



The

# Dressage Foundation News

2012 EDITION

## Adrienne Lyle's Comfort Zone

### *An Interview with Adrienne Lyle and a Look Back at the 2005 Olympic Dream Trip*

Adrienne Lyle dabbled in many different equestrian disciplines through the years. "I started out riding western around our farm, and competing in western gaming. Then I joined the United States Pony Club and switched to eventing. Through eventing I was first introduced to dressage. I fell in love with the challenges of dressage. It was such a great combination of learning how to train a horse both mentally and physically."

Adrienne began competing at age 13, on an ex-rodeo bucking horse, Thoroughbred mare. Adrienne brought her up from 1st Level to 4th Level, and competed in the 2001 FEI North American Junior Dressage Championships. "I was often given so-called 'difficult' horses to train, and I found that, no matter what discipline they were intended for, their issues were often able to be resolved through dressage work."

"Adrienne is one of those wonderful 'once in a lifetime students': the kind who comes to each lesson not only having worked on everything we worked on last time, but having thought about it. She takes theory, each exercise and realizes how and when to use it again in other circumstances. Consequently each lesson is not only a progressive building on the last lesson, but it always

*"Many people young and old have a dream to ride for America and compete internationally, but very few have any idea what that really entails. Very few people have the real drive and endurance to devote their lives to being a professional and maintaining the goal to represent the U.S. in international competition.*

*Adrienne does, and this is her goal."*

— Carol McArdle, 2005 recommendation letter



Adrienne Lyle and Wizard

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starts out beyond that last lesson. She is not a passive recipient of information, but rather, she teaches herself. Everyone wishes they could have such a student," said Carol McArdle, of Tir na nOg Dressage, in her 2005 Olympic Dream recommendation letter.

In 2005, Adrienne Lyle started as a working student with Debbie McDonald and was selected as one of the participants in the Advanced Young Rider Olympic Dream Program.

"The experience I had on the 2005 Olympic Dream trip to Europe was truly amazing. The chance to visit so

many different training and competition facilities in such a short amount of time was incredibly eye opening. The United States is such a large country that it is often easy for an aspiring rider to get stuck in their comfort zone, within their 'little bubble.' Getting a chance to see how the top European riders train was invaluable for me."

The 2005 program began with a stop at the European Young Riders' Championships in Barzago, Italy (just north of Milan).

"The Championships were held at a gorgeous mountain-top venue. The

(continued on page 4)



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# President's Message

## Supporting All Aspects of Dressage

What a year 2012 has been so far - blistering heat and drought in some parts of the country with wildfires galore, and record flooding in others. Wherever you live, I hope you and your horses have been safe!

It has again been a busy time for The Dressage Foundation, with many important milestones. The Century Club has surpassed 100 members, the Young Rider Olympic Dream Program is about to make its eleventh trip, somewhat later than usual due to the Summer Olympics. Speaking of which, TDF is extremely proud of all of our Olympians, but especially Adrienne Lyle who was a participant in the 2005 Olympic Dream Program and recently traveled to London as the individual entrant for the U.S. Olympic Dressage Team. We look forward to following her as she continues

her international career.

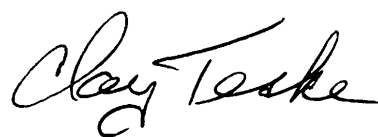
TDF remains committed to supporting all aspects of our sport. Our goal for the year is to provide more than \$260,000 of funding through grants and scholarships to dressage organizations, and educational programs for riders and judges. You can find out how to take advantage of our programs by visiting our web site at [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org). Of course our ability to support these programs relies entirely on the generosity of donors. Learn how you can give back to your sport by checking our website or contacting Melissa Filipi at (402) 434-8585 or [Melissa@DressageFoundation.org](mailto:Melissa@DressageFoundation.org). She will be happy to discuss the many ways of charitable giving - ways that are mutually advantageous to you, to the Foundation, and to dressage!



*Clay Teske*

I also urge you to consider enrolling in our Equestrian Fundraising School to learn how you can raise funds for yourself or your favorite organization. Check it out at [www.DressageFoundation.org/Equestrian-Fundraising-School](http://www.DressageFoundation.org/Equestrian-Fundraising-School).

I hope you enjoy this newsletter! Jenny and Melissa, our stalwart staff, have worked hard to bring it, and all of our programs to you.



Clay Teske  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

### THE DRESSAGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Adrienne Lyle's Comfort Zone *(continued)*



*With Klaus Balkenhol, from left: Kathryn Fleming, chaperone Rachel Saavedra, Christina Beal, Ashley Peterson, Adrienne Lyle, and chaperone Katherine Poulin, 2005*

arena was set against a backdrop of towering Italian mountains, dotted with red clay rooftops. The first thing that struck me was how small (area wise) the competition grounds were. The horse vans were packed in alongside the dirt road, and there were only two warm-up arenas for the 100+ horses competing there," said Adrienne in her journal from the trip.

Following the Championships, the group visited Klaus Balkenhol in Rosendahl, Germany. "Klaus pointed out that you must address one issue at a time in training, so as to not overwhelm or confuse the horse. The important thing is to not try to tackle all the issues simultaneously, but to go after specific responses in a logical order.... Before we left, we had the incredible opportunity to sit down and discuss dressage theory with Klaus. Again and again, Klaus emphasized the importance of good basics in dressage training. He also emphasized that the training time-schedule and process

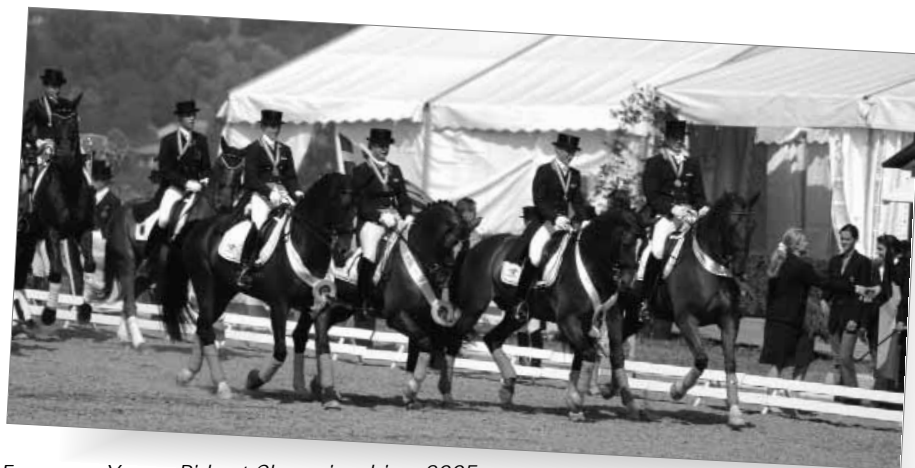
must be tailored to the individual needs of each horse. Different types of horses respond best to different training approaches." (excerpt from Adrienne's journal)

Next on the itinerary was a visit with Ingrid Klimke in Munster. As Adrienne wrote in her journal, "Ingrid was very enthusiastic to share her training philosophies with us, and I came away with many encouraging insights into the world of being a professional trainer. First of all, Ingrid emphasized that

you must find the strengths of each individual horse. You have to analyze what the horse can do conformationally. If a horse is not able to do something, then the horse should find a different discipline. She makes sure to never try to push a horse into something it is not cut out for. On that same note, Ingrid was a strong advocate of having horses do a little of everything: dressage, cross-country, jumping. Then, when the horses reach 5 or 6 years of age, the trainer should decide which discipline the horse is the strongest in, and specialize at that point."

Other stops while in Europe included George and Monica Theodorescu in Sassenberg (near Warrendorf), Jean Bemelmans, and a tour of the Olympic Training Center, DOKR.

While the trip may have been several years ago, Adrienne remembers it well. "This trip opened my eyes to what it was going to take to be competitive in today's dressage world on the international scale. The depth of horses and riders these European countries had was impressive. The quality of horses was high, the training was precise and disciplined, and the results were undeniable. This trip also exposed us to several different trainers' methods.



*European Young Riders' Championships, 2005*



And it became clear that there were many different paths to success. Every rider/trainer had a slightly different style, but every one clearly built up from the correct basics and had a system that made sense."

"Getting to watch the [2005] European Young Riders' Championships was a great experience for me at the time. I had just finished competing in our North American Young Riders championships, and so it was interesting to make comparisons. I was immediately impressed by the polished presence of the European young riders, and how bold they rode in the ring. This was the first time it really clicked in my head that to be competitive, you can't stay conservative and stay 'in your comfort zone.' These riders were polished, accurate, and technical test riders and they clearly had been trained how to pick up every point in a test. With that in mind, we set off to visit some of the top training barns in Europe. And in every barn we visited, the dedication and work ethic of all the riders there was immediately apparent. Hard work was expected of every one, and nobody was about to whine or complain or slack off. It was great to see so many passionate and motivated riders."

Adrienne has dreamed of competing in the Olympics since she was a little girl, and said, "To have reached this goal so relatively soon in my career is beyond my wildest dreams! It still seems a bit surreal... I have to remind myself every morning when I wake up, 'Hey, I'm going to the Olympics!'"

"It is such an incredible honor to represent my country, and I am eternally grateful of the support of all those who helped me get where I am. And now I am just really excited for the whole experience! I want to soak in every minute I am there; watch amazing horses, meet new people, and have fun!"



Photo by Cathy Detandt

Jenna Detandt



Photo by Flash Corbisier

Catherine Chamberlain

*"I hope this year's Olympic Dream participants realize what an incredible experience they are in, and what an honor they have been bestowed. Keep your eyes and ears wide open over there and soak in every detail you can. It is a great chance to expand your dressage education and to make valuable connections. And I hope that the participants take it upon themselves to share with others what they learn, and to give back to the United States dressage community in any way they can." – Adrienne Lyle*



Photo by Laura Price

Jaclyn Pepper

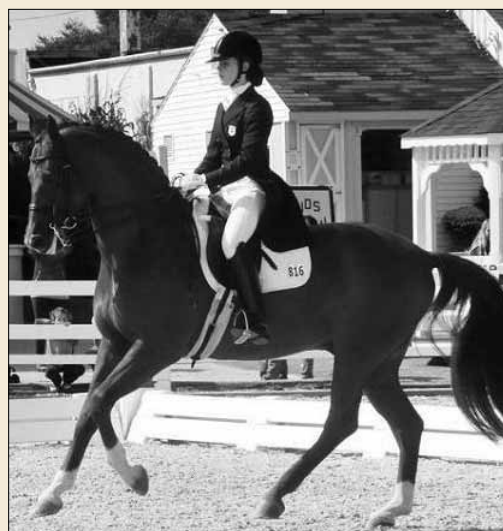


Photo by Kathleen Falz

Nicole DelGiorno



# Another Olympic Dream Success Story – 2010 Program Participant Brian Hafner Wins Brentina Cup

After riding competitively for over 10 years, Brian Hafner (CA) was selected for the 2010 Olympic Dream Program at The Dressage Foundation. Originally from Minnesota, he moved to California to further his dressage training. In 2009, Brian and Lombardo LHF led the Region 7 North American Young Rider Team to a Team Gold medal, being the top scoring horse and rider pair. The pair also took home the Individual Bronze and Freestyle Silver medals. Brian and Lombardo continued to work together and set their sights on competing in the Brentina Cup.



*Brian Hafner, 2010*

"I came into dressage by chance. When I was younger, I started working at a nearby barn in exchange for lessons. The trainer was a dressage trainer," recounted Brian in a recent interview with Foundation staff. "I stuck with dressage because it's always a challenge, there is always something more to learn, there is always something you can do better. I guess you have to be a bit of a perfectionist."

After arriving in Frankfurt, Germany, the 2010 Olympic Dream participants visited Ann-Kathrin Linsenhoff's Schafhof and trainer Klaus-Martin Rath. The group also visited Hubertus Schmidt, Ingrid and Michael Klimke, Helen Langehanenberg, and Klaus Balkenhol,

"It was really inspiring to see so many riders, and to see that every rider at every barn had someone on the

ground watching. It was really great to see even top riders with someone there watching the horses and telling the riders what they see from the ground," continued Brian.

In addition, they spent two days at the Regional Championships for Rheinland in Langenfeld. While there, the group was able to talk with Christoph Hess, one of the judges as well as a popular clinician in the United States.

The Olympic Dream trip is an educational and inspirational opportunity for four top young riders each year. "In dressage, you are never done learning. In Europe, riders don't set the ceiling at 70%. They go for 80 or 90% for Grand Prix," Brian commented. "Their standard of excellence is high, and you can really see that when you watch the training sessions."

Many Olympic Dream participants set a goal of representing their country in international competition, of excelling at the highest levels of the sport. It is a path that takes dedication, hard work, and talent. The Dressage Foundation is proud to have played a role in inspiring these young riders as they pursued their dreams.

Brian claimed his first National Championship in the National Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage Championship at the 2012 USEF Dressage Festival of Champions.

"This was really a dream come true! I never expected to win the Brentina Cup, not in a million years! If someone had told me five years ago that this would happen, I would never have believed it."

Brian has graduated with a degree in Business from the University of La Verne and trains out of Woodbridge Farm in Petaluma, California, about an hour north of San Francisco.

And what advice does he have for the 2012 Olympic Dream participants? "Ask as many questions as you can, you're only there for a short time. This trip is a really rare experience. You get an inside look at these trainers and their barns and their training methods. This might be the only time in your life where you get to ask these people questions about their daily schedules, how they train horses, etc. Take advantage of the opportunity. Watch and soak in everything that can!"



# Equestrian Fundraising School

## *Fundraising Resource for All Equestrians*

It is said that in equestrian sports, money is the ultimate hurdle to success. A new program from The Dressage Foundation addresses this need. The Equestrian Fundraising School teaches communication, presentation, marketing, and financial skills to help riders succeed. This program (sessions start in January and July) gives students both classroom and first-hand experience on these topics, while teaching the benefits of giving back to the sport and community.

Kim Jones, U.S. Para-Equestrian Team alternate for the Alltech 2010 World Equestrian Games and Fundraising student said, "The program affirms that I have been on the right path, though I still have a long way to go and a lot to learn about the fundraising side of riding. Anyone hoping to compete on the international stage and needing funding should consider taking this course."

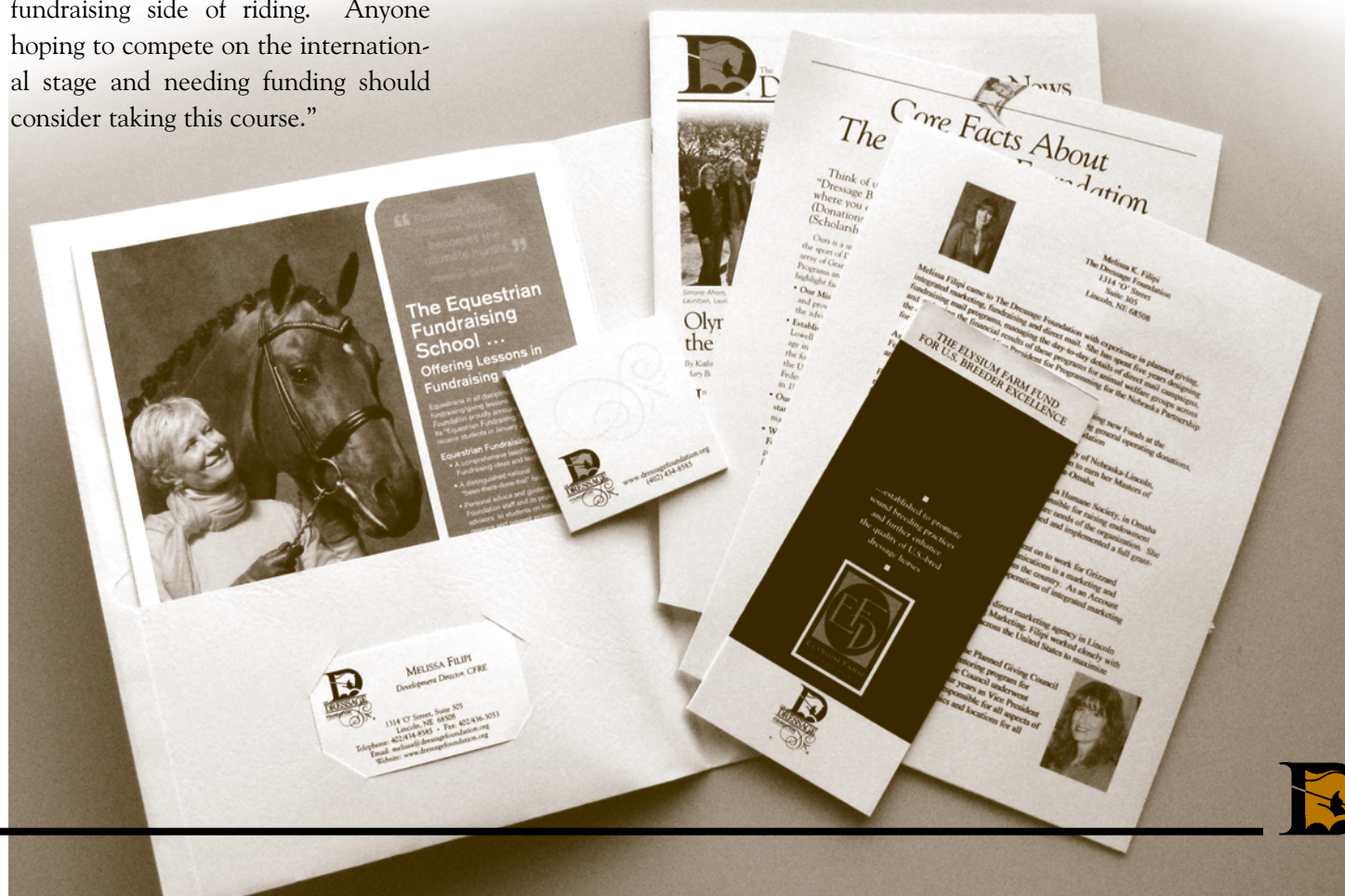
In order to grow their future athletes, any sport needs a well-rounded curriculum of ideas and techniques supported by experienced faculty, giving real-world advice. Hilary Moore, Senior Editor, *Dressage Today* and The Dressage Foundation Board Member pointed out that the Equestrian Fundraising School "is invaluable in this way, as it is able to give participants real-life examples of successful fundraising and access to professional legal and financial advisors that they will certainly need in their careers."

Anne Moss, a 2012 Fundraising student and Delaware Valley Combined Training Association President says, "I have enjoyed approaching potential sponsors, which is a surprise to me, and I am surprised by the friendly and

generous response to my requests. The Equestrian Fundraising School has been an excellent experience so far."

MBA graduate and Fundraising student, Sarah Medler stated, "This program gets you inside the horse world to learn how to fundraise for yourself and others. The School is a unique combination of learning, hands-on approaches and applications to get the job done. This course was an opportunity to expand my learning and connect to others that share the same passion. I am glad I took the reins and did it."

Visit [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org) or contact Melissa Filipi, Development Director (402.434.8585 or [Melissa@DressageFoundation.org](mailto:Melissa@DressageFoundation.org)) for more information.



# Reaching Out

## *The Violet M. Hopkins Fund Reaches More and More Dressage Enthusiasts Each Year!*

By far, the most “active” fund at the office is the Violet Hopkins Fund which provides grants to USDF Group Member Organizations to hold educational events! This trend highlights the goal of the Hopkins Fund Selection Committee: to fund educational programs that appeal to a wide audience of riders and auditors.

Other things that the Committee looks for in applications:

- Interactive programs, with special attention paid to auditors (particularly in a typical clinic setting).
- A scheduled lecture on basic theory, presented in the form of a formal presentation.
- Riders demonstrating low, mid, and high level rides.
- An instructor that will be a good fit for the participants at that event.
- An instructor able to present a well-planned lecture and interact effectively with the riders and auditors.
- A genuine need for a grant to break even, while keeping the budget reasonable.
- Rider/auditor fees at a rate that will encourage people to attend, but at the same time, make sure that the majority of expenses can be covered.
- A reasonable instructor fee.
- A good-quality sound system available for all parts of the clinic. Auditors won't be able to learn if they can't hear what the clinician is telling the riders.

From 1995 through 2011, the Violet M. Hopkins Fund has awarded 314 grants, for a total of \$328,520. The steady growth in applications, and grants awarded, continues in 2012.

Information and applications are available online at [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org), under Funds and Program, Help with Educational Clinics.



*Nebraska Dressage Association Clinic*



*Midwest Dressage Association*



# Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund Supports the Emerging Dressage Athlete Program

The Emerging Dressage Athlete Program is for American dressage competitors under the age of 21. It is meant to be a stepping-stone from participating at the grassroots level to climbing the long ladder on the way to representing the U.S. in international competitions and/or becoming a successful professional.

Riders are chosen for the local clinics through an application process and recommendations. Riders for the National Clinic are selected from the local clinics, from the recommendations of top professionals and based on competition success.

The first National Clinic was held December 26 – 31, with 10 riders and 10 auditors. The Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund at The Dressage Foundation was proud to provide funding support for this program!

Instructors at the National Clinic included Robert Dover, Courtney Dye, Katherine Bateson Chandler, Kathy Connelly, Anne Gribbons, and Lendon Gray. Participants had riding and lunge lessons in the morning, lectures in the afternoon, interactive lectures with international veterinarian Rick Mitchell, sports psychologist Jenny Susser, equine nutritionist Gabrielle Sutton, farrier Arnie Gervasio, equine therapist Arlene White, journalist Allison Brunelli as well as discussions in sponsorship, volunteerism, and ethics. The clinic included a stable tour, tour of a vet clinic, and an afternoon spent



Annie Adamczyk

watching top international riders schooling. Participants also benefited from a top stable manager, overseeing and advising on their horse care. Every morning started with fitness work with physical trainer Bob Gutowitz.

It was an incredible learning experience for everyone involved.

As the EDAP entered its second year, local clinics were organized for 2012. Annie Adamczyk was fortunate to have been invited to participate in one such clinic earlier this year. The Isler Fund was able to provide a grant to make this a reality for Annie.

“The Emerging Dressage Athlete Program’s Clinic with Lendon Gray was such a memorable experience! Lendon Gray taught me so much about my horse and how to get her more supple, well rounded and balanced ... and get her more connected on both sides. It was amazing how she reacted to such a tiny movement at the right time.

Lendon was a real miracle worker!

This clinic has shown me that my goal for getting my bronze medal within this year is actually possible!

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity! It was amazing to be a part of it all and to meet some great people!” – Annie Adamczyk

*Interested riders under 21 may apply to the EDAP by filling out an application and sending a short video to Dressage4Kids. There is no deadline for applications. For program and application information visit [www.dressage4kids.com](http://www.dressage4kids.com) and click on the Emerging Dressage Athlete Program link.*

# Expanding Grant Opportunities –

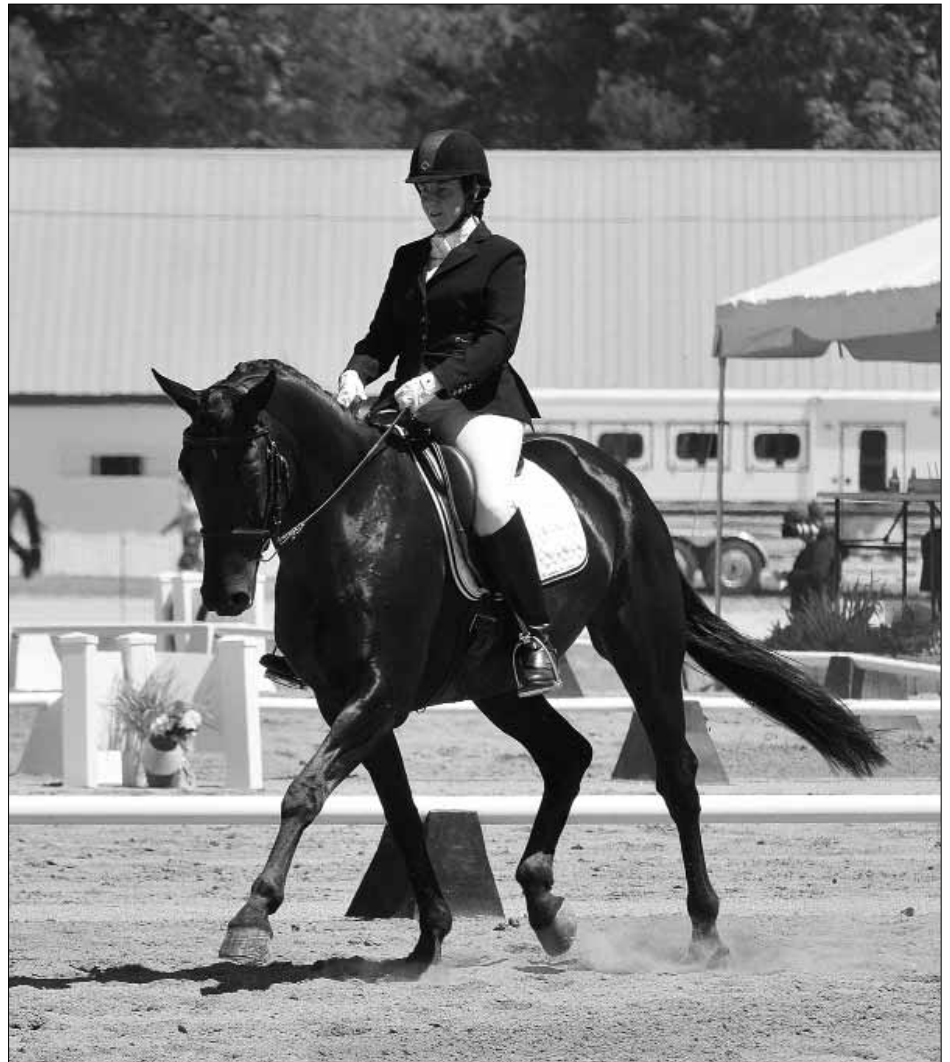
## *Elysium Farm Fund for U.S. Breeder Excellence*

As part of The Dressage Foundation's work to expand the funding available to promote dressage, the Elysium Farm Fund for U.S. Breeder Excellence was added to the list of grants and scholarships available through TDF. The inaugural recipient of the Elysium Farm Fund grant in 2012 was Laurie Weiser, DVM, owner of Blume Farm Hanoverians (NC). Laurie was awarded \$2,860 to attend the Hannoveraner Verband Breeders Course in Verden, Germany. Her goal in attending the course was to further her knowledge and education to improve upon her small breeding program.

"I desire to one day be able to 'think' like successful breeders such as Axel Wendeler or Harli Seifert...to think in generations, to have a solid understanding of the history of blood lines and to critically assess a mare and stallion pairing. The educational courses I have attended, and additional courses in the future, are geared towards developing and improving these skills," said Laurie.

Blume Farm Hanoverians, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, began in 2000 when Laurie purchased her foundation mare, St.Pr.A/Elite Mare Dorfblume. Laurie's long-term goal with her program is to consistently produce dressage horses that have the bloodlines, gaits, and confirmation suitable for competitive adult amateur riders.

Elysium Farm Fund for U.S. Breeder



*Laurie Weiser and EM Roseblume*

Excellence awards grants to individuals to pursue educational opportunities related to breeding that will advance their careers, promote sound breeding practices, and further enhance the quality of U.S.-bred dressage horses. Specifically, the Fund supports attendance at educational programs related to breeding, such as a USDF Sport Horse Seminar, the American

Hanoverian Society Breed Orientation Course, the Hannoveraner Verband's Breed Orientation Course, or similar educational program. No preference is given to programs focusing on a particular breed. For more information and application materials, visit [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org), Funds and Programs, Help for Dressage Breeders.

# Elysium Farm Fund – the Hannoveraner Verband Breeders Course

By Laurie Weiser

Through the generosity of the Elysium Farm Fund Grant I was able to attend the summer session of the Hannoveraner Verband Breeders Course in Verden, Germany. This course is offered every other year, rotating between a fall course focusing on stallions and a summer course focusing on mares.

The summer session of the Hannoveraner Verband Breeders Course is an intensive 6-day course consisting of lectures on the history of the Hanoverian horse, conformation and blood line analysis, visits to both small and large breeding farms, stallion stations, Celle & Adelheidsdorf, and attending many mare and foal shows. Our days started between 7:30-8am and we didn't get home some nights until 11pm!

We attended four mare shows: Elmlohe, Dobrock, Bargstedt and Sandbostel. These shows are like nothing else I have seen before: it is hours of mare after mare entering the show triangle, one right after the other in quick succession. The classes are broken down into two-year-old mares, three-year-old mares with and without performance testing, four-year-old mares and finally mare families. First the mares enter the ring individually and are trotted in hand around the entire triangle, then walked in a straight line towards the judges and finally stood up for conformation analysis. At the end of each

class the mares are presented as a group in a "walk ring" where they can be evaluated for comparison. Throughout the entire show we wore headsets so all the judges comments were translated for us into English.



There is no better way to develop your eye for conformation, gait evaluation and movement like seeing 50 mares presented in rapid succession. It is through this that you can start to see subtle differences in the way a mare uses her entire body (neck, shoulder, back and hind leg) at the walk and trot and if she naturally holds herself in self carriage. You can begin to see a strong versus weak loin, neck position, good versus straight shoulder, leg conformation and a nice topline with good saddle position. As a group I think we mostly struggled with evaluation of the hind leg. It is amazing how different hind leg conformation can look depending on how the mare is stood up. After a while it was dizzying and all the legs started to look either too straight, sickle hocked or cow hocked!

We also had robust discussions on the bloodlines of each mare presented. Discussing whether we would have chosen the same stallion, why some breeders chose to mix jumper and dressage lines and what we felt each stallion might have passed on to that individual mare. Seeing so many mares you can really start to get a feeling of what a particular stallion may pass on, both the

good and bad traits. I must admit that I thought my stallion choices for 2013 were already decided but after this trip my mind has been changed...to stallions I would not have probably considered in the past!

There is frequent debate over comparing the American breeders/riders to the German and Dutch. From a breeding standpoint I feel we are still behind them, but thankfully have been making great strides forward. We have the blood lines here in both our mare and stallion base and we have the passion of dedicated breeders. What we lack is their educational opportunities. We don't have the history of our parents and grandparents having been breeders to pass on all their knowledge. We don't have access to sitting at these large mare and stallion shows on a regular basis to train our eyes, listen to judges comments and see what other breeders are doing (and let me tell you these shows are well attended; be it rain, wind or even on a weekday afternoon). We don't have the opportunity to go see many of the stallions we choose in person. For all these reasons we are at a great disadvantage. I do feel nothing can replace being able to go overseas to attend these courses and events. I also realize the barriers in front of many American breeders to make such a trip; family, work and money. However, the Elysium Farm Fund Grant has the ability to remove one of those barriers and I think any serious breeder should eagerly take advantage of this opportunity.





# Heather Mason and Her Road to WEG

## 2012 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize Recipient

On February 27, the Board of Directors of The Dressage Foundation was pleased to announce that Heather Mason had received the \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize. Heather's plans included intensive training through 2012 and 2013 with Lars Peterson and Alfredo Hernandez. Heather's goal is to qualify for the 2014 World Equestrian Games with her horse, Warsteiner.

"I am very excited by the opportunities that the Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize has made possible. Both Danish Olympian Lars Petersen, and Piaffe/Passage specialist Alfredo Hernandez have come to New Jersey regularly for clinics to help me with Warsteiner's move into the Grand Prix level. I have never had this much consistent training before, and am finding it easier to set both short-term and long-term training goals, with an occasional show to check progress and determine what we need to work on this winter.

*The 2012 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize was presented at the Palm Beach Dressage Derby on March 3, 2012.*

*l-r: Noreen O'Sullivan, Carol Lavell, Tom Lavell, Heather Mason, Michael Poulin.*



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Following a three-day clinic with Lars a week before the Festival of Champions, Warsteiner finished his 'small tour' career by winning the Intermediare freestyle, and finishing 3rd overall in the Intermediare Championships. I have already had two competitions with 'Warstie' at Grand Prix, and he won them both with 68% and 72%. Although he is very new to the Grand Prix movements, I know it is important to get some mileage in the arena this year so I know exactly what my training needs to focus on to prepare him for next

season. It is very exciting to see how easily he has made the jump into Grand Prix.

Lars will be in Pennsylvania for six weeks starting in August, so I will have a very regular training program with him during that time, this is something I have never done before.

Without the Prize, I could never afford such training sessions, and to create an internationally competitive Grand Prix horse, it is imperative at this point in time, when the movements are just developing. The Dressage Foundation has helped me have otherwise elusive training though the Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize. I am finding that the additional training is helping me with my other developing FEI horses, and I happily pass along what I am learning to my students. Having always owned my own horses, been on a very tight budget, and mostly worked by myself with occasional clinics, the Carol Lavell Dressage Prize has really helped me get the training I need to help develop my horses to their full potential."



Photo by Susan J. Stickle

# USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program

Every other year, The Dressage Foundation is proud to provide funding support for the USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program. This program is an intense two day seminar designed to help bridge the gap between Young Rider status and the professional world of international competition, teaching, training, and equine business management. The information provided by a variety of knowledgeable presenters helps participants transition from the Young Rider ranks to that of an adult amateur, professional, or high performance rider.

Focus areas include fundraising, sponsorship, grant opportunities, insurance, ethics, business management, international competition, goal setting, and leadership. USDF and USEF also

explain the role that each organization plays in the participants future plans. The Dressage Foundation provides information on the different funds, programs, grants and scholarships available and how those opportunities can help these young professionals.

The Young Rider Graduate Program is open to those between 20 and 28 years of age, riding at Third Level or above, and a current USDF Participating Member, Youth Participating Member, or Group Member.

*"I was fortunate to be able to attend the 2008 program as well (as the 2012 program) and can say with great confidence that this program has shaped who I am as a young professional."* – Emily D. Craig

With many highly qualified presenters, sometimes the best information comes from the "real life" stories shared by those who have made a successful transition themselves. Hearing from Christoph Hess, Pam Goodrich, and Michael Barisone will prove invaluable as these young aspiring professionals move forward with their careers.

*"This has been one of the most amazing weekends of my life.... I have been so lost on how to proceed and push my career forward...not anymore. I am now confident, motivated, and inspired."*

– Deirdre R. Malburg

The Dressage Foundation looks forward to providing continued funding support for this very worthwhile program in 2014!

## USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series 2012-2013 Schedule Announced

The following 2012-2013 USDF Jr/YR Clinics have been scheduled. Watch the USDF website for application information, [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org).



REGION	DATES	LOCATION	CLINICIAN
Region 6	April 14-15, 2012	Once Upon A Horse, Eagle, ID	Jeremy Steinberg
Region 5	September 15-16, 2012	Stellar Stables, Parker, CO	George Williams
Region 3	November 10-11, 2012	Evergreen Farm, Blythewood, SC	Jeremy Steinberg
Region 2	November 17-18, 2012	Sunflower Farms, Bristol, WI	Jeremy Steinberg
Region 4	December 8-9, 2012	Pine Hill Farm, Kansas City, MO	Jan Ebeling

The Dressage Foundation provides funding to USDF in support of the USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series. Additional support is available through the Renee Isler Dressage Support Fund at The Dressage Foundation. This fund was created to help applicants to the USDF Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series, who are in need of financial assistance in order to attend, if qualified and accepted by USDF. Renee's Fund has authorized nine annual grants of up to \$800 each, one for each Clinic in each of the nine USDF Regions.



## A Lasting Impact – *Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award*

The vast majority of prizes and awards are won at horse shows by top competitors. Occasionally a trainer/instructor can apply for and receive a scholarship or grant for continuing education purposes. The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award recognizes those who teach well.

Those individuals who are selected for this \$5,000 Teaching Excellence Award will have many, if not all, of the following attributes:

- A USDF Region 9 member in good standing-permanent residence in Region 9. *(Required)*
- A teacher of dressage, whether it is basics-Training through 1st-2nd level; or mid-range 2nd-4th levels; or FEI. *(Required)*
- Adherence to sound dressage principles, such as outlined by the USDF Training Pyramid.
- The ability to communicate these principles of training so that students develop themselves and horses in a logical, progressive and humane way up through the levels. *(Required)*
- A reputation for honesty, integrity and community/regional service.
- A USDF Certified Instructor, encouraged, though not required.

Ashley Hammill, San Antonio, TX, received the third annual “USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award” at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships held in Katy, TX, November 3-6, 2011. She received a



*Ashley Hammill and Romanov training in 2012*

\$5,000 award for demonstrating outstanding teaching methodology in dressage.

“I am very honored to have been chosen for the award. It is an amazing feeling that I was recognized for the hard work and dedication I have put into learning and teaching dressage. The money has been set aside for continued education,” said Ashley recent-

ly. “My choices are to continue with my USDF Instructor Certification or upgrade my “L” graduate status by working toward becoming an “r” dressage judge. I love to teach but in my opinion methodical judging is incredibly valuable to the education of instructors/trainers.”

The Dressage Foundation wishes Ashley the best in her future endeavors!

Photo by Monica Adams





Marie Morgan and Dorado

## A Lasting Impact — Region 9 TEA

“Shortly after receiving the award in 2009, I bought clinic time and used it to quiz different trainers about rider bio-mechanics. My goal was, and still is, to find better ways to communicate with my students about their position. I’ve also traveled to Germany and the Netherlands to watch the World Championships for young horses in Verden and the European championships in Rotterdam. I find tremendous inspiration watching the best in the world in the flesh. The teaching award money helped make all this possible. Thank you!” Marie Morgan, 2009 Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award recipient.

Marie Morgan pictured with Dorado, a 21-year-old Westfalen. Marie purchased Dorado when he was 5 years old, lame and sick. “It has been quite a journey nursing him back to health and he’s taught me lots about veterinary medicine! He is a joy and a jokester around the barn and everyone loves him,” said Marie. “I competed him at PSG for the first time in July. He made a 60% and I couldn’t be more thrilled.”

# Rolling Stone Farm’s John Lee Amber and Shakespeare Benefited from a Michael Poulin Fund Grant in 2011-2012

Mo Swanson, of Rolling Stone Farm, Slatington, PA, was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Michael Poulin Dressage Fund to send the farm’s trainer, John Lee Amber, and their 7-year-old homebred Hanoverian stallion, Shakespeare RSF, to train and compete in Florida over the winter.

John Amber left for Florida right after Christmas of 2011. Shakespeare RSF and a 4-year-old sales gelding left a few days before. From stabling to training, from transportation to lodging, the pieces fell into place perfectly for Mo Swanson of Rolling Stone Farm.

The lessons were more than Mo and John could have expected. Every step, every body position, every movement was coached. The timing for John and Shakespeare to receive this level of instruction was perfect. With the huge step from Fourth Level to Prix St. Georges, attention to small

details makes a huge difference. Shakespeare and John returned home in mid-March.

John got so much from this experience, training with Lisa Wilcox and Ernst Hoyas to showing in a few PSG and Developing PSG classes. He is excited to be able to share what he has learned with others at Rolling Stone Farm and to apply these lessons to his own riding of the many young horses under saddle at Rolling Stone Farm.

Shakespeare RSF and John will continue to show at the PSG level.

It was a sacrifice for John, Mo and others at Rolling Stone Farm to send John and Shakespeare to Florida and be without John’s services for those months.

“There are not more appreciative people than us to have been able to do all of this with the help of the Michael Poulin Grant from The Dressage Foundation. Thank you, thank you, thank you!” said Mo Swanson.



John Lee Amber  
and Shakespeare

Photo by Susan J. Stickle



# Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship 2011 Changes Offered Increased Options for Instructors

In 2011, The Dressage Foundation announced that the Major Anders Lindgren Scholarship had been restructured to offer funding to more instructors to train in the U.S. or abroad. Two \$2,000 Scholarships would be available each year to dressage instructors to train in a concentrated amount of time of at least one week, away from home. Applicants are not required to be Certified Instructors, but it is suggested that applicants use the scholarship money to train with a Certified Instructor or USDF Instructor Certification Program Faculty Member. In addition, one \$6,000 Scholarship would be available each year to a dressage instructor, preferably to those in the USDF Certified pool, Training through Fourth Levels. The scholarship will enable the applicant to train in a longer concentrated time period away from home.

Thirty instructors applied for the three grants, a marked increase from recent years! Grants were awarded to Sarah Geikie (CT, \$6,000 Lindgren Scholarship) to train with Kathy Connelly; to Sara Schmitt (NJ, \$2,000 Scholarship) to train with Belinda Nairn-Wertman; and to Emily Wagner (KS, \$2,000 Scholarship) to train with Lilo Fore.

## Sarah Geikie:

First of all, I would like to thank The Dressage Foundation for this



*Sarah Geikie*

incredible opportunity.

It is a great honor to receive the Lindgren Scholarship, one that I deeply appreciate.

I chose to travel to Florida to work with Kathy Connelly for a six-week period. Kathy and I have worked together in the past. My decision to continue to train with her was based on several reasons. First, and most important, her training and teaching philosophy and background parallels my own. Second, I knew that her manner with the horses reflected qualities that are very important to me. She is very kind and quiet with the horses, and is able to build a trusting relationship with not only the riders but with the horses.

This opportunity to train intensively, without the distractions of normal daily life at home was just what I needed. In Florida, I was able to really concentrate only on my horse and myself. We had two to three lessons a week. In between the lessons, I worked on integrating the new feelings and exercises that we worked on during our sessions.

Kathy is very good at using various exercises to teach and develop the horse's understanding of what was being asked of him. She also has a very good eye, so her feedback was always spot on. I felt that my riding was improving weekly. It is still amazing how important constant eyes on the ground are!

Almost every day, I would spend time watching some of the other lessons that Kathy would teach. Debbie McDonald was also based at this farm, so I could also watch Debbie work with some of her farm's horses and riders. There was so much to learn just by opening your eyes and ears. There are so many good horses and riders and trainers, that just being in that environment alone, one can't help but improve.

This was a fantastic trip for me. I have come home excited about riding and training, I feel like I have a new lease on my career. Thank you to The Dressage Foundation for making this possible.

Photo by Moments in Time Photography

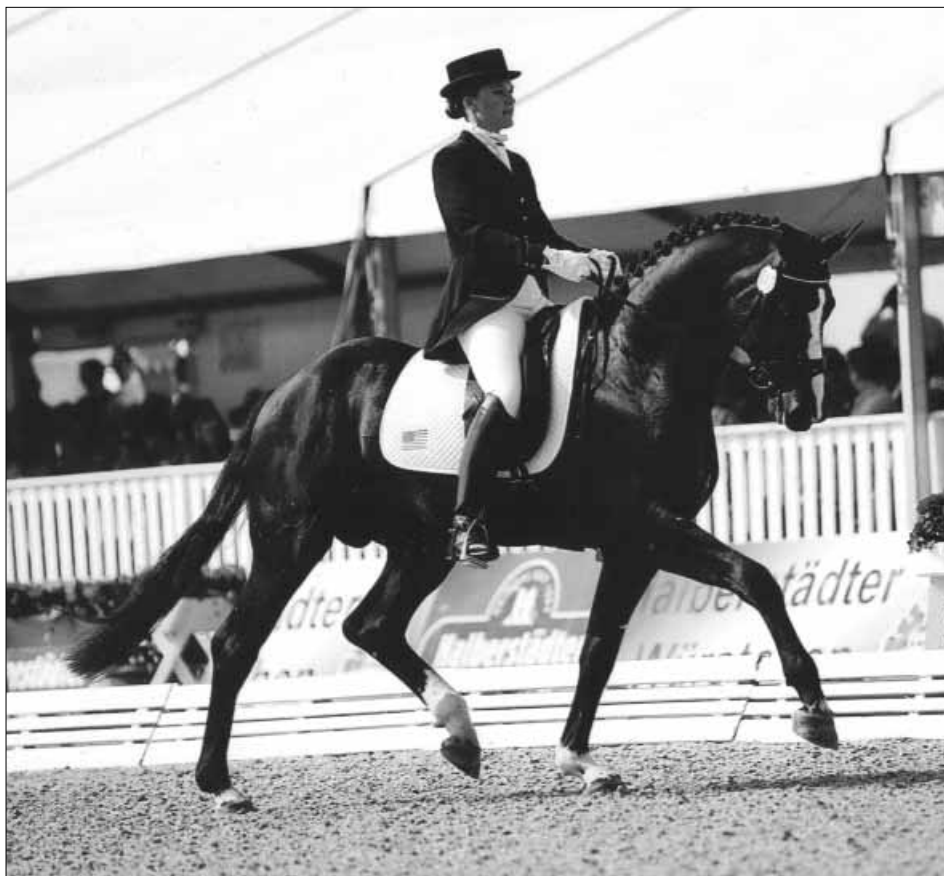


Photo by Rachel Photography

Emily Wagner

### Emily Wagner:

Thanks in part to The Dressage Foundation and the Major Lindgren Scholarship, I was able to spend valuable time with Lilo Fore in Santa Rosa, California, with my two horses WakeUp and Weltdorff. I believe it is essential to always keep trying to improve your riding, training and teaching abilities.

Lilo has extensive experience with many different types of horses and riders. She also knows that it is imperative that an instructor be able to adjust according to the horse and rider.

Horses have to be evaluated for skill level, training stage and talent. She would have me ride a horse for a short period of time and then give her an oral evaluation. This was an excellent exercise for me to practice not only quickly summing up my thoughts of a particular horse and then forming a coherent response but to also put it in a positive light that would be constructive. She encouraged me to always find the horse's strengths and figure out a way to utilize those strengths in order to improve the weaknesses.

Furthermore, she pointed out that when devising a training/lesson plan it was always super important to assess the normal work and quality that is expected of the horse and plan accordingly. Lilo also gives lessons to many different riders and was wonderful in allowing me to get a peek at her process of teaching. Riders vary extensively as well and each has to be taken as an individual. Lilo emphasized that you have to have both the ability to realize when something isn't working for horse and rider and the honesty to admit it isn't working and go on to try something different. One lesson that made a huge impact on me reinforced the idea that riding, teaching and training is not a black and white textbook that goes chapter by chapter but rather a twisty road that has bumps and hills that you have to be ready for!

I thoroughly appreciated my time with Lilo Fore and all the wonderful people at her barn. She really takes a personal interest in her students and it shows with the long lasting relationships and friendships between her, her horses and the students. The first and foremost goal was always the well-being of the horses and she stressed that anyone who was willing to learn and loved their horses was welcome at her farm and this love for the horse is something that we can't forget or under-appreciate.



# Carol Lavell Gifted Fund –

## *Celebrating 10 Years of Adult Amateur Grants!*



Anne Sushko and Sir Ishmael,  
2011 Region 4 Gifted Recipient

The plan I submitted as part of my grant application called for me to do quite a bit of preparation prior to my time with Anne [Cizadlo]. Increased physical activity and lots of reading was to be done in the winter months prior to Anne's return in April. There were no extended cold periods to give me any excuses to not ride! Critter and I both came in to our lesson time in better shape than when Anne last saw us. The week before the start, however, I was not able to ride at all due to my husband being in the hospital with broken ribs and a punctured lung (golf cart accident – and people say riding is dangerous!).

My goals were pretty basic. In fact, when I discussed my grant with other Adult Amateurs, they were amazed that I was not looking at grand plans in the dressage world!

*They had never even considered writing a grant because they are not 'upper level' riders and have no lofty goals to compete. They just assumed they would not be eligible.*

Did I meet my goals? Were my expectations met? Absolutely!! They were surpassed! Basically, my goals were to improve the relationship with my horse by solidifying my position, to work on the trot and canter by becoming more confident in the forwardness needed, and to experience some of the movements required beyond the land of Training Level. Our partnership made amazing strides forward.

Apart from the riding and ability to work with my trainer for multiple days in a row, the grant gave me not only time but a reason to say "NO" and to have no excuses to not ride. I now see that this is what I must do more of for my riding to continue to move forward. It was difficult to say "No, I can't" when someone called to ask me to do some extra volunteer hours. But they were easily able to find someone else. It would normally have been an excuse to not drive 80 miles each way when the wind was steadily blowing 30 mph and gusting over 50 mph – but I had to be there for my lessons! And to ride in those winds? What if he spooked and carried on? But he didn't. In fact, he paid no attention to the wind. Another excuse gone. Then the coughing. No temperature, no other signs of a cold or other problem, lots of pollen in the air. Should we not ride? "Ride, he's not having any breathing problems," says Anne. "Ride, it's just an allergy of some type," says the vet. "Learn to use your core to maintain your position" they both say (independently of each other and without knowing each other).

Wasn't that one of my goals? Another excuse gone. And finally I realize that I have a partner – a horse that is willing to work and learn with me.

This was an amazing opportunity. There are not enough words to thank Carol Lavell and The Dressage Foundation. It is my personal goal this year to share the work of the Foundation at every show with which I am involved either as a USEF Technical Delegate or show secretary or manager. More people, particularly GMOs and Adult Amateurs, need to know of the opportunities that are available, opportunities for riders at all levels, not just the High Performers about whom we all read. More people also need to hear first-hand that the Foundation needs our support in order to continue making these opportunities available.

Grant recipients are encouraged to keep a daily journal. This is a tremendous idea because it helps you to focus on what was done each day. I'm sure I forgot to write down many things. I hope I have not misquoted my trainer in any way. Any strange sounding ideas are my own misinterpretation of what she said. Words that will appear over and over ad nauseum are POSITION POSITION – FORWARD FORWARD – BALANCE BALANCE. Hmmmmmm – might there be a theme here?

To read more about Anne's training, and her daily journal entries, visit [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org), Help for Adult Amateurs.



Martha Goodney and Claire de Lune,  
2011 Region 7 Gifted Recipient

When I submitted my application for The Dressage Foundation Gifted Fund Scholarship, I had three goals for my training period: Improve my rider biomechanics, improve my lateral work, and improve my horse's way of going. I feel that the consistent daily lessons I received through the scholarship really helped me to make considerable progress in reaching these goals. The daily training enabled me to build on small improvements and firmly seal the instruction into my daily riding.

***I encourage other adult amateurs to apply for this scholarship so they can also have this wonderful opportunity to learn.***

The most important lesson I learned during my training was that improving my rider biomechanics is the key to solving many of my other problems.

Louise [Koch] helped me improve my position and coordination so I could more effectively communicate with my horse. I am right handed and when I ride I have a tendency to have too much rein contact with my right hand and draw my right leg up behind the girth and slump my hip to the left. I became so much more aware of my right hand and the affect it was having on my horse.

Another biomechanical problem I have is the tendency to grip with my lower legs. I learned that this really affects my horse's way of going by deadening her response to my leg aids. If I am always gripping, my horse tunes out my leg aids.

I feel that I really made progress in my canter work. I had been having problems on my left to right lead change – mostly because I had poor rider biomechanics and was throwing my body around and putting my poor horse off balance. I learned that I must keep my core very strong and straight, not collapse my hip, have my horse positioned correctly and give with my inside hand at the point of the lead change. Sitting straight and keeping my seat in the saddle during the change made a tremendous difference and by the end of the second week I was able to do a line of 5 perfect 4 tempis and a line of 5 perfect 3 tempis. You can't imagine the happiness I felt when I was successful with those tempi

changes. This problem had been vexing me for ages, but I learned what I need to do and work on in order to be correct.

One of the most important things I learned was that in lateral work you are not just stagnant and gripping, but you are constantly adjusting your aids to keep the horse correct. A little outside leg, a little inside leg, correct the bend, position, half halt etc., etc..... Even though the best riders can make lateral exercises look smooth, consistent and fluid, I learned you really have to ride every stride by constantly adjusting your aids. This requires a tremendous amount of concentration, sensitivity and muscle control.

Louise taught me so many things and I am taking home a treasure chest of exercises to work on improving myself and my horse. I learned how my own bad habits were affecting my horse's ability and became much more aware of my body and position. I feel that my horse and I really improved during this training. I feel much more energized and positive about my ability to continue to improve my riding and communication with my horse. Thank you so much to The Dressage Foundation and Carol Lavell for giving me this opportunity to learn and enjoy my horse.

To read more of Martha's experience, visit [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org), Help for Adult Amateurs.

(continued on page 20)



## Carol Lavell Gifted Fund – *Celebrating 10 Years of Adult Amateur Grants! (continued)*



Photo by Casual Creations Photography

### Niki Sackman and Mercedes Colortyme, 2011 Region 2 Gifted Recipient

'Twas the night before May 1st and visions of candy canes and riding lessons danced through my head. Once again I felt like a little kid on Christmas Eve, waiting for gifts under the tree and not being able to sleep as my dreams were full of expectations and excitement. In November, when I heard I was awarded the Gifted Grant, I thought May would never get here, and now sadly, May is over. I have to thank Carol Lavell and The Dressage Foundation for selecting me for this once in a lifetime opportunity, and I can never adequately express what this opportunity has meant to me!

*I think I can say that the grants that are available through The Dressage Foundation are for all levels of riders on any breed of horse.*

I don't own an expensive horse and I'm not showing at upper levels in recognized shows, but I am dedicated to learning all I can to improve my skills and those of my horse, while being an active member of my GMO. I've encouraged other adult amateurs to pursue their dreams and to volunteer within their GMOs to support the dressage community and The Dressage Foundation. My GMO, the Northern Ohio Dressage Association, has graciously offered to sponsor a benefit class for The Dressage Foundation at our annual recognized show, and I am so very happy they are doing this.

I show Training Level at local schooling shows and ride a cute little Paint mare I found a few years ago out in a pasture in Amish country one day.

I kept a daily diary of what we achieved during each lesson, what I needed to work on, and notes to refer to once I was back to only one lesson a week. It was amazing to be able to spend so much time in the saddle with my trainer working on training goals, and to be off work without feeling guilty that I was spending time or money on myself. During the 10 days of vacation I would get up in the morning, send my daughter off to school and then spend the entire day at the barn – now to me, that is a dream vacation. After lessons it was nice to be able to just hang out at the barn grooming Raina or Coco (Raina's offspring), learn from other riders' lessons, socialize, and watch the horses interacting in the pastures together.

My training goals were to establish a good foundation upon which to build

by achieving the objectives of Training Level, and to perform all the movements in harmony. I needed to work on suppleness, transitions, moving freely forward, engaging the hind end, accepting contact with the bit, and developing our canter.

My first lesson was rather unsettling and just about sent me into panic attacks. I was so worked up and excited to start these lessons, and then a huge storm rolled in. The sky became black, and then a downpour of rain, high winds, loud thunder and lightning were all my background distractions. It ended up being an excellent lesson – what a great way to practice for when I have show nerves (or just plain nerves). I was really rattled and shaken up as I could be, fearful of reinjuring my back. My old friend "what if" was rearing her ugly head inside my head. Raina, on the other hand, paid no attention to what was going on outside. Loreen had me get right to work on exercises. I needed to get out of my head, no "what ifs," breathe, concentrate on what I was doing, and ride my horse! No matter what the storm outside was doing I was to send Raina forward.

Speaking of forward, that was the topic of many of our lessons. "Forward first" is going to be one of my new mottos. I learned that I must have my horse forward first, in front of my legs and between my aids in order to achieve connection. Amazing when forward is achieved how the other parts fall into place.

Throughout the month there were many common themes and phrases



## People Are Talking!

### *The Dancing Horse Fund*



that I heard from across the arena such as “forward first,” “ask for engagement from the hind end,” and “keep your shoulders back,” to name a few. I was a hunter rider most of my life before discovering a passion for dressage. I have many habits that I have to be conscious to change such as keeping my shoulders back, my seat underneath me more than one would have in a hunter position, and opening my hips.

We made huge improvements over the month. My trainer, Loreen Cobb, is a saint and a wonderful instructor. I would not have been able to achieve so much without her, my willing equine partner Raina, and the Gifted Grant.

At the end I felt like I had a lot more tools in my tool box to use when riding Raina on my own without Loreen telling me what to do and when to do it in lessons. Going back to one lesson a week is so sad for me but at least now I know what to do between lessons and how to ride my horse every ride. Prior to receiving my grant money I would occasionally skip a lesson and have Loreen school Raina so she could give me feedback on what she was feeling, or so I could see that Raina could do what Loreen was asking her. I realized that Raina can do everything Loreen asks and looks amazing when Loreen rides her but I needed to learn how to make her go and look like she does when Loreen rides her. Now I feel like I can do that. I feel so much more educated as a result of this opportunity.

To read more of Niki's experience, visit [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org), Help for Adult Amateurs.

“This was the first time I've audited a freestyle clinic. Among the positive points, it showed me how a complex process is handled step-by-step, making it possible for an amateur rider to ride to music.”

“Watching this clinic made me want to try putting a freestyle together. It seemed doable as opposed to the mysterious task I envisioned.”

“Cynthia Collins knows her stuff! Being a successful freestyle competitor herself brings experience to the process of creating a freestyle that I have not experienced before. Cynthia knows music, dressage at every level, and puts it together for each individual in such a way that they have their own unique competitive freestyle.”

“The lecture was terrific – the instructor gave each level equal footing, equal value. I thoroughly enjoyed the clinic!”

“The knowledge of the clinician and ability to quickly assess horse and rider to find the music that suited them. In two days she worked with seven freestyles and three pas de deux, finding music and beginning choreography.”

“The interest from riders far exceeded our expectations for this clinic which resulted in this being our largest freestyle clinic with Karen Robinson in seven years. We would highly recommend her to any club interested in hosting a clinic of

this type. Each rider, regardless of the breed of horse or age/ability of rider, is treated with equal respect and receives the same amount of attention. Karen is very careful in her selection of music and choreography to not make any two freestyles alike. A large portion of our riders have plans to ride a freestyle in competition.”

“Our clinic was well attended by both riders and auditors and as a result we expanded our clinic from two to three days in order to accommodate more riders.”

“Karen is an excellent clinician. She really knows how to assist the rider with music to enhance the horse's way of going. She knows how to create choreography to highlight the horse's best and improve the areas of weakness.”

“My daughter is not a ‘huge’ dressage fan, but wanted to sign up because she wants to do a musical freestyle at our Dressage Rally this fall. She stated that Reese (Koffler Stanfield) was ‘the best dressage instructor’ she had ever had. I watched the lesson. She was positive and encouraging. I could see the progress from start to finish.”

“As a participant, I was able to discover the means to measure the beats of a given horse in relationship to the music. Most importantly, the instructor taught with wit and humor that made you want to learn.”



# Funding Available to the United States Dressage Federation, Its Members, Group Member Organizations/Chapters, and Individuals

THE CAROL LAVELL GIFTED FUND offers \$1,000 training scholarships annually to adult amateurs in each USDF Region. Applicants must be a member of USDF and a member of a GMO in the region for which they apply.



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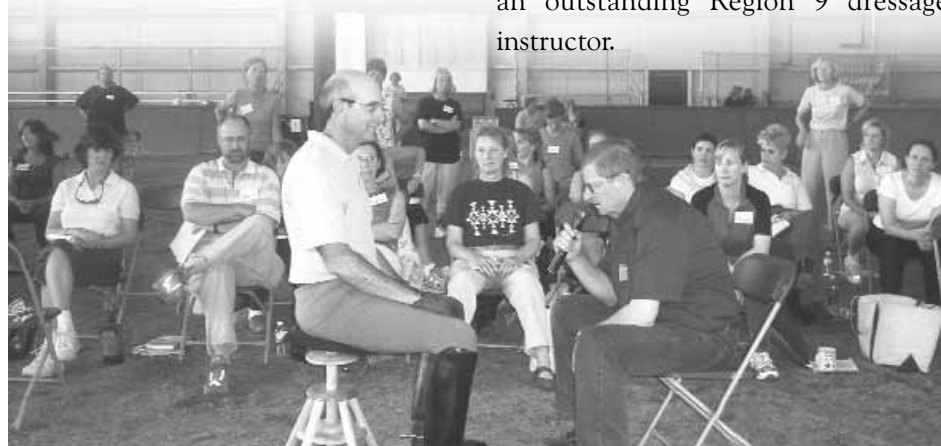


THE MICHAEL POULIN DRESSAGE FUND provides support for programs and projects that enhance the quality of dressage in the United States.

VIOLET M. HOPKINS FUND offers funding to USDF GMOs to conduct educational clinics, camps, and seminars for their member riders.



CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR INSTRUCTORS FUND, provides up to five grants of \$1,000 each annually to GMOs/Chapters for instructor education. This Fund also offers grants of up to \$1,500 each to individuals in pursuit of USDF Instructor Certification.



THE SALLY SWIFT MEMORIAL FUND provides financial assistance to USDF GMOs to conduct Centered Riding® educational clinics and seminars for riders at all levels.



USDF REGION 9 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD is a \$5,000 annual grant to recognize and honor an outstanding Region 9 dressage instructor.

OLYMPIC DREAM PROGRAM sends four top young American dressage riders to Europe for a two-week introduction to European dressage trainers, riders, facilities and events.



TRIP HARTING FUND was established to provide scholarships to a USPC current or graduate B or A, to assist in attending the USDF "L" Education Program, or USDF Instructor Certification Program.



DANCING HORSE FUND awards grants to non-profit equestrian groups and USDF GMOs to promote musical freestyle at all levels.



RENEE ISLER DRESSAGE SUPPORT FUND was established to give a financial boost to those young riders who need it, in



order for them to participate in the USDF Jr/YR Clinic Series. Additionally, individual grants are available for a variety of uses for young riders and professionals.



ELYSIUM FARM FUND FOR U.S. BREEDER EXCELLENCE provides grants to breeders to pursue educational opportunities

related to breeding that will advance their careers, promote sound breeding practices, and further enhance the quality of U.S.-bred dressage horses.

MAJOR ANDERS LINDGREN SCHOLARSHIP

offers two \$2,000 scholarships and one \$6,000 scholarship annually to dressage instructors to train in a concentrated amount of time away from home.



CAROL LAVELL ADVANCED DRESSAGE PRIZES are two annual \$25,000 grants to give financial assistance for coaching and training to talented, committed, qualified riders whose plan is to reach and excel at the elite standard of high performance dressage.

ANNE BARLOW RAMSAY GRANT



of \$25,000 is designed to showcase talented American-bred horses, ridden by U.S. citizens, by providing money to train and com-

pete in Europe.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR JUDGES AND USDF "L"

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRADUATES, THE EDGAR HOTZ FUND

The Dressage Foundation is proud to fund up to \$7,200 annually, permitting USDF to offer one \$200 to \$800 grant in each USDF Region.





# Century Club Only a Matter of Time

As The Dressage Foundation closed the books on 2011, the Century Club had reached 96 member teams. The magical 100th member would join the Club in 2012! It was only a matter of time....

On May 5, 2012, Alma Perkins and Charisma performed a First Level Musical Freestyle that she created. Friends, family, and members of her local club, Tri-State Dressage Society, cheered her on. Alma said, "I am a big advocate of freestyles, because it keeps both rider and horse interested. Dressage is good for horse and rider health, and like chess, is never to be completely mastered."

Alma and Charisma have been featured in several print publications and online. A few of the publications include *Chronicle of the Horse*, *Dressage Today*, *Sidelines*, and *USDF Connection*. Many more online sites picked up the story. The 100th member of the Century Club was a milestone many years in the making.

The journey to this point began in 1996, when noted dressage judge and instructor, Dr. Max Gahwyler, suggested that The Dressage Foundation create a program to encourage older dressage riders to remain active in the sport. To become a member of the Century Club, the ages of the horse and rider must equal at least 100 years and the team must perform a dressage test at a show.

Lazelle Knocke, the first member of the Century Club said, "Hopefully the Century Club will be in the forefront of a very interesting opportunity for

seniors and dressage as recreational and therapeutic riding. It really is challenging and has long-term goals and benefits."

The Century Club has grown to become a meaningful and popular endeavor for senior riders and horses.

*"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."*

— C. S. LEWIS

Recent growth of the Century Club indicates that the member teams are becoming an inspiration for other riders to remain active in their senior years.

John Claridge, who became a Century Club member in 2010, has said about dressage, "As I think back over the years, it is the concept of teamwork that I have found most satisfying. In most athletic endeavors that older people pursue, e.g. golf, tennis, swimming, cycling, the effort is purely individual. Dressage requires one to accommodate his or her abilities to that of the horse. When that is

done successfully, there is no better feeling."

Reaching the 100th member was only one of the features that made 2012 a special year for the Century Club. The Dressage Foundation also welcomed the first team from Kentucky, the first team from South Carolina, the first team from Maryland (which was followed by our second and third teams from that state in very quick succession!) and the first Western dressage rider!

The Dressage Foundation provides each new Century Club team with a ribbon and wall plaque. Additionally, each year the Foundation publishes *The Century Club News*, which features stories on each team from the previous year. The Dressage Foundation welcomes donations of all sizes to help with the costs of the Century Club.

Alma Perkins and Charisma

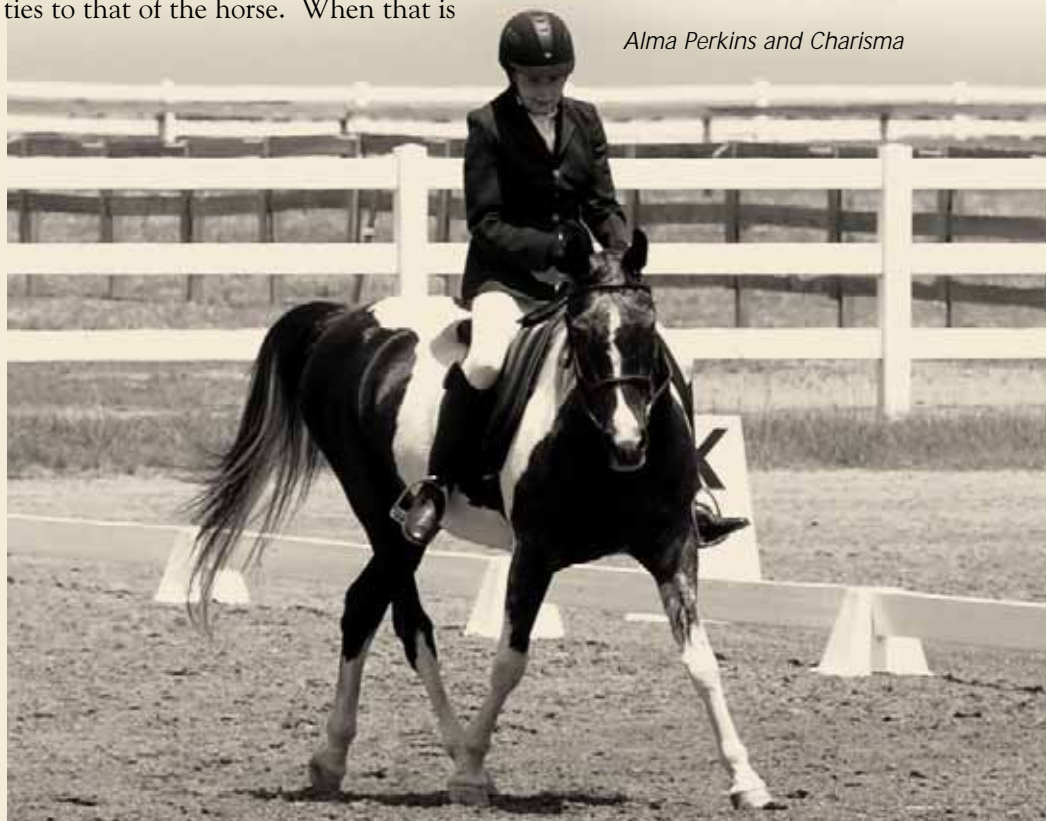


Photo by Claude Price

# A Family Affair

By John F. Boomer

My father, Lowell Boomer, died on November 20, 2011, after having celebrated his 100th birthday on October 12, 2011. During his long life, he became a giant in the equestrian world. He would not have thought of himself as a giant; he used the pronoun “we” much more often than “I.”

He founded the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) in 1973, and served as its Chief Executive Officer for the first sixteen years of its life, before stepping down. My mother, Gladys, was at his side every step of the way during USDF’s formative years, using her superior shorthand skills to record the essence of what Dressage people wanted their new organization to do and not do, to be and not be.

Lowell Boomer established The Dressage Foundation in 1989, and I had the privilege of serving as its Chief Executive Officer for almost fifteen of my “retirement” years. My wife, Lynn, was at my side every step of those years, serving as Administrative Director of The Dressage Foundation. The two of us were the sole employee staff during all of that time.

During recent years of my father’s declining health, I served as his main conduit to the equestrian world. I regu-

larly read the equestrian magazines to him, showed him DVDs, and mainly just talked “horse.” He was so excited about the progress of The Dressage Foundation, and wanted to hear more and more about its growing family of

Unitrust with The Dressage Foundation designated as “Charitable Remainderman.” This was again a Family decision discussed and agreed to by my father, brother and me. Now, since his recent death, with his estate

being settled, my brother and I will not receive \$250,000 each through inheritance from this piece of his estate; it is instead irrevocably secured to come to The Dressage Foundation upon our deaths, to be used “where needed most,” as determined by the Board of Directors, based on staff recommendations. So, this \$500,000 is a Boomer Family gift.

As my father grew closer to the end of his life, it became apparent to me that he looked upon his equestrian accomplishments as a Family Affair – a “Boomer Family Affair,” if you will. Our contributions of time, talent and treasure have been significant and sizable.

My father’s vision has produced two premier Dressage organizations, structured and operating as separate entities, one focused on education, the other on funding. I know he was happy about this, and took pride in these accomplishments.

I know he felt good about having had his family’s support and help in making these achievements possible. We, his family, feel good, too.



Lowell Boomer



Gladys Boomer



Jim and Lois Boomer



Lynn and John Boomer

Funds, its expanding array of scholarships and grants, who was receiving them, for what purposes, and details about their horses. He was complimentary to Lynn and me for the progress made with the Foundation, and expressed his gratitude to us regularly.

In 2001, Lowell established a \$500,000 Charitable Remainder

## Support The Dressage Foundation by Holding a Benefit Class!

Are you looking for something a little different at your next show? Do you want to show your support for The Dressage Foundation? Have you considered holding a Benefit Class?

Benefit Classes held at shows throughout the country are important contributors to the strength of The Dressage Foundation.

### How to Arrange a Benefit Class for The Dressage Foundation:

- Visit our website at [www.DressageFoundation.org](http://www.DressageFoundation.org).
- Click on "Donate" to access the "Benefit Class" page.
- Review the information, print out an application, and mail it to us!
- We provide beautiful black and gold ribbons for 1st-6th places and can also provide a wall clock for the 1st place award.

The Dressage Foundation suggests a minimum donation of \$200 for ribbons only and a \$300 donation for ribbons and one clock.

The Board of Directors and Staff wish to thank all of the sponsoring groups that have supported The Dressage Foundation by holding a Benefit Class. Funds generated by Benefit Class sponsorships help further dressage education in the United States. The Dressage Foundation has no dues-paying members, and is funded only by charitable contributions. We welcome your support!

## Your Dream and Our Weaver

*What is your dream for making a difference for dressage?*

*Would you like to establish or supplement a fund that provides a continual flow of gifts?*

*Would you like to create a new program?*

*Would you like to support the permanent home for The Dressage Foundation?*

*What is your dream?*



Melissa Filipi, our Development Director, is a dream weaver. She specializes in helping our donors weave their dreams into reality. And she uses the tools of planned giving to do it.

For example, Mr. and Mrs. Dreamer want to continue their annual giving of \$500 after they are both gone. But how? Melissa can

show them how they can provide a bequest that will help them realize their dream.

Another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hopeful, want to establish a new program at The Dressage Foundation but need the money to live on during retirement. Melissa can show them how a charitable trust can help them make the gift now and retain a lifetime flow of income. They are thrilled with the idea that the gift can be in place now and that the new program will commence when they are gone.

What is your dream? Whatever it is, Melissa may be able to help it become a reality. Why not share your dream with her? She will keep your confidence and honor your privacy. And she will apply her weaving skills to help your dream come true.

To receive a free brochure about planned giving and/or to speak with Melissa, please call her at 402.434.8585, or email at [Melissa@DressageFoundation.org](mailto:Melissa@DressageFoundation.org).



# The Dressage Foundation Donors

## 2011

Cathy Alexander	Frederick Flemming	O.D. Fisher Charitable Foundation
Aloha State Dressage Society	Cathy Fletcher	Susan Olsen
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Austin Dressage Unlimited	Katherine Greene	Nan Phipps
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Alison Eastman	Kelly Miller	Karen Winn
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Priscilla Endicott	Judith Noone	Foundation
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Terry L Fairfield	Gigi Nutter	Wendy Zarrella
Marilyn Fischer		





Melissa Filipi and Jenny Johnson

## A Strategic Move – Business Plan Pays Off

**H**ow time flies! The Dressage Foundation is celebrating its second anniversary – of moving to a permanent office! Thanks to generous donors, the Foundation no longer has the burden of ever-increasing monthly rent. The bottom line is that through a well-planned, well-executed business strategy, the Foundation was able to raise the funds necessary to purchase a permanent home in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Dressage Foundation has a lean, small administrative staff, supplemented through heavy volunteer participation, and further supported by an incredible team of advisors (legal, accounting, investment, graphic design, and printing). This timely move in 2010 allowed TDF to reduce its annual “cost of living,” placing more emphasis and focus on programs, grants and scholarships. This has been a very good business move for the Foundation, and it would not have happened without the support of charitable donors!

## Monthly Giving and Corporate Matching Gifts: A Simple Way to Support TDF

**Y**our gift can help an adult amateur spend dedicated time in training without the worries of work and home. Or send a Young Rider to Europe for the inspirational trip-of-a-young-lifetime. Or enable GMOs across the country to host educational clinics for riders, judges, and trainers. Or promote Freestyle at all levels. Or reward our best and brightest teachers. Or send an instructor to Europe to improve their skills. Or any number of our other programs.

Most importantly, your gift WILL

INSPIRE others to give too!

As a valued supporter of The Dressage Foundation (TDF), we make it easy and convenient for you to support the funds and programs at TDF through our monthly giving program.

**It's easy to enroll.** You simply fill out and sign this form and return it to us. The rest is automatic.

Check with your human resources department, you may be able to double your gift – at no additional cost to you! Talk to your employer about matching gifts today!

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**Yes,** I want to join The Dressage Foundation monthly giving program.

I would like to make a contribution each month of:

☐ \$10   ☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$75   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$250   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge this gift on the ☐ 15th   ☐ 30th day of each month (or the next business day if the 15th/30th falls on a weekend or holiday).

**Credit Card** Please charge the above amount to my credit card each month.

My signature is below.   ☐ Master Card   ☐ Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

### Monthly Pledge Authorization

I authorize The Dressage Foundation to charge my monthly contribution to my credit card (as indicated above). I understand I may cancel or change my monthly pledge at any time by notifying The Dressage Foundation in writing. A record of each payment will appear on my monthly statement and will serve as my receipt.

*Please Print*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed and signed form to: The Dressage Foundation  
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Or you can fax your credit card monthly authorization to us at 402-436-3053.