



The Riding Centre News

THE RIDING CENTRE • 1117 E. HYDE RD., YELLOW SPRINGS, OH 45387 • WWW.RIDINGCENTRE.ORG • SPRING 2011

Adriene at home, in the saddle

By Marsha Casdorff

Do you know Adriene Kramer? Adriene is truly home grown, having been born and raised in Yellow Springs and starting at the Riding Centre at the tender age of eight. From an auspicious start as a beginner student, she went on to teach riding lessons at the Centre by the age of 16. Carolyn Bailey remembers her as one of those riding students who was a natural: "Adriene always listened better and tried harder. That made it easy for me to find ways to use her strong desire to be around horses by letting her help train green horses, helping with lessons, and eventually teaching her own classes."

Adriene eventually found herself back home at the Riding Centre

Adriene knew she wanted to pursue horses as a career. For her, there was no choice but to find a university with a strong equine studies program. She found that in Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Through this nationally known equine studies program, she was exposed to top dressage and eventing clinicians, which fueled her passion for horses even more. While in college, she began amassing practical experience working as a groom for a top-level Canadian dressage rider at the Pan-American Games. In 1999, with a bachelors degree in Equine Business Management/Riding in hand, she got a job working for an international-level event rider. In 2001, she switched gears and went to work at a dude ranch out west, where she was a wrangler for three seasons, rounding out her experience with different Western riding disciplines, riding hundreds of horses, and teaching riding to guests of all different riding levels. Working at the ranch also changed her life in other important ways, too. At the ranch, she was introduced to



Then: 11-year old Adriene Kramer at the Riding Centre, honing her riding skills on Jimmy...



...and now: Adriene Kramer, one of only six certified Centered Riding instructors in Ohio, riding Georgia at the Riding Centre.

Centered Riding[®], and she met her future husband, Jeff. Centered Riding inspired her to become a thoughtful riding teacher with a thirst for knowledge to help her students progress. Jeff has been her partner and support through all her endeavors.

In 2005, Adriene eventually found herself back home at the Riding Centre once again, this time with a horse (Georgia), a dog (Sadie), a cat (Punky), and a husband (yes, that would be Jeff!) in tow. She is one of only six certified Centered Riding instructors in Ohio, and in 2010, she took the step to become a Level II ARIA (American Riding Instructors Association) certified riding instructor in both dressage and eventing. Through her expertise and varied knowledge, Adriene has become an indispensable part of the Riding Centre's lesson program as assistant riding instructor. When Carolyn is asked about working with Adriene, she is quick to respond: "Having Adriene back at the Centre as

She is one of only six certified Centered Riding instructors in Ohio

a co-worker and friend is a thrill for me. Knowing that she shares similar views on how horses should be ridden and loved is a comfort to me. Students at the Centre are lucky to benefit from her instruction, and we are grateful for her hard work and dedication." Carolyn greatly values Adriene's calm approach to teaching and her considerable skill as a rider, both of which are enormous assets to the Riding Centre.

When asked to talk about herself, Adriene is modest, almost to a fault. When the Riding Centre comes up, she warms to the subject immediately: "The Riding Centre has helped to instill a great work ethic in me. I see how hard everyone here works. Horses don't take any days off; they need

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Adriene at home

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care every day." She adds, "Carolyn has been a mentor and role model to me since I started riding. She has a great ability to treat everyone with incredible kindness, yet is a strong leader who can bring the best out of anyone." About the atmosphere at the Riding Centre: "I love that the Riding Centre doesn't have egos and, like Yellow Springs, is a little more understated. We do things well but are not fancy. Our strength is in our emphasis on safety and fun, not showing and competing, which can be really expensive. The Riding Centre has always been a place I have been proud to come from, just like Yellow Springs."

Over the years, many riding students have passed through the Riding Centre on their journey seeking an understanding of horses. Some students briefly enjoy the benefits, moving on to other pursuits as their lives change. Rarely, a student becomes transformed by the experience, and life must include horses. Adriene Kramer is one of those rare students who discovered a passion for horses at a young age at the Riding Centre and has gone on to make horses not only her passion but her life's work.

To learn more about Adriene's teaching philosophy, visit her website at www.adrienekramer.com. 🐾

The Riding Centre

Staff Members:

Carolyn Bailey,

Manager and Head Instructor

Carly Bailey, Marsha Casdorff,
Greg Fry, Yana Garing, Jody Garrett,
Ona Harshaw, Adriene Kramer,
Janetta Lewis, Grace McCoskey,
Emily Moore

Board of Directors:

Janetta Lewis, *President*
Jim Nealon, *Vice President*
Marsha Casdorff, *Secretary*
Charlene Carlson, Vikki Hazelbaker,
Sylvia Ellison, Regan Parker

Newsletter:

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The Return of the Ride-A-Thon



After a one year hiatus, the Riding Centre's Ride-A-Thon was back! This week-long event is our students' favorite time of the year as they get to show off their skills performing a surprisingly difficult obstacle course. Riders gather

sponsors who donate an amount per obstacle completed. This has become one of our most successful fundraisers thanks to our many enthusiastic riders and their families. We want to thank the following participants:

Willow Anderson
Maddy & Olivia Combs
Gabrielle Edwards
Abby Graver
Kayla Helmick
Molly Hendrickson
Jaden Johnson
Alex Kearns

Eliana Ling
Jaden Mahle
Evan Martin
Ally McCue
Harper & Windom
Mesure
McKenna Moore
Anna Mullin

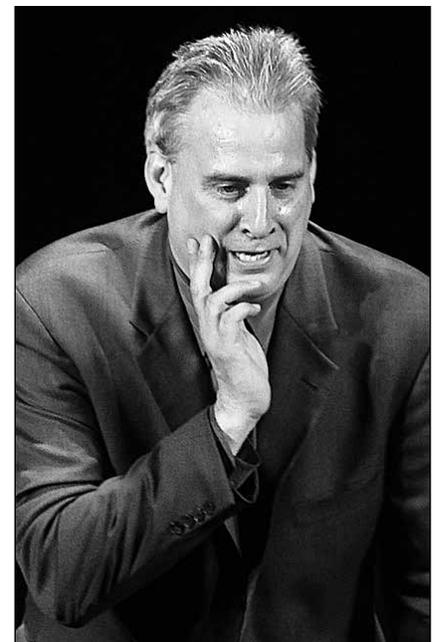
Hillary & Kaitlyn Quast
Joel Shaffer
Maritza Slattery
Holly Smith
Lizzie Stoermer
Beck Wagner
Stephanie Welch
Anna Williamson

Fool me twice: OperaCadabra 2011

Since 2002, David Williamson, local magician and friend of the Riding Centre (you may know him as "Bucket Man"), has five times produced and starred in a variety show called OperaCadabra at the Cedarville Opera House as a fundraiser for the Opera House and the Riding Centre. He has gotten a little help from friends who cannot turn down the opportunity to perform in a historic venue like the Opera House. Previous artists have included Mac King, John Carney, Dr. X, Mr. Mysto, John Ekin, Bill Herz, Mike Caveney, Tina Lennert, Rob Torres, Tim Wright, Charlie Fry and Company, the Corn Daddies, Ben Williamson, and Whitney Soares.

Since its beginning, OperaCadabra has raised thousands of dollars for very worthy causes and has brought affordable family-friendly entertainment to the Miami Valley. If you have not been to an OperaCadabra show, don't despair. David is producing another one for 2011!

Mark your calendars. Saturday, April 2, OperaCadabra, featuring David Williamson, David Kaplan, and the music of Ben Williamson and Whitney Soares,



David Williamson and friends dazzled audiences at last year's OperaCadabra benefit show at the Cedarville Opera House.

Photo courtesy of Susan Gartner.

will dazzle, amaze, and keep you laughing and tapping your toes! For more information about showtimes and tickets, visit www.operacadabra.org.

Raising Funds, having fun

Thank You to the Fun-d-Raisers

Every year, the Riding Centre's volunteers, staff and supporters give generously of their time and money to keep our success story alive and growing. 2010 was no exception.

This year was highlighted by the hysterical magic of **David Williamson** in **OperaCadabra**. Along with his friends **Charlie Frye & Co.**, they had the audience rolling in the aisles and gasping with amazement. **Ben Williamson** (David & Marsha's son) and **Whitney Soares** delighted everyone with wonderful folk music. In case you were unlucky enough to miss it, another **OperaCadabra** will be offered this year on April 2. Mark your calendar and contact any board member to buy ad space in the program.

Elaine Meredith Steele donated her delightful enthusiasm and extensive knowledge to give a spring and fall Centered Riding Clinic. **Adriene Kramer** joined **Marsha Casdorff** to help organize the clinics, and **Mark French** donated frequent flier miles to help with transportation costs. All involved gained a lot from the experience.

The spring and fall Dressage shows went on without a hitch thanks to the expert planning of **Charleen Carlson**. **Marsha Casdorff** filled in for Charleen to run the fall show.

Carolyn Bailey put on a flawless spring Hunter show. **Jim Nealon** donated his expertise as a judge, and countless other volunteers painted jumps, set up arenas, scribed, announced and performed many more tasks to make all the Riding Centre shows a big success.

Everyone loves to shop at our **used tack sale** during the spring shows. Mar-

sha Casdorff and **Susie Nickels** organized it this year.

After taking a year off for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, the **Ride-a-Thon** was up and running again with **Carolyn Bailey at the helm**. Always a great fundraiser, the students have a lot of fun, and it expands awareness of the Riding Centre.

A special Thank You goes out to **Carolyn** for the countless hours she contributes above and beyond her duties. She always hand writes a heartfelt thank you note to everyone who contributes to the Riding Centre. So, Carolyn, this one's for you!

David Williamson is our new web master. He's spent many hours rejuvenating the web site and bringing it up to date. It looks great! Check it out at www.ridingcentre.org. **Jim Nealon designed and sent post cards** to everyone on our newly formed database so all the Riding Centre's friends can keep in touch through our web site.

Many thanks to **Vikki Hazelbaker** (grant writer extraordinaire), **Janetta Lewis, Carolyn Bailey, and Gail and Joe Deering** for keeping our grant support alive. We are blessed with many foundations who believe in our mission. **The Dayton Foundation, The Springfield Foundation, The Springfield Rotary Club, The Della Selsor Trust and United Way through The Yellow Springs Community Council** have been loyal supporters for many years. **Liberty Mutual Insurance** and **The Morgan Family Foundation** have also joined the family to keep the Riding Centre thriving.

Finally, it goes without saying that a huge amount of gratitude goes to **Glen Helen** for the beautiful land we call home. 🐾

Our List of Contributors...

...and how you can join it!

- Adopt a Horse (yearly)\$1200
- Adopt a Dog (yearly)\$50
- Adopt a Cat (yearly)\$35

Donate towards:

- Endowment, Buildings,
- Special Projects,
- General Fund.....(Any amount)

Become a Member

- Lifetime\$500
- Corporate (yearly)\$1000
- Blue Ribbon (yearly)\$100
- Supporting (yearly)\$25

Riding:

- Family (yearly)\$100
- Individual (yearly)\$75

Special thanks to:

Brad Luckenbill, Ralph Jones, and Allen Metz who keep our horses up and running. Also, **Cedarville University** for providing volunteers for our therapeutic program. Without these folks we could not do such wonderful work.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS:

Lifetime Members

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mary Agna | Sara & Yana Garing |
| Jessica L. Andrews | Charlotte Jarrett & Family |
| Adrian & Joysan Edwards | Tanya Maus & James Luckett |
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| Adriene Kramer | Birch Robinson-Hubbuch & Jocelyn Robinson |
| Nina Myatt | Alma Shipley |
| Ann Taylor | Lizzie & Melinda Stoermer |
| Jean McCally Tebay | |
| Timothy W. Toothman | |

Contributing Members

Blue Ribbon:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Kaethi Seidl & Regina, Francesca & Bob Brecha | Individual: |
| Jean & James Nealon | Annette Biehler |
| Cindy Minton & Steve Piatt | Jenna Boettcher |
| Jenifer Cowperthwaite | Lynn Caldwell |
| Ruka & Raymond Ruka | Candy Carlson |
| Sandy Love & Sam Young | Ann Cooper |
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| | Susie Nickels |
| | Jill O'Banion |
| | Celeste Robinson |
| | Jyl Snyder |
| | Carol VanAusdal |
| | Stephanie Williamson |
| | Diane Wilson |

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- Dr. Gordon
- Cowperthwaite

Rider Members

Family:

- Missy & Brian Anderson
- Carly, Carolyn & Chris Bailey
- Anna Williamson & Marsha Casdorff
- Nora & Patty Erhardt

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

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- | | |
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| Cooper Security Systems | Montgomery Insurance & Investments |
| Current Cuisine | Mr. Fubb's Party |
| | Ocean Marketing |

LIST CONTINUES ON PAGE FOUR

Did You Re-Member?

Have you renewed your membership for 2011?

For insurance purposes, no one outside the lesson program is allowed to ride on Riding Centre property unless they are a current member. This includes guests. A guest membership can

be purchased for \$10 a day.

Riding Centre property includes the McCally Barn and arena, the hunt field, the woods beside the hunt field and the commons area. **A helmet must be worn at all times while mounted on Riding Centre property.**

Salty, We Miss You



Carolyn Bailey with Salty

We lost one of our best school horses in 2010, with the passing of Salty. He was donated to the Riding Centre in 2002, having belonged to one of our former boarders, Sam Kreidenweis, and he served beginner and therapeutic students alike with his steady gaits and willingness to work.

He was especially loved by children,

who always delighted in his sometimes cantankerous but always gentle demeanor. Salty always led the way, whether in the outdoor arena or on the trail, even though he was probably around 30 years old at the time of his passing, as best Carolyn can guess. He was greatly loved and is sorely missed—he was one of a kind.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 2	OperaCadabra magically reappears, twice in two years!
17	Peggy Brown Clinic
May 7-8	Centered Riding Clinic
June 4	Dressage Show
5	Hunter Show
September 10	Dressage Show
11	Hunter Show
October 22-23	Centered Riding Clinic
December 4	Riding Centre Assoc. Members' Meeting & Potluck

For Dayton Local Show Circuit dates, call the Riding Centre at (937) 767-9087

THE RIDING CENTRE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

Yellow Springs Community Council, United Way, Glen Helen Ecology Institute, Springfield Foundation, Dayton Foundation, Springfield Rotary Club, Morgan Family Foundation, and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation



OUR CONTRIBUTORS

(continued from Page 3)

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- Anna Williamson
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- Marsha Casdorff & David Williamson
- Wayne Wilson
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