

Barb Moss USDF "L" Judge – Dressage Fest at Equine Line, July 18 & 19, 2009

Entry closing date: July 7, 2009

I have loved horses from early childhood when I first saw them in a picture book! :) Growing up in an inner city, my only request for my July birthday each year was "Could I ride a horse somewhere?" My Dad did his best to make that happen. At 7 years old, I rode from the base to the top of Boyne Mountain! When we would pull into a riding stable, I would envy the workers who got to lead horses to water, brush them, saddle them, etc. I was lifted on and off, but treasured each moment I could stroke and pat the horse I sat on.

At 13, I first saw dressage in Disney's "Miracle of the White Stallions." I cried from the overwhelming beauty of the horses, in synchrony, half-passing across the arena to March Militaire. I still dream of riding a Kur to that music! When I was 14, my Dad fulfilled my heart's passion by getting me my first horse - Jimmy. I owned Jim for the next 16 years. He was my dearest friend and such a strength to my identity through my teen years. I begin riding Jim western, then bareback for the next several years and finally tried English.



I was always asking, "What else can I do with my horse?" -- until I began dressage! I started dressage lessons on Shiloh - my precious TB cross from Oklahoma. Shiloh was never bred to do dressage, but what a star he was! Over several years, we moved from knowing nothing to giving a decent performance at Third Level. Dressage always presents more to learn and achieve. It is a lifetime pursuit and fulfills my passion!

In 1994, my husband, Bill, and I began Shiloh Training Center in Howell, MI. We offer beginning dressage lessons. The students get to brush, lead, halter, clean feet, learn to tack up -- all the things I remember I envied as a child going to the riding stables. Our students don't miss out on anything. They can try Western, English, bareback. When the students are learning to post the trot, trot bareback, or first feeling a canter, I remember just what that felt like for me! The thrill of the experience is felt in me over and over as it happens for our students.



In the years from 1995 - 2001, my husband and I bred our premium Holsteiner mare four times, and have enjoyed raising, training and showing these youngsters. I showed Kingdom Glory to Third Level before a suspensory injury ended her career. Now I am training Mahalo and we hope to show soon! :)

I completed the USDF "L" Judge training program in 2003. I was very hungry for the education of this program, but never had any idea of how deeply I would LOVE to judge schooling shows!! I love to encourage the riders, compliment what is good and guide them in what they need to work on for improvement. I love the challenge of the analysis and the goal of making the horse's life better by educating the rider. I believe that true horse lovers want to become kinder riding partners for their generous horses, and that is what dressage is all about.

We are seeking harmony, understanding, relaxation, beauty in becoming one together. Dressage teaches us how to do that! We learn to dance together in love! How blessed we are who have the privilege of riding horses in dressage!! :)