

Welcome Spring!

Dear Friends,

What unusual winter weather we had all over the country. Mark and I hope you wintered it well! For us in Florida it was warmer than we have ever experienced. The northern horses thought it was like summer at home. We used more fly spray in a season than we have used ever before. The up side was that the flowers throughout Florida were spectacular all winter! We enjoyed them.

[The Florida Dressage Experience Program](#) was busy and kept Ida running until late April this year. Participant Deb Nutt from Oklahoma stayed 2 months this year and had a great go showing in Florida. Deb had trained and shown her last mount to third level .She has been bringing along her currant horse Dream Catcher with Ida's help . Her gelding Dream Catcher is a striking chestnut with flashy white stockings and a lot of ring presence.

In her first competition in Florida, first time showing in a double bridle and first time showing at Fourth level they gained one of the coveted sixty percents needed to achieve the USDF Silver medal. A grand start! Deb reports that they will continue with more fourth level competing in Oklahoma this season.

Erika Wollfe and her gelding Rob Roy finished out the season to the last day with Ida at [FDEP](#). Erika flew back and forth from Massachusetts all season to study at school with Ida and finish up her senior year at High School. She and Rob made great strides and will be showing and continuing their progress this coming season!

Heidi Venuti of New Hampshire, Amanda Smith of New Sharon, Me , Deb Tyler and Diane Fietti of Vermont all spent some time at the end of the season with Ida in Florida at FDEP. What fun to see so many New Englanders!

As many of you know Knowlton Corner Farms in Farmington Me experienced a tragic fire in December after our horses had headed out for Florida. They are still in the process of recovering. Our hearts are with them. For this season Amanda Smith , Winterberry Farm, New Sharon has extended a warm welcome to us on our return to Maine. Our horses have settled in nicely and have begun work.

Winterberry Farm, New Sharon is located on a picturesque country road with a good outdoor fenced arena , excellent drainage and wonderful hacking to cool out your horse after work sessions. Ida is offering a ½ price lesson sale in May and June for those who wish to haul- in to Winterberry Farm for lessons.

The full-scale judging season begins now and Ida's calendar is bulging with interesting places to judge and do clinics. She starts off with young horse qualifiers competition in Colorado this weekend.

For those of you who ask about Elton... check our site ["What's Up with Elton?"](#) He has had a great winter and has lots of stories to tell!

For those of you who Long line Ida has another shipment of surcingles from Sweden. They are the same wonderful high quality leather with many ways to attach the lines . Best of all there is no price increase! The surcingles are great for lunging too! They adapt to be put on a yearling colt or extend over your saddle . They couldn't be more convenient and sturdy. Ida also has new whips that are light weight so you can avoid hand and arm fatigue.. the whips are \$50.00 plus shipping. It has now been possible for the first time to get extra sets of leather reins for the long lining so those are also available for purchase.(just the leather long lines \$120.00 plus shipping). To see : [Surcingles](#).

Happy Spring and Happy Mother's Day to you all! We hope to see you or hear from you soon!

Ida and Mark