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25 Trophies Are Still OUT!

All who received a trophy at the 2013 RMDS Awards Banquet, please be advised that these awards **MUST** be returned to either the Central Office or the Awards Banquet.

Because of damage to trophies occurring to those that have been mailed, the RMDS Board has directed Awards Chair Shannon Lemons to require that all trophies must be awarded and returned in person; no longer will RMDS mail them to winners or accept trophy returns by mail, effective immediately. Contact Shannon at 719-661-3189 or lemons_shannon@yahoo.com with questions.

Call for Committee Chairs

The seats coming up for election in November are: Adult Amateur, Awards, Communications, Education, Junior/Young Riders, Marketing, RMDS Show Liaison & Scholarship.

A little-known benefit of being a member of the RMDS Executive Committee (officers, chairs and chapter presidents) is that your cost for RMDS sponsored educational events is discounted by 50%!

Contact [Michelle Anderson](#), 2014 Nominating Committee Chair, for more info!

Thank You to All of Our 2014 Championships Sponsors

RMDS Championships depends on sponsors and advertisers to assist in defraying the cost of mounting our annual celebration.

Your support is MUCH appreciated. PLEASE check the website for a list of all of our sponsors, and look for the printed list in the November Centaur.

Scholarship Applicants Need Volunteer Hours in 2014

There are only a few more opportunities to volunteer before the application deadline Nov. 30 for 2014 RMDS scholarships available for adult amateurs, instructor/professionals and junior/young riders. Entries must include verification for 8 hours of volunteer time in 2014.

More details on entry requirements in November or contact Scholarship Committee Chair MaryJo Hoepner at scholarship@rmds.org.

Members

Oct 15 - RMDS will begin accepting 2015 dues - \$60 until Jan 1, then \$65.

[Click for Membership](#)

Calendar

See the upcoming USEF/RMDS Show Schedule, clinics, schooling shows and events.

[Click for Calendar](#)

Chapters

RMDS has 12 chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region. Check for changed days/times/places of meetings! If you would like to change your chapter affiliation you must personally notify the central office in [writing](#).

[Click for Chapters](#)

USDF Region 5

Click [HERE](#) for latest report from Heather Petersen, USDF Region 5 Director.

For the latest updates and current Region 5 news. [Click for Region 5](#)

Marketplace

Our Marketplace advertisers support RMDS while promoting their businesses.

[Click for our advertisers](#)

Classified Ads

Clearing out your tack room? List your items in our classifieds, or see what is for sale.

[Click for Classifieds](#)

Advertise with us

RMDS has many print, show season, championship and online advertising opportunities to reach your targeted equine market.

[Click for Ad info](#)

Facebook

RMDS and many of our chapters are on Facebook, like our page to keep up with us.

[Like us here](#)



Congratulations Foothills Chapter Champs

Sarah Bielefeld (L), 14, tied for third place in RMDS Training Level JR/YR Championship. Lexy Donaldson (R), 17, wins RMDS Third Level JR/YR Reserve Champion and USDF Champion at Third Level. Read their story.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Fall Colors

The show season is behind us but we still have a full schedule of educational [events](#). Plan ahead and try to attend the events and take advantage of some excellent chances to learn more about the wonderful sport of dressage.

The RMDS and Region 5 Championships were very successful. Competitors and judges enjoyed all we had to offer. Our management team, Two White Feet, kept everything flowing. The volunteers were outstanding. Beth Geier kept everyone informed of tasks and had all the positions filled as we needed. Susan Gregg as always had the ribbons ironed and ready for presentation. Simone Windeler added elegance and her outstanding hospitality to the scene.

Sharon Soos kept the RMDS table supplied and the silent auction running smoothly. Scoring ran efficiently and of course Heather Petersen and Jon Haugen were on top of all the activities and show needs. Joe Coleman kept the grounds in order and ran to the rescue many times each day. Nicole Donahue did rounds every day for 14-plus hours so the stabling ran smoothly.

Larry Tobias and Tina Wright kept parking and VS checks flowing. Shannon Lemons, DVM, was available on the fly as the grounds veterinarian.

The core staff was wonderful in every way. RMDS Board members were available to fill needs every day, but it was the large number of members who kept us going and filled the open positions needed to run the show.

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR SHOW A GRAND SUCCESS.

In October the Executive Board will meet to put together a budget for the BOG meeting. We will be working to maintain costs while keeping quality as an important standard of operation. If you have suggestions talk with your Chapter President and ask him or her to bring your ideas to the Board meeting. The Board works for the members so your ideas matter.

Our **BOG** and [Awards Banquet](#) are coming up on Nov. 15. I hope to see you there. Let's celebrate with our friends and family.

Enjoying the changing colors of the season as well as the cool air.
Aloha, Gwen Ka'awaloa

*"Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance you must keep moving."
Albert Einstein*

Thank Your 2014 Sponsors!

One of the most generous contributions you can make to someone is to just say "thank you." Recognizing someone for their effort, their time, their money, is a gesture from the heart.

To all of our members, and especially to everyone who competed at this year's Championships, please make a special effort to thank someone who sponsored a class, placed an advertisement, or otherwise contributed to the success of 2014 RMDS Championships.

Review the Show Program, and make a note of who stepped up to help you out. Go eat lunch at one of our food sponsors, tell them thanks! Check out the advertisers, maybe give them a call and find out more about them. Use your Facebook page to recognize them.

The November Centaur will have a list of all the sponsors, advertisers and volunteers. Don't ever miss the chance to be grateful -- for you and your horse.

Teens' Work and Grit Earn Championship Ribbons



Lexy Donaldson, trainer Susie Primgaard, and Sarah Bielefeld
Photo by Paul Donaldson

It is the journey, they say, that is most important. But when it starts for two Colorado teenagers and ends in RMDS Championship wins, well, the destination is pretty rewarding, too.

At the recommendation of Foothills Chapter Scholarship Chair CC Ross, and with an aye vote from attending members and Board, JR/Young Riders Sarah Bielefeld, 14, and Lexy Donaldson, 17, both of Littleton, CO., and Elizabeth Cotton of Conifer, CO., were awarded \$100 chapter

scholarships in April. They planned to use the money for horse show fees.

With qualifying scores this season, they all rode in championship classes in September and were winners. Sarah tied for third place in RMDS Training Level JR/YR Championship. Lexy was RMDS Third Level JR/YR Reserve Champion and USDF Champion at Third Level. "Lizzy" Cotton won first place in Dressage Seat Equitation, was USDF JR/YR Training Level Champion and RMDS YR Training Level Reserve Champion. Here are Sarah's and Lexy's stories about their journeys.

Sarah Bielefeld, Hobbes Soar In Her First Dressage Year

By Sarah Bielefeld

Editor's Note: Sarah is a 9th grader at D'Evelyn Junior/Senior High School where she is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Red Rocks Youth Group. She uses babysitting money and is a working student at her barn for her horse expenses. She would like to attend University of California at Davis to become an equine veterinarian.



I was one of the lucky winners of the Foothills Chapter Scholarship. This is my first year showing dressage (I had been riding hunters) and my handsome mount is a 25-year-old Holsteiner/Thoroughbred cross named "My Tuition" or Hobbes. I needed some help with the financial end of showing and this scholarship was able to give me that assistance.

I used the scholarship towards my first show at Autumn Hill Dressage Festival in June. I could not have asked for a better way to start my season! Hobbes and I ended up winning first place in all of our Test 1 and 3 Training Level classes and we won Junior High Point both days we showed. I also showed at Fountain Valley School in July and Hobbes and I did very well. We headed to championships and are using those scores to help towards RMDS Training Level Horse of the Year.

I want to thank CC Ross for encouraging me to apply for the scholarship. Also a big thank you goes out to Elaine Lunney. She is the owner of "My Tuition" and I don't know where I would be without her help and advice in this full lease. Additionally, thank you to my parents for supporting me and never giving up on horseback riding! Thank you, Foothills Chapter, and I encourage juniors to apply for these scholarships.

What does the future look like? I could never imagine my life without horses! This year has been my first year showing dressage and I love everything about it! The show atmosphere is so amazing and the connection you feel with your horse when in a test is like no other feeling in the world. I want to grow up to be one of those riders still competing when they are 60. My goals are to keep competing and ride for as long as I can. Any blue ribbons that I receive along the way are icing on the cake!

My parents, Jenny and Walter Bielefeld, are enjoying the journey, too. "We moved to Colorado eight years ago and signed Sarah up for 'Picnic with the Ponies' and that started her love affair with horses. Her hard work training and riding dressage over the last two years has impressed the entire family, especially at her events." The best part is seeing the joy and happiness riding brings to Sarah," they said.

Lexy Donaldson, King Justice Set, Reach Ever-Higher Goals

By Lexy Donaldson

Editor's Note: Lexy has attended Valor Christian High School and is an online junior year student at the University of Nebraska, and plays soccer. She also babysits and cleans stalls to help with horse costs. A goal is to train with Carl Hester in Gloucester, Great Britain, through Grand Prix and join the U.S. Olympic Team, shooting for a gold medal. She also would like to attend college in Gloucester.



I think riding is like flying around the world. You take off, there are bumps along the way, then you land in different destinations.

I have been competing since 2010. I bought my horse King Justice in 2011, not knowing he would take me as far as I am today. Justice, a Trakhner/Arab Cross, and I are RMDS 2011 First Level Junior Grand Champions, RMDS 2012 Second Level Junior Grand Champions, Horse of the Year for Second Level Juniors, and at year-end awards, we placed fifth in the Open category for Second Level, and third in the open category for Second Level

freestyle.

The reason I applied for this scholarship was because I wanted to continue my journey with Justice, and financially I needed a little help. He has brought me incredible success, and has accomplished more than anyone thought he could. This year, I hope he is named RMDS Third Level JR/YR Horse of the Year.

This scholarship has helped me be able to continue that show journey on to Third Level. A big thank you to CC Ross for recommending me for the scholarship. I can't thank you enough! Also, thank you to Susi Primgaard for all the training she has given me; it has been incredible. As well as a thank you to my parents for the support they've given me throughout the years. Thank you to everyone for everything!

My parents have encouraged my efforts, too. "It has been said that the difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination. We are so proud of Lexy's extraordinary determination, as well as her courage, dedication and willingness to sacrifice the little things in life for what is worthwhile," said Paul and Jenny Donaldson. "She has demonstrated remarkable faith in herself, her horse Justice and her trainer Susanne Primgaard. We are so blessed to have witnessed her extraordinary and inspiring journey and very grateful to everyone in the riding community that has supported Lexy over the last four years."

JR/YR Inga Fuengerlings Adds Skills Working with Canadian Evi Strasser



Former RMDS JR/YR champion Inga Fuengerlings of Calhan, CO., is now the working student for international rider Evi Strasser in Quebec, Canada. Inga will go to Florida in December when Evi goes there to train. Milo will be shipping from Colorado to Florida in December with the possibility of showing on the winter Florida circuit.

Inga and Milo are pictured at 2011 RMDS championships where they were the Jr/YR champion at Second Level with a score of 62.976%. Inga was Third Level reserve champion in 2012 with 64.808%. Photo by Valeska Davis.

They met this year at the CDI in Estes Park, CO., and talked again when they were at the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships in Kentucky in July, when Evi was there with her daughter Tanya and Inga was a Region 5 team member. The offer to go to Canada as a working student came shortly thereafter and Inga left for Canada on Aug. 11. Inga is a member of the RMDS Colorado Springs Chapter. In March, Evi and Rigaudon Tyme won the Intermediaire I Freestyle at the 2014 Palm Beach Dressage Derby, a CDI-W held in Wellington, Fla.

Horse Park Open to Events For At Least 2 Years

Helen Kriebel, Colorado Horse Park founder and president, is retiring Jan. 1. While she has offered her 150-acre world-class equestrian center for sale, she has said her intentions are to not sell it for two years and events are scheduled there into 2015.

Anyone with ideas, connections or a bit of energy to share with others interested in keeping CHP open to equestrian events can join the Facebook Page, "Save Our Horse Park" and/or email Kris Garrett of Parker, CO., at KriswithaKamera@gmail.com.

There is a meeting Wednesday at 7:30 PM, Oct. 1, at the Colorado Horse Park meeting space (off Pinery Park). Open to all who are interested in helping.