

May 14th, 2017

CDS

Thank you so much for the sponsorship to ride in the Hilda Gurney AA clinic at W farms.

Dressage is not an easy sport, but when you get to work with a master, some of the challenges become a little clearer.

The weekend was filled with great people and horses all at various levels of development.

The art of dressage is not something that is easily achieved for many. It takes the right horse and the right rider and the right instruction at the right time. I have struggled with that combination for years, but feel like I am finally starting to make some progress. Hilda's no nonsense approach is on target.

Working with Hilda and the supportive group was great fun. Each of us learning from the other was a highlight.

Prior to attending the clinic, I was kidding around at my barn and started writing down words to describe dressage on a dry erase board. On the first day I wrote four words: Time, Money, Commitment, and Discipline. (This likely represented me getting a little tired of getting up at 5 am trying to take my lessons before my workday multiple times per week) On the second day, I thought I'd better soften my list and I wrote Friends & Fun.

After attending the clinic, I feel I can add these descriptors to the list: Support, Challenge.... Reward, Disappointment, Humility, Grace, Beauty..... Art & Athleticism...and last of all.....Journey.

If you ride dressage, you know the journey. Some may quit, some may try harder. I'm glad to say, I'll keep on keeping on and mark my increments of progress with small moments of excellence.

With Gratitude,

*Sara Devine Stiglich*

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