



August 2020 HDS Year In Review

◆ HDS 2019 – 2020 Administration

President:	Christine Renne
Vice President:	Angel Gunn
Secretary:	Jessica Jemison
Treasurer:	Terri Harlan
Membership:	Kathy Powell-Florip
Recognized Show Chair:	Angel Gunn
Schooling Show Chair:	Jena Tavormina
Historian:	Vacant
Education:	Jody De Stefanis
Awards:	Emily Heather
Special Events:	Suzy Parker
Advertising/Sponsors:	Jane Holman
Juniors	Jessica Fan
Volunteers:	Jessica Jamison
Publications:	Michelle Majewski

Just like this Report got derailed, this year has been derailed by Covid-19 and the related chaos.

◆ Education

We had hoped to continue with the Conrad Schumacher training series, but with the travel restrictions, it was not possible. In fact, all our education events were cancelled. Jody came up with some online educational events that were held via zoom. One trainer hosted an exercise zoom class. It was fairly well attended and there was a great deal of interest in continuing exercise events. We scheduled a virtual ride a test with applicants submitting videos, but unfortunately there was not much interest in submitting videos. I think everyone was feeling a bit overwhelmed with all the changes and just keeping safe. We may try again later in the year..

In writing this I am comparing it to last year, and this year is markedly different.

For the first time ever there were two people awarded the Bushager Memorial Scholarship. Colleen Aiken and Andrea Hart with an honorable mention to Laura Mann. This scholarship is 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). It will be interesting with the limitation on educational events and the fact that many use the funds to travel to a trainer with whom they may not typically train, how they will fulfill the obligations and the training.

◆ Philanthropy

HDS sponsored the Battle of the Barn Baskets at the 2019 Great American/USDF Region 9 and Southwest Dressage Championships. HDS had planned on sponsoring the event this year, but with the cancellation of all community events at shows, this will not be possible. We have suggested that perhaps the Juniors/Young Riders could do an online auction of baskets. As the Juniors/Young Riders are much more tech savvy, I am certain that they will be able to organize such an event. HDS would be willing to post links to the online event, if it would be of assistance. While HDS has historically allowed the Region 9 Juniors/Young Riders to fundraise at recognized shows with raffles and silent auction items, since we can no longer congregate and must socially distance, raffles and silent auctions are not a possibility at this time. .

At the 2019 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. Again, with the USEF and USDF restrictions these events will not take place this year.

◆ Horse Shows

HDS had planned on hosting 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. The CDI was cancelled. The June show did take place, with all sorts of new protocols that required zoom hearings to get the show team and management up to speed on the new rules. 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 2021 Winter, Spring and Summer shows.

Fingers crossed that our Laborious Day Show goes off at all with the recent spikes and the additional requirements.

HDS will host the 2020 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships, SWDC and HDS Autumn Classic. Although it is a Level 4 show, none of the traditional events will take place except perhaps the stall decorating contest. The banquet is cancelled

In December 2019, HDS held the Tenth Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the Twelfth Annual Schooling Show championships in December 2020. 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 **2021.**

One Day Shows: HDS will still explore 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 and will wait until after Covid shutdowns, etc., 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 2020, HDS held its Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&II in January for 2019 winners. Awards included crystal vases for the Champions and Reserve Champions at recognized shows and silver plates for schooling show winners. Little did we know what was in store for us less than 90 days later.

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. Leslie Rohrer was the second recipient for all of

her hard work over many years for HDS. To say that Angel and I miss her is an understatement.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has approximately 300 recorded members for 2020. We appear to be on track to be a bit below 2019's number and even that number was down, but at this point it is completely unknown.

◆ **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 still underway with updating our Website having hit a pause. 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.