



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...  
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #177

[www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)

June 2010

## Second Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2010

By Anne Ensminger

GERL President, Patty Livingston has asked me to write an account of our most recent fund raiser for the newsletter. This annual spring event has come to be known affectionately as the "Gene Ride". As you can imagine, since Gene was my soul mate, I carried strong emotions in my heart for most of the weekend. Some of the feelings were heavy but most of the time they were very uplifting. I received many hugs over the three days and I will carry them into the coming year and draw strength from the memory associated with each one.



Ron Cook &  
Leisa McCannon  
cruising camp

The agenda for annual GERL fund raisers rarely changes but those who attend are what make each event unique. I took quite a few pictures and many of them appear in this publication. I only wish we had room to print a photo of every person who attended.

We had roughly 100 participants for the weekend. Some of them only came for the Saturday activities and some came simply to volunteer. Such was the case for Gail Mann and Reponda Bailey who spent most of their time in the kitchen. They prepared wonderful breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings, as well as a yummy spaghetti dinner on Saturday. Additionally, a HUGE help in so many ways, were three young men we first met at Fright Fest last October. Cody, Ryan, and Jake endeared themselves to many as they willingly pitched in to help with all kinds of chores. They are our volunteers of the month and will be featured elsewhere in this issue. (continued on page 6)

**Who's Who**  
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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

If you are interested in becoming an Area Coord.  
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## LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

I have been giving a lot of thought to how we might strengthen GERL presence and support to regions in Georgia, outside of the Atlanta area. I am constantly running into folks who tell me that they have never heard of GERL and how they wish they had a GERL in their area. I'm always a little surprised since we ARE the GEORGIA Equine Rescue League. The truth is that we definitely need added representation in the more remote areas of Georgia since the need there is equal to the areas we traditionally serve.

For those of you who are new to GERL, we have Area Coordinators located in various counties all over the state. They are volunteers who serve as a public contact for GERL, assist in inspecting and follow-up visits with potential foster and/or adoptive homes, and assist GERL with public education in their designated area. Many of our Area Coordinators have not been given an opportunity to play an active role in the past. Many will attest to the fact that they've never received a request for their help since they became an AC. This is something that I'd really like to change.

Speaking of change, we have recently, and very reluctantly, accepted the resignation of Ronnie Pessero, long time GERL Area Coordinator Director. Ronnie has worked hard and done a wonderful job but now deserves to be able to spend more time pursuing her love of riding and taking care of her family. Jack and Dottie Carter, Area Coordinators from the Hiawassee area, have graciously stepped in to fill Ronnie's position. I look forward to working with them as we move our Area Coordinator Program forward.

Some of the goals on my agenda are:

1. Set up a Regional Structure: While we are delighted that members are coming forward to volunteer their help as Area Coordinators, we realize that there are many whom we have never met and have never been trained. As more Area Coordinators are added, we want to find ways to educate them and better communicate our thoughts about how they can help the organization. We would like to organize all of the Area Coordinators by region, using the same regional map that is currently used by the GDA State Inspectors.
2. Area Coordinator Leads: I would like to see each region have an Area Coordinator Lead who would be responsible for communication, training, etc. for all of the Area Coordinators in their region. The Area Coordinator Lead for each region would report back to Jack and Dottie.

3. Create an Education Committee: Regrettably, Education Coordinator, Kelly Lockerman, has also recently been forced to resign due to increasing professional demands and the reduced amount of time she has to dedicate to her GERL role. We need an outstanding and motivated volunteer who would be willing to fill the position of Education Coordinator.



And let me say this, about that, EDUCATION makes up at least half of the pie. All other activities of GERL (castration and vaccination clinics, adoption/foster program, supporting the GDA Impounds and other law enforcement agencies, etc) make up the other half. It is important that we get more involved in education (at all levels) and this cannot be done by one person. I am suggesting that we have an Education Coordinator Lead located in each region who will work with the Area Coordinator Lead to ensure that all of the Area Coordinator's receive training and guidance in, at least, the following areas:

- How to body score a horse
- Familiarization with GERL's guidelines for involvement with starvation cases, rescues, etc.
- Take an active part in coordinating meetings with local law enforcement and animal control agencies in Georgia counties to introduce the work of GERL and let them know how we can work together.
- Coordinate and promote GERL booth attendance at various equine related events throughout the state. Coordinate Vaccination and Castration clinics

In preparing for a recent TV interview, I was listing all of the things that make GERL different from other horse rescues. Our Area Coordinators are largely what separates us from the others. We need to continue to expand in this area to become more effective advocates for the starved and abused horses in our state. This is going to require many more volunteers. We need people who are willing to be leaders as we build upon the framework of our Area Coordinator Program. I remain passionate about the work of GERL and I hope that many more will agree to become involved and insure that we will be able to continue this work which is so important.

As we often say, with your help ... we WILL make a difference!



## **A Note from the Secretary's Desk** By Anne Ensminger

Another month has passed and we now have one of our largest fund raisers of the year, the Gene Ride, behind us. It was a huge success. No time to rest. On toward the Foxhall Farm event in June.

As your Secretary, it is my pleasure to send out membership cards and literature to those who are new members and to those who renew their memberships each year. I also (and this is my favorite part of the job) get to thank people for things (usually donations) they do for GERL. I started at the beginning of this year, keeping a log of all correspondence sent from my office. Today I mailed my 300<sup>th</sup> piece of mail since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the past I have written about the many calls GERL receives each month on our phone line. I will certainly do that again because I feel our members need to know about the problems GERL faces and handles each day. But this time I would like to tell you about some of the mail we received in just the last batch to which I responded. Most of these are from March and this is, by no means, all of them. It's just a taste of the goodness in our world.

I will start with Shelly MacMillan who sent \$25 "in memory of Captain Charlie". Now we have no idea if Captain Charlie was a horse, but I bet he was. We don't know if Shelly recently lost her Captain Charlie or if he has been gone for a long while. All we know is that Shelly has lost a dear friend and wants to do something for horses as a token of her love for Captain Charlie. That is moving to me.

Seventy three year old, Frank Mann sent in his application for membership. He writes "I have been an active volunteer at the Mansfield Impound for two years." At what age do we stop loving horses and wanting to help? Obviously, 73 is not that age for Frank Mann.

Eric and Cambria Moon sent \$300 "to be used to pay for the April 23, 2010 Stable Mates cover to advertise the Foxhall Farm Ride in June, which will benefit the GDA Impound Program". Not only are Cambria Moon and Christina Gilham organizing this ride, but they are paying for the advertizing! I certainly hope many of our members will come out to support their efforts. Information can be found on the GERL website.

Constance Burchette is a regular contributor to our Feed a Horse Program. She recently wrote a personal note to tell me that it was not necessary for me "to worry about sending a thank you note". Well Connie, I just can't stop. You are the best!

Imagine our excitement to receive a check for \$5000 from Mary Jane Mallady with a note saying "Hope this check will help with saving some beautiful horses. You all are doing a great job." This is not the first large donation Mary Jane has sent. Just her note made us feel like skipping that night's sleep and getting back to work!

You wouldn't believe how many checks and notes we get from Nancy Fitzgibbons. We received a check dated March 9, 2010 and another, even larger check, dated March 15, 2010. I have run out of superlatives to describe the giving heart of Nancy Fitzgibbons.

I mentioned before that we regularly, each month, receive a check for \$15 from Junior Member, Samantha Ball. I don't know how old Samantha is but I know that her mother writes the checks for her and that she is learning at a very early age, the joy of giving. It is a lesson that will eventually place her in the class with many of the women mentioned in this article. It's a good place for a young woman to find herself.

Christine Sheehy sent in their GERL renewal and (once again) included a donation for \$50 "in honor of Barry Sheehy" (her husband). I think that is the sweetest thing!

This is a great one. Gail Coffee sent a note to tell us that she had a 25<sup>th</sup>. birthday party for her TWH gelding, Harley. She enclosed a donation of \$200 "in honor of Harley." Now there is a lady who is not about to discard her horse, as many do, just because he is getting a few years on him!

Thanks, Carol and Chuck Ewing, for your recent donation in memory of my Gene.

Kay Watson sent a donation because she had been unable to attend our Poker Ride. She just wanted to be a part of the ride anyway.

Kriston Glushko accepted a donated saddle on behalf of GERL. She advertized the saddle, got top dollar for it, and mailed us a check for the proceeds. Now that is going the "extra mile".

(continued on the following page)

**Secretary's Article**  
(continued from the previous page)

Last, but not least, Marshia Milam-Medford sent us \$100 with the notation "Because I feel so helpless". Marshia, we also very often feel helpless but with the help and encouragement of folks like you and many others, we will never stop trying to figure out what to do about the cruelty and neglect that we see.

If space permitted, I could write all night about donations and notes we get from people who care deeply. I didn't even especially choose the ones I mentioned above. They were just the last on the pile. To be the Secretary for GERL and experiencing the goodness in so many people, is the best medicine this old lady could ever take. I don't expect I will ever have to worry about suffering from "heart trouble".



Dear GERL

I have been a member of GERL since the beginning and am now a lifetime member. I used to know every member but the organization has, thankfully, grown until that is no longer possible.

A serious illness has made it impossible for me to participate for the last couple of years but I read every word of my newsletter each month and can't wait to get reports from my many friends who attend GERL events.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank so many for the calls, the cards, the gifts, and the prayers which have sustained me. One of my serious goals is to get better and be present for the 3<sup>rd</sup>.Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride next spring. See you there!

Sylvia Mooney

**Thank You  
Dr. Ken Marcella**

for providing our membership with such informative articles each month.

See page 11 for this month's article



**Please Help!  
GERL receives money  
for the following ...**

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these Southern States feeds ...  
Legends, Triple Crown & Reliance

and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt  
4835 Kendall Court  
Atlanta, GA 30342

**Thank You To Our Foster Homes**

**Belinda & Hannah Carruth**  
for fostering Aurora

**Dotti & Jack Carter**  
for fostering Big Man (aka Beau)

**Diana DeMoss**  
for fostering Cheyenne, White Cloud and Grant

**Anne Ensminger**  
for fostering Honor

**April & Stoney Goss**  
for fostering Highway

**Bob & Shirley Guhl**  
for fostering Lobo & Tyree

**Patti & Phil Henry**  
for fostering Chester

**Patty & Nick Howard**  
for fostering Eryzeka & Rosie

**Lisa & Randy King**  
for fostering Shadow

**Patty Livingston**  
for fostering Brutus and Thunder

**Jean Long**  
for fostering Lucky

**Susan McCullar**  
for fostering GrayBaby and HayBaler

**Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert**  
for fostering Vandy

**Steven Neal**  
for fostering Leroy, Smokey and Sable

**Donna Pieper & Keith Fleming**  
for fostering Snowball

**Cheryl Popiel**  
for fostering Charity

**Tamma Trump**  
for fostering Hope

**Christina Pelham Warren**  
for fostering Ebony

**Second Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2010  
(continued from the cover)**

I hesitate to even start to mention names of those who volunteered for the many duties involved with the production of such an event because I fear I will leave someone out. The most wonderful thing about our volunteers is that they do not expect, nor want to be recognized. So let me just say that we could not have accomplished all we did during the weekend without them. Your GERL Board of Directors is deeply grateful for each smiling face and each willing hand.

Since a few of us just came to work and enjoy visiting with new and old friends, I did not even bring my horse. In spite of that, I had three wonderful rides on horses belonging to dear friends. During the weekend I had the pleasure of riding Cowboy, Marge Mabey's twenty eight year old Arab gelding which I have admired for years. I was not disappointed as I experienced his awesome, forward walk and I made sure someone took my picture! Then I was delighted when B.J. Morris and Ann-Max Searcy stepped forward and asked if I would like to ride their Paso Fino gelding or their beautiful Morgan mare. Of course I wanted to ride BOTH! Having never ridden examples of either breed previously, I was delighted with the experience and gathered more fond memories and photos to treasure.

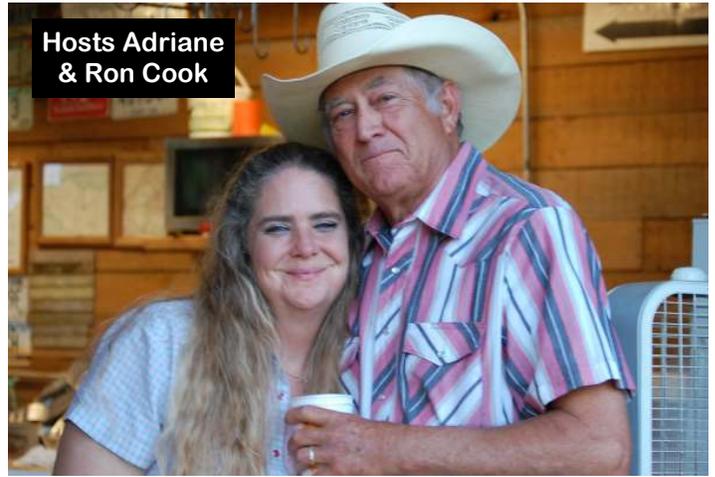
**Steven Neal, JoRay Lockridge & Kelly Keating**



Thankfully, there were no injuries to riders or horses during the weekend. I did hear of one rider who landed on the ground but she was not hurt, just got a little dirty. I'm not mentioning names! The knats were terrible on the trail but we received none of the rain which had been predicted.

All were thrilled to see Rita Bandt riding her new horse, Stormy (she calls him Jasper) which she adopted from GERL. They are going to be an awesome pair!

**Hosts Adriane  
& Ron Cook**



While many folks were out riding the trails on Saturday, a group of "stay at homes" gathered in the pavilion for a spirited game of Yatzee. I had never played the game but soon caught on and look forward to the next time we can all be together for such a friendly competition.

Always, in the background, is our auction crew (Susan Wrensen, Susan Archer, David and Leisa McCannon, and Ronnie Peserillo) arranging items and placing bid sheets so that all can begin to enjoy the fun of the bidding competition for favorite items. I had my eye on a certain embroidered canvas bag but my "friends" learned of my interest and kept upping my bid! In the end, I won the bid but when I went to pay, my item was marked "paid in full"! I had a heck of a time finding out the identity of my benefactors so that I could give them a hug. This is just a tiny example of the giving nature of those associated with GERL. I am so proud to be a part of such a group.

I'm not much for staying up late but I could hear laughter until a very late hour, coming from the pavilion on Thursday evening. I understand that there was a raucous card game going on. I dare not give the name of the game but will tell you that it has something to do with getting VERY familiar with you neighbor! It made me smile to know that they were having such fun.

Photo at Right - Lamar Chandler's best friend "Do" as in "you betta do what I tell you to do!"  
(continued on the following page)



**Second Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2010  
(continued from the previous page)**

Mickey Farmer arrived on Friday and parked next to me. You better believe that this wonderful, fun loving, big old bear, as always, attracted a crowd at his campsite both Friday and Saturday evenings. I could hear his big laugh all over the camp ground until the wee hours. What joy he spreads where ever he goes!

The parking space on the other side of me was occupied by Lamar and Kathy Chandler along with many of their extended family. It was as quiet over there as it was just the opposite on Mickey's side. I must say that the Chandlers have four of the sweetest granddaughters imaginable. I enjoyed both of my neighbors equally.

As for the business of the weekend, we did GREAT! There were many wonderful donated items for our silent and live auctions and bunches of neat stuff for the flea market. Our world famous auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, did his usual outstanding job of convincing Scott Harris and Thomas Threatt to bid on things they really didn't want. I hope everyone went home with one or more bargains and that Scott and Thomas' bank accounts will eventually recover.



**Scott Harris & Mickey Farmer**

Everyone was pleased to see the entire former GERL Board of Directors on Saturday evening. Brian Dees, Pat Dean, Mary Loudermilk, and Margaret Clower all made a special effort to lend their support. Brian's mom, Liz Dees also attended and it was great to see all of them. I even got to enjoy a special dance with Brian to an old Platters tune.

This was, as always, a family event. There were quite a few children attending and I think they had a great time. It seemed that everyone had one or more dogs and they did a great job of keeping them leashed. Jo-

Ray Lockridge brought her Sugar Glider which she explained, time after time, "is NOT a rodent.....it is a nocturnal marsupial!" Anyway, it is the cutest little thing and many, including me, were happy to get to see one for the first time.



**Our cooks Reponda Bailey & Gail Mann**

After dinner and the auction on Saturday, D.J. extraordinaire, Bryan Bowman started to play some great music and encourage everyone to get up and dance. He reminded us that "this is called a 'dance', not a 'sit'". I was afraid that the evening was going to be a "bust" at first but after just a short time, a few folks got up to do some line dancing. Our hosts, Ron and Adriane Cook are great dancers and set the pace early. Finally many others threw their inhibitions to the wind and got up to have some fun. The pavilion was still crowded when the music stopped at half past midnight. It was lots of fun.

We did have one small "incident" when some inebriated local fella stopped at the closed gate to the campground after midnight on Saturday and crushed our GERL Event signs and then broke a huge pile of beer bottles on the ground. Patty Livingston heard the commotion and went out to "speak" to him. She said he got in his truck and trickled off at about 5 miles an hour. She went to bed and we had lots of glass to rake up the next morning. Oh, well!

We were grateful to gain five new members over the weekend, including Gene's son, Allen. Several others renewed their memberships and some of our new members joined us for their first GERL event and got a taste of how much fun, raising money can be.

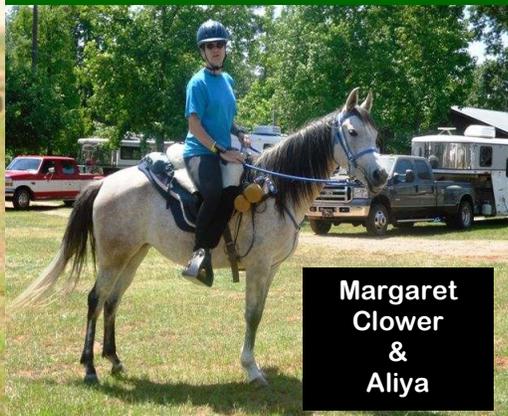
Sunday morning began early with Cowboy Church. Mike Rogers and Judy McCrory sang while Mike's son, Garrett played his guitar. Judy brought the message and we all left feeling ready to take on the day, the coming year, and the rest of our lives as we work (AND PLAY) together, with God's blessing, for the horses.

(enjoy many great Fest photos - continued on the following pages)

# GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE 2010



**BJ Morris**



**Margaret Clower & Aliya**



**Ronnie Pesserilo & BJ Morris**



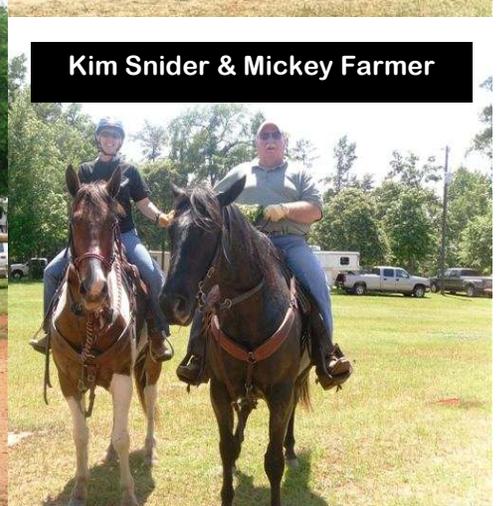
**Patty Livingston & George Wrenson**



**Pam Borst & Robert Horsfall**



**Jessica Crowe**



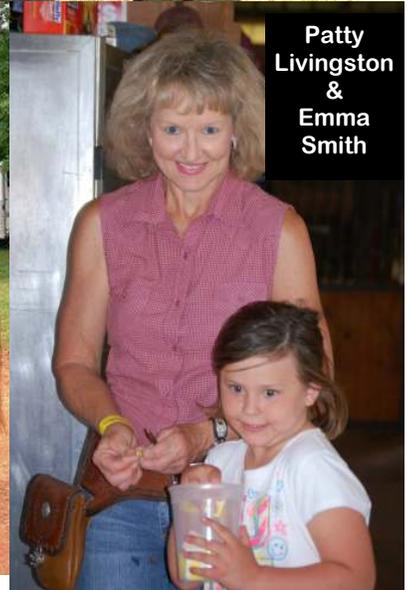
**Kim Snider & Mickey Farmer**



**Gail Macrenaris**



**Jake & Chase**



**Patty Livingston & Emma Smith**



**Bob & Judy McCrory**

# GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE 2010

Camp Taxi



Betty Sue Hearin



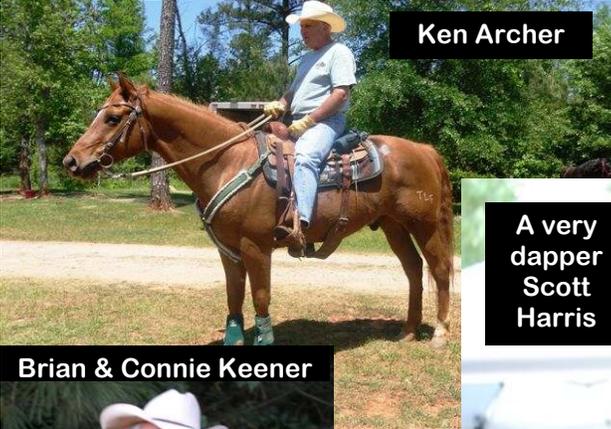
Camp Dog



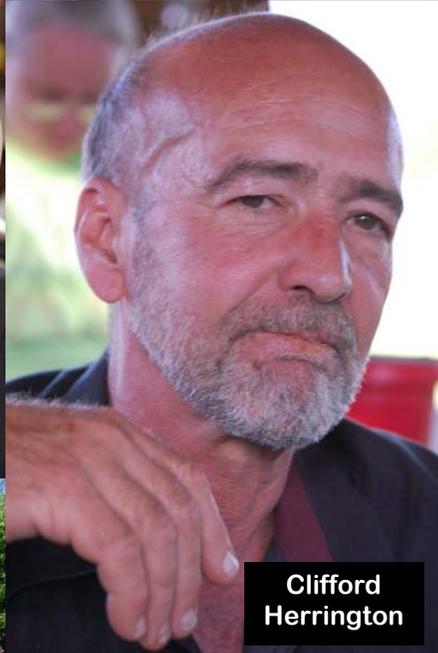
Ginny & James Hunter



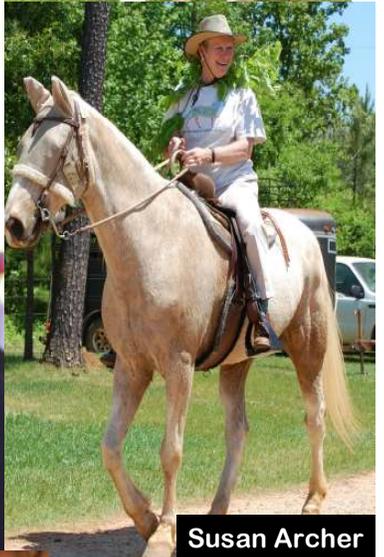
Ken Archer



Clifford Herrington



Susan Archer



Mickey Farmer



A very dapper Scott Harris



Brian & Connie Keener



## WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Helen Abercrombie  
Rick Allard  
Allison Altman  
Diana Bond  
Dr. Gisela Dalton  
Tony & Jennifer Elrod  
Allen Ensminger  
Stella Herrington & Taylor Ballew  
Sammy & Marie LeVert  
Carleen Mauk  
Ryann McCrory  
Sandi Persson  
McNabb Richard  
Harry & Denise Stiles  
Charlie Thurman  
Rebecca Williams

Blairsville, GA  
Eatonton, GA  
Gray, GA  
Blue Ridge, GA  
Jefferson, GA  
Loganville, GA  
Social Circle, GA  
Monroe, GA  
Loganville, GA  
Americus, GA  
Columbus, GA  
Hiawasse, GA  
Clarkesville, GA  
Mansfield, GA  
Inverness, FL  
Toccoa, GA

## Referred By

Jack & Dotti Carter  
GERL  
Adriane & Robin  
B.J. Morris  
GERL  
GERL  
Anne Ensminger  
Clifford Herrington  
GERL  
GERL  
Bob & Judy McCrory  
Jack Carter  
GERL  
Diana DeMoss  
Patty Livingston  
Dr. Alice Beretta

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### 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.

**Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!**

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

Sue Wrensen  
(770) 331-6947  
[swrensen@comcast.net](mailto:swrensen@comcast.net)

OR

Patty Livingston  
(770) 867-0760  
[gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)

**WITH YOUR HELP ...**

**We Will Make A Difference**



## **Equine Lyme Disease - Biting A Bit Deeper**

**By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM**

In 1975 mysterious illnesses and variable signs of disease were occurring in adults and children around the quiet town of Lyme, Connecticut. After much epidemiologic speculation, testing and experimentation, it was determined that these people were suffering from a disease caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, (a spirochete which is a very specialized type of bacteria) and transmitted to humans by Ixodes ticks. This condition was named Lyme disease (LD) and was soon found to be present wherever this species of tick was located. According to Dr. Andrea Varela, a researcher in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology at the University of Georgia, and others associated with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study completed in 2003, Lyme disease "is the most common tick-borne disease of humans worldwide and the most frequently reported vector-borne disease in the United States".

In 1985 Lyme disease was first identified in horses in the United States and the first definitive case was seen in a horse in Britain in 1993. Currently researchers feel that nearly 50% to 70% of adult horses in areas of the northeastern U.S., Mid-Atlantic states, Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern California are either infected or have been infected with Lyme disease. The incidence of LD in other parts of the U.S. is uncertain but, until recently, it was felt to be relatively rare in the south. Equine Lyme disease had been hardly ever tested for in the south and usually not seriously thought of as a reason for vague illness in the horse. New research, however, has uncovered a different species of tick that likely carries a new species of bacteria, which causes a similar type of "Lyme disease-like" condition that is currently being called southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) or southern Lyme disease. While STARI has only been diagnosed in humans to date, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia feel that it is only a matter of time and improved testing until STARI is also identified in a significant percentage of southern horses. The veterinary medical community's experience with the original infection from Lyme, Connecticut would tend to support this assertion since it took nearly 10 years for the human form of this disease to be correlated to the equine version.

Ticks are the crucial vector or means of disease spread in LD. Northeastern Ixodes ticks are commonly referred to as "deer ticks" or "black legged ticks" and their lifecycle takes them through 3 stages of development which occur over two years time. Immature or larval ticks hatch from eggs and can ini-

tially become infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi* by feeding on other small animals that are already infected-usually mice or other rodents. These ticks then transmit the infection to new hosts whenever they have a blood meal. This blood transmission must take place over a 12 to 24 hour period for transfer of bacteria to occur. After another maturation stage, these second or nymph stage ticks feed on multiple species including humans, rodents, horses, cats, and birds. The adult ticks tend to be found most commonly on deer, horses and cattle and the environment (tall grass and easy exposure of tick to host animal) and nature (good hair coat for tick survival and often lack of external parasite control and method of tick removal) of these species allow for adequate feeding time and optimal disease transfer.



Clinical signs of Lyme disease are variable among species but it is known to be a multisystemic illness affecting the joints, musculoskeletal system and neurological system. Horses with LD may show a low-grade fever, stiffness and lameness in more than one joint or limb that is variable in both occurrence and intensity, muscle tenderness, increased response to skin pressure, occasional joint swelling and behavioral changes (nervousness, anxiety, irritability). Sub clinical infection (infection without development of disease) is common in the horse and it is estimated that less than 10 % of all horses infected with LD will go on to show some evidence of the disease. While it is therefore tempting to consider Lyme disease for those horses that have a mild shifting lameness that does not lend itself to easy diagnosis or for that horse that, all of a sudden, is unwilling to work and is showing a behavioral change toward training or competition, owners must remember that only a small percentage of horses in the United States actually have clinical signs from Lyme disease. Athletic horses may show mild lameness or stiffness from a wide variety of causes and there are many management, environmental and hormonal causes responsible for equine behavioral changes as well.

## **Equine Lyme Disease - Biting A Bit Deeper** (continued from the previous page)

Veterinary practitioners will generally not be able to diagnose LD cases based solely on a physical examination. Additional testing is required but is also problematic in that most current blood tests detect antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Since the vast majority of horses in many areas have been exposed to the LD bacteria, they will test positively without any correlation to actual disease. Even a more accurate polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test looking for the presence of actual *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria is flawed because the test can only confirm the presence of bacteria but not its relation to any actual clinical problems. Dr. Kerry Clark, an epidemiology professor at the University of Northern Florida believes that he has developed a better test. "Only about 40% of positive LD cases are detectable by traditional diagnostic tools which test the body's reaction to the Lyme bacteria", says Dr. Clark. His test checks the blood of a patient for DNA from the bacteria and it is hoped that this will help with more accurate identification of actual LD cases.

Diagnosis of Lyme disease is generally made by confirming the history of a tick bite, and the presence of the horse/tick in an endemic area of the country. A physical examination that uncovers signs consistent with Lyme disease and additional diagnostics that rule out other causes or problems are also helpful in reaching a LD diagnosis. A positive blood test and response to appropriate antibiotics are the last two pieces of the diagnostic puzzle for Lyme disease. The antibiotic of choice is tetracycline given intravenously. This antibiotic has been shown to be the most effective with results generally noticed in 2 to 5 days.

Some clinicians also use doxycycline and ceftiofur (other types of antibiotics) as part of their treatment protocols. There are numerous vaccines for LD in dogs and one study by Dr. Tom Divers of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University showed that ponies vaccinated with these canine vaccines did not develop LD titers when challenged by infected ticks later in the study. This indicates some degree of protection but much more research needs to be done. While these canine vaccines are currently not approved for use in horses, they do offer hope that an equine version may be ready for use soon.

Another problem complicating our understanding of Lyme disease is the very recent appearance of an additional bacterial agent carried by a different species of tick, which causes very similar signs. This 'southern tick associated rash illness' STARI infection or southern Lyme disease has affected many people throughout Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, North and South Carolina and Texas. STARI is believed to be carried by the Lonestar tick and the causative bacteria, though still to be defined, is being called *Borrelia lonestari*. This tick is commonly carried by white-tailed deer throughout the south. Many of these infected individuals show classic Lyme disease signs but test negative on standard tests for Lyme disease. Veterinarians believe that it is entirely possible for horses to become infected with STARI and it will take more research, better diagnostics and an increased understanding of ticks before we will be able to sort through these diseases. Clinicians in the south should remain aware of the possibility of STARI and test their client's horses appropriately.

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## **TIMOTHY and/or ORCHARD ALFALFA HAY FOR SALE**

Let us be your source  
for excellent Midwestern Alfalfa-Mix horse hay  
at an extremely competitive price.



**We offer several varieties of hay (lower to higher % of alfalfa with a Timothy / Orchard grass mix). Samples have been tested & lab analyses confirm that this is excellent horse hay. We work directly with the grower to bring this hay to Georgia & the SE. Contact us for pricing, samples, etc.**

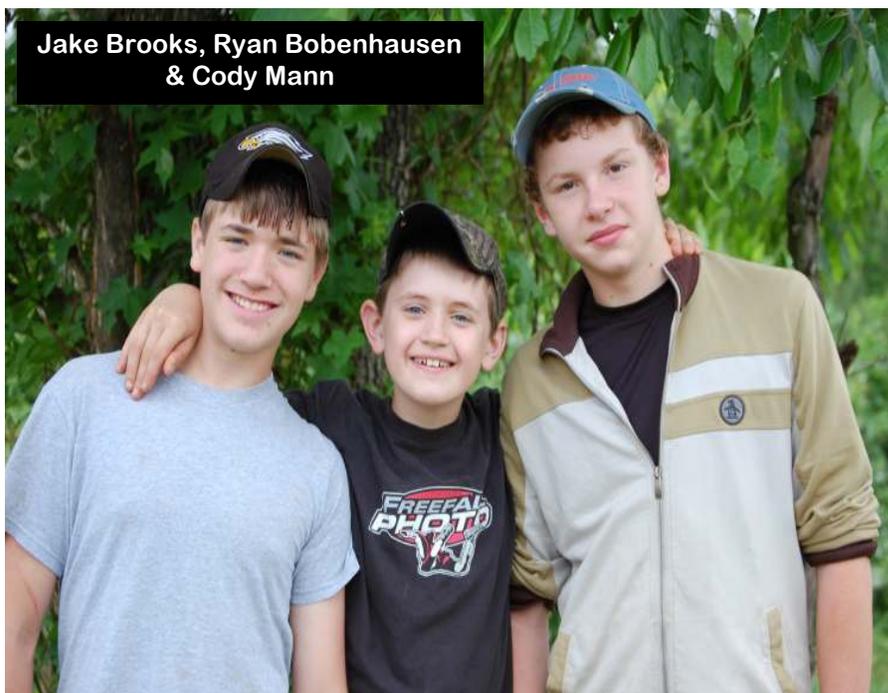
**HORSE HAY DIRECT, LLC  
Betty K. Evenson  
(706) 265-5045 . (706) 265-9708 . gerlbetty@aol.com**

## Volunteers of The Month

By Anne Ensminger

In recent months we have begun to honor some deserving person each month in our newsletter as our "Volunteer of the Month". There are many who work very hard to make GERL a successful volunteer organization and we hope to eventually recognize each one.

This month we want to bestow this honor on three boys who are not even members of GERL. We first met Jake Brooks, Ryan Bobenhausen, and Cody Mann at Fright Fest last October. They proved to be a tremendous help as we sought to put on that event in the pouring rain. They were everywhere offering help as we dealt with the mud and the wind. Many attendees expressed their appreciation and astonishment that young people would exhibit such politeness and caring.



The three boys were again present for our recent Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride in Round Oak. They had grown a little taller but were the same great helpers and we had no idea how we could have done without them. As boys will do, they managed to find time for some fun to make the perfect mix with work. They brought their bikes and went "mud bogging" on Friday. They were not one bit embarrassed to be covered with mud specks from head to toe!

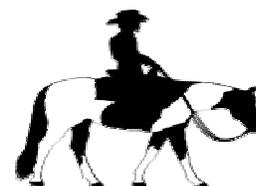
Thank you, Jake, Ryan, and Cody for all of your hard work and for the "entertainment factor" you always provide as well!

### 2010 GERL Calendar of Events

GERL Trail Ride & Fundraiser to Benefit the GDA  
Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Foxhall Farm – Douglasville, GA

Horses Helping Horses - Polo Match to benefit GERL  
Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
Chukkar Farm – Milton, GA

Fright Fest – 2010  
October 29-31  
Jake Mountain - Dahlonega, GA



Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events 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!

# “Feed a Horse”

Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. “Feed a Horse” program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



**I would like to make a donation of:**

- \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ any donation is gladly accepted!

**“Feed a Horse”  
Program**

[www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)

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Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to:*  
GERL  
Mail to: P.O. Box 328  
Bethlehem, GA 30620

**THANK YOU!**

***Your donation is  
tax deductible!***

# GERL ADOPTABLES



Lobo

**Tyree and Lobo** were both stated as 15yo geldings when we brought them into the GERL adoption program. Based on our vet's assessment, he feels they are closer to 10-12yo. They stand at approx 14.2-14.3hh and stocky (easy keepers). These boys are both VERY sweet and gentle to handle, but have no previous riding experience to our knowledge. There are no physical issues with either gelding that would prevent these boys from being trained under saddle. We will be looking for either companion homes or homes that have the facilities and time to train them properly. These geldings will be adopted out individually.



Tyree

**Leroy** is a 5 yo bay Thoroughbred cross gelding. He stands close to 15.2hh and is gentle to handle. We were advised that Leroy has been trained to ride, but we have not yet assessed his level of training due to his weight condition.



Smokey

**Smokey** is a 11 month old dark bay gelding (he appears nearly black), also a son of Leroy, and currently measures about 13.3hh. His dam was stocky, light sorrel with flaxen mane and tail, and stands about 14hh. She was one of a matched pair used to pull a wagon.



Leroy

**Hay Baler** is another 11 month old sired by Leroy, chestnut is color. Currently he stands at 13.1hh. His dam was a bay Qtr Hrs type mare, about 14.2hh.



Hay  
Baler

**For adoption fees and additional information please contact  
Donna Pieper, GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator  
(404) 797-3333 / [gerldonna@bellsouth.net](mailto:gerldonna@bellsouth.net)**

# GERL ADOPTABLES

**Shadow** is a 4 year old Palomino gelding. He continues to improve through his rehabilitation, and his foster parents continue to work with him on his training. We should shortly be able to assess his training/riding level. It appears that he has been ridden in the past. Shadow, like Highway, is getting ready to find his forever home where someone can take him 'on the trail' to success.



Shadow



Star

**Star** is a 16 year old Saddlebred mare. She is a small mare and is gentle to handle. She will be suited for an experienced rider. Star is solid black except for small star on forehead.

**Mercedes** is a 20+ year old Gray Arabian/QH mare. According to the previous owner, anybody can ride this horse and she is child safe. Unfortunately the owner found herself unable to care properly for her 3 horses any longer and voluntarily turned them over to GERL to place in new, loving homes.



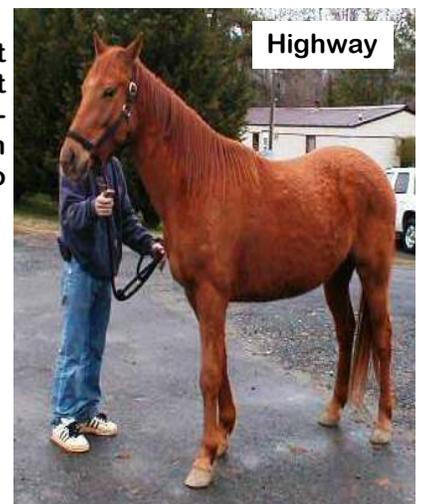
Mercedes



Thunder

**Thunder** is an Arabian X gelding, sorrel with a blaze and white stockings, about 20 years old. We understand that he was a great trail horse, but we are waiting for additional weight gain before we ride him. His foster mom states: *Thunder constantly amazes me as to how alert and energetic he is for a 20 year old horse, let alone a starved 20 year old horse. A lady who knew him well said that Thunder was actually her pick of the 3 horses because he was so wonderful on the trails.* Thunder is looking for a forever home that will keep him in shape, but not overwork him at his age. Are you looking for seasoned trail horse for light duty??

**Highway** is a 4-5 year old QH sorrel gelding. He is blind in his right eye, but gets around great. He is not broke to ride yet. He loads, clips and has great ground manners. He is also a very smart and willing pupil, and gets along extremely well with other horses. His foster parents continue to work with him in the round pen, so, updates to follow. Highway loves people and is ready to find his forever home where someone can take him 'on the trail' to success.



Highway

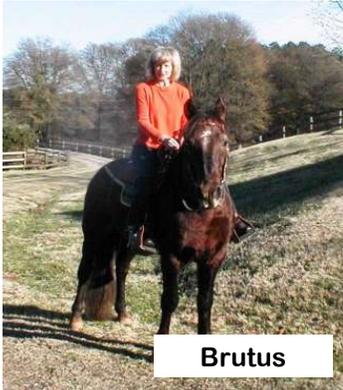
**For adoption fees and additional information please contact Donna Pieper, GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator (404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net**

# GERL ADOPTABLES

**Charmer** is a 7 year old Tennessee Walking Horse Gelding. Charmer has been ridden on trails, but during the past year, he did not have much riding or handling due to the health of his owner. He currently resides at the home of trainer Tanya Kiseyova who is continuing his training to make sure he is safe and pleasant on the ground and under saddle. For additional information and pictures, visit [www.equinoxhorse.net/Charmerproject.html](http://www.equinoxhorse.net/Charmerproject.html).



**Charmer**



**Brutus**

**Brutus** is a 20+ year old Morgan cross gelding. He was an extremely gentle stallion when he came into our program, and was successfully gelded with no problems. He has been socialized/pastured with both mares and geldings and has gotten along with all. His foster mom has now ridden him on trails. He doesn't seem to have any health problems and has good feet. We believe he will make an intermediate rider a great mount.

**Cheyenne** is a red roan pony mare, about 13.2 hands. She is a very easy keeper. Although shy when she first came into our program, Cheyenne has gentled very nicely and is a very calm pasture mate. Due to a front knee injury, she would best be suited as a companion only, but to the right home, could possibly be used for very light riding by a smaller child (maybe lead line). We are currently assessing whether she is saddle trained.



**Cheyenne**



**Gray Baby**

**Gray Baby** is a 16yo flea bitten grey mustang mare, about 14.1hh, carrying the mustang brand on the left side of her neck. She has a very sweet disposition and loves to be brushed. Her foster mom has put a Western saddle on her and she seemed very at ease with it, so we believe she has been ridden before. As she gains a bit more weight, we will work with her further to determine her level of training. We are looking for a home that is ready to give her a job.



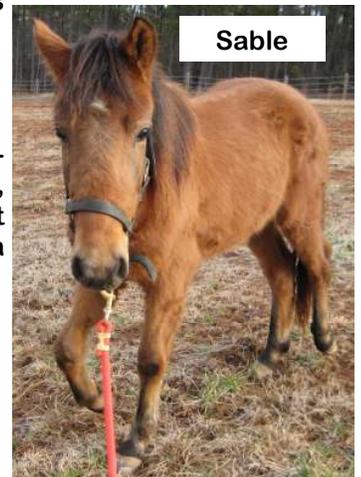
**Snowball**

**Snowball** is a precious little 11yo white pony mare, standing just 10-11hh. She acclimated quickly to her new pasture mate in foster care. She is saddle trained and lead lines well. We are looking for a loving family to adopt Snowball for their kids or grandkids.



**Snowball**

**Sable** is a 11 month old bay gelding, son of Leroy, currently measuring close to 14hh. His dam was stocky, light sorrel with flaxen mane and tail, and stands about 14hh. She was one of a matched pair used to pull a wagon.



**Sable**

**For adoption fees and additional information please contact  
Donna Pieper, GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator  
(404) 797-3333 / [gerldonna@bellsouth.net](mailto:gerldonna@bellsouth.net)**

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**Offers GERL members  
10% Off  
vaccines and Coggins tests**

**Puttin On The Feed Bag**

**Yummy Banana Bread**

- 3 cups All Purpose Flour
- 2 cups Sugar
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

Combine Dry Ingredients  
Stir in 1 cup Chopped Nuts - optional

- 1 Cup Vegetable Oil
- 8oz can Crushed Pineapple - undrained
- 2 tsp Vanilla
- 3 Eggs Beaten
- 2 cups Ripe Mashed Bananas

Combine all wet ingredients. Stir in Dry Ingredients mix well.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans  
Bake 65 minutes. Cool 10 minutes in pan.

\*This is very easy to divide if you only want to make 1 loaf.

**Feed Bag Recipe  
Submissions**

Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Putting On the Feed Bag is a new section in our newsletter and we want your suggestions.

Please submit your recipe contributions to [gerlbetty@aol.com](mailto:gerlbetty@aol.com)



**TRAILER NEEDED  
FOR MANSFIELD IMPOUND!**

4 Horse Gooseneck Aluminum Stock Trailer  
Center Divider and Dressing Room

Contact Patty Livingston @ 770-867-0760  
[gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)

Donation is Tax Deductible!

**Pulaski Prison Impound Wish List**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bleach                   | Shampoo/Conditioner      |
| Water Hoses              | Show Sheen               |
| Listerine                | Dewormer                 |
| Antibiotics              | Antibacterial Soap       |
| Feed/Treats              | Hoof Care Tools/Products |
| Feed Buckets             | Weight Tapes             |
| Mane & Tail Brushes      | Fence Supplies           |
| Wound Treatment Products | Horse Blankets           |
| Pooper Scoopers          | Feed Containers          |
| Salt & Mineral Blocks    | Digital Thermometer      |

Please call Patty Livingston (770) 867-0760 if you would like to donate any items to the Pulaski Prison Impound.

**North Georgia Mounted  
Search & Rescue  
("NGMSAR")**

Call for info and date for next meeting.

Col. Bob Eikenberry  
(706) 429 9918  
[forgednstl@windstream.net](mailto:forgednstl@windstream.net)  
or  
Steve de Lyra  
(706) 265 8182  
[stevd@windstream.net](mailto:stevd@windstream.net)

## Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Pam Borst  
 Laura Crump  
 Deborah Dickinson  
 Chuck & Carol Ewing  
 Sandra Freeman  
 Clifford & Jaye Herrington  
 Jane Hillegas  
 Ray & Mary Margaret Lee  
 Shannon and Jason Marler & Family  
 Eric & Cambria Moon  
 Martha Shepherd  
 Bill Simpson & Family  
 Patricia West  
 Mike & Sandra Whisenant  
 Martha A. Woodham

Loganville, GA  
 Franklin Springs, GA  
 Jasper, GA  
 Alpharetta, GA  
 Statham, GA  
 Monticello, GA  
 Douglasville, GA  
 Lawrenceville, GA  
 Loganville, GA  
 Buchanan, GA  
 Decatur, GA  
 Monroe, GA  
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 Mansfield, GA  
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WINTEC 2000 general purpose 17" saddle with cair panels and easy-change gullet system. USED ONE TIME!!!



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## We Want To hear From You!

We welcome our member's contributions to our newsletter.

Are you a foster home for GERL horses? We would love to hear about your foster horse(s) and what the experience has been like for you.

Have you adopted a horse from GERL? How about sending us an update with photos and a short story about you and your new family member?

Have you taken a great trip that involved horses? Many of us camp and ride at some really wonderful places and we are sure that our members would like to hear more about these and other horsey trips.

Please send your newsletter contributions to GERL by the first of each month. You mail email these to [gerlbetty@aol.com](mailto:gerlbetty@aol.com). Thank you in advance!



Miss Anne,

It was a pleasure meeting you this past weekend. After reading the GERL newsletter for so long, it was nice to finally meet you. My wife, Marie and I had a wonderful time this past weekend. The GERL group is by far the nicest, most down to earth people that we have rode with in a very long time. And Ron and Adrienne Cook were the ULTIMATE Host and Hostess.

Marie and I were also talking about the Volunteer effort that went into making this past weekend a success. In a society where it is sometimes difficult to get people to "work for pay", we were amazed with all of the volunteers and how pleasant they all were from early in the morning until late into the evening. I am sure that Gene was looking down upon all of us, thinking what a wonderful memorial weekend that it was. I also certain that God told Gene, "Well done my faithful servant"!

We look forward to years of working with GERL, hopefully making other "newbies" as Welcome as you all made us. May God Bless you all and the Horses. Ride safe!

Should Marie and I ever be of any assistance to you or GERL please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.

Regards,  
Sammy LeVert

## Thank You Ronnie Pesserilo

I want to take this time to thank Ronnie for her service and commitment as our Area Coordinator Director for the past year and a half.

Ronnie's knowledge and expertise put us on track and encouraged the growth of more ACs across the state. We went from 17 Area Coordinators to our current count of 33. Wow! That is an increase of 195%! We all wish her the best as she takes time to spend with her family and enjoy more time in the saddle.



## Welcome Jack & Dottie Carter

Jack and Dottie Carter will be taking over as our Area Coordinator Directors. Jack and Dottie have been active area coordinators and are ready to get a bit more involved with GERL!

Jack and Dottie ... thank you for taking that next step! We look forward to working more closely with you.

Did you  
see that???



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

Diane & Robert Caruso  
Bob Cooper  
Ed & Sandra Creel  
Brian & Cathy Dees  
Edward dePeterse  
Jane Estes  
Alice Farrar  
Debbie Ferrell  
Jo Ann Hitman  
Jacquelin Twiss  
Mary Waits

**\*Membership form is on the back cover.**

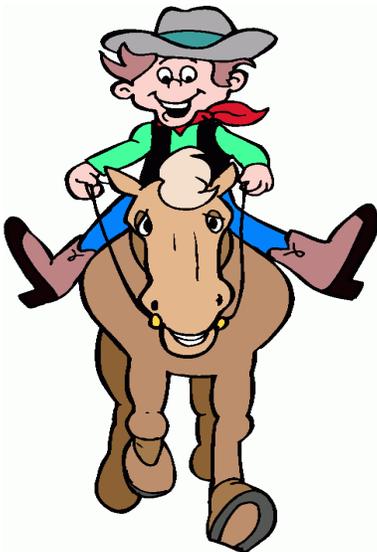
**GERL is proud to announce you can now DONATE on our website using Paypal!**



*Easy and secure,  
just go to [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)*

**Thank you for your support!**

**With your help ...  
GERL is making a difference**



**No Measuring, No Fuss for  
Clear Water Troughs Contact Us!**

Just drop one tablet in your troughs every 3-5 days and you won't have to scrub again! For more information please visit us on the web at

[www.clearwatertroughs.com](http://www.clearwatertroughs.com)

## **A Diamond in the Rough**

**By Robin Easley**

The label “rescue horse” is often viewed with a negative connotation. The general public often pictures a rescued horse as one with a permanent ailment; blind, cripple, or crazy. And no doubt, some of them are! However, more times than not, the rescued horse evolves into a diamond in the rough. There are several horses at the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s equine impound barns that fit into this category; they came in as lumps of coal, and are blossoming into sparkling gems.

The first horse that comes to mind is “Macarena”. She is a Registered Thoroughbred mare that came to the Mansfield barn as a body score of 1.5-1.75, standing nearly 17 hands tall and weighing in at less than 1000 pounds. She was covered in rain rot, missing clumps of hair, and her hooves were long and split. Her shoulder bones that may have once carried a trophy of glory were now visibly exposed and the fine boned legs that once ran for the roses supported her skeletal frame as she timidly entered the barn which would now label her as a rescue horse instead of a race horse. Even in the poor condition her body portrayed, her spirits were high and her demeanor was appreciative. At feeding time she doesn’t push her pasture mates off the grain buckets or piles of hay, she just moseys around until she finds a vacancy, happy to share her meal with a hungry pasture mate if they wish. She possesses a calm and regal presence. As her body has filled out and her bones have become less obtrusive, her hair coat has begun to gleam in the sun.



She has recently become a GDA celebrity. She took her first field trip to Equifest in Madison in April as the GDA “skinny” demo horse. She won the hearts of many, some out of sympathy for her thin condition, others out of respect for her ancestry. Her next escapade was this past weekend when she ventured to the home of GERL area coordinators Jack and Dottie Carter in Hiawassee for a Windstream cable television appearance. She pranced around their farm for the cameras, airs above the ground as if the spotlight was home for her.

Macarena, although considered a “rescue horse”, is truly a step above the rest and a genuine diamond in the rough. Macarena’s given name is “Northern River” and she is an own granddaughter of the one and only “Secretariat”!

## Gene Fest - 1st Trail Ride

By Ronnie Pesserilo

Many of our members will remember the lovely champagne colored Welsh/TB cross stallion, Stormy, that GERL took into their Adoption Program in June 2009. I had the pleasure of foster caring for this horse along with additional help from GERL members BJ Morris and Anne Maxwell Searcy and some wonderful training by Daniel Crowe. Being part of the transformation of this stallion from one who had very little asked of him to a horse who enjoyed having a job and being around his handlers was truly the highlight of my year.

In February he was adopted by Rita Bandt from Fort Valley, Georgia. I was sad to see him go but I was thrilled that he was going to a wonderful loving home with someone who understood his needs and was willing to continue working on his training. Rita changed Stormy's name to Jasper the first week. She, just as the rest of us was house bound most of the winter due to the extremely wet and cold weather. She was not able to ride Stormy as planned, however she continued on with his ground work and began working with a clinician in her area. When Rita pulled out of my driveway with Jasper in February she told me that her goal was to continue on with his ground and riding work and to come to Gene Fest with him in April.



April rolled around and Rita and Jasper came to Gene Fest as she had planned, however she was a little concerned as this was his first trail ride away from home since she had adopted him. I had taken him to Fall Fest (Mud Fest) in October and he stayed in my electric pen all weekend around other horses and I knew that he would do just as well at Gene Fest. Rita saddled him up, did some ground work with him and off we went down the trails with about 3 or 4 other quiet riders. The first creek crossing we came to Jasper hesitated and then stood still on the bank questioning what he was supposed to do next. Rita quietly asked him to move forward but he would not, however he did not back up nor did he offer to flee. I quietly moved my horse around him and told her to turn Jasper's head into my horses rear end as we passed and to gently ask Jasper to follow. This was done slowly and quietly and Jasper followed through without hesitation. The next creek crossing was easy for him and he walked through it as if he had been doing it for years.

The rest of the weekend riding went as well, however the next days ride was with a lot more horses and the riding was a little more difficult as we had to turn back a few times as the trails ended at washouts. Jasper and Rita took everything in stride and made a wonderful impression on the other riders. Many people asked me if he was the young stallion that I had written about last year. They were amazed at what a wonderful and confident horse he had become. We hope to see more of Rita and Jasper for years to come. Happy Riding!



Hi Donna

I just had to comment on the article about Dallas & TidBit. It was so kind of you to acknowledge our work with these two fine animals. Thank You for your interest in these adopted horses. I/we are very proud of our horses.

A quick story about Dallas, I was bush hogging Scott's property and some how lost my wallet; with endless walking through the pasture no wallet. I decided to saddle up Dallas and with a bit more height would possibly see it or perhaps find it. It wasn't but 10 minutes in the saddle and sure enough Dallas kicked it up with his hoofs - what a relief for me. Another reason why he is so loved.

Our best regards,

Rich Sauerbier

## What a little tender loving care will do... And when a love story begins...

Last month we updated you on the adoption of a group of severely neglected horses impounded by Paulding County Animal Control. I wanted you to meet some more wonderful folks that have opened their hearts and given 'forever homes' to special needs horses that really had no future.

Meet **Afire Extinguisher**, better known as Afie, a gorgeous 16hh registered Half-Arabian bay gelding out of championship bloodlines... Afie found himself in the GA Dept of Ag's impound program, but for Afie's sake the GDA asked GERL to place him in a forever home due to a permanent leg injury. GERL would assure that Afie would live his long life as a beautiful pasture ornament and not be harmfully used for riding or show purposes, as he came from a VERY long line of champion show arabians. In April, Afie was moved to the farm of Kerry & Steve, who needed a horse to be a forever companion to their pony. And another love story began, this time between Scout and Afie.



Kerry with Afie

**Thumper** moved from a 20'x20' paddock with an old shed made into a stall to 16 gorgeous acres where he lives with many 'big' horses, and his best friend NayNay, another pony. His human best friends are Allie and Maddy, and Grampy, Ken Archer (GERL's VP). Little Thumper must feel he is now in heaven. Look at those pictures and you decide if a love story has begun and between whom.. *(I do want to point out that Thumper's first owner contacted GERL to voluntarily donate Thumper as he could no longer properly care for him and wanted the best for him).*



Thumper before



Thumper with NayNay & Maddy



Thumper with Maddy & Allie

**What a little tender loving care will do...  
And when a love story begins...**  
(continued on from the following page)

**Eryzeka and Rosie** had been listed in our newsletter and shown on our website for about a year. You may have noticed that last month they were gone. It seems that their long term caregivers, our foster parents **Patty & Nick Howard**, have fallen in love with these two wonderful mares.

The two mares came into the GERL program **UNTOUCHABLE**. Due to conformation issues we knew they would never be rideable. But with the help of **Tanya Kiselyova**, who used 'clicker' training on the mares, they learned to trust and appreciate human care and kindness.

Eryzeka and Rosie have found their forever homes! What an amazing transformation these two lucky mares have gone through!



**Thank You !!!  
to all GERL supporters ... this is what it is all about!**

### **East Fork Stables - Back Country Horsemen Ride**

Many GERL members attended the 3rd annual Back Country Ride at East Fork Stables April 22nd - 25th.

The weather was perfect and nearly 200 riders participated.

**Diana DeMoss** wanted to share these photos with us.



**TV Interview with GERL and GDA  
By Dottie and Jack Carter,  
GERL Area Coordinator Directors**

May 8th was a busy day at Frog Leap Farm. Ken and Susan Archer arrived about 8:30 am and Robin Easley, Paula Sewell and Johnny Dayton from the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division (GDA) arrived about an hour later with four impounded horses - an emaciated paint mare that Paula had picked up the night before, a weanling filly about half way through recovery, a 20 year old thoroughbred mare that is a granddaughter of the great Secretariat and a paint gelding who is ready for adoption--- before, during and afters.

Mote of Windstream Cable was our camera man and director. Mountain Trails is aired by Windstream Cable in Towns, Union, Habersham, Lumpkin, Dawson, White and portions of Banks counties.



The interview began with Ken and Susan discussing GERL's history and mission to provide assistance to the GDA, help educate the state's horse owners and enthusiasts and to provide care for Georgia's abused and neglected horses. The discussion included the Stallions to Geldings and the Feed A Horse program.

All were ready to make their TV debuts on Windstream Cable's Mountain Trails, a series that highlights points of interest in the North Georgia Mountains. The interview was conducted by Cindy Williams of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and Mark

Jack and I were next up. Cindy asked how we became interested in equine rescue, how we became affiliated with GERL and what our goals are as Area Coordinators of Towns and Union Counties. We also mentioned the Area Coordinators in our neighboring counties: Doris and Richard Buckley for Habersham & White Counties, Rosa Allen for Rabun, Habersham and White Counties and BJ Morris & Ann Maxwell-Searcy in Fannin and Gilmer Counties. We let the viewers know that ACs are needed in Dawson, Banks and Lumpkin Counties.



Robin Easley, as always, was a wealth of information regarding the GDA Equine Division's role in the fight against abuse and neglect of Georgia's horse population. Each of the horses brought by the GDA was highlighted and Robin gave a brief discussion on body scoring. Paula Sewell gave a demonstration ride on Bogart, the paint gelding that will be offered at auction at Foxhall Farm on June 5, 2010.

(continued on the following page)

## **TV Interview with GERL and GDA** (continued from the previous page)

It was a beautiful, sunny day even though we had a scare first thing in the morning with a rain shower. The wind proved to be a bit of a problem but did not dampen the spirits of anyone who took part. Before heading home everyone had lunch out of the back of my Yukon because we were afraid things would blow out of the tent that was set for the occasion. Poor Susan had an altercation with our farm cat, Noogie, when she tried to shoo him away from the muffins I had made for breakfast. Jack's nephew Tad, who was here to help prepare to the day's events, came to her rescue with a band-aid for her wounded hand.

My deepest gratitude to Mark and Cindy for their hard work and making it so easy and comfortable being in front of the camera. This was their second trip to the farm. The first was a couple of weeks ago when they came out to get the lay of the land and decide where we wanted to shoot the interview. Thank you, Ken and Susan for taking the major role in describing GERL's mission and how we compliment the GDA. Robin, Paula and Johnny, as always, did a great job and I feel the four horses they chose to bring were perfect. The paint mare will make our viewers aware of how serious a problem equine abuse is in this state. The filly and thoroughbred mare show that abuse and neglect can happen to any animal, no matter what age or how well bred. And then there was Bogart, the success story - what can be done for a horse after rehabilitation. Jack and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.



### **Chief Wampus Speaks**

*(A name given to me by Ken Archer in a loving way which I treasure)*

Dear GERL Members,

First of all, I would like to thank our Board of Directors for presenting to me the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Marty Paulk Cheer Leader Award" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride.

What an honor and a surprise! I am so sorry that I could not attend this event for it will always be a special one for me because of my great admiration for Gene. I believe that this ride was the first Spring or Fall Fest that I have missed since I became a member of GERL in late 1995!

Second of all, and most importantly, this gives me the very good opportunity to get off my rear and express something that I have wanted to mention for a long time. When I first met the most respected Betty Evenson and became aware of GERL existence, I wanted to join as a member because of my love for horses. But you know what? Caring about the well being of the equine is not the only reason why I want to support GERL. I understand the efforts of all its hard working and dedicated members. I salute the Board of Directors, past, present and future. I commend the coordinators. All who give their time day after day. I recognize the repeat volunteers who help at fund raisers and man event booths on weekends. I support the hard working professionals who contribute so much energy, health care, and knowledge for the equine. Keeping an organization going requires people on the move, collected and organized. I could not fathom all of what these real active members of GERL do.

I am so grateful for the chance to know and associate with some of the most greatly loved and admired people in my life. GERL is the power of love, determination, and dedication. It is the icon of the equine rescue. Long live GERL! Members, do all you can to help.

Thanks again so much for my award. Thank you for all being the "who are" of GERL and there for me to appreciate.

Ray Ziebell

# Tally Ho ! Polo Ponies To The Rescue !



## Horses Helping Horses Charity Event Polo Match

**COST: \$15.00 per person** \*\$5.00 from every admission will go to GERL (1/3)



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### **Our Thoughts & Prayers Are With You**

Patty Livingston as you mourn  
the loss of your father, Jerry Livingston  
who passed away on May 9th in Palatka, Florida

We are very sorry to hear that faithful GERL member  
Gaye Wilson was hurt recently in a horse related acci-  
dent. Gaye, we send our most sincere wishes for a  
speedy recovery and look forward to soon seeing you  
back in the saddle and on the trail again

### **Donations In Memory Of**

Gene Ensminger  
by Chuck & Carol Ewing

Gene Ensminger  
by Tina New

### **Thank You**

Too all GERL members, supporters  
and volunteers!

WITH YOUR HELP ...  
WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### **Thank You For Donating To Our Feed A Horse Program**

Elyse Williams  
in memory of Connie Sommer

Susie Hansen



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

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### **Donations in Honor Of**

Snooks by her husband, Bob Burris

### **Thank You For Your Change Jars**

The Stock Market - Conyers, GA  
Pampered Pony - Monroe, GA

**GERL has several areas in which  
volunteers are needed.**

**We need help manning booths at various  
events, speaking to groups about GERL,  
helping with GDA auctions and more!**

**If you are interested in volunteering your  
time to help GERL, please contact  
Leisa McCannon  
gerlvolunteers@yahoo.com.**

**Thank you!**



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4/29/10

Dear Georgia Equine Rescue League:

On behalf of Rockdale County Animal Care and Control, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of fencing supplies, fence installation, and stall mats for our barn that was given to the Animal Control Shelter. The donation and your group made is very thoughtful and a wonderful gift for the animal shelter.

When we have community members and groups reach out in ways like this to donate to our animals it not only adds to the allure of adopting a homeless pet but it adds a community bond that is often forgotten.

This donation is going to make a big difference with our shelter and the way we are able to respond and house livestock and equine. I hope that we could have more groups like yours in this state to help with animal control shelters, especially in these rough economic times.

Again, we thank you for your generous gift and wish you the best with your groups' future endeavors. Continue on the bright path that your group has and your future will hold many great things.

Sincerely,

Ciji Baker  
Shelter Manager

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