

GREAT LAKES DRESSAGE CLUB NEWS LETTER
OCTOBER 2008

November 10th's meeting will be at Charlie's Restaurant on Airport Highway in Swanton. It will start at 7pm. If you plan on having dinner please come early. Nomination sheets for officers are attached or will be on the website. We will vote on the new officers. Please attend if you can.

Great Lakes Dressage Club

Request for Nominations for 2009 Officers

Great Lakes Dressage Club is seeking nominations for all offices except Vice President. You may nominate yourself or another member - with their approval. Once nominations are received, a ballot will be developed and voting will occur at the November 10th meeting.

Please submit your nominations to Barbara Gunning by Friday, October 31. You may submit your nominations by email, telephone or mail. Barbara's contact information is:

Email - bgunning@toast2.net

Telephone – 419-877-2542

Mail – 11250 Birch Pointe Dr

Whitehouse, OH 43571

Nominations for:

President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Trustees (2) _____

Sunday, October 5, 2008 Trails for Triumph hosted by the Great Lakes Dressage Club

Well, quite a day of fun, joy, challenges, beautiful weather and good people sharing experiences for a great cause. Our friend, Bruce Slusher was a masterful MC, who shared his own personal cancer experience with us as he spent the morning next to the corral providing commentary on the day's events. I really thank Bruce for sharing his time and talents and being a part of our fundraiser. If you get the time, send him a note of thanks. Giving of yourself to help in a charitable cause is noble.

Now, I will do my best to remember everyone. Of course I may leave someone's name out and whoever that may be, please accept my sincere apologies and know that your help is and was appreciated very, very, very much!!!

Diane Krajicek, Sharon Weber, Rosie Shine, Crystal Young all pitched in the night before and during the next day and I can't thank them enough. The obstacle course that Diane and Sharon set up was a very popular piece that was added to our fundraiser. People brought their horses through the challenges, some with amazing results. I just loved the woman who took her baby horse with her on the course.

Cheryl Johnson and Kim Andrews judged the favorite event among the horses, the challenging Horsie Apple Bobbing. I did not meet this horse, but I think it was a Friesian named Itsy who charged up to the bucket, put his head in and came up with an apple in record time! Just a normal day like any other in the life of that horse. Too cute!

Rosie Shine brought over tables from her church the night before, was the first volunteer on the scene the day of and stayed late to 'guard' the lunches. Thank you Rosie!

Martha Preckler was our photographer, working the crowd all day, on the move to get the best pictures possible from the participants and members who were present. Thank you Martha.

Thank you Pam Shipley and Cindy Fisher for helping out on the obstacle course,

Dawn Wagstaff and Missy Maziotti for running the registration booth, Lori Schroeder, her husband Gary and friend Phyllis Cowan for marking trails with Barb Gunning, manning the dedication board and decorating the front sign. Thank you Karen Miller for helping out with the judging and ribbon awards. Thank you Judy Finkel for doing such a great job of customizing the ribbons.

Thank you Tammy Hand, Diane Riley, Kim Andrews, Rosie Shine, Diane Krajicek, Mary Goldy, Bonnie Borgerson and everyone else who donated prizes.

Thank you Wendy O'Desky-Reichel for donating oodles and oodles of great bag stuffing items to give to the participants in our 2nd goodie bag! They were great!

And lastly, thanks to everyone who donated (Ruth Walsh, your donation and note was uplifting, Gay Gay your check was wonderful), volunteered, made prizes, bought items from Wyldeewood.....whoops, stop right there. What can I say about the dedication to the cause from the owners of the Wyldeewood Tack Shop. Jennifer and Edgar, aren't they just great! Where could we find people so committed to joining us in this fight against cancer. So noble a cause. They donated tons of prizes, had a raffle on two beautiful bags, and are donating money besides. Please, when you buy Christmas presents this year, go there!! We are so indebted as a club to them as they participate in other club activities as well.

Clarence and his wife Cathy were the caterer's and made those great cookies as well as the chicken salad croissants, yum!

Did everyone see the cape that Mary Green made and how she decorated her horse? Mary is a survivor and has come to all of the fundraisers. She puts a lot of thought and time into designing the costume that she and her horse will wear. This year Mary made a quilt-cape for herself. Each piece was a different color and bore the name of a different cancer. Her horse had all the colors of her cape as feathers in his mane. Wow....all the colors of cancer...colors I hope that all of you will never experience. Mary was also our biggest sponsor dollar contributor. She is amazing! If you see her, tell her so.

Sarah Thiery and Nicole Elias, from Evergreen Stables came with, I think, 8 of their riders, each of them had a pink long sleeved shirt on that said 'I'm doing my bit to

fight cancer' on the front and on the back was 'Trails for Triumph' 2008. Sarah also donated as a prize 3 free months use of her arena....wow. Also, Sarah told me that if our group members would like to order these shirts, to get back to her this fall/winter and let her know the number. My husband, Fred, has ordered one for me; I will bring it to the meeting and show it around.

Now as for me, as you all know I am passionate about 3 things, my husband, my horses and fighting cancer. I know how it can change your life and your outlook on life. I know how rough it can be on your family, friends and yourself. I know how scary some of the moments along the way can be. And...I know how you can find the strength to look it in the eye and say, not me and not now! I don't want anyone else that I know to have to go through this. Having said that, I hope you will want to repeat our fundraiser next year, and the next and the next until we no longer have to.

Happy and Healthy Trails to all.

Postscript: After the fundraiser was over, I went in for testing. It was determined that my cancer had returned and had spread to several sites. I am still being tested to determine exactly what kind it is so that the best treatment methods can be proposed. It is not my intention to have our fundraiser 'a memorial ride' so...Fred and I are charging most positively ahead to face whatever is thrown at us. I intend to compete next summer with my beautiful horse Dino, and the summer after that. I hope that all of you do as well. Let's all go ride! Life does not end with a diagnosis.