

Davorka Suvak

- an Educator, Trainer, Therapeutic Riding Instructor and professional manager in equestrian industry. She has more than 30 years of experience in work as coach and educator in Equine Assisted Activities, and 15 years as Therapeutic Riding Instructor, with an international recognition, 10 years of Para equestrian international experience and success.

EXPERIENCE

RIDING INSTRUCTOR / MANAGER IN EQUESTRIAN INDUSTRY — 1985 – Present.

Since 1985, Davorka works part time as equestrian professional, riding instructor for beginners, novice in show jumping, dressage and Para dressage, trainer, and coach for riders of all levels.

Her student and horse were vice champions at National Championship of Yugoslavia, 1990, show jumping, novice.

Since she immigrated to USA, 2005, works as riding instructor, horse trainer, and therapeutic riding instructor

Davorka is a founder and Program Director of Spirit Open Equestrian Program, Inc. www.spiritequestrian.org with visible recognition in NOVA community.

- Manager of **First Croatian Championship in Dressage for Handicapped 1999.**
- Selector and coach for Croatian National team at various international championships including International Championship in dressage for disabled in the United Kingdom in 1999, Russia and Poland in 2002, Austria and Hungary in 2004, and World Championships in Denmark 1999 and Belgium 2003.
- Acted as head of the Croatian equestrian team at **2000 Paralympic Games in Sidney, Australia and 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece**
- Organized **First Croatian Education on Therapeutic riding programs**
- Presented therapeutic riding programs at **Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 1999**
- Presented Croatian therapeutic riding at **9th NARHA's Congress in Seattle, WA**
- Founded **Therapeutic Riding Association of Croatia** in 2001.
- Presented own project at XI. International **FRDI Congress , Budapest, 2003.**

EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Davorka' s training and experience includes many hours of professional instruction with noted trainers in the Equestrian and Para equestrian disciplines

- Ulf Wilken – Sweeden, Chairman of Para equestrian International Educational Committee
- Marjory Kittredge – founder of NARHA, dressage and para dressage International judge
- Inger Bryant – GB, International dressage and para dressage International judge

- Missy Ramhousen – USA -National Team Coach for Para dressage

EDUCATION

- NARHA – Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor
- FEI – Riding Instructor
- University Zagreb, Croatia BA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2005 *Horsemanship of new age*
- 2004 Therapeutic riding publication *Preventive Programs for Therapeutic Riding*
- 2002 Therapeutic riding manual *Horsemanship for People with Disabilities*, the first Croatian educational publication about therapeutic riding

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2002 **Humanity Charter** in recognition of humanitarian deeds performed in Eastern Croatia.
- 2001 **Written acknowledgment** for achievements in the development of volunteer work in Croatia from the Government of the Republic of Croatia.
- 2001 **Plaque for excellence** in the field of sport for people with disabilities in the Republic of Croatia from the Croatian Sports Federation for the Disabled.
- 2000 **Anne Wright Instructor Award** for excellence in the field of therapeutic riding, from High Hopes Riding of Connecticut, USA.
- 2000 **Plaque for excellence** in the field of sport for people with disabilities in the Republic of Croatia from the Croatian Sports Federation for the Disabled.

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Lecture at Budapest, XI Federation Riders Disabled International (FRDI)
Congress 2004 www.lovasterapia.hu/text/doc/konferencia/davorkasuvak.doc