

July 27, 2018

I am Anna King, a 14 year old from Grass Lake MI. I recently, applied was awarded the Lendon Grey scholarship to assist me financially with participating in the Scott Hassler Horsemanship Clinic. This clinic was held July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 27, 2018 in Chesapeake City Maryland.

Although I had spent only five days in Maryland I had learned an extensive amount. During this Dressage4Kids clinic we were able to use Riveredge Farms amazing stables and arena along with much more. My days began around 6:00AM and lasted until 7:00PM. Everyone who participated in the clinic worked out every morning at 7:00AM. After our morning fitness, we were able to watch lessons, take notes and or prepare for our rides. Every day we participated in a lecture on a horse topic and were able to ask questions and discuss the topic.

There were many approaches to different weaknesses in each horse that I was able to learn which was amazing. One major point that stuck out to me the most, was when Michael Barisone spoke about 5 'Ds'. Determination, drive, dedication, discipline, and deliberate. It was explained that if you have these qualities it is what can get you to your goals in the horse world, to be the best horseman you can be. It isn't about having the money to purchase the amazing horse, groom, and trainers. It is simply about continuing even at the hardest times in your career.

Something else that I took away from the Scott Hassler Horsemanship Clinic is when I had my lesson with Ali Brock. I was working with my horse RF Cameron Velvet who we call Cheddar. In his half pass I would either over use my aid to where he would go completely against it or not have the right positioning. We started working in the walk with haunches in on the long side and then straight multiple times. I then went to the diagonal and did this exercise. When you do haunches in on the diagonal it is a half pass, but just a different way to think about it. I then completed this exercise in both the trot and the canter. After completing this exercise, I was able to execute the trot and canter work from the FEI Juniors test accurately. I thought this was a great way to approach the half pass work. I truly believe this will help me more than this one time, I will use it in the future and when I work with other horses.

Scott Hassler spoke with the group about horsemanship which really hit home to me. He spoke about how patience is a large key when working with a horse. When you or your horse makes a mistake you simply pretend it didn't happen, think of what you will change to have success the second time, and execute the movement again.

The Dressage4Kids Scott Hassler Horsemanship Clinic was a big learning experience for Cheddar and I. I truly am thankful for the opportunity that I was given with the ability to attend the clinic. This was all made possible due to the financial support from the Lendon Grey Scholarship.