COLLECTED NOTES



MARCH 2018

FROM CDCTC'S PRESIDENT:

The Excellence of Ordinary Merits

One of my favorite Buddhist texts is a story called the <u>Vimalakirti Nirdesa Sutra</u>, about an ordinary businessman named Vimalakirti (who, we later learn, is actually a Buddha from another universe, disguising himself as a businessman, here to teach the fools in our universe some truth). Vimalakirti amazes everyone with his calm demeanor, his impeccable ethics, his gentle kindness, and his unsurpassed wisdom. Everyone who meets him goes away inspired and enlightened. The text tells us that one of the most important attributes of this man Vimalakirti is that he always recognizes "the excellence of ordinary merits."

The excellence of ordinary merits. I think a lot about this phrase. I also think a lot about it as it relates to my horsemanship. If you dabble into competitive dressage or eventing even a little bit, as I do, you very quickly come to realize there are some spectacular horse people and spectacular horses out there. There are horses who are bred to perform at the highest level of what our disciplines demand and there are people who devote themselves to being able to get on them and do it. It is thrilling to watch the rides of people like Reiner Klimke, Charlotte Dujadin or Michael Jung. And I take enormous pleasure in watching the many people in our

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018 3:30 PM

Fallen Tree Center for a Resilient Future, 128 Muriel Street, Ithaca, New York 14850. jml16@cornell.edu

Join us for a late winter tea and our monthly meeting. We will enjoy a "proper" English tea with tea cakes and scones and other dainties. White gloves not required. Breeches welcome! In this meeting, we will be discussing our by-laws and the casual show. The eventing committee will be making a report on planned activities. By this meeting, we hope to have all our volunteers lined up for the recognized show weekend June 9-10. This will be a fun meeting, so plan to join us for this last gasp of New York winter.



region and our club who ride so well, and have done spectacular things with their horses.

But when I get on my now beginning-to-age Andalusian Lucio, I often hear Vimalakirti's virtue rattling around in my head: Gaits? Ordinary. Talent? Ordinary. Training? Ordinary. Breeding? Ordinary. Appearance: Ordinary. Owner/rider? Ordinary. I wonder if I speak for many of us: We are ordinary people with ordinary horses trying to do excellent things. And I love my ordinary horse. He may be the finest horse I will ever have, all things considered.

I think at its best, true horsemanship is precisely about finding the excellence in these ordinary merits of our horses and ourselves. This year, in our recognized show(s), two one-day shows back to back on June 9 and 10, and also at our Casual Show on August 14, we will be doing everything we can to celebrate all the riders and horses who come to our events. We want every rider to feel about his or her horse: The ordinary merits of this horse are excellent. My ordinary merits can be excellent.

It is my sincere hope that we can all find in ourselves the generosity of spirit to see clearly, and acknowledge plainly, the excellence of the ordinary merits of our own horses, each other, and the horses around us.

The excellence of ordinary merits. Not a bad standard to have at all. Vimalakirti was on to something.

-Jane Maríe Law

Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on you

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves. Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on. Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again. Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and excitingover and over announcing your place in the family of things.



Corky, a wonderful ordinary horse. Photo credit: Sandy Su

MEMBER BIO: JEAN FOLEY

I grew up on eastern Long Island, on a small farm that had been in my family for five generations. I can't remember a time when I wasn't enthralled with horses. Luckily for me my grandfather shared my passion and after taking some hunt seat riding lessons, at the age of nine, I got my first pony. I can say that ponies teach kids a lot – some good and some bad! I haven't been without a horse since. My childhood and teenage lessons were hunt seat, and it wasn't until college that I became aware of dressage and eventing. I moved to the Ithaca area in 1977 and promptly joined the fledgling CDCTC. I met likeminded people who were to become my mentors and friends. I began my dressage and eventing journey taking lessons, riding in



clinics and showing. I am still on that journey. I have shared that journey with a number of horses. Delaware, bred at the Cornell Research Park and Vicky, an appaloosa were my eventers. I reached Novice level with both. Emrys, a sport horse bred Thoroughbred and probably the fanciest mover that I have had to date, was a wonderful second level horse, but I couldn't get to third - I never got show-able flying changes from him before his retirement. Freeway, a hot Trakhener/TB, eventually became a schoolmaster for "on the bit". And now Clifford, an OTTB, who is teaching me to refine my riding skills and to pay attention to the smallest of details.



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Minutes – February 10, 2018 Monthly Meeting John T. Oxley Equestrian Center, Cornell University

Present: Karen Steffy, Lauren Ostergren, Jane Marie Law, Shannon Ryan, Alison Waring*, Skye-Anna Nye-Smith (and 2 sisters), Kathy Thode, Bettina Wagner, Carol Morris, Dinah Guarino, Prin Furst, Francine Ferrara , Jean Foley, Diane Miller, Evelyn Miller, Madison (friend of Evelyn), Ginny Grove. * new members

Program: Braiding Clinic to follow meeting

Not structured like a regular Meeting, Focus on Committees

Recognized Show Committee (CDCT Dressage in Wine Country I & II) – Show to be held in Elmira, June 9 & 10, 2018. Jane Marie will serve as manager, Shannon Ryan will be secretary, Janna Wagner had to step down. The club will be purchasing the software program, Fox Village. Both judges and the TD have signed contracts. Lauren is in charge of hospitality; the B&B has been booked. Ginny and Jane Marie have submitted the contract for the show grounds. The Prize List needs some changes. Carol and Shannon will edit the prize list. Anita Jaffe will provide feedback on the prize list changes. Awards – (get list from JM). We want to be certain that the awards do not divert funds donated for running the show. We still need cash donations for show sponsorships, and advertisements in the show program. JM will fill the role of volunteer coordinator until she has a volunteer. Karen, Skye and Carol will handle publicity. We will be offering Opportunity classes at Training and First Level, which allow test riding without the full cost and benefits of USEA and USDF recognition. For event riders, the USEA eventing tests will be offered as "test of choice". At some point, not 2018, Para-classes may be offered. A task force will be formed. Carol will look into this.

Casual Show – August 12, 2018, and one-day clinic, August 11, 2018. Ellie Newton will manage the show. No judge has been engaged, yet. JM will put them up at her B&B. There was discussion about potential judges. A member vote was taken. JM moved that we have a different judge. Vote: 3 in favor, 3 opposed, JM broke the tie in favor of having a different judge. However last year's judge, who gave a very well received clinic, will be invited to give a clinic, either in conjunction with the show or at another time. The club will have a formal vote about clinic and judge.

Education Committee - Working Equitation Clinic will be postponed until the Fall.

- **Eventing Committee** will be meeting prior to next club meeting to focus on planning activities for 2018.
- **Newsletter/Publicity Committee** Show information has been sent to Horsebits. Looking for working contact information for New York Horse magazine.
- Membership Committee Lauren Ostergren reported that she is learning the ropes. We were reminded that membership forms need to be signed. Lauren reminded all that having the membership forms and checks before December 1 makes her life simpler with respect to USDF reporting. She will be looking into online submissions. The membership is reminded that as a member of CDCT, they are automatically members of USDF and entitled to certain benefits.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

(I audited a Buck Brannaman clinic in September of 2011. I had fallen off Draco three weeks prior and was recovering from back surgery, so I spent most of the clinic in a camping chaise lounge, but got up periodically. He was miked, so I could still learn things while people were stepping over me. :) - *Karen*)

- You need to keep a bubble around yourself. The horse should not come into the bubble. If you need to get strong, it's ok. "Use what it's going to take, but get out of it as soon as you can."

- There is a political structure between a horse and human. On a bad day, it's a dictatorship. On a good day, it's an enlightened monarchy.

- A horse never, all of a sudden, bucks you off. At that point, you've missed something.

- There is never a time when my legs are hanging like two chunks of bologna. My legs are in use with my hands. If you try to do everything with your hands, you won't get anything done.

- I'm going to do a lot less physically than you will, but I'm going to have a better feel.

- It's like you're building a building. First, you need to build a foundation. We don't know how big the building is, so we build a HUGE foundation. If you build too small a foundation, you can't build very high.

- You are always riding towards a feel. You may only get a few steps. Wait for the horse to be where you want before releasing.

- Over flexion is a result of not getting to the feet.

- Whatever you are doing with a horse, there is a perfect balance. You take no energy from him.

- You need to do less sooner, otherwise you do more later.

- The horse sets the agenda, not you. (I have also been told to ride the horse you have that day.)

- When you think you have released, you haven't.

- The farther down your leg that you use the aid, the more primitive you are.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 2018

<u>March</u>

March 10: Seminar: Developing Your Eye-Perfecting Performance with Carel Eijkenaar – *Voltra Farm*, 6000 Rock Road, Verona, NY; Contact: info@voltrafarm.com

March 11: CDCT Late Winter Tea and Club Meeting – Fallen Tree, 128 Muriel Street, Ithaca, NY; Contact: Jane Marie, 607-229-3431

March 17-18: Jeff Lindberg Clinic – Kathy Thode's Farm, Moravia, NY; Contact: Jane Marie, 607-229-3431 March 31: GVRDC Gymnastics Clinic with Carol Kozlowski – Mothersfield, 4444 Hogmire Road, Avon, NY; Contact: mothersfield@aol.com

<u>April</u>

April 1: GVRDC Gymnastics Clinic with Carol Kozlowski – *Mothersfield*, 4444 Hogmire Road, Avon, NY; Contact: mothersfield@aol.com

April 8: CNYDCTA Gymnastics Clinic with Barb Lindberg – Deer Hollow Farm, 3590 Pompey Hollow Road, Cazenovia, NY; Contact: 315-655-8903

April 15: What's New with the 2018 Eventing Dressage Tests Clinic – Cobblestone Equestrian Center, 1312 Pittsford Mendon Road, Mendon, NY; Contact: cobblestoneequestrian@gmail.com

April 23—27: Clinic with Arthur Kottas Heldenberg, http://www.waltzinghorsedressage.com/ April 29: Combined Training – *Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact:* 607-280-0225

<u>May</u>

May 13: Informal Dressage Show – *Tanglewood Riding Center, 3340 Lafayette Road, Jamesville, NY; Contact:* twood315@aol.com

May 19: Heavenbound Farm Schooling Show – Heavenbound Farm, 1222 Taylor Hill Road, Rome, PA; Contact: Janet, 570-247-7192

May 20: Horse Trial – Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact: 607-280-0225 May 20: Stockade Schooling Dressage, Combined Tests – Stockade Polo and Saddle Club, 505 Sacandaga Road, Glenville, NY; Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com

<u>June</u>

June 3: GVRDC Spring Horse Trials – *Hideaway Farm, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: moth-ersfield@aol.com*

June 3: Spring Dressage Show – *Tanglewood Riding Center*, 3440 Lafayette Road, Jamesville, NY; Contact: twood@aol.com

June 7-8: Heavenbound Farm Dressage Camp – *Heavenbound Farm, 1222 Taylor Hill Road, Rome, PA; Contact: Janet, 570-247-7192*

June 9: CDCT Recognized Show Dressage in Wine Country I – Chemung Co. Fairgrounds, 170 Fairview Road, Horseheads, NY; Contact: Jane Marie, 607-229-3431

June 10: CDCT Recognized Show Dressage in Wine Country II – *Chemung Co. Fairgrounds, 170 Fairview Road, Horseheads, NY; Contact: Jane Marie, 607-229-3431*

June 17: Fox and Hound Derby – Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact: 607 -280-0225

June 17: Cohocton Hunter Pace – 3224 Henry Drum Road, Cohocton, NY; Contact: dlw2@cornell.edu June 22-24: Dressage at Stockade Welcome/June – Stockade Polo and Saddle Club, 505 Sacandaga Road, Glenville, NY; Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com

<u>July</u>

July 1: GVRDC Firecracker Derby – Hideaway Farm, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: mothers-field@aol.com

July 18–19: Dressage at Stockade Summer Heat — *Stockade Polo and Saddle Club*, 505 Sacandaga Road, Glenville, NY; Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com

July 22: Stockade Schooling Dressage – *Stockade Polo and Saddle Club*, 505 *Sacandaga Road*, *Glenville*, *NY*; *Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com*

July 28–29: Clinic with Courtney King-Dye – *Cazenovia College Equine Education Center,Woodfield Road, Cazenovia, NY; Contact: 800-654-3210*

July 29: Combined Training – Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact: 607-280 -0225

July 29: Cohocton Hunter Pace – 3224 Henry Drum Road, Cohocton, NY; Contact: dlw2@cornell.edu

<u>August</u>

August 3-5: Dressage at Stockade I/II – *Stockade Polo and Saddle Club*, 505 *Sacandaga Road*, *Glenville*, *NY*; *Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com*

August 5: Dressage Schooling Show – *Tanglewood Riding Center*, 3340 Lafayette Road, Jamesville, NY; Contact: twood315@aol.com

August 11-12: CDCT Schooling Dressage Show/Clinic – Oxley Equestrian Center, 220 Pine Tree Road, Ithaca, NY; Contact: Jane Marie, 607-229-3431

August 16-17: Heavenbound Farm Dressage and Event Camp – Heavenbound Farm, 1222 Taylor Hill Road, Rome, PA; Contact: Janet, 570-247-7192

August 18: Heavenbound Farm Schooling Show and Horse Trial – Heavenbound Farm, 1222 Taylor Hill Road, Rome, PA; Contact: Janet, 570-247-7192

August 25: XC Schooling – Hideaway Farm, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: mothers-field@aol.com

August 26: GVRDC Schooling Horse Trials – *Hideaway Farm, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: mothersfield@aol.com*

<u>September</u>

September 9: Fall Schooling Show – Tanglewood Riding Center, 3340 Lafayette Road, Jamesville, NY; Contact: twood315@aol.com September 16: Eox and Hound Dorby – Carriage House Saddlery 325 Waterburg Road Trumansburg NY: Con

September 16: Fox and Hound Derby – Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact: 607-280-0225

September 16: Cohocton Hunter Pace – 3224 Henry Drum Road, Cohocton, NY; Contact: dlw2@cornell.edu **September 16:** Stockade Schooling Dressage, Combined Tests – Stockade Polo and Saddle Club, 505 Sacandaga Road, Glenville, NY; Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com

September25 - 30 Dressage at Devon, https://www.dressageatdevon.org/

October

October 6-7: Dressage at Stockade Autumn – *Stockade Polo and Saddle Club*, 505 *Sacandaga Road*, *Glenville*, *NY*; *Contact: stockadepolo@gmail.com*

October 6-7: Art2Ride Clinic with Will Faerber – *Newell Farm, 4064 Logan Road, Burdett, NY; Contact: dad284@cornell.edu*

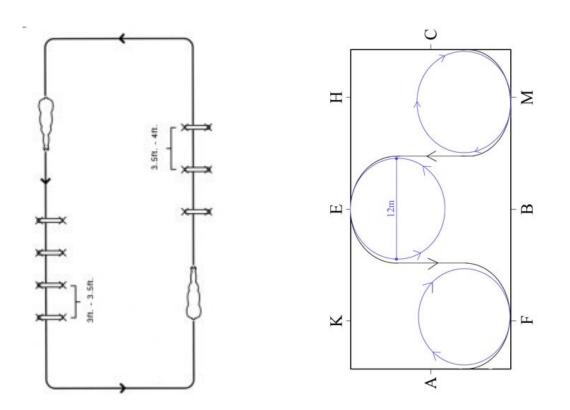
October 7: GVRDC Pumpkin Derby – *Hideaway Farm*, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: mothersfield@aol.com

October 14: Horse Trial – Carriage House Saddlery, 325 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, NY; Contact: 607-280-0225

October 21: GVH Hunter Pace – *Hideaway Farm*, 4130 Roots Tavern Road, Geneseo, NY; Contact: hut-tendvm03@hotmail.com

Additional Local Dressage and Combined Training Groups (see their calendars for their events)

<u>Central NY Dressage and CT Association</u> <u>Endless Mountains Dressage and Combined Training Club</u> <u>Genesee Valley_Riding and Driving Club</u> <u>Western New York Dressage Association</u>



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