



Morgan Dressage Association 2016 Scholarship Awards



Each year the Morgan Dressage Association awards scholarships with the objectives of promoting Morgans in dressage and assisting MDA members in advancing in the sport of dressage. We are delighted to announce the four winners of scholarships for calendar year 2016:

**MONICA HAMMOND (FOX BRUSH CUSTOM DESIGN)
KING SCRUB, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA
AA, TRAINING/FIRST LEVEL**

Monica Hammond is our first international winner of a Morgan Dressage Association scholarship. Fascinated with Morgans from the age of five, she now — forty-five years later!—owns two Morgan two-year-olds, and has a free lease and the ride on Fox Brush Custom Design (Funquest Erick x Bowood Elusiv Dream GCH). After a great beginning in Endurance Trail, Monica has switched “Rikki” to dressage and is working with Ron Paterson, who trained with Franz Mairinger, Willi Schulteis, and others.



Monica’s goals include showing the Australian public that a Morgan can do anything, to advance up the levels, and to eventually earn a Bronze Medallion from the AMHA. In addition, she wants to be able to apply her new knowledge and experience to the training of her young geldings as they come along. To help her on the way, she plans to use the scholarship money for additional lessons with Paterson so that she can consolidate her skills more efficiently. The scholarship will pay for six to seven extra lessons (depending on the currency exchange rate).

Congratulations, Monica!

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94XHxkaajI8&feature=youtu.be>



**CLAIR MANRING (UR MISS MISSOURI)
ALBANY, MISSOURI
JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER, TRAINING/FIRST LEVEL**

Clair Manring is 12 years old and has a Morgan pony, UR Miss Missouri (UR Excellency x UR Moore Darling). “Missy” is nine years old, and Claire has had her for less than a year. As Clair says in her application, “In one month of training with my instructor, Scot Fernandez, she progressed from not being ridden at all, to being ridden at the walk and trot. She will go over ground poles, hack out, and is learning to pick up the canter.”

Clair lives on a farm, and to get her first pony her parents told her she had to save \$800.00. It took her nine months of painting pumpkins to sell, auctioning unused toys on eBay, and mowing lawns. When she met her money goal, her parents helped with building a barn, putting up a fence, and buying tack. Missy came to her through her instructor and has great potential for dressage.

Clair and Missy are active in Pony Club, and her goals include getting her D3 certification. The scholarship will enable her to pay for ten extra lessons so she can move ahead into Training Level, and obtain the USDF certificate of accomplishment at that level during this calendar year.

We are very pleased to award this scholarship to such a motivated and energetic applicant.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zceg62IO14w>



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**RENEÉ SURPRENANT (TOUCH OF RUM)
ASHFORD, CONNECTICUT
PROFESSIONAL, FOURTH/FEI**

Reneé Surprenant is relatively new to Morgans and fell into the breed by chance. She was offered the ride on Touch of Rum (CN The Commanding Touch x Rum Brook Immortal Allure), a 14.1 hand mare, while recuperating from a serious riding accident three years ago. “Prin” was eager, willing to please, and most importantly, safe. She is now Reneé’s primary riding and competition horse.



Reneé has been a serious dressage rider for 30 years. During that time she has earned her Bronze and Silver medals with a home-trained horse. She is schooling Prin at Prix St. Georges and showing her at Fourth Level. Prin has received a number of awards from AMHA and MDA for her accomplishments.

Reneé’s goal for 2017 is to move Prin up to showing at PSG in May, and continue to show at that level through the year. To do this, she will be using her scholarship for lessons and clinics to consolidate the skills and fitness necessary to show at FEI.

Wishing you all the best for the season, Reneé!

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LOAwfsG4hA&feature=youtu.be>



**ANNELIESE ELKA WOODS (WINDFIELD FAIRY DUST)
CONVENTRY, CONNECTICUT
JUNIOR/YOUTH, TRAINING/FIRST LEVEL**

Anneliese Woods is 12 years old, and has had her horse Windfield Fairy Dust (Equinox Ray of Light x Lakota Moonshot) since she was 8. She is part of Lendon Gray’s “Emerging Dressage Athlete” program, and lessons with Lendon once a month, as well as training consistently with GP rider Elizabeth Caron.

Anneliese feels her biggest challenge in riding dressage is the effort to train a green horse when she herself is still green. They have made great progress, and are able to show at Training Level, but she is working towards showing at recog-

nized shows at First Level in 2017.

The scholarship will pay for six extra lessons and almost a seventh, and that’s where she is planning to spend the money. By keeping a riding journal she hopes to be able to share her excitement and reflect on her progress throughout the year.

We’re looking forward to reading your reports, Anneliese! Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncx9t_ruOE4