



## Winter 2000 Newsletter

SPECIAL EVENT

### Shedding Horse Social

with IaDCTA

April 15, 2000, 12:00-3:00 pm  
at Kirkwood Community College,  
Washington Hall

Come and meet other "horsey" minded people.  
Speakers, Social Time and  
Tour of Kirkwoods NEW Equine Facilities!  
Contact: Nancy Barta (319)363-6687 or Dana  
McCullough (515)292-9403 to **R.S.V.P.**  
Contact IaDCTA about carpooling!

Next meeting - **Tuesday, March 7, 2000**  
6:30-7 pm Social Time, 7 pm Lecture  
At Washington Hall, Kirkwood

**Topic:** Dr. McNutt speaks on Changes in Equine  
Medicine. For Info, contact Nancy Barta - 362-2846

**Note:** The regular Tuesday meeting in July would  
be on the 4th, we will be hold it one week later on  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2000**

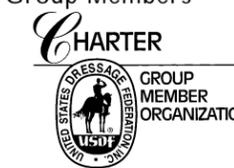
**IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
PLEASE DO SO ASAP!  
THERE'S A FORM ENCLOSED,  
USE IT OR PASS IT ONTO A FRIEND!**



Megan Ward  
1228 Hertz Drive, SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



Eastern Iowa Dressage &  
Combined Training Association is a USDF Group  
Member Organization • Members automatically  
become USDF Group Members



For more information contact: [eidcta@mwnet.com](mailto:eidcta@mwnet.com) or <http://www.mwnet.com/eidcta>  
Barb Putnam, *President* at 319.626.2516 or Nancy Barta, *Vice President* at 319.362.2846

EIDCTA had a planning session for it's January meeting. It  
was a great turn out and we had many new ideas presented.

#### For our regularly scheduled meetings:

- Everyone wanted to see more Live Demonstrations; topics suggested were Reining and Driving.
- Another favorite was Veterinary Lectures, topics suggested were DJD (Degenerative Joint ?), Lower Leg Lameness, Joint Supplements, EPM, and a Lecture by Dr. Freeman, DVM.
- Have a USCTA representative come speak
- Equine Massage - Homeopathic Equine
- Saddle Fitting
- Baby Tour - Imprinting and Handling Lecture
- How to dress for a clinic.
- Presenting a well-groomed horse.
- Conditioning the horse
- Stallion Review
- Volunteering at shows

Sheri Neff offered to do a lecture on Show Preparations and Lyse Strnad has offered to host a live demonstration for our April or May meeting.

#### For extra events:

- Have a clinic
- Hold 'Adult Pony Club' - activities for horse and rider
- Host Schooling Shows
- Field Trips to Recognized shows
- Road trip to Rolex
- Kentucky Derby Party
- Iowa Games Rally and Party

#### Suggestions for the organization:

- Bring more men into the club. Why do men join the Hunt but not EIDCTA? Jim Powers & Sheri Neff volunteered to work on this.
- Keep the 'Social Time' at regular meetings as 6:30 - 7:00
- Develop a resource library.
- Create a Buddy List for volunteers willing to help groom at shows
- Create a list of people willing to share a horse at a show, to save on expenses help each other as groom.
- Put more pictures on the web site
- Do an EIDCTA directory and put in Trainers Résumés

Meanwhile your fearless leaders have been talking among themselves. We had many similar ideas. Here are the ones that were not previously mentioned

- Keep having the January meeting as dinner and planning session at The Brown Bottle in North Liberty.
- Keep our Annual Potluck at Randal's Park in Solon for each August meeting.
- Keep Tack & Yak at the Saddle & Leather as our December meeting.
- 'Fireside Chat' - the last one at the CRHC was a huge crowd and received a lot of positive response afterwards.
- Form & Function of running an event
- Show Etiquette
- Judging Preferences
- How to find a good trainer
- Dressage on the Levels
- Paul Kathen Lecture as a Special Event
- Darren Chiacchia Lecture as a Special Event

#### For the organization :

- Develop a budget
- Create New Member Packets
- Make Club Stationary
- Education - give certificates / recognition for continuing education (books/clinics/auditing/perfect attendance?) Present at December or January meeting.

#### Via email, here are Fundraising ideas from Nicole Durbin:

**1. Cookbook:** include a special gourmet pet section for horses, dogs and cats. Plus, other unique recipes like Nancy Barta's summer mist to keep cool at clinics and shows; snack foods people prepare for clinics and shows; drink mixes for Hunts. Plan on publishing the book in May and sell it this summer at dressage shows and clinics, horse sales etc. Maybe Barbara Hall would do the artwork for the cover.

**2. Calendar of local barns, local horses and local horse people with their horses.** Really push the local barns to submit a picture that they want to represent their barn, but also encourage other people to submit photos of their horses doing funny things or just really neat shots. Select the photos by August and go to print by September and have the calendars ready to sell by October 1st —Xmas gifts. Plus this would be a pictorial history.

**QUEST FOR COMMONSENSE  
HORSEMANSHIP  
OR  
A FAVORITE BOOK SPEAKS VOLUMES**

*By Charles Bennett*

*"Theory without practice is of little value, whereas practice is the proof of theory. It is the theoretical knowledge that will show the way to perfection. Theory is the knowledge, practice the ability. Knowledge must always take precedence over action." - Alois Podhajsky*

Knowledge is acquired in many different ways - books, videos, clinics, mentors, trainers, etc. This column is devoted to our favorite books, mentors, etc., those people whom we enjoy and from whom we learn the knowledge necessary to become better horsepeople. You are encouraged to submit to this publication your favorite author, trainer, etc, so the rest of us can find a new or additional guru. In the meantime you get one of my favorite authors, Capt. Vladimir S. Littauer, (1893 - 1989 - See sidebar for more information on Littauer).

Littauer gives you his reasons why he does what he does, why he disagrees with other methods, why nothing is written in stone and why you had better think for yourself if you are going to become a horseman.

Vladimir Littauer, was a Russian cavalry officer during the first World War who escaped Russia after the revolution in the early 1920's. He came to New York City and with a couple other Russian Cavalry officers started a riding school. He mentions that Americans have little patience and want instant gratification. Gee, imagine that. We were spoiled even back then. At any rate, he developed his teaching methods based on a commonsense approach to riding based on the needs of modern day riders. According to Littauer, American riding had improved greatly by the 1970's, due mainly to female participation in equitation activities. He felt women were better riders and trainers than men were.

He was a strong advocate of forward riding, not just the forward seat. He maintained that forward riding encompassed the forward seat, forward schooling, and forward control (more on this later). Littauer's interest, in addition to teaching riding, lay in training hunters, jumpers, and hacks. His methodology consisted, both

riding and training, of three levels - elementary, intermediate, and advanced. He had definite criteria for all three levels. For example, at the elementary level the horse was ridden on a loose rein only. He considered this very primitive, but he thought many riders should be at this level so they didn't abuse their horse.

Littauer uses the term artificial when he describes the dressage movements. Collected movements might be preformed naturally by a horse but only when excited. The dressage trainer works to get the horse calm and relaxed when performing these movements. Also dressage trainers change the horses balance by shifting the weight to the hocks.

I was fascinated by the book but the main reason I liked it was because he helped me to solidify my understanding of different equitation disciplines and to understand where all the pieces of the puzzle fit concerning dressage, or natural horsemanship or any other type of training.

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*Taken from the article **The 50 Most Influential Horseman of the 20th Century** in *The Chronical of the Horse*, Volume LXII, No. 52, Friday, December 24, 1999*

**CAPT. VLADIMIR S. LITTAUER. 1893 - 1989**

Capt. Vladimir S. Littauer, who was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1893, was one of the primary proponents of **Federico Caprilli's forward** seat system in North America, throughout most of the 20th century. Littauer reverently preached the theory for almost 60 years as a teacher of thousands of students and as the author of nine influential books. He died in August 1989 at age 97.

Littauer graduated as an officer from Russia's Nicholas Cavalry School, then fought in both World War I and the Russian civil war in the Imperial Russian Cavalry. But after the revolution, he fled, with his father and sister, through Siberia to Canada and then the United States. He reached New York City in 1921, and six years later he met two other former officers, with whom he formed a riding school called Boots and Saddles.

Within two years the Great Depression was raging, but Littauer and his partners were so busy teaching that they opened three more stables in New York's Westchester County, on Long Island, and in Connecti-

**Riding and Training at Tempel Farms**  
*by Barb Putnam*

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999, my daughter, Mandy, and I departed with our horses in tow for a week of lessons with George Williams, head trainer at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois.

Tempel Farms is home to one of the largest herds of Lipizzan horses in the United States. During the summer months the farm puts on several performances a week, similar to the performances in Vienna. The stallions perform all the airs above the ground. The performance is very beautiful and well worth seeing. The farm also hosts the NAYRC (National Association of Young Riders Championships) every other year, an annual dressage show in June and various clinics.

Tempel Farms is a beautiful, spacious place filled with history and tradition. All of the charming buildings are painted white with green trim. The Lipizzan stallions have their own stabling area in the barn, complete with ornate stalls and aisles of inlaid patterned brick.

The weather cooperated and we had a mild, sunny day to travel. We arrived at the farm in the afternoon. The horses settled in nicely to the very comfortably heated, forty degree barn called *The Annex*. My horse, Herod, was stabled next to a very sweet Lipizzan mare.

Our lessons began the day after we arrived. We were at the barn early to check on the horses and enjoy the atmosphere. The Lipizzans are trained between 8:00-11:00 am every day. Some are ridden or lunged while others are worked in hand to train the various movements. On one occasion, a stallion did a *capriolle* right in front of me! This is the movement where the horse leaps up and kicks out behind.

It was wonderful to be around the barn during our stay and to take in all the day-to-day activities of life in a busy dressage barn. I enjoyed observing the training sessions. The level of riding and the intensity of training are inspirational. These people really ride! Some of the trainers ride all day long beginning with the stallions then going to the horses that are there for training. The

barn also houses horses that belong to boarders, yet most of the activity there occurs during the daytime and the arena is usually empty at night.

Having a lesson every day for a week was a wonderful experience and I really learned a lot. George is a patient teacher with lots of great exercises and he knows exactly when to push for the maximum effort. George would alternate the trot and canter work from day to day to prevent the horse from having any muscle soreness. It is easy to see that he loves horses and is full of praise for them during training. Each lesson was full of new challenges and new ideas for training.

We worked on Prix Saint George movements, like flying changes, canter pirouettes and lateral movements. One of the highlights for me was to begin training the passage. George is a master of training this movement and the results were really amazing. Herod really started to get the idea of it and I was on cloud nine.

Training at Tempel Farms with George Williams was an experience I will never forget. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I have so many things to practice and perfect.

Do I plan to go back? You bet!

**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

**USDF Dressage Camps for Adults**

May 5-7, 2000  
Denison, IA (NDA)  
Beth Baumert, Sarah Giekie, Pam Lifton  
Contact: Ly-Lee Funk, 712/886-5521

**ABIC/USDF Region Four Championship**

September 8-10  
Mason City, IA  
Manager: Lloyd Landkamer  
612/420-2280  
Qualifying Dates: 8/16/99 - 8/07/00

**USDF 2000 Convention**

Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2000  
Hyatt Regency  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Contact: USDF office, 402/434-8550  
E-Mail: usdressage@navix.net

