
|                        |                     |                         |                     |
| Teams (Sun)            | ALE                 |                         |                     |
|                        | Karly Coile         |                         |                     |
|                        | Indi Demeritt       |                         |                     |
|                        | Jillian Bronner     |                         |                     |
|                        | Michelle Gutermuth  |                         |                     |
|                        |                     |                         |                     |
| LSI AA Medal Finals    |                     |                         |                     |
| Champion               | Claudia Tomaselli   | Big Bear's Omega        | 69.00%              |
| Reserve                | Maya Carless        | I Solemnly Swear        | 65.60%              |
|                        |                     |                         |                     |
| DSE 14-18              |                     |                         |                     |
| Champion               | Clara Wells         | Eskimo                  |                     |

# 2026 Summer Finals Schooling Show

Best Score & Special Awards





# Divertimentos & Dressage



**TRYON INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

**October 8, 2026**

**An evening of Freestyle Dressage ridden to live performances by the  
Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra.**



**Featuring JJ Tate, Julio Mendoza, Trayce Doubek,  
Justine Wilson and Elma Garcia.**

**More riders to be announced!**

**Special Surprise by Grass Roots Vaulters**



*Become Part of the Magic*

**General Admission Tickets • VIP Tables  
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# Ride and Audit with Endel Ots – A Unique Dressage Opportunity Brought to You by GDCTA

Mark your calendars for **November 21-22, 2026**, when internationally acclaimed dressage trainer and competitor **Endel Ots** brings his expertise to **Noble Steeds in Canton, GA** for a GDCTA dressage clinic.

Endel Ots is known for developing horses and riders to the highest levels of dressage, with a proven record of success on the international stage. His clinics are celebrated for blending technical precision with accessible, rider-focused coaching. Whether you're in the saddle or observing from the sidelines, you'll gain invaluable insights into the art and science of dressage.



## Why Ride

- Personalized instruction from a trainer with international competition experience
- Exercises designed to help riders transition confidently through the levels



- A chance to refine communication, balance, and harmony with your horse

## Why Audit

- Learn by watching a variety of horses and riders work through challenges
- Hear Endel's explanations and corrections in real time
- Take home practical strategies to apply in your own training

## Registration Details

- **Riders must be GDCTA members** at the date of the clinic

Don't miss this chance to learn from one of America's leading dressage professionals in a supportive, educational environment. Register: [GDCTA.org](https://GDCTA.org)

# GDCTA Board 2026

## OFFICERS

**President:** Caren Caverly  
**VP Dressage:** Abi Kroupa  
**VP Eventing:** Joanne Morse  
**Treasurer:** Peter West  
**Corresponding Secretary:**  
 Carol Tresan  
**Recording Secretary:** Ashley Boyd

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lindsey Burns  
 Doreen Durr  
 Noel Muehlbauer  
 Danielle Perry  
 Liz Molloy  
 Dianne Rawlston

## YOUTH MEMBERS

TBA

*The 2026 Board was seated at the  
January meeting*



## Committees 2026

- 1) **Nominating** – 2 Non-outgoing board members
- 2) **Grievance** – 2 VPs, only if there's a complaint
- 3) **Finance** –
  - a. Chair – Peter West
  - b. Sponsorship - Caren Caverly, Aly Elliott
- 4) **Awards** –
  - a. Grants – Danielle Perry
- 5) **Award Gala** –
  - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
  - b. Silent Auction – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
  - c. Barn Raffle – Danielle Perry
- 6) **Education** –
  - a. Chair – Caren Caverly
  - b. Clinics – Caren Caverly, Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
  - c. Kudzu – Danielle Perry
  - d. L Program – Marian Bickers
- 7) **Youth** –
  - a. Chair – Joanne Morse, Abi Kroupa
  - b. Schooling or Grassroots – Open
  - c. Recognized – Lindsey Burns
  - d. Collegiate – Amanda Garner
- 8) **Communication** –
  - a. Chair – Joanne Morse
  - b. Newsletter – Penny Morse, June Brewer
  - c. Website – June Brewer
  - d. Social Media – June Brewer
- 9) **Show** –
  - a. Chair – Julie Shannon
  - b. Recognized – Caren Caverly
  - c. Schooling – Caren Caverly
    1. Horse Show Recognition –
  - d. Regionals 2026
    1. Chair – Caren Caverly
  - e. Volunteer Coordinator – Aly Elliott

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Collected Remarks is the official publication of the Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association, Inc.

(GDCTA), a non-profit, exempt corporation organized under Section 501© (3). It is the monthly newsletter designed to inform, educate and entertain the membership. The Editors encourage members to submit original advertising, articles, photographs, and artwork for possible publication. The editors of 'Collected Remarks' reserve the right to reject any advertising or article deemed to be unsuitable for this newsletter.

- Editorial contributions of 600 words or less (accompanied by photos with permission to publish, if applicable) are welcomed although publication cannot be guaranteed.
- GDCTA is not responsible for the opinions and statements expressed in signed articles or paid advertisements.

GDCTA Collected Remarks welcomes submissions of quality color dressage and sport-horse photographs. All mounted riders must be wearing appropriate headgear (a safety helmet, a derby, or a top hat). Photos must be accompanied by complete captions, including the full names of all subjects.

Only high resolution (300dpi) Jpeg, PNG, or PDF files will be accepted.

Please submit electronically to  
designonpenny@yahoo.com and webmaster@gdcta.org.

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

For information, please email: webmaster@gdcta.org

Ad space is limited. Scheduled ads are due by the 5th of the month prior to publication. Information about advertising is also available online at: GDCTA.org/advertise

The deadline for articles is also the 5th of the month prior to publication. Advertisements and Articles should be emailed to: webmaster@gdcta.org

*The advertisements contained herein are paid advertisements. The information is provided by the service provider. The GDCTA makes no specific recommendations for any particular company, individual, or service.*

## ORGANIZE A GDCTA-RECOGNIZED SCHOOLING SHOW

If you are organizing a schooling show and wish to have it GDCTA Recognized (so riders can use the scores

towards our year-end awards), submit the Recognition form. Shows won't be added to our calendars until the Recognition form is received.

Please review the other information and specifications/guidelines we have provided. For specific questions regarding recognition procedures, email Carol Tresan at Happy\_horses@hotmail.com

Recognition details:  
<https://gdcta.wildapricot.org/GDCTA-Recognition>

## DISCLOSURE

Complete GDCTA Board of Directors meeting minutes are available upon request to the Recording Secretary

Financial records are available upon written request to the Treasurer

For information regarding Awards, Show Recognition, Membership, Education or the Website, contact the appropriatechariperson on the website Contact Us page.

<https://gdcta.org/Contact>

# Georgia Dressage and Combined Training Association

**Regular Meeting**  
June 15, 2026

President Caren Caverly called the membership meeting of the GDCTA to order on June 15, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Ashley Boyd performed a roll call. A quorum of the board consisting of Caren Caverly, Abi Kroupa, Joanne Morse, Ashley Boyd, Carol Tresan, Peter West, Noel Muehlbauer, Liz Molloy, Lindsey Burns, Danielle Perry, and Dee Rawlston were present. The minutes from May 18, 2026, Board Meeting were emailed to the board. Joanne motioned to accept minutes; Carol seconded. The board voted to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report** – (Peter): Last month about a loss which is normal for this time of year.

**VP Dressage Report** – (Abi): Endel Otts clinic has been rescheduled to Nov 20th and 21st.

**VP Combined Training** – (Joanne): Camp was a huge success. Everyone had a great time. Looking forward to next year and already met with Stable View about how to make things easier next year. Stable View will handle housing next year. Going to investigate running camp through Event Entries and see what the cost will be. Carol commented on what a great experience it was as a participant. Joanne thinks we have profited over 10k but will have a final number soon.

**Membership Report** – (Mary Lou): Down 59 total members with eventing still being down the most.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Communication** (Joanne): Joanne will do photo collage for the next issue.
- **Show Committee** (Caren): Next show will be Summer Finals at Wills Park, then Labor Day, and then Regionals.
- **Finance** (Peter): Nothing to report

- **Youth Program** (Joanne): Dressage 4 Kids Starting to get donations
- **Awards** (Danielle): 14 are on the list, but do not have all the applications. Reaching out to those who submitted interest but have not done applications yet.
- **Education** (Joanne and Abi): Nothing to report
- **Gala** (Caren): Nothing to report
- **Regionals** (Caren): Still working on getting judges, we already have TDs. A big group is coming from Louisiana outside of our region. Need people to work on getting vendors, sponsorship, and volunteers.
- **Nominating** (Lindsey, Li and Doreen): We have 3 people rolling off as board members, and officers need to rerun. You can have up to 6 running for the board and at least one for the officers.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Email Blasts** – (Caren): June is about to get it out.  
**Horse Registration** – (Noel): Survey went out to membership regarding horse registration. We had about 88 responses to the survey, most people regularly compete, and responses were competitors or parents. Awards program is very important to people; most people would be willing to pay a small increase for horse registration. A lot would like option of working off fees with volunteer hours. Feel like mostly positive response. Discussion took place regarding people's comments at the end of the survey. Dee brought idea of increasing office fees and putting that towards awards instead. Board had discussion about how and if that would work. Many of the group thought this might be a better option. It was tabled until we get all the surveys in and will discuss it again next month.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **New members** for July – Peter
- **Schooling show judging** – (Caren): Caren read a letter from Stable View requesting to use a Big R judge from eventing for dressage schooling shows. Discussion about what a Big R is qualified to judge, and what levels the schooling show goes through. Caren motioned to change schooling show judging criteria for shows must use an L, little r or a Large

R. Lindsey seconded and the board voted to approve the motion.

• **Trailing clinic** – (Caren): Caren sent out email about a safe trailing clinic. She thought it looked interesting and like something we should investigate. Discussion about doing it during cold weather months when people have less riding time. Group thinks it is great idea, discussion about who should teach it. Carol, Ashley, and Lindsey will take it on.

Joanne motioned to adjourn, and Lindsey seconded. The board voted to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned.

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM via Zoom. If you would like to join a meeting. email Caren at ccaverly@comcast.net



THREE SEATS OPEN  
2026 BOARD ELECTION

## Your Community. Your *Turn* to Lead.

Three at-large Board of Directors seats are open this year. If you care about this community, we want to hear from you.

Dedicated

Good listener

Fair & respectful

Thick-skinned

Team-first

Open to new ideas

You don't need to know everything on day one — just a willingness to learn, attend two meetings a month, and put the community first. Know another member with the right mix of skill and heart? Ask them to run — most won't unless invited.

☒ **Nominate yourself — or another member.**  
Materials due September 30 · Email the Nominating Committee  
Vote results announced at the November General Meeting

# *Your Community Needs You — Run for the GDCTA Board!*

*Three at-large Board seats are open for  
election in 2026. Do you have what it takes?  
Chances are, you do.*

We're looking for people who are dedicated, respectful, and good listeners — folks who can handle tough conversations with a thick skin, set egos aside, and stay flexible as our community evolves. Backgrounds in accounting, law, business, or communication are a plus, but passion for the equestrian community matters most.

You don't need to know everything on day one — just a willingness to learn and serve. Board members commit to monthly meetings on Zoom plus occasional special meetings.

Know someone with these qualities? Ask them to run.

Many great leaders never consider it unless invited.

All candidate materials are due by **September 30th**. Submit your bio and statement of interest to the Nominating Committee today!

## **Nominating committee**

- Lindsey Burns: redheadlins@gmail.com  
208-861-2996
- Doreen Durr: Doreen.kyle@hotmail.com  
770-845-5804
- Liz Molloy: missliz@taramiaridingschool.com  
770-634-4089

# Thank you for your generous gifts!

*Before we list the GDCTA GOATs, we must clarify who those GOATs are.  
The GOATS are the benefactors, donors, and sponsors of this organization.*

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Candice Flig  
Kathy Gilker  
Rhonda Hamel  
Amy Hoffield  
Michele Jester  
Betsy Kaywood  
Holly Kohaut  
Lois Lassiter  
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Linda Light  
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Carol Morgan  
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Robin Puryear  
Lou Roth  
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Nancy Thrasher  
Claudia Tomaselli  
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Sandra Wight  
Monica Williamson  
Virginia Woodcock  
Mary Youngblood \*

## **Championship & AFND Sponsors**

**Silver Sponsor:** Noble Steeds

**Bronze Sponsor:** Kroupa Team Real Estate

**Hospitality Sponsor:**

Triple Crown Feed - Thursday Welcome Party

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Dressage TestPro  
Noble Steed  
Riding Warehouse  
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MangoBay Design  
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Richard's Equine Video  
Simply Dressage  
White Pines Farm



GOAT—Greatest Of All Time

## Saddle Up for More Than Just Ribbons 🐾

What if your next big win wasn't just in the ring, but also in the friendships and connections you made along the way? 🏆 ✨

At GDCTA, we're more than an organization—we're a community. From schooling shows to year-end awards and clinics, we offer endless opportunities to elevate your equestrian journey. And the best part? You'll be surrounded by people who share your love for horses and the lifestyle that comes with it. 🐾 ❤️

Whether you're here for the ribbons or the ride, we'd love to welcome you into the GDCTA family.

*Join today!*

<https://gdcta.org/join-us>



*Scan me!*