



# MICHIANA DRESSAGE CLUB, INC. GMO OF THE USDF

FEBRUARY 2013

Visit us at [www.michianadressageclub.org](http://www.michianadressageclub.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Michiana Dressage Club, Inc. is to promote and to support the art and sport of Dressage in the equestrian community for the purpose of fostering national or international amateur sports competitions, and to foster individual and collective growth by providing leadership, education, publication and competitions and to enhance greater public awareness, understanding and appreciation for the discipline of Dressage.*

## 2013 OFFICERS

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Thank you to everyone who showed up to the January Board Meeting. WOW! What a great turnout. There were some wonderful suggestions and fundraising ideas. Stay tuned for more info as they unfold. The next Board meeting will be at Stephanie Wards house on February 24 at 11am. Looking foward to seeing everyone there.

The MDC Omnibus advertising due date has been extended until February 28. If interested please send me your ad info and check.  
(Janeen Pasquill 6300 Van RD, Coloma, MI 49038)  
Fantastic opportunity to advertise your farm or horses for sale and support MDC!

I am also looking forward to a great show season and seeing everyone. We have a couple of new shows this year and some new classes including "western dressage".

Try to stay warm. They tell me spring is just around the corner!

Janeen Pasquill  
2013 MDC President

## MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2013, 11:00 am, EST  
at the home of STEPHANIE WARD  
3497 West Shore Drive Bremen, IN 46506  
tel:(574) 248-2957 email: [steph43@mchsi.com](mailto:steph43@mchsi.com)

*The Michiana Dressage Club welcomes all levels of Dressage riders from Northern Indiana, Southern Michigan and surrounding areas. During each show season clinics and schooling shows are held at different locations throughout the area. The season ends with an awards banquet where members receive recognition of their achievements for the year.*



*Reins of Life dressage rider  
Katelyn on Bud*

After 35 years of operation in South Bend, most people in the area have heard of Reins of Life. Our 3,000 hours of therapeutic riding lessons every year to 500 riders with disabilities is what first comes to mind when thinking about Reins, but the truth is that we are actually involved in a variety of other activities. Since MDC members have so generously supported Reins, I thought you might be interested in a few little-known facts about our organization.

Central to our mission is educating the public and improving the attitudes of society toward people with disabilities. To achieve that goal we use several strategies. You may have seen our miniature equines in parades or at the mall. They are really cute and steal the show everywhere they go, but their appearances serve a larger purpose. The minis regularly visit schools and libraries where they are used to introduce the concept of equine-assisted activities. Students also learn fun horsey facts (like how you measure a horse!) and the horse's value in society. One of our minis was a rescue and

his story provides an important lesson in itself. Residents of nursing homes frequently benefit from our mini-visits as well and naturally respond to the horses and donkeys even when they do not communicate with humans. We do not budget a single dollar for marketing. These adorable minis are our ambassadors.

Reins of Life has a long history of hosting nursing students who observe our classes but recently we have begun to partner with several colleges and universities, as well as community foundations. Indiana University, Notre Dame, Brown Mackie, Bethel College, Purdue North Central, and Thomas More College all have students engaged in projects at Reins. Eagle Scout candidates often choose us as the organization of choice for their service projects, providing cool features for our facilities like the sensory trails. Many of our 480 volunteers are high school or college students and we take our role as mentors very seriously. It is gratifying for us that some of those who have experienced the awesome power of the horse at Reins have pursued professions such as Special Education, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Equine Science. We know we have the best volunteers in the world. They run the gamut from horse-crazy 13-year-olds to a Sister of the Holy Cross member. Some are former riders who have progressed so far that they are now able to help others. Each one takes away life-changing lessons that will serve them and the community well. In addition to our class volunteers, some participants of the justice system's community service programs complete their required hours at Reins. They are treated with respect and experience the welcoming, giving culture that has always been our hallmark.

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) is the accrediting body of the 800+ Therapeutic Riding centers worldwide. This year Reins of Life has been selected as the host for the Region 4 conference, which will draw members from 5 states and Ontario, Canada. The 4-day-long event will be held at our Michigan City facility, which opened in 2007. Two of our staff will present workshops at the conference. Speaking of staff, they are a top-notch crew. We are privileged to have the PATH Indiana State Chair, Indiana Horse Council Equine Assisted Program Chair, the Indiana University 2012 Alumnus of the Year, a Federal Grants Reviewer, champion riders, and an Instructor who has successfully shown at Madison Square Garden (interestingly, this one says being a Therapeutic Riding Instructor "makes me a better rider"). The PATH International Adult Rider of the Year, Region 4 Volunteer of the Year, and two Region 4 Therapy Horses of the Year all belong to Reins.

We are proud of our facilities, our mission, and what we accomplish. There is nothing that can begin to compare with watching a child take their first steps or hear them speak their first words, knowing you have been a part of that. Witnessing Katelyn and Shayna's courage competing at the Dressage Show humbles all of us. But there is so much more work to be done. We have joined five Chamber of Commerce groups in an effort to leverage community resources to fill the need. A series of day camps served members of the Michigan City Boys & Girls Club and Michigan City Area School students. We would love to host more of these. Constantly scanning the environment for ways to serve, we have identified the desire for unmounted equine activities in the elderly population and are planning a program to meet that need. We are applying for an intern through the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County to continue in our role as the industry leader and be a good corporate citizen. Collaboration with other Therapeutic Riding centers helps us all grow and stretch our limits. Several groups wanting to establish new centers have consulted with us.

So, you see, there is more to Reins than meets the eye. We deeply appreciate the support of MDC and look forward to hosting 4 ---- YES, 4--- Dressage Schooling Shows this year. Oh, and did I mention? They will be 4 of the 14 special events we host this year. **Welcome to the Reins of Life Family!**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2012 MDC AWARD SPONSORS:

### In Hand

Grainger Dressage  
-Brooks and Elizabeth Grainger

### MDC Overall - High Percentage - Junior

Bill and Cathy Alwine

### Second Level - High Point - Professional

Flim Flam Farms  
-Randy and Kitty Pielemeier

### Training Level - High Point - Junior

Half Halt Farm

First Level - High Percentage - Professional  
Second Level - High Percentage - Professional  
Anon

### Walk / Trot/ Canter Equitation - Junior

Red Top Farm  
-Amanda Pierce

### Training Level – High Percentage - Junior

Matthew and Samantha Gorzkiewicz

Training Level – High Point - Adult Amateur  
Training Level – High Percentage – Adult Amateur

Joe and Cindy Bellina

### First Level – High Percentage - Junior

David and Patricia Varner

### MDC Medal

Matt and Jill Behling

## 2013 DATES OF INTEREST:

**Maryal Barnett Clinics** March 3, May 23 (Thursday), July 24 (Wednesday), August 4, September 1, October 23 (Wednesday) and November 24, September Rainbow Farm, Lakeville, IN  
**Contact:** Elizabeth Grainger (574)251-9694, [elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com)

**Midwest Dressage Association** February 9, Maryal Barnett speaking on *New USEF Rider Tests and the Impact of Rider Biomechanics on the Riders Score*, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

**Hoosier Horse Fair** April 5-7, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN

**Equine Affaire** April 11-14, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH

**Rolex 3 Day Event** April 25-28, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

**USEF/USDF Region 2 Championship** September 19-22, Lamplight Equestrian Center, Wayne, IL

**USEF/USDF National Dressage Finals** November 7-10, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

I have the privilege of a great kid sister who invited me to tag along with her to the 2012 USDF Adult Clinic with Lilo Fore. What is great about the organization of the clinic is it starts with horses early in their training progressing through the upper levels. We were able to see a wide variety of horses and riders, each with their own strengths and weaknesses.

The clinic began with a lecture from Lilo. She shared many pearls with us, here are some of my favorites.

#### **About Riding:**

We must learn the language of the horse. We have to know when the horse can do what we ask him. He can only be as good as we are. We can't train the horse without training ourselves first and our training starts with our attitude. Lilo emphasized this last point as being so important. Later, we were to see a rider with a bad attitude on a sensitive horse, and the effect it had on the horse, and also the rest of us watching.



**Linda Paustian on her horse Tango Star**  
*photo courtesy of Linda Paustian*

We must ask ourselves why is the horse having this or that particular issue, and then focus on what we want to achieve. Not all issues can be solved overnight. You should be physically and mentally fit. Every part of your body has a reaction on his body, and as a rider, you must understand that. As a rider you must be a good problem solver.

Never, ever, ever punish a horse for a mistake. If you are practicing counter canter and he offers a flying change, do not punish him for the flying change. You can correct him by re-establishing the counter canter, but a correction does not equal punishment. Never punish the horse for a mistake that happens because of bad riding. He is not responsible for YOUR mistake.

#### **About Judging:**

The horse's gaits must always be enhanced, never destroyed. The gaits are educated through the levels. As a judge, Lilo pointed out that she and other judges hate to give low scores, but, they do if the horse is showing at levels above his training. They have to say what's missing in the training, but, also to be encouraging. Riders must know how to prepare the horse correctly for the show. The horse should always feel special.

#### **The Riders:**

After the lecture, we moved to the arena. It was one of those hotter than blazes weekends (*seriously, were there any other kind in the summer of 2012?*) but all of the horses and riders were ready to work.

Lilo asked most of the riders to think about riding the shoulders up, as if the horse is "looking out the window" with his shoulders. If you think about this, it's a beautiful image. If the horse is looking out the window with his shoulders, he's relaxed his back, lowered his croup and is softer in the body.

Every rider had position challenges, and it was educational to see the effect on the horse once those issues were corrected. For example, one rider held the reins in the last joint of the finger tips with her hands open. With the hands in this position, it was impossible to have a good contact with the horse's mouth, and this caused the horse to brace in his back. She also carried her hands too high, and she was not able to influence the shoulders. Once the rider closed her hands around the reins and lowered her hands, the horse got softer and his steps longer.

Another issue that many of the riders had was that they did not allow the elbows to move in the walk and canter. Because the horse moves his head and neck forward and back in those gaits, the rider's elbows must also move forward and back. One horse had a very lateral walk, but, once the rider unlocked her elbows and allowed the reins to follow the horse's movement, the walk became pure.

In the canter, Lilo told us that every canter step should bounce. There must be a little jump in the canter, even for horses that are not great movers. If they canter too flat, you must bring the shoulders up and think upwards. This will help the horse get a little more suspension.

One rider on a Friesian had a tendency to lean in on the circle. Lilo's comment to that was that the rider "must sit straight on the horse. You are not riding a motorcycle even if your horse thinks she is one!" Once the rider sat straighter, the horse leaned a bit less and the canter became a little less chaotic.

Needless to say, it was a pretty big eye opener to me to see how such small position issues had a big impact on the horse's way of going.

The single most commonly used exercise in the clinic was the leg yield, and Lilo used this with the greenest horses all the way through Grand Prix. It's very important to not over bend the neck in the leg yield. The neck should be mostly straight. Look in the direction you want to go. Do not chase the horse sideways.

One exercise she did with many of the riders was to ride a head to the wall leg yield down the long side, then immediately execute a turn on the forehand. This was to help the horse engage the hind legs and step more underneath himself. For the more advanced horses, Lilo used a similar technique – ride a ten meter circle in the corner, ride haunches in, stop on the rail and do either a turn on the haunches or walk pirouette.

Lilo also emphasized that we should work off the track regularly. We should use the quarter lines for lateral work to ensure that the horse is between the aids and to feel when he's trying to escape. It is much harder to feel this when riding only on the rail.

Many of the horses were also schooled in shoulder in. Lilo identified one common problem she sees is that the riders bring the neck in, rather than keeping the neck straight and bring the shoulders in. Shoulder fore and shoulder-in are straightening exercises for the horse when done properly so her advice was for us to learn to do them properly.

The best nuggets for me were of course those related to my own position flaws (which are numerous) and characteristics of my own horse. For the horse that rushes, he rushes because he does not want to engage the hindquarters. Ride him a little different from how he wants to be. If he wants to be too quick, make him a little too slow. If he wants to carry himself a little too low, bring him up a little too high. If he wants to be too lazy behind, make him more active with the hind legs.

There were many things that I learned and tried to incorporate into some of my own daily training. I enjoyed all of the riders and horses over the course of the two days. A special treat was that George Williams was also there for a period, so, it was like rubbing shoulders with a celebrity! If you have a chance to audit the clinic in the future, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is time and money very well worth it. This year is with Hilda Gurney.

## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

- DOROTA JANIK MDC TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP



*Dorota Janik*

Dear Members of MDC I thought I will give you a brief update on the status of our membership and our exciting accounting stuff. We currently have 38 registered members. Goal for this year is 100. We are almost half way through.

Rally up for more fun! I renewed the Club's insurance for 2013, updated information about our GMO for the USDF and next on the agenda is 2012 Tax Return.

There is some more wonderful news. Samantha Gorzkiewicz, our Vice President, stepped up and assumed responsibilities of being the Public Relations chair for the Club. Sam started by updating the MDC Facebook page. Don't forget to "like" us. Please spread the word, tell friends about our Club and let's grow stronger. Please contact Sam with any questions and ideas for promoting MDC. Keep in mind two of the goals of our Five-year Strategic Plan (are we now in the third year) is to grow membership and to promote the beautiful sport of dressage.

Think about joining us for our next meeting on February 24. The last one was very productive, and of course fun. We talked about a possible field trip to Kentucky or Hosier Horse Fair, organizing a Musical Freestyle Clinic, being more active with the USDF and write a few articles for their publication The USDF Connection, adding new Year End Award categories and much more.

I hope I will see most of you soon.

# Michiana Dressage Club, Inc.

## 2013 Omnibus Advertising Rates

**MDC is continuing to "go green" in 2013!**

**Front Cover (only one available).....\$100.00**

\*Front Cover will be sold on a first come first serve basis to be determined by receipt of advertising fee.

**Full page.....\$75.00**

**Half page.....\$40.00**

**\*Links Page (Web Link or E-mail).....\$20.00**

\*Front Cover, Full and Half Page Advertisements in the 2013 Omnibus will also include a link to your website (if applicable) or your email address on our Links Page for one year! (until March 1, 2014). Advertisements will be in print copy as well as in the web version posted on the MDC website. Printed versions (in black and white) will be distributed per member request.

**Web link example:** Joe E. Smith, Dressage Instruction, [www.abcdefghijklm.com](http://www.abcdefghijklm.com)

name title site

**Email listing example:** Joe E. Smith, Dressage Instruction, joeEsmith@zmail.com

name title address

**Deadline for 2013 MDC Omnibus Ad submissions is February 28, 2013.**

### MDC Newsletter

We also publish a monthly newsletter. If you have a clinic or something special you would like to advertise in a timely manner, we recommend placing an ad in our newsletter. Rates are per month. See current newsletter for deadline dates.

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Full page.....	\$30.00	\$40.00
Half page.....	\$20.00	\$30.00
Business card.....	\$5.00	\$10.00

Advertisements must be print ready and in Word format. Please email your ad to the address below, stating placement in 2013 Omnibus, monthly Newsletter or both. Payment is expected at the time of submission. **We cannot publish an ad without full payment. Be sure to proof your ad!**

We cannot be responsible for content errors at the time of submission.

Questions? Please call Janeen Pasquill (269)277-2343 [janeenpasquill@yahoo.com](mailto:janeenpasquill@yahoo.com)

**Mail funds by February 28, 2013 to: Janeen Pasquill  
6300 Van Road  
Coloma, MI 49038**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MICHIANA DRESSAGE CLUB**

**EMAIL AD TO: [JANEENPASQUILL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JANEENPASQUILL@YAHOO.COM)**

# 2013 TENTATIVE MICHIANA DRESSAGE CLUB SCHOOLING SHOW CALENDAR

- May 18     **Burlwood at Equine Line**, Plainwell, MI  
Mary Johnson (269) 664-4223 [equineline@mei.net](mailto:equineline@mei.net)
- June 8     **Mystic Marsh Spring Dressage**, Delton, MI  
Darla Maybee (269) 623-3878 [mystics@mysticmarshfarm.com](mailto:mystics@mysticmarshfarm.com)
- June 15-16   **Reins of Life I & II**, South Bend, IN (two shows, two days)  
Elizabeth Grainger (574) 251-9694 [elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com)  
[www.reinsoflife.org](http://www.reinsoflife.org)
- June 23     **Dressage at the Shrine**, Columbia City, IN  
Conna Miller (260)625-1050 [paintedpony1@embqrqmail.com](mailto:paintedpony1@embqrqmail.com)
- June 29     **Concord Ridge Equestrian Center**, St. Joseph, MI  
Melissa Ascraft (269) 591- 1833 [melissa@concordhorses.com](mailto:melissa@concordhorses.com)
- July 6     **Dressage at Willow Tree I**, Bangor, MI  
Karin Bielefeld (269) 470-5007 [bielefeldk@att.net](mailto:bielefeldk@att.net)
- July 7     **Dressage at Willow Tree II**, Bangor, MI  
Tanya Wretzky (269) 427-5141 [twretzky@gmail.com](mailto:twretzky@gmail.com)
- July 20     **Dressage Fest**, Plainwell, MI  
Mary Johnson (269) 664-4223 [equineline@mei.net](mailto:equineline@mei.net)
- July 28     **Derbyshire Farms Dressage Schooling Show**, Stevensville, MI  
Lucinda Henderson (269) 429-7259 [henderson@qtm.net](mailto:henderson@qtm.net)  
[www.derbyshirefarms.com](http://www.derbyshirefarms.com)
- Sept 21     **Chardon Valley Farm**, Decatur, MI  
Kitty Pielemeier (269)462-1845 [brightfuturesped@aol.com](mailto:brightfuturesped@aol.com)
- Oct 5     **Mystic Marsh Fall Dressage**, Delton, MI  
Darla Maybee (269) 623-3878 [mystics@mysticmarshfarm.com](mailto:mystics@mysticmarshfarm.com)
- Oct 12-13   **Reins of Life III & IV**, Michigan City, IN (two shows, two days)  
Elizabeth Grainger (574)251-9694 [elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com)  
[www.reinsoflife.org](http://www.reinsoflife.org)

\*\* If you are interested in hosting a 2013 MDC Schooling Show  
please contact Elizabeth Grainger for the 2013 Sanctioning Packet.  
[elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com)



**MEMBER INFORMATION:**

**REMEMBER TO USE THE MICHIANA DRESSAGE CLUB ENTRY FORM WHEN SIGNING UP FOR SCHOOLING SHOWS. The form is located on the MDC website.**

To place a classified ad(s) in this publication  
Please contact:  
Elizabeth Grainger at [elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com)  
March deadline is February 20, 2013  
Monthly Fees:  
Business Card Size \$5.00 per ad/card \$10.00 per ad/card  
MDC member Non-member  
Half Page \$20.00 MDC member  
\$30.00 Non-member  
Full Page \$30.00 MDC member  
\$40.00 Non-member  
(Printed version is black & white)

**WEBSITE ADVERTISING- Classified (for 6 months)**  
Members Free  
Non-member \$10.00  
Contact: Janeen Pasquill 269-277-2343 [janeenpasquill@yahoo.com](mailto:janeenpasquill@yahoo.com)

**\*Any ideas for the newsletter? Please contact Elizabeth Grainger**  
We're on the Web! See us at [www.michianadressageclub.org](http://www.michianadressageclub.org)

**\*If anyone has obtained a new e-mail address or would prefer to receive newsletters through e-mail please contact me at [elizabethgrainger@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgrainger@gmail.com) or call me at (574) 251-9694.**

**2013 MDC Members receive:**

- Annual Omnibus – MDC Newsletter
- USDF GMO Membership
- Subscription to USDF Connection
- USDF E-Trak access
- Participation in MDC Year-End Awards/Banquet

**A single membership is \$48.00 per year.**  
**A family membership is \$68.00 per year.**  
*(Family is defined as husband, wife, children; all blood relations; all who live in the same household.)*

Fill out the information and send it to:  
**Dorota Janik**  
**1702 Sunnymede South Bend, IN 46615**  
**Include a check made payable to MDC**

**2013 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Rider \_\_\_\_\_

Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Amateur \_\_\_\_\_ Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Rider \_\_\_\_\_

Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Amateur \_\_\_\_\_ Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Rider \_\_\_\_\_

Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Amateur \_\_\_\_\_ Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, please track my MDC show records for Year End Awards

**Note: The next membership year will run from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to November 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.**  
**2013 Memberships received after December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 may be increased due to penalties MDC must pay to the USDF.**