

Virginia Dressage Association
Charlottesville Chapter

CHAPTER NEWS

EXTENSIONS



October 2022
Fall Edition

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Camille Judet
17-19 November 2022

Up Through the Levels
with Carter Bass 2023

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Deadline 15 November

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27 November

AND MORE ...



Take the Reins!
The 2022 Adequan/USDF Annual Convention
30 November - 3 December 2022
Lexington, KY

Go Learn More!





Message from Chapter President Melyni Worth

**Next Zoom Chapter
Board Meeting
28 November 2022
7:00 pm**

Hi Everyone,

Fall is here the trees are glorious, hope you are enjoying the beauty, big bonus, no flies, or at least fewer flies, it's a great time of year. Sugar and I are enjoying lots of trail walks in the woods, kicking thru the leaves, and enjoying the cool crispness! Fall is also the time to wrap up year-end awards, check your scores and your volunteer hours, and get those forms filled in.

Fall is also time for electing the Board Officers for the club, if you wanted things done differently, or done a certain way, join the Board, We need new faces, new ideas, and thoughts. Now is the time to step up.

Remember we do a discount for early renewal of memberships, so get those checks to Sherri!

Hope everyone is well.

Yours truly,

Melyni



The Colonnades

"Afternoon of Dressage"

A Thank You



Thank you all for making the trips to Old Raptor Farm possible. There are a number of ways I could address this note, but I will focus mostly on one. When I first created a signup notice for The Colonnades trip book, I was aware of the limited mobility of some residents and described the access to the viewing area at the farm. Ultimately, only one resident required the use of the handicapped lift on the bus.



Betty Zavertnik did not enter her name on the trip signup sheet, she called to assure me that she could use the bus lift, her walker, and the handrails to access the viewing stand. Betty was instructed beginning at age 5 by her father to ride, "like a U. S. cavalry officer." She currently has members of her family who ride but without a vehicle with special equipment, she has little opportunity to watch them. I can only indicate the circumstances; I cannot adequately describe what this trip meant to her.

There have been residents with no experience with horses, some who rode in earlier years, and some who have children or grandchildren who ride. I have received expressions across the full spectrum indicating how much they have enjoyed these opportunities including, one stating, "one of the best trips ever at The Colonnades."

Again, thank you all for the opportunity to better understand the beautiful sport of equestrian dressage.

Emmett Turner





VADA Charlottesville is excited to partner with Afton Stable for two clinics ...

Up Through the Levels with Carter Bass 1-2 April 2022

Dressage Tests are changing in 2023! VADA-CH is excited to once again offer the popular "Up Through the Levels Clinic" with Carter Bass at Afton Stables. She is a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist. The fun and informative clinic is always a member's favorite. Stay tuned for more info!

Michael Bragdell at Afton Stables 26-27 April 2023

Michael Bragdell is the Head Trainer at Hilltop Farm in Maryland where he has consistently developed young horses into top athletes. He is a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist, and has won seven US Dressage National Championships. Price and stabling info to follow soon!



Why A Rescue Horse Story Became My College Essay



As I have recently been applying to colleges, I wanted to share my college essay and also share information about a wonderful breed of horse, the rescue horse. The International Rescue Horse Registry (IRHR) is an officially recognized and accepted breed of the USDF. I am the proud owner of an IRHR horse, and we have participated in the USDF All-Breeds awards together. If you own or know of someone who owns a rescue horse, please encourage them to check out the IRHR website and join: <https://patriotfarmllc.com/rescue-horse-registry>

Horses are sent to kill pens for a multitude of reasons but should never be ruled out as devoted partners. While I do not have "the eye" to find the ones who will overcome and grow into beautiful showhorses, there are many others who do. As the Youth Ambassador for the IRHR, it is my responsibility to locate these stories and share them. With dedication and patience, kill pen horses can learn to trust again and as such, will give you 110%. There are many "diamonds in the rough" who are just waiting to be rescued. I am so fortunate that I own one of these and will be forever grateful to her for teaching me not only how to become a better rider, but a better person as well. Life is not about winning or losing. It is about the journey one takes and the choices that one makes.

Below you will find the response I wrote for my college application. While I could have responded in many ways, I chose to answer by sharing my greatest accomplishment. Lacey came into my life at the perfect moment, and she will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Common Application Question: Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

My parents met in college while on the Longwood University Equestrian Team. Before I was even born, I had a pony to myself. When I was 12 years old, I had grown too tall for my pony and was looking for a new companion. One of my mom's friends, April, found a horse who was out of work and unmotivated. I was skeptical about the partnership we would have, but I decided to go see her anyway. April had previously told me she rescued Lacey from the kill pen (she would have been killed a week later if April didn't rescue her). April had broken her to ride and had ridden her in a few shows only. She also told me that she was scared of most people and had a difficult time trusting people. When I was told this, I was uncertain if we would work as a pair because I wanted to move up the levels of dressage. The day came when I went to ride her. I saw her out in the field and thought that she was so beautiful but also very timid at the same time. We got her all tacked up and ready to ride. April was giving me a lesson, and during this time, I was having so much fun. Afterward, I decided to take on the challenge and take Lacey home with me.

The first day she was at my barn, she wouldn't let me go anywhere near her head. I tried giving her treats to calm her down, but she didn't know what the treats were. So, because she didn't trust me, my life's mission was to get her to trust me. I worked hard over the next three years working to gain her trust and get her back in shape. I learned various techniques to assist both of us during this adventure. Fast forward to today and she trusts me more than ever. I have brought her up multiple levels, and she has turned into a very fancy dressage horse. Just a couple of months ago, I realized that I made her the way she is and that she trusted me enough to learn. This accomplishment has helped me grow in every way. I feel that it has helped me grow in how I see myself. Before her, I just saw a young girl who rode horses. But now, I see myself as an independent and successful rider/trainer at only 17 years old.

In fact, Lacey gave me the confidence I needed to push my goals even higher. While I still own and ride/train Lacey, I now lease a horse trained to the highest level of dressage. Spachie and I are currently riding the FEI Junior Tests so that we may try to represent the USA next August at the North American Youth Championships. Without Lacey's trust and my experiences in training her, I know that I would not be riding at this level today. It is my understanding that not many kids my age have not only trained their own horses but also then gone on to ride at the levels for which I am today. I owe my dedication to the sport and perseverance to overcome several obstacles throughout the journey to Lacey. She really is my heart horse and has made me the person and rider that I am today.





Chapter Scholarship

The Chapter supports riders who wish to further their riding education! The Chapter scholarship is designed to enhance the education of VADA-CH members, at all levels, who wish to pursue continued dressage education through clinics, symposiums, seminars, and other educational programs sponsored by either USEF, USDF, and/or VADA-CH. Scholarships are awarded once a year.

For the 2022 Chapter Scholarship, the board has adjusted the deadline to 15 November 2022. There is one Chapter Scholarship available for \$500.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a chapter member must perform 8 hours of volunteer time in total - separate from hours used for eligibility for the Annual Awards. 4 hours must be earned at the VADA-CH June licensed show and 4 hours of any other volunteer activity. Hours cannot be donated by another member for the scholarships. Volunteer year runs from 16 August of one year to August 15 the following year.

The scholarship recipient must use it within 1 year of winning the scholarship drawing unless an extension is granted by a majority vote of the VADA-CH Board. Must write an article for the VADA-CH newsletter about what the scholarship was used for within 60 days of spending the scholarship award. Failure to write the article will bar the recipient from any further scholarship awards. The recipient is not eligible for a scholarship in the following year.

To apply for the Chapter Scholarship, email Sherri Booye, at nizra@earthlink.net by 15 November 2022. Include name, volunteer hours earned, and indicate riding group. Two groups: National Group (Intro to 4th level) and FEI Group (PSG and above). Note: Volunteer hours will be validated by the VADA CH Licensed Show Volunteer Coordinator. The scholarship recipient will be selected at the late November 2022 meeting.

2023 Board Officers Nominations

It's that time again..... Time for the election of Board Officers for VADA-CH. Now is your chance to make a difference! We need new board members, all positions are open. Nominate yourself, or a friend (with their permission and agreement), step up, and help us run this club.

To nominate yourself or a chapter member, email Nancy Doody at ndoody15@gmail.com, indicating which position(s) willing to do. **The deadline for nominations is 27 November 2022.**

It's fun, we meet mostly via zoom meetings! No driving, and you can drink your wine! You get volunteer hours! Come on and join us.

Chapter Board: Officer Positions

President - provides oversight of chapter education and events, ensuring that plans/events are carried out, and seeing the chapter fulfill its obligations to chapter members.

Vice President - oversees the activities of the chapter and supports the President.

Secretary - forwards out monthly agenda, and sets up chapter meetings. and compiles board meetings.

Treasurer and Membership (combined) - maintains all chapter financial operations.

Membership - coordinates chapter membership procedures and fees.

Chapter Newsletter Editor - publishes monthly chapter newsletter.

VADA State Representative - chapter liaison to VADA State; participates in monthly state board meetings.



Chapter Member Scholarship Opportunity: Scholarship Recipient Joann Collins



First, I want to thank VADA Charlottesville for the opportunity to work with Patrick Tigchelaar. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with a high-caliber individual on a recurring basis.

During my training sessions, my horse, Carrie, and I worked on roundness and understanding how to improve his movement through his body. Carrie is a wonderful Hanoverian gelding who I showed at 1st level. We were working on developing more muscles over his back to gain the engagement necessary to begin flying changes.

Carrie's natural tendency is to move with his shoulders high and slightly braced in the back. I worked with Patrick to lower his head and neck by asking him to carry his head consistently lower. To accomplish this position, we focused on slowing down his walk and trot. With the slower pace, I was able to use circles to improve his use of the inside leg and stepping into the outside rein. Always working toward the full engagement of his back, I was able to improve his top line and increase his ability to carry the rider. This process improved the smoothness of his sitting trot.



The second focus was the canter. I tended to ride Carrie in a slow canter which was a bit up and down and not as forward. While a bit scary at times, we improved his canter with more pace and jump. The result was a canter ready to work towards flying changes. I learned that this canter required more weight in the reins than my slow canter. With more contact, the canter improved and was more flexible. Carrie was able to lengthen and collect more easily and seemed happier with the work.

Overall, I enjoyed my work with Patrick and gained an understanding of the direction our work needed to progress and move forward with my dressage experience. Thank you again VADA Charlottesville chapter for this opportunity.

Dressage clinic 2022

Corentin POTTIER & Camille JUDET



**Clinic with Camille and Corentin at
Old Raptor Farm
Hosted by Old Raptor Farm and VADA-CH
17-19 November 2022**

VADA-Ch is extremely excited to welcome international Grand Prix riders Corentin (Coco) Pottier and Camille Judet for a clinic at Old Raptor Farm November 17-19, 2022. Based in France, Coco and Camille have taught clinics in Europe and Asia and are known for finding suitable dressage partners for riders all over the world. They have an active Instagram account, pamfoudressage, where you can get a good idea of how they work with their horses from green to Grand Prix. All of the horses look happy, but get turned out, and hacked, including Coco's team horse Gotilas (son of Totilas) who was on the French team recently in Herning, Denmark.

ALL LEVELS ARE WELCOME. Emphasis will be on correct riding, regardless of the level. It is also possible for one of the clinicians to ride your horse if you would like.

This will be an auditor-friendly clinic with one of the clinicians explaining the purpose of the exercise while the other one is coaching the rider. Questions welcomed. During lunch, we will hold informative "lunch talks" with the highlight being Saturday's "What we look for in a dressage horse". Camille will narrate while Coco rides a horse demonstrating what they look for at six years of age, eight years of age, 10 years, and so on.

To read more about the clinic and to download the rider/auditor application, visit Clinic with Camille and Coco (vada-ch.org).

For questions regarding the clinic, please contact Renee O'Leary at OldRaptorFarm@gmail.com at 540-440-8325.



Chapter Website Link

