

Why take lessons with Tom Poulin?

Tom Poulin is giving a clinic at Judie Blumenthal's on Monday and Tuesday, June 20th and 21st. Last year at the Green Country show, I received a 58.9% at I-1. I took a clinic with Tom Poulin right after that show. I told him I wanted to score in the sixties and I wanted to beat warmbloods. In the next show in Houston, I got a 65%, second in the class, and I beat a lot of warmbloods. That record continued for the rest of the summer.

TOM POULIN

- **USDF 'S' judge**
- **USDF 'L' program instructor**
- **Founding member of USDF**
- **40 years experience as a clinician**
- **FEI rider and trainer**
- **Assisted coaches to Swedish and Mexican teams**
- **Gifted lecturer**
- **3 time winner Lufthansa Trophy for excellence at FEI.**

Charles de Kunffy writes: Horsemanship is a living art similar to ballet and singing. Living arts survive by the right advocacy of their practitioners. If one generation deviates from the inherited successful (classical) standards, a living art can be derailed temporarily or lost permanently.

Thomas Poulin writes: "Finally, the triangle closes with the instructor, rider and horse working together with a common language; the rider, able to maintain body alignments so defined as to surpass even those taught in classical ballet."

Trained in the art of classical dressage by such masters as Franz Rockowonsky in Holland and Walter Christensen in Germany, Mr. Poulin has also worked with such renowned trainers as Werner Platzer, Ernst Backinger, Arthur Kottas and Hans Moeller. He brings this distinguished background to his teaching and judging.

In further support of his belief in riding as a classical art form, Mr. Poulin worked with ballet master Robert Thibodeau and his wife to create a method of teaching the rider to know his/her body and keep it aligned with the horse, in so doing giving the horse a better performance. This body discipline is one of the foundations of his training and his June clinic following the Green Country show will focus on body discipline while helping the rider improve his/her communication with the horse.

Body discipline is for riders who already have good balance and a good working seat. He explains: "If you understand how your body works and learn how to move like a dancer, you will go with the motion. You will no longer be a porcelain figure sitting stiffly upright. You will become alive and ALLOW your horse to move instead of impeding him."

However, riders of all levels are encouraged to participate in this clinic. I was asked by someone if I thought they rode well enough to ride in the clinic. My answer is twofold: 1) How do you get better if you don't start; and 2) Mr. Poulin would be horrified if someone stayed away for that reason.

As a trainer, Mr. Poulin is kind, courteous, and generous. The rider NEVER feels belittled. His wealth of knowledge brings new and different exercises to teaching old tricks. The rider leaves the ring feeling that he/she can and has accomplished something. This is riding at its very best.

We have an opportunity to have this clinic because Mr. Poulin will be judging at the Green Country show in Claremore on June 18th and 19th – back from two years ago by popular demand

In addition to the riding lessons, Mr. Poulin will be lecturing on body discipline and Linda Schultz' book *Better Rider, Better Ride* will be available for purchase. The clinic was filled but, due to reasonable situations like one rider moving out of town, there is a space in the schedule. Also, one should always start a waiting list to cover those last minute surprises. Please contact Judith Brown at JHankinsB@aol.com to participate in the clinic. It is too good an opportunity to miss.