

## *Educational Opportunities for 2004*

*by Eliza Sydnor*

If you live in North Carolina and are into dressage, this is the year for you! North Carolina is known for its wonderful recognized and schooling shows, but there are plenty of riders out there who love their sport, but do not enjoy competing. This year, there are just as many opportunities for those riders as well as the active competitors. The NCDCTA is planning many educational events this year, and we want all of you to participate!

This year we are lucky to have both the USDF L Education Program for Judge Training and the USDF Instructor Certification program happening right here in central NC. Session A of the USDF L Program was a great success, and we are looking forward to Session B, May 22 & 23. The L Program offers wonderful education to potential judges, competitors, teachers, trainers and breeders. The Instructor Certification program is a great opportunity for anyone interested in teaching or training professionally, or any rider out there who wants to better understand the classical, systematic approach to training riders and horses in dressage. The first workshop will be June 19 & 20, with Sarah Geikie of Connecticut.

We have heard from many Adult Amateurs out there saying, "What about me?!" Well, here's what! We are planning a 3 day Adult Camp and Ride-A-Test Clinic for June 12 - 14, at the Averett University Riding Facility in Pelham, NC. The riders will get a private lesson each morning and work in a group in the afternoon. There will be a yoga instructor at the camp to lead the group in a "Yoga For Equestrians" class in the mornings. The last day, riders will have the option of doing a Ride-A-Test, where you ride a test of your choice, have it judged, get a mini-lesson on what to improve, and then ride that test again for the judge. It's a great way to prepare yourself for a show, and it's just fun! This event is being planned by Lisa Henry and anyone interested should contact her at lhenry@netpath.net or call (336) 229-4832.

Juniors and Young Riders, we are planning a 3 day camp for you as well! This camp will be August 27-29, at Gold Hill Equestrian Center in Madison, NC. Each day riders will get dressage and jumping lessons and have an educational lecture on Saturday night. This camp will also end with a Ride-A-Test on Sunday. Also for Juniors, the Pizza Party at the Raleigh CDI will be happening again this year. Karen Brame is organizing these events, and if you are interested please contact her at KarenDennis9696@aol.com or call (336)404-0640.

Later in the year, there will be an "Evening Lecture Series" with a vet, a farrier, a dentist, and much more. We will pick one weeknight a month to hold a 1-2 hour lecture given by one of these professionals. They will lecture on a subject relevant to dressage and event riders. This is a great opportunity to learn more about horse care in these specific areas. Anyone who owns a horse or rides regularly shouldn't miss these lectures!

This fall we are planning a Judges' Roundtable Discussion day on a Saturday, most likely in October or November. We will get 2 or 3 "S" dressage judges from NC to join all of our "L" Candidates and as many "L" Graduates as possible for a day of discussion and practice judging. Auditors will be welcome to this event, where judges will practice judging and discussing rides from videotape.

Jeanne Karver of Greensboro is planning, in a quiet month of winter, an interactive teaching clinic for "green" professionals. Rising professionals and people considering becoming professional often are very skilled in riding and training. Then, they step into the center of the ring on two human feet to teach a lesson with a shy uncertainty. They are aware that their teaching skills are not as well developed. The USDF instructor's certification program feels too big for them yet. This one day clinic will give them an opportunity to learn skills of teaching dressage hands on, no pressure. If you would like to make suggestions, express interest, or have questions, feel free to contact Jeanne at Karv4@netzero.net.

Whew! That's a lot of education for 2004. For all of you out there who have said, "What is NCDCTA doing for me if I don't compete?" Well, we're trying to do a lot for you, so please come and join us for these events. Everyone is welcome! If you have ideas for other educational events, please let me know! I am the chair of the Education Committee for NCDCTA, and you are welcome to email me at esydnor@msn.com or call (336) 214-5279. These events for 2004 came about because people asked for them and helped to put them together. If you want to see something happen, big or small, let's start working on it!