

IMPULSION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022

INSIDE THE ISSUE

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Lisa Michelle
PHOTOGRAPHY

Irintha, a 9 yr old KWPN mare by Everdale. Sponsor Kathy Priest purchased her as a 4 year old and has developed her through I1. Ridden at the KDA Spring Show by KDA member, Ali Potasky. Photo Credit: Lisa Dean Photography

in Memoriam

William "Bill" Gerald Kraatz

1948—2022

William "Bill" Gerald Kraatz, age 73 of Florence, KY passed away on February 15, 2022. Bill was born in Niagara Falls, NY on June 3, 1948 to

Gerald Kraatz and Bernetta

Broecker Kraatz. Bill was a Realtor with E-Merge Realty and he was a member of Crossroads Church in Florence, KY; he was a devout Christian who loved Christ. He was an avid horseman his entire life and he never met a stranger. He was the former President of the Kentucky Dressage Association

and was the Chief Steward of the Thoroughbred Makeover and he was also a level 3 FEI official.



Bill Kraatz was a such an important part of the equestrian community, not only in Kentucky, but internationally. Personally, I met Bill through the Kentucky Dressage Association (KDA), where he served on the BOD for the past 10 years, of which he served as President from 2019 - 2021. Bill has always been a huge advocate of dressage and Kentucky dressage riders. His exceptional business sense helped propel KDA forward. He was passionate about making dressage more affordable and accessible for everyone. Education was important to Bill, and he wanted all to feel welcome. No one ever felt like an outsider with Bill.

One of KDA's former board members approached Bill years ago to help with raising funds for her young rider daughter to make it to Young Rider Championships. Bill immediately elicited the KDA board to create young rider grants, which is now at \$5,000.

I was recently speaking with a professional in the area. She explained how Bill's support at the start of her career was inspirational. He supports all new / young professionals. He encouraged her and sent horses, clients, and students to her to help get her career off the ground.

Bill didn't just focus on the riders, he was also an FEI steward and helped anyone interested in any aspect of horses. An FEI steward in training, credits Bill for helping her get to where she is now.

In addition to Kentucky Dressage and FEI events, Bill was also heavily involved in combined driving, where I'm sure he was just as influential. Bill also was a farm real estate agent, selling and finding the perfect farms for horse enthusiasts.

Bill was truly an inspiration, supportive mentor, and equestrian advocate. He will be missed dearly. He leaves us with a lasting impression of true horsemanship.

Kristen Young
KDA President

REALLY REALLY'S (AKA SPERANZA) RECOVERY JOURNEY

By Kara Hertz

In the summer of 2018 Speranza started to have on and off lameness issues that no one could pinpoint and were never quite bad enough for anyone to think it was anything more than coffin joint arthritis. She had multiple lame exams with multiple people. This continued through the summer. In late fall on two separate occasions, she went 3-legged lame and after a couple days in her stall would be fine. I decided to bring her to the clinic for an MRI of both front feet. No one besides me thought anything would



be found. The Monday after Thanksgiving she had her MRI and she had suffered a fairly catastrophic injury. She had torn both her front lateral collateral ligaments and lateral oblique sesmoidian ligaments with bony changes which includes coffin joint arthritis and low ring bone. The right front (her club foot) being worse than the left. I was told to do stall rest for 4 months and then start tack walking and she would either be fine or not. After a few tack walks she was three-legged lame again. I went a bit rogue and from then on out I took things into my own hands to come up with a treatment and rehab plan. I also had the amazing guidance of Dr. Rick Mitchell at Fairfield Equine who gave us so much time and detailed information even though he never even met Speranza. (Just seen her MRI and radiographs). I have suffered tremendous grief around her injury and while we are both in a better place, I do not think it is something I will ever fully recover from. There were a couple Major players in my support system. I could never have survived with

Ashley Embly on Speranza's medical team as well as someone I could call crying and stressing.

Speranza over the last couple of years has had the following:

- 1 year of stall Rest
- 7 Months of turnout in North Carolina
- The worlds slowest and most tediously planned rehab
- Speranza also had a wide array of treatments for her coffin joints and the generally area
- Most expensive shoes ever (JK I think Andy's have cost more)
- Lots of icing
- Lots of Podiatry Work
- Steroid injections in her coffin joints
- 3 rounds of Irap in her coffin joints
- The first 1 ½ years she was on Platinum CJ, Osteon, and Gastric support
- 3 rounds of regional limb profusions stem cells
- IV Tildren
- 3 rounds of Stems cells injected into her coffin joints
- Various shock wave treatments
- Lots of PEMF
- Hind End maintenance as needed once she was rehabbing
- ProStride injected into both front Coffin Joints



I could be leaving out some treatment or form of therapy but that was most of it.

Lots of Blood, Sweat, and Tears went into this day. This day that I have hoped for but never knew if it would happen back when she was first diagnosed and painful and I didn't know if I needed to make the choice the let her go or to keep fighting. But we are both fighters. I would give my life for her and she has given me everything. We may never be able to reach our originally dreams but we have each other and whatever we accomplish is a blessing and I could never be more thankful.

[Posted on Facebook on May 27, 2022.

First day of 2022 Spring Warm-Up Dressage Show]

2022 CALENDAR

GWEN POULIN RIDING CLINIC

June 16—June 19
Spring Run Farm, Prospect, KY
Sold Out but **auditing is free for KDA members!**

KDA APPROVED SCHOOLING SHOW—HORSE AID COMBINED TEST AND DRESSAGE SHOW

June 18
Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY

2022 KDA SUMMER CLASSIC I & II

July 8—July 10
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

LILLO FORE RIDING CLINIC

July 28—July 31
Valley View Farm, Lexington, KY
ON SALE Wednesday June 22 at 7:00 pm

KDA 15TH ANNUAL SCHOOLING SHOW

August 20
Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY
WDAA Sanctioned!

BREEDER'S CLASSIC

September 3—September 4
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

KDA APPROVED SCHOOLING SHOW—HORSE AID COMBINED TEST AND DRESSAGE SHOW

September 24
Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY

MELISSA ALLEN RIDING CLINIC

September 24—September 25
Venue TBA, Louisville, KY

USDF CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR PREP COURSE

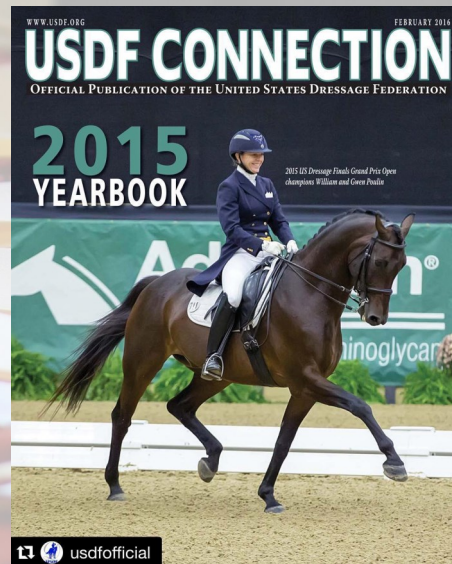
September 24-September 25
Location TBA

2022 KDA FALL CLASSIC I & II

October 15—October 16
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

YEAR END AWARDS BANQUET

November 19
Caption's Quarters, Louisville, KY



HOW TO DECORATE DRESSAGE RINGS, CROSS-COUNTRY AND GRAND PRIX JUMPS WELL AND NOT SCARE THE HORSES

By: Sheila Woerth



I've been the Chief Steward for Course for the Kentucky Three Day Event for 30 years. I work with all the Course Designers, Derek DiGrazia, and then Jorge Guilherme and Steve Stephens' assistants, for all the events, both inside and outside the Rolex Arena, and confer on their requests and notes for their jumps. I work with Jim Wolf from Land Rover for his Land Rover SUVs and their placement, Chris Sandhage for the placement of the Rolex clocks. I design the all decorations for dressage, the Photo Corrals, and the TV cameras. I choose all the flowers and shrubs for dressage, the 4* and 5* cross-country jumps, flowers for Trade Fair, the Scoreboard, the Land Rover SUVs and Rolex clocks out on course, the Mars Company signs at Head of the Lake and garden that are by their RV, and, this year, the new Volunteer Lounge.

Equestrian Events, Inc. runs this event. I work with Vanessa Coleman, Chief of Competitions, Laura Voll, who helps me with my volunteers, other EEI staff members, Mick Costello, Cross-Country Course Builder, Bob Wilmarth, who strings the cross-country courses, John Prather, who is over staking out the Tailgating area and so many other things, Bobby Murphy and Everell Thompson and their crews, who, this year, took over doing and decorating Dressage, the Grand Prix

events, and the Stadium event using the list of flowers and shrubs I gave them. EEI buys all the flowers from Pemberton's Greenhouses and rents all the shrubs from Two Brothers both here in Lexington. This April, I used over 800 flats of flowers, 79 shrubs, and 130 hanging baskets of geraniums, wave petunias, and ferns.

When I started this volunteer job in 1992, Judi Tudor told me that she'd taught me the previous year all about "ground lines" for cross-country jumps, and that the job was now mine! Initially, I worked with a certain nursery, but soon realized that, with all the course changes, I needed to be able to walk up and down



greenhouse aisle ways to pick and choose new flowers at a moment's notice. Ergo, I went to Pemberton's Greenhouses and their marvelous owners and staff. I get "Plan A" in January. Years ago, I walked into the nursery, and Barth Pemberton, the owner, then asked

me what plan I was on. I told him “H” and swore I wasn’t going to “I”!!!

I started with my daughter, Kit, and Barbara Ostrander, and now have an incredible team and army of volunteers. I have four Team Leaders over various parts of the cross-country courses, and another two, Lynne Glass who does all the watering of our flowers, and Anne Kuhns, who leads everyone to help cover all the plants to save them. My Team Leaders then also deco-

rated the 13 half whiskey barrels that went outside the Three-Day Event Shop, the Volunteer Lounge, the Scoreboard Tent, Grayson, a sponsor, and out on Tailgating. They decorated the LR SUVs, the Rolex Clocks all over the courses, and anything else that came up. John Bottom, one of my volunteers, made 24 13” square boxes that go on the four corners of table jumps. One set, Mick Costello and his crew screwed them onto the wood, so when the MIM table, a collapsible jump falls, the boxes and flowers don’t fly off and possibly hurt the horse and rider. Becky La-

nier, one of my Team Leaders, designs and makes the vegetable boxes for the Market Table jump. No one in the world does anything like this.

When I first looked at Dressage, I knew we had 12 lattice boxes that go around the ring that needed decoration. Letters hang on all four sides, so you can’t have flowers that drape over them nor can you have tall plants that might blow in the breeze. Ten-inch pots of hanging red geraniums initially grow up and don’t



hang down. We used to put four bricks stacked two high to raise the pot up. We also decorated around the bottom of each box with 96 4” packs each of yellow marigolds, red petunias, and purple alyssum. On the corners, we put 3’ high juniper trees and on each side at the bottom, another hanging 10” pot of blue or red wave petunias. I vividly remember at the Atlanta Olympics horses going into the dressage arena and their heads would suddenly come up and they’d stop.

That’s because whoever decorated that had decided to use those big beautiful four-foot plants that have those light tan tall flowers on the top of every stalk and they were waving madly in the breeze!!! I decided then and there that if I ever got a chance to decorate a dressage ring, I’d use shrubs that wouldn’t move in the wind. I think you have to be a dressage person to do this well.

In the Rolex Arenas, we also decorate the legs of the TV cameras with 8” pots of red geraniums, the sides of the photo corrals with various colored flats of flowers and hanging wave petunias, the LR big oval sign which Bobby Murphy does so well, the LR SUVs, the Rolex Clock, and put flower pots in the cedar which surrounds the bottom of each Rolex Judge’s box to hide the wheels.

For the GP and Stadium jumps, you need to coordinate the color of the jump rails and the sponsors’ company colors and decorate them. Out on the cross-country 4* and 5* courses, we began adding shrubs on big jumps



surrounded with flowers at the base of them at an angle at the corners of the jumps. Horses' eyes are on the sides of their faces. Giving them something to see on the sides give them an idea of how wide the jump is. Planting the front of the jump with rounded mulch the length of the jump up to the bottom of the first piece of wood helps to make it inviting and a lower planted area on the back of the jump makes for a good photo op. We had to double the amount of mulch and double the flowers on 4* jump 9A going into the water because you could see water between the plants and the bottom of the jump. Robin Corr, my Team Leader over Head of the Lake, and I did this with the help of two young women I'd commandeered walking the course on Friday morning at 11am, the day before cross-country! The only other last-minute request I received was from Mike Etherington-Smith very many years ago. He asked if I could "put a spot of color" in the 12 half whiskey barrels under the Gazebo jumps, which I'd asked him in January if he wanted that, and he had said no. I went to Janie Atkinson, who was the EEI Executive Director, asked her if she had any cash, took that and went to the Sunshine Grow Shop that was on the corner of Iron Works and Georgetown Rd., bought flats of various colored petunias, went to the jump, saw three friends walking the course, told them I needed help and convinced them to help plant! If you are walking the courses and see me needing to mulch and plant at the last minute, RUN!!!

One of the highest compliments my team and I've received was from the Announcer, John Kyle, at Badminton last weekend. On the Live Stream, he mentioned me by name and said that decorating is a delicate balance between dressing the course up and not "over dressing it" to distract the horse and that I'd really set the standard for top class events around the world.

So, when you see flowers at the KDA shows around the rings, know that they have been given TLC by Jena White and her mother, Suzanne Richards and they came from what most of us still call "Rolex".

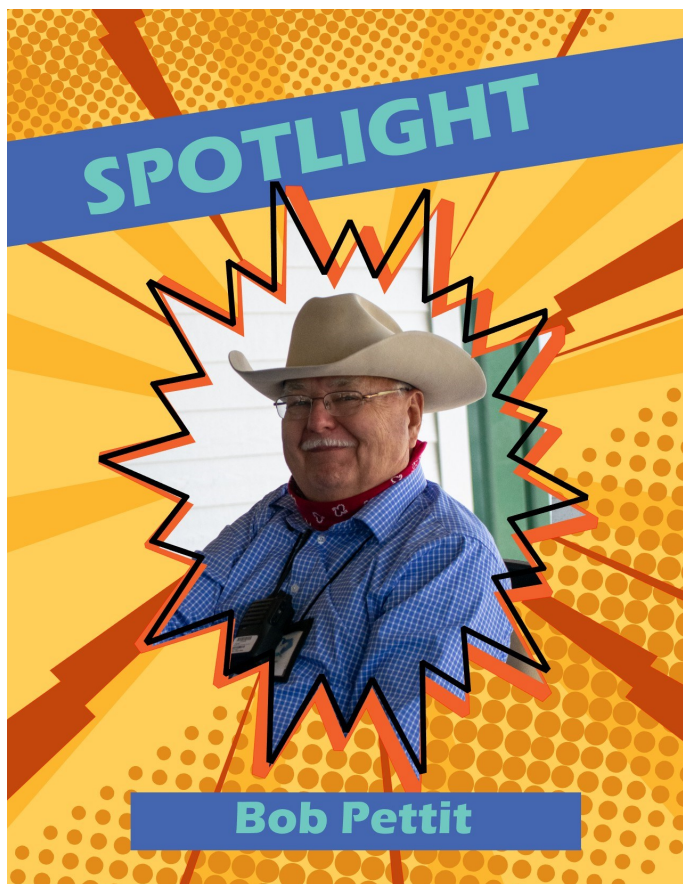


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MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS


WOODSPRING FARM
Kathy Priest Dressage

Debbie & Rich Banas



Bob Pettit

— VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT —

Bob is typically the first person on the show ground in the morning and begins setting up the judge boxes, etc. And he is often the last one to leave at the end of the show (as he was this spring again).

He is willing to try to do anything you ask of him, even learned how to help score the tests a few years ago.—Sandy Kraatz

Bob attended our free Ring Stewarding, Scribing, and Scoring Clinic at CKRH in February, attends our Annual Awards Dinner, and has become a KDA Member because he wants to donate his volunteer hours to a deserving rider.

He always looks at ways we can improve our shows and shares those ideas with us. We are blessed with him.—Sheila Woerth

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

KDA has adopted USEA's website, EventingVolunteers.com, to help us manage volunteers more efficiently and digitally. Download the USEA Eventing Volunteers App (iPhone and Android) by Finder Network, LLC and create your profile. KDA's events are under Area VIII (Kentucky is registered in Area 8 for Eventing). If you need assistance, please contact KDA's admin, Jena White at jena.kda@gmail.com. Other volunteer opportunity—see next page.



Sign up for Summer Classic I & II:
<https://www.eventingvolunteers.com/events/2221/signup>



WE NEED YOU

"Being a KDA volunteer gives you a wonderful sense of belonging and working for a top-notch show team at a world-class facility has unforgettable rewards."

Robin Weinstein





JOIN THE FUN

AT BREYERFEST AS A VOLUNTEER!

July 15 – 17, 2022

BreyerFest is three-days of hands-on horse fun including meet and greets with horses and their owners, equestrian art instructions, workshops, seminars, a trade show, equine demonstrations and lots of social events. BreyerFest: Prost! will be celebrating all things German - from music and food to art, culture and (of course) the amazing horse breeds found all over Germany!

Volunteers will receive the following:

- One (1) General Admission ticket to BreyerFest
- One (1) Volunteer t-shirt
- One (1) Celebration Model, Nikolas
- One (1) Lunch voucher to be used at Kentucky Horse Park concessions
- Volunteers who work a full day or more than one shift will also receive an Oktoberfest Event Stablemates model

Volunteers are needed for the following positions:

- Model Distribution
- Help / Information Desk
- Store Merchandising



Hosted by:



For more information and to sign up, scan the QR code or go to:
<https://www.breyerhorses.com/pages/breyerfest-park-volunteer-policy-2022>
OR Contact Laura Voll at BreyerVolunteers@gmail.com; 608-219-5151

MAY SHOW RECAP:

The May KDA show was a huge success. We certainly had some challenges this year with the KY Horse Park having multiple events. Overall, it turned out great. Although the idea of tent stabling was not ideal, it was so nice to be right next to the Rolex Arena. Because of this, we were in our own world at the Park. We didn't have to walk through with our horses all the other shows. We felt like we had our own, secluded area. We also heard that many of the horses loved being able to see other horses, which resulted in calm, relaxed horses.

The judges and TD were fantastic. Rave reviews on all accounts. Fair scores with great feedback made for successful rides. The atmosphere was positive. Many thanks, to the great photographer, Lisa Michelle Dean Photography, for capturing these moments.

Volunteers make the show function. We were a little short, but the ones we had stepped up and were phenomenal. Please consider volunteering in the

future. If we want to keep having shows, we need volunteers. In addition, volunteer hours make you eligible for year end awards!!! Also, everyone loves the volunteer shirts, snacks, and lunches :). Huge thanks are given to everyone that stepped up.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the dressage show! Let's keep up the great momentum!!!!

VIEW HIGH POINTS ON KDA'S WEBSITE:

<https://www.kentuckydressageassociation.com/2022-may-show>



Photo Credit: Lisa Dean Photography