



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #167

www.gerlltd.org

June 2009

The Special One

By Courtney Farnon, GDA Equine Inspector

As all horse lovers know, each horse comes equipped with a unique personality. Their characters are as distinct as human beings' and vary greatly from horse to horse. When dealing with rescue horses, sometimes these qualities are masked by lethargy and are not exposed until the horse has had a chance to be rehabilitated.

One recent case that illustrates this point perfectly is that of an impound horse fondly known as Milburn. Milburn was impounded along with five other horses because of the owner's failure to provide humane care and sanitary living conditions. Not only were the horses all in poor body condition, they were living in stalls piled high with manure exuding an overwhelming stench of urine. Due to the fact that Milburn was underweight and weak, he never quite had much spark.

After his arrival at the impound facility, Milburn was placed on a feeding program that allowed him to successfully gain weight and grow stronger by the day. He blossomed into a beautiful horse with a persona as distinctive as the white spot on his rump. He quickly became the favorite of inspectors and several workers and volunteers at the Mansfield impound barn because of his gentle nature and love of attention.

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Courtney Farnon, GDA Inspector
& Milburn

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**To report a case of equine abuse, call the
Georgia Department**

of Agriculture's Equine Division

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

**If you would like GERL to assist with an
Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138**

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***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
10th of each month for submission in the
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LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

Several GERL members, including myself, recently traveled to Jamestown, Tennessee to East Fork Stables to attend a fund raising event for The Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia (BCHNG). It was a fabulous event that included great food, wonderful horse trails with scenic views and live and silent auctions. Mickey Farmer, GERL's favorite auctioneer, donated his services to squeeze as much money out of the large audience as possible. Betty Evenson, GERL co-founder and current newsletter editor, helped sponsor this event.

The Back Country Horsemen of America has 16,000 members in 47 states and member organizations in 25 states including, the Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia and Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia. One of the purposes of this organization and it's many Chapters are to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. They believe "right to ride" legislation is needed to correct the nation- wide trend of federal land managers and federal agencies unnecessarily limiting equestrian access to public lands. Forest Service Management is closing trails all over the country in order to accommodate hikers and bikers who do not wish to share the trail with horses/mules. This rule change leaves some states with less than 10 percent of United States Forest Service trails available to horses. In North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama there's a lack of basic facilities for horse users, including limited trailer parking at trailheads. In addition, the Appalachian Trail is almost completely closed to horses.



The new Land Management Plan calls for significant changes in the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests in Georgia, too. It allows horseback riding only on designated trails (about 200 miles of forest) or on designated roads (about 1,600 miles on the forest). To ensure that there is an adequate distribution of trails on the forest, the Forest Service is in the process of working through a trails analysis. This will identify where all types of designated trails are currently located on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forest.

The Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) is another Georgia club dedicated to the preservation of our horse trails. Their volunteers maintain and create trails across the Chattahoochee National Forest. Both CTHA and BCHNG are non-profit organizations and well deserving of your support.

I know that this is a newsletter dedicated to horse rescue; however, many horse owners are also trail riders. Therefore, I feel inclined to let you know what is going on right here in Georgia regarding the government closing of horse trails. Perhaps you are not a trail rider and this is of no interest to you, but, let me say this ... about that: if you have children or grandchildren who want to ride on public lands in the future this will certainly effect them! I'd like to encourage you to support these groups who fight for our right to ride. For more information please visit their web sites and if possible, get involved.

Editor's Note: Georgia has two Back Country chapters. Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia (www.bchng.org) - Melinda Towe, President - melindatowe@yahoo.com / (706) 455-2921. Back Country of Middle and South Georgia (www.bchsg.org) - Tina Maddox Owen, President - francis@athens.net / (706) 319-0239. Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (www.ride-ctha.org) (CTHA) is very instrumental in maintaining the trails at Jake Mountain and several other trail systems. CTHA - Joy Corcoran / jcorc42687@aol.com. See page 26 for more about the BCHNG fund-raiser at East Fork Stables.

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Referred By:

Laura Bentley & Family
James & Rita Brown
Sharon Cassidy
Jillian Chamberlain
Marion & Jackie Cobb
Mark Counts
Dianna Fielder
Bill Ford
Megan & Chad Gordon
Robert & Becky Gregory
Gregory's Heavy Equip Repair
Mary Jo Hanes
Patsy Lincoln
John Lynn
Carlos & Carol Martel
Two Cedars Farm
J.J. McCuller
Ellen & Margaret Petree
Scott Sauerbier
Edith Smith
Linn Storey
Tamma Trump
Mike & Teresa Tyler
Nancy Tyndal
Jones Webb

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Dallas, GA
Bethlehem, GA
Poplar Grove, IL
Cumming, GA
Houston, TX
Jersey, GA
Menlo, GA
Loganville, GA

Good Hope, GA
Locust Grove, GA
Covington, GA
Social Circle, GA

Mineral Bluff, GA
Loganville, GA
Winder, GA
Dacula, GA
Muldrew, GA
Midland, GA
Acworth, GA
Monticello, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Loganville, GA

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Ken Archer
GERL
Donna Pieper
Ken Archer
Ken Archer
Diana DeMoss
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Ken Archer

Diana DeMoss
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Carol Royer

Betty Evenson
Ken Archer
Patty Livingston
GERL
Lynn McMinn
Donna Pieper
GERL
Andee Rogers
GERL
Donna Pieper

Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Buzz & Joan Ahrens
Chuck & Carol Ewing
Sandra Freeman
Rebecca Giminez
Nancy Janosik
Ray & Mary Margaret Lee
Cheryl & Ron Popiel
Stan Reich
Martha Shepherd
Marya Tietz
Kay & Jerry Titlow
Lee & Jill Webb
Patricia West
Fran Wilde

Canton, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Statham, GA
Martinez, GA
Carrollton, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Townsend, GA
Cumming, GA
Decatur, GA
Roswell, GA
Gainesville, GA
Palmetto, GA
Ocala, GA
Bogart, GA



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference

**Thank You For Your Donations
And Continued Support**

Sandra Freeman

Marshia Milam-Medford

William DeFelice through Symetra
The Matching Gift Center

Marya Tietz

Pat West

Jan & Bobby Smith

Country Care Rebate Check
from Country Supply

Sirlena Cobb



Donations in Memory Of

**Gene Ensminger
by Jeff & Lisa Carroll**

**Gene Ensminger
by Rebecca Giminez**

**Aarie Fran my arab
by Stan Reich**

**Dee's brother, Bobby M Jackson
of Dallas, GA
by Mid & Dee Allen**

**Martha Chesney Harben
by Dan & Shawn Liburdi**

**Thank You For
Your Change Jars**

Tack's Fifth Avenue
Cumming, GA

The Stock Market
Conyers, GA

Southwind
Cumming, GA

GA Farm & Ranch Supply
Fayetteville, GA

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

**Anne Ensminger
for fostering Rusty**

**Harriet O'Rear
for fostering Miss Greenway**

**Jean Long
for fostering Lucky**

Donations in Honor Of

**Mathew P Zingsheim
by Tanya Kinnamon**

**Banjo - from the Arabian at Better Way Farms
by Nancy Janosik**





Dear GERLs

To all of our friends at the Georgia Equine Rescue League ...

I sincerely want to thank you for your kind sympathies.

Jim McGarvey

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With You

Marty Paulk
as you continue your battle with cancer



Dear Betty

I am amazed how you "top" yourself each month with the GERL newsletter. It is a pure joy to read everything and I'm so glad Dr. Ken Marcella is back in his old role as college professor and writing articles that we can all understand and use. Missie, my daughter, when she was a student at Sem, loved Ken's classes and said if you brought him something to eat, he would go light on the homework ... what a guy.

The color pictures add so much to the newsletter and how Anne finds time to write so many interesting articles shows how talented she really is and has been. I hope Gene's ride was a huge success ... I so missed being there and doing all the crazy things Mary Fox and I used to do early in the morning ... brings such a smile to my face just thinking about all the support we got from so many activities.

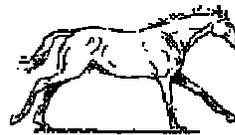
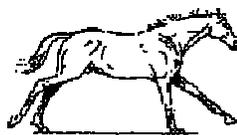
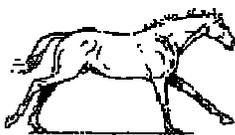
Thanks, Betty, for bringing joy to the day when the Newsletter arrives ... and I also thank you for remembering me each month. I am still fighting for our members that lost their battle ... I am just not ready to give up and really don't wish to with my grandson doing so well as the hero of his baseball team and on the Georgia All Star Team for his 6 year old age group ... Yes, I am a proud Grandma and now attend ball games instead of horse shows.

The articles on the Pulaski facility reminded me so much of when the Decatur GDA facility was opened. I remember the great group of members who came out in the pouring down rain to level stalls and get everything ready for the grand opening. We had lost our dear friend, Molly Loehle, before the opening but the moment was dedicated to her and all those wonderful members and know the new facility will feel the same excitement knowing they have been so important for the horses and for themselves. Good for GERL supporting their efforts ... brings back so many good moments.

Take care ... and THANKS Betty for all that you do for GERL. You never give up!

Love ya,
Marty

Editor's Note: Thank you so much Marty for your wonderful words. Please know that although you cannot be physically with us at our events, we know that you are with us in spirit. Those of you who have been long time GERL members will remember that there was not an event that took place where Marty Paulk was not on the scene working hard. She has given GERL countless hours of her time. She served on our board, cooked many meals for our Poker Rides and Fests ... spoke at events and did anything that needed to be done. It makes me proud to know how proud you are of me and of GERL. We miss you Marty and pray for your continued health. You know we all still love you very much!



**If Your Name Is Listed Here, Your Membership Is Due For Renewal!
This Will Be Your Last Newsletter Unless You Renew.**

Roderick & Michelle Brown
Joanne Campbell
Diane & Robert Caruso
Clare Connell
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Creel
Sally & Ron Doan
Jane Estes
Alice Farrar
Debbie Ferrell
Elizabeth Harris
Margaret Hill

Oxford, GA
Monroe, GA
Blythe, GA
Arnoldsville, GA
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Please continue to support GERL ...

**Junior Membership \$15 (12 and under)
Single Membership \$25
Family Membership \$35
Business, Club, etc. \$50**

***Membership form is on the last page of this newsletter**

**Please mail your check to:
GERL
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620**



WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please Help

**Please send proof of purchase seals
from bags of any Southern States feed to**

**Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
Atlanta, GA 30342**

**Ginny is collecting them for GERL
and we will receive money for everyone she sends to
Southern States.**

**Thank You
Dr. Ken Marcella**

**for providing our membership
with such informative
articles each month.**

See page 12 for this month's article



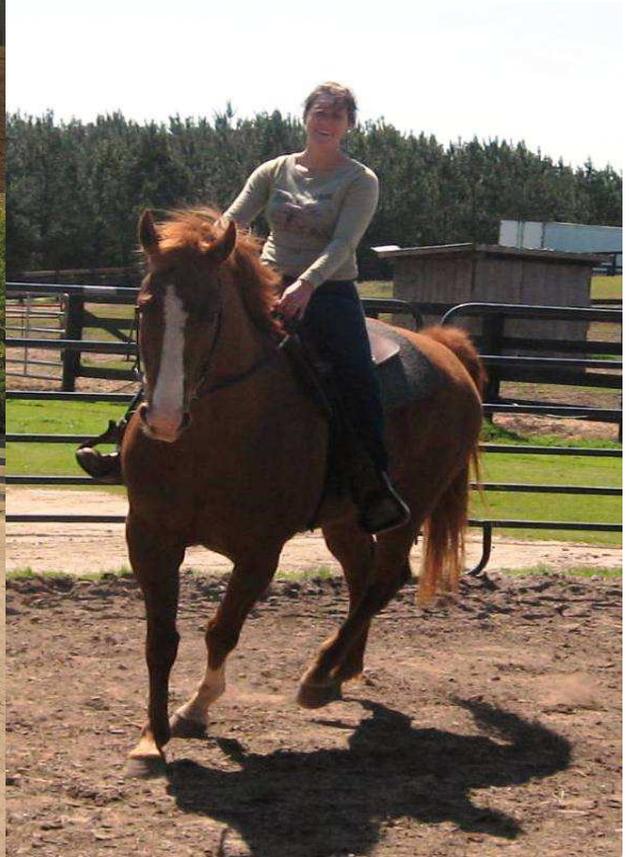
The Special One (continued from the cover)

Milburn's true personality came out during his first "field trip" this past weekend. Robin Easley, field supervisor for GDA, took Milburn to Equifest in Morgan County as well as the Ultimate Horsemanship Challenge held at the Rockin' S Arena in Madison. The handsome gelding entertained the crowds with his many antics and gave new meaning to the phrase "hamming it up." From showing off his talent of drinking Coke directly from the can to nearly getting a trash can stuck on his head, Milburn had the time of his life. He won the hearts of those who visited with him and received many offers for a new permanent home. Since he has rehabilitated, it is time for Milburn to move on and he will be sold at the upcoming impound auction. While those who have grown to love him will be heartbroken to see him go, we all wish him the best of luck as he lives out the rest of life.



Courtney Farnon, GDA Inspector
& Milburn

Like every horse impounded by GDA, Milburn has a distinctly unique personality all his own. While it may not have been evident during the initial stages of his rehabilitation, Milburn is thankful for being removed from his horrible situation and continues rewarding his rescuers with his comedic and affectionate nature. We hope that his new family will appreciate his peculiar character and love him as much as we do. Looking forward to the next "special" horse to come through the gates.....



Goodbye Dear Friend

By Huge Archer

On April 20th, I lost my dear friend, Jake, who lived with Betty and Duane Evenson.

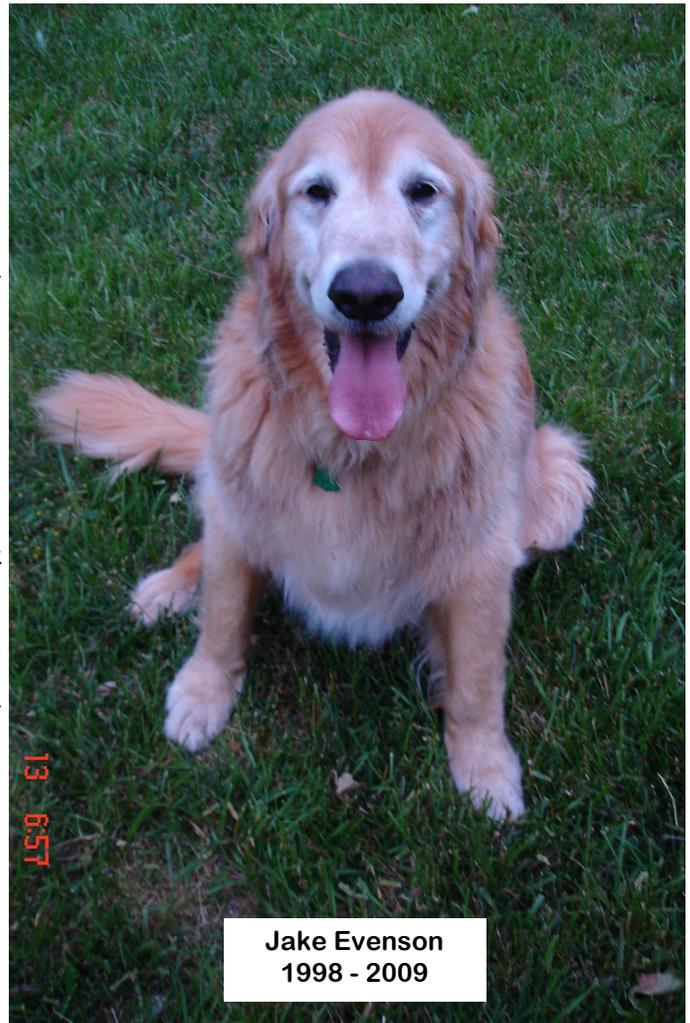
Even though we are both Golden Retrievers, that does not mean that we cannot know the value of friendship or feel grief when a dear friend is lost. Anyone who has ever owned a dog knows of their great capacity to love. I truly loved Jake and he loved me.

Jake was a grown dog when I was just a pup but he was always patient with me as I started to learn how much fun it was to chase a ball, swim in the creek, and romp all over camp while our families sat and talked. Jake was like a big brother and I learned everything I know about how to be a good dog and enjoy life, from him.

My human, Ken Archer, just won the \$100 prize for signing up the most new members in a recent GERL membership drive. Ken and Susan, along with anyone who ever knew Jake, loved him almost as much as me, so we all want to donate Ken's \$100 prize back to GERL in memory of Jake.

Goodbye, old friend. I'll be sure to bring our ball when I meet you in heaven.

Love, Huge



Jake Evenson
1998 - 2009



Gene Ensminger Memorial Quilt

At the first annual Gene Ensminger memorial ride, Anne Ensminger was presented with a very special quilt by her dear friends Connie Keener, Anne Ensminger, Judy Bradley, and Sherry Nash (as shown in photo)

These ladies lovingly hand-made this beautiful quilt from Gene's old shirts and put a beautiful picture of Gene in the middle of the quilt on one side, and a picture of Anne and Gene on the other.

All of us were overwhelmed when we saw the quilt. I cannot imagine how Anne must have felt.

Anne ... you certainly have the most wonderful friends in the world! I know you will treasure that quilt for the rest of your days! What incredible memories you must have as you look at each of those shirts that Gene wore during your many years together.

GERL Adoptables

Rusty is a 2 year old Arab-cross colt with a great mind and plenty of energy. He is ready to be partnered with someone who can begin his education and work with him to become a great partner.

Spice a 10 year old Quarter Horse mare who has never been ridden but has been a pet for all of her life. Her owner has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and Spice must find a new home. Spice is very sweet and is starved for the daily affection that she once knew. If you could use a companion horse or would like a wonderful project, please come meet Spice.



RUSTY



SPICE

Ms. Greenway is very low key. Nothing frazzles her - neither cars, tractors, deer, 250 lb. hogs, nor noises. She looks like a standard bred horse - a tall bay with only a star of white. She loads, halters, and loves to be gently groomed. At 12 years old, she should come along quickly and will probably be suited for someone who wants a gentle mount.

For adoption fees and additional information please contact



MISS GREENWAY

Donna Pieper
GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net

**GERL VP Ken Archer
Official Membership Drive Winner**

If you attended the Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride at Round Oak the weekend of May 1st, you already know that Ken Archer was the winner of the GERL Membership Contest and the recipient of the \$100 first prize.

Ken easily won with 35 new members to his credit. Shannon Marler won 2nd place and a \$25 gift certificate from The Barn Door by bringing in 19 new members. Patty Livingston won 3rd place with 13 new GERL members and received a \$15 gift certificate from The Barn Door.

There were several others who referred new members, bringing the total new members during our membership drive to 88! This is a great addition for GERL and our thanks to everybody who participated in the contest and helped make this happen.

Ken generously donated the \$100 prize back to GERL in the name of his good friend, Jake Evenson, Betty & Duane Evenson's Golden Retriever, who passed away on April 20th.

Special thanks to The Barn Door for donating the gift certificates for 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Editor's Note: GERL has obtained 176 new members since January 1st! We look forward to continuing to grow our membership.



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Notes From The Edge
A Look At Directions In Equine Cancer Research
By: Kenneth L. Marcella, DVM

It is now well accepted that horses are living longer. Advances in nutrition, surgery and anesthesia, dental care, joint protection and many other medical and equine management areas have combined to keep horses going strong into their late 20's and often beyond. Along with this longevity though, have come a number of health issues that are more frequently seen in the aged. As recently as 10-15 years ago many of these conditions were not considered in the horse or were infrequent curiosities at most. Cushing's disease, Insulin resistance/glucose intolerance, and Alzheimer's disease are just a few of the newly emerging equine geriatric problems but the one condition, now on the rise in horses that live longer, that all horse owners must take seriously is cancer.

Cancer has not always been a significant problem in horses. Sarcoids, Melanomas and various types of Squamous Cell Carcinomas have been recorded in horses for over 200 years. The past thinking was that these tumor types were either very slow growing in the horse or somehow not likely to become more aggressive and spread throughout the body like they did in other species. It may be that horses were simply not living long enough to see the more dangerous aspects of cancer that people and other animals have long been dealing with. It may be that interest, resources and diagnostics were lacking for many of these earlier equine cancer patients. But that situation has changed over the last decade and now cancer diagnosis and treatment is much more of a concern for equine practitioners. Dr. John Robertson, a professor in the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology at Virginia Tech and director of the college's Center for Comparative Oncology (CECO) writes "I think that there is a broad and evolving realization among horse owners, veterinarians, and providers at teaching hospitals that neoplastic disease (cancer) is a significant problem in horses". He adds "I am sure that one component fueling the current interest is a broad realization of how much cancer affects all species, especially more mature individuals. There will be no readers of the *Thoroughbred Times* who have not been personally touched by a friend, relative or beloved companion animal who has suffered with cancer".

Much of the current cancer research in all species, horses included, is focusing on the small intricate biological steps that occur when cells mutate and begin to grow abnormally. Cancer is essentially inappropriate cellular growth and there are many tumors sup-

pressor genes, cancer killer cells, cellular signal proteins, and growth activators/deactivators that are all involved in the process of cancer development and metastasis. Metastasis is the means by which a cancer cell acquires the ability to escape from its primary site and move throughout the body. It has long been thought that this movement process is the key to solving the cancer treatment puzzle. While some researchers are looking at why cancer develops in the first place, others are more interested in how it is able to spread. Dr. Dario Marchetti, a researcher at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine agrees stating "Understanding cancer metastasis is crucial because cancer metastasis is what kills the patient, and not the primary lesion" He adds "more than 90% of all cancer deaths are due to metastatic cancers and the metastasis process, in its sequential steps, is essentially the same in all mammals". His appointment to the LSU veterinary school and the National Institutes of Health funded research that he is conducting represent a new direction and commitment in both equine cancer research and cancer research in general. Using newly developed molecular probes and antibodies Dr. Marchetti hopes to uncover some of the steps that occur in tumor formation and tumor progression to the brain. Malignant melanoma is just one of the tumors that Dr. Marchetti's group is investigating and this tumor type has one of the highest frequencies of brain metastasis. His research will also hopefully shed light on lung and breast cancers which also often heavily metastasize to the brain. Malignant melanoma is also one of the most common tumors in horses which is why veterinary schools and veterinary researchers are now intricately involved in cancer research.

Malignant melanoma in horses is a relatively common tumor type. It is seen primarily in grey or white coated horses and is therefore more highly represented in Arabians, some draft breeds and Andalusians. It occurs in horses generally older than 6 years and can be seen in up to 80% of these horses when they become aged. These hard round dark tumors occur around the rectum and vulva, base of the tail, sheath, corners or commissures of the lips, along the jugular groove in the neck or in the lymph nodes below the base of the ears. They tend to be generally slow growing but can become so bulky that they interfere with normal bodily functions. Affected horses may not be able to tolerate a bit in the mouth due to tumor presence. Depending on tumor size and location they may not be able to urinate or defecate normally and tumors in the neck may make it hard for the horse to properly turn from side to side.

(continued on the following page)

Notes From The Edge
A Look At Directions In Equine Cancer Research
(continued from the previous page)

Current treatment for equine melanomas is generally unrewarding with surgical excision whenever possible or the use of the drug Cimetidine, which sometimes helps reduce the size of the tumors, the best options. Equine melanomas are of interest in the cancer research field however because of how these tumors react in other species. They are one of the fastest and most aggressively metastatic tumor types in people. Researchers have long been interested in why this tumor or neoplasia is so much less aggressive in horses and how horses manage to avoid deadly brain metastasis. "Knowledge of the mechanisms underlying brain metastasis can shed light on this aspect of cancer research and treatment", says Dr. Marchetti, "and it can give direction to drug development and therapy". Dr. Robertson feels that gene mutations are the cause for equine malignant melanomas and that "the identification of mutations will be the first step in developing effective targeted drugs to treat affected horses". He adds "having access now to the equine genome will be a huge step in making progress against cancer in horses, since we will be able to search for and identify the key series of mutations in multiple genes that are the underlying cause of these neoplasms (cancers)". Researchers are approaching cancer research from different directions in different species but the comparative lessons learned may well help understand cancer in all species which will lead to effective treatment.

Human researchers are also interested in some of the different cancer treatments that have been tried in horses. Dr. Robertson's group at Virginia Tech has been investigating the use of daily intralesional injections of frankincense oil. Frankincense oil is a biologic product made from the fermentation of numerous products including boswellic acid. Frankincense oil has been shown to have anti-inflammatory properties and anti-tumor action when used against tissue cultures of astrocytomas, melanomas, and fibrosarcomas (all different cancer cell types). Dr. Robinson has investigated the use of this oil injection in melanomas in horses and concluded that tumors do indeed respond to this treatment and that more research is needed.

Researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University have been investigating a different approach to cancer treatment. These scientists have been using "photodynamic therapy" to treat certain types of viral-associated recurring sarcoid skin tumors. In this therapy, the horse is given a chemotherapeutic drug. This drug may be given topically,

intralesionally or injected into the animal's vein. This drug is not active however until it is exposed to light of a specific wavelength. This targeted light therapy is used to disrupt cancer cell growth leading to programmed cell death. Photodynamic therapy is very specific, less disfiguring than surgery and causes minimal toxicity to the animal. "There is no doubt the use of this procedure is showing promise in veterinary medicine and may have expanded use in the future", says Oregon State University surgeon Dr. Scott Gustafson. Evidence of the success of this therapy in horses may stimulate more consideration for its use in humans where its use is very new and limited to a last resort option in certain cancers.

While different research groups have different areas of interest and human and veterinary scientists are approaching cancer from many different directions, they all agree on the need for funding. Dr. Marchetti acknowledges that research is expensive and that answers do not come cheaply. Owners with a personal connection to horses with cancer can make donations to a number of research foundations and, says Dr. Marchetti, "These funds will establish a foundation to continue such research". Dr. Robertson defines the mission of the Center for Comparative Oncology at Virginia Tech as "seeking to understand cancer in animals and in people, for the benefit of all species. He adds, "There is almost no federal funding dedicated to equine cancer research and organizations such as the Jockey Club only have limited resources they can devote to funding research for all horse diseases. Horse owners that really want to help can be strong advocates of getting the research done that will lead to helping their horses". As horses and humans continue to live longer and develop more types of cancer it becomes apparent that we must solve these research questions for the benefit of both species.

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Editor's Note: We so appreciate Dr. Marcella providing these articles to us. If there is a topic that you are interested in learning more about please let us know. Dr. Marcella has many articles available to us and he is very willing to research a topic for us should that be of interest to our members. Please contact me (gerlbetty@aol.com) should you wish to request a specific topic.



A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

Last month I put a small note in our newsletter about a donation GERL received from Jennifer Gibson and the folks at T-Jay Farm. We received the money but had no address to which we might send a note of thanks. I was asking anyone who might know Jennifer or others at T-Jay farms, to call me. Imagine my surprise when I received a call from a very nice man who said that he often passed T-Jay Farm and had taken a moment to write down the phone number on their sign. I can now thank these good folks properly and I am very grateful to this man for taking time out of his busy life to respond to my request. I guess I was so shocked when he called that I forgot to write down his name but I am grateful just the same.

This past weekend, about 100 dear friends of GERL gathered at the farm of Ron and Adrian Cook at Round Oak, to honor the memory of my sweet husband, Gene Ensminger and to raise money for the horses. Both goals were met. Gene would have felt honored that GERL held a ride to honor his memory and I have heard figures in the \$10,000 range, as the bottom line for the weekend.

It was delightful to see so many old friends show up for this event. It had been a long time since Kathy and Lamar Chandler had been able to join us for a ride but there they were! Scott Harris and Susie Hansen were also returnees and were a very welcome sight, as was Judy Ricketson, whom we had not seen for much too long. Carol Royer and her friend, John Lynn came for dinner and the auction on Saturday and ended up being drafted into the work force. They didn't seem to mind.

There were also some new faces. New to me were RePonda Bailey, Cindy Burns, Chuck and Deb Foster, Jason Greer, Larry Howell, Carl Strickland, Larry and Ellen Kinnon (my good neighbors), Diane and Ronnie Lucas, Liz Sherman, and Ashley Whitener. Many of these folks pitched right in and went to work!

We were excited when we learned that Mike Medlock, who has been very ill, would attend the Gene Ride but he and his wife accepted another invitation and did not come. We are just happy that he was ABLE to come! Next time, Mike! I also want to mention that Sylvia Mooney had to be admitted to the hospital with severe vertigo the day before the ride. Of course, she was unable to attend and was greatly missed. She is now home and doing much better. Long-time GERL member Marty Paulk, who is battling cancer was unable to attend but was certainly with us in spirit. She

couldn't wait to hear all of the details of this special weekend.

The facility was first class, with 34 power and water sites on level ground. There is plenty of primitive camping and a huge covered pavilion with full kitchen and bathroom facilities. Most thought the trails were ideal with single file, wooded paths, over varied terrain. Even though the weatherman had predicted scattered showers, the weather held with no riders getting wet and the temperatures, especially in the deep woods, were quite comfortable.

Susan Archer (GERL Events Coordinator) did a spectacular job planning and serving meals, as well as directing the silent and live auctions on Saturday. Of course she had lots of volunteer help for the weekend but did all of the planning, shopping for and transporting supplies and equipment with only the help of her husband, Ken and a few friends. I never looked in the direction of the pavilion from early morning until bedtime, that I did not see Susan busy with some urgent chore. She is amazing!

After the "pot luck" supper on Friday evening, Gene's daughter Perri and her husband, Dan Walden, of Covington, entertained us. They love playing and singing old time Blue Grass music and were kind enough to share their talent with us. I was so proud to say that they are MY children!

Saturday morning brought a full hot breakfast with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, grits, and fruit. Whew! We all left for the trails with full tummies! Then Saturday evening we enjoyed some good barbecue, potato salad, coleslaw, and lots more. Yum! After that, our silent and live auctions offered a great assortment of donated merchandise and, as always, great bargains were available. Mickey Farmer did his usual outstanding job as auctioneer and was his always-entertaining self!

After the auction, we danced the night away to old and new tunes played by D.J. extraordinaire, Derrell Jones of Covington. He was really cool and had a huge belt buckle that flashed "Welcome GERL" all evening. Many of us tried a dance or two but were put to shame when Ron and Adrian Cook took the floor for some western two-step. Watch out, Dancing with the Stars! I would say that they have been around a dance floor together a few times before.

(continued on the following page)

A Note from the Secretary's Desk
(continued from the previous page)

Tee shirt sales were brisk for the weekend and for good reason. Diana Kelsey DeMoss, her husband, Steve, and Betty Evenson, collaborated on the new design and it proved to be a winner! If you did not get yours last weekend, they will be available at all GERL events this year or through the GERL website.

Sunday morning found many of us attending Cowboy Church. Judy McCrory sang for us, in spite of technical difficulties with her music. She has such a beautiful voice and is always willing to share her talent for the glory of God and our enjoyment. I brought the message, a first for me. I thought I would feel apprehension, but when I looked around and realized that I was among dear friends, I felt totally relaxed. Thanks for being there, friends!

I would like to extend my personal thanks to many friends and Board mates who took on extra chores for the weekend so that I could ride my horse and enjoy the event. I humbly accepted their kindness in order to ride at this first annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride.

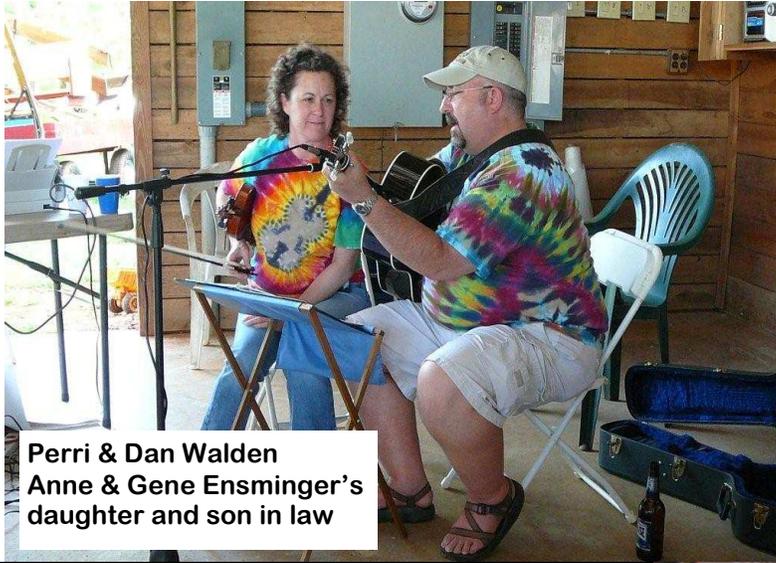


Ray Ziebell, Ronnie Pesserilo,
Anne Maxwell-Searcy
& Patty Livingston



A view of the wonderful Pavillion
where meals were served, the auctions took place
and the DJ entertained

GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE



Perri & Dan Walden
Anne & Gene Ensminger's
daughter and son in law



Anne Ensminger
and her new
quilt



Joey Nix & Robin Easley
GDA Equine Inspector

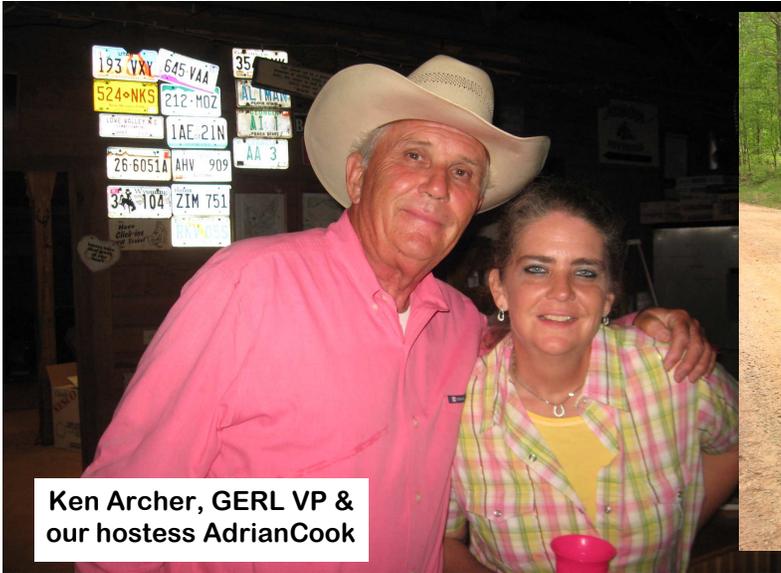


Storm Pesserilo &
Trevor Sargent



Anne's quilt

GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE



Ken Archer, GERL VP & our hostess AdrianCook



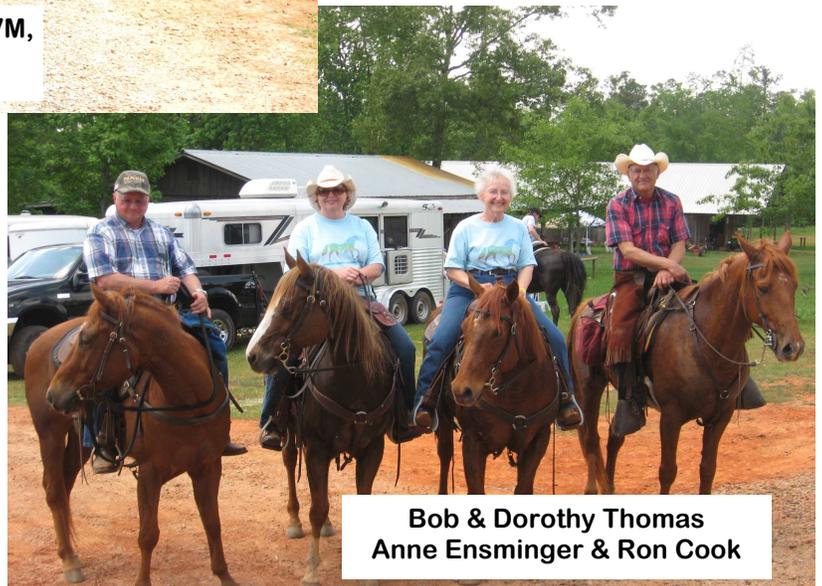
Tanya Kingsley



Pam Borst, Lee Myers, DVM, Bob & Judy McCrory



Courtney Farnon & Mickey Farmer

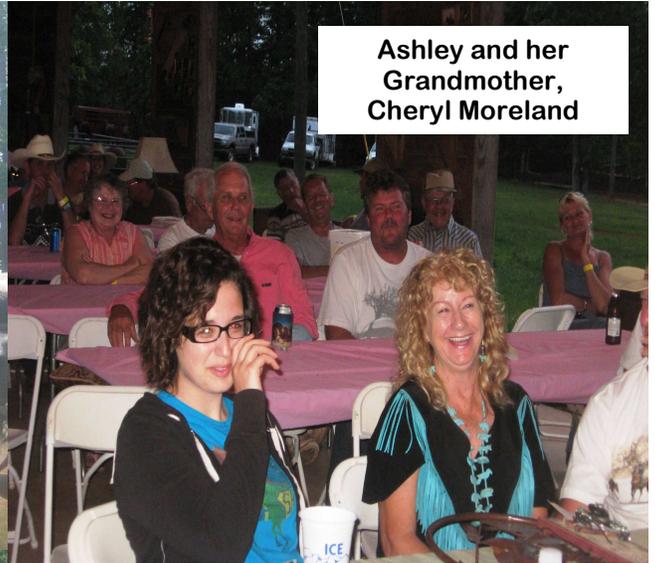


**Bob & Dorothy Thomas
Anne Ensminger & Ron Cook**

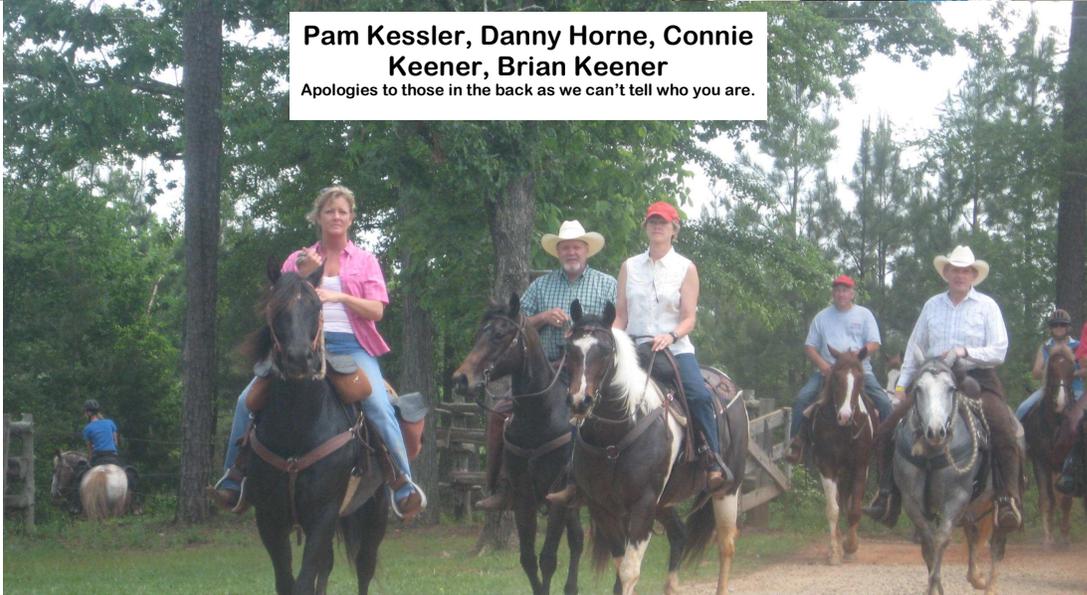
GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE



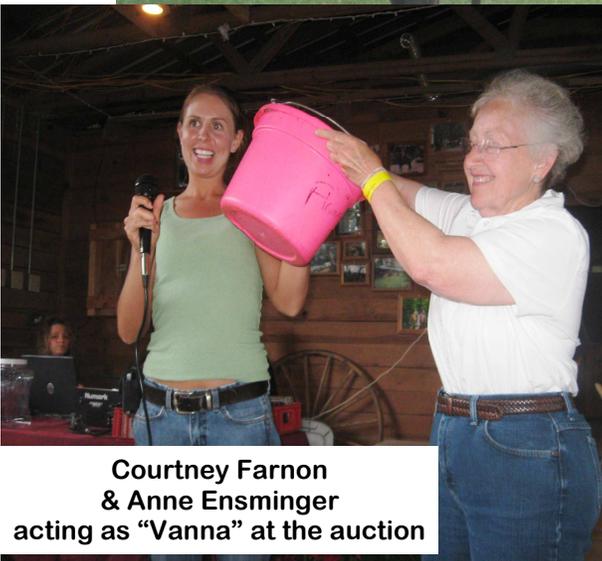
**Patty Livingston, GERL Pres
& Betty Sue Hearin**



**Ashley and her
Grandmother,
Cheryl Moreland**



**Pam Kessler, Danny Horne, Connie
Keener, Brian Keener**
Apologies to those in the back as we can't tell who you are.



**Courtney Farnon
& Anne Ensminger
acting as "Vanna" at the auction**



**Trevor Sargent & Dede
Jack Pesserilo**

We Need Your Help! Auction Items Are Needed

We have upcoming events that will include auctions.

We need you to help by donating auction items. These items can include new or used tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc. Remember ... our auctions are only as successful as the items that we have to offer.

Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental? Do you have a timeshare that you do not use? Perhaps you would consider donating a few nights or a week for one of our upcoming auctions. It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

Thank You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate
or have additional questions please contact

Susan Archer, Event Coordinator
(770) 554-1381
susangerl3@bellsouth.net

Can You Help GERL?

GERL often receives donations in the way of saddles and other tack to go into our auctions during Fests.

Unfortunately, we've found that our auctions don't always bring top dollar for these items. Perhaps because most people already have what they need. Nevertheless, I've been thinking that these items would bring GERL more money if they were advertised on the internet via Ebay or Craigs List. This is something that I'd like to experiment with to see if we can find a volunteer who would be willing to set up an account for GERL and advertise horse tack.

If you have the time and ability to volunteer for such a role, I'd love to hear from you! Please contact Patty Livingston at (770) 867-0760.



Foster and Adoptive Homes Desperately Needed

By : Anne Ensminger, Secretary

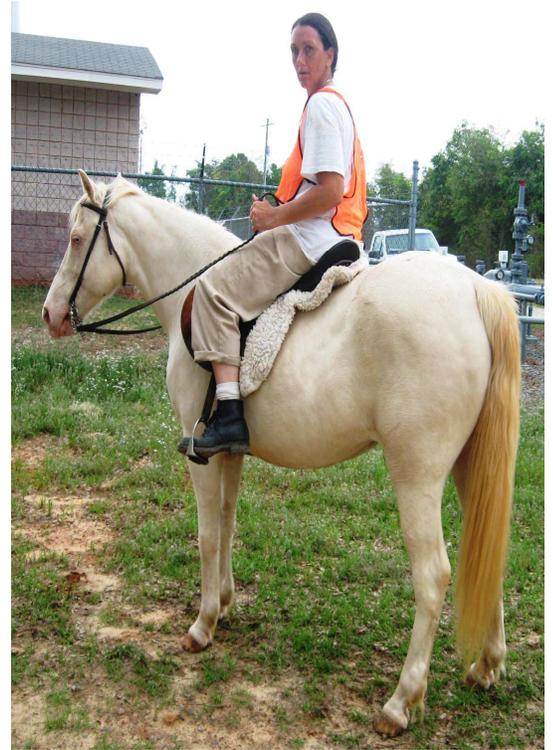
As everyone has seen by now, we have a new Board of Directors, a new address, and a new newsletter editor, which has led to a new look for our newsletter. These things are just the beginning. We also have a new Foster and Adoption Coordinator. Donna Pieper has taken on this monumental task and is anxious to get to work making a difference for horses in need.

Never has the need been greater in these two areas. Horses are being abandoned and given up because of job losses or other financial hardships that are the result of the present economy in our country. GERL is now frequently called upon to help these horses, therefore, we are in need of help from our membership as never before.

Can you offer a horse a temporary home until a permanent home can be found? Are you interested in adopting a GERL horse?

If you have answered yes to either of these questions please contact Donna Pieper at (404) 797-3333 or gerl-donna@bellsouth.net. Let Donna know what you are able to foster and if you are looking to adopt, what sort of horse would work for you (mare, gelding, young horse, old horse, pet, or riding horse). If you have made such an offer in the past and have not been contacted, rest assured that you WILL get a response from Donna. The need is great. Please help us meet this need and help these horses!

Georgia Department of Agriculture ***EQUINE IMPOUND AUCTION***



Saturday June 6, 2009

**Lawrence L. Bennett Harness Horse Training Facility
Hawkinsville, Georgia**

Gates open at 10:00am, Sale starts at 12:00pm

For more information and a list of all horses offered for
sale visit the Department's website at:
www.agr.georgia.gov or call 404-656-3713

GERL Volunteers

By **Leisa McCannon, GERL Volunteer Coordinator**

Volunteer – *A person who enters or offers to enter into any services of his own free will.* This is what Webster's Dictionary calls a volunteer. I call a volunteer a GERL member and friend.

We just had our 1st annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride and it was my job to get volunteers for all of the different areas of the event: set up, registration, T-shirt sales, serving breakfast and dinner, auction set up, clean up after the meals and break down the tables after all is said and done. Thinking this was a piece of cake, I sent out e-mails to everyone that I knew would be going to Fest that I had e-mail addresses for. To my surprise, I got very few answers. No problem, I thought, I still have my trusted few and we could do this. Then, four of my few were not able to come due to illness. Well now, what am I going to do?

I let the Board Members know what had happened and everyone said "no problem". "We will just do what we have to do". And that is what was done. With the help of some very special folks, some on my list and some that just jumped in where needed, we got the job done! I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wanted to name each and every one of you, but, when I started my list I was so afraid I would leave someone out. You all know who you are and what you did to help. And, how gratifying you feel to have done what you did.

I hope that at our next event, whether it be a booth that someone has asked us to participate, a GDA sale, or one of our fund raiser events, that some of you that missed helping out will step up and see just how good it makes you feel to know you did something good; not only for the horses but something good for yourself.

Thank You To Those Who Donated Items For Our Auctions For The Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

Betty & Duane Evenson - The Barn Door, Inc.
Boss Brothers - Loganville, GA
Dr. Jan & Bobby Smith
Reponda Bailey
Cheryl Moreland
Amy Cox - Kaleidoscope Window Designs
Ray Ziebell - RAZ Creations
Wayne Coe
Clemson Tack Shop
Leisa & David McCannon
Ken & Susan Archer
Robin Evans - Hippy Chick Productions
Sandee Digh – ORIGINS by Sandee
Suzie Hansen & Scott Harris
Clifford Herrington
Ronnie Pesserilo
Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia
Leann Householder - Engrave This
Mary Green - GDA
Diana Kelsey DeMoss
Anne Ensminger

THANK YOU!!!

**Please Make Note of
GERL's NEW ADDRESS**

**GERL
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620**



Pulaski Prose

By “Squirrel” – Melinda Studstill

We received a shipment of horses at our new impound yard at Pulaski and as always my heart just aches as my eyes see that most of them have a body score of one. Two particular horses caught my eye because of the severe leg wounds they had. I can't understand how an owner can look at something like this and do nothing. So, I made it my mission to heal these horses' legs and restore their trust and give them all my love and attention.

The first horse was named “Navy” (we named this entire group after colors). She is a 1 ½ year old bay filly. She was scared and barely halter broke; it took a lot of time and patience to earn her trust. At first I could barely approach her, but I would not give up, I was determined to heal her! Each day I caught her, cleaned her wounds, applied medication, and assured her she was in good hands now. It took a while, but the change in “Navy” is unbelievable. Her leg wounds have healed with no lameness. It's great to see her running in the pasture! She's a very sweet natured horse and follows me around everywhere.

(continued on the following page)



Navy's Legs



Navy

Pulaski Prose

(continued from the previous page)

The second horse was named “Rouge”. She is a 1 ½ year old sorrel filly. She was so sweet from day one and I had no problem treating her. It was like she knew, “hey, this lady is trying to save me!” Her wound was so bad and her leg so swollen that she could barely walk. I couldn’t believe it! The first thing I did was to get her wounds cleaned up and start medical treatment. She was much easier to work with, thank goodness, because we had a lot of work to do on that leg. She needed treatments twice a day and a surgery to remove the skin flap that was hanging. I was so worried about her, afraid she would be lame for life. After three months of loving care, “Rouge” is running without even a limp. She’s still getting one treatment a day but her wounds are healing nicely.



Rouge

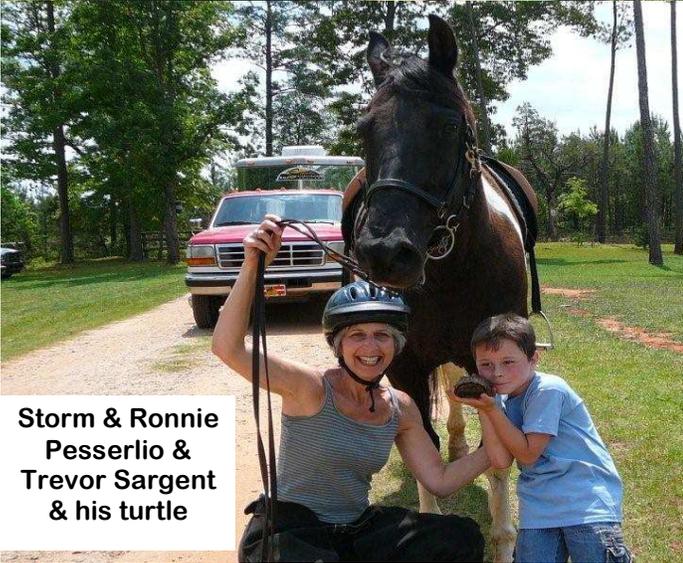
I know both of these horses will make someone very happy. It’s a privilege to be a part of this program here at Pulaski Women’s Prison. All of the horses not only receive love, but they give love. It will be hard to see them go, but I know they will go to a good home. I never knew how many horses were abused and neglected. This has opened my eyes and inspired me to pursue a job as a veterinary assistant and to volunteer my services to help abused horses after I am released. I am from North Georgia, Rabun County and I have horses of my own. I’m ready to go home too! For now, I’m happy to be a part of the team here at the Pulaski Impound. The Georgia Department of Agriculture inspectors have been wonderful. They are very patient with us and I’ve already learned so much from them. I look forward to continue working with them all and the horses that depend on us for healing.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference**

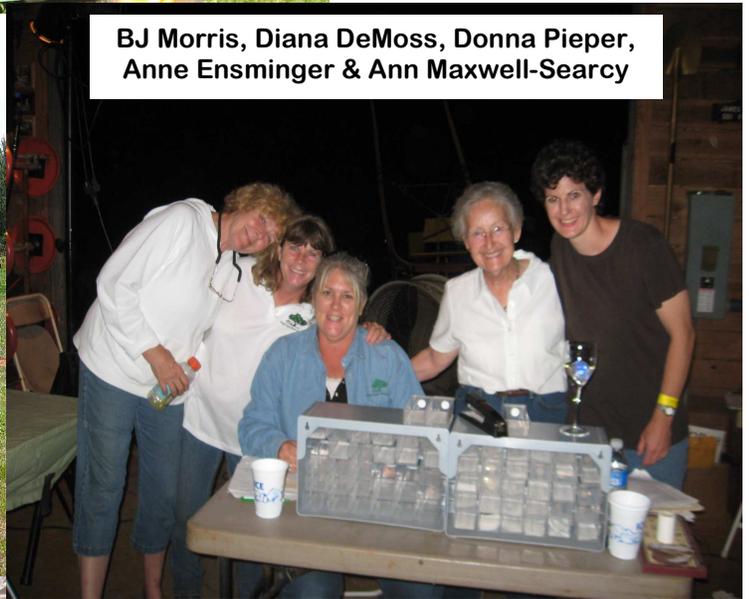
GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE



Betty Sue Hearin,
Mickey Farmer &
Ken Archer



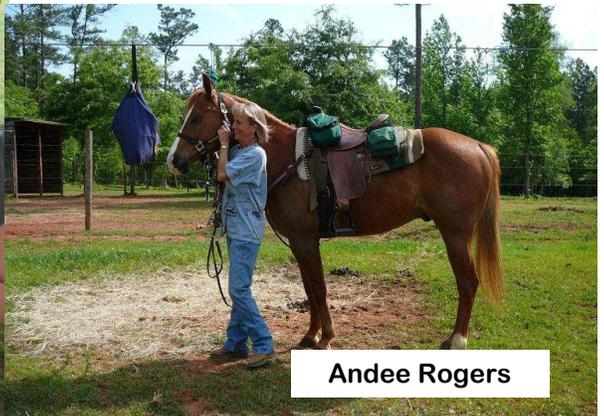
Storm & Ronnie
Pesserlio &
Trevor Sargent
& his turtle



BJ Morris, Diana DeMoss, Donna Pieper,
Anne Ensminger & Ann Maxwell-Searcy



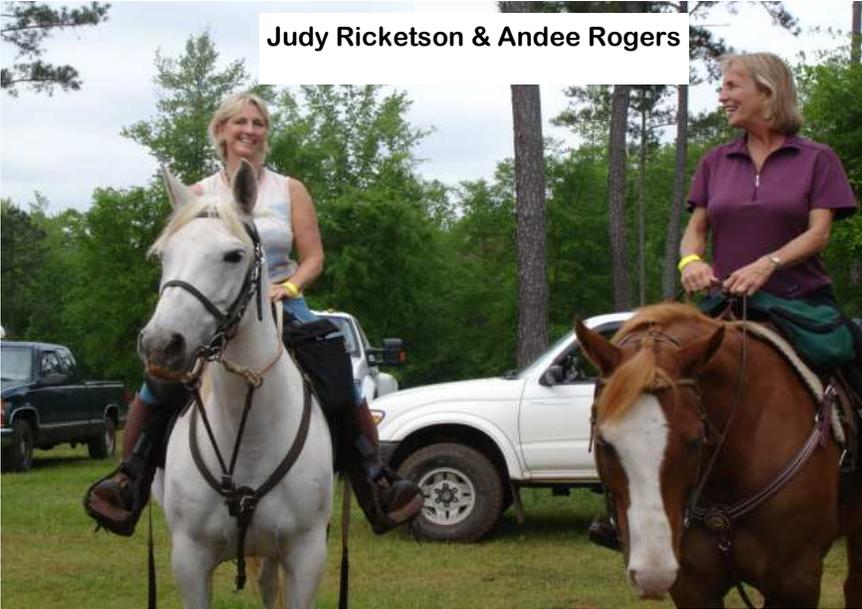
GDA Equine Inspectors
Robin Easley, Courtney Farnon & Pam Borst



Andee Rogers

GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE

Judy Ricketson & Andee Rogers



Bob & Judy McCrory



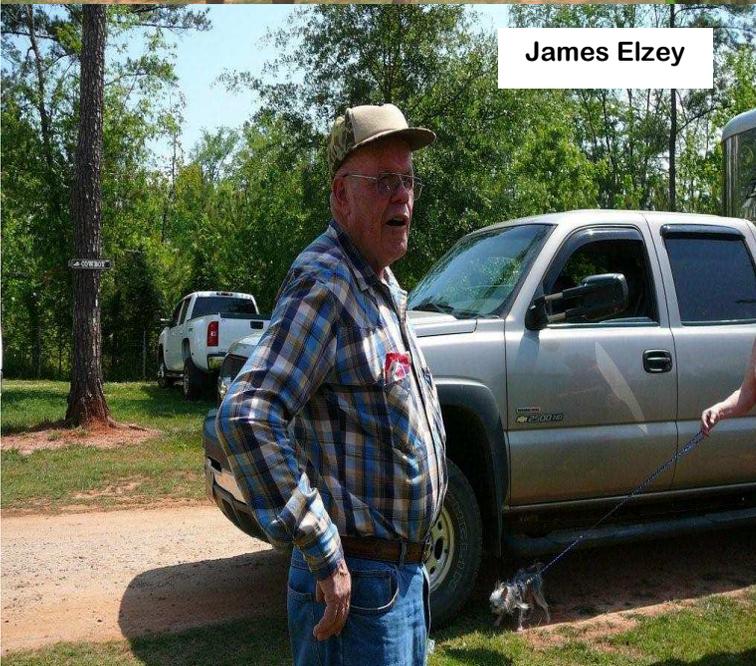
Pam Borst
GDA
Inspector



Mickey Farmer



James Elzey



Back Country Horsemen Of North Georgia – East Fork Benefit

By Betty Evenson, Ride Coordinator

The weekend for our long anticipated 2nd annual East Fork benefit finally arrived. As temperatures soared to 80+ degrees the trucks and trailers rolled in! Everyone was ready to get their camp set up and hit the trail.

East Fork offers wonderful campsites and over 100 miles of beautiful, well marked trails. With very easy riding to more challenging riding in places, there are certainly trails for everyone. Some chose to ride 2 – 3 hours and some chose to ride 8 hours each day. The flowers and young growth along the trail were magnificent. They were definitely a couple of weeks behind us in their young, spring growth. The many over-looks provide views that will take your breath away.



Keith Flemming & Donna Pieper

We kicked off our festivities with a pot luck supper on Thursday night. The food was incredible ... with salads, veggies, meats (Scott's smoked pork roast is always top on my list) and desserts there was enough food to feed an army.

As many were coming in from a day of riding, Pete Dillingham kicked off Friday afternoon with an amazing clinic held in the arena. He covered the “hows and whys” for a soft back up, an inside leg and a side pass and their benefit on the trail. After a scrumptious chicken dinner with all of the fixins' many settled in to dance the night away with live music provided by Crossroads!

We began our silent auction at dinner time on Friday night. Everyone was assigned a bidder number and the fun began! The silent auction ran until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. We had many great items to bid on ... horsey camping weekends from True West Campground, Hungry Horse Camp & Stables, Hayes Canyon Campground, Fort Valley Ranch, Heart of Dixie, East Fork, Fort Mountain, over 50 horsey gift and décor items from The Barn Door, a clinic with Pete Dillingham, and many more items.

Our live auction began at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. The auction items had been displayed throughout the afternoon and dinner for all to see. We wanted folks to see what we had for them to bid on. Our auctioneer was Mickey Farmer. Those who had never had the pleasure of participating in an auction run by Mickey were in for a great surprise. Some of us have done fund-raisers with Mickey for many years and knew just what to look forward to ... and Mickey certainly did not disappoint. We had a great time and auctioned off nearly 50 items including several saddles, many home décor and art items as well as riding equipment. (continued on the following page)



One of many beautiful waterfalls at East Fork

**Back Country Horsemen Of North Georgia – East Fork Benefit
(continued from the previous page)**

The highest bids of the night were made on four nights at Susan & Bruce Shedd’s Trail’s End cabin on Big South Fork, and three nights at Orchard Cove in the Smokies. I must also mention the incredible hand-painted coffee table and two end tables that Melinda Towe, BCHNG President, painted and donated for the auction. These were simply awesome and will look great in Mickey Farmer’s home. A bidding war led Lisa Carroll to pay a very inflated price for a rug that she obviously was not going home without. But folks ... everyone was having fun and raising money is what the weekend was all about!



Becky Gregory

Before packing up and heading home, many of us attended Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. Lee Myers, DVM provided a wonderful message called “The Trail Ride of Life”. Thank you Lee - you did a great job! Thank you also to Judy McCrory for providing live music for Cowboy Church.

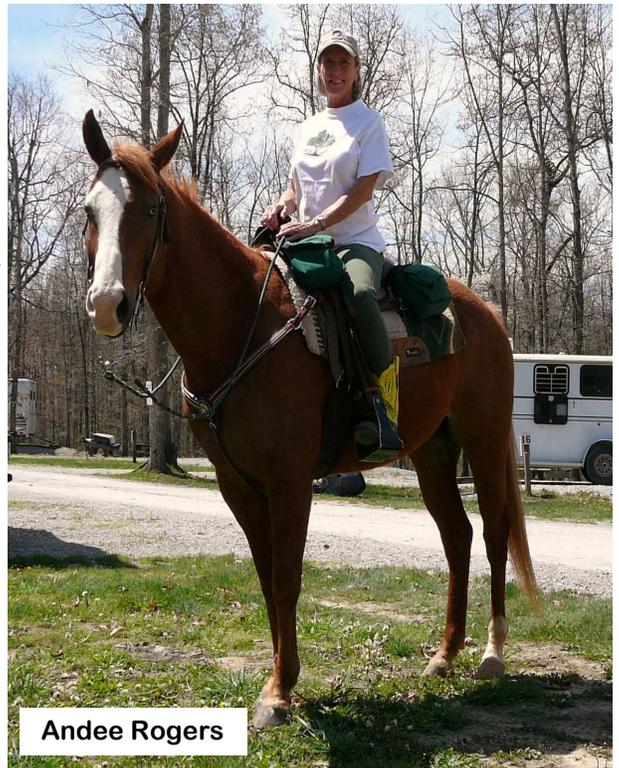
I have to mention the food that East Fork provided ... Everyone agreed that once again the food was excellent! East Fork provided a big, stick-to-your-ribs breakfast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Friday night was grilled chicken, greens and all the trimmings. Saturday night dinner was my favorite – prime rib, salad and all the trimmings. We certainly did not go hungry!

make sure that we had everything that we needed ...from Sandy in the office to Jonathon, Eddie and Dennis on the grounds. Whether we needed a stapler, extra shavings or more tables for our auction, the East Fork staff was more than happy to accommodate our every request. They truly could not have been more helpful.

It took many, many hours and volunteers to make this weekend a huge success! Some of you worked tirelessly and provided donations and sponsorship support. I cannot begin to thank you enough. This wonderful weekend would have not taken place without you!

With an initial sponsorship donation of \$300, our ride sponsors were as follows:

- Ruthie’s Charity
 - Andee Rogers of Dan Rivers Insurance
 - Betty & Duane Evenson of The Barn Door, Inc.
 - Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association
 - Shorty Gray of Shorty’s Saddle & Tack
 - Susan Shedd of Appalachian Realty
 - Martha Fillingham of Cohutta Stables
 - Leon Faris of Professional Accounting Services
 - Fannin Co-Op
 - Thomas Divide
- (continued on the following page)



Andee Rogers

**Back Country Horsemen
Of North Georgia – East Fork Benefit
(continued from the previous page)**

In addition to their \$300 sponsorship, The Barn Door provided over 75 auction items, Susan Shedd donated a stay at her Big South Fork Cabin and Thomas Divide donated a 5 night stay at their property.

Other auction items were given by Ruthies Charity, Melinda Towe, Heather Burke, Donna Holloway, Ellen Stara, Lyn Pederson, Jim Holland, Joan Tipton, Carol Upshaw, Bruce & Susan Shedd, Carol & Carlos Martel, Sandy Stephenson and others.

I cannot thank Ellen Stara enough for taking the lead on the auction. Several months ago she spent time at my office tagging and logging the auction items. Upon arriving at East Fork she coordinated the items, bid sheets, etc. This is a HUGE, HUGE job and the auction would not have run nearly as well without her organization and dedication! Thank you Ellen!

Thank you to our auctioneer Mickey Farmer for providing a fun, entertaining, and most importantly ... profitable live auction. We appreciate you making the long drive to East Fork.

Thank you to all of our volunteers ... Ellen Stara, Andee Rogers, Patty Livingston, Lisa Carroll, Susan Archer, Marie Simrod, Carol Upshaw, Martha Fillingham, Donna Pieper, Melinda Towe, Carol & Carlos Martel, Diana Kelsey DeMoss, Anne Ensminger, Ronnie Pesserilo, Heather Burk and anyone that I may inadvertently forgotten. I want to especially thank Mitsy Merritt who was a tremendous help. It seemed that every time something needed to be done ... Mitsy was right there!

Thank you also to my husband, Duane, who tried his best to remain patient as many of my hours were spent attending meetings, talking to folks interested in the ride, coordinating with East Fork, working on the auction, etc. For those of you who know me, you know that I tend to thrive on this sort of excitement!

We don't have final numbers yet, but it looks like we again surpassed my fund-raising goal of \$10,000! Final numbers will follow!

Thank you to all of you who helped to make our second annual BCHNG fund-raiser a huge success!!!

And ... the 3rd annual 2009 BCHNG fund-raiser will be held at East Fork Stables April 22nd – 25th. Make your reservations now (directly with East Fork (800) 978-7245) to secure your favorite campsite or cabin!



**Bobby Mitchell &
Diana DeMoss**



**Andee Rogers &
Susie Hansen**



**CAMPING / PATIO MATS
offered by**

**The Barn Door, Inc.
thebarndoor.com
(800) 332-9251**

Perfect for backyard patio or camping with your horses in the great outdoors! Reversible 100% polypropylene mat is indoor/ outdoor, UV stabilized for fade resistance, easy to clean and has corner loops for securing to the ground. Measures 9' x 12'. Colors: Beige, Black and Cranberry.

In stock and available for shipment!

**GERL
Calendar of Events**

Fall Fest, 2009

October 30th - Nov 1st
Location to be announced

**Gene Ensminger 2nd Annual
Memorial Ride 2010**

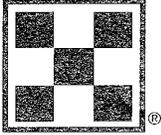
April 30th - May 2nd
to be held at
Ron & Adrian Cook's
Round Oak, GA

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful rides that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time ... a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!



Please Help

Please send proof of purchase seals from bags of any Southern States feed to
Ginny Scarritt - 4835 Kendall Court - Atlanta, GA 30342.
Ginny is collecting them for GERL, and we will receive money for every pop seal she sends to Southern States.



The Stock Market



David & Marilyn Crabb

April 24, 2009

Hi to all the great folks at GERL:

Enclosed is our check for \$870 as well as two other checks that were given to us with GERL instead of Stock Market on them. Your total from our Spring Flea Market is \$900.

We are very glad you were able to be with us at the flea market, and we hope you can join us again in the fall.

Thanks for all the great work you do, and know that our thanks for your good work and our prayers are with you.

Everyone at

THE STOCK MARKET

David and Marilyn

4479 GA Hwy. 20 S.E. • Conyers, GA 30013
Ph: 770-483-6968 • Fax: 770-483-1345
Email: storemail@thestockmarketcountrystore.com

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