



---

## In this Newsletter

- Calendar
- Lendon's Tips
- Olivia Venturi Scholarship Report
- In Memory of Bill Hamilton
- The Dressage Foundation's Young Rider International Dream Program
- D4K Merchandise
- Are You Ready for Winter?

Scroll down to continue reading

---



Hope everyone had a spooktacular Halloween!

---

## Dressage4Kids Calendar

<https://dressage4kids.org/news-events/event-calendar.html>

---

## Lendon's Tips

I always loved the end of show season. This is the best time to take a moment and truly analyze your learning and your training. Are you progressing? Are there some holes in your position or understanding of your use of your body and your aids? Are there holes in your horse's training? Are you getting enough of the proper instruction? Does your instructor know your goals and concerns? Take some moments now to truly analyze your riding, your horse's care and maintenance, and your learning. And make the winter months count!

---

## **Olivia Venturi - From Ponies to Competing in the IDA (Intercollegiate Dressage Association) and IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association)**

For about 10 years, out of the 13 I have been riding, I have ridden other people's horses. Whether it be school ponies, trainer's horses, or client's horses, I rode them, no matter their experience, background, or breeding I was always willing and eager to feel a new

horse and see what they could teach me.

The first 8 years of my riding I learned on school horses/ponies. Everyday with those animals was an adventure. From fighting to get the 11.2 hand pony in the wash rack to learning how to land on my feet when I inevitably fell off (at least once every few weeks), I was always learning and growing into the horse woman I am today. Sitting on the ground with arena dirt in my pants and tears in my eyes, I couldn't have imagined having appreciation for the little pony that just dumped me because it saw a strip of light. But here I am anyway, thanking and fondly looking back on all the horses I have ever been allowed to ride.

I was lucky enough to get the experience of owning my horse for a few years before we had to unfortunately retire him. After owning him, I went on to become a working student which I can say has been one of the best experiences I have had in the horse world. My time as a working student was so unbelievably fun and educational. I feel, especially in the horse world, that your success is often based on the monetary value of your horse, your tack, or the biggest shows you have been to. You must have the most accomplished and famous trainers and win every show you go to. Putting a surface value on such a beautiful and unique sport takes away the real reason we ride horses...Because we love it!! I personally feel the most accomplished when I ride a horse that isn't perfect, a horse that isn't going to just give it to you easily. Working hard for your success is more than just spending your money, you must fail to learn and failure comes from imperfection.

This appreciation that I have is something I have gained over many many years. I have matured into this idea and only recently have been able to appreciate a good "problem horse". I have been lucky enough to have ridden very nice and expensive horses and ridden with some amazing trainers. I have also ridden horses that you might think should never step foot in a dressage arena. Either horse, I learned a great amount on and can take what I learned from them to the next horse I am blessed to ride.

Getting a scholarship from Dressage 4 Kids was an amazing gift. I attend Radford University and was able to join and compete on their IDA and IHSA teams. The appeal of IDA and IHSA is the spontaneity and uncertainty. Once you arrive at the show with your team, you draw from a pool of horses and are randomly assigned a horse you must ride. At IDA you get 10 minutes of warm up with your horse but at IHSA, you just hop on and go. Some horses are amazing, others take a little getting used to, you really don't know what you will get. I love this idea of showing because I believe it really tests the ability of the rider, not how nice your horse is or how well your trainer can ride it for you.

I hope everyone can come to gain the outlook I have developed over the years and appreciate the horses, and situations that aren't perfect. I started riding when I was 5 years old. I am 18 now and can't wait to see where my journey through the horse world will take me and the infinite knowledge I hope to gain.

---

### **In Memory of Bill Hamilton**

Bill Hamilton left us way to soon. From his work as a fashion designer for the likes of Jackie Onassis, Lady Bird Johnson, and Jessye Norman, to his generosity to Dressage4Kids as a host of TEAM clinics, as a judge at Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival, and as a sponsor of the Kross Creek Farm Team Competition, he will always be remembered for his warm smile, charismatic personality, and willingness to help. His family has chosen to remember him with a scholarship in his name for youth riders through Dressage4Kids. To make a donation, go to <https://dressage4kids.org/donate/bill-hamilton-memorial-fund-donations.html>.



---

## The Dressage Foundation's Young Rider International Dream Program

March 1-6, 2022  
Wellington, Florida

*TDF's Young Rider International Dream Program is a GO for 2022!*

Have you ever dreamed of going to Wellington? Have you wondered what it would be like to see the best-of-the-best of American (and international) dressage?

With the uncertainty of the continuing global pandemic, TDF is excited to announce the Young Rider International Dream Program will now be held in Wellington, Florida, instead of Aachen, Germany. This new program will allow young riders to still experience top international dressage, just closer to home!

[Click here to read more.](#)

Applications are due November 29, 2021.

---

## Dressage4Kids Merchandise

Are you looking for a special gift for a rider you know? Check out our Dressage4Kids Jackets and Sweatshirts available for purchase:

<https://dressage4kids.org/d4k-store/>



<https://dressage4kids.org/d4k-store/>

---

## Are You Ready for Winter?

Get Barns and Stables Ready for Winter

Some advance preparation for winter can help you and your horses seamlessly weather the storms. By Nancy S. Loving, DVM

[Stable Management.com](#)

Preventive Care  
Barns and Stabling  
Water Supply  
Blankets  
Hay and Feed Supplements  
Farrier and Hoof Care

[Click here to read the article.](#)

---

### About Dressage4Kids

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated for the express purpose of providing educational and competitive opportunities for youth riders and the adults who support them.

<https://dressage4kids.org>

[Check out our videos on YouTube](#)

---

Dressage4Kids | [d4k.org@gmail.com](mailto:d4k.org@gmail.com) | [dressage4kids.org](https://dressage4kids.org)

See what's happening on our social sites:

