

### ADULT AMATEUR RIDER DR. LEIGH KENT SWEEPS FIELD AT WELLINGTON CLASSIC SPRING CHALLENGE TO WIN TRILOGY SADDLES' BEST SEAT AWARD



Photos: PhelpsPhotos.com

**Dressage shows are family affairs for Southern-born working mom Leigh W. Kent, DDS, PhD, and at the Wellington Classic Spring Challenge she had an entire cheering section to celebrate her Best Seat Award win.**

"My daughter Mallory was also competing, and my father and brother flew in, as well as a friend, so we had a good, fun group even though my other three kids couldn't make it this time," says Kent. "I work during the week, and Mallory goes to school, but we look forward to driving down to Florida for the shows when we can."

The mother-daughter pair won all of their classes, with high scores. "Mallory showed in her first 2<sup>nd</sup> level test with her 15-year-old Dutch warmblood gelding Okidokie, and she not only won that class, she received a score of 70%," Kent pointed out. And, despite feeling like she has 'so much more' to learn, Kent is no slouch either. Competing at 3<sup>rd</sup> level with Sir Luckas, her 14-year-old Danish warmblood gelding, she won all her classes at the Spring Challenge with scores in the upper 60s, plus a 70%. The duo train with Holly and Wolfgang Scherzer of Thistledown Farm in Wilsonville, Ala.; Kent says every time she rides, she tries to 'gain a pearl.'

"It's just like practicing periodontics; there's no real end of the line because there's always something new to learn," says Kent. "I tell Mallory the goal is to always seek out excellence, whether it's through taking lessons from our trainers or studying the best riders. We seek out riders we love to watch and we study them, plus watch videos and attend clinics."

Trilogy Saddles President Debbie Witty says Kent's commitment to lifelong learning is evident in her relationship with her horse under saddle. "It's wonderful when the judges pick an Adult Amateur out of the whole field of riders as the Best Seat recipient; that's pretty flattering. Leigh's horse looked very happy, he went around with a nice, swingy back and tail, so it's evident that she works very diligently at making herself a better rider and that her horse loves her for it," points out Witty.

She says that's what Trilogy hopes to accomplish through the Best Seat Award program. "We want to publicly declare our commitment to how saddle fit and rider position affect the

horse's capacity to move freely and willingly, at the best level of his or her abilities. We also want to inspire and educate riders to take responsibility for their own riding position, and to get the training they need to improve their own seat," reports Witty. "A saddle's fit and the rider's position shouldn't impede the horse's movement anywhere, and if both are correct, they actually enhance horse and rider communication."

Kent joins the ranks of other recent Best Seat winners, such as Rachel Chowanec, Justin Hardin, and Elizabeth Ball: [Trilogy Saddles - News & 'Best Seat' Award Recipients](#)

Kent says the gelding, whom she purchased from USDF Gold medalist Sharon McCusker of Souhegan Farm through the [HorsesDaily.com](#) HorseMarket section, has helped her own development. "I've had Luckas for two years, and I love that horse. He's taught me so much, and has given me the ability to keep learning what I need to learn in order to catch up to what he knows."

#### About Trilogy Saddles:

Carrying out their philosophy of 'achieving a greater level of performance and awareness for horse and rider through education, service, and design' means the Trilogy Saddles team lives and breathes a dedication to comfort, health, performance, and freedom of movement. These qualities are just as important for the horse as for the rider, and it's up to each Trilogy saddle fitter to ensure that saddle fit and rider position enhance communication, performance, and the overall beauty that is a horse and rider in perfect harmony.

#### About Debbie Witty:

From the time she could hotwalk racehorses, Debbie Witty's family held her to exacting standards in the family business. That early training has served her well in a life spent amongst horses and horse people, from

Witty's career as a dressage competitor and instructor to her days helping top equestrians in obtaining the best saddle fit. Witty's life and work have come full circle with Performance Saddlery and Trilogy Saddles, since she's able to incorporate everything she's learned as a trainer and rider, as a tack shop owner, and as a saddle fitter certified by the Society of Master Saddlers of England.

For media inquiries, please contact Lisa Kemp at 847-220-0740 (Central) or [KempEquine@gmail.com](mailto:KempEquine@gmail.com)

