



# Central Plains Dressage Society Newsletter March 2020

## *Fun Friendly Forward*

### Message From The President

March is here and the activity level in Central Plains Dressage is going to increase! There are six shows this month. The first East schooling show is March 21 at Cross Bar Arena. A West schooling show is March 7 at Valley View, followed the next day with our last Working Equitation show. Finally, on a packed weekend March 28 and 29 there are three shows in one weekend: a schooling show, a Lite western dressage show and a recognized show! During the March 28-29 weekend there is also the opportunity to sell tack, clothing and stuff. The Club will have some items but most of the action will be from individuals who are willing to part with some used "stuff". There will be a bake-sale too to satisfy your sweets cravings.

I think the anticipation of the season is palatable. So many members can start realizing goals and we have many members ready to move up the levels and/or trying for medals. It will be a great year for the Club. As people begin to achieve their goals we will be there to celebrate the accomplishments. It is wonderful to honor success and to publicly enjoy the moment. The first three contests have set a wonderful tone reflecting support, community and celebration. At the schooling shows there is support of riders, many of whom are just beginning to show. Professionals are seen helping their students and others so all can feel more confident. Parents and participants help change the arena, pick up obstacles and applaud the efforts of the riders. The atmosphere is everything we want for a competition. The working equitation group has an awards ceremony after their show so everyone can appreciate the efforts of all. It has been a fun and fulfilling beginning to 2020. The Club is enjoying a banner year in memberships too. We have over 120 members, many are renewals and we have a few dozen new members. The renewals demonstrate that people like what is happening in the Club. Those new to Central Plains have expressed a desire to be part of a positive group that offers opportunities for

growth as an equestrian. It is a good time to be a member of Central Plains Dressage. If you want to participate in ways different from riding think about volunteering at shows. Clearly our schedule requires a battalion of helpers to keep our shows running at optimal levels. Please contact Chris Cashel or Annie Houchin if you can spare a half day or whole day of help. We will appreciate you and feed you too! This is your Club and to keep it going we need help at events.

I look forward to the month and the coming year. If you come to Stillwater please introduce yourself to me so I can get to know you. Good luck to all and have a wonderful year!

*Chris Cashel*

President, CPDS

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Editor's Note: As you've probably noticed, this newsletter is fairly late. A lot has happened since I started gathering news that really effects our CPDS community—mainly COVID 19. With that in mind, this newsletter has several out of date items with the current updates later in the issue. CPDS will try to keep you current with email and web blasts and FaceBook. Please be flexible and understanding. Things will settle down in time. *LA*

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## Working Equitation Notes

(Submitted by Den Burdette)

This past Sunday, March 8 at Valley View Equestrian Center CPDS held its final show of the Winter Series Working Equitation Shows. Robin Hessel was the judge. We had our best turnout to date for working equitation. Two horse and rider combinations competed in the Children's Division, Eight competed in Level One, Three Competed in Level Two, One dressage only for level Three, one for level Five, and three entries for the Ease of Handling in Hand Class.

The course walk was at 10am and the show finished at 4pm with the awards ceremony.



Walking the working equitation course before the March 8 show

There is something for everyone in the working equitation shows. You can compete at level 1 (Or children's for under 18), through level five. Level 1 and Children's compete in the dressage phase as well as EOH (Ease of Handling). It is optional at Children's and level one to do the speed phase (which doesn't change the scores/placing). In levels two through five entrants compete in the dressage phase, EOH and Speed phase to determine scores/placements. The CPDS Working Equitation Shows also offer Dressage only classes and the EOH in Hand Class. I highly encourage you to check out and enter these shows. Four more dates have been added to the calendar including the head to head championship in October. Dates and info posted on

[www.HorseShowConsulting.com](http://www.HorseShowConsulting.com)

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### Used Tack Sale!!

Do you have various tack items collecting dust? Bring your gently used items to sell at the March 28-29th shows at Valley View. You are welcome to set up your own store in or around your trailer. There will be a catalog with your items for sale at the show office desk. All proceeds benefit your pocket book and future equine addiction. Please contact Nancy Eytcheson or Amy Mullins for further information at - [cpdstacksale@gmail.com](mailto:cpdstacksale@gmail.com)

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## BAKE SALE!!

Who doesn't love a sweet treat?!? Please bring your favorite dessert items to sell in the pavilion during the March 28-29th shows at Valley View. Proceeds will benefit CPD.

If you can't make it out to one of the shows, please stop by and support Central Plains Dressage by shopping at the bake sale March 28th - 29th. While membership fees are rising across the country, CPD is making efforts to keep our membership costs as low as possible with fundraising events.

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We are thankful for the continued support from The Dressage Foundation. The March 14-15 Joann Williams Western Dressage Clinic is a recipient of the Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund. Without the support from The Dressage Foundation, many of our events would not be financially attainable. Please visit the website for more information about the generous grants and opportunities The Dressage Foundation has to offer.

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### Central Plains Dressage Society

*Fun, Friendly, and Forward*

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2020 (Zoom meeting)**

The meeting was called to order by Chris Cashel at 5:05 pm. Chris Cashel, Stacia Wert Gray, Lee Ann Alf, Janelle Williams, Nancy Eytcheson, Robin Hessel, Christina Harmon, Amy Mullins and Kathy Maxwell were present. The minutes from the January meeting were approved. Motion made by Robin Hessel, and seconded by Chris Cashel. Passed.

#### **Committee reports:**

##### *Treasurer*

\*Stacia Wert Gray reported that the club has about \$400 in the bank account, and about \$1000 in the paypal account. The ribbons have all arrived, and entries are strong for this coming weekend's schooling show and Working Equitation event.

##### *Membership*

\*Christina Harmon reported that CPDS currently has 97 members already submitted for the 2020 year, and more ready to submit. Renewals are as strong as new members.

\*A blast went out to encourage renewing USDF/Central Plains memberships before the recognized shows start next month.

\*Suggested reviewing the family membership category for next year due to the amount of money going out to USDF for members who are not showing.

\*Welcome packets will be ready to go out as soon as most of the new member entries have come in.

\*Board information on the USDF website needs to be updated. Chris Cashel to address.

##### *Shows*

January show went well, with new riders who have already entered the February show.

##### *Tack Sale*

March 28-29 show, recognized and schooling. Committee is Robin Hessel, Amy Mullins, Nancy Eytcheson and Kathy Maxwell. The committee met last week to discuss organization and details. Catalogue of sale items to be available at the secretary's table, CPD donations table and bake sale in the pavilion. Information will go out in the February newsletter, on Facebook and in email blasts.

##### *Western Dressage Symposium*

Annie Houchin has not heard back yet from the Dressage Foundation regarding the grant, but she has several people

who have volunteered to donate to support the Western Dressage Clinic. The flyer has been published and distributed, with a great initial response.

*Newsletter*

\*Lee Ann Alf reported that many articles have been submitted for the newsletter to go out next week.

**New Business**

*Fundraising:* Kathy Maxwell reported that she has sent out many requests soliciting items that can be auctioned in July at the Dinner and Dancing evening. Janelle Williams needs information on what is needed for the auction so she can start publicizing.

Robin Hessel has begun talks with Beth Haist of Horse of Course regarding donations for our end of year awards. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Christina Harmon, seconded by Amy Mullins. Passed.

The next meeting is via Zoom on March 8 at 5 p.m.

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**Urgent News for all Central Plains Dressage members!**

Over the last few days we have seen unprecedented movement to contain the Corona virus. Sporting events, schools, businesses and the government have taken bold steps in an effort to curb this disease. Today, USEF sent a dictum out curtailing all sanctioned events for the next 30 days. For us, at CPDS, that affects our first recognized show on March 29.

We have other events like the East schooling show March 21 that will be held. This weekend there is a western dressage clinic happening at Patty Couch's that is going on. The Board has determined that these events do not meet the threshold for cancelation and they will go on. The shows scheduled for March 28 and 29 will be re-scheduled. If you have entered Stacia Wert- Gray will be contacting you over the weekend with details. The plan for those shows is to move them to Saturday, May 16 and conduct the Arab show in the morning and the western lite show in the afternoon. Sunday, May 17 will be the recognized show. The clinic with Melissa will be Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19. Before you ask questions about refunds and fees, wait for Stacia's email. The used tack sale will occur the weekend of May 16-17. The newly scheduled Working Equitation show planned for May 16 will be canceled. There will be more directives from the CDC and our parent organizations during this time and the Board will make decisions as needed. We will try to be responsible and protect one another.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

*Chris Cashel*

President, CPDS

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The following is the updated link to our on-line store for Central Plains Dressage wear! If people order they can have items mailed or Chris can pick them up and bring to an event in Stillwater.

<https://centralplainsdressage2020.itemorder.com/>

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**Processing Your Show Experience**

*(Submitted by Den Burdette)*

So far in 2020, CPDS has held three west schooling shows at Valley View Equestrian Center in Stillwater. Our first east schooling show is next weekend in Mounds at Cross Bar Arena. I have been fortunate to make it to all three of the west shows with Bubba

Bailey. Competing at level one western at each, I am evaluating my progress and training with my horse. Different judges give varying feedback and scores can be higher or lower from show to show. It can sometimes be confusing to process it all but my goal here is to help break down how I do so.

First you must consider your goals, and your experience in years prior with your horse. This is my third year showing and training with Bubba Bailey and so I have a record with him to compare our season's start. Our first show of the year we hit the ground running with our test of 69.444%. Our biggest struggle was the lope work. Second show we earned at 64.444%. The lope work was improved. The third show we earned a 63.5% with the lope still being the major area needing improvement. What I have learned is that every judge is different. Some are easier than others. Some are tougher. I did get to speak with Robin Hessel who judged the third show and it helped put a lot in perspective. She mentioned that she was tough on everyone and that a big reason for that was to evaluate where horses and riders were at realistically in preparation for the upcoming recognized shows. She said she wanted us to feel that the scores were in line with what the 'tougher' recognized judges may score. With that being said, I was happy with how Bubba Bailey and I did. I can also point out that if a judge is consistent and fair in their scoring, then its ok to get a lower score. Meaning if the high score for the day is a 68 for the whole show, then earning a 64 at the level you are at may be a real solid score! I do firmly believe that CPDS utilizes judges who are fair, qualified and honest.

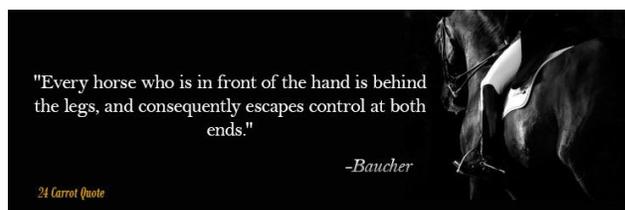
From a trainer standpoint, I show horses to evaluate our training. Where are we at? What are the holes in our level of training that need improvement? What do we need to go back to basics on? How can I better this horse?

As a rider, I show to do the same but also to have fun! Do I feel like my horse and I are improving? Comfortable at this level we are showing? What will we do next?

All these factors are things to consider when you compete and come home and look at your test sheets. CPDS does a fantastic job of offering schooling and recognized show opportunities for all. Utilizing the show experiences, attending clinics, and working with a regular instructor help us get to our goals. We never stop learning. Showing can be stressful but is meant to be fun. I have learned so much from competing. Plus, its always fun when our fellow members clap at the end of your ride and cheer you on right?

Happy Showing y'all!

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"Every horse who is in front of the hand is behind the legs, and consequently escapes control at both ends."

*-Baucher*

*24 Carrot Quote*

**(email from Stacia received March 14, 2020)**

Good Morning,

As you probably already know, USEF is encouraging all recognized shows to cancel for the next 30 days. This impacts the CPDS shows on March 28-29. Here is our plan.

- March 28 schooling show - cancelled
- March 28 western dressage Lite show - rescheduled to May 16 - pending USEF approval
- March 29 USEF/USDF recognized show - rescheduled to May 17 - pending USEF approval

This is what the May 16-17 weekend will look like:

- Saturday, May 16 morning - Arabian show
- Saturday, May 16 afternoon - WD Lite show
- Sunday, May 17 - USEF/USDF show
- Monday, Tuesday May 18-19 - clinic with our judge Melissa Creswick

**I will not be rolling entries forward to the new show dates. YOU WILL NEED TO ENTER AGAIN. Here is how I will be handling the refunds for the March 28-29 activities.**

- Equestrian Entries - If you entered via Equestrian Entries, you will receive a full refund for March 28 and 29 shows and clinics. As you can imagine, EE is overwhelmed with refunding over 7,000 entries across the country. EE anticipates that your refund will take up to 3 weeks. Please be patient. The refund will go back to the credit card that you used to complete your entry.
- Check - If you entered via a check. That check will be shredded.
- Paypal - If you entered via paypal, I will refund that payment later today
- Credit from a previous show - I will carry your credit forward.

**Special directions for those of you in the Creswick clinic -**

- I plan to move the clinic entries to the May 18-19 dates. Please let me know if you would like to keep or release your slot in the Creswick clinic. Please send this notification via email if possible.
- All checks that were written just for the Creswick clinic will be held. If your check also included a show entry, it will be shredded. If you entered the clinic via equestrian entries, you will be refunded through EE.

**The following CPDS schooling/recognized shows will continue as scheduled and entries are open.** Of course, this may change depending on the coronavirus situation.

- Saturday, March 21 schooling show - Judge Janelle Williams - Cross Bar Arena
- Saturday, April 11 schooling - Judge Sherry Guess - Cross Bar Arena
- Saturday/Sunday April 25-26 - USEF/USDF recognized show with clinic - Thomas Poulin

I should have the website updated later this morning. Please check back regularly. Let me know if you have questions.

If you received this email 3 times, I do apologize but it was the most efficient way to communicate with the folks in all three shows!

Stacia Wert-Gray, Ph.D.  
www.horseshowconsulting.com  
405-204-3870

## **Used Tack Sale**

**March 28-29, 2020**

**May 16-17 (rescheduled)**

*(in conjunction with the CPDS Schooling and Recognized Shows)*

Do you have a saddle that doesn't fit ANY of your horses? Do you have 3,000 curry combs? 22 different bits? A pair of britches that is too big? Gulp, or too small? A perfectly serviceable helmet? Girths in the corner collecting dust? A saddle pad that just doesn't fit your horse? Want to clean up your tack room at last????

**Plan on coming to the Tack Sale at Valley View Equestrian Center on May 16-17 during the Schooling and Recognized shows!!**

You are encouraged to set up and sell your items out of or next to your own trailer, with a sign out front to let buyers know you are participating. You can leave a list of the items you would like to sell to be included in the sales catalogue. You can also make flyers to be on the table.

\*A main sales catalogue will be kept at the Show Secretary's table with a list of items for sale (grouped by types such as saddles and tack, grooming supplies, clothing, etc), prices, and who to contact to look at the items

\*The catalogue will help sellers with not having to have someone in your trailer at all times waiting around for buyers

\*The catalogue will benefit shoppers if they are looking for something specific

\*If you would like to sell a saddle, you can arrange for a trial ride after the show closes for the day.

If you have items you would rather just donate to Central Plains, those items will be organized and displayed in the pavilion. And thank you in advance!!!

**We will also be having a bake sale in the pavilion to benefit CPDS.**

### *Questions?*

Contact Amy Mullins about the tack sale and catalogue  
918-304-4149 or [cpdstacksale@gmail.com](mailto:cpdstacksale@gmail.com)

Contact Nancy Eytcheson about the bake sale  
623-628-4311 or [anglwmn52@aol.com](mailto:anglwmn52@aol.com)

## How to spend less time cleaning your stalls

By Nora Wert

We all struggle with time management. It seems as though we never have enough time for the things we want to do because we are doing the things we have to do. And then we get older and the problem becomes larger because we don't move as quickly as we used to. Example: stall cleaning.

We all recognize the stalls need to be cleaned regularly to keep flies at bay, prevent respiratory problems from foul air, and keep those lovely green spots off our horse's rumps (or face in my case). Why doesn't someone invent a self-cleaning stall? Sadly, the closest thing anyone has come up with is another person who does it for you. For years I had Fred. He fed the horses 2x a day, filled water buckets and troughs, and cleaned stalls. It was great. Then Fred got Parkinson's. So, I had to pick up that chore in addition to some others. While I didn't mind doing the chores, I HATED struggling with heavy stall mats. Hence, my years-long experiment with stall lining systems. This experiment started long before I had to take over the daily chores which is a good thing because, turns out, there was a lot to learn.

We began our education when we built our horse barn. Up until then we had a run-in shed that came with the property that was at least 40 years old, had a leaky roof, inadequate hay storage, and rusted siding. The horses used it as a wind block but wouldn't go in it during rain, snow, or hail because it had a 7' roof and it must have sounded like the world was coming down on top of them. No need for bedding in that. So, we bought a barn package that came complete. Our responsibility was to contract the concrete foundation and whatever else we might want concreted. We had foundation poured around the perimeter for the walls to stand on and then had slab poured in the aisle and tack room. The stalls themselves were left dirt but they provided the stall mats to line the stalls. We moved the horses in. We had a brief honeymoon period when everyone was happy; me, Fred, and the equine residents, Artie and Pearl. The problem started surfacing after they had peed in the same spot for an extended period of time and the spring rainy season arrived. I started getting huge holes in the stalls where the pee had seeped through the cracks in the mats compounded by my lack of adequate research on site preparation. Turns out I had put the barn in the major runoff area for my backyard. There was a river flowing directly under the barn every time it rained. That problem was eventually solved by a regrading of the area around the barn, but the pee problem remained. The only way to fill in the hole was to drag the mats out of the way and bring in a few wheelbarrow loads of dirt. I never considered taking the mats out and just putting bedding on top of the dirt. That was the system we had in Arizona where both my sister and I cleaned stalls and fed horses in exchange for board for our respective horses. The property owner was always short on cash, so the stalls were perpetually under bedded. It took no time at all for a horse to produce a huge pee hole that smelled terrible. The only way to make it smell better was to dig out the stinky dirt which made the problem worse. So, once a year we would relevel all the stalls with a dump truck load of dirt. That was always a fun day. And it didn't solve the problem.

So, I started looking into stall liner systems. I realized the stall mats I had were not going to get any lighter and I was not going to get any younger. I briefly thought about just buying lighter weight mats, but my goal was to not move mats in the first place. So, the journey began.

The first company I talked to had a "mattress" system. Dense foam was put on a level stall floor and then covered with a 1-piece rubber mat that was secured to the sides of the stall. Any bedding in the

stall was just to soak up urine. The foam provided a comfortable surface for the horses to lie on and eliminated hock sores. The video explained how simple it was to squeegee the urine spot over to the bedding pile and then scoop it up. I had 2 problems with this system. Fred's mare hated getting splashed with urine. I wondered if she would "hold it." And she almost never laid down. The second problem was cost. It was very expensive - \$1,500 per stall plus shipping from California. Since I have 3 stalls that is a sizeable investment. Wasn't sure the benefits outweighed the costs. But I did recognize the key to the system was a 1-piece liner because the urine couldn't reach the dirt. I decided to DIY. We had dug a pond in our previous house and used a pond liner as part of the construction. I went to the pond supply store and looked for a liner big enough to fit a 12x12 stall. Wala! They had 1. I brought it home and did the empty stall. My only concern was could the horses tear the liner with horseshoe nails? Since both horses had shoes in front, this was inevitable. Decided to put the heavy stall mats on top of the pond liner to preserve the liner. To secure the liner to the edges, we nailed wood strips to the perimeter concrete foundation. Then the liner was just stapled to the wood strips. It was a thing of beauty. And I was in business for less than \$150/stall. So I thought. We had taken care to level the stall perfectly with a screed board (think concrete leveler) so we had no holes or high spots. The mats fit perfectly flat and tight. I put in a normal amount of bedding for a stall with mats and moved Pearl in.

Make no mistake, this was a huge improvement. I did the other occupied stall. Neither horse could make a pee hole in the dirt even if they repeatedly peed in the same spot, and the soiled bedding was easy to scoop up from the flat stall mats. Again, the problem took a while to present itself.

Once again, the problem was the voids, however small, in the stall floor mats. Eventually the pee seeped through the cracks and collected on the pond liner. And it had nowhere to go and couldn't evaporate. So, the stall stayed perfectly level, but the odor started to build up. Since my horses are turned out in a field 10-12 hours per day depending on the season, the smell was slow to develop. But, impossible to get rid of without moving the mats. Back to struggling with heavy mats. By now, I couldn't drag the heavy mats by myself anymore, so someone had to help me get them out of the stall and then get them back in. I thought my nephew Travis and I were both going to vomit when we dragged the mats out of Artie's stall. So, I decided to look at the other system for stalls without mats - porous stall liners. In this system, bedding is primarily for comfort, not urine absorption. The liquids pass through the bedding and the stall liner and are dissipated in the dirt under the stall. If a urine odor starts to build up, a bucket half full of water and lots of deodorizer (I use Pine Sol) eliminates it.

I bought 1 liner as a test case and did Pearl's stall. She was the neater of the 2 horses (older and smaller) and I figured she would be less likely to tear things up. I watched the installation instructions which are straightforward. Spread the liner and staple to wood strips around the perimeter of the stall. They did advise checking for drainage before you begin by pouring a bucket of water in the center of the stall. I did and it sat there for a week. Good old Oklahoma clay soil. So, the installation is more labor intense - but it works. Prepare the stall floor with a pit in the middle full of small gravel. Gently slope the sides of the stall to the pit (think shower drain). I also dug a shallow trench from a common pee spot to the middle and filled that with gravel. Once I got to the gelding's stall, I didn't really need a trench. He is large and when he spreads out, he pees in the hole pretty much by default. Then I spread the stall liner on top, stapled it to the wood strips around the outside and put in the bedding. The urine does pass through so there is less urine-soaked shavings to scoop up and no puddles. Eventually of course they do wet down the shavings where they pee but nothing like a stall with rubber mats. I think

it does cut down on the bedding cost but since I only have 3 stalls and easy maintenance was my major goal, I haven't kept track of my bedding bill.

Finally, the heavy rubber mats went to the dump. The company I used was Stall Skins ([stallskins.com](http://stallskins.com)) but there are others if you do a Google search. At the time I bought mine (2015), he would ship individual mats in a large cardboard box (\$195@). He will not do that any more so now it is only available by the roll. I'm sure other companies will fill smaller orders.



Sadly, Pearl's stall is now empty, but a friend gifted me 2 miniatures who live in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stall. So, I put a liner in that stall as well. I have done zero maintenance in their stall since they moved in and 1 bag of shavings lasts a week. Occasionally Artie tamps down the dirt where he stands to look out his window. I peel back the liner and throw a load of dirt in the depression. Then I restaple and I'm back in business. I see no reason why I can't take care of my horses by myself for as long as I choose to live here. What a great feeling!