

The Virginia Dressage Association & Stave Mill Farm are excited to announce an auditor-friendly symposium with George Williams and Bill Warren. The symposium, Discover Your Potential by Building a Strong Foundation (exercises to help you maximize your horse's performance whether riding before a judge or the mirror) will be at Stave Mill Farm in Esmont VA on June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

We will have 8 demonstration riders each day. In addition, we will have several time periods set aside each day so that the clinicians can answer questions from the auditors. We are also planning on holding additional, unmounted educational activities over the course of the symposium. These are still being developed but one is likely to be a "yoga for riders" session focusing on stretches to enhance a rider's flexibility, with the second session focusing on a presentation from a vet on a topic of general interest to the entire audience.

While there are many educational opportunities in Virginia, most are geared to riders and not auditors. In addition, clinics with "big-name trainers" are generally quite expensive. This symposium is targeted to both riders and auditors, with not just one but two top-notch clinicians, who both complement each other and bring different perspectives to their instruction. Both are FEI riders, both train riders at all levels, one is a National Level Coach and the other an FEI Judge. Together we believe they will be a dynamic duo and will provide valuable instruction to both riders and auditors.

This symposium will provide a meaningful educational opportunity to all our members whatever their level, at a very moderate price. One unique aspect of this symposium is that it is geared to both riders who show and those who simply want to advance their horse's training, even if they have no interest in competing. It is designed to help all horses, riders and auditors reach their full potential, even if they are not mounted on the biggest, fanciest mover.

Between the two of them, our clinicians wear every possible hat imaginable – trainer, FEI and international level competitor, National Level Coach and FEI judge. Working as a team, they will bring a wide range of perspectives to the symposium, being able to speak to the attendees as a rider, trainer, coach and judge, which will result in a very rich learning experience.

**George Williams** is a US National Coach, international competitor, and highly sought-after instructor. A prominent figure in international dressage competition, George's career highlights with Chuck and Joann Smith's grand prix mare, Rocher include an unprecedented three-time Dressage at Devon Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle winner and United States Dressage Federation Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle Horse of the Year.

George has been a serious student of dressage since 1973 when at 18 years old he traveled to Germany to study at the Reitinstitut von Neindorff where he earned his German Bronze Rider Medal. He then became a resident trainer and rider alongside Karl Mikolka at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois. After 20 years, he left to join Gypsy Woods Farm and trained in Germany with the former US Dressage team coach and Olympic gold medalist, Klaus Balkenhol. In 2015 he was named to the position of Dressage National Youth Coach by the United States Equestrian Federation.

**William Warren** is an FEI 4\* and USEF "S" Judge, FEI Competitor and instructor. Bill currently trains and teaches out of Elmwood Equestrian Center in Mansfield, MA where he and Bill McMullin operate Warren-McMullin Dressage. As a USEF 'S', FEI 4\* Judge, and USDF Gold Medalist, Bill judges and teaches clinics all over the United States. He also maintains an active show schedule and has accumulated many regional and national awards.

Rider applications are being accepted until April 1<sup>st</sup> and can be found at <http://www.virginiadressage.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VADA-2020-Symposium-rider-application42166.pdf>

Auditor registration will be available after April 1 and the sign-up form will be posted at [virginiadressage.org](http://virginiadressage.org). Auditing will be \$25 a day for VADA Members (\$40 for non-members) and will include all unmounted educational sessions, lunch, snacks and drinks.