

## **HDS Junior Board President - Allison Cyprus at the Robert Dover Horse Mastership Clinic 2016**

I, Allie Cyprus, have just returned from Wellington, FL where I trained and attended the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Robert Dover Horse Mastership Clinic. I spent the first eight days training with Pam Goodrich thanks to a D4K scholarship.

For all of you that don't know Lendon Gray's D4K offers scholarships to youth all throughout the year for training and education. Check out her website. My horse, Madoc Gareth, and I have progressed in our training. We have been playing with the Grand Prix movements off and on for the past year. This was a chance to do some intensive training to confirm the one tempis (which is challenging because I am trying to teach them to my horse as I am just learning them myself) and continue learning how to teach Gary piaffe and passage. I also had the great privilege to take three lessons on one of Pam's Grand Prix school masters, Zoomie. This was so helpful in feeling what a trained Grand Prix horse was supposed to feel like. After 8 days at Pam's, Gary and I moved over to the global equestrian facility where the Robert Dover Horse Mastership Clinic took place.

This clinic is by invitation only where 18 riders and 6 auditors are selected based off of their national show record, or if they are a part of the EDAP (Emerging Dressage Athlete Program) they can be selected from the yearly EDAP clinics taught by Lendon Gray. This was my 4<sup>th</sup> year to attend this clinic. It is five days of intensive training with some of the top professional riders/trainers in the US including George Williams, Robert Dover, Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, Laura Graves and Steffen Peters. The riders are expected to be up at the barn by 6:15 to do morning chores. Then, we have an hour long intense workout session. After that, the rides begin. Each rider will work with two different instructors and have a total of four lessons. This year I rode with George Williams and Steffen Peters. They were fabulous!!! Once all the lessons are over, the riders and auditors gather together for an assortment of lectures and we had a tour of Oded Shimoni's Farm as well. These educational sessions were very informative and inspiring for everyone attending! A few highlights from this year were a special showing of 15 horse and rider combinations including Adrienne Lyle, Laura Graves, Jan Ebeling, Tuny Page, and Catherine Haddad to name a few.

They each had 15 minutes in the stadium at night under the lights to school whatever they chose. Some ran through a freestyle, others just schooled pieces of tests, and Catherine Haddad wowed everyone by demonstrating how unphased her horse, Hotmail, was to ride on a tarp, with umbrellas in the arena, and she even did some of the grand prix movements one handed! It was so amazing to be up close and see the caliber of the horses at that level. We also had a lovely barbeque at Devon Kane's Farm where we could socialize with all the new friends we'd made.

It was an honor to be chosen again. For me, it jump starts my training for the new show season- really lights a fire under me to shoot for the stars!