



August 2018 August 2019 HDS Year In Review

◆ HDS 2017– 2018 Administration

President:	Christine Renne
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Elizabeth Fingerhut
Membership:	Kathy Powell-Florip
Recognized Show Chair:	Leslie Rohrer
Schooling Show Chair:	Jena Tavormina
Historian:	Ida Mattison
Education:	Allison McDonald
Awards:	Emily Heather
Special Events:	Suzy Parker
Advertising/Sponsors:	To be Filled
Juniors	Jessica Fan
Volunteers:	Jessica Jamison
Publications:	Doug Canter

◆ Education

HDS has continued the series with Conrad Schumacher FEI Training Series. We finished the first two parts of the series and have had an increased interest from some adult amateurs and will host the third series in September. The format has remained the same with Woodlands Equestrian hosting the morning sessions and Tex-Over hosting the afternoon sessions. There is a core group of trainers that continue the progression and a few new trainers have joined with impressive results at their next shows. One trainer was so impressed with his training she decided to go to Dallas to train with him at the private clinic! The focus is on FEI riders as well as Adult Amateur riders who have competed at Fourth Level and above. One must be an HDS member to ride with Conrad Schumacher in this Series. The goal is to provide consistent world class training to Region 9 riders across all FEI divisions (Children, Pony, Junior, Young Rider, Under 25, Young Horse, Adult Amateur and Open). Auditors are always welcome and we always have a few spots for

new riders so we encourage you or anyone interested to submit an application. Stabling is available for travelers.

We wanted to focus on educational events for our adult amateurs. HDS hosted a ride a test clinic with Sandy Osbourne at WV Stables. We held it on a weekend of a non-HDS recognized show specifically so those non-showing members would be encouraged to apply. We had a crowded house of riders and a number of auditors. HDS membership was required and 6 new members joined. That is a pretty good result for an event. We have two more in the three-part series and need to get some dates and times set up.

HDS took a survey from our members requesting ideas of interest for an unmounted series. After receiving the results of the survey we decided on a veterinarian topic. As it turned out the Pony Club had already scheduled a talk by a veterinarian. We decided that instead of reinventing the wheel, we would join with them. In exchange for HDS hosting a lunch for the Pony Club, HDS members were welcome to audit for free. We are going to continue to explore other opportunities for an unmounted series for our adult amateurs.

HDS was a sponsor for the June Dressage4Kids event held at Tex-Over Farms with dressage judge and trainer, Lendon Gray. HDS members were allowed to audit the event, including lectures, at no cost.

Sandy Venneman was awarded the 2019 Joe R. Bushager Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to help fund her dressage education and training. The Bushager Memorial Scholarship was established in 1989 by the widow of Joe Richard Bushager, Lauralyn Bushager, in honor of her late husband. Joe Bushager was one of the original founders of the Southwest Dressage Championships. He was dedicated to bringing dressage to the southwest region of the country. The Bushager Scholarship is given annually by HDS to individuals who have shown and continue to show a dedication to the pursuit of training and excellence in dressage. Applications are received September to December of each year. This scholarship is available to any HDS member and can only be used for dressage education (not showing).

◆ Philanthropy

HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2018 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships. HDS will sponsor the event again at the **2019** Championships. Proceeds from this event will be given to the Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders. HDS also allows the Region 9 Juniors/Young Riders to fundraise at recognized shows with raffles and silent auction items.

At the 2018 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships, HDS sponsored a silent auction with the new format of the GMO's handling their own silent auction tables. This was certainly more manageable for HDS as we are stretched very thin with volunteers running the rings and the other events that are required at the Championships. Unfortunately, I think proceeds may have been down and I think that if someone would undertake management it would be more successful. HDS will commit to assisting with tables, general set up, forms for the items and will assist with check out at night. What is needed is a manager to advertise, collect items, set up and tear down on Sunday. We will impart our wisdom but cannot commit to hosting with our other volunteer commitments. HDS will continue to organize the Battle of the Barn Baskets benefitting the

Region 9 Junior/Young Rider program, but we will be pushing our Junior Chair and Region 9's Junior Chair to get the Jr/YR to run their own to learn how these are organized.

World Cup Event: To be announced at the meeting.

◆ Horse Shows

HDS will host five recognized show weekends in **2020**: the Winter Show in January, the CDI2*/Spring Classic in April, the Summer Show in June, the Laborious Day Show in August and the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and HDS Autumn Classic in October. We are still waiting to hear on the SWDC award for 2020 at the Region 9 Champs. HDS will also offer an HDS Schooling Show Championships in December as a one-day show in December. USEF Level 3 show license applications were approved for the 2020 Winter, Spring and Summer shows.

The Tex-Over Farm CDI/HDS Spring Classic was a Level 5 (CDI2*) event in 2019. A CDI2* requires only three judges compared to five for a 3* so allows significant cost savings, but we had other expenses. While World Ranking is not possible for riders (World Ranking only occurs at 3* or higher events), the 2* allows entries through Grand Prix which satisfied the riders who competed. The CDI entries were 24 in 2019, down 2 from 2018 but still in the "typical" range. We are so immensely thankful that Region 9 stepped up in 2018 to offer support but, thankfully, the CDI was close to breakeven so financial support was not needed. HDS lost money this year due to a decline in open show (Spring Classic) entries versus prior years.

At the 2019 June (Summer) Show, HDS sponsored a Pro-Am Tournament. Teams of 3 or 4 riders, including one Open rider and two or three AA riders, competed against each other. This year eleven teams entered and the team average scores were very high—many over 70%! Winners were announced on Saturday evening at the competitor's party. We have decided not to continue this event at the June 2020 show as there was not as much enthusiasm and it does create additional work and costs.

Fingers crossed that our Laborious Day Show goes off without a hurricane.

HDS hosted the 2018 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and HDS Autumn Classic on **October 4-7**.

HDS will host the 2019 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships, SWDC and HDS Autumn Classic on October 3-6, 2019 at Great SW Equestrian Center. It is a Level 4 show. The traditional activities are planned including a competitor party, Saturday banquet/entertainment, stall decorating contest, Battle of the Barn Baskets and silent auction. This year there will be added sizzle with a World Cup promotion—stay tuned! Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!! Out of town volunteers are given a shared hotel room for each full day worked.

HDS was awarded the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships. The 2020 SWDC bid is still pending.

In December 2018, HDS held the Tenth Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the Eleventh Annual Schooling Show championships in December 2019. The 2016 show changed to a one day format to be consistent with schooling shows held throughout the year and we continued this

format in 2018. It was a tremendous success and the participants were really enthusiastic. HDS hosted both Eventing and Western Dressage **divisions which were added in 2015**.

In 2018 HDS introduced the “Dapples Award” with the goal to support those AA riders over 50 who are still competing. It has been very popular. Because of privacy concerns HDS made it an opt-in for anyone interested to sign up for the award. It is available first through fourth level. Freestyles, material, **young horse, pax de deux and equitation classes** are excluded. It has been well received by the recipients who frequently do not win the AA high points. The Dapples recipient receives the same award as any other high point winner. We hope to continue this award in **2020**.

One Day Shows: HDS is still exploring the option of offering one day shows at various barns in the area that can support a show (HDS cost and venue analysis is occurring). It remains in the initial stages of development, but we think that our members would really appreciate the opportunity to go to a one day show that would provide another opportunity to get scores but not require a weekend undertaking. It will be a “no frills” show and will be at smaller facilities which will mean fewer volunteers and less management requirements. HDS hopes that this will also provide opportunities for new show management to get training as well as show secretaries to get training. Also, with our show numbers down we want to see what response we get to a new “type” of show opportunity. The added bonus is that we can offer these shows during the early spring when the weather is better. This is a time period that our members have expressed an interest in showing, but the GSWEC is not available. Our attention was diverted but we will raise this issue again to see if it generates excitement

◆ **Recognitions**

In 2019, HDS held its Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&I in January for 2018 winners. Awards included crystal vases for the Champions and Reserve Champions at recognized shows and silver plates for schooling show winners.

We also added a new Volunteer Award that is announced at Championships, the Deb Abrams Extraordinary Volunteer Award. Sadly, Deb Abrams, a enthusiastic HDS and dressage community volunteer, passed away. Galloping Springs Ranch and Jen Jarvis set up an award to recognize annually an outstanding volunteer in our dressage community. This award is given out Regional Championships because of her tireless dedication as a volunteer at Championships. The award is based on going outside the normal volunteer tasks to help in the Dressage Community. Julie Robers was the first recipient. Despite her farm being virtually destroyed in Hurricane Harvey and the horses being displaced for months, Julie Robers still was our tireless volunteer for warm up ring 1 at Championships. The Robers also sponsor the Schooling Show Championships and despite their upheaval kept their unwavering support to all those that ride at any Championships.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has approximately 300 recorded members for 2019. We appear to be on track to be a bit below 2018’s number and even that number was down. We have a new Membership Chair who is working with Doug Canter to identify those that did not rejoin the past couple of years and she is contacting them personally and coming up with new ideas.

◆ Communications

HDS, at the urging of many of our younger members, encourage us to have a more active presence on social media and so we activated an Instagram account and appointed younger board members to act as our Facebook administrators. We are putting out a great deal more content and we have many more followers than in previous years. We will continue with these efforts.

We are underway with updating our Website. We have a company engaged, the general setup and now we are working on content and photos. As all of our board members work it is going a bit slower than we hoped. This website will be mobile friendly which does change some of the types of pages (more links, less pages), but at the end of the day we hope that we will have a more user friendly website that can be accessed by phone.