

# Contact

April / May 2005 • Eastern Iowa Dressage & Eventing Association • [www.mwnet.com/eidea](http://www.mwnet.com/eidea) • [eidea@mwnet.com](mailto:eidea@mwnet.com)

For information contact: Amanda Johnson, *President* at 319-665-4209 • Merrill Klemm, *Vice President* at 319-362-0636  
EIDEA is a Charter Group Member Organization of the United States Dressage Federation. Our members are automatically USDF Group Members.



Amada Johnson with Felix a not quite 3 year old Westfalean gelding.

## THE JEFF GRIFFITH CLINIC – GETTIN' IT SAFE

By Barbara Hall

He is surprisingly unassuming and humble. In fact, Jeff Griffith puts you at ease so naturally that it's not surprising he is so successful with horses. There was standing room only in the Kirkwood cafeteria as we listened to Jeff talk about his past and his current life.

"I started out as a ranch hand where you had 12 horses in your string. I remember they gave me a coat hanger to reach under the horse and snag the cinch – otherwise he'd kick ya." He worked at the King Ranch for a time, and worked with some notable horses. In his early days, he rode and exercised the Doc Bar horses, became good friends with Buck Brannaman ("he helped me a lot"), and got to work with Bob Avila and Ray Hunt. "There's a few good things you do in your life by accident," Jeff says.

He knew there had to be a better way, when one day his 3 year old daughter said, "daddy, can I ride Noanie?" He sat her up on the horse "and I had ahold of her knee and the rein and I thought 'you sucker, if you make a move . . . ' and I realized I didn't trust my horse – I didn't have him good." So he started coming up with ways to "make them good, gentle horses". Everybody's after a broke, gentle horse, and this is supposed to be fun and safe.

Jeff has been doing full time clinics now for six years, and he really appreciates the Kirkwood facility, and the people here. "The stuff I see!" he says with a laugh. At a clinic in New York, "these people brought a hired man to hold their horse 'cause they can't tie him up." Another horse was a rank lunatic that would

## HELLO FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Hello, and welcome to EIDEA! I am your new president, Amanda Johnson. Let me tell you a little about myself. I have been actively involved with USDF since I was a teenager. I served as the Region 4 Youth Executive Board Member, represented Region 4 at the North American Young Riders Championships, participated in the USDF FEI Young Rider clinics with Conrad Schumacher, USDF Adult Clinic with Walter Zettl, and the Dressage Foundation Advanced Young Rider Olympic Dream Program. I have earned both my USDF University Diploma and my USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. Currently I am members of the USDF Awards Council for Region 4 and the USDF Graduate Young Rider Program committee. Last, but not least, I am a second generation president. My mother, Barb Putnam, is a former EIDEA president.

I have received much of my education through programs put on by USDF. We need some more hands-on programs. I would really like to see EIDEA put on a clinic for our members with a top trainer. Show season is around the corner, so start dusting off your show clothes, and plan on going to those schooling and recognized shows! I will see you there!

- Amanda Johnson

bite whatever came near him. It took four people to get him out of the trailer and hold him, and they had to constantly stuff him with carrots.

Most of his colt-breaking clinics are 36 hours over six days. "It's a lot better than how we used to break colts", he says with a soft laugh. They start with intense groundwork, because all the groundwork can be transferred to when you are on the horse's back. The groundwork is transferred to your seat, and the lead rope becomes your rein. The clinics are "extra intense" on the sacking out part. "The clinic can be the toughest, best thing you've ever done for you and your horse." He holds what looks like a long lunge whip with a flag on the end of the stick. When he shakes it and snaps it, it makes a heck of a scary noise. "We start with the flag, and work with them until they don't care about it any more. If you try the flag at home without the proper steps, "you'll get lit up", he says. Most horses think "leave and look" when they encounter something scary. Sometimes you can find yourself a long way from the scary thing in a real short time – sometimes they go 50 yards real fast, and THEN look at it. "I want them to look at it and decide what to do – it will teach them to deal with commotion or a sudden noise in a different way."

He also uses the “big red ball”, a huge squishy ball that must be 6 or 7 feet tall. When we see it, we realize that this would get the attention of any horse, and we’re not sure if we would be able to stay on a horse that saw this for the first time! But after working with the horses and the red ball during the clinic, they don’t care about that anymore either. “It takes the shock out of a horse,” he explains. The key is persistence and discipline.

Jeff tells us some stories about starting Thoroughbreds for racing. In fact, he had been hired to start Smarty Jones’s sister the following week. “Race horse people tell me the horses I start – the good exercise boys wanna ride ‘em. The stall boys love ‘em – and they don’t have to poke ‘em with the fork. The vets and the shoers love working on ‘em. They tie, brush off, and stand on a loose rein. And they win because they are relaxed.”

It’s best to start this training when the horse is young. When they are little, he says “when he walks over you or bumps into you, make him move away from you – tap your finger on his jaw – just tap tap tap, and if he doesn’t respect you then, you bonk him on the jaw. If you want your horse fixed, you may find yourself doing whatever you need to to get him off of your foot. Just do it in a meaningful way.”

“Today the guy who wins is on the best horse. Used to be a strong rider on an average horse could win, but not any more. It takes a good rider, a good horse, and especially good horsemanship. It’s important to get the right horse to fit the person. Then the number one thing to remember is to get it safe.”

For more information on Jeff Griffith clinic scheduled check out his website at: [www.JeffGriffith.com](http://www.JeffGriffith.com)



Amada Johnson riding Felix for the first time.



*Our  
condolences to  
Barbara Hall  
on the loss of her  
mare, Q.*

**USDF Clinics** (details at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org))

**Junior/young Rider Clinic** May 28-29, 2005. *George Williams* instructor. in MN

**Adult Clinic**, August 6-7, 2005. *Kathy Connelly* instructor, in MN. Applicants due July 1, 2005.

**High School Dressage Program**

Complimentary USDF High School Dressage Club Guidelines and Registration Forms are at [www.usdf.org/Programs/HighSchool/](http://www.usdf.org/Programs/HighSchool/) or by contacting Sheila Forbes, USDF director of programs, at (859) 271-7879 or [sforbes@usdf.org](mailto:sforbes@usdf.org). These guidelines will provide a structure for parents and groups seeking recog-

inition for their high-school students’ achievements in dressage.

**All-Breeds Award Rule Change**

The USDF All-Breeds Award program now requires owners to declare for the participating breed registry that they wish their horse to be recognized for award purposes. Declarations must be on record with USDF by September 30, 2005. A listing of USDF All-Breeds award sponsors is available at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org). Questions and declarations may be directed to [cwalker@usdf.org](mailto:cwalker@usdf.org) or mailed to Attn: Christine Walker, USDF, 220 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 510, Lexington, KY or FAX (859) 971-7722.

**Newsletter Schedule & Rates**

**Submission dates**

- May 15 for the June/July 2005
  - July 15 for the August/September 2005
  - September 15 for the October/November 2005
- Submissions can be sent by email to

[eidea@mwnet.com](mailto:eidea@mwnet.com). Text should either be in the email or as an attached Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file. Email photos as JPG or TIF.

**Advertising rates**

- Full Page \$50 per issue, approximate size is 7.5” X 10”
- Half Page \$25 per issue, approximate size is 7.5” X 5”
- Quarter Page \$10 per issue, approx. size is 3.75” X 5”

EIDEA members get a \$5 discount per ad. What a deal! **Note:** (There’s always a catch.) There is an additional fee of \$25 per hour for display advertising design services and a one hour minimum.

Classified are free to EIDEA members.

Classifieds to Non members are \$4 up to 40 words.

Ad submissions are best made in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files and can be emailed to [eidea@mwnet.com](mailto:eidea@mwnet.com). Checks made out to EIDEA can be sent to:

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

*Our condolences to the Barta family  
on the loss of George Barta.*



A horse drawn hearse led the way to the internment ceremony.

### **Jochen Hippenstiel Clinic April 30 – May 1**

Shellhaven Farm is hosting a clinic with Jochen Hippenstiel, head trainer at Tempel Farms, in Wadsworth, Illinois. A native of Germany, Jochen was a student of dressage luminaries Harry Boldt, Herbert Rehbein, Willi Schultheis and Klaus Balkenhol. Jochen has trained horses that have competed successfully in Olympic and World Cup competitions. He is a Reitlehrer FN (Master Trainer) in Germany.

Auditing fee - \$10 per day

Shellhaven Farm, 1457 Smyth Rd., Mt. Vernon, IA 52314. Phone: 319.895.8985  
Directions at shellhavenfarm.net.

### **HUNTER PACE INVITATION**

**Saturday, May 7, 2005**

Rain Date: Sunday, May 8, 2005

Sponsored by: The Moingona Hunt.

Held at Cedar Run, 900 Stone Mill Road, Tipton, IA 52272

This is a competition to complete a cross-country/trail ride at a predetermined ideal pace/speed. The ride times closest to the ideal time win! \$30.00 per horse & rider combination. Additional rides may be completed at no additional fee. Lunch will be catered on event grounds for \$5 per person. For information

contact: Marty McCurry at (319) 369-0386 / martymccurry@aol.com .

### **Region 4 Adult Team Championships on July 29, 2005**

Hosted by Bara Trac II Show at North Iowa Fair Grounds - Mason City, IA

The USDF Region Four Adult Team Championship is a unique show for Adult Riders, featuring team competition in dressage, educational programs, team medals and a mounted awards ceremony. This competition is to encourage camaraderie and support for all adults competing in any level. There are no prerequisites or qualifying scores required to enter the championships. A competitor is an adult from the beginning of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 22.

See pages 110 & 111 of 2005 Omnibus for more information.

### **On the Tube**

2005 FEI Budweiser World Cup Show Jumping Final from Las Vegas on NBC on May 8 from 5-6 p.m. EDT.

2005 World Cup Dressage Final presented by Offield Farms will air on OLN on June 6 at 4 p.m. EDT.

2005 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event to Air On NBC Sunday, May 8 from 4-5 p.m. EST.

## **EVENTING PACKETS**

If you were unable to attend the March meeting and need information on what paperwork is involved in getting ready to compete in a USEA Recognized Horse Trial, EIDEA Eventing Packets are available by contacting either Jan Vlasak 369-0477 or Mikki Panek 319-377-1043.

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## **EIDEA TREASURER'S REPORT**

For 2/1/2005- 3/7/2005

Submitted by Jan Vlasak

### **INFLOWS**

2005 EIDEA Dues	1,546.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>1,546.00</b>

### **OUTFLOWS**

Incorporation Fee	20.00
Newsletter Expense	279.61
USDF Dues	799.00
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>1,098.61</b>

**ACCOUNT BALANCE 2,467.34**

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## **EIDEA OFFICERS**

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CHARTER



GROUP  
MEMBER  
ORGANIZATION

GMO



GROUP  
MEMBER  
ORGANIZATION



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Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Eastern Iowa  
Dressage & Eventing  
Association

A Charter Group  
Member Organization  
of the USDF.  
We've been here  
all along!

Affiliate Eventing  
Association to  
US Eventing  
Association.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Tuesday, May 3rd, 7 pm**

at Abraham's Equine Clinic

### **Shock Wave Therapy & Digital Imaging**

Dr. Charles Abraham is going to explain and demonstrate the new diagnostic and treatment possibilities for injuries and lameness.

**Directions** to Abraham's Equine Clinic, 617 Dows Road, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

**From Highway 30** turn on Highway 151 /13 going north at the first 4-way stop, turn left onto Mt. Vernon Road, go .9 mile, turn right onto Dows Road, clinic is .45 miles on the left.

**From I380 going north** take 5th Ave. / Diagonal Road Exit turn right onto 5th Ave. / Diagonal Road. This road merges into 8th Ave. before the bridge. At 10th St. (by Mercy Hospital) 8th Ave. merges

into Mt.Vernon Road. Continue on Mt. Vernon Road for 4.5 miles, turn left onto Dows Road, clinic is .45 miles on the left.

**From I380 going south** take 7th Street exit. Stay on 7th street until you come to 8th Ave. Turn left onto 8th Ave. At 10th St.(by Mercy Hospital) 8th Ave. merges into Mt.Vernon Road. Continue on Mt. Vernon Road for 4.5 miles, turn left onto Dows Road, clinic is .45 miles on the left.

**Tuesday June 7, 2005 at 7 pm**

**Saddle Fitting** hosted by Barbara Hall

**Tuesday July 5, 2005 at 7 pm**

**Physical Fitness** and the Equestrian Rider.

Speaker Dawn Zaruba will speak and demonstrate simple exercises to help get us fit. Held at Kirkwood's Washington Hall.

**Tuesday August 2, 2005 at 7 pm**

**Dr. Liz Freeman**, Equine Breeding Lecture at Kirkwood's Washington Hall.

**Tuesday September 6, 2005 at 7 pm**

**Jumping Demonstration** hosted by Jeff Riecke and Trish Ringgold.

**Tuesday October 4, 2005 at 7 pm**

**Dressage Demonstration** hosted by Amanda Johnson and Barb Putnam.