

**PVDA: MEET THE MEMBER: BETH COLLIER**

"Horses are...something to dream about...and to wish for; fun to watch...and to make friends with; nice to pat...and great to hug;..." from "Happy Horsemanship" by Dorothy Henderson Pinch

**I was born:** March 20, In the Year Of The Tiger in Syracuse, NY

**I married:** Burt Collier May 27, 1989

**I graduated from college:** In 1983 from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a BA degree in French Literature and Art History.

**Current Full-Time Occupation:** Archives Manager, St. Mary's County Government, Maryland

**First Dressage Show:** Full Of Bull placed fifth in a Training Level class in 1986. I was judged by Doris Ferris. (She smoked while she judged)

**Equestrian Disciplines:** Dressage, Hunter, Horse Trials, Hunter Pace, Combined Training, Foxhunting

**Horse I Rode The Longest:** For 20+ years I rode schoolhorse Leonardo, who retired with private owner Judy Rand--at the end of May 2010 he was put down at age 30+.

**PVDA Membership:**

2009 - PVDA Honor Awards: Chairman's Award for contributions to the newsletter

2007 – Volunteered for the PVDA Media Relations Committee

2007 - PVDA Southern Maryland Chapter Exalt Farm High Point Trophy for scores earned at chapter schooling shows riding Prince Of Thieves, owned by Equilibrium Horse Center.

2002 – PVDA "Behind The Scenes" award

1993 and 1997 – Awarded training scholarships by PVDA based on volunteer contributions.

1992 – 1999 – Volunteer for the US League Final to decide who would represent the US at the FEI World Cup Dressage Final. The US League Final was held during the Washington International Horse Show at its old location the Capital Centre, Landover, MD.

1988 – First year I joined PVDA

**Favorite Contribution To PVDA:** For the PVDA Dinner when George Williams was the guest speaker I had a cake made with a photo of his Grand Prix horse Rocher.

**Worst Weather I Ever Competed In:** Besides being rained on several times outdoors, I was riding a

dressage test in an indoor arena and looked out the door and it was snowing!

**Dressage Teams:** Southern Maryland Chapter Team at the PVDA Chapter Challenge, Equilibrium Horse Center Team at the 2002 USDF Region 1 Adult Team Competition where I was sponsored by The Equiery magazine.

**Dressage Scoreboard I Asked To Take Home:** The one that showed I scored over 70%.

**Grand Prix Horse I Would Like To Ride:** Moorland Totilas, currently ridden by Edward Gal (Netherlands)

**Grand Prix Horse I Did Get To Ride:** Houdini, owned and trained by Kathi Harjess, Equilibrium Horse Center

**First Dressage Rider Autograph:** Robert Dover, 1995 World Cup Final

**Latest Dressage Rider Autograph:** Edward Gal, 2009 European Dressage Championship

**Other Rider Autographs:** David and Karen O'Connor who won eventing medals at the 1996 Olympics.

**Famous Dressage Horse Shoe Won In A Raffle:** Gifted, owned and ridden by Carol Lavell

**Favorite Dressage Exhibition:** Juvel and Robert Dover, 1988 Washington International Horse Show, Landover, MD.

**Favorite Grand Prix Freestyle:** Matador and Kyra Kyklund, 1991 World Cup Final winner. She did a walk pirouette into a canter pirouette, which is no longer allowed under FEI freestyle rules.

**Olympic Games I've Attended:** 1996 Atlanta

**USEF National Dressage Championship and US Selection Trials I've Volunteered:**

Most of them since 1993, including the selection trial for the 1994 The Hague World Equestrian Games, 1996 Atlanta Olympics, 1998 Rome WEG, 1999 Winnipeg Pan Am Games, 2000 Sydney Olympics, 2002 Jerez de la Frontera WEG, etc.

**FEI World Cup Dressage Finals I've Attended:** 1995 Los Angeles, 2005 Las Vegas

**European Dressage Championship I've Attended:** 2009 Windsor Castle Showgrounds, Great Britain

**Other International Championship I've Attended:** 2007 European Young Rider Eventing Championship, Blair Castle Horse Trials, Scotland. HRH Princess Anne presented the awards.

**Other Foreign Shows I've Attended In Great Britain:** Windsor Horse Show, Badminton Horse

Trials, Burghley Horse Trials, Highclere Horse Trials, Blair Castle Horse Trials (Scotland), Floors Castle Horse Trials (Scotland)

**Other Equestrian Places I've Visited:** Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, London (Great Britain) and Club Tichonov, Moscow (Russia)

**Favorite Equestrian Performances:** Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Cavalia, and Zingaro

**Olympic Medals I've Seen:** Individual gold and team gold medals for showjumping won by Touch of Class and Joe Fargis at 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. They were displayed during the Washington International Horse Show, Landover, MD.

**Other Non-Dressage Event I've Attended:** Maryland Hunt Cup Steeplechase

**Person Who Recommended Me As A Dressage Writer To The Equiry magazine in 1998:** PVDA member Sigrid Thomas, who was the first editor to print dressage articles by me in the PVDA newsletter.

**Journalism:** Contributor to the PVDA newsletter since 1993. Volunteer editor of the USDF Region 1 Newsletter 2001 to 2003. Contributor to The Equiry, Sidelines, The Chronicle of the Horse, USET News, US Eventing Assoc. Area 2 Newsletter.

**Most Difficult Abbreviation To Spell Out In an Article:** KWPN

Koninklijk Warmbloed Paardenstamboek in Nederland

**Favorite Dressage Show:** USDF Region 1 Youth Team Championship, those small ponies are just so darn cute!

**Favorite Horse Show:** Blair Castle Horse Trials, north of Edinburgh, Scotland  
[www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk](http://www.blairhorsetrials.co.uk)

**Favorite authors:** Classical dressage trainer Erik Herbermann author of "Dressage Formula" and Dr. Deb Bennett, who has a PhD in vertebrate paleontology – articles available on [www.EquineStudies.org](http://www.EquineStudies.org)

**Favorite fiction authors:** Walter Farley "The Black Stallion" series, Mary Stuart "Airs Above The Ground"

**Best General Horse Book:** "Happy Horsemanship" (1966) by Dorothy Henderson Pinch

**Favorite Non-Equestrian Vacation Place:** Treasure Island, Florida

**Favorite Cartoon:** "The Penguins of Madagascar"

**Favorite Horse Movie:** "The Black Stallion" (1979) I saw Cass Ole live in person at the Washington International Horse Show, Landover, MD.

**Favorite Online Blog:** [www.3daze.com/wordpress](http://www.3daze.com/wordpress) Canadian event rider Chelan Kozak travels from northwestern Canada to the US east coast twice a year to compete.

**Favorite Barn Task:** Cleaning tack

**Favorite Chocolate:** Dark Horse Chocolates [www.HarborSweets.com](http://www.HarborSweets.com)

**Best Fitness Workouts:** Tai Chi, Pilates (core strength), TurboKick (aerobics)

**Favorite Equestrian Themed Historical House:** Pleasant Valley, Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, Maryland [www.LadewGardens.com](http://www.LadewGardens.com)

**Favorite Shopping Websites:** [www.DressageExtensions.com](http://www.DressageExtensions.com) [www.DoverSaddlery.com](http://www.DoverSaddlery.com)  
[www.BitofBritain.com](http://www.BitofBritain.com)

**Favorite Discount Shopping Website:** [www.VTOSaddlery.com](http://www.VTOSaddlery.com)

**Favorite Saddle:** Karl Niedersuss Symphonie Dressage Saddle with short billets– soft leather, long flaps

**Best Way To Keep Show Saddlepads Clean:** After a show, my clean saddlepad is kept in a closet at home.

**Favorite Show Helmet:** Charles Owens Wellington Classic

**Favorite Summer Show Jacket:** KL Select Golden Dress Riding Show Coat

**Favorite Winter Show Jacket:** A used jacket from Middleburg Tack Exchange, VA, that was worn by a member of the Long Lake Hounds, Minnesota's only hunt. This jacket still has the LLH buff collar with gold piping, but the buttons were returned to the hunt, so I purchased generic hunt buttons from Horse Country in Warrenton, VA.

**Favorite Riding Boots:** Ariat dressage boots with a zipper.

**Favorite Winter Riding Socks:** Polar Fleece Snowboarder socks, they have a lot of extra padding.

**Favorite Style of Breeches:** Highwaist with four way stretch. Those “hiphugger – lowrise” ones would end up around my knees.

**Favorite Stock Tie:** A real one! I can't stand those pre-tied ones, double ruffles, polka-dots, or floral eyelets.

**Favorite Stock Tie Pin With Outrageous Bling:** Empress Catherine II Monogram Brooch \$79.95 “Only attendants to Empress Catherine II were allowed to wear such brooches.” It's a bargain—the original 1770 brooch has 112 diamonds 14+ carats.

[www.HermitageMuseum.org/shop](http://www.HermitageMuseum.org/shop)

**Favorite Horse Poem:**

“Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride,  
Friendship without envy,  
Or beauty without vanity?  
Here, where grace is served with muscle  
And strength by gentleness confined  
He serves without servility; he has fought without enmity.  
There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent.  
There is nothing so quick, nothing more patient.”

~Ronald Duncan, “The Horse,” 1954