



# THE LIDA EXTENSION

Official newsletter of the Long Island Dressage Association

SEPTEMBER 2020

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Well here we are, eight months in to the pandemic. We took a break. Canceled our shows and plans. Many of us couldn't ride for months. Perhaps some of us took time to reflect on our equestrian goals. I know I did. This was the year I was hoping to go to Devon. Oh well. We all had plans for the upcoming season. Some folks have carried on and are showing again. Others, like myself, look at 2020 as a "wash". For me, horses are essential, showing isn't. That said we would like to congratulate LIDA member WENDI SCHNITTJER for her first Grand Prix ride on Elizabeth Schaffner's Django getting a 60.7. Congratulations to you both! Wendi is the subject of our first Professional Profile column in this issue.

Besides an historical election and a global pandemic, 2020 marks a first for LIDA. Those of you that follow our Facebook page may have noticed that a photo of LIDA Vice President, Dale Gifford, following mask protocol with her horse FIG, who is wearing a pink bra for a mask, went viral. It was seen by 1,651,458 people with 20,000 shares. Hundreds of people responded with comments and mask pics of their own. We even got new followers from it. IT WAS A HIT! I had it sent to me a couple of times from people that didn't know it came from us.



As of this date we don't have anything on the calendar. Although the state is mostly reopened now, we are remaining on hold through the next couple of months to be safe. We had thought about virtual shows or other programs but in the past the response to such events has been tepid at best. We await the time we can gather again and celebrate dressage and horses together. In the meantime we wish you all health and happiness.

See you ringside, maybe...

*Mary Mulcahy*  
President



I can actually say we have had a few shows happen this past month. Competitors have braved it out and I hope you felt safe. We are starting August which is only the second month of showing and we sadly only have a few shows that are still not cancelled.

Remember our qualifying for regional championships ends on August 24, 2020. This date is important for many reasons. **One**, it is the last day that you can earn a qualifying score. Remember you need two scores that can be the same show and same judge. **Two**, if you earned a Qualifying score on a designated qualifying class before June 1st and you did not mark it as qualifying at the time, you can pay the \$15 directly to the USDF and it will count as a score. But needs to be done by August 24th. **Finally**, August 24th is closing for the Region 8 Championships. So get your entry in.

I will remind you again the US Dressage Finals open to the Open and Adult Amateur Champion and Reserve Champion from the Regional Championships, and also to riders who reach a certain score (information on the USDF Website). These riders will be invited to Lexington, KY to compete head to head with the other regional champions. IMPORTANT note, please remember you will have to declare that you are willing to go to the 'finals' if invited. This declaration must be done by day before our Regional Championships, September 16th. The USDF website will have more information.

I would like to welcome the newly elected USDF PM Delegates. They are Cynthia Wylie, Regina Cristo, Kathy Hickerson, Stan Horton, Sophia Chavonelle, Anke Ott-Young, Angela Rice, Fie Anderson, Susie Kent, and Linda Mendenhall. Some are returning as delegates and others are new. I look forward to working with you this next year as it will be a big one for Region 8! I also want to thank those who decided to step down for all your work you have given Region 8.

I have to do one more pitch for the GMO awards...

Attention GMOs: newsletter, website, photography, and volunteer of the year nominations close August 30th. So before your summer gets under way, please submit them! It is a great way to get recognition for your GMO or an outstanding volunteer plus for Region 8! Here is the link with all the information....

<https://www.usdf.org/awards/service/gmo.asp>

We will hold our next regional meeting on October 6, 2020, at 7:30pm. This will be a Zoom meeting if I can get an account to set it up. I hope you can spare the time to join us. More information will follow.

See you on the Centerline...

Debra Reinhardt

USDF Region 8 Director



As of August 22, 2020, the prize list is available and declarations are now open for the 2020 US Dressage Finals presented by Adequan®. This year's event will be held November 5-8, at the Kentucky Horse Park, in Lexington, KY. Visit [USDressageFinals.com](http://USDressageFinals.com) for more information.

### Key Dates:

Opening Date for Declarations: August 22, 2020

Opening Date for Nominations: September 17, 2020

Opening Date for Entries: September 17, 2020

Closing Date for Entries: October 19, 2020 (midnight ET)

\*Nomination Deadlines Vary by Region – See Prize List



Dressage at Devon Hosts  
Virtual Silent Auction:  
Includes Training from Top Dressage Riders  
September 18 - September 25, 2020

Last year's Silent Auction was so well received, we decided to do it again - virtually - and with a twist.  
All items are geared towards excellence in your riding.

Here's just a sample of the services that will be on the auction "block":

One Day of Judging by Anne Moss- Anne is a USEF "r" Dressage Sport Horse Judge, a USEF 'R' dressage Judge and a USEF 'R' Western Dressage Judge.

**Lessons from:**

1 lesson with Dr. Cesar Parra at his farm in Whitehouse Station, NJ.

3 Lesson package including stabling with Felicitas von Neumann Cosel in Woodbine, MD.

1 Lesson with top rider and trainer, Michael Bragdell of Hilltop Farm.

1 virtual lesson with two-time Olympian, Jacqueline Brooks.

5 virtual lessons with Robert Dover, a 6-time Olympian and Technical Advisor and Chef d'Equipe for the Dutta Corp., US Dressage Team since 2013.



**Fantastic Breeding opportunities include:**

One Breeding offered by Hilltop Farm

Two season Breeding contract to ISF (cooled semen breeding).

Choice of ISF top stallions including:

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Sir Sinclair  | Brend 413  |
| Florianus II  | Meinse 439 |
| Uno Don Diego | Teade 392  |
| Tjalbert 460  |            |



Additional services and items will also be available to help you improve your riding. Plus there are additional unique experiences and jewelry items as well. To view these items, please keep an eye on our newsletter and our social media, where we will be published the auction website. Bidding will begin on Friday, September 18 and close Friday, September 25.

**For questions, contact: [onlineauction@dressageatdevon.org](mailto:onlineauction@dressageatdevon.org).**



## NEW COLUMN

# PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

*This is the first installment of our new column, **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**. Each issue we will learn a little about the dressage professionals here on Long*

*Island. We are beginning with Wendi Schnittjer who just rode her first Grand Prix test on Elizabeth Schaffner's horse, Django. Wendi is based at Norwest Farm in Aquebogue.*

**1. WHEN DID YOU START RIDING?** My mom rode until 3 weeks before I was born and then she put me on her horse in front of her as soon as I could sit up. My first pony Lonesome, was one that didn't want to be caught but I was 2 yrs. old and did not remember, but my second pony was 20 yrs old my mom bought him for \$100. People laughed at her but I rode him everywhere bareback and could tack him myself at 3yrs old. My next pony was one I could show, he was my 5 yr old Christmas present he was \$500 -times have changed.

**2. WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO HORSES?** I grew up with horses, I never knew any other way of life. I loved horses and riding and I rode as much as I could and as many horses as I could all day.

**3. WHAT WAS THE FIRST HORSE YOU RODE?** I don't remember the first horse I rode but the first horse I owned was Niki. He was my genuine quarter horse he was 1/4 QH 1/4 TB 1/4 Arab 1/4 Morgan he was an amazing mover and I started on my dressage "bug" with him. Starting in 4-H we won the state and regional championships with a 76%.

**4. HAVE YOU RIDDEN IN OTHER DISCIPLINES?** I started riding dressage at 16 before that I rode in those open shows where you paid \$2 a class and rode all day. I rode my pony in hunter flat, hunter over fences classes, western classes trail and barrel racing, and of course the ride a buck class where you could pay for your whole day if you won, and don't forget the costume class we had so much fun!

**5. IF YOU COULD RIDE ANY HORSE FROM YOUR PAST WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** There is a saying "I wish I knew then what I know now". Many

of you who have watched the dressage world for many years now will possibly remember the name Liberty and Anna Karinina both ridden and short listed for the Olympics by Tina Konyot I rode and showed Liberty and rode Anna a few times I wish I could have ridden them knowing what I know now.

**6. WHERE'S THE MOST UNIQUE PLACE YOU'VE RIDDEN?** I have ridden at the Biltmore estate. It was a hunter/jumper show. I often schooled the horses for the trainer for which I groomed. I groomed on the hunter circuit for 6 years.

**7. WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE TRAINER?** I can't say that I have a favorite trainer. I have ridden with a lot of people over the years and learned many good things as well as many things not to do. I take the approach that you can learn from everyone and anyone. I try to always think that I can learn more and learn from anyone no matter who they are or what their credentials are.

**8. WHAT IS YOUR GO TO EXERCISE?** My go to exercise is shoulder in / turn on the forehand - everything comes from the properly ridden shoulder in - it is a must for all my horses.

**9. WHAT IS YOUR BEST/WORST MEMORY FROM SHOWING?** My worst although funniest memory showing was when I was riding in a ring that was a bit down the road from the main show grounds. This particular ring was partway down a hill and at one end the rest of the hill went down sharply right behind the judge. The "runner" used a golf cart to get the tests and came flying up the hill right behind the judge as I was doing my canter lengthening in 1st level 3 and my horse saw that pop up the hill and did a 180 and took off. It took two circles to recover - the judge was kind and only gave me one error - all I could think of was - "*at least stay in the ring, at least stay in the ring.*"

Another one was at the regional championships where I was showing 2 horses and it rained the entire 3 days, shed row barns everything was soaked and never dried out - I had splatters on my helmet.

continued

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE . . . continued

My best memory from showing was in a team competition where my home bred, self trained, 15.1' hand 3/4 Arab was 3rd overall among all the big fancy warmbloods. I was very proud.

**10. WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE RIDING?** The funniest thing that happened when I was riding I could make quite a list haha - I was three and my pony went into the pond and laid down I came out crying my mom asked if I was ok and all I could say was my new boots got all wet!

**11. WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE TO A RIDER?** The best advice I can give a rider is to sit level in the saddle with a quiet mind. My favorite poem a student gave me once says "keep one leg on one side one leg on the other and your mind in the middle" this is the best advice for the beginner and for the most advanced rider.

**12. WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU WOULD TELL A RIDER TO NEVER DO?** The one thing I would tell a rider to never do is to ride with emotions - it never works only frustrates you and the horse.

**13. WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE HORSE/RIDER COMBINATION?** My favorite horse rider combination is Laura Graves on Verdades.

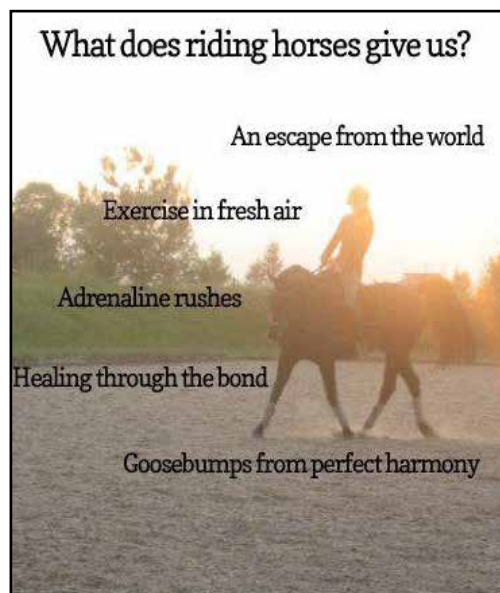
**14. THE FUNNIEST OR NAUGHTIEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN A HORSE DO?** We had a horse named "Maybe" we called him our "Houdini" he opened stall doors, let other horses out, untied knots and many other amusing things. One day my mom tied him to a post on our stocks by our tack room she turned to look at him as she went into the tack room and he was walking away, he had untied himself. She tied him again better only to have him do the same thing so she tied a square knot thinking "well now try to untie that" she looked back this time to see him walking away again the knot still tied in the rope he lifted it up over the top of the 6 ft post and walked off again.

**15. WHAT IS THE HARDEST THING TO TEACH A RIDER?** The hardest thing to teach a rider is to "let go" and sit quiet.

**16. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?** My favorite shows to compete at are the shows at the HITS show grounds in Saugerties NY.

**17. WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A DRESSAGE MOUNT?** What I look for in a dressage horse, a balanced body with a good shoulder and hip angle, fluid movement, especially in the shoulder and back, and overall look of relaxation and softness, a soft kind eye and of course good feet!

**18. AFTER BREAKING YOUR ANKLE. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU'VE FACED RETURNING TO RIDING?** My first challenge in breaking my ankle last December was not being able to do anything for myself. I'm used to doing everything for myself and not asking for help. In returning to riding, the most difficult thing was the realization that I could not put my leg in the proper place and that trotting and cantering was excruciating, thankfully I quickly realized it wasn't so bad if I didn't use the stirrup, but I had to stick my foot out in front of me to keep it from hurting too bad. Of course later I learned this was because it wasn't healing and was still broken. The greatest challenge is that 7 months later I still cannot use my leg absolutely no kicking at all. However this has proved to be the silver lining also - while I always teach to and try to sit quiet in the saddle its so easy to start getting busy and carrying the horse but I can not with my leg so I have had to really stay quiet and let the horse do the work instead of trying to make it happen, this is when the true beauty of the fluid balance shines and the rider melds into the horse as one.



# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## Centerline Show at HITS

### Well done Chelsea Staal and Hermoso (right)

Congratulations team WS Dressage so, so proud of this pair **Chelsea Staal** and my boy **Hermoso** coming home with a 63% in the PSG clenching their final score to earn her USDF silver medal  
They also won the Grand Prix with a 68.8%



(left) Congratulations **Wendi Schnittjer** aboard **Cloud 9** who is living up to his name coming home reserve champion in the training level **East Coast Riders Cup** and winning another class with 73.7%



2020  
Great American/USDF  
Regional Championships

## Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships

- Check your scores on [USDFScores.com](http://USDFScores.com)
- Check qualifications on the Preliminary Qualified Horse/Rider List



## Verne Batchelder Instructor Fund

\$2,500 Grant for  
Dressage Instructors from  
USDF Regions 1, 3, or 8

To assist in broadening  
the instructor's base of  
knowledge to then share  
with their students.

Due September 10th

**Application Information:**  
**[www.dressagefoundation.org](http://www.dressagefoundation.org)**







# LIDA CLASSIFIED

Welcome to our classified section! If you have items you would like to list in our classifieds, please send all the details, including photos, to LIDA secretary Doreen Rose at [info@lidressage.com](mailto:info@lidressage.com). Listings are free for LIDA members. A \$5 donation is asked of non-members.



## FACE MASKS

\$15.00

## GAITERS

\$20.00



[shopusef.org](http://shopusef.org)

## LIDA BOARD MEMBERS

### Mary Mulcahy, President

phone: 516-318-5537 email: [president@lidressage.com](mailto:president@lidressage.com)

### Dale Gifford, Vice President

phone: 631-921-2629 email: [vp@lidressage.com](mailto:vp@lidressage.com)

### Doreen Rose, Secretary

phone: 516-849-3400 email: [info@lidressage.com](mailto:info@lidressage.com)

### Heather Baker, Treasurer

phone: 631-827-0481 email: [admin@lidressage.com](mailto:admin@lidressage.com)

## We'd love to hear from you!

If you have information you would like to share with other members, please contact LIDA secretary Doreen Rose at least one month prior to publication.

## SADDLE FOR SALE

2018 Prestige Dressage Saddle

2018 Prestige X Helen K Monoflap 17/33

\$3,600 · Huntington, NY

Perfect Condition

Black - Soft Calfskin

Monoflap - XS Flap

Tree Currently set to

33 cm



Local Trials Welcome

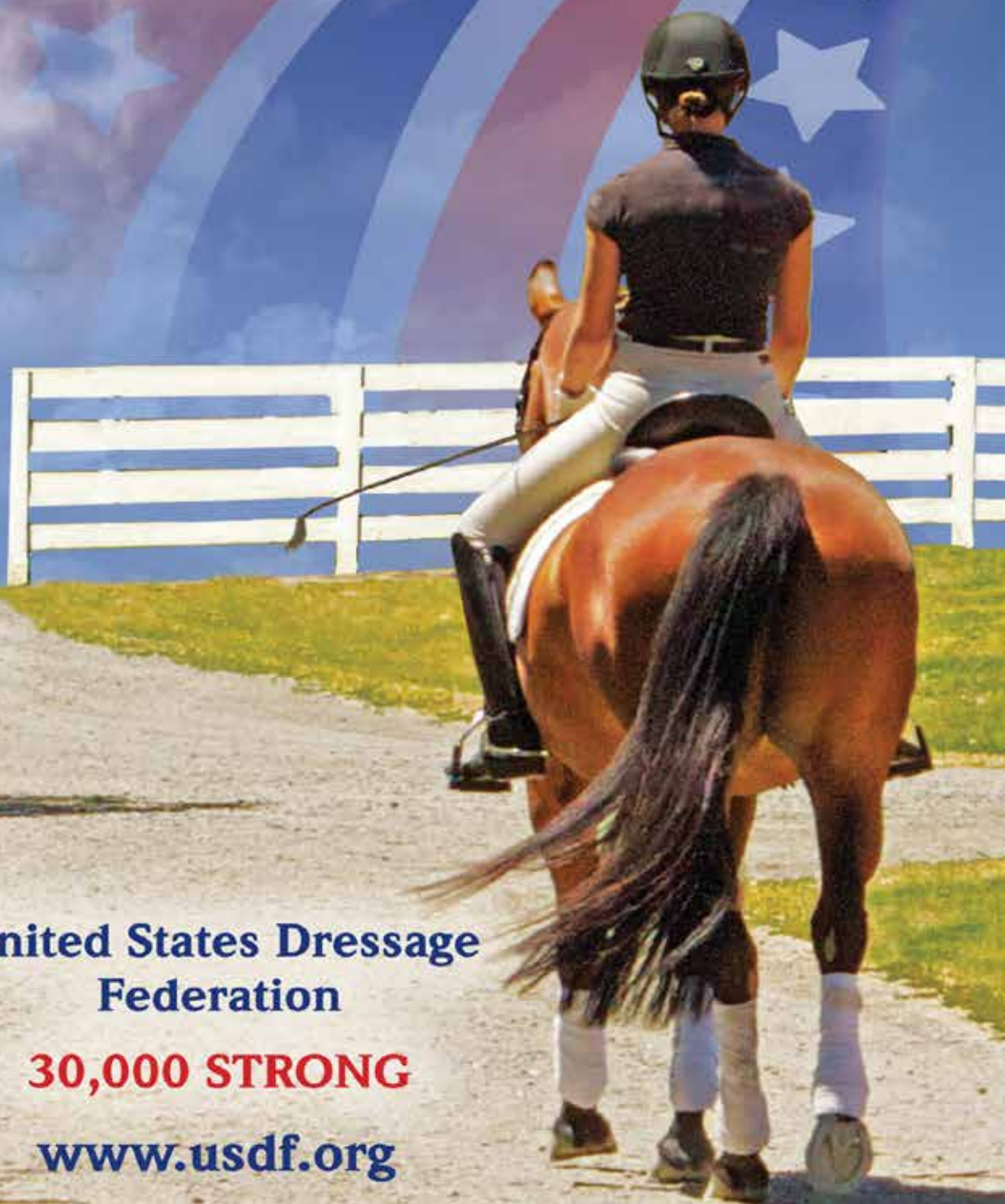


Contact:

Ana O'Brien  
631-335-9982

[ParaEquestrianAthletes@gmail.com](mailto:ParaEquestrianAthletes@gmail.com)

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE  
**AMERICAN**  
DRESSAGE COMMUNITY



United States Dressage  
Federation

**30,000 STRONG**

[www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)





# Long Island Dressage Association

## Be Part of the LIDA Movement – Join Today!

The 2020 LIDA Membership begins December 1, 2019 and ends November 30, 2020.

**Please Print:**

|                                   |                     |                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Name:</b>                      |                     | <b>Email:</b>  |
| <b>Address:</b>                   |                     |                |
| <b>City/State/Zip:</b>            |                     |                |
| <b>Phone:</b>                     | <b>Cell #:</b>      | <b>D.O.B.:</b> |
| <b>USDF #:</b>                    | <b>USEF#:</b>       |                |
| <b>Trainer:</b>                   | <b>Referred By:</b> |                |
| <b>Horse's Name &amp; Stable:</b> |                     |                |
| <b>Signature:</b>                 | <b>Date:</b>        | <b>Amt:</b>    |

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

**Full Participating Membership: \$60**

(Includes GMO Membership in USDF)

**Schooling Show Only Membership: \$40**

(LIDA Member Only/Non GMO)

**Youth Participating Membership: \$40**

(LIDA Member Only/Non GMO/Max. Age 21)

**Non-Competing Membership: \$30**

(LIDA Member Only/Non GMO/Not Eligible for Team or High Score Awards)

***To be eligible for Yearly High Score Awards, the rider of the horse must be a current LIDA member prior to the first class of the show for which scores are to count.***

***Please review the rules!***

**LIDA is a non-profit association run by volunteers and is dedicated to promoting the art of dressage.**

**As a member, you are entitled to participate in and receive the following:**

- **Meetings, clinics and other club activities**
- **Automatically become a Group Member of the USDF**  
(Full Participating Membership Only)
- **Year-end awards and dinner dance**

**ANY MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS - PLEASE EMAIL [info@lidressage.com](mailto:info@lidressage.com)**

Submit your completed application with your check **made payable to LIDA to:**

LIDA Membership Committee  
PO Box 507  
Calverton, NY 11933