

Central Plains DressageNews

Volume 3
Number 3
March 2019

Christina Harmon and Millie Take Home an Amazing Award

Millie's comeback from major surgery was nothing short of remarkable.

By Nancy Spring

On January 26, 2019, Christina Harmon and her Arabian mare, Millennium Wind (Millie) were awarded 3rd place in Recreational Rider for the Region 9 Arabian Horse Association Adult Amateur Awards program.

This award was an amazing accomplishment, as Millie had a full ovariectomy in October of 2017. The comeback for Millie was quite difficult, and Christina thought that she was going to have to retire Millie at the beginning of 2018. Through a lot of hard work and dedication, the pair has returned to full work and they are looking forward to returning to the show ring this year! In addition, Christina and Millie are close to accumulating 2,500 hours of non-competitive ride time recorded through the National Arabian Horse Association Recreational Rider Program. This program tracks all NON-competitive hours including everything from clinics, trail rides, training rides and lessons. (Shows, grooming and non-riding hours with the exception of driving are excluded.)

The program is near and dear to Christina's heart. She feels that the essence of dressage is the relationship you build with your horse, and this program rewards riders for their dedication to training and time spent building those bonds. Christina has also applied for the Evie Tumlin grant and is going to Dallas to audit a Claudio Nuno clinic. There will be no stopping this pair!



Christina and Millie enjoying a moment together. Christina thought she would have to retire Millie, but she has returned to full work.
Photo: Kambry Daly

News in Brief

Holly Fisher Featured in Tulsa World

Holly Fisher is a dressage enthusiast, artist, blacksmith and a Central Plains member. The Tulsa World recently published a very cool article about her work as a blacksmith. Read the Feb. 29 article online [here](#).

Saddle Fitter Returns to Valley View

Central Plains is pleased to announce we will have saddle fitter Lindsay Fertitta back with us at the March 30 and 31

shows at Valley View Equestrian!

Lindsay's work as a certified equine sports massage therapist inspired her to pursue further education in saddle fitting as a natural progression. Her path led her to enter the 3-year Qualified Saddle Fitter course offered by the Society of Master Saddlers in the UK and she is now a proud apprenticed member of the Society of Master Saddlers. As an independent fitter, Lindsay is able to work with many

different brands to help you and your equine partner get the best possible fit. She has so many beautiful saddles to see! Be sure and stop by and take a look while you are at the show.

Please contact Lindsay directly by phone at (281)381-6042, or by email at lwfequinetherapy@yahoo.com, or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/lwfequinetherapy to set up your time for fitting or repairs.



Welcome

I am so thrilled by the articles we have featured in our newsletter in 2019. The incredible members of our club accomplish so much with their horses and then find the time to share their amazing stories with us.

To keep the good articles coming, we have a roving reporter, Amy Mullins. You may run into

her at one of the shows. Amy is going to be on the lookout for more great stories about our members and their horses. And you can send your stories directly to me or Chris or Annie.

On March 20, spring begins. I know I probably speak for all of us when I say, IT'S ABOUT TIME.

Nancy Spring

Show Report: February Schooling Show, Valley View

By Stacia Wert-Gray, Show Secretary

The February schooling show at Valley View brought out the best in our membership and visitors. Because of weather conditions and a large number of entries, the show was split over Saturday and Sunday. This allowed all warmup and showing to be done inside.

This was a remarkable show not only because of the flexibility of competitors willing to adapt to the changes, but also because of the very large number of junior riders who competed. It seems appropriate to recognize the trainers who are introducing and

developing the next generation of dressage riders. Thank you to Nancy Burba, Richal Flannery, Mary Shappee and Carmen Herber, who each brought three or more junior riders to the show. The gallery was jammed with parents and friends cheering for the introductory level riders. Central Plains recognizes the efforts of the parents, trainers/coaches, lesson horses and volunteers. Without your efforts, our sport cannot grow.

Show high points are in the table below; visit www.horshowconsulting.com for all class results.



Photo: Camille Fuller

February Schooling Show at Valley View High Points

Introductory Level	Dragon	Audrey McKenna	71.25
Training Level	Florentina	Anna Droegemuller	68.966
First Level	Rojo Diamante	Audrey McKenna	66.25
Second Level	Rojo Diamante	Audrey McKenna	67.297
Third Level	Won Direction	Courtney Vaughn	60
Fourth Level	JC Keely of Texel	Nancy Litsch	64.231
FEI	None		
WD Introductory	PR Brienne of Tarth	Patty Couch	68.409
WD Basic Level	PR Brienne of Tarth	Patty Couch	67.5
WD Level 1-3	None		

Central Plains Schedule March/April

NOTE: East Area Schooling Shows will not be held at Sheridan. The March 16 show is now scheduled for Rocking C in Inola.

March 9	West Area Schooling Show	Valley View	Judge: Robin Hessel
March 16	East Area Schooling Show	Sheridan	Judge: Sherry Guess
March 30	West Area Schooling Show	Valley View	Judge: Melissa Creswick
March 30	USEF Lite WD (WDAA Pts)	Valley View	Judge: Melissa Creswick
March 31	USDF/USEF Recognized Show	Valley View	Judge: Melissa Creswick
April 1	Melissa Creswick Clinic	Valley View	
April 6	East Area Schooling Show	Rocking C	Judge: Aaron Wilson
April 20	East Area Schooling Show	Sheridan	Judge: Kay Kamish
April 27-28	USDF/USEF Recognized Show	Valley View	Judge: Tom Poulin
April 29	Thomas Poulin Clinic	Valley View	



Central Plains DressageNews

The newsletter of the Central Plains Dressage Society
www.centralplainsdressage.org

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Design: Nancy Spring

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In Like a Lion...Out Like a Lamb!

By Chris Cashel, President

This week I received my USDF Connection Yearbook. I hope you did also. The Yearbook summarizes national rankings by breed, the national finals, people who have earned medals, etc.

It was great to read of our members who excelled last year, see their name in print or see a picture of them in the magazine. It reminds me to refine my goals for the year, to train harder and to perform to the best of my ability during this year. A special congratulations to Chloe Patterson who won the art contest for people under fifteen. Pretty great for a 12-year-old!

Central Plains began its competition year in January. So far, the weather has not been the best, however, the competitors have been cheerful. The working equitation series will conclude in Stillwater next Saturday. These shows have had a better turnout than last year despite needing a flexible schedule to allow them to compete concurrently with schooling shows. The weather pushed the obstacle portion indoors. In February that meant hosting WE on Sunday. It is a fun addition to our show schedule and I think will demand its own day for shows next year.

The weather so far in 2019 has been a bit discouraging. Longer cold or wet spells have limited training or made it unappealing. Spring will get here and with it will be a very ambitious schedule of competition opportunities. We have 24 show opportunities coming up. The first East Schooling show is March 16. The March Western Lite/Schooling and Recognized show will get everyone moving toward his or her goals in one weekend. It will be a large show! I hope you will participate in some of them. There are medals to be earned, qualifications for further competition and scores to be registered with breed organizations.

If you are not a competitor become a volunteer and cheer on riders and horses. There is a volunteer training session on



Photo: Camille Fuller

Saturday, March 9, from 9-noon in Stillwater. Learn the jobs, meet new people, understand the show requirements. Let Chris Cashel know if you are coming at chris.cashel@okstate.edu.

Finally, get your Central Plains Dressage clothes. Wear the name as you ride. We have opened an on-line store with many selections. Those items are very reasonably priced and available at <https://centralplainsdressage2019.itemorder.com/sale>. If you order and are coming to a show in Stillwater, you can pick them up there.

We have so many activities happening and we are always trying to improve our relationship with the members. Thanks for helping us be better.

The Perks of Volunteering

By Kathy Maxwell

It's obvious that volunteering helps Central Plains shows and events run smoothly while also keeping costs contained. What you may not have considered are the personal benefits of volunteering.

Volunteering at shows gives you the opportunity to meet and network with a variety of other horse enthusiasts. It provides a front row seat into the organization and structure of the competition and facilities. Familiarizing yourself with the environment and routines goes a long way to alleviating stress on your own show day.

Whether you are watching a group of riders warm up, observing individual tests being ridden, or interacting with riders and their mounts during bit and equipment checks, you are in the unique position of getting a lot of show exposure in a short amount of time. Regardless of your experience with horses there is a volunteer position for you.

Central Plains is noted for fostering a positive atmosphere for all levels of riders. Consider volunteering at a show or event and share your love of horses with similar minded people. I promise your time will be appreciated!



Photo: pixabay.com