

THE READER

CenterLine Dressage is a Group Member Organization of USDF founded in 1972. CLD members are automatically members of the United States Dressage Federation.



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CALENDAR

- ◆ **CLD AWARDS BANQUET @ PANTHER CREEK COUNTRY CLUB - NOVEMBER 5**
SOCIAL HOUR: 5PM
DINNER: 6PM
RSVPS AVAILABLE SOON

Letter from the President

by Teresa Litchfield, President

WOW! Where has time gone.

It's September already with Region 4 Championship and Region 2 Championships in the books. Nationals are just around the corner, being held in Kentucky. Good Luck to all members participating in these events. Safe travels!!!

With the season coming to an end, it's time to look forward to our annual Awards Banquet. This year is a special year for CenterLine Dressage. We will be celebrating our 50th year anniversary. Our banquet will be held November 5th at Panther Creek Country Club. Mark your calendars for this special awards banquet. Do NOT forget to send your nomination form in to Chantae Erickson, our Awards Chair.

Also we will be holding our annual member meeting at the banquet. The Board is always looking for new Directors. If anyone is interested in being considered, please contact me. Our ballots can be found in this *Reader*. Please take the time to vote.

Hope to see everyone at the Awards Banquet,
Teresa Litchfield, President

*Nominations
/ Scores due
Oct. 10!*

My Road to Gold, and the Incredible Horse that Carried Me

by *Chantae Erickson*

Before the story begins, I would like to extend every gratitude to Marsha Harshman of M&M Farm. She has graciously shared this incredible horse with me, and supported us as we chased every dream. She has been the greatest optimist and cheerleader, and without her none of this would have been possible.

I would also like to thank Lotta Eklund, who has been there for this entire partnership, pushing us to keep going; and Martin Kuhn, who's expert eye was instrumental in this achievement.

I had dreams of riding the Grand Prix long before I ever sat in a dressage saddle, but it wasn't until my path crossed with Latino that those dreams became a tangible possibility.

Our "partnership" began in 2018, though it would be a full year before I could begin to call it that. Latino has been there and done that, but he is far from a school master. He is smart, athletic, brazen, and completely unaware of his age. And he was thoroughly unconvinced that I was worthy of him. While he had been a Grand Prix horse for nearly a decade, when I was given the ride on him he had been out of work for nearly a year. Still, at 21, he found ways to remind me of the horse he had been, and fully intended to become again.

Our competitive partnership began at Third Level. I needed the final scores for my Bronze, Latino needed to build up fitness, and we needed to figure each other out in the ring. He was a mack truck in the trot tour, and he threw tempis through the entire canter tour. But, we squeaked out our scores, so it was onwards and upwards. I learned how to (better) control the changes, so at Fourth Level the canter tour went swimmingly... after he passaged the entire trot tour. But we earned the first two scores for my Silver Medal, and I chuckled as the judges remarked on his clear FEI potential.



My Road to Gold, and the Incredible Horse that Carried Me

...concluded

In the fall of 2019, we made our Prix St Georges debut. I was ecstatic! Latino was in great shape, and I had devoted almost as much energy to our turnout as I had to actually training for the test. Finally, I was at least dressed appropriately to be riding His Majesty. And still, this was not the test he was interested in performing. With very few acknowledged half halts, we made our way through something that resembled the PSG enough to earn my Silver Medal.



Not wanting to be greedy, I was ready to let him retire on this accomplishment, but he was far from done. In early 2020 we made our Intermediate 1 debut, which I now jokingly refer to as the Latino Freestyle. On a quest to keep me humble, he threw antics I didn't know were physically possible. From flying changes mid-pirouette to gambler's choice lines of tempis, once again he put me to the test. If it were easy, everyone would do it, right? So I persisted, and the first two scores for my Gold were achieved. Despite Covid, and all that came with it, we had our best season to date campaigning the I-1. At 23, he qualified for regionals and was as fit as a horse half his age. But some unfortunate health complications cut his season short, and once again retirement was on the table.



After giving him the winter off, I slowly brought Latino back with no competitive aspirations. As far as I was concerned, he had far exceeded any of our expectations. But as we kept working, he came back even better, and got even stronger than he had been the year before. At 24, this horse just kept

getting better. So, with a substantial amount of encouragement, we entered our first Grand Prix. And for the first time, Latino helped me in the ring. Finally, I was worthy to dance with him, and he showed me the incredible partner I knew all along he could be. While there were countless learning moments, we tackled each test as a team. He was bold and expressive in his piaffe and passage. He let me guide him through the notorious canter zig-zag. And in August of 2021, we earned the final scores for our USDF Gold Medal.



Thank you, Latino, for being my horse of a lifetime.

48 Years of CLD History

by Jodi Shields Lemkemann

It began with this great picture of Bughazi.

The first two photos were taken June 2021 at Region XI Championships in Springfield, IL. Bu was Half-Arabian Region XI Champion Sport Horse in Hand. Both judges gave him 8's. I showed Bughazi myself and that was very rewarding to me. I'm not a professional. My horse won the class on his own merits. There were no politics. The judges judged the horse. That's how it should be.



This is our final halt at X. We just finished our T-3 ATR Region XI Championship ride. The judge gave us an 8 for our halt. I knew we had a good ride and an excellent halt. I never received an 8 for a halt before! First I gave Bu a "that a boy pat on the neck". Then I looked up at the judge and gave her a smile. She smiled back at me. I will never forget this moment. This was Bu's very first time at a show and in the dressage ring competing! The qualifying classes were waived due to Covid. Buhazi was third in the Championship class.

How it all began

My oldest brother bought a yearling Appaloosa at an auction when he was 15. The gelding's name was Cherokee Injun Blue. I was only 9 years old and fell head over heels in love with this baby horse. I would pet him and feed him apples everyday. A year later I still loved this horse and now he was 2 years old and much bigger. I sat on the fence during the summer and just talked to him and gave him treats. One day I decided I was going to sit on him bareback. So I climbed the fence and scooted him over and jumped on without a halter or a lead rope. Fortunately, he just stood there. I did this every day. Then I decided I wanted him to walk around. So I started clicking and clucking and we would walk all over his large paddock without a halter and lead



Above: Bughazi (Hilltop Bugatti x Goddess of Ghaz xx El Ghazi (Pure Polish Arabian)

Left: Bu's final halt at Region XI Championships in 2021

Below: Bughazi was born May 22, 2013 and of course I was there. He met me before he met his mom.



48 Years of CLD History

...continued

rope. This went on for a while during the summer until finally one day my mom caught me. Boy, was I in trouble.

I rode that horse everywhere, every day with just a halter and lead rope. I rode him down the country road all by myself. I just broke my poor mother down because all I talked about was that horse! Mom read in the paper there was a dressage instructor in Fisher, IL. I begged her to take me. Finally, mom said okay. I'll never forget my first lesson. Mom backed my dad's red Ford truck with side stock panels down into a steep ditch & she opened the tailgate. I would walk Injun in the bed of the truck with his head hanging over the cab and tie him up. I'll never forget her flooring the gas pedal until we pulled up out of the ditch. Off we went down Highway 136 with a horse and 4 little kids in the cab.

When we got there Mom would look for a ditch, she would back down into it, and we unloaded Injun. My first few lessons my instructor loaned me a saddle, pad, snaffle, and bridle and it all began. After a few weeks, my instructor helped my mom buy a used saddle, saddle pad, snaffle and bridle. I had everything I needed, except riding boots. I had to babysit for riding boots. A month later my dad and his customer saw mom driving the red farm truck with 4 little kids, and a horse in the back, heading west on Highway 136. The customer didn't know the woman driving that truck was my dad's wife and children. His customer said that was the most dangerous thing he has ever seen! My dad was so embarrassed that the next weekend we had a brand new red two-horse trailer. My mom is a saint. She drove me to my lessons every Saturday and she watched 3 kids while I had my lesson. Eventually we went to the Fisher Fairs and other local one day fun shows with my trainer.

(Editor's Note: Jodi believes the year was 1970, the farm was Golden Miss, and the instructor was Elaine Powell, now Gibala. Elaine, Alice Martin, and Genelle Bishop and their respective students formed CenterLine Dressage around the kitchen table at Golden Miss in 1972. Jodi joined CLD when she was 16 along with Sheila and Kim McElwee.)

My first Dressage show was in 1975 at Springfield. I remember meeting Alice Martin. I turned 16 in April and mom let me take my Arabian gelding Hycrest Prophet to the dressage show all by myself.

Things were different back then. I drove the red truck and pulled the red horse trailer. At this time, Ali Judy was my instructor in Champaign. She worked at Harabi Arabians for Dr. Harston. She helped Sheila and I get our horses. This is where Sheila and I met and have remained friends ever since. My parents purchased Hycrest Prophet for me and Sheila's mom and dad purchased Hycrest Sandpiper. Ali Judy did not attend this show with us. I didn't have anyone to help me. I had to learn on my own. I was so happy when I was given the blue ribbon for my ride. I just couldn't believe it! I remember there were quite a few riders and horses there. My parents didn't even drive to Springfield to watch me and we didn't have cell phones back then.



The author's infamous, truck riding horse.

48 Years of CLD History

...concluded

Arthur and Willie McElwee couldn't believe my parents sent a 16 year old girl by herself. My mom had so many kids, I had to grow up fast. Arthur and Willie made sure I came to eat with them. Thank goodness, because I remember Willie had cookies. :). I slept on a cot in the tack room next to my horse. I was making some of the happiest memories of my life.

To this day...Cherokee Injun Blue is my favorite horse and always will be. He was absolutely bomb proof and he never hurt me. He was my horse through grade school, high school, college, and I took him with me when I got married and had a family of my own.

A few years later, Mom saw in the Champaign-Urbana News Gazette that Harabi Arabians had moved to Champaign, IL with a dressage trainer named Ali Judy. Mom decided I needed a fancy show horse. So for my birthday Mom gave me an Arabian gelding named HyCrest Prophet. Boy, did he teach me to ride! That's another story. My first dressage show with him was the first Centerline Dressage show in Springfield, IL. Elaine Gibala was the judge. I think this was in 1975. I won first place in Training Level with Prophet. I was 16 years old. From there we grew into Shields Arabians. My parents purchased very nice broodmares. Shields Arabians bred and had many Top Ten Arabians over the next 25 years. When I was 16 I wanted to continue with dressage, but my parents wanted me to show Western Pleasure, English Pleasure and Halter. So that's what I did. I also rode in competitive distance riding with an Arab and was 5th at the Nationals. Eventually, due to mother's age she decided it was time to stop breeding Arabians. She sold all her horses except one very special mare.

Her name was Goddess of Ghaz, by El Ghazi, pure Polish. In 2010 Mom gave Goddess to me. So after years of raising my 3 sons, I decided I wanted to go back to my first love as a child and that was Dressage. So, I drove GG to StarWest and began taking lessons with Kate Fleming-Kuhn.

I mentioned to Kate I wanted to breed this mare. She recommended Hilltop Bugatti. She said he was a beautiful Grand Prix Stallion and his foals had good dispositions. In 2012 I bred GG to Hilltop Bugatti, the following year "Baby Bu" came into my life. He's extra special to me because Mom gave me her favorite mare and for that I will always be grateful! I want Bu to make my mom proud and this horse...God Willing...will always be my boy. We will continue to make great memories together. ...and yes, he has the sweetest, kindest disposition and I just love him. P.S. I'm now 64 years old. It's been an Adventure

Or maybe it started here, Patricia Shields and Goddess of Gahz. She and husband Duane showed Arabians for years from Rantoul, IL



The author's mother and enabler.

2021 CLD Award's Banquet

by Alice Martin

Did you need proof that everyone was happy with the loosening of COVID restrictions for showing horses? The CLD Awards Banquet for the 2021 show year was proof. A new venue at Panther Creek provided good food and service, hosting 26 attendees for dinner. With nearly 40 horse and rider pairs submitted in 56 different categories, the 2021 Awards program was the largest in seven years.

The number of youth entering, 10, increased and the schooling division grew as a result, a successful year after a 2020 low number of entries. There were 43 Open horse and rider pairs, 3 Western dressage, 9 Freestyle and one in the Young Horse Division and one in the Developing PSG division. Twenty-eight saddle pads were awarded, 12 totes, 18 blankets, and eight water bottles, in total.

There were 13 entrants in the Schooling & Western Dressage division, the highest number of entrants CLD has ever had in this division. Remember that to participate in the Schooling & Western Dressage division, you have to nominate your horse and then submit your scores.

There were several firsts at the 2021 Awards presentation. For the first time, all three winners of Second Level, Open, Novice and AA, had a better than 70% average. The Open Champion, Rocket Star owned by Barb Geisler, was 11th in the nation in his first year of showing Second Level. Fourth Level received the most submissions since 2014. This year's PSG entries were the most since 2018. Freestyles had the most entrants ever as well.

A sad note at Third Level Adult Amateur, the Reserve Champion, Washburn owned by Deb Klamen, has passed away since his winning scores. Both the Open GP Champion, Tae Erickson, and the AA GP Champion, Kelly Griffith, received their USDF Gold Medals this year. We are proud to congratulate our CLD members who've completed this hard to receive honor. It takes four scores of 60 percent or higher: two scores at Intermediate I and/or Intermediate II from two different judges and two different rides AND two scores at Grand Prix from two different judges and two different rides.

Judy Nordstrom filled in for John Simpson as announcer as John prepared for hip replacement. (He's now doing well with his new hip.). Thanks also to our outgoing Awards Chair Casey Eiten and welcome to our new Chair Chantae Erickson. Thanks also to Teresa Litchfield and Judy Nordstrom for organizing the dinner.

Just a reminder: because of COVID the requirement of three Volunteer hours or \$50 to participate in the Awards program was waived in 2021. It has again been waived for 2022. Make sure you nominate your horse. If you're competing in the Rated show division, that's all you have to do. You do NOT need to submit scores unless you are participating in the Schooling or Western Dressage Division. The [nomination form](#) takes 3 minutes to fill out and can be found half way down the [awards page](#).

Report your 2022 scores no later than October 10.

CLD Ballot

(Ballot for the election of members to serve on the Board of Directors for a two year term from September 1, 2022 until October 31, 2024.)

Vote for Four			
	John Simpson		Marilyn Weber
	Paula Briney		Chantae Erickson
Write In Candidate:			

You may vote in 1 of 2 ways: return ballot to
CLD Secretary Leslie Burket

16205 Windfall Ridge Dr. Chesterfield, MO 63050

POST MARKED NO LATER THAN OCT. 29

OR centerlinedressage.com/vote

No ballots received after MIDNIGHT on OCTOBER 31 will be accepted.

Current Club Officers & Personnel

President	Teresa Litchfield	president@centerlinedressage.com
Vice-President	Judy Nordstrom	vice-pres@centerlinedressage.com
Treasurer	Katie Keim	treasurer@centerlinedressage.com
Membership Secretary	Theresa Smith	membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
Secretary	Leslie Burket	secretary@centerlinedressage.com
Newsletter Editor	Alice Martin	reader@centerlinedressage.com
Awards Chair	Chantae Erickson	awards_chair@centerlinedressage.com
Social Chair	Judy Nordstrom	social@centerlinedressage.com
Web Site	Moiety Design	admin@centerlinedressage.com

2022 CLD Awards Amnesty Program

As in years past CLD is offering again an Awards Amnesty Program that allows lapsed members to join the club now, nominate and submit scores for their horses to be applicable for 2022 awards if and only if they pay for their 2022 membership and 2023 membership now.

Mandatory Volunteer Hours for participation in year-end awards are once again waived for 2022.

Submit your membership application and double fees now.



All
awards
material including
online forms at
centerlinedressage.com/awards

Submit Scores Today!

Scores are due by October 10. If you are competing in the schooling division and did not receive your scores at CLD shows you must submit your scores! Only one horse/rider pairing for 2022 in the Schooling Divisions have submitted scores.

If you are in the Rated show division you DO NOT NEED to submit scores, you ONLY NEED TO NOMINATE!

2022 Nominated Horses & Riders

(If your horse isn't on this list you need to nominate! Remember nominating is free but has to be done every year. Updated nominated list available at centerlinedressage.com/awards)

- Baroque - Paige Burdette
- Champion's Denali - Paige Burdette
- Galant - Pinky Noll
- Madroño XXXVI - Pinky Noll
- Violet - Eva Noll
- Polly - Eva Noll
- Latino - Chantae Erickson
- Beggo's Mystic Double - Lydia Shellenbarger
- Travis - Chantae Erickson
- Fancy-Free WF- Emma Suttles
- Clayton - Alyssa Ryherd
- R Genga - Marilyn Weber
- Erin Meadows Jägermeister - Marin Roth
- RR General Dee Bar - Teresa Litchfield
- Esteban - Judy Nordstrom



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

TO ATTEND THE 2022

CenterLine Dressage

AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

PANTHER CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

3001 PANTHER CREEK DR

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711

SOCIAL HOUR AT 5:00 PM

DINNER SERVED AT 6:00 PM

RSVP BY OCTOBER 27TH ONLINE

(217) 341-8398

OR

centerlinedressage.com/RSVP

Menu not set.
RSVPs not yet
available. Check
back soon.



CenterLine Dressage

CenterLine Dressage New Member & Renewal Form

(Membership year is December 1 through November 30)

Name: _____ USDF #: _____

Name: _____ USDF #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Birth Date for Youth Members (21 & Under): _____

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renewal:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Member:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reader Preference		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paper Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Digital Copy:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Type	Details	Totals
Individual Membership	<p>\$50</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)</p>	\$ _____
Junior Membership (21 & under)	<p>\$30</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 1 Vote, USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)</p>	\$ _____
Family Membership	<p>\$70</p> <p>Includes 1 Reader, 2 Votes, 2 USDF Membership, Discounts at CLD Shows, Discounts on Advertising, Horse Nomination (requires separate form centerlinedressage.com/horse-nomination-form)</p>	\$ _____
Total Dues:		\$ _____

Please send to:

Theresa Jones Smith
CLD Membership Secretary
membershipsecretary@centerlinedressage.com
1736 South Farmingdale Road
New Berlin, IL 62670

Revised: 11.1.2021

DEADLINE FOR READER ITEMS



Items for publication or inclusion in the READER should be received by the editor by the 1st of the month. Items for THE READER, activity forms, ads, etc should be sent with a check for the charges, if any, to:

THE READER
c/o Alice Martin
1736 S. Farmingdale Rd.
New Berlin, IL 62670

CenterLine Dressage