

# WPDA NEWSBITS



May 2019

***Don't forget to Renew Your Membership  
in  
Western Pennsylvania Dressage Association***

...

**Membership covers the 2019 competition year & includes:**

- Participation in WPDA shows and clinics
- Individual membership in the USDF
- Eligibility for year-end awards
- Voting & office holding privileges
- WPDA Team competition for Juniors and Adults
- Social events
- Annual banquet
- WPDA Handbook
- Membership Directory\*
- Monthly Newsletter

**\*Available on request.**

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*For more up-to-date info and pics, visit  
our*

*website at <https://www.wpda.club>*

*and our Facebook page at*

*What's New - Western Pennsylvania  
Dressage Association.*

***Editor's note: April Showers bring May flowers...And  
dressage shows! Your club is offering some exciting  
schooling shows and other events this season. Check our  
website for details. Join in the fun! Volunteer!***

***Don't forget the juniors are having a horse wash!  
Upcoming dates & locations in the flyer below.***

***And, send in your pictures! We'd love to show off your  
"pony" pics!!***



# WPDA Sanctioned Dressage Schooling Shows

The WPDA is proud to provide you with another year of great sanctioned schooling shows! Your WPDA board has been working diligently for an exciting 2019 season. Check back at [www.wpda.club](http://www.wpda.club) for calendar updates!

I hope you will all shine up your boots and join us at these fantastic facilities. A big thank you to our existing partners, Coventry and Fair Haven, and a special thank you to our newest partner, Royalty Stables in Blairsville! If you are a facility and interested in sanctioning your dressage schooling show with the WPDA, please feel free to contact me at [janesetti17@gmail.com](mailto:janesetti17@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you!

- Jerri Anesetti, WPDA Vice President and Sanctioned Show Chair

## JUNE

### **2 - Coventry Equestrian Center**

452 Old Hickory Ridge Road  
Washington, PA 15301  
[www.coventryequestriancenter.com](http://www.coventryequestriancenter.com)

### **15 - Royalty Stables**

1031 Jessie Penrose Road  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
[www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian](http://www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian)

## AUGUST

### **17 - WPDA II at Fair Haven Farms**

206 Lee Road  
Grove City, PA 16127  
[www.wpda.club/events/fairhaven2](http://www.wpda.club/events/fairhaven2)

### **31 - Royalty Stables**

1031 Jessie Penrose Road  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
[www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian](http://www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian)

## SEPTEMBER

### **1 - Coventry Equestrian Center**

452 Old Hickory Ridge Road  
Washington, PA 15301  
[www.coventryequestriancenter.com](http://www.coventryequestriancenter.com)

### **21 - Royalty Stables**

1031 Jessie Penrose Road  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
[www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian](http://www.royaltystables.wixsite.com/equestrian)

### **28 - WPDA III at Fair Haven Farms**

206 Lee Road  
Grove City, PA 16127  
[www.wpda.club/events/fairhaven3](http://www.wpda.club/events/fairhaven3)

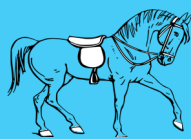
## JULY

### **7 - Coventry Equestrian Center**

452 Old Hickory Ridge Road  
Washington, PA 15301  
[www.coventryequestriancenter.com](http://www.coventryequestriancenter.com)

*Competing in WPDA sanctioned dressage schooling shows  
qualifies you for year-end awards.*





## *In the Region*

### Region 1 Omnibus of Shows

Competition	Date/Location
Loch Moy Summer Dressage Festival I & II	June 1-2, Adamstown, MD
Dressage at the Bucks County Horse Park II	June 2, Revere, PA
VADA/NOVA Inc. Summer Dressage Warmup	June 5, Leesburg, VA
Windy Hollow Hunt Dressage I & 2	June 7-9, August, NJ
VADA/NOVA Summer Dressage Festival	June 8-9, Leesburg, VA
Dressage at Thunderhead Farm I	June 12, New Tripoli, PA
Tryon Summer Dressage I	June 14-16, Mill Spring, NC
Summertime Blues	June 15-16, Pinehurst, NC
Virginia Summer Dressage	June 15-16, Culpeper, VA
Dressage at Dunmovin	June 19, West Chester, PA
Dressage at Red Tail Farm June	June 22, Bedminster, NJ
ECRDA/SREC Summer Show	June 22, Shamong, NJ
PVDA Ride for Life	June 22-23, Upper Marlboro, MD
Dressage at Rhythm & Blues I	June 26, Quakertown, PA
Summer Solstice at Blue Moon Dressage	June 26, Bridgeton, NJ
Dressage at the Park I & II	June 29-30, Raeford, NC
Dressage at Bucks County Horse Park III	June 30, Revere, PA

Check the USDF Region 1 Omnibus for competition & entry information.





## *Junior News*

### **2019 MEMBERSHIP**

Juniors, if you have not yet renewed your membership, you must do so in order to participate in junior activities.

### **FUNDRAISING**

We need junior volunteers for several fundraising activities:

- Horse Wash
- Sarris Candy Sale

### **DRESSAGE4KIDS YOUTH DRESSAGE FESTIVAL**

Juniors! Don't miss out on this super fun and educational opportunity!

- This year, the show date is July 12-14<sup>th</sup>.
- The prize list is available online at <https://youthdressagefestival.com/>
  - You must be a member to be able to participate
- Opening date is May 20 and closing date in June 17
- There will be a kickoff meeting soon to discuss plans and timelines. Look for another email soon with that announcement.
- Please let Nina Teff know if you would like to participate in the show with the WPDA Juniors.

### **EDUCATION**

We are working on 2 possible clinics for Spring/Summer. One on horsemanship and one on riding. Stay tuned as plans get solidified.

# Amateur Showcase: Collier's Found The Good In Grief

By: Kimberlyn Beaudoin  
May 8, 2019 - 8:30 AM

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They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. To Pennsylvania native Mandy Collier and her horse Charlie Brown, that step is more valuable than most would discern.

After clambering onto the back of a horse at the age of 8, Collier spent the majority of her childhood longing for more time in the saddle. "I rode off and on when I was a kid, but it was tough for me to get lessons," Collier said. "I didn't come from a very affluent family, and we didn't live in the country, so it was an on-and-off struggle to make it happen."

When she started college, Collier joined the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association team at the University of Pittsburgh, which allowed her to finally consistently pursue her riding goals.

After she graduated in 2009 she found herself at a dressage barn with trainer Lisa Hall. Although her saddle time continued to increase, Collier didn't think a horse of her own was in the cards so soon after finishing college.



*Mandy Collier has partnered with Charlie Brown for 10 years. Photo Courtesy Of Mandy Collier*

"I knew that I wanted it to happen someday but not right out of the gate," she said. Instead she became the girl who would ride anything that came her way.

But a year later, she couldn't resist the temptation.

"The horse I ended up buying was one that was handed to me to ride, a 9-year-old that had been standing around in the field getting fat," she said. "The first time I worked him he bucked me off because I had the audacity to ask him to canter, which, looking back, I'm sure no one had done in years. I don't know if it was love at first sight, but I did ride him for a few months before his owners put him up for sale. It crushed me, thinking about not being able to ride him anymore."

Even though her budget was tight, Collier made an offer on Charlie Brown, or "Beau." "I told them what I had, and I promised that I would give him a loving home," she said.

Despite purchasing the draft cross for the hunter ring, Collier's ambitions shifted quickly after she realized that dressage was more the now-17-year-old horse's speed. "I didn't have access to a hunter trainer, and it's not really a discipline you can go at alone," she said. "That's another reason why we fell into dressage. I could read a lot; I could really have a plan and train him myself."





*Mandy Collier and Charlie Brown started out in the hunters but switched to dressage. Photo Courtesy Of Mandy Collier*

The pair went to work, eventually earning a spot in the training level division at the 2014 U.S. Dressage Finals (Kentucky). "I remember looking through the program, and there was all of this info about each horse and rider competing," she said. "It had all of their breeding and information, and my horse was the only one who didn't have anything listed. He's a Percheron-Thoroughbred; there was no warmblood to trace his lineage back to. He was the oldest horse in the training level class, but we went out there and had a great time, and he made me very proud."

When the finals concluded, the two continued to successfully climb the dressage ladder. They eventually worked their way to third level and clinched a USDF bronze medal together. Not long after their crowning achievement, Collier sustained a serious leg injury while jogging on a snowy day. She slipped on a metal plaque under the snow and fell, suffering a trimalleolar fracture, which is a three-part break of the ankle. The injury derailed her long-distance running career and left the future of her riding goals up in the air.

Collier had a long road ahead filled with surgeries, therapy and recovery. As her strength began to return, she leaned into her horse more than ever to help with the healing process.

"My horse was a saint," she said. "He completely helped me through rehab; I used to ride him in my boot cast. Somewhere along the way, throughout my own healing, as I was thinking so much about recovery and rehab and using the horses to help me with it all, I decided to get my equine massage therapy certificate."



*Suzanne Fischer Photography Photo*

Collier's equestrian sport massage company, Optimum Equine, was born. "It's been really rewarding and fulfilling," said Collier. "Connecting with people and getting another perspective on how to help horses, that's been a different facet of my horse life."

Collier also juggles a full-time job working as a lab manager in a neuroscience and psychopathology lab. "We do neuroimaging of older adults with depression or who are at risk for suicide. It can get pretty heavy," she said. "The stuff that I see at work, you can't make it up. It can really be draining at times. The thing that the horses remind me of is to stay in the present moment. When I'm around them, I truly feel that the only thing that matters is what's happening right now."

"I leave work; I leave that all behind me, and they remind me of what is important, and that's so healing in itself," she continued. "I can be at work and 100 percent give my focus to that, and then when it's done, turn it off and go focus on the horses. It can be really hard hearing the stories that I do, and the horses remind me how lucky I am to live this life and what a blessing that is."



*Mandy Collier earned her USDF bronze medal on Charlie Brown. Winslow Photography Photo*

Her upward trek back to the competition ring after her injury hit an unexpected roadblock when Charlie Brown was injured in December of 2018. After he was diagnosed with a suspensory tear, Collier switched her focus from her own rehabilitation to that of her four-legged partner.

"We are just over four months into his rehab now, and I recently started trotting him under saddle again," she said. "I don't know what's next for him, but we're taking it one day at a time and will see where it ends up. When the rehab first started, I was just beside myself. It was devastating. I would hate talking about it, having to tell people if it wasn't going well. But every day I would go to the barn, and I would see his face, and nothing else would matter. It would just be another opportunity to hang out with my goofy buddy. That made everything kind of OK."

Collier acknowledged the beginning of the gelding's recovery was quite rocky. "Sometimes I'd open the stall, and I'd have a fire-breathing dragon," she said. "Half the time I'd refer to him as an 'equine kite.' At one point, I had to board up the window in his stall because he tried to climb out of it. It was not easy. At about two months in, he was finally able to start walking under saddle, and that was a big game-changer for us because that was a routine that he had been familiar with. For his mental well-being, having a little bit of a job made a huge difference."

But Collier has found a silver lining to all those hours spent rehabbing with her partner of 10 years.

"When you have a competition goal, you're training; you ride, and you take a day off here and there," she said. "You don't necessarily spend hours hand grazing, brushing, just hanging out and not doing a whole lot on a daily or weekly basis. Having that training piece removed from our relationship, where the only thing I'm doing is spending time with him and enjoying his company is huge. You take away that athletic partnership, and it's become even more of a friendship and created a kinship of being together. It's become really special."

Beau's athletic future is uncertain, but the bond and enjoyment they're currently sharing are enough for now. "Someway, somehow, I hope that I can find a horse that will fill Charlie Brown's shoes," Collier said. "I don't know if such a horse exists, but someday if that happens, I would love a partnership like this one once more."

**Category:** Amateur Showcase

**Tags:** Amateur Showcase, Mandy Collier



# Horse Wash *Fundraiser*

Support Our  
WPD A Juniors!

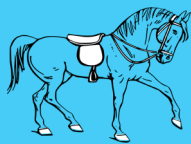
Dates & Locations:

May 25<sup>th</sup> - Greenmore

June 1<sup>st</sup> - Coventry







## Education Corner

Charlie from [www.HorseTrainingResources.com](http://www.HorseTrainingResources.com) here...

In Today's Horse Tips Magazine Issue:

### **"5 Rules of Respect Building With Your Horse"**

You'd be surprised...Respect from your horse isn't just about making him move and keeping him out of your space. Like a recipe for a cake, getting respect from your horse is made up of different ingredients. **Brad Myers says this in his DVD: "You have to earn the horse's respect...you cannot demand it."**

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/dvds/meysers-little-things/>

Demanding your horse's respect is a way to get yourself hurt. No one, not even horses, like to be ruled by an iron hand. **Thus, says Brad, "you get the respect.. -- by being the leader, -- by educating your horse, -- by showing them, -- by preparing them, -- and having feel."** Let's go over these one by one:

#### **First, being the leader.**

Being the leader means just that.

You never allow him to get in your space but you can go into his.

Being the leader means when you tell him he can eat...then he can eat. And here's something people miss. When he's eating..."Leave Him Alone!" That's his time - not yours. Besides, there's a little-known yet powerful "Respect Destroyer" that happens when you're with your horse when he eats. It's one of the greatest tips ever revealed by a trainer and I give Brad total credit for it.

Onward.

#### **Next, educating your horse.**

He needs to know what you want. When he knows what you want, he's not confused and therefore has more confidence. When he has confidence around you, he feels good about you. How do YOU feel around people when you feel confident when being with them? Don't you have more respect for them? Also, when you educate your horse, you're getting them to move their feet and that builds respect for you in their mind. (As long as you're fair)

#### **Next, showing them.**

This is much like educating them. Show them they can trust you. Show them you are the leader and you will take care of them. Show them they don't have to freak out over a plastic sack.

#### **Preparing them is the next.**

An example is giving them a cue before you ask them to do something. Don't just demand it without a prompt. Preparing also comes in the form of warming up before exercising. Lastly, and very important, have feel.

#### **Feel is kinda hard to explain but is critical.**

The best definition of "Feel" I ever heard was from Brad Myers.

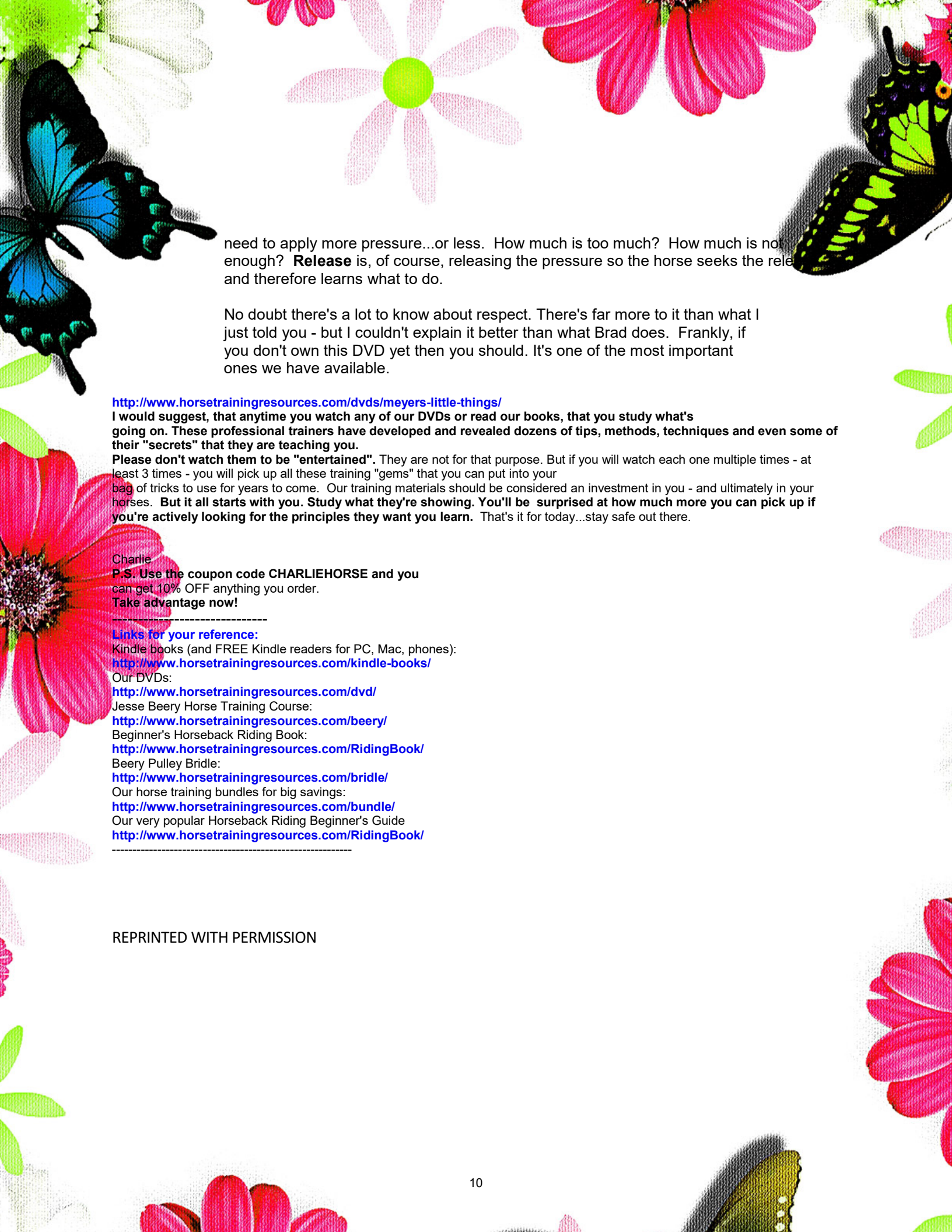
If you want to know more about Brad, click the following:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/dvds/meysers-little-things/>

Brad says "Feel" is:

1. Timing
2. Balance
3. Release

**Timing** is knowing "when" to ask your horse something. **Balance** is knowing, for example, if you



need to apply more pressure...or less. How much is too much? How much is not enough? **Release** is, of course, releasing the pressure so the horse seeks the release and therefore learns what to do.

No doubt there's a lot to know about respect. There's far more to it than what I just told you - but I couldn't explain it better than what Brad does. Frankly, if you don't own this DVD yet then you should. It's one of the most important ones we have available.

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/dvds/meyers-little-things/>

I would suggest, that anytime you watch any of our DVDs or read our books, that you study what's going on. These professional trainers have developed and revealed dozens of tips, methods, techniques and even some of their "secrets" that they are teaching you.

Please don't watch them to be "entertained". They are not for that purpose. But if you will watch each one multiple times - at least 3 times - you will pick up all these training "gems" that you can put into your bag of tricks to use for years to come. Our training materials should be considered an investment in you - and ultimately in your horses. **But it all starts with you. Study what they're showing. You'll be surprised at how much more you can pick up if you're actively looking for the principles they want you learn.** That's it for today...stay safe out there.

Charlie

**P.S. Use the coupon code CHARLIEHORSE and you can get 10% OFF anything you order.**

**Take advantage now!**

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**Links for your reference:**

Kindle books (and FREE Kindle readers for PC, Mac, phones):

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/kindle-books/>

Our DVDs:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/dvd/>

Jesse Beery Horse Training Course:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/beery/>

Beginner's Horseback Riding Book:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/RidingBook/>

Beery Pulley Bridle:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/bridle/>

Our horse training bundles for big savings:

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/bundle/>

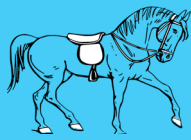
Our very popular Horseback Riding Beginner's Guide

<http://www.horsetrainingresources.com/RidingBook/>

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## *Officers & Directors*

### **WPDA Officers:**

Dan McCready, President (2019 + 2020) , Silver Crest Equestrian Center  
[pgm1208@aol.com](mailto:pgm1208@aol.com)

Jerri Anesetti, Vice President (2018 + 2019), Skyline Stables,  
[janesetti17@gmail.com](mailto:janesetti17@gmail.com)

Barbara Wozniak, Treasurer (2018 + 2019), Silver Crest Equestrian Center,  
[barbara@wozniaks.net](mailto:barbara@wozniaks.net)

Kaley Tomsic, Secretary (2019 + 2020), Greenmoor Commons Equestrian Center,  
[kaleytomsic@gmail.com](mailto:kaleytomsic@gmail.com)

### **Board Directors:**

Jan Baumann (2019 + 2020), Greenmoor Commons Equestrian Center,  
[janispbaumann@gmail.com](mailto:janispbaumann@gmail.com)

Nancy Sholtz (2018 + 2019), Silver Crest Equestrian Center, [nancy.sholtz@lhh.com](mailto:nancy.sholtz@lhh.com)

Stephanie Bitz (2019 + 2020), Headacres Farm, [sjbitz@gmail.com](mailto:sjbitz@gmail.com)

Tina Vensel (2019 + 2020), [sewdressage@aol.com](mailto:sewdressage@aol.com)

### **Committees**

Sanctioned Schooling Shows – Jerri Anesetti

Adult Clinic – Stephanie Bitz

Awards – Stephanie Bitz

Hospitality – Nancy Sholtz,

Membership – Nancy Sholtz

Banquet – Nancy Sholtz

Education – Jan Baumann





## Committees – cont'd

Junior/YR Team – Nina Teff, [cnteff@zoominternet.net](mailto:cnteff@zoominternet.net)

Website and Social Media – Kaley Tomsic, [kaleytomsic@gmail.com](mailto:kaleytomsic@gmail.com)

Canter Cash – Kim Baierl, [kbaierl@zoominternet.net](mailto:kbaierl@zoominternet.net)

Newsletter & Communications – Tina Vensel

## WPDA Junior Officers:

President – Hanna Hudec, [huddechanna@gmail.com](mailto:huddechanna@gmail.com)

Secretary – Maggie Goddard, [meg5901@psu.edu](mailto:meg5901@psu.edu)

Team Competition Co-Chairs – Grace Baierl, [catskillnola@icloud.com](mailto:catskillnola@icloud.com)

Team Competition Co-Chair - Erin Vensel, [erin.vensel322@gmail.com](mailto:erin.vensel322@gmail.com)

Team Education Chair – Emma Teff, [eteff@zoominternet.net](mailto:eteff@zoominternet.net)

