

## May Newsletter

Dear Friends!

Daily I am riding a number of horses in training and all my wonderful Maine clients have called to begin their lessons locally. Fortunately I have several interesting horses available for lessons and in addition, have been flexible enough to be able to travel to others farms some to teach. This allows me to service a lot more people and with the chancy weather has worked well. Call me if you need help! I'll look forward to seeing you!

What a busy and exciting transition it has been to get back to New England ! Weather throughout the country has been "odd and difficult" this spring. Maine has not had it as difficult as other areas but it has been unusually wet and cold. Just this past week we had a rainy with a high of 50 degrees and with wind chill it was a lot less. The winter riding gear has all been in use. Elton has been livelier than I have ever seen him ! He is still wearing his rain/wind sheet. The up side is that the flowers trees and grass have all bloomed slowly and we have enjoyed daffodils, tulips and spring flowers longer than usual. Lilacs and apple blossoms are just coming on for Memorial Day.

Last week I was off to Dallas to judge for the Dallas Dressage Club. The organizers and staff did a great job. The cool weather inspired the horses to be active! It was great to work with judges Marianne Ludwig and Marilyn Kulifay. TD Susan Howard did a great job. It is always fun to judge all over as conditions are so different . For us here in the East thinking about warming up and riding in a rodeo arena seems like the lap of luxury!

Speaking of Texas, Sandra Lindenburg (one of our 2011 Florida Dressage Experience Program trainers) called to say that following her training in our program in Florida she has been out showing with her gelding Nashville and has successfully moved him up to Prix St. Georges. She has garnered one of the coveted scores at Prix. St. Georges necessary toward the USDF Silver medal and is working on the other. Making the jump into FEI level for a rider is a milestone ! Good Job!

Erin Van Steenberg and Kristi Haines ( 20011 Florida Dressage Experience Program Trainer) of Furnace Brook Farm In Marshfield Ma. Reported back that following my April 30 clinic they all have hit the dressage showing circuit and have been having a good start! Congratulations!

The Saddle Doctor Gary Severson swung through Maine in the middle of the month and Elton has developed and changed so much in his his muscling and work that Gary changed his saddle even though he had done it in February for me in Florida. I was relieved he was coming as I knew the saddle had been slipping forward for a bit and had been relying on the Equi-gel pad to do its job. Gary said it had as his back was great but it was a relief to get the saddle fitted. In addition, Dentist Steve Scotia has been by and removed Elton's wolf teeth . He should be ready for anything now!

This weekend I am off to Saratoga Springs, NY to judge the dressage show there with a host of others. It will be spring like and is always a full show with a lots of notables. On the way home I will drive cross country though upstate Vermont and visit Deb Tyler , Elton's breeder and home farm Tylord Farm in Benson. It is always like visiting a chocolate shop drooling over the quality her young Trakehers. Quality gaits and smart! Wow!

If you haven't been reading it the neat "newer" magazine Topline Ink ( Equestrian Journal) [www.toplineink.com](http://www.toplineink.com) is a really good technical magazine. I read it cover to cover including the ads and there are many articles I assign the Florida Dressage Experience Program participants to read. You can see it on line *or I much prefer a hard copy subscription*... It is a great magazine. Have a look for yourself! I am currently writing a column for them ... "From this Point of View".

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Weekend!

*Iida and Mark*