

WEP 2018 Speaker Bios

Libbie Beauchamp

Libbie Beauchamp has been a clinical psychologist for over 20 years with a specialty in anxiety. She has competed in the lower levels of dressage and served on the board for Eastern NY Dressage and Combined Training, being an active volunteer for 10 years. She received her degree of Doctor of Psychology from The Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. She has helped many clients to change their thinking patterns with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Liz Piacentini of Between Our Ears

Liz Piacentini resides in Southwick, MA, and participates in area dressage shows and clinics with her Canadian Horse, Du Coteau Dandy Lyrical. Liz was inspired by Daniel Stewart's positive method of teaching riders mental fitness to compliment the technical skills they learn from their trainers. She found his techniques particularly helpful during her own journey of regaining confidence after injury. In 2014, Liz completed his Pressure Proof certification course and became one of his Certified Equestrian Sport Psychology Presenters. Liz enjoys teaching Daniel Stewart's Pressure Proof techniques and other mental fitness strategies to help ordinary riders become extra-ordinary! Through her unmounted seminars and blog posts (BetweenOurEars.com), riders learn how to develop a positive mindset, increase focus, build confidence, tackle show jitters, and maximize the enjoyment they experience with their horse.

Colleen Akin, ATC, LAT, EMT-B

Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine - Outreach Certified Athletic Trainer
Colleen has been riding Dressage for 20 years now. She is USDF Bronze & Silver Medalist. USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals Gold & Silver Medalist. Colleen graduated Quinnipiac University in 2013 with a degree in Athletic Training- Sports Medicine. She currently works in the Houston, Texas area doing outreach for athletes at private schools, club sports and professional athletes in the Houston Rodeo. Her background in Emergency Medical Services as a full time EMT combined with her knowledge of equestrian sports makes the Rodeo Sports Medicine experience well rounded for complete care of the athletes.

Carla Sharp

Carla has been in the horse business for 40 years in Easton CT, where she owns and operates Buttonwood Farm. It started with buying and selling off the track thoroughbreds. Many of these became successful show horses. Carla has competed at all of the top shows in the country including Harrisburg, Capital Challenge, Washington and New York, over stadium courses in the hunter discipline. She is also an "A" rated judge in hunters, hunt seat equitation and jumpers. Recently, Carla has ventured into the field of Eventing and has enjoyed bringing horses and people into a new arena. It is truly amazing how difficult it is to develop expertise in dressage and cross country as well as stadium. Carla's experience in the hunter/jumper arena has helped her in the transition into Eventing.

Rachel Greene-Lowell

Rachel Greene-Lowell currently owns and runs Harvest Hill Farm in Brentwood, N.H., where she trains event horses and riders. Her training and competition experience spans over the past 40+ years and includes riding to the intermediate level in Eventing, 3rd level Dressage, Jumpers and Fox Hunting. She is ICP certified and enjoys teaching students at all levels, working through the learning curve for each individual rider and horse.

Jon Nowinski

Jon has been around animals his entire life, from household pets to large draft horses. In 2010 he was volunteering with an emergency service in Connecticut and was a part of several calls in which animals were involved. During those calls he was surprised to learn that there was very little emergency assistance for animal owners, as well as first responders themselves, when it came to dealing with these types of incidents. This led him to gather a team together and establish the Connecticut Emergency Animal Response Service (CT EARS), a dedicated team available 24 hours a day for rapid-response to animal incidents, from medical emergencies, to fires, to trailer accidents. Since officially beginning in 2011 the team has been extremely active with an average of 20 - 40 calls each month, as well as engaging in community education efforts to help prepare, prevent, and respond to animal emergencies. He currently lives in Westport, CT, with his dog Coyote and three cats, all of which are rescues. His "real job" is as an Emergency & Communications Specialist at a 24-hour Trauma I veterinary center for animals in Shelton, CT.

Lyla Andrick

Lyla, 15, has been riding horses for ten years; initially starting her career in hunter, she now rides dressage at Cricket Hill Farm. Lyla attends Rhinebeck High School where she took art classes in studio art and theater design. Her career goal is to become a bio-mechanic engineer, incorporating creativity into STEM programs. Lyla draws horse cartoons as a hobby, for her (non-published) illustrated novel, Arabian Heart, and for her stable's newspaper, The Saddle Club Gazette. This will be her fifth WEP and she has competed in three LYDF events. She is excited to be sharing her cartooning class with everyone this year!

Lyla's newspaper: http://crickethillfarm.org/news/?page_id=601

Dr. Erin Trawick-Smith

Dr. Trawick-Smith is a lifelong horse lover who started Millington Equine at the end of 2017. She grew up in CT and currently resides in East Haddam with her husband, dog, and three cats. She completed her undergraduate studies at Barnard College in New York, NY and then assisted with research at MIT's Department of Comparative Medicine before attending Tufts Veterinary School. Until starting her own ambulatory-only practice, Dr. Trawick was part of the wonderful team at Salem Valley Veterinary. She has a particular interest in event horses and is slowly trying to become more proficient at dressage herself.

Amanda McAuliffe

Amanda McAuliffe is 18-years-old and is from Tewksbury, NJ. Amanda's partner, Leuns Veld's Duco (Duco), is an 11-year-old, 15-2 Rhineland. Amanda and Duco have been training for the past three years, and together they have been Champions in the Second Level Jr/Yr USDF Year-end awards in 2015, and ranked 8th in the USDF Horse of the Year award, 2015. They were also Champions in the First and Second Level 2015 GAIG Regional Championship in Region 8. This past summer, Amanda and Duco represented Region 1 at the NAJYRC. Their team won the Silver Medal for the FEI Jr Team test, and Amanda and Duco placed 7th in the FEI Jr Freestyle. Finally, Duco and Amanda were ranked 3rd in the Third Level Jr/YR USDF Year-end awards for 2017. Amanda is a senior at Voorhees High School, and she is looking forward to attending the College of the Holy Cross next year.

Vicki Hammers-O'Neil

Vicki is a USDF Certified Instructor Tr-4th levels and an active member of the USDF Instructor Certification Faculty, as well as a USPC National Examiner. As a dressage trainer and instructor, Vicki has been training riders of all ages and levels, in Central Connecticut, as well as teaching clinics throughout the United States for over 30 years. Vicki is a USDF Bronze and Silver medalist, and has won numerous local and regional awards. In the past, Vicki has trained with Kathy Connelly, Lendon Gray, Gunnar Ostergaard, and Pam Goodrich. Currently, she is training with two-time Para-Olympic coach and former USDF chairman, Sharon Schneidman

As one of their most popular speakers for both instructors and youth, Vicki is a familiar face at the D4K Weekend Education Program, and has had several articles published in both Dressage Today and the USDF Connection, as well as being a contributor to the USDF Instructor Education Manuals. For 10 years, Vicki was the Youth Education Coordinator and chef d'equipe for the CDA Youth Teams who had competed successfully at Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival.

Vicki's positive teaching style makes her a popular clinician, writer, lecturer, adult camp instructor, and trainer.

Andrew Beals

Andrew Beals serves as the Technical Manager - Specialty Feeds for Poulin Grain, Newport, Vt. From an early age, Andrew has been involved with horses, sheep and poultry. After receiving his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture at the University of Vermont, (focusing on Nutrition, Economics Plant and Soil Science), Andrew spent 3 years at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. It was his experience there, in charge of breeding and foaling that reinforced the importance of nutrition in equine health. After leaving UVM, Andrew entered the feed industry, first in retail, then purchasing. Today, Andrew spends much of his time, answering questions, providing nutrition seminars and providing nutritional information to livestock owners throughout New England and New York State.

Margaret Freeman

Margaret Freeman is a USEF Senior dressage judge living in Tryon NC. She is the executive secretary of the USDF. She is a free-lance editor and has covered the equestrian events at seven Olympics for the Associated Press. She has been showing dressage for 45 years and judging for 30 years. She is an experienced show organizer, is on the committee of Dressage4Kids, and was on the founding committees of CDCTA (VA) and Dressage at Devon (PA). She has a blog on her judging adventures at www.DressageToday.com.

Bonnie Stetson

Bonnie Stetson is a Licensed Massage Therapist, Equine Massage Therapist and Pony Club graduate A, with a riding background in Dressage and Eventing. In 1986 Bonnie developed Equine Therapeutic Massage for the Performance Horse - The Stetson Method™. She has also combined her riding knowledge with her massage experience and spa training to create Centaured Connection™, an original theory of how we communicate with our horses to create balance and harmony through the Seven Major Ayurvedic Chakras. Bonnie is the Head Trainer and Vice President of the White Horse Community Center in Beaver Meadows, PA where she works with Ann Kennedy, teaching, training and developing equestrian programs for typical and therapeutic riders. She is a co volunteer coordinator with her daughter Sorrel for Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival and is very pleased to present at the Weekend Equestrian Program.

Lendon Gray

Lendon Gray, Bedford, NY, is a lifelong rider who started in western, hunters/jumpers and Pony Club. While in college she trained with the Olympic Three Day team. Lendon became dedicated to Dressage in 1976 and never looked back. She was a member of the 1980 and 1988 Olympic teams and also represented the US in the World Championships, the World Cup as well as other international competitions. She trained and rode many National and Regional Champions through Grand Prix – her best known are the “ponies” Seldom Seen and Last Scene. As an instructor/coach she trained the youngest winner of the North American Young Rider Championships and was instrumental in developing such well-known riders as Chris Hickey, Courtney King, Liz Hendricks, Jessie Rizzi, and Nancy Later. Lendon is very active in equestrian organizations. To name a few of her committees, Lendon has been on the Advisory Board of the USET, the Board of Governors of the USPC, the Dressage Committee and Youth Committee of the USEF, and has been chairman of the Youth Council and Instructor Trainer Council of the USDF. Lendon is currently on The Dressage Foundation’s Board. In recent years she has dedicated herself to teaching and helping others to have opportunities to enjoy Dressage as much as she has. Lendon is the founder of Dressage4Kids, Inc and the highly successful Youth Dressage Festival. She has been honored by the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, USPC Alumni Academy of Achievement, ARIA Master Instructor, Equine Affaire Exceptional Equine Educator, USPC Legend, Sweet Briar College Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2011 she joined Seldom Seen on the USDF Hall of Fame.

Ann Guptill

Ann Guptill is a professional dressage rider, trainer and instructor with her home base of operation at Fox Ledge Farm in East Haddam CT. She works with horses & riders of all levels and enjoys bringing out their best with correct dressage training. Ann competes a variety of breeds and types of horses in dressage. Her career highlights include placing 5th individually at the 1987 Pan American Games and helping secure the Team Silver Medal. In 1992 she competed in the final Dressage Selection Trials for the Olympic Games. In 1991 and 1992 she placed 4th at the US League Finals for the Dressage World Cup. In addition, she has won numerous regional and national titles at all levels of dressage and continues an active competitive career. Ann is a US Dressage Federation Instructor Certification Examiner and a USDF "L" Judges Program Graduate. As a committee member of the USDF, Ann has served as chair of the Certified Instructors Committee, the Test Writing Committee, and the Musical Freestyle Committee. She continues to serve on both the Instructor/Trainer and Freestyle Committees. Ann is also an "A" graduate of the US Pony Club, District Commissioner of the CT Valley PC, member of the USPC Games Committee, previous member of the USPC Dressage Committee and has mentored many young riders in their progress through the Pony Club ratings.

Jamison Wallace

A teacher and trainer for 35+ years, a Centered Riding Instructor & Clinician Level III. Centered Riding has encouraged me to explore the biomechanics of the horse/rider combination to great success. Use of the Alexander Technique, Tai-Chi and a lot of fun with the Sally Swift 4Basics and exercises using exercise balls, trampolines, bridles and lots of other toys helps to bring a great deal of awareness to a rider’s use of body for effective aids. Most frequent comment heard “How come no one ever told/showed me this before?”

Heather Whiles

Heather Whiles graduated from Post University in 2014 with a degree in Equine Business Management and Biology. Currently working full time in research, Heather keeps her foot in the equestrian world by offering freelance riding lessons and training services at her farm in Durham. Heather is a British Horse Society Assistant Instructor and continues to ride and train for the upcoming Eventing season.

Liz Webb

Liz Webb graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with an Associate degree in Equine Studies and the University of Massachusetts with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She has been an Agri-Science teacher at Nonnewaug High School for the past 35 years. She developed the first 2-year Horse Management course in Connecticut 33 years ago at Nonnewaug. Liz is on the Advisory Board for Post University's Equine Studies program as well as the Agri-Science Advisory Committee at Nonnewaug. Recently she earned the title of Adjunct Professor at the University of Connecticut for her high school course. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time at her Pennsylvania farm with her husband and three black Labradors, vegetable and flower gardening and driving her pony, Gryffin.

Kate Wilson

After receiving a Bachelor's of Art degree in Art from Ithaca College in 1995, Kate began her saddlery career with a year-long apprenticeship with a Master Saddler from The Society of Master Saddlers UK at the Albion Saddlemakers' importer/distributor. Kate's saddlery training has also included working with a 13-year veteran instructor from Cordwainer's College in London and with the skilled saddlers at Albion Saddlemakers on at least a half dozen occasions. Kate has attended the Foundations of Saddle Fitting Course in the UK in August 2002 and the Foundations of Saddle Fitting Course in the US in May 2005. Kate received her qualification as an Associate Overseas Qualified Saddle Fitter (QSF) in the UK from The Society of Master Saddlers in August 2006. Kate has participated as an associate lecturer and lead lecturer for The Society of Master Saddlers Foundations of Saddle Fitting US course from 2007 through 2012. Co-owner of Dutchess Bridle & Saddle LLC for the past 18 years, Kate travels through New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania and other neighboring states for on-site saddle fitting. Kate has been a rider for 27 years and owns a handsome Georgian Grande gelding!

Carole Baker

BHSI SM & T, was 'bitten' by the horse bug at an early age! She came to the United States in 1979 from England, where she ran a successful boarding and lesson barn, and trained many students for the British Horse Society and Pony Club examinations. Ms. Baker was a Chief Examiner for the British Horse Society and Pony Club B & H Tests, and an active member of the BHS Examinations Committee, which implemented the internationally-recognized instructor examinations. Since 1984, she has taught in the Post University Equine Program and was Director for the past 17 years, retiring five years ago as the Director Emeritus. Her aim in developing the program was to provide students with the basic tools they need, plus extended study in focus areas, for a successful career in some area of the horse industry or elsewhere. "I encourage them to 'think outside the box' and enhance their degree by taking as many business and other elective courses as they can – they will all be useful in the future in whatever career path they take. Practical experience is very important too – but they should remember that the welfare of horses should always come first and foremost".

Nicole Pascariello

Nicole Pascariello has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Equine Management from Post University with a concentration in hoof trimming. She has worked professionally as a barefoot trimmer for six years with a wide range of clients across CT and into NY. She has spent the past 5 years apprenticing with various horse trainers in CT and currently conducts private lessons/training with an emphasis on improving the intricate and complex communication between horses and humans. She has aided and co-taught in the development of two Post University courses, Equine Communication and Unmounted Horsemanship.

Lucy Courchaine

Lucy Courchaine is a professional dressage rider and manager of the rehabilitation program at Miller & Associates. She has spent her career working and riding in various aspects of the horse industry, with a focus on the development of equine athletes and high performance dressage horses. Her resume includes completing an equine undergraduate degree, MBA from William Woods University and managing world-class show horses for Betsy Steiner Dressage. Lucy has helped to expand the rehabilitation program at Miller & Associates through emphasis on therapeutic exercise and preparing horses to return to a competitive career. Lucy is a USDF Bronze & Silver medalist and proudly sponsored by UVEX Equestrian. She competes her personal dressage horse, Rizzo, at the FEI levels, and teaches all levels of students interested in continuing their own dressage education.

Ann Kennedy

Ann has a MS in Educational Leadership, a BS in Agronomy and Environmental Science and an AS in Equine Science. She is the co-founder and President of the White Horse Community Center, a non-profit equestrian center for typical and therapeutic riders located in Beaver Meadows PA. Ann enjoys schooling and competing in dressage with her Oldenburg, Amsted, aka Puck.

Catherine Eagleston

Catherine graduated from Post University with degrees in Equine Management and Marketing. She is currently a teacher at Post University in the Equine Department and a riding instructor at Oakendale Farm in Harwinton, Connecticut. Catherine has been a professional in the equine industry for over a decade and specializes in stable management, instruction, equine care and sales. She has assisted many clients in locating and purchasing horses that are ideal for their needs. Catherine has also successfully marketed and sold numerous horses.

Margaret Szegvari

Margaret "Muffy" Szegvari has worked in the field of education for over 30 years. For the past two decades she has directed a school-based graduate program for elementary teachers in conjunction with Lesley University in Cambridge, MA while also serving as adjunct faculty for the University. In addition to this work, Muffy runs her own practice as an educational consultant. She holds two graduate degrees from Harvard Graduate School of Education in counseling and school leadership. You can learn more about her at www.szegvariedconsulting.com or www.pikeschool.org/intern.

Dr. Kaela Choquette

Dr. Kaela Choquette founded Willow Lane Equine in 2016, she is a graduate of Tufts University and completed her internship training at New England Equine Practice in NY. Her practice currently offers state-of-the-art diagnostic capabilities as well as general wellness care, chiropractic and acupuncture.

Ev Brown

Lead presenter- Ev Brown, Regional Supervisor of NYUC and District Commissioner of Shetucket Valley Pony Club, assisted by several pony club members. <https://newyorkupperct.ponyclub.org>

Liz Caron

Liz has been riding for over 25 years. She started riding at 5 and was mainly interested in jumping as a young kid. She joined the local pony club and continued Eventing through high school when she moved to a dressage barn with an indoor to keep riding through the winter. Liz soon learned that dressage was fascinating to her and decided to focus only on dressage. Liz is now an FEI trainer, and loves working with young horses.

Sarah Geikie

Sarah has been a life-long equestrian. She started riding at 8 years old. Her initial focus as a young rider and teenager was hunt seat. She received instruction and competed in the equitation and hunter divisions. Also as a youth, Sarah was very active in the Lakeville Pony Club. She participated in all pony club activities, and earned her USPC B rating. Due to college, she was not able to go on and test for her A rating.

Today, Sarah is a sought-after instructor and clinician. She has a full schedule of students and horses that she works with in Connecticut. In addition, she gives clinics across the country. Sarah has been fortunate to be able to work with many top dressage professionals in the world. Some of the people that she has worked with include Willi Schulteis, Rudolph Zeilinger, Walter Christensen, Louis Nathorst, Heiki Kemmer. Sarah currently trains with Kathy Connelly on a regular basis.

Sarah is based out of Hanover Farm in Marlborough, Connecticut. She also teaches at Connecticut Equestrian Center in Coventry, CT. Sarah is an FEI**** (C) Dressage Judge, a USEF (S) Dressage Judge, and a USDF Examiner and Faculty member.

Guillermo R. Risatti MV, MS, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Head of Diagnostic Testing Service Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL), Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR), University of Connecticut