



August 2024 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Considering recent publicity of horse abuse at the hands of elite athletes and trainers, I ask you all to be advocates for horses.

I believe most professional horse people love horses and treat them well most of the time. Some people intend to treat horses well all the time, but make mistakes and can do better. We can all, do better.

Regardless, horses have no choices in where they live or who cares for them or trains them. Some horses try to use their voices by kicking out or ‘misbehaving’ to tell us of their pain, but we don’t always understand them. So, let’s try harder. Let us observe more and act with compassion for the animals that we all love so much.

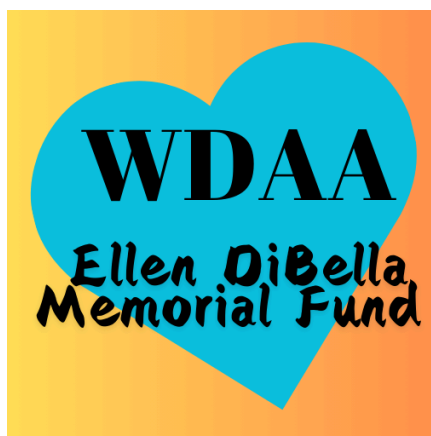
It’s hard to scratch from competition or not ride to allow time for our horses to heal. It’s hard to be there for every feed time and every ill time. It’s harder to sell our best friend if we can’t afford his care, but we must do what is best for our horses no matter how hard it is. We must take special care of our senior horses who gave us all their best years. We must put the horse first.

Being responsible for our own actions is something most of us feel like we can do, but it’s harder to challenge the actions or non-actions of others. I am proud to be a part of USEF committees working on horse welfare. Committees are hammering out hard issues like where do you draw a line between discipline and abuse and who will evaluate reports of abuse. I am also proud to represent WDAA where horse welfare has always been a priority and we have developed a training program based on progression of skills and competitions where judges reward natural movement and respect conformation.

If we want change in the World, it has to start with us. We’re not too small to make a difference. We can choose to be good stewards for horses. So, let’s do it with grace and compassion for all.

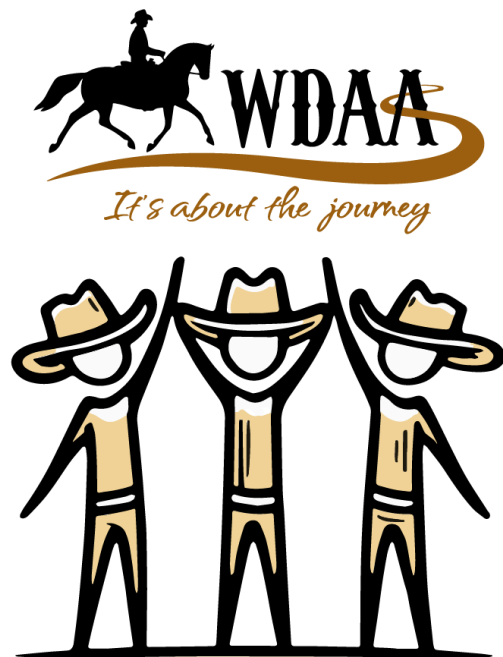
Enjoy the Journey,
Cindy Butler, Your President
Western Dressage Association of America

New Ellen Di Bella Memorial Fund established.



When WDAA founder Ellen DiBella passed away last summer she was not finished with looking after her beloved creation. To Ellen it was of utmost importance that WDAA be financially sound and secure. Upon her passing \$100,000 was gifted to WDAA. Through much discussion and research, the WDAA board felt Ellen's legacy would be best administered by the Rose Community Foundation based in Denver CO. The Ellen DiBella Memorial Fund has been established and will ensure a stable financial foundation for WDAA, and a steady path for growth. Any dividends earned will be put towards WDAA educational offerings. Ellen's husband Dr Nick Di Bella said, "The Di Bella family sends their sincere thanks to WDAA for establishing the Ellen Di Bella Memorial Fund. Ellen would be so thrilled to know that her donation will help ensure the continued success of the Western Dressage discipline to which she devoted so much time and energy. She loved to brag about how wonderful Western Dressage as a discipline has become for both the riders and their horses."

Congratulations to Candace Carlson, the first to complete the WDAA Stronger Together challenge!



STRONGER TOGETHER

The WDAA Stronger Together Initiative outlines four things any person can do to help WDAA in our efforts to provide all the services you love and dream about for your Western Dressage family.

Click this link

<https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/stronger-together> to access the "Stronger Together" checklist form. Use the form to document when you accomplish the four member tasks and return it to WDAA. At the end of the year, each member who accomplishes the tasks and sends documentation via the form, will receive a pin with the darling logo above.

Members who complete the program for five consecutive years will receive a special five-year gift commemorating their dedication and service.

Congratulations to Riley Whittaker for earning the first \$500 WDAA Youth Educational Scholarship!

The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) is proud to present a scholarship opportunity funded by the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Recognized Affiliate Grant. The next deadline is November 15th. Three (3) scholarships of \$500 each are available to youth riders who are looking to enhance their Western Dressage education. Scholarships must be used for Western Dressage educational experiences to include clinics, camps, and/or non-show events. The applicant must be under the age of 18 at the time of application, an active member of WDAA, and a member of USEF.

Applications will be accepted year-round.

Grants will be awarded 3 times per year: April, August and December. Funds must be used within 12 months of receipt. Deadlines for submission will be March 15th, July 15th and November 15th.

A committee will search for applicants who are pursuant in the Western Dressage discipline and who are committed to increasing their scope of learning. The scholarship is intended to make a significant impact on the horse/rider's level of education, training, personal growth, and level of achievement.

For all information on this great opportunity, please visit <https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-youth-educational-scholarship-program>



2024 WDAA Online International

The 2024 WDAA Online International Challenge culminated in a celebration of exhibitors' accomplishments on Sunday, July 7th during the live Zoom Awards Celebration. The show had 1,257 rides with a total of 452 entries, representing 5 countries, 40 States and 81 breeds of horses. Special thanks go to Gail Matheus of Spotlight Horse Shows for pulling off this spectacular show in stellar fashion with impossibly short notice!



Congratulations to all the Overall High Score Champions:

Exceptional Rider – JENNINE BAGGOTT and FANCY SOUTHERN MOON - 79.76%

Junior 13 and under – FAITH FAILE and MILLSTREET MITCH - 76.25%

Junior 14 – 17 – ADDISON WALLER and NOTHINCOMPARESTOBLUE - 76.818%

Amateur 18 – 39 – NICOLE HOWARD and ULTIMATELY TOO FANCY 77.55%

Amateur 40 – 59 – SUSAN KERSHISNIK and GREAT DEDUCTION 76.50%

Amateur 60 and Up – ADA KEEN and SHEZA REAL DEAL – 78.250%

Open 39 and Under – JESSICA HARLAN and GENERATION - 83.793%

For all results including team please visit, [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge \(memberclicks.net\)](https://wdaa.memberclicks.net)

For all entries that placed 1-10 in a class, jacket shipping should begin soon, please be patient, every jacket is personalized just for you! Much more usable than a ribbon, wear them proudly!



Congratulations to all WDAA Harmony Award qualifiers!

139 entries have earned an 8 or higher in Harmony in the 2024 WDAA Online International Challenge. Next these horse and rider teams must earn an 8.0 or higher, in harmony at the World Show. Those who do will be entered in the drawing for a beautiful award saddle generously donated by The Tack Shack of Swansboro, NC. As an added plus, every test in which the horse and rider team achieve an 8.0 or higher in harmony at the World Championship will count as an additional entry in the drawing.

The drawing for the Harmony Award saddle will be held on the last night of the show during the World Show Awards Celebration. Scores are automatically tracked by the show secretary, so you can focus on your ride! See the list of qualified entries here: <https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-harmony-award-qualified-riders> For all information about the Harmony Award please visit [WDAA Harmony Award \(memberclicks.net\)](https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-harmony-award)

We are so thankful to Jennifer Collins, owner of The Tack Shack of Swansboro, NC for donating this year's Harmony Award Saddle. Jennifer is different from most saddle makers because she is a lifelong equestrian. She began her equestrian journey over 45 years ago, competing in organizations such as 4H and breed shows. Jenn has a degree in Animal Science/Equine from SUNY Cobleskill. She has a diverse riding background, including Western Pleasure, Barrels, Hunt Seat, Dressage, Western Dressage, Reining, and Ranch. Jenn was one of the first to begin riding western dressage with Lynn Palm and still is an active participant in western dressage in her local area. Jenn was an ARIA Certified Riding Instructor for 25 years before retiring to focus on her amateur career and her new business venture.

In 2012 Jenn created The Tack Shack, selling new and gently used saddles, tack and clothing. Jenn saw a need in the market for more ranch saddles and in 2016 started designing her own line of Western Ranch, Western Dressage and Reining saddles. Jenn began selling those saddles and now offers a full line of custom Western saddles made in the highest quality materials. In addition to her custom saddles, Jennifer is also a Sales Rep for Miguel Aguilar Custom Saddles. This gives her clients a full range of saddles to choose from based on their needs and budget.

The combination of 45 years of riding and competing, plus working with some of the best saddle makers in the industry, has provided Jennifer with the saddle fitting knowledge that she loves to share with others. She has formal saddle fitting training from Lynn Palm, Cyril Pittion-Rossillion, and Axel Bourdin (of Forestier of France).

The Tack Shack saddles are unique in that they are designed by a female lifelong equestrian with both equine and rider in mind. As a former professional trainer, Jenn understands how the saddle is supposed to fit the horse and how saddle fit can affect the performance of the horse in either a positive or negative way. As a lifelong competitor, Jenn understands how saddle fit can affect the rider and the effective use of their aids.

Not only are the Tack Shack saddles made to help support a harmonious partnership between horse and rider, her saddles are eye-catching and made with the highest quality materials. Each saddle is customizable to fit the needs of each team and their unique style. Each saddle is made specifically for each client by one of the most sought-after makers in the western saddle industry.

The 2024 Harmony Saddle features full quarter horse bars, shortened and angled double skirts for short backed horses, chocolate Hermann Oak leather, Bison Leather seat, and oak stirrups. Other features include a narrow twist, deep pocket seat, fender cut outs for close contact feel, and a beautiful diamond border tooling.

Learn more about The Tack Shack at: <https://www.facebook.com/thetackshacknc>

WDAA World Championship Show News!

Entries are now open for the 2024
WDAA World Championship.

THE SHOW IS FILLING UP QUICKLY. Send in your entries ASAP, entries in the show are not guaranteed. For those that don't make it into the show, there will be a waiting list.

Please remember to **READ YOUR PRIZE LIST**, all show information can be found there.

www.wdaaworldshow.org

Also, make sure you brush up on the USEF Western Dressage rules. [WD \(usef.org\)](http://usef.org).



World Show volunteers needed!



Starting Saturday, September 14 through Monday, September 23, 2024. Please sign up to volunteer via the signup genius link below. When you sign up, please be sure those dates and times will work for you. The positions we are looking for include Runners, Hospitality, Scorer, Decorators, General help and more!

Thank you in advance, we can't have a successful show without your help!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4AACAA2BA20-49853263-2024>



World Show Sponsorships are still available!

Class, division, breed high score, party, and special award sponsorships are critical to the success of your show. Again, this year there will be no charge for the Saturday Night Freestyle Fiesta Exhibitors Party, everyone is welcome, particularly sponsors! We strive to make the show an event of a lifetime, please help us achieve that goal

All sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.wdaaworldshow.org under "Support the Show".

- Just over 30 classes are still available, join the prestigious sponsors now listed on all sponsorship pages.
- Just a few breeds are left unsponsored, North American Spotted Draft, Fjord, German Riding Pony, Polish Warmblood, Quarter Horse Cross, Rocky Mountain Horse, Warm Blood Cross.
- Only 2 divisions are left, and World Show Awards Sponsorship Chair Kim Mackey would like help sponsoring those last divisions in Memory of Ellen DiBella because without her, WDAA would not be where it is today! The sponsorships will be made under the name of Friends of our Founder - Ellen DiBella. Those interested can contribute via Venmo or PayPal. No amount is too small - whatever you can afford is just fine, if there are enough of us, we can get this done!!!

Venmo - @kammackey

PayPal - knuckles0124@gmail.com

WDAA World Championship Show Future Stars Will be Awarded through the Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund

Read more: <https://www.americanhorsepubs.org/newsgroup/wdaa-world-championship-show-future-stars-will-be-awarded-through-the-lynn-palm-western-dressage-fund/>

Since 2021, the Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund has awarded outstanding junior riders for their efforts at the annual WDAA World Championship Show with the Lynn Palm Future Star Award. In its early years as a single award to the highest scoring junior rider, it has since evolved into a \$500 award for the highest scoring junior rider at each level from Introductory through Level 5, potentially awarding a total of \$3500.

In keeping with the utmost integrity and quality of horses and riders, the qualifications for eligibility are such that each score must be a minimum of 65% with a minimum of 5 riders in each Level. These parameters are set forth to encourage participation among junior riders and have them strive for excellence in their performances.

Previous Future Star Award winners hailed from Florida, Colorado, Alabama and Texas in Introductory through Level 3 partnered with several different breeds. It is wonderful to see growth of the sport for juniors but there is always room for more. Lynn Palm is proud to support the up-and-coming riders. "I always look to the future of our sport. The young riders are growing in numbers and skill level. My hope is that each winner of the Future Star Award continues to represent Western dressage in a way that spreads the message of sound training and harmonious partnerships with exemplary sportsmanship."

The Lynn Palm Future Star Award enables promising youth riders to continue their Western dressage training and education and will be awarded annually at the WDAA World Championship Show. For junior riders to enter the 2024 show, information is available at wdaaworldshow.org with entries opening August 1 and closing August 30.

Attention parents of Junior riders in the WDAA World Show,



if your student needs an absence excuse letter, please contact Dini Swanson - WDAA Executive Director at dini@westerndressageassociation.org



WDAA is thrilled to have a Western Dressage presence at Dressage at Devon

On Thursday, September 26, 2024 Lynn Palm will be presenting her Discover Western Dressage lecture to a brand-new audience.

Come to Dressage at Devon for a full day of learning. This lecture about Western Dressage will start at 9 AM to 11:30 AM, followed by a break for lunch and then Part 2 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Plan to stay on to watch the afternoon competition and then enjoy the evening Masterclass with Australian rider Brett Parbery, which will include a Western Dressage rider!

WDAA will have a booth at the event manned by members of the Western Dressage Assn of PA and WDAA Board Member Amanda Delgado. Stop by and say hello!
For all information please visit <https://dressageatdevon.org/>

Why do you love Western Dressage?

WDAA members were asked to submit short 15 second - 1-minute videos explaining why they love Western Dressage. These videos will help WDAA promote the discipline in a new way, worldwide! The portal is still open so please submit your testimonials soon. You must be logged into your member portal to gain access to the survey.

[SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO](#)

Athenian Lady goes to Breyerfest!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievement of multiple World Champion Athenian Lady, who was honored as the 2024 Celebration Breyer Horse at Breyerfest. This year's theme, "Against All Odds," perfectly embodies Athena's remarkable journey. Rescued from dire conditions in 2015 by Amanda Delgado, who dedicated countless hours to retraining her, Athena has since become a symbol of triumph, earning multiple World Championship titles with WDAA and PtHA. At the Kentucky Horse Park in July, Athena and Amanda captivated tens of thousands with autograph signings, media interviews, and stunning Western Dressage performances. The Breyer model of Athenian Lady sold out in just two hours—a historic first for Breyerfest—drawing record-breaking crowds and overwhelming support for this inspiring equine duo.



We are so very proud to announce the outstanding achievements of our 2024 WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program award recipients!

Your dedication, passion, and hard work have truly shined this year, and we couldn't be more proud of all that you and your equine partner have accomplished.

To see the full list of award recipients and their achievements, please visit our [2024 WHLPAP Achievements Page](#).

Banquet invitations are being sent to WHLPAP members via email today. Be sure to check your inbox for all the details about our upcoming awards banquet, where we'll gather to celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy a wonderful evening together.

For those unable to attend the banquet, you have the option to RSVP for shipping your award or having a friend pick it up during the show. Please make sure to indicate your preference when you RSVP.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Western Dressage. We look forward to celebrating with you soon!

For all information about WHLPAP please visit, [WDAA Horse Lifetime Points & Awards Program](#) ★ [WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program \(wdaalifetimepoints.org\)](#).



WDAA is proud to announce our newest Breed Alliances!

The International Chincoteague Pony Association & Registry (ICPAR)

For all information on this historical breed please visit,

www.ChincoteaguePonyAssociation.com



INTERNATIONAL DRUM HORSE ASSOCIATION

For all information on this historical breed please visit,

<https://www.drumhorseassociation.com/>



IDHA

International Drum Horse Association

Forgot Your WDAA Password?

Go to the WDAA home page

Enter your Username in the Login box at the top of the page

Click on Forgot Password

Enter your email address to receive the reset link

Click on the reset link (must be completed within 1 hour)

Enter your new password in the two fields (they must match)

Verify you can access your profile

NOTE: If your membership is lapsed, the system will not send a reset link;
you must contact Kathy Newcomb

Kathy@westerndressageassociation.org



Please Support our World Show Corporate Sponsor, Markel Horse and Farm Insurance



MARKEL

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

UPDATE

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 2 Test 2: 3/30/2022 Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 2: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Test 4: 2/15/2022 Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 4: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Freestyle: 1/7/2022 Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- Level 3 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 4 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.
- Level 5 Test 1: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- Level 5 Test 3: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- 2022 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 11/30/2022 Tests Retired.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 12/1/2022 Added using the new Walk-Jog, Intermediate, and Advanced categories.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Patterns: 02/22/2023 Changed the word "test" to "pattern".
- 2024 Western Dressage Equitation patterns: 01/18/2024 Movement #4 Lope to Halt movement changed to "Halt through the Jog."



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



The LMS is a great way to learn more about Western Dressage. Only available to members.

[Visit the LMS](#)

