

BEST ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR:

TEQUILA VIOLA

Gale Wolfe

Tequila, a KWPN, has stepped up and taken over this important role from the late “Beike fan ‘t Zand” who I lost in 2017. Tequila carried me to my Gold Medal, and at an age of 20 years, she now has a more relaxed life of fun, and hunter paces, but she earns her oats by helping me to teach dressage. She does this in two ways. First, a probably obvious way, is that I allow special students to take a lesson on Tequila so that they can learn the feel of everything from “contact” to “passage”, and “extended trots” to “one tempies”. She’s so tolerant to accept the confused aids of the students and takes her cues, verbally, from me to help the students learn. Her second way of helping me, is to allow me to demonstrate the “wrong way” of doing a skill or movement. She doesn’t get upset, and allows me to show some of the most screwed up things that some riders can get in trouble with....and then in heartbeat, I can correct the aids and perform the movement correctly without any concern from Tequila. She just takes it all in stride. She’s learning how to be a leader for hunter paces and trail rides, from jumping at Barton Valley, to opening and closing gates at the Finger Lake National Forest. She allows a stubborn lesson horse to follow along behind her at a trot, to help a new student have the time to pick up the posting trot, with me twisted around sideways, bareback on Tequila, encouraging and watching the student. It takes a saint of a horse to do all these jobs....and oh... she also demonstrates to my students how the dressage skills allow me to cue Tequila to do a complete “peanut rolling” western pleasure frame, and she can do a great jog and western lope on a draped rein. She will participate in relay race games that we plan in our lessons, with putting on a burst of speed that shocks everyone, and did you know that canter pirouettes really help to improve barrel racing? So, my Assistant Instructor, Grand Prix Dressage Horse, and “Mistress of All Trades”, Tequila Viola, deserves to be recognized as a very special horse.



TEACHER OF PATIENCE

GABRIELA GARCIA MARQUEZ

Norm Johnson

Her prize is a new winter turnout blanket.

GG will be seven this coming season, so it's taken a while to get where we are today. I bought her Swedish Warmblood dam and bred her to an Andalusian stallion. The night she was born, she was scooped up and carried to the barn where I did the touching and handling routine. The next morning she was as shy as could be and it took me two weeks before she would let me touch her again. I had to sit in the corner of the stall and simply wait. Eventually, I was able to get a halter on her.

She was a rambunctious teenager and I often wondered if she would turn out to be too much horse for me. She would not allow me to ride her "wrong" and she would only cooperate if I rode her correctly. That, by the way, is a work in progress and she has been patiently teaching me how to become a much better rider...and that is how I get to ride her and have such a wonderful horse.



MR. VERSATILITY

MATCHBOX

Lauren Ostergren

I love that we can do so many different activities - trail riding, hunter paces, intro horse trials, dressage, clinics and all kinds of lessons. As observed by my instructor, Carol Kowalski earlier this year, he's also ridiculously kind.

His prize is some time off in December and 5 lbs of carrots.

Photo from Barton Valley Hunter Pace





MOST TOLERANT NEW GUY AT THE BOARDING BARN

MR. RIDDLES (KRVP FREDDIE BAR MAC)

Tina Matejka

He was a really good sport about wearing gold chains, a clock with a loud tick that bumped and clunked on his chest, glasses and his ears poked through a baseball cap so he could be Flava Flav with Mom dressed up as Bruno Mars to parade him around to Uptown Funk among horses dressed as sheep, lion, elephant, My Little Pony, a Huntsman, and a Pumpkin. His prize is a new, normal winter turnout and a promise I won't do this again for a year.

GWENOVERE

WORLD'S SWEETEST MARE

Jennifer Hagadone

Everyone who meets Gwen, from trainers, clinicians, judges and friends eventually comments on how she is the sweetest mare they have ever met. Most of us know mares are not always the easiest nuts to crack but Gwen has a heart of gold and she's not afraid to show it. Gwen will be getting a giant bag of mints as her reward (those are her favorite snack- thanks Skye-Anna)!





LOST, FOUND & LOVED

RALPHIE

Madison Hagadone

Ralphie was found as a stray on Connecticut Hill years ago and has a deep distrust of people. Madison has worked tirelessly to show Ralphie not all people are bad. For being the most forgiving pony Ralphie will be getting a bag of homemade snacks from Madison. Many thanks to Laurie and Jay Venuto for sharing their little guy with Madison!

ALL FOUR FEET ON THE GROUND

NITROX

Carol Morris

Nitrox is being awarded for his best attempt yet at being a real dressage horse: He did not rear before entering at A, and he stayed in the arena for an entire test. His prize is a new piece to the halter he broke while loading on to the trailer.





THE GOOD EGG AWARD, HORSE VERSION

CLIFFORD (JC- SAM'S VALENTINE)

Jean Foley

He is just an all-around good egg - well behaved, well mannered, dependable, friendly, a no-drama sort of horse.

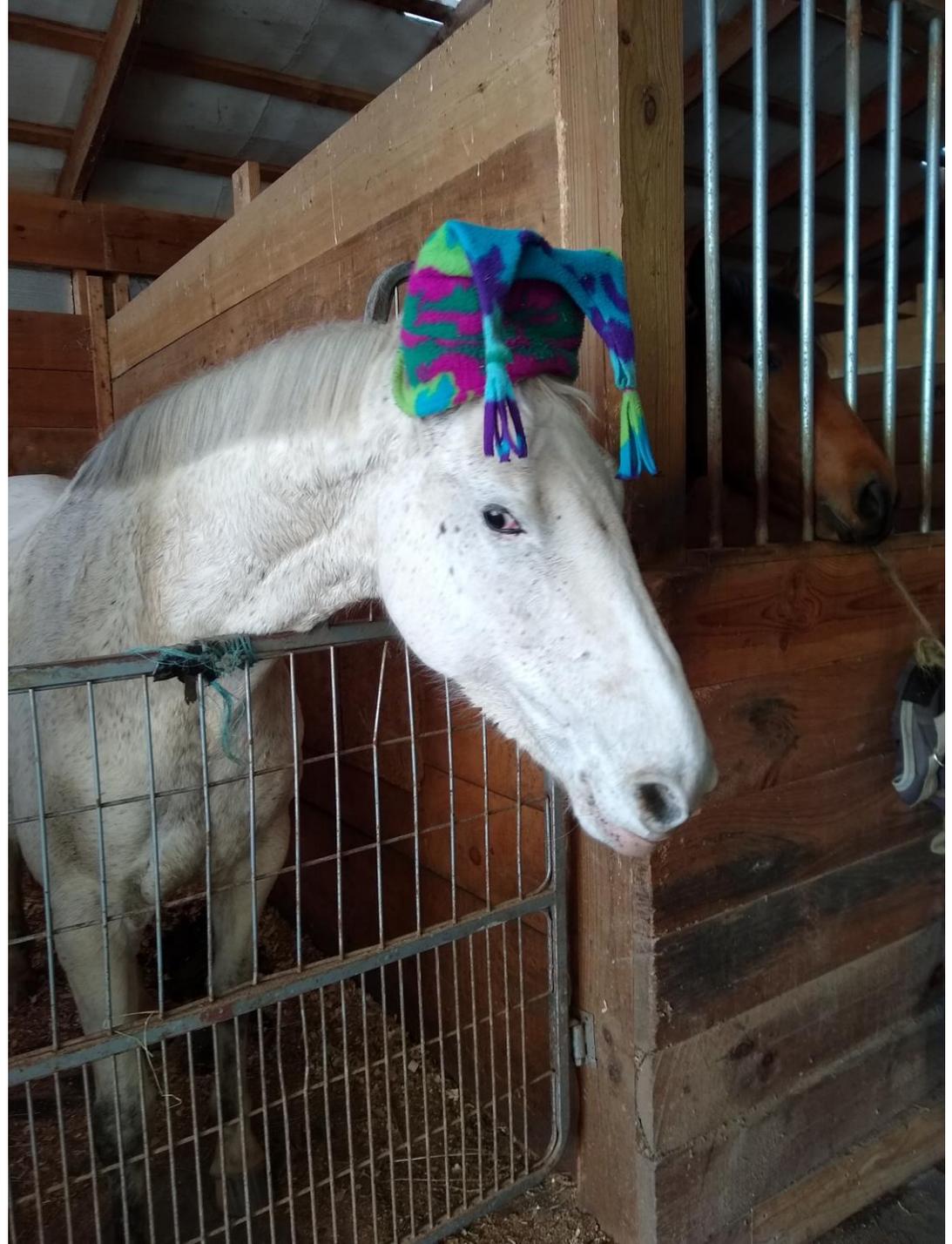
His award is a never-ending supply of horse treats!

MOSTLY LIKELY TO HOG ALL THE SNACKS

ATHENA

Marlie Lukach

Athena will be the horse to mostly likely to hog all the snacks. Athena will eat any treat you give her and we chase away anyone else (dog, cat, other horses, chickens) who are getting snacks so she can eat them. She will eat someone else's treat even if she doesn't really like it just so they can't have it.





THE REAL LIVE UNICORN AWARD

JACAPO (AKA CALVIN)

Sarah Hepler

Calvin is deserving of this award because he has the biggest heart of any horse I've ever sat on. He gives his all 100% of time. More than once he's been deemed as "perfect". He charms everyone he meets, and I do believe that he is magical. If ever a unicorn did walk the earth, I would absolutely believe it is him!

The award he received is an extra box of his favorite treat: Little Debbie Oatmeal Cream Pies.



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MOST TRAIL CAM PHOTOGRAPHED HORSE

SHR CALIGRAPHY

Linda Mancil

As her prize she will receive a personalized leather halter and plenty of treats due to our numerous trail rides this fall.



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MY TERRIFIC MARE

MAY DAY

Kathy Thode

I bought May Day when she was a year old. It was a trade for starting an acquaintance's young horse. She was an appendix quarter horse; her sire a local star reining horse, and her mother a rank TB off the track, who had some very bad training. She turned out to be a fun little mare (only 15.1 hands). She took me through the levels till I achieved a bronze medal. She also gave me two wonderful foals when she was 9 years old and 21 years old. These two offspring now 32 and 15, helped me to very slowly continue up the ladder of training till I managed a silver medal. She passed on at 32. May Day definitely had strong temperament with lots of opinions but she was also very loyal and forgiving when stuck with a novice trainer. She passed on quite a legacy for my little breeding experiment.

I will be remembering and honoring May Day's memory by setting my goals to keep getting up that ladder. (with Patch my 15yo).



STALKER OF THE YEAR

AMANECER ANDALUZ, AKA LUCIO

Jane Marie Law

His theme song is "Every Breath You Take" by the Police. He never takes his eyes off me, will not allow me to walk into the barn without communicating to me that he will never let me love another horse. He turns his back on me if I have so much as given an apple to another horse. He breathes out, into my ear, "Oh can't you see? You belong to me! How my poor heart aches, with every breath you take."



**WHOZ A GOOD BOY, WHOZA A
GOOD BOY- YOU ARE**

LANCE, SUPREMEY LIT IMAGE

Prin Furst

Lance is a good boy, for his constant "try" to get better and trying to figure out what I ask of him under saddle. His award is a bag of German Horse muffins which he finds to be an amazing mouthful of goodness.



BEST LITTLE COMPANION PONY

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Prin Furst

Penny keeps our old mare Lady, Chetas Lil Robin, company when Lance goes to shows, lessons and when being ridden. She stops Lady from being too anxious when she's left behind, is easy to be around and has figured out that sucking up to my husband has assured her continual pampered lifestyle. Without her, taking Lance places is a huge issue. Her award is a pampered life of a companion pony with daily treats.





PRESCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA

ABSOLUTE DREAM ("SALUTE")

Emily Urban

I would like to give my horse a Preschool Graduation Diploma with special recognition on his ability to focus! It was his first year under saddle, as he was backed in March, and has just progressed so quickly because he can really focus in and keep trying. I will award him a new set of fancy polo wraps and a bunch of treats.

**BEEFY, BRAWNY,
BEAUTIFUL**

TOBLERONE (TOBY)

Laurie Wingate

Toby is a giant, chunky, loving, teddy bear who would rather be with me than with his pals in the field.



STEADY EDDY HORSE AWARD

MR. SUNSHINE

Ginny Grove

Considering I bought Sunny from an auction and only walked and trotted him in a parking lot before I put down my 850 bucks, he's turned out to be a fantastic horse for this time in my life. He wins the steady-Eddie award because he's virtually unflappable. This photo is from a hunter pace this Summer. He puts the fun back into Hunter pacing and trail riding. Horses cantering by us at 30 miles an hour don't faze him. Deer popping up in the woods, no problem. Want to take a jumping lesson, he says "let's do it jumping is fun!" He is totally changed the trajectory of my riding the last 3 years and I am grateful for it.



SHERLOCK HOLMES AWARD

AVELENE'S DRACO

KAREN STEFFY

Draco is still, at twelve, super curious about everything, and everything must be checked out thoroughly. I have watched him follow a feather on the ground, and stop to sniff out a lone dandelion. If we are riding, and there are deer or birds in the woods, he will stop mid-stride to check them out. He doesn't spook, he just locks his jaw and stares until he is satisfied that the evil squirrel of doom isn't going to attack him. Strangely enough, gun shots, falling trees, and all sorts of loud noises don't phase him. Birds in the woods, however, must be identified and categorized. Maybe he's a birder at heart.

Interestingly, the more focused I am, the more focused he is. He would be a good yoga or meditation teacher. 😊

His prize is some time this winter to just watch things and enjoy.



LOOKING UP AWARD

SOLINA BAMBOLINA, "LENA"

Shannon Ryan-Dinmore

2020 has been quite a year but you could say things are Looking Up! We were able to get out to our first two shows together and even got a blue ribbon in the USEA BN-A test! But this award actually means something more literal - Lena loves to look up at the sky! Standing in the wash stall, tied to the trailer, even out in the pasture, I find her standing and looking up. I'm not sure why but I always tell her she's a weirdo for doing it. For this award she will be given a pair of horse sunglasses and a horse visor so she can protect her eyes from the UV rays and also a bucket of treats to encourage her to look down.

