

USDF Convention NEWS !!!!
Austin, TX.

Hope to see you there... this is history in the making !!!!

Volunteers... still needed:

Contact:

Cynthia Castleberry - ccastleberry@earthlink.net

Jan Colley - jtcolley@aol.com

Convention starts Wednesday morning Dec 2nd.

<https://www.usdf.org/convention/>

At the convention hotel....

Self-parking is complimentary and valet parking is \$14 a day.

Lone Star Welcome Party- hosted by CTDS, and HDS:
Wednesday evening 6:15 - 7:45 pm at TGI Fridays... next to the host
hotel.

Region 9 Meetings:

Wednesday morning: 9:00 - 10:15 am

Thursday morning: 8:00 - 9:00 am

Board of Governors - your voice and vote:

Thursday afternoon - 1:30 - 6:00 pm

& Friday morning - 8:00 am - noon.

Friday nite Gala/ Banquet:

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Tickets are still available

Jan Brink Symposium: Dec. 5-6

Tickets are still available.

<https://www.usdf.org/convention/symposium.asp>

Symposium Trade Fair - Vendors:

<https://www.usdf.org/convention/TradeFairmap.pdf>

To get into the vendors... you will need a symposium ticket.
Get a headstart on your Holiday shopping for your favorite equestrian,
while attending the USDF Symposium featuring Jan Brink.

This year's trade fair will be a smaller venue,
but packed with an array of National and Local vendors catering to the

most discerning equestrian."

Convention Agenda:

<https://www.usdf.org/convention/agenda.asp>

2009 Region 9 Horse Person of the Year – Lyndon Rife

In recognition of his dedication, and influential effort to improve the knowledge and appreciation of classical dressage throughout the region, Lyndon Rife has been awarded the Region 9 Horse Person of the Year award for 2009. Lyndon owns and operates his teaching and training business, LTR Dressage (Lyndon T Rife or Learn To Ride), in Pilot Point, Texas, and has been a mainstay of dressage in Region 9 for over 14 years.

Lyndon has instructed many amateurs and juniors through the FEI levels and has become a trusted coach and "sounding Board" for many professionals. His students have earned numerous regional championships through Grand Prix, USDF Horse of the Year Championships and medals, and have earned professional credentials under his tutelage. In his own competitive career he competes regularly and successfully at FEI and national levels and has received numerous USDF Horse of the Year Championships and top 15 placings, USDF All Breed awards, medals, and has earned the USDF Region 9 and SWDC Championship or reserve at every single level through Grand Prix.

Lyndon has been dedicated to continuing education and has sponsored numerous Clinics with Olympic level riders and coaches. These events have been made available to amateurs, juniors, and professionals who would not otherwise have had access to world class training and instruction. These include US Olympians Steffen Peters, Michelle Gibson, Jane Savoie, and European Olympians and Olympic coaches such as Kalman De Jurenak, Hans Heinrich Meyer Zu Strohen, and German Gold medalist Heike Kemmer. He has studied with these world class trainers and others including Rudolf Zeilinger, Ulla Salzgeber, Walter Zettle, and Melle Von Bruggen.

He has run schooling and recognized shows in the North Texas and

Houston areas including a very significant contribution as the creator/organizer of the Texas Dressage Classic. This three to four day recognized competition offered a \$10,000 freestyle competition in addition to other cash prizes. In 2002 the competition awarded over \$22,000 in cash prizes to professionals, amateurs, and juniors. He ran this competition for nine years without assistance from a GMO and awarded well over \$1000,000. Much enthusiasm for dressage and non-dressage spectators has been generated by this event in North Texas and its now famous Texas Freestyle Classic competition and gala.

Lyndon has served on the board of the Dallas Dressage Club. He is frequently sought out as a consultant by club representatives, show organizers, and other professionals. One enthusiastic supporter highlighted his attributes as "good humor, the ability to convey a thought/feeling for the rider, absolute integrity in being honest and fair for the horse, and his overall generosity."

MARIE MORGAN WINS THE FIRST ANNUAL USDF REGION 9 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

(November 4, 2009) Lincoln, Neb. Marie Morgan (TX) received the first annual USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships held in Katy, TX in October, 2009. She received a \$5,000 award for demonstrating outstanding abilities as a dressage teacher.

The Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award was established at The Dressage Foundation in 2009. The purpose of the award is to showcase and honor excellence in dressage teachers. Dressage instructors are nominated by students or peers, and then submit an application that is reviewed by a prominent Selection Committee. In addition to being a USDF Region 9 member in good standing and a Region 9 resident, the recipient must also demonstrate adherence to sound dressage principles and have the ability to communicate these principles of training so that students develop themselves and their horses in a logical, progressive, and humane way up through the levels. The recipient should also have a reputation for honesty, integrity, and community service.

Meg Flemming (TX), originator of the award, said that Marie shows a clear understanding of the training pyramid and an excellent logical and

progressive teaching methodology. She has years of experience teaching all levels of riders on all types of horses, and has significantly contributed in various ways to developing the health and well-being of dressage education in our Region.

Im so proud that USDF Region 9 has taken the lead with this \$5,000 Annual Award for Teaching Excellence, said Bess Reineman, Regional Director for USDF Region 9. We hope this recognition of teaching excellence will inspire our Regions dressage instructors to further enhance their teaching, Reineman added.

It is a privilege for The Dressage Foundation to provide the stewardship services role for this award that is given annually to a deserving dressage instructor, said Jenny Johnson, Administrative Manager for The Dressage Foundation.

For more information about the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award or The Dressage Foundation, please contact Jenny Johnson at (402) 434-8585 or visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

The Dressage Foundation

The Dressage Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt, donor-driven organization that is dedicated to supporting and advancing the sport of dressage. The organization solicits contributions, appropriately allocates the donations, and awards grants and scholarships to dressage riders of all ages and levels. For more information, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

Congratulations 2009 GMO Region 9 Award Winners

(USDF) is pleased to congratulate winners of the 2009 GMO Awards, which will be presented during the Board of Governor's General Assembly at the 2009 Adequan/USDF National Convention and Symposium in Austin, TX, December 2-6.

These awards are given annually to recognize outstanding GMO

newsletter and Web site layout and design, first person experience articles, general interest articles, and outstanding volunteers at the regional level.

This year's Region 9 winners:

GMO Newsletter Awards:

ers: **First Place:** Southern Eventing and Dressage Association, *Off Course*, May/June 2009

Honorable Mention: Southern Eventing and Dressage Association, *Off Course*, July/August 2009

First Place: Central Texas Dressage Society, *Contact*, March/April 2009: *Saving Q's Life* by Megan Georges

Honorable Mention: Central Texas Dressage Society, *Contact*, May/June 2009: *The Joy of Dressage: Natural Horsemanship 101* by Megan Georges

: **First Place:** Houston Dressage Society, *Collective Remarks*, December 2008: *Are Dressage Riders Unfair to Their Horses?* by Paul Kathen

ers: **First Place:** Central Texas Dressage Society (www.centexdressage.org)

Honorable Mention: Southern Eventing and Dressage Association
(www.sedariders.org)

bers: **Honorable Mention:** Houston Dressage Society
(www.houstondressagesociety.org)

Regional GMO Volunteers of the Year:

Region 9: Syrisse Longbottom (Magnolia, TX - Houston Dressage Society)

CYNDI CRAIG WINS *GIFTED* SCHOLARSHIP

The Dressage Foundation just notified Cyndi Craig that she is the Region 9 recipient of the 2010 Carol Lavell Gifted Fund Scholarship for Adult Amateurs! "It was an exhaustive application," she said, but most assuredly the \$900 in scholarship funds will be worth it.

The scholarship was created to enable adult amateurs to set aside quality time for concentrated training, away from the daily pressures of job and family, with a horse the recipient owns. The Dressage Foundation receives a large number of applications for this scholarship each year, so it's quite an honor to be selected. Way to go, Cyndi, Faxxsimile and Faeryn!!

Colonel

Clarence Edmonds passed away

at the age of 89. He went peacefully and was sleeping almost all of the time for the past few days. Clarence had surgery on September 11 for lung cancer which resulted in the removal of one of his lungs. Over a period of several weeks, he was recovering fairly well until he got an infection in his shoulder which required a middle-of-the-night operation to heal the infection. Since that operation, it appeared as if he did not do well. His spirits were generally good, he

was not in pain, and he fought until the end. Within the past two weeks, his two sons, their wives, and many grand children all traveled from the West Coast to visit dear Clarence for the last time.

I am sure that Erna would like to hear from many of you. Her telephone number is (301) 469-7993. Her E-mail address is erecwe@verizon.net.

Clarence was the fifth person to be honored with a USDF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. He traveled to California at age 85, with failing eye sight, to receive the award and was accompanied by about 10 close family relatives who were so proud of his outstanding contributions to USDF.

Clarence was always a very strong supporter of the grass roots of the sport and was loved dearly by the many hundreds of young people he taught and encouraged over so many years. He and Erna were strong leaders of the Potomac Valley Dressage Association for many years.

They were both made honorary members. Clarence was highly respected for several decades at USDF annual conventions and was a pioneer among dressage technical delegates. He was a man with a lot of heart who was devoted to his wonderful family. Clarence touched many people and made a real, positive difference in their lives.