

To Whom It May Concern,

WIT 2023 was a unique and very special year full of new experiences. One of the most memorable slogans for our year was “to be a duck.” By this Lendon meant do not make it apparent how hard you are working during your ride. Ducks legs paddling hard in the water are hidden under a relaxed duck above the surface. We all really enjoyed this quote and it can be shown by all the under level riders! Another thing that Lendon said that stuck with me personally was “it’s just a stupid schooling show.” This may not be a problem for all but for myself I struggle a lot with show nerves. I have to remind myself that the show ring changes nothing other than the clothes I wear. When I came home I got comments like “you got taller” and “did your shoulders get broader?” I would reply, no everytime I would slouch, Lendon would ask either “Are you a dressage rider” or “Are you doing everything you can to be the best, then sit up straight.” These three things are very easy and important things anyone can do to help make small improvements in their riding. WIT 2023 taught me to relax and ride the waves as they come and go. We had an amazing group!

Your Fellow 23’ Wittee,  
Emily Keithley