

GVDS 2024 Horseman of The Year

Once a teacher, always a teacher, that's what our Horseman of the Year believes and demonstrates in her service to GVDS and other organizations. As a retired kindergarten teacher, she just can't help herself.

You would recognize this person frequently as a warm-up steward, not only performing the duty herself, but helping newer stewards and newer exhibitors understand the nuances of dressage. She freely shares her lifelong knowledge of the sport with anyone who looks like they might need some extra guidance. She taught the warm-up and show ring show portions of last year's Dressage for Newbies, guiding the attendees through how to manage the warm-up ring and proper show ring etiquette.

This year she put her teacher's hat back on while helping with the Youth Camp. As was described, this person 'ruled' the second day of camp, teaching parts of the horse, colors, and markings as well as the very important medical things like vital signs, detecting lameness and organizing an emergency medical kit. She even brought her two champion horses to share so every child had a suitable horse to practice taking vital signs with.

This individual is also an active volunteer at Wind Walkers Equine Riding Center and the organizer of Pyro's Trail Run, a non-profit fundraising event in honor of her son which provides scholarships to aviation students.

I am honored to award the GVDS 2024 Horseman of the Year to Donna DuBois. Sadly, Donna was injured by a horse on Thursday while volunteering and had to have surgery so she couldn't be here with us tonight. Please send her good thoughts for healing quickly. Congratulations, Donna.