



## GDCTA Kudzu Klinics

### November Kudzu Clinic: Dressage Suzanne Dansby-Phelps at Panther Brook Farm

We were very honored to have **Suzanne Dansby-Phelps** as the volunteer trainer for GDCTA's November Kudzu Clinic.



Suzanne has had a very successful career as an FEI rider/trainer. She went to Germany this summer as an alternate rider for the US Dressage Team at the World Equestrian Games. Suzanne is an ardent supporter of the sport. She has recently made a very generous financial

contribution to the capital campaign for the USDF National Education Center, and also to GDCTA. On top of all this, Suzanne is just simply a very nice person. She definitely believes in giving back to the sport of dressage that has given her so much joy.

Another person who believes in giving back is **Kathy Norton**. She donated the use of her gorgeous **Panther Brook Farm** in Moreland, Georgia for the November 5<sup>th</sup> Kudzu Clinic. You'll notice her other contributions to dressage and GDCTA highlighted in this newsletter issue.

Suzanne taught fourteen students at the Kudzu Clinic with many auditors gleaning information from the sidelines. She kindly wrote these comments giving her perspective on the clinic:

*"Overall, I was quite pleased with the results of the lessons. The students all worked really hard! Some even admitted they were a little nervous when I noticed they were not breathing or had tension in their joints. I was able to put them at ease with some techniques such as counting out loud and helping them to be aware, and to relax certain parts of their bodies."*

*"The most common challenge was to instill confidence in the riders to ride their horses more "forward" with impulsion. As soon as the riders rode their horses with more impulsion, they were able to improve other things such as riding their horses with more straightness, and more on the bit. They seemed to have a lot more fun once they got their horses going, too!"*

Suzanne's comments on having an appropriate horse:

*"Two junior rider students both rode a school horse provided by their trainer. The horse turned out to be a*

*perfect "match" for the students. This wonderful horse is well-trained, quiet, and forgiving. He exemplifies the qualities of an ideal schoolmaster for young or green students. It is imperative for trainers or riding schools to provide such types of horses to help make the experience of their students positive and fun."*

*"And, if you can find such a type of horse for yourself, get it! You can not trade having a good-natured, forgiving and experienced mount for all of the tea in China! My first real schoolmaster dressage horse, Mountain Dancer, was sixteen years old! I rode him until he was 22 years old. He now has a plaque in his memory on the wall of a room at the new USDF Headquarters and Educational Center."*

Suzanne recently had the honor of being one of only four riders invited to participate in a special dressage competition at the Washington International Horse Show held at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. It the largest and most prestigious indoor jumper show in the country. She gave us this report on it:

*"The Dressage Invitational was held for the first time last year at the Washington International Horse Show. Cooper and I were one of the pairs invited this year! It was a wonderful experience in an electric atmosphere, and the show managers were incredible...they had to close off several streets for stabling, farriers, and warm-up...yes, people were warming up their horses for their classes in the streets of downtown Washington, D.C.! The veterinary check for the CSIO also took place in the outdoor warm-up area. There was excellent fencing and security guards everywhere! ON the night of the freestyle, the stands were filled with over 10,000 spectators. The puissance (jumping competition over huge 6'-7' walls) took place later that evening, too."*

**Thank you again, Suzanne and Kathy for  
making our November Kudzu Clinic  
so enjoyable and successful !!!**

For more information on Suzanne's career, visit her web site: [www.dhfdressage.com](http://www.dhfdressage.com). You can also visit Panther Brook Farm's website at: [www.pantherbrookfarms.com](http://www.pantherbrookfarms.com).

---- Marjorie Hicks , GDCTA Kudzu Clinic Coordinator

At a nominal fee of \$25 for dressage Klinics and \$15 for jumping Klinics, GDCTA members who are lower level riders can take advantage of high quality, correct, professional training at very affordable prices!

Keep your eye out for upcoming Kudzu Clinic announcements in the GDCTA newsletter, calendar and website. To receive e-mail announcements of Kudzu Klinics and other GDCTA events, sign up for the *GDCTAnews* at the bottom of the home page on the website [www.gdcta.org](http://www.gdcta.org). Or contact, Marjorie Hicks at 770-704-0081. And don't miss the fun!