

NWDA

August 2022

Accent



NWDA Jr / YR / Adult Dressage & Jumping Clinic

by *Jumping Jen Howde*

We had a total of ten clinic participants assemble at River Ranch in June. Even though it is titled the Jr/YR clinic, adults were welcome and filled the open slots. We had 6 Junior/Young Riders and 4 Adults. Julie Davies Pagels came prepared, full of great exercises for dressage and jumping! Julie was patient and encouraging to all of the riders.

Our dressage day consisted of serpentines and figure 8's full of bending and transitions. As far as my experience, my horse, Guajira, enjoyed the serpentines—staying focused on our serpentine loops with counter bend and tuning in for the transitions across centerline each time. I always feel that the ride-ability I accomplish

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All King Victor Emmanuel's School Horses Can Make Really Beautiful People Fall



The President's Message



Dear NWDA Members —

I hope you all have found great success this summer showing and having fun.

This year I agreed to take on the role of “Show Manager.” I never anticipated the outpouring of help I have received thus far. It is truly amazing to me. I want to say a deep and sincere thank you to all! It has truly been a learning opportunity. With that being said, as I left the show office on Sunday afternoon I looked over at Christina, aka *Awesome Show Secretary*, and told her how fortunate I was to have a great show partner like her. Christina has done an amazing job. I can't imagine doing this with anyone else. Each time I started to work on the shows I knew I wasn't alone. We are a team.

As we continue to move forward we try to come up with more ideas for you, our riders. With the last show right around the corner, I would ask that you please share your feedback —good *and* bad. We truly want to hear from you. Our Last Chance Summer Dance I & II Recognized Shows ended up being smaller

than usual. We worked hard to bring in quality judges and to provide our members with a great “State of the Art” riding opportunity. We hope to continue to grow our shows into something magical each year. Our request is that you tell your friends about our shows. We need riders to be able to continue to provide shows.

Attendance is critical so please make sure and mark the 2023 dates!

North Woods Dressage Association is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization from top to bottom. Sharing your valuable time, effort and your generous sponsorship helps pay it forward—and the benefit will come back to

you in better activities and educational programs!

We all share a common bond—our love of horses. Thank you for being a part of this great organization. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Let the Horse Be With You,
Kathi Kusch Marshall
NWDA President

2023 NWDA SHOW DATES

SCHOOLING SHOWS

June 10-11, 2023

August 5-6, 2023

RECOGNIZED SHOWS

June 24-25, 2023

July 22-23, 2023

Send us your epiphanies—maybe the moment you understood how to ride forward into a downward transition. (Some of us would really appreciate it if you'd share that information.) Have you traveled to a clinic or observed a show? *Give us a report.* Read any good dressage books lately? Jumping? Watched any educational videos? *Send us your review.* Tell us about all the horses you have loved and what they've taught you. *We'll publish the story!* The NWDA *Accent* is here to build the NWDA community, to encourage an interest in dressage and combined training, and to improve communication among interested people.

email submissions to Claudia Schoendorf: paintpony@centurytel.net

USDF celebrates *The Breed of the Month* on their Facebook page. In May of 2022, USDF featured the Friesian breed. There, Julie Williams read the story of a woman who, later in her life, imported a Friesian and began the journey we call Dressage. Julie felt it was like her own story with her mare Abby, and wrote to USDF. They encouraged her to share her story on the USDF Facebook page. Below is Julie's story of her very special mare, Abby.



The Mighty Friesian

by Julie Williams

My childhood was full of a fascination with Friesians. Growing up in northern Michigan's upper peninsula, in a family of non-horse people, I was not presented many opportunities to see a living, breathing Friesian. But I was able to get my first non-Friesian horse at eight years old.

As I entered adulthood, I moved to northwestern Wisconsin, worked full time, married, and became a mom. I was 57 when my son left home, and that was when my Friesian dream resurfaced. So, I began my search.

A friend and coworker found a three-year-old Friesian mare in Minnesota—less than two hours from my home. So, on a very cold February day, in 2011, I went to see her and immediately fell in love with this magical horse. Those perky ears and loving eyes looked right into my inner soul. It wouldn't have mattered if she had only three legs, Abigail of Friesian Stable had my heart right then and there.

Late that night, I was thinking about how I was going to go about purchasing this horse. *I had to have her!* My dear dad had passed away the year prior, but I always felt he was right there with me in many of my life decisions. I felt his hand on my shoulder that night and heard his direction, "Buy the horse." All I had to do was figure out how. After nearly a year of making payments, she was finally all mine!

Trying to train and ride a young, wiggly Friesian, after over 25 years of not riding, is not for the faint of heart, and it is not like getting back on a bicycle. Out of shape and with no confidence, I fell off a few times (luckily I was uninjured). But Abby always stood by me, encouraging me to keep trying. I persevered, even though several times I felt this horse deserved better than I could do for her. I didn't want to



ABOVE Abby, *The Mighty Friesian*, with Julie—sporting the north woods look!

embarrass this stunning, smart, 15.2 hand sports couple of a horse with a heart of gold.

In 2016, we found our perfect trainer, Brittany Davis. She knew and understood Friesians. I retired after 42 years of federal government employment, moved Abby to Brittany's farm an hour from my home, and we've pursued our Friesian dressage dreams ever since.

Guided by Brittany, Abby received her KFPS/FHANA Sport Predicate for dressage in 2020. In 2021, I began pursuing my goal of earning my USDF Bronze Medal – which is something I NEVER thought I could do. I received my First and Second Level scores in 2021, and now, at

The Mighty Friesian continued on page 7

Show Report & Announcement of Winners

2022 NWDA Fun in the Sun

by Claudia Schoendorf

Masterfully organized by Christina Steenekamp as Show Secretary and Kathi Marshall as Show Manager, this was exactly what a schooling show should be—riders trying out new things. There were 49 horse/ rider combinations, of which 50% were JR/YR entries. For many of them, this was their first show with NWDA!

The Jumping arena was kept busy with riders popping over fences all day. The footing in the arenas has never been better, thanks to Brittany Davis's dad, Kevin Susienka. He tilled the arenas twice in May to remove weeds and dragged to perfection in June. Even the judges commented on the high quality footing!

This was our first year having specified Western Dressage Classes instead of a Western Dressage percentile class. There were more participants than in the past, many of them JR/YR entries. There were some tears of kids afraid to enter the ring alone, but everyone entered, and no-one fell out or off!

The Cute Factor was evident in the Lead Line Class!! Great Awards were handed out to the Hight Point Winners: Jumpers won Trophies and Dressage riders got box fans with embroidered fan bags.

WEEKEND HIGH POINT

Hunter/Jumper Champion
Kelby Cloose
Hunter Jumper Reserve Champion
Kelly Grussendorf
Dressage Champion
Jessica Foschi
Dressage Reserve Champion
Lexi Wiebusch



June 11-12, 2022

WEEKEND HIGH POINT

Western Dressage Champion
Nicole Wiebusch
Western Dressage Reserve Champion
Annika Waldorf
Freestyle Champion
Marie Mattson

SATURDAY HIGH POINT

Intro Champion
Laurie Vesel
Intro Reserve Champion
Audrey Skinner
Jr/YR Champion
Madelyn Kulak
Jr/YR Reserve
Lexi Wiebusch
AA Champion
Marie Mattson
AA Reserve
Dee Closson
Open Champion
Syra Johnson-Engle
Open Reserve Champion
Julie Davies-Pagels

Jr/YR Champion
Lexi Wiebusch
Jr/YR Reserve
Ruby Leeper
AA Champion
Cherese Hietala
AA Reserve
Dee Closson
Open Champion
Jessica Foschi
Open Reserve Champion
Syra Johnson-Engle

SATURDAY HIGH POINT JUMPING

Walk/Trot Champion
Megan Matson
Walk/Trot Reserve Champion
Genevieve Bohlman
18" Champion
Nadine Luoma
18" Reserve Champion
Silvia Kershaw

2' Champion
Maggie Bellehumeur
2' Reserve Champion
Cherese Hietala
2'3" Champion
Kelby Cloose
2'3" Reserve Champion
Kelly Grussendorf

SUNDAY HIGH POINT JUMPING

Walk/Trot Champion
Megan Matson
Walk/Trot Reserve Champion
Morgan Binsfield
18" Champion
Silvia Kershaw
18" Reserve Champion
Nadine Luoma
2' Champion
Anna Cervin
2' Reserve Champion
Maggie Bellehumeur
2'3" Champion
Kelby Cloose
2'3" Reserve Champion
Kelly Grussendorf
2'6" Champion
Ivy Henderson

SUNDAY HIGH POINT

Intro Champion
Laurie Vesel
Intro Reserve Champion
Isabelle Mecklin

Show Report & Announcement of Winners

2022 NWDA Cooler by the Lake

by Claudia Schoendorf

There were 56 horse/rider combinations, for the Recognized show held June 25-26, 2022 at our Iron River show grounds. Participation in this show almost reached our stabling capacity!

Christina Steenekamp was again our Show Secretary par Excellence and Kathy Marshall did a superb job as Show Manager. I was scribing for Judge Judy Downer, which I find both challenging and enlightening. You don't see much of the rides when scribing, but you do learn what some movements should look like. It is also interesting to **see** the rides instead of only **feeling** them as I usually do; you can really see when a rider is leaning left or right. (I think I should sometimes be called *I Lean!*)

You also learn that the judge is actually rooting for you, and not there to tear you down. You can hear it in their voice, when a movement was going

well, and then something changed and it was not going so well. Study your comments, it will tell you what you need to work on.

Fun events held were the competitors party after the show on Saturday, where all the fabulous prizes were given out, and the High Point winners were announced with their winning NWDA embroidered saddle pad. Orchard View Stables hosted a bean bag toss on Saturday evening after the competitor's party.

We had two pony clubs do fundraisers at the show. The Chequamegon Bay Pony Club sold food for breakfast and lunch each day. The Stars of the North Pony Club cleaned stalls for the deposit checks. There were a lot of stalls to clean at the end, and they offered some to the Chequamegon Pony Club. It was great to see the clubs help each other.

WEEKEND HIGH POINT

Champion

Leah Nelson & Starside Elessar

Reserve Champion

Jenevieve Hofsommer & Harmonie TF

SATURDAY CHAMPIONS

Intro Champion

Laurie Vesel & Finnick

Intro Reserve Champion

Alexandra Tafelski & Francis Palmer Pony

Jr/YR Champion

Emma Swayne & Royal Lady MSU

Jr/YR Reserve

Elliana Linn & Tjalke / Kelsey Hanson & Cinder

AA Champion

Linda Scott & Rock 'n' Roll

AA Reserve

Diane Markovich & Rare Attraction

Open Champion

Jenevieve Hofsommer & Harmonie TF

Open Reserve Champion

Kate Phillips & RL Dardo



June 25-26, 2022

WEEKEND MUSICAL FREESTYLE

Champion

Bridget Bursey & Crestone Clover

Reserve Champion

Nicole Bangasser & Lady Rozlyn

SUNDAY CHAMPIONS

Intro Champion

Alexandra Tafelski & Francis Palmer Pony

Intro Reserve Champion

Laurie Vesel & Finnick

Jr/YR Champion

Elliana Scott & Tjalke B

Jr/YR Reserve

Lily Huguen & Mister Darcy

AA Champion

Linda Scott & Rock n Roll

AA Reserve

Nicole Bangasser & Lady Rozlyn

Open Champion

Leah Nelson & Starside Elessar

Open Reserve Champion

Jenevieve Hofsommer & Harmonie TF



LEFT I'm sharing a silent idea with Rey—thinking of how she might like to rock her weight onto her hindquarters, lift her withers, and engage her abdominals. We are beginning to practice this under saddle with wonderful postural changes.

Phase One is Trust by Brigitt Pajunen

I became a working student of Aimee Brimhall McCord on the advice of my mare, Rey.

Pressure motivates and release teaches. This had been my guiding dictum with horses since I was a child. A diligent student, I sought to apply physical pressure in phases. With practice and excellent timing, my phases would eventually become nearly invisible, was my thought. The application of this dictum did yield some results with my mare, Rey, but the quality of her expression made me seriously question its validity.

I'm now in a position to regularly observe Aimee and her horses. Besides this, I repeatedly look for clues in slow motion studying her YouTube channel. But no matter how carefully I watch, what I see is Aimee apparently standing still and the horse or horses around her regally expressing themselves!

Thankfully, some of my duties as a working student include reviewing audio recordings of Aimee's lectures and mining articles from past newsletters. These archives recently yielded material that reconciles my understanding of

physical phases (pressure) with what I *don't* see happening between Aimee and her horses.

Now I'm thinking of *phases* more like in high school chemistry—how things are solid or liquid, for example. There are qualities to them, but they aren't about escalating pressure. Currently I am thinking in just two phases: *trust* and *promise*.

First, I *trust* that sharing a silent idea is simply the reality of the way horses communicate. The quality of this trust phase is solid, unwavering. It allows me to inhabit my body in a different way, no longer poised to escalate physical pressure. Instead, this trust has the effect of making me ready to receive.

Then, when I find myself in trust—the solid, receptive phase—I *promise* whatever the horse freely offers will become part of the creative conversation we are having in this moment. There is a fluid sharing of information in the promise of this conversation.

Phase one is trust—and it's followed by a promise. My new dictum.

2022 NWDA SHOW DATES

NWDA Classic Schooling Show August 6th & 7th Dressage & Hunter/Jumper

FOR MORE INFORMATION: northwoodsdressage.net

OR



North Woods Dressage Association

The Mighty Friesian *continued from page 5*

age 68, Abby and I are showing Third Level in 2022. There is so much more to this story of a once in a lifetime horse. (*Like how I was riding again 5 weeks after knee replacement surgery!*)

The Friesian breed is like no other. Once the bond is made, you are partners forever, whether it's in a show ring, or on a trail, or just hanging out together.

BELOW Words of wisdom from NWDA member, Julie Williams, on finding her Mighty Friesian and pursuing her Bronze Medal. Go JULIE!



NWDA Clinic *continued from page 1*

in my flatwork (call it dressage if you will), sets me up for success in the jump ring.

Julie tortured me with a lot of work at the sitting trot. Do you know that sitting trot takes different muscles than 2 point/jumping position? I'm pretty sure this is why I will never be a dressage rider — my body prefers 2 point!

On day two we got to jump! Thanks to the heavy rain the day before, we had to drain the arena and strategically set jumps to avoid one wet corner (which dried up by the end of the day). Some of the things Julie had us work on with the jumping was developing a soft, quiet canter, keeping our horses straight over an angled in and out, and thinking ahead for making bending lines and tighter turns. Riding many small jumps with a higher degree of technical questions is quite beneficial. Again for my horse, adjustability and ride-ability is my number one goal — which these exercises were perfect for! For those of you out there not quite ready to leave the ground, remember that cross training is fun for the horse and you don't even have to jump. For the dressage enthusiasts, bring out the ground poles and let your horse have fun. For the jumpers — don't be intimidated by dressage as the basics are our flatwork. And without proper flatwork, I don't know how you would get to the jump!

AND, If you are ready to put it all together — don't forget to sign up for the Prix Caprilli at the August schooling show!

Thank you, Julie, for a great clinic!

Regional Schooling Show Awards Program Rules Updated for 2022

USDF has made several significant changes to the rules for its Regional Schooling Show Awards Program:

- *Score requirements have been reduced
- *Horse/rider nomination deadline has been removed
- *Nominee score-submission deadline has been removed

To learn more, visit the USDF website at usdf.org.



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