

Dressage4Kids TEAM Clinic
Scarlet Day Farm
Gray, ME
December 1 & 2, 2018

The weekend was finally here and my highly anticipated lessons with Lendon had arrived.

I pulled in to the beautiful Scarlet Day Farm in Gray, Maine to be greeted by the hosts and owners Alicia and Tom Torrey. My horse and I certainly made an entrance as he quickly got loose upon arrival and ran around in the snow like an Arabian with his tail to the sky. Great first impression Bentley, thanks!

I was the first lesson of the day so after Lendon's opening remarks I promptly prepared Bentley for the lesson ahead. This was my 2nd time riding Bentley in a TEAM clinic so Lendon had worked with us twice prior. Bentley is a 2011 Hanoverian Gelding whom has had a tricky start. Despite being 7 he's a bit behind in his training.

With every clinic I ride in my goal is to come home with three big take aways. This is always very easy to do when riding with Lendon because she's honest and has no reservation in telling you what you do right and wrong.

- 1 Keep your hands lower because when you lift them you're putting more pressure on the bit causing the horse to become even deeper. With Bentley this was hugely important. He often gets very short and poll low so I was subconsciously lifting my hands to try and compensate.
- 2 Don't wait until the horse is really behind the leg to make a correction because then it has to be a big correction. With Bentley I need to always hold him accountable for going forward and not wait until he's dying to make a correction with big aids.
- 3 The biggest take home of all was DO MORE TROT WORK. I naturally enjoy the canter more but especially with this horse because I find it the easiest gait to establish a really good connection. Lendon's text message to me that evening ended with and I quote "enjoy the trotting!!!!"

This was an invaluable weekend of learning for me. We had four guest speakers discussing topics of bio-mechanics, show management, show ready braids, and clipping.

I would like to thank Dressage4Kids for graciously awarding me a scholarship to participate in this clinic. My appreciation and gratitude to Lendon is undeniable. I always look forward to my lessons with Dressage legend - Lendon Gray.

Thank you,

Matthew Baillargeon