

Cayuga Dressage and Combined Training Club held its awards banquet on November 4, 2108. Recognizing that some club members don't compete, CDCT focuses its awards on honoring club members for various achievements. The awards committee takes great pleasure in coming up with new awards to recognize individual achievements. The banquet is a time for us to come together and celebrate whatever progress we have made, with good food and lots of fun.

This year's awards are as follows:

Members receiving USDF Medals:

Gale Wolfe: Gold - scores earned on Tequila Voila as well as Beike

Kathy Thode: Silver - Scores earned on Brookside Patch and Thomasina

Connie O'Hearn: Bronze - Scores earned on Thomasina and Revelation



You Make Us Proud Awards:

Sue Mulvey: Competed at USDF Regionals

Bettina Wagner: Competed at USDF Regionals and Nationals (Second Level and Second Level Freestyle)

Other members who competed

Jean Foley, Carol Morris, Dinah Guarino, Norm Johnson, Jane Marie Law, Skye Anna Nye Smith, Claudia Wheatley, Ruby Fowler, Shannon Ryan, Prin Furst, Janice Lobdell, Nikki Lund, Anne Marshall, Evelyn Miller, Janet Youse, Lauren Ostergren, Sarah Hepler

The WOW! Award: Goes to Sarah Hepler and "Flat Leaver", aka Fletcher.

Fletcher is truly a magical unicorn. He raced under the name Flat Leaver and was his race trainer's favorite (Amber Cobb). Amber messaged Sarah and said she wanted her to have him after Sarah had previously taken a horse from her. He came off the track in May and officially became her RRP TB Makeover mount at the end of July. This put him at 60 days of training before the Makeover. He is 7 years old, had 38 career starts and \$118,980 in earnings, and last raced 11/29/17.

For his 7th and 8th post-track rides, Fletcher did a two day clinic with Raul de Leon. He then competed at our casual show for his 10th post-track ride. He obviously did extremely well. Sarah and Fletcher have been training under the fabulous Holly Parker (now my trainer too! <3) for most of their retraining and Holly even went with them to the Makeover.

At the Makeover, Fletcher and Sarah were 3rd out of 182 in Dressage. Every horse rode Training Level Test 2 and then did a freestyle demo of skills in Rolex Arena. Because they were in the top 5, Sarah and Fletcher had to come back on Saturday and perform a 4 minute demo to music in the covered arena which could alter their place within the top 5 (in this case, they stayed in 3rd). Their Training Level Test 2 score was 75.962, their initial demo was 48.30, and with the finale demo their total overall score was 168.86 (the winner was 171.99).

In the Freestyle division, Sarah and Fletcher performed (for the first time ever) FEI Para Equestrian Grade V Intro Test A to the song Rise Up by Andra Day. This was the performance with the Lift Your Sister inspirational message attached, Sarah wearing a shirt with hurtful quotes received by her friends (yes, I had one on there) and Fletcher dressed as the magical unicorn that he is. They placed 8th overall out of 52 riders and received Best Turned Out award for the whole division! And everyone was crying.

Sarah was also third place in the Ambassador Award, voted on by fellow Makeover trainers.

What Was I Thinking Award?

Runner up: Jane Marie Law – for buying a young horse!

Runner up: Bettina and Jana – for buying a farm in Cincinnati and planning to breed Icelandic horses.

Winner: Norm Johnson – for having a four-year-old and a three-year-old, and for being CDCT president!?! What a way to start your retirement!

What Was I Thinking Revisited?

Ginny Grove and Mr. Sunshine. Mr. Sunshine has turned out to be a fabulous horse, competing in dressage and combined tests. Go Ginny and Mr. Sunshine!

Kathy Thode and Kazimir

The Akhal Teke, Kazimir, was purchased to help a friend downsize her herd, and has turned out to be a mighty nice dressage horse!

That Turned out better than I thought:

Winner Dinah Guarino:

There's nothing better than nominating oneself for an award. Well, I am going to pat myself on the back for this one. I have raised my 13 year old Morgan from the time she was a weanling. It was the first time I have trained a horse from that age. And it's been a fun, if not sometimes frustrating journey. But I'd be a liar if I didn't say I really like this energetic mare, who likes to take control when I'm on her back because she knows the game plan better than I do.

So we have been working on First Level for about three years now, and I think we are finally getting it! I put together a First Level freestyle two years ago, but when I thought I finally had it perfected and planned to show it at the Morgan show in 2017, I bagged it because it didn't feel right. However, undaunted, I resurrected it this year again. But where would I show it? Not every show has a sound system, so finding the right venue was a problem. CNYDCTA and hostess Diane Brandow held the first dressage show at the Coliseum at the Syracuse Fairgrounds. Now if you've ever been there, you might know that this could be a bit overwhelming to a horse. Or at least that's what I suspected for my sometimes spooky, ever alert Laurel. Plus when you walk in to that arena and there is no sign of any other horses around- yikes! But this is it folks. It's my last chance to show off this freestyle that I have worked on for so long.

Well, we did it. When that trot music came on and we started our pattern, I smiled to myself and started singing with the music. I could feel my little mare settling in to it. Now I'm not saying it was perfect, but when we finished I could not have been prouder of her than if I had just finished a ride at the Dixon Oval at Devon. So even though I felt a lot of angst going in to it, it definitely turned out better than I thought.

Significant other of the year:

Bill Millier for putting up with clinic attendees moving into the house and holding pajama parties at Brookside Farm.

Norm Foley: for actually spending time at the shows where Jean and Clifford competed

Wade Wykstra: for trailering Lauren and “**their**” horse, Matchbox, everywhere and maintaining the trailer. Also, for cheerfully holding their horse and insuring that he would get onto the trailer when it came time.

Winner: Mike: Jana’s best buddy who is the world’s greatest dog trainer and who spent endless hours at the casual show doing all manner of jobs from early in the morning till the bitter end of the day. He also entertained us with his dog’s amazing repertoire of tricks!

Instructor of Distinction:

Gale Wolfe. Gale continues to teach classical dressage, bringing new students to the sport of dressage and has even offered to pay students’ entry fees so they can show. Gail goes above and beyond to support her students in their pursuit of riding. We are honored to have her as part of our club!

Pluck Award: (not that word you use in the barn when the horses get out.)

Awarded to Jana Wagner for living her dream of working with horses, having already survived almost a year as a working student. She has realized she needs a back up plan so is pursuing an agriculture business degree while helping Bettina start a breeding farm.

Good Egg Award:

Ginny Grove for her continued involvement in CDCT and beyond! Ginny went with Tina Matejka to volunteer as jump judges at WEG. Ginny is also a fixture when it comes to setting up the dressage arenas at all the CDCT shows. Ginny has been the club’s Treasurer since time began. Having retired from managing Oxley Equestrian Center last spring, she now has even more time for horses and CDCT! Thanks for giving back to the sport!!

Emily Post Award:

Jean Foley, for her work doing the minutes for the newsletter and the program for the club’s recognized show. She has also spearheaded the Eventing Committee activities and has generated enthusiasm for the activities that CDCT has sponsored.

Sportsmanship Award:

Prin Furst. Prin is always quick to support other CDCT members in their effort; whether offering her facility to help out a young horse who needs miles; or sharing her wheelbarrow to help out other competitors as they unpack at a show. Prin has also been very gracious and appreciative when attending our shows. She is the first one to congratulate other riders when they have completed a test and is also there to encourage those who are struggling with their horses. She has helped with making our shows more competitor friendly by arranging to have wine glasses and t-shirts made up. This award carries with it a \$100 cash prize. (Ginny)

New Member of the Year

A TIE!! This award goes to Shannon Ryan-Dinmore and Sky-Anna Nye-Smith, who jumped in with all four feet this past year, being major contributors to the success of our recognized show. Skye Anna and Shannon will receive 50% off club activities in 2019. If you have had anything to do with the club this year you will have run into these two dynamos! They well deserve our praise for rejuvenating this old group of horse lovers.

Miss Universe

There were many nominations for Miss Universe.

Runner up is Dinah Guarino.

This year's Miss Universe Award goes to Carol Morris. Carol is a consistent volunteer at the club show and attends meetings to help organize events for the membership. She is the Alan Greenspan of CDCT. Yes, he was the chairman of the federal reserve from 10 years ago! But she has been at this awhile (and I don't recall who it is now). She travels the universe looking for prospective horses in the cyber sphere and also travels the world taking photos of horses in all the counties she travels to. She also travels to the USDF Annual Convention fairly often and always speaks her mind when the majority of attendees would rather just sit back and let things happen, afraid to stir the pot.

2018 Region 8 Volunteer of the Year:

Karen Steffy received the 2018 USDF Region 8 volunteer of the year award. Karen has been instrumental in upgrading our website, has ordered reusable water bottles for the volunteers at our shows, and continues to do that most thankless of all jobs – maintaining the club's ribbon inventory! Thanks Karen!

2019 Volunteer of the Year:

This year's volunteer of the year goes to someone who has consistently thought outside the box and gone out of her way to break tradition, in a good way. We have many new members, new names for our shows and have shaken up the old CDCT to let it morph in to a new club that is supportive and welcoming of new members. This extraordinary volunteer also exhibits grace under pressure when it comes to keeping her cool. She handled the stress of running a 2 ring dressage show with only one judge. Therefore, we award this year's volunteer of the year award, also known as the "Thinking Outside the Box" Award to Jane Marie Law.



