



August 2021 HDS Year In Review

◆ HDS 2021-2022 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:	Alexis Stephenson
Historian:	Vacant
Education:	Jody De Stefanis
Awards:	Ashley Pipkin-Jones
Special Events:	Dawn Metzger
Advertising/Sponsors:	Jane Holman
Juniors	Jessica Fan
Volunteers:	Alex Evans
Publications:	Michelle Majewski

COVID chaos continues to hamper some areas within HDS, but progress has been made.

◆ Communications

HDS has continued with our online efforts, and thanks to COVID many of us have become slightly more social media literate (emphasis on slightly). We will continue with these efforts.

A huge thank you to Jane Holman and a one or two other board members who have finally tackled the website update and met with success. The first company we engaged couldn't get us over the finish line. We retained the services of another group and within the last week or two have it almost up and running. During the transition we expect a few "hiccups" but we will try and keep them to a minimum. Please let me know if you encounter any problems. It did take us a bit longer and we are hopeful that it will not impact the Laborious Day show entries and information.

◆ Education

We had hoped to continue with the Conrad Schumacher training series, but with the travel restrictions, it is still not possible. Originally Conrad had scheduled to come back in September but with the Delta variant surging a decision was made to postpone this event, again. Jody came up with some online educational events that were held via zoom. One example was a zoom call with an equine dentist and nutritionist. We still get the sense that people are overwhelmed with zoom and online events in their daily life to want to tune in to an evening or weekend lecture. Hopefully in the fall we will get some in person events set up.

All of our banquets and award events were cancelled as well as educational training events. This meant that our Bushager recipient could not participate in the training planned and we had to slightly alter our requirements. 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

The Juniors held an online auction since all of our events had to be cancelled. HDS and the other GMOS may have to figure out how to do the same. We will keep you posted on whether we will be able to have our banquet at Championships.

At the 2020 Championships HDS organized a slide show of the award winners, which was shown throughout the show. This was well received although we missed seeing everyone in person.

◆ Horse Shows

HDS had planned on hosting five recognized show weekends in **2021**: 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. So far they are going forward and we are pleased to announce that they have been very well attended. As usual our Recognized Show Committee under the watchful eye of Angel Gunn and Leslie Cummings has done a great job at keeping our show officials and judges very happy and willing to come back. We do not know what protocols will be in place for the upcoming shows, but we intend to go forward with these events.

HDS will host the 2021 Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships, SWDC and HDS Autumn Classic. The banquet may or may not go forward depending on COVID, the USEF's position and the GSWEC's protocols.

In December 2020, HDS held the Annual Schooling Show Championships at the Great Southwest Equestrian Center in Katy, Texas. HDS will host the Thirteenth Annual Schooling Show championships in December 2021. 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” and we plan on continuing with it. The goal to support those AA riders over 50 who are still competing.

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 we will wait until after Covid shutdowns, spikes in variants and everyone’s comfort level returns before we really assess the feasibility, 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. Of course, this requires approval from the higher-ups, so it is not imminent.

◆ **Recognitions**

Because we were unable to host the Annual Awards banquet at the HDS Winter Show I&II in January for 2020 winners a self-help table was set up displaying all the pretty awards. In addition, our new awards chair has come up with a new system for show classes that allows a competitor to select from various levels of awards: One blue ribbon at a show has certain categories of prizes or you can combine the blue ribbons over the course of the day for awards with a higher “ticket” value. It has been very popular.

◆ **Membership**

HDS currently has approximately 300 recorded members for 2021. We appear to be on track to be a bit below 2020’s number and even that number was down, but at this point it is completely unknown.