

SPORTHORSE HANDLING CLINIC WITH CHRISTINE SMITH JUNE 28, 2025

DETAILS COMING SOON!

AT Kalie Beckers Dressage, Folsom LA

CHRISTINE SMITH

USDF Certified Clinician for in-hand showing

Member, USDF Sport Horse Committee. Educates breeders, owners, handlers, trainers, and judges about the ideals of dressage sport horse prospects and breeding stock. Encourages the efforts of USDF member breeders in producing the highest quality dressage sport horses. Provides dressage sport horse competition management, owners, and breeders with competition guidelines and opportunities. Nurtures and develops future generations for the dressage sport horse breeding industry.



Join SEDA for a Sporthorse handling clinic. Whether you bring your own prospect to handle or simply come to audit, there is a wealth of knowledge to be learned from Christine. She is a passionate and engaging clinician who delights in sharing her knowledge of breeding, handling and showing Sporthorses in hand.

Handling sessions run approximately half an hour. Handling/auditing fee includes a light lunch and a Q & A session with the clinician.

HELLO! My name is Christine Smith

Good training starts on the ground! My grandmother told me when I was young, “whatever you want to do in life, prepare yourself, so when opportunities arise you’re in the position to take them”.

I am the owner and operator of Wildest Expectations Farm. A 20 acre breeding farm based in Frederick County, VA. I have also been a professional handler since 1997.

Leading up to that; I worked at a Country Inn in New Hampshire running a riding program, a cattle ranch in Texas halter breaking show cattle and starting young quarter horses under saddle, was a groom and post parade warm up rider at a race track in Massachusetts, Started young racing thoroughbreds at a breeding/training farm in Maryland, Shipped horses by air in the mid 1980’s, was a flight attendant for 33 years and in 2022 returned to flying horses in my retirement. I live with my husband Bill Weinell who, is “crazy good” with the babies and Dakotah Troxler who rides our horses and is doing our handling at the farm and shows. Karen Williams trains and rides for the farm (Karen started out as a feed kid whom I mentored). Our Breeding program is now in its fifth generation, and we are very proud of our new generation of foals. I breed Selle Francais, Oldenburgs, and Danish Warmbloods, breeds that I have had the opportunity to work with many breeds as a handler at breed shows and inspections. I enjoy handling foals and have to breed our mares to some top stallions including Cabaret from Hilltop Farm and From Oak Hill Ranch Solos Landtinus, Don Caruso, and Ripline (whom I had shown as a 6-month old at his inspection in Folsom, LA and was able to watch him grow up as well as handle some of his offspring).

My in hand show career started in 1995, handling Harricot Du Glenn, my first foal from the first mare I owned. While still a novice, I jumped in with both feet. Not only did I go to my first breed show, but I even went to Dressage at Devon. I had gone to three dressage shows that year and one hunter breed show. I started watching other handlers and learning as much as I could, as fast as I could. I took two clinics with Bob Orton who was very generous with his time and encouraged me to go pro. That’s when I realized this could be a real profession. It combined my running background (high school track) with horses! By the time my second year of showing in hand rolled around, I had learned a ton and I took a 6-month old filly into an amateur handler class at DAD against 38 mature horses winning that class!

Handling young horses became my niche as I began to expand my business handling other people’s horses. I was a top US handler (2 time Handler of the Year at DAD), a coach and mentor, and a breeder of champion Selle Francais, Oldenburg, and Danish Warmblood sport horses. I have been active in clinics at Dressage at Devon in PA, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, New Jersey, and California. I am now also a member of the USDF SportHorse Committee. My passion now is sharing ground skills knowledge and show experience with other horse enthusiasts.

My philosophy is that behavior is more important than any of the points or ribbons earned. We breed performance horses not in hand horses. In hand gives the horses show experience before they are under saddle in the environment. How they behave in a show, especially the younger horses, is more important than winning, even though I love to win!