



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With *Your* Help...We Will Make a Difference!

2011 Quarterly Newsletter

September, October, November and December

## First Annual GERL Castration Day

By Anne Ensminger



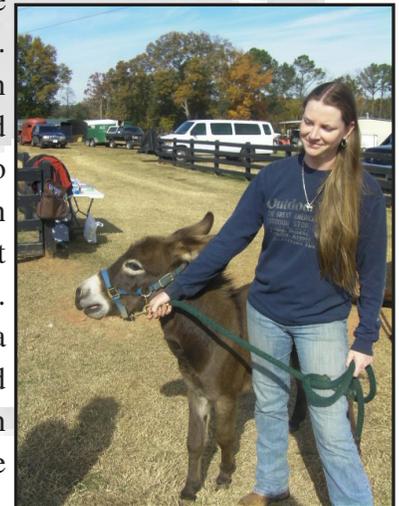
November 12<sup>th</sup>. finally arrived and it could not have been a more gorgeous day for such an event. The prayed for sunny, cool, and crisp day dawned as many gathered for a very important mission. Plans for GERL's Castration Day had been ongoing for months. Credit for the idea must go to GERL President, Patty Livingston but there was not anyone who learned about her thoughts on the matter, who did not agree that it was a GREAT idea.

Realizing that Georgia, in fact our entire country, has a serious problem concerning what to do with an overwhelming number of unwanted horses, Patty tapped into her very uncommon, "common sense" to

find the beginning of at least a part of the solution. After many years of working long hours each day to try to rescue and re-home hundreds of unwanted horses, we at GERL have had to finally face the difficult fact that we simply are unable to save ALL of them.

Therefore; Patty suggested that we begin at the beginning. It is very simple. Horse owners are breeding too many horses. The proportion of horses available to responsible owners is not conducive to proper or even adequate care for many of these animals. GERL must find a way to convince horse owners to breed only the most outstanding specimens of each breed. The "backyard" mating of a mare to a stallion because they are simply available

to produce a cute little baby MUST stop. Those babies are often of poor quality and eventually grow into unwanted horses which do not receive the most elementary training. The value of such a horse is very low and they are the ones which often end up in the hands of abusers.



...continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

Thanks and Farwell...Page 6  
Let me say this about that...Page 12  
A Happily Ever After Story...Page 19  
Fright Fest 2011...Page 24 & 25  
Update on Pal-O-Mine...Page 32  
Volunteer of the Quarter...Page 37

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Fully aware that this is only a beginning, GERL was thrilled to learn that twelve Georgia veterinarians agreed with us. Many showed their support by scheduling a clinic on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, during which they agreed to geld stallions for the very low cost of \$100 per horse. GERL paid for the cost of the drugs and for half of the surgical fee. That meant that the total cost to stallion owners was only \$50!

Patty Livingston and I attended the clinic which was held at Countryside Hospital for Animals near Jersey, GA. With help from University of Georgia, School of Veterinary Medicine students and staff, as well as students and staff from the Athens Tech program for Veterinary Technicians, the Countryside Vets safely gelded twenty horses at that location. Other clinics participating were:

Amicalola Veterinary Services, Dr. Ava Griner Talmage, DVM

Fulton Equine Clinic, Dr. Melissa J. Fulton, DVM

Barnesville Animal Clinic, Dr. Chandra Moxon, DVM & Dr. Mark Korb, DVM,

Crossroads Equine Veterinary Services, Dr. Michael White, DVM

King Equine Vet Service, Dr. Logan King, DVM

New South Equine Medicine, Dr. Rhonda Veit, DVM, and Dr. Ross Kittrell, DVM

Barrow Veterinary Services, PC, Dr. Robin Barrow, DVM

Ogeechee Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Chip Pritchard, DVM

Jacksonville Equine Asso., Dr. Katie Lott-Ellis, DVM

Equine Associates, Dr. Jennifer Baker, DVM

Cairo Animal Hospital, Dr. Alex Greenberg, DVM

Union County Pet Hospital, Dr. Patricia Barnes, DVM



These clinics castrated horses all over the state and are equally responsible for the success of this event. We are very proud to announce that over 100 stallions were gelded on, what we hope will be, our first annual “Georgia Stallion to Gelding Day”.

We at GERL are extremely appreciative of the veterinarians, students, and teachers who gave their talents, not to mention a beautiful Saturday to this project. It was certainly not done for profit! Thanks also to our regular contributors to the GERL “Stallion to Gelding” Program which, as an incentive, pays part of the cost of gelding any stallion, at any time. We would like to recognize our supporters and sponsors of this event and ask that you let them know how much we need and appreciate them:

Pfizer Drug Company

Kel-Mac Saddle Club

The Unwanted Horse Coalition

The Stacie Ann Boe Memorial Foundation

Linda Kundell

Sarah Hill

Stamp Out Starvation of Horses Rescue

Dr. David Leonard

GERL will continue to educate Law Enforcement, Animal Control personnel and horse owners about Georgia horse protection laws as we promote prosecution of abusers and discourage over breeding of all animals. It is our hope that other southern states will begin to join us by organizing castration clinics in other parts of the country. This is not something that we’ll be able to turn around in a short period of time, but the time has come where we must do something!



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*\*Call or email for deadlines.*

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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

**Interested in becoming an**

**Area Coordinator? Contact Debora Hines**

(229) 403-9386 / equineharmony@rocketmail.com

**The Great Successes of GERL in 2011**

*by Patty Livingston*

At the time of this writing we have not closed out our books for 2011, entirely, but I did want to take some time to reiterate some of the GERL highlights. We had a very busy year raising money at our fund raisers, attending horse auctions, rescuing horses, etc. Below are a few of the highlights:

We kicked off the year with our annual meeting which was held at the Golden Corral in Winder. We have outgrown the room at the GC and made a mental note that we would have to find a bigger facility in 2012 and have secured the Winder Lions Club.

We held our annual Poker Ride in March at Dawson Forest and were able to raise almost four thousand dollars on this one-day event! GERL also hosted Spring and Fall weekend rides where we were able to raise much needed funds. In addition, we held our annual polo match at Chukkar Farm and raised almost three thousand dollars.

We held several Multi-County across Georgia for the benefit of Law Enforcement and Animal Control Officers. Not only did we thoroughly discuss Georgia's Equine Protection Laws, but we taught the officers how to gather evidence to insure successful animal abuse prosecutions, basis horse handling using live horses, and the art of equine body scoring.

GERL spent approximately nine thousand dollars in 2011 on castrations. In April we hosted a castration clinic at Countryside Animal Hospital in Jersey and then on November 12<sup>th</sup> sponsored the first annual Georgia Stallion to Gelding Day where ninety-nine horses were castrated by various equine veterinarians all over the state. We castrated another eighty or so horses via our regular Stallion to Gelding program to date. We also spent another sixty-five hundred dollars on vaccination clinics in South Georgia.

We spent approximately twelve thousand dollars on hay, feed, vet care and fencing materials for the four impound barns for the Georgia Department of Agriculture. In addition, we spent another forty-five hundred dollars helping various Animal Control and Sheriff's offices with equine they impounded. This included a new holding facility we provided to the Adel Animal Control in Adel, Georgia.

We spent over twenty-three thousand dollars on foster care in 2011. We took in more than fifty horses since last winter and have been able to find new forever homes for most of them. We also were able to expand the number of foster homes that we can utilize, when needed. I am very pleased with our accomplishments in 2011, and look forward to doing more in 2012!



## GERL Area Coordinators List

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**With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference!**

## Lee Arrendale Prison Impound Opens

By Anne Ensminger

The long anticipated ribbon cutting for the second GDA prison equine impound facility was held on Thursday, October 27 at the prison farm near Alto. Patty Livingston and I were honored to be invited guests.

Attended by Georgia Corrections Commissioner, Brian Owens, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black, and others, the ceremony was quite formal and very impressive. Comments were made by both Commissioners as well as several prison dignitaries, one inmate, and Patty Livingston who was asked to speak on behalf of GERL.

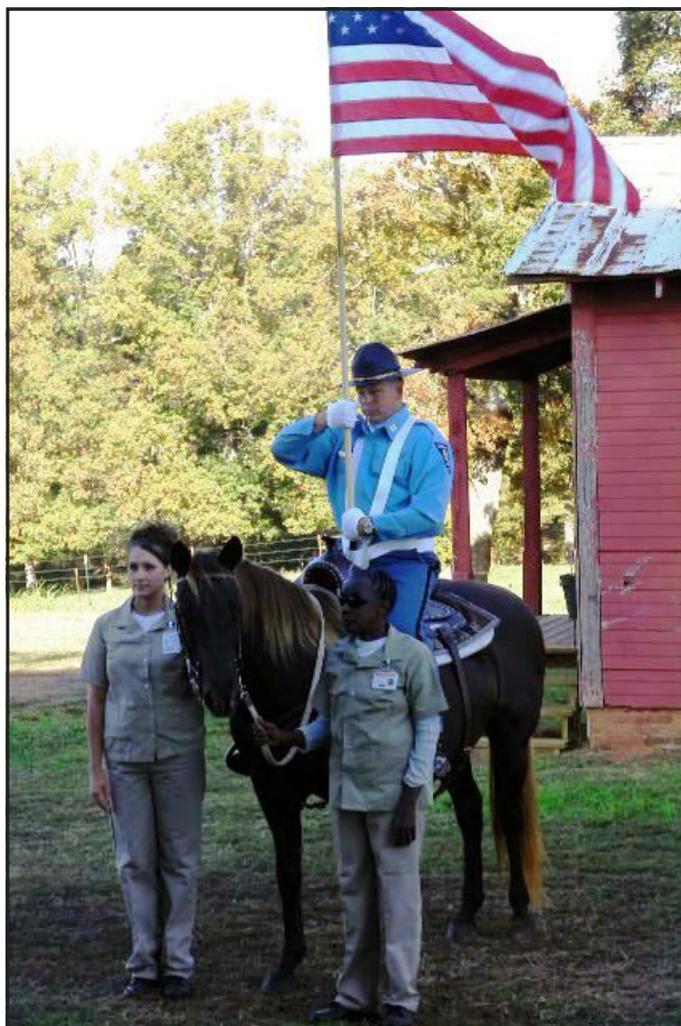
Warden Kathy Seabolt told attendees how important this program will be to Lee Arrendale Prison, the inmates, the GDA Equine Impound Program,



and certainly for the horses. Housed on part of the 900 acre prison campus and farm, the new Impound will provide care and rehabilitation for horses abandoned or released by owners who can no longer care for them or many which are seized by GDA Equine Inspectors due to insufficient care. As of this writing, the new impound houses four horses and has admitted 6 Inmates into the program.

The facility can accept up to 15 horses. Inmates will receive instruction from Capt. Dennis Gallman, who currently oversees the program. It is felt that inmates will gain skills which they can take into the community when they are released from Arrendale. Hopefully, this will insure that many of them will be able to find gainful employment in several aspects of the equine industry. Gallman relates his observations concerning a positive change in the attitude of inmates chosen for this program. It is his feeling that, while the inmates are working to rehabilitate horses; the horses are greatly contributing to the rehabilitation of the inmates.

GERL delivered a truck load of donated horse related items, including tack, to the prison on the day of the opening. We are also looking forward to implementing our "Train the Trainer Program" which will educate the inmates in many facets of horsemanship so that they can more effectively work with the horses, therefore; insuring that the animals will eventually be placed into new homes where they will be loved and enjoyed.





## Thanks and Farewell to Some VERY Special GERL Friends

As with any organization, especially volunteer organizations, people serve for a time and then they find that demands of the rest of their lives make it no longer possible for them to give quite as much of themselves. We at GERL certainly understand that fact and, while we miss working as closely with them, we are grateful for the time they have given.

It is with great regret that we accept the resignation of Vice President, Ken Archer who was always our “voice of reason” in decision making. Ken simply wants to be free to attend activities involving his family, especially the grandchildren. Ken’s wife, Susan, has also resigned as our Events Coordinator after several years of doing an outstanding job. It was Susan who was responsible for procuring event locations, tents, tables, chairs, generators, entertainment, and all other needed things. Most importantly, the fabulous decorations found at each of our fund

raising events were the product of Susan’s unique imagination and skill. Dotti and Jack Carter, GERL Directors of Area Coordinators, have regretfully resigned their position. Life takes more time than many of us have to give away! You will be missed, Dotti and Jack. Last but not least, we are very sorry to accept the resignation of Alternate GERL Board Member, Steven Neal. When Steven agreed to serve, he was unemployed and had plenty of time to lend his expertise to many of our computer and equipment issues, maintain the GERL web site, as well as share his always wise opinions. His new employment has made continuation of this commitment impossible for Steven.

The GREAT news is that every one of these dear friends will remain as members of GERL and will help on an “as needed” basis. We will gratefully settle for that!

Each of these positions has been filled by enthusiastic GERL members who are ready to share ideas and a bit of “elbow grease.” We are grateful to them as well!



Our hearts are heavy as we learn of the death of little Jorja Rooks, born in February of 2011. Jorja was the daughter of Beth Rooks; therefore the granddaughter of Leigh Ann Holton of Brunswick, GA. Leigh Ann has been a lifetime member of GERL since the very early days. She presently serves as GERL Area Coordinator for Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne, Brantley, and Camden Counties and remains a very valuable resource for this organization in South Georgia. We hope she feels our concern, our love, and our prayers for her peace as she and Beth mourn this terrible loss.

### Thank You For Your Donations

Mark Kamensky  
Betty Sue Hearin  
Kim Bowen  
Rex & Aline Anderson  
Alice Conolly  
Dennis & Marjorie Sullivan  
David Rape  
Jeanne Barsanti  
Gary & Jeana Mullen  
Rita Benfield  
Steve & Nancy-Ann Merka  
Jones Webb  
Tom Burgess  
Ken Norling

Diane Kirby & Family  
Ray & Pierette Ziebell  
Dawn Maines  
Heather Christiano  
Lynn Garrett  
Ann McCloskey  
Barbara Cumming  
Lynn Fowler  
Capt. Clarence Gissendanner, Ret.  
Nancy Klein  
Lori Bell

# 17th Annual POKER RIDE

TO BENEFIT THE  
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.



Saturday - March 10, 2012  
Dawson Forest  
Dawsonville, GA

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.  
the ride begins at 10:00 a.m.



**Lots of Prizes Awarded!**

A donation of \$20.00 includes lunch and one poker hand. **GERL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 1 EXTRA HAND AT NO ADDITIONAL COST (JUST SHOW US YOUR GERL MEMBERSHIP CARD TO DRAW YOUR EXTRA HAND).** Additional poker hands are available to all for a donation of \$5.00 per hand. **You must show us your horse's negative coggins test (yellow original or certified copy only)** at the time of registration. Water is available on the trail, but not at the trailer area. *WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING WATER FOR YOUR HORSE!* Pre-registration is greatly appreciated, but not required.

Please call Patty Livingston (770) 867-0760 or e-mail: [gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com) for registration and further information. Come ride against horse abuse and help us raise money for the starved and abused horses in Georgia. **ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT 2 PM!!!** \*Dawson Forest has a \$5 trail fee. **If you do not have an annual pass you will be required to pay an additional \$5 for this ride.** GERL will collect this fee and forward it appropriately.

\*Directions traveling Hwy 400 North from Cumming. Go through lights at Hwy 369 / Hwy 306 and Jot Em Down Road. Go left on Dawson Forest Road at Dawson Premium Outlet Mall. Cross Hwy 9 and follow signs. Go through gate and turn right into Dawson Forest parking lot.

# GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information please contact Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator (706) 342-4097 / gerlruth@aol.com



**Alf** - 16 Month old sorrel QH Gelding 12.1hh. Great disposition, loads on trailer, picks up feet. Ready for more training.



**Hay Baler** 3 year old gelding, Chestnut Thoroughbred cross, 14 hh and growing. Hay Baler is a handsome boy who has had lots of ground work done in his foster home. Loads, leads, stands nicely for farrier.



**Jenna**— 4 year old mare, sorrel Mustang, 15hh. Very sweet, riding nicely, just needs more saddle time. Excellent trail prospect!



**Itty Bitty** - 3 year old line back dun grade mare. 12.2 hh. Very sweet girl. Gets along with other horses. Vet says due to malnourishment she may not be rideable. Will make a great companion horse.



**Smokey** 3 1/2 year old gelding, dark bay Thoroughbred cross, 14.2 hh and growing. Half brother to Hay Baler and Sable, this handsome boy will make someone a wonderful horse! He is sweet but a bit shy and needs someone patient to love him.



**Sable** - 3 y.o. bay Thoroughbred cross gelding, 14 hh. Sweet boy, ready for training. He is handling nicely on the ground.

# GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information please contact Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator (706) 342-4097 / gerlruth@aol.com



**Romona ("Roma")** Registered buckskin Quarter Horse mare with papers. 25 years old and 15.2 hands. Some arthritis in front leg. Gentle nature, Good pasture mate. COMPANION ONLY.



**Belladama** - 26 yr old bay Quarter Horse mare. Sweet and calm will be a wonderful companion horse.

## The Love of Fostering...by Alline Jones

This is a story about a little colt name Alf. He came from a home that did not care for the little guy. Thanks to Diana, Becky and Patty for keeping a watch on all the horses, they do a great job.

When Alf came to me you could not touch him, he had hair 4 inches long that was matted. He was never dewormed. Also, his halter had cut into his face. He had contracted tendons in his back legs. We thought we were going to have to him put down. Thanks to Dr. Rhonda Veit - she did all she could to save him. We had to wait three days to see if the injections would work, but the 2nd day he was much better. On the 3rd day he looked great.

We had to coax him off the trailer when he was delivered. Now he hops right on without a lead rope or halter. I found him in the laundry room that is attached to my barn. Now I have to teach him to put clothes in the dryer. I will start his ground work soon. I guess you can tell he is very loved by me. Thanks so much for letting me foster him!

I am also fostering Jenna, a 5 yr. old mustang . She is very sweet and rides well. I do believe she is the pasture boss. Jenna was pregnant when she came to my barn, but lost her foal. Now she has bonded with Alf. Alf was a young colt when he came to me and Jenna took him under her wing, the geldings better not brother him, if they try she will get them! Alf does whatever he wants because Jenna says he can. She must think he is her foal. She has great manners, will stand for you to mount, she is quiet and will make a good trail horse. I hope she will get a forever home that is kind and gentle. She needs a person that will teach her with a soft hand and love in their heart. Thanks for letting me love her.



# Incoming Mail...

October 7, 2011

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 328  
Bethlehem, GA 30620

Dear Georgia Equine Rescue League,

Your organization relies on the support of volunteers. I very much admire the time and energy given by these individuals and appreciate the work you are accomplishing through their efforts. You will find enclosed a contribution in the amount of \$275.00 because you rely on the support of individuals, I thought you might be interested in the story of how this contribution came to be in your hands.

Like most children, Gail learned to walk when she was a toddler, but she learned to walk on her tip toes. By the time I met Gail she was almost 9 years old and had no choice but to walk up on her toes. Because I have the privilege of instructing yoga, I was introduced to Gail and her mother with the hope we could retrain the muscles that were now shortened and she could re-learn to walk normally.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> this year Gail turned 13 years old and when she is walking with awareness, the slight adjustments she makes are almost undetectable . This success is only possible because of the commitment of her mother to bring Gail to class and Gail's perseverance to keep trying. Theirs is a limited income. Instead of paying tuition, Gail and her mother, Frannie, contribute whatever they can each week. Once a year we count the money they have contributed and then donate it to a charity of their choice. Shortly after she began yoga, her grandparents gave her a horse back riding lesson to acknowledge the progress she was making in correcting her posture. She soon learned that to place her foot properly in the stirrup required a range of movement not available to her. This gave her great incentive to practice her yoga. Horses have become her passion ... she volunteers time and energy to a local stable.

Your organization was a logical choice for this year's donation. I hope their story has strengthened the bond between those of us who contribute funds and those of you who transform that money into providing care and compassion to abused and neglected horses here in our own state ... thank you for allowing all those involved in the process to experience first-hand the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "for it is in giving that we receive".

Peace,

Judean Drescher  
Gail and Frannie



## Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

### Broccoli Cheese Soup

(30 to 45 minutes total prep time)



- 6 TBS butter (3/4 stick)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 cups chicken broth (I use fat-free, low sodium)
- 8 oz. orzo (in the pasta section)
- Dash salt
- two 10 oz. boxes frozen chopped broccoli
- Dash garlic powder
- Fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 6 cups milk (I use skim)
- 16 oz. package Velveeta, cubed small (I use the 2% skim type)
- 8 oz. block cream cheese, softened; cut up small (I use the reduced fat type)

Sauté the chopped onion in 2 TBS butter for about 5 minutes, until translucent. Put the broth and the sautéed onion into a large pot and bring to a boil. Add the remaining butter, the orzo and a dash of salt if desired, and bring back to a boil for 3 minutes. Add the broccoli (still frozen is fine) and the garlic powder and pepper to taste. Boil about 5 minutes, stirring gently to break up broccoli. Reduce heat to medium low. Add milk and Velveeta, simmer until the Velveeta is melted, stirring frequently. Add the cream cheese and simmer until melted, stirring frequently. (I use the back of a big spoon and press the cubes of cream cheese against the side of the pot.)

This is very rich, even with the low-fat and skim versions of everything. It makes a big batch and it freezes well. It's a great wintertime main dish!

### 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 to:  
[recipes@gerlltd.org](mailto:recipes@gerlltd.org)

## 2012 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

**January 21, 2012**  
 GERL Annual Meeting  
 Winder Lions Club, Winder, GA

**March 10, 2012**  
 GERL Poker Ride  
 Dawson Forest - Dawsonville, GA

**May 4-6, 2012**  
 Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride  
 Round Oak, GA

**July 15, 2012**  
 Polo Match  
 Chukkar Farm - Milton, GA

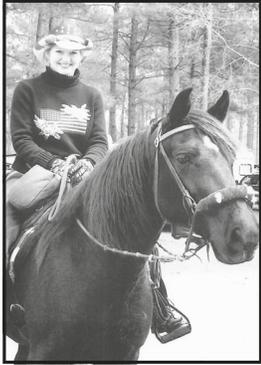
**October 19-21, 2012**  
 Fall Fest Ride  
 TBA

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!

*Visit our website to download flyers and directions to some of these events.*

## LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By *Patty Livingston, President*



In response to the controversy over the recent signing of a bill that will once again provide funding for USDA inspectors in horse slaughter plants and which will therefore allow them to re-open, I thought that I would share some facts that I've learned over the last few years. First of all, I voted to close down the slaughter houses in 2006. I saw a

video of what happens in a slaughter house and I hated the thought. I think that most people would prefer that we didn't allow slaughter, but it seems that it will continue. Please know that closing down the US slaughter houses did not stop slaughter!

In Jan. 2009 when I became involved with horse rescue, everything I learned about the subject made me angry with myself because I didn't investigate and ask questions concerning the slaughter of horses intended for human consumption. I voted strictly on emotions.

What I learned is that the European market dictates the supply and demand of how many horses will go to slaughter. It has been consistently 90,000 – 125,000 horses per year for many years. When the last US slaughter house closed in 2007, the increase in numbers of horses slaughtered in Mexico and Canada immediately jumped to approximately the same annual number as in previous years. So, just because the slaughter houses are opening back up in the US doesn't mean that the number of horses that are going to slaughter will increase significantly.

Closing our slaughter houses did nothing but make things worse for unwanted horses. Since that time we have had no control over how the horses bound for slaughter are treated, if they are watered or how many miles they endure on an over-crowded truck on its way to Mexico or Canada. Treatment of horses intended for slaughter in those countries is not regulated. You can imagine what goes on. Horses have now been enduring unbelievably deplorable conditions for four years! Things may not have been perfect with the slaughter houses in the US, but we were making good progress toward regulating transport and kill methods at the plants

Now, think about this...there are 9.1 million horses in the

U.S. We have more horses in this country than any other country in the world! One hundred twenty-five thousand of them go to slaughter every year. This is only 1.3% of the total horse population in the U.S. It is evident that slaughter is not population control. Surely you don't think that the other 98.7% of the horses in this country all live in loving homes. The sheer enormity of this problem can be very overwhelming on paper, much less in real life.

Being "in the trenches" for three years was a serious wake up call for me. There are so many horses that are being neglected and starved, it is impossible for us to help them all. There are more neglectors and hoarders of horses than you can believe! Most every case I've been involved with for the past three years is pretty much the same. The owners and the neglected horse(s) live in squalor and you can't imagine why these people would own a horse when they can't even care for themselves. These situations are rampant because the price of a horse is so low. The state doesn't have the funds to impound every horse that is reported. The GDA, local law enforcement and animal control agencies, as well as rescue groups must start leaning on horse owners to take responsibility to step up and care for their animals or find a new home for them. Many owners don't have the means to care for their animals, but they typically won't call for help. When concerned neighbors or passers-by offer help, it is usually turned down. These owners seem to feel no guilt when their horse starves to death. Often captured in pictures, a horse remains lying out in the open or at the bottom of a dried up lake. These people can get another horse for \$25 or even for free just by going to Craig's List or attending a local horse auction. There are laws in Georgia to prevent abusers from owning animals, but they must be enforced.

Though my horses will be euthanized and buried when it is time, it doesn't make sense or give me the right to take away a service that was being utilized by people who couldn't afford to euthanize and bury their horses. And, let me say this, about that, it is time that we started looking for a real solution to this. Too many people are wasting their energy fighting the battle over slaughter houses instead of working towards fixing our horse problems. I'm talking about castration, education, prosecution and rescue. These are the goals that GERL will continue to work towards while building an army of knowledgeable horse advocates across the state of Georgia to help. How many of you are involving yourselves as part of the solution?

## Thank You For Donating To Our Stallion to Gelding Program

Constance Burchette  
Susie Hansen  
Judy Dial for "Rocky"  
Erik Wittenzellner  
Hugh Murray

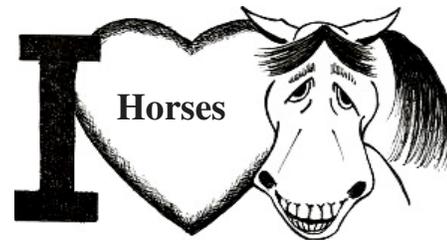
Thank you, Nancy Boe, for your generous  
donation to our  
Stallion to Gelding program!

Thank you, Sarah Hill, for your monthly  
contributions to our  
Stallion to Gelding program!

Thank you, Dr. David Leonard, for your  
generous contribution to the GERL  
Stallion to Gelding program!

Thank you, Stamp Out Starvation"  
for your donation to our  
Stallion to Gelding program!

Thank you, Linda Kundell, for your dona-  
tion to our Stallion to Gelding program!



**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)*



### GERL Stallions to Gelding Program.

### Stallions Gelded To Date By GERL: 183



The sincere condolences of GERL go to Nancy Bogardt of Oxford, GA. We have learned that Nancy suffered the loss of her father a few weeks ago. It is expected that each of us will eventually experience the loss of our parents but it is one of the most difficult of losses to accept.

Even though Nancy does not own a horse, she was a faithful volunteer for the GDA Impound Program for a long time. Her willingness to help horses as well as her love of people still finds Nancy present and ready to work at the periodic GDA Auction Sales. She continues to be a valuable member and regular contributor to GERL. We love you, Nancy, and we are very sorry for your loss.

# “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)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**THANK YOU!**

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

## Rose and Captain Jack

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Hi Patty,

Jack (I call him Jackson... and he really seems to like it) is doing great. He has a buddy, Skip, who is also a sorrel quarter horse. Skip is 12 and has kind of taken Jackson under his wing. They have been sharing a pasture for over a week now, and are stuck together like buds. They look like twins, except Jack has a right front sock and Skip has a right rear sock, and is bigger. Carly is working with Jack and I am also taking lessons. I LOVE this horse. He runs to me when it is feeding time and is learning Italian. He knows what eat in Italian means now. I am there every morning at 5:30am and every evening after work at 8:30pm, and Jack comes running, so happy to see me. We are bonding. Got him a new coat for the freezing cold nights and he seems to like it. His new color is green. All of his stuff is in green except his beautiful leather harness.

If you get another horse between the age of 8-15, let me know. I want to get another horse for riding, since I don't plan to get on Jack for a while. I love rescues. Someone needs to give them a loving home. He is my sweet boy who I plan to have for a very long time. I plan to ride him once he is fully trained. Carly rides him right now. I will do so when we both think it is safe to do so. We both have alot to learn first. I think he will be a great horse eventually. It will just take time. In the meantime, we both learn and bond. Come out to see him anytime.

Thanks again,

Rose Dormio



We have learned through Andee Rogers and Facebook that Julia Williams of Savannah has lost her 28 year old Tennessee Walking Horse, "Cool Hand Luke". Years ago Julia rescued this horse which was on his way to auction and the uncertainty that goes with that. Luke came back from near starvation and provided years of enjoyment to her family. Julia, it is certain that Luke only remembered his years with you when all was said and done! Thank you for stepping up on his behalf and for all you do for GERL!



# TheStore



Otto 6panel, low profile caps. \$15.00  
A MUST HAVE!!



Ladies Polo's  
S-XL \$20.00  
XXL \$24.00  
White,  
Light Blue,  
Yellow Haze,  
Heather Grey



Dark Olive, Pumpkin, Light Pink  
Dark Brown (not shown)



Men's Polo Shirts  
S-XL \$20.00  
XXL \$24.00  
Light Blue,  
Yellow Haze,  
Heather Grey



Adult T-Shirts  
100% pre-shrunk cotton.  
S-XL \$12.00 XXL \$14.00  
Violet, Lime, Brown, Royal  
Caribe, Charity Pink, Oatmeal



Adult T-Shirts - 100% pre-shrunk  
cotton. S-XL \$12.00 XXL \$14.00  
Blue Spruce, Oatmeal and Cactus



Ladies contoured fit, cap  
sleeve, ribbed T. 90%  
cotton, 10% poly. S-XL.  
\$14.00. Deep Heather,  
Raspberry, Black, Teal



Adult Vest Black  
13.5oz., 100% spun poly.  
Lycra trimmed armholes  
and hem  
Front pockets. XS-XL  
All sizes \$27.00



Adult L.S. T's 100% pre-shrunk cotton.  
S-XL \$15.00 XXL \$18.00  
Black, Cobblestone, Chocolate,  
Cardinal Red



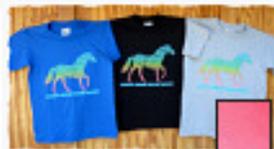
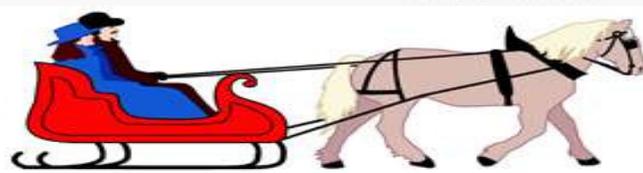
Ladies Denim L.S. Shirt,  
6.5oz., 100% cotton.  
S-XL \$25.00  
XXL \$27.00  
Stone Wash Blue



Men's Denim L.S. Shirt,  
with front pocket,  
6.5oz., 100% cotton.  
M-XL \$25.00  
XXL \$27.00  
Stone Wash Blue



Ladies contoured feminine  
body. Super soft 1 by 1 baby  
ribbed knit, 5.8oz. 100%  
combed ring spun cotton.  
Chocolate, Navy, Pink and  
Light Blue.  
S-XL \$16.00 XXL \$18.00



Youth T's. 100% preshrunk cotton.  
Grey is 90/10. S-XL \$10.00  
Royal Blue, Black, Heather Grey,  
Azalea



Ladies tank top, Comfort  
Colors, 100% pre-shrunk  
cotton. S-XL \$14.00  
Celedon, Seafoam, Flo Blue,  
Raspberry

Call Diana DeMoss 770-267-0867 to order! You can also order from our website @ [www.gerltd.org](http://www.gerltd.org)



Heartfelt condolences to Leisa McCannon after the passing of her mother on December 11. Leisa and husband, David are often found working behind the scenes at GERL events and both are very dear to us. We are sincerely sorry that they must endure this loss, especially so near the Christmas season.



Congratulations to one of GERL's original members, Nicki Thigpen of Warrenton, GA., on her recent graduation from nursing school. Besides being a great supporter of GERL, Nicki has been a fire fighter and EMT in Warrenton for several years. A little "birdie" has let us know that Nicki exempted her final exams and thus, has been awarded financial support from her school towards her credentialing process! Outstanding, Nicki!

**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

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!**

GERL has created a beautiful  
brochure to be distributed to vets,  
tack and feed stores,  
grocery stores, etc.

Please call or email Anne Ensminger  
@ 770-464-4438;  
missanne612@bellsouth.net and she  
will be happy to send some to you!

Please help us spread the  
word about GERL!

**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 success-  
ful 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 auc-  
tions? 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)

## Department of Agriculture Holds Horse Auction

by *Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) held a horse auction at their Mansfield impound on October 29<sup>th</sup> that would move twenty-two of the horses out of the State's care. Fourteen of those horses were actually a "no sale" from the previous State horse auction that was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Anybody who has ever attended one of the State's horse auctions can attest to the fact that "if it don't ride, it don't sell". I remember thinking how sad it was that those fourteen horses very well may not sell, again. There had been rumors flying around that the GDA may be forced to euthanize horses that didn't sell after several auctions. I didn't know if it was true, but I didn't know what else to do except pray that they would sell.



Auction attendees warming up before the auction.



GDA Employees working the auction.

I set up the GERL booth and began to greet the people who came out that day with an offer of hot coffee and donuts. They had set up a round pen in the middle of the hall inside the barn where the auction would take place. It was a beautiful day and a good number of people showed up with trailers in tow. Mickey Farmer arrived and got his perch set up in the back of a pick-up truck inside the barn. Billy Scaggs, GDA Chief Operating Officer under Commissioner Gary Black, was in attendance and got things started with a prayer that included new homes for all of the horses. And so the auction began.

I am a firm believer in prayer and was so glad that I was there that day to witness as all but two of the horses sold and went to new homes! The two that didn't sell were later adopted by a couple in north Georgia. Everybody who left the auction that day wore a smile, especially, the volunteers and GDA personnel who take care of the horses. It was a good day!

Thank you, Susie Cottongim, for your donation on behalf of Robin Parks, Barbara Cumming and Linda Kundell of Kel-Mac Saddle Club!

Thank you, Hoyt Pittman, for your donation in the name of Laura King.

Thank you, Ken & Brenda Owens, for your generous donation!

### Honorariums

In Honor of Stetson by John Absalon

## A Happily Ever After Story

by Patty Livingston

Mid-summer of 2011 found GERL involved in a horse impoundment case with the Lamar County Sheriff's Office involving an extremely emaciated sorrel gelding and a paint pony that were living in a small yard with little or no grass. The owner was having her own struggles in life and wasn't taking care of the horses. GERL Area Coordinator, Marla Morris, went to the jail to get the owner to sign the horses over to GERL and she immediately left and picked up both animals and took them to her farm where they remained until CJ, the skinny gelding gained some weight. The pony, Little Joe, was covered with rain rot, but was not emaciated. Unfortunately,

when they were moved to their new foster homes it was necessary to separate the two friends that had been together for the better part of ten years. CJ was fostered by a wonderful caregiver in the Carrollton area and Little Joe was being fostered in the Griffin area and there they would stay apart from each other for the next four months. There were other horses at both foster homes that would keep them company and make the separation bearable. In late October we had a retired couple down in



South Georgia express an interest in adopting two horses from us and Little Joe was their first pick. Finding a second horse that wasn't too young or too much horse was a question that was posed to me. I jumped at the opportunity to tell them about CJ and how he had been Little Joe's pasture mate for many years and how neat it would be to reunite these two

horses, again. They agreed so Anne, Diana and I immediately started planning the sixteen hour road trip to make it happen.

On moving day we arrived at Michelle Williams' farm to pick up Little Joe. CJ was already on the trailer. As we pulled up near the barn all of the horses started whinnying to

the new guy on the trailer. And, as soon as Little Joe heard CJ whinny back it was obvious that he recognized his old friend. It made all of our hearts melt when we witnessed the reunion on the trailer and we were all glad that we were able to make this happen. We left Michelle's with both horses and headed for the new forever home that will hopefully, be the last home that these two old friends will ever know.

## Memoriams

Daniel Bailey Hurt by Douglas Swartz  
Donna Zeliff by Joseph Urban  
Dreams Lyric by Lenore Threlkeld  
Keith Maynard by Michael Uhl, MSgt (RET)  
Glory by Barbara Decker  
Donna Pieper's beloved Major by Mike & Joanne Medlock  
Chris Elliott by Susan Lang  
Charles E. Burgess by Tom Burgess

Mammoth by Rob & Kathy Russell  
Cool Hand Luke by Julia Williams  
Gwendolyn Shufelt  
Faneeq by Dinah Peevy

*In memory of Donna Price:*  
James and Nikki Linder  
Jay and Donna Durant  
Mark & Teresa Starcher

# GERL ANNUAL MEETING



January 21st, 2012  
Winder Lion's Club  
354 E. Broad Street, Winder, GA 30680



You are invited to attend! We have moved the meeting to a larger facility!  
**Pot Luck—Please bring your favorite dish to share!**

## AGENDA

We will be eating at noon, please come a few minutes early if you are bringing a dish and plan to join us for lunch.

- 12:30—Introduction by President Patty Livingston
- 12:45—Guest speaker Alan Cassidy, “Ga-Safe Trails”
- 1:30—General Meeting
- 2:30—Adjourn

**GERL MERCHANDISE WILL BE FOR SALE!**

## **Not all predators walk on four legs.**

Learn how to defend yourself against attackers on the trail!

Alan Cassidy, Ga-Safe Trails, will be speaking on trail safety awareness and self defense.

Don't miss this special guest!

## **“Patience is a Virtue; Frustration is a Fact”**

*By Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator*

I am not a patient person by nature. I have plenty of patience with animals and small children who don't know any better, but my fuse sometimes gets a bit short with adults and the system in general. I am a fixer, a doer, and I often want things done yesterday! Since I accepted the position of Adoption Coordinator back in November of 2010, I've had to take a deep breath, step back, and realize that rescuing horses takes patience in every avenue. For example:

In order for the Georgia Department of Agriculture to even be able to get involved in a neglect case, there is red tape to untangle and a long legal slog. Much as the inspectors would love to swoop into a bad situation and spirit away poor neglected creatures, it doesn't work like that. There has to be careful documentation of each case. Due to lack of funding and understaffing, it takes a while for inspectors to work each call, and they have to be selective about which horses need to be impounded right away and which can be helped by early intervention in the field. The GDA tries to give an owner every opportunity to rectify a bad situation. Sometimes it is just a case of ignorance, and the people can be helped with a little guidance and education. Sadly, though, often it is a case of willful and deliberate neglect. If the owner is fighting to keep his horses (using funds to pay attorneys instead of purchasing much-needed hay, in my opinion), then it can drag on for months.

GERL doesn't often run across this problem; for the most part, the majority of our horses are owner-surrenders. We have foster homes pre-approved, and when we take in a horse, it goes immediately into intense rehabilitation. This leads to the second part of patience – the rehab process.

When a skinny horse comes into your care, your first instinct is to fill it up! Quick! But horses, for all their sturdiness, have very delicate digestive systems. Weight gain is a cautious, sometimes tedious process. Too much food too fast can lead to a host of other problems. Depending on the age and overall health of the horse, a rescue horse might start out eating a cup (yes, I said a CUP) of feed five or six times a day, and work up to normal amounts over a period of days or even weeks. This takes tremendous patience and dedication on the part of our foster homes. But speaking from experience, there is nothing like seeing a bag of bones blossom into a beautiful horse!

Some of our rescue horses have been so neglected or mistreated by humans that it takes patience to win their trust. Often our fosters will sit with a horse for hours, patiently, not speaking or approaching the horse, not intruding on its space or forcing it to accept contact. Just being there, just showing the horse that it has nothing to fear, just letting the horse make the first move, is a slow and sometimes tedious process. Again, that moment when a timid or frightened animal reaches out its nose for that first tentative touch, is tremendously rewarding!

Once our horses are ready to go to their forever homes, they enter into the adoption phase. Here's where patience on my part comes in. I want to place every one of our beautiful babies

in the perfect home – NOW!! But perfect homes are hard to come by, especially in these difficult economic times. We refuse to compromise our standards, however. We approve every adopter and every home before we release the horse that we have worked so hard to prepare for a new life.

This is where it is important for the prospective adopter to have patience. It isn't as easy as it sounds, but we try to make it a pretty straightforward process. First the adopter needs to request an application; that's when they contact me. There is no cost or obligation to apply. Once an application is received and approved, GERL arranges for an Area Coordinator to come out to the adopter's farm (or the location where they will board) and approve the facilities to ensure that the place is safe and appropriate for a horse. This can be done as quickly as in a day, or it may take a couple of weeks. In some parts of the state we have plenty of volunteers and can get a Coordinator out to visit a prospective adopter quickly. In other areas, we are spread pretty darn thin, and it may take a few days of phone tag or multiple e-mail exchanges just for me to get in touch with them, and then for them to get in touch with the adopter to make arrangements.

Once a home study is complete, we arrange for the adopter to meet the horse they are interested in adopting. Again, this involves coordinating two different schedules. Our foster homes have jobs, families, and horses of their own, and they can't drop everything to facilitate a meeting. This is why we do not allow a person to visit a horse until they are pre-approved. If we gave out contact information to every "looker" then the foster family would be inundated with requests to see the horse all the time! We try to streamline the process by weeding out folks who aren't serious and homes that are not appropriate. Please understand that only about 5% of the inquiries that I receive actually turn out to be truly interested in adopting through GERL. There are lots of people out there just looking for a free horse. And our horses aren't free!

Our adoption donations generally range from \$100 to \$400. These donations help us to recoup a very small portion of the investment we have in the horse – feed, vaccines, wormer, dental care, hoof care, gelding, medical treatment, etc. Rescuing a single horse can involve hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Many of our horses received little or no veterinary care prior to entering our program, so we have to play catch-up.

We are selective because we have a lot invested in our rescues, both financially and emotionally! We aren't trying to "get rid" of these horses; we want to find them the best homes possible. These horses have come from bad situations, and we want to make sure they aren't going back into one. By being thorough up front, we try to ensure that each horse is going to a wonderful forever home where they will be loved and treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

If you are interested in adopting through GERL, contact me and let me start the process of helping you find your new best friend. But PLEASE be patient! I am usually able to answer calls or e-mails within twenty four hours, and I do my best to move the process along. Just remember, patience is a virtue, and good things come to those who wait!

## Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

John Absalon	Margaret Hill	Sheila Ogle
Janet Ackerman, DVM—Animal Medical Center	Jane Hillegas	Dale & Kelley Overstreet
Cynthia Anderson	Debora Hines	Gene & Nancy Ozburn
Barbara Arnold	Jim Holland	Pennie Peck
Samantha Ball	Lara Homans & Jeff McHugh	Dinah Peevy
Jeanne Barsanti	Larry Howell	Willie Perkins -Flying D Stables
Damian & Rebecca Bartholomew & Family	Bill & Alison Ibsen	Cheryl Popiel
Rita Benfield & Mike Wade	Nancy Janosik	Jane Purtzer
Greg & Tiffany Bergdorf	Alline Jones	Annette Raybon -Paulding County 4-H Horse & Pony
Nancy Bogardts	Diane Kirby & Family	Gene Rowsey
Cindy Russell Bounds	Margaret & Richard Korges	Michael & Carrie Russell
Kim Bowen & Family	Linda Kundell	Richard Sauerbier
Cynthia Brayton	Gina Lance	Scott Sauerbier & Family
Faye Burton	Majorie Leder & Greg Argarin	Dan & Kim Smith
Jack & Dotti Carter	Doug & Sylvia Lewis	Shari Spokes
Rich & Sue Chalmers	Dan & Shawn Liburdi	Karen Squazzo
Marion & Jackie Cobb	Kristi Lindsay	Linda Starr
Al Cofer	Kelly Lumpkins	Charles & Linda Stephens
Amy Cox	Michelle & Wesley Lyle	Sandy Stephenson
Pat Dean	John Lynn	Chatty Stover
Barbara Decker	Dawn Maines	Lenore Threlkeld
Jacqueline Derrick	Lance & Tracy McClain	Sue Tomsic
Charles & Linda DeVane	Ann McCloskey	Todd & Christina Warren
David & Terri Elsberry	Bob & Judy McCrory	Jones Webb
Jimmy & Katy Futrelle	Mike & JoAnne Medlock	Julie Williams
Kriston Glushko	Ed & Sara Merritt	Susan and George Wrensen
Kathleen Hales	Jacki Moore & Family	Debra Young
Elizabeth Hamilton	Gary & Jeana Mullen	Ray & Pierrette Ziebell
Elaine Hargadon	Debbie & Lamar Mullinax - Sundowner of Georgia	Ross Kittrell & Rhonda Veit
Peggy & Barbara Hawley -Barlyn Farm	Doug & Sandy Mundrick	New South Equine Medicine
Betty Sue Hearin	Nina Murphy	
	Jean Nash	

**With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference!**

**Thank you, Doug & Sandy Mundrick, for your donation for the horses!!**

**Linda Kundell, thank you for your donation! Thank you for the time you put in volunteering for GERL!**

**Kel-Mac Saddle Club donated \$2000.00 to GERL as their year end donation! \$1000 for the Feed A Horse program and \$1000 for the Stallion-Gelding program. YOU ROCK!**

**A special thanks to A-Action Bail Bonds and 24/7 Express Ankle Monitoring of Lawrenceville for donating to GERL for food for the Winder Multi-County Meeting!**

## Another Successful Multi-County Meeting

By Patty Livingston

I hope our members and supporters are aware of the purpose and significance of our periodic “Multi-County Meetings”. These meetings are an assemblage of law enforcement and animal control officers which GERL brings together to impress upon them their role in carrying out enforcement of the equine protection laws which we are so fortunate to have in Georgia. Basically, it has traditionally been the responsibility of Georgia Department of Agriculture, Equine Division to enforce these laws and to rescue and rehabilitate starved and abused horses in our state. Just as our American economy has suffered in



recent times, so has the state budget which supports the Equine Division of the GDA. Operating funds have been drastically cut, personnel have been reduced, and the number of horses GDA is permitted to impound has been reduced.

Still, the number of horses being abused and neglected is growing. It is the equal responsibility of law enforcement and animal control to supplement the efforts of GDA to provide relief for these unfortunate animals, yet they seem reluctant to deal with equine abuse cases. This is totally understandable to GERL. How many Sheriff's Deputies or Animal Control Officers have any experience in dealing with large animals? The answer is; not very many. Realizing this, GERL has embarked on a program to teach these officers basic horse handling, the intricacies of the Georgia Equine Protection Act of 1992, and to educate them in how to build a successful case against abusers. Armed with this new



knowledge, we find that officers become enthusiastic regarding their potential role in enforcing laws with which they were basically unfamiliar.

GERL enlists the help of Department of Agriculture Equine Manager, Mat Thompson and DeKalb County Animal Control Supervisor, Kevin Hearst to speak at these meetings. The attendees are amazed and entertained by all they learn from these two very knowledgeable officers.

Our most recent Multi-County Meeting was held in Milledgeville, GA on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was totally organized by GERL Baldwin and Putnam County Area Coordinator, Cynthia Anderson. She produced a great turnout representing several Georgia counties and the meeting was a huge success. We are always delighted when those attending agree to step up and try catching and haltering a live horse for the first time during one of our “hands on” Horse Handling Labs. Many of these folks have had little experience with animals, much less those the size of a horse! Even many of the Animal Control Officers are only accustomed to working with dogs and cats. We get the feeling that they will, after attending our training, be more apt to agree to intervene if they receive a call about a horse galloping down a highway in their jurisdiction. We HOPE that they will also be more inclined to investigate starvation and cruelty reports in their counties and be better prepared to bring successful charges resulting in fines for offenders.

Cynthia and her family saw to it that everyone had way more than adequate water, juice, coffee, fruit, and pastries during the morning session and then provided pizza for lunch. All officers left with 5 post credit hours which GERL is permitted to award and information concerning how GERL and GDA can help them with equine related matters when needed.



## Fright Fest 2011

by Patty Livingston

The GERL Fright Fest fundraiser offering camping and trail riding for the weekend was held at Dawson Forest in Dawsonville, Georgia on October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>. The weather was perfect for horseback riding and campfires! The GERL Board and Executive Committee Leads arrived on Thursday to get everything set up. The tent arrived later that afternoon. We all pitched in to get everything done, but there was one guy that stood out. His name is Humberto Izquierdo and he reminded me of a wind-up toy, never stopping until the job was done! Humberto also became a new member of GERL that weekend!

You would never guess that we were in the middle of the woods, primitive camping! Amy Cox had a kitchen at the end of the “Big Top” that would make Paula Dean happy! Amy worked her magic in the kitchen with the most fabulous food. There was a full hot and cold breakfast served up Saturday and Sunday mornings and a great BBQ dinner Saturday evening. All of this was made possible by Amy’s “can do” attitude and the help of lots of kitchen crew. Thank you all!

What Fright Fest would be complete without a costume contest? Some people are really good at coming up with creative ideas and keeping secrets! The Ken Archer family, including all of their grandchildren, came walking up to the entrance of the tent as characters from the Wizard of Oz and they were spectacular! Everybody was grabbing their cameras



The Big Top



Anne Ensminger received the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

to get a picture! Ronnie Pesserillo’s granddaughter, Eva, won the best costume contest. She is four years old and was thrilled about her win.

We present an award called “The Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award” at our Fright Fest event every year in honor of a wonderful lady who exemplified the title of GERL cheerleader. Marty Paulk lost her battle with cancer almost 3 years ago, but she is still a part of GERL. The award went to GERL secretary, Anne Ensminger, who was totally surprised by the honor, but most deserving, none-the-less! I know that Marty would be pleased with our choice. Our favorite auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, kicked off the live auction shortly after the silent auction closed. He worked the crowd in his usual jovial style, picking fun and getting everybody caught up in the spirit of giving. I know I’m always saying this, but, I swear he can squeeze blood out of a turnip! He had several people bid more than sixty dollars on a fifty dollar gift certificate!

Mike Rogers and his new band, Tussahaw Creek Band, started playing after the auction was finished. Mike was a member of the Steele Road Band who played for GERL in years gone past. Everybody enjoyed the music. I’m pretty sure that I danced every dance! I didn’t always have a partner either. Pretty soon, the few of us who were dancing were able to get the spectators on their feet and on the dance floor. Have you ever noticed that dancing makes people smile?

Cowboy Church was great! Our friend, Sammy Levert, asked his good friend and former pastor to preach the sermon for us. As it turns out he is now

the pastor at a church in Dawsonville. After another fabulous breakfast we started taking down the tables and chairs and packing everything up to go home.

I'd like to thank ALL of the supporters and sponsors who helped make Fright Fest 2011 a wonderful success. If you ever have an opportunity to run across these people or frequent their businesses, please let them know how much their support is appreciated. While it would be impossible to list every individual who gave items to our auction, we would like to mention some merchants and individuals who went far beyond the "call of duty" to contribute to our wonderful weekend. Mentioning them here, in no way should indicate that they are more appreciated than each of the others who contributed.



The Wizard of Oz gang arrives

Ingles of Dawsonville, Jim Young, Mgr.	Cowboys and Clay – Sandy Stephenson
Dawsonville Community Outreach	Processors Co-Op, Alan Brown, President
Big D's BBQ - Dawsonville	Dr. Jan and Bobby Smith
BB&T Insurance Co., Monroe, Lee Edmondson	Towns Portable - Dawsonville
Romancing the Range - Dawsonville	Mickey Farmer—Auctioneer Extraordinaire!
Bar H Equine - Bob Simpson	Boss Brothers Country Store - Loganville
Tents, Tents, Tents – Cumming, Valerie & William Flynn	



Shake It, Andee!



Halloween Puppies



Patty and Mickey



Ready to hit the trails!



Eva the Cheerleader



Brice the Cowboy

## GERL Speaks to Students at Walnut Grove High School

*By Patty Livingston*

We received an email from Margaret Carden, FFA Advisor and the Equine Science teacher at the Walnut Grove High School, requesting that someone from GERL come to her class and speak to her students about GERL and all of the work involved with horse rescue. So, on August 30th Anne Ensminger and I arrived a little early to set up everything. We soon discovered that the schools today are equipped with the latest and greatest in technology. All we needed besides the GERL display board was a memory stick with the presentation. The room was packed with male and female teenaged students. They asked questions about the horses that they saw on our display board and had a lot of interest in learning more about the stories about the starved horses and what has happened to them. Of course, I spoke about our current horse problems and the fact that over-breeding is much to blame for the issues we see every day with unwanted horses. I never assume that they will ever hear these facts elsewhere. I also explained how a horse can suffer as a result of somebody's poor judgment and tried to impress upon them that the cost of a horse is the cheapest part of the acquisition. We thanked Mrs. Carden for inviting us to come and speak to her class and passed out copies of the latest newsletter before we left.



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## GERL Speaks to Buford Middle School Equestrian Club

*By Patty Livingston*

The Equestrian Club at the Buford Middle School requested that GERL come to their September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and speak to their members about GERL and all of the work involved with horse rescue. Anne Ensminger and I arrived a little early to set up everything. As soon as we arrived at the school we both realized that we had given a presentation to this group the previous year. I thought it was nice that they wanted us to come back. We set up the display board and gave out the latest newsletter to everybody. The majority of the club members were impressionable young horse-crazy twelve year old girls. The male horse lovers are rather rare, it seems. They had two. They sat quietly while I went through the special PowerPoint presentation that I had prepared just for them. It had a lot of before and after



pictures, which is what they're really interested in, anyway. They asked questions at the end of the presentation and everybody received a nice snack of cold drinks and cookies before we left. GERL Area Coordinators typically help by giving presentations to interested kids clubs and schools in their community.

# 4th Annual GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE TO BENEFIT THE GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

## May 4-6, 2012

Fundraiser to be held at the farm of Ron & Adriane Cook, Round Oak, GA., near Monticello & Hillsboro.

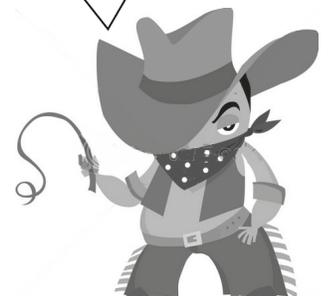


- Cross Country riding in the Oconee National Forest
- Bring a dish and join us for Pot Luck Dinner Friday Night
- Breakfast Sat. AM, Dinner Sat. PM and Breakfast Sunday AM included!
- Dance on Saturday Night
- Live Auction Saturday Night with Mickey Farmer - Famous Auctioneer!
- Silent Auction on Saturday
- Limited Power and water hook-ups available
- Plenty of primitive camping
- High ties provided with power sites, pens o.k.
- GERL Merchandise will be for sale on site
- Please pre-register—space goes quickly!!
- Two night minimum for electric sites

Start packin' up, honey! We're gonna have a blast!



Contact Anne Ensminger @  
[missanne612@bellsouth.net](mailto:missanne612@bellsouth.net) or 770-464-3348  
for more info. Registration forms will be  
available on our website: [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)



## A Dog and His Rescue

By Lester & Diane Aradi

This story will start with a rescue dog and end with the blessing we received from GERL. When we moved to Georgia, with our horse "Haggis" in tow, we settled temporarily in a rental farm house. Very bare bones but it had a good barn and fenced pasture which is all that mattered. A few months later we found the right property for us and we began building a stable and enclosing the pasture but had to leave Haggis at the farm house until his new quarters were ready.

On one of our many daily trips back to check on Haggis we noticed a pair of ears in the trees behind the barn. At first we thought it might be the outline of a coyote, or at least that's what we feared. In time we learned that it was an abandoned Australian Cattle Dog, or more commonly known as a Blue Heeler. He was micro chipped and we were able to track down his breeder and his succession of owners. No body wanted him back! He had been abandoned near the farm house and sought the companionship of Haggis and the shelter of the barn. We took "Blue" in and to this day scratch our heads wondering why he would be discarded as he is an absolutely incredible dog. If any rationalization comes to mind it is that Blue must have fallen victim to people who choose a dog without knowing the breed and what it's needs are. Blue needs some land to run free on and a job to do. His is to Velcro himself to us and tend to the horses.

Moving forward a year we decided that if God blessed us with the ability, and land, to help foster a horse in need we would do it. Haggis was our first horse and he had been discarded and left to starve after his racing days were over. He was taken in by Hope Equine Rescue in Auburndale Florida and eventually adopted by us. So we wanted to take on a rescue horse that we could help rehabilitate and eventually turn over to a loving home. That lead us

to contact GERL. Patty Livingston, Becky Gregory, Dotti and Jack Carter, Helen and Bob Winn all came in to our lives as a result.

More dramatically "Rayzor" came in to our lives. He was an abandoned yearling Stallion with a very poor body score and open sores on his neck where a piece of his mane had been torn off. Dotti correctly guessed that it must have been another horse biting Razor on the neck as there were symmetrical wounds on each side just below his missing mane. Very much like Blue this sweet little colt is a perfect gentleman and a loving easy keeper that is willing to please. Rayzor has put on weight slowly and steadily. While his trust of people was never an issue he has lost his "white eye" look and a gentle sparkle has replaced it.

We will be the first to tell anyone that we are anything but a horse whisperers, but Rayzor makes us feel like we are just that. He stands, whoas, backs, circles and follows perfectly. We consider it a gift from GERL, to be given an opportunity to care for a horse that makes us, as first time fosters, confident that we can do this. We are pleased to know that we can confidently take in and work with a rescue horse and help in his rehabilitation.

Coming back full circle to Blue, every day when we are with Razor in his pasture Blue is right by his side. One day Rayzor was grazing and Blue was licking Rayzor's ear giving him kisses. An amazing bond formed between these two rescues considering that Blue's nature is to herd. Rayzor is so laid back that Blue will walk around him, underneath him and kiss him every opportunity he gets. Our biggest shock came the other day when we doled out Rayzor's usual feeding of alfalfa into his bowl. As Rayzor was eating Blue walked right up next to Rayzor and starting eating with him out of the same bowl. We've included a photo of this wonderful event. Thank you GERL for helping us help horses. To follow Rayzor's progress visit the "GERL Rescue" page on our website [www.horsecreekstable.com](http://www.horsecreekstable.com), Lester & Diane Aradi.



## Kel-Mac Saddle Club Presents 2011 Donation to GERL

*By Anne Ensminger*

Once again GERL President, Patty Livingston and I were honored to be invited to attend the Kel-Mac Saddle Club Awards Banquet held at Bonner's Triple B Restaurant, near Buckhead, GA. Not only did we attend, share a wonderful meal, and enjoy a great slide show depicting the past year's Kel-Mac activities, but Patty accepted a check made out to GERL for \$2000! This is, by no means, the first time that Kel-Mac members have voted to make GERL one of the beneficiaries of their hard work. It is their custom to sponsor horse related, family oriented activities throughout the year and then donate all of their profits to organizations working on behalf of equine or equine related activities.



This year GERL was joined by Friends of A.H. Stephens State Park (which has just begun work on providing electricity in their equine camping area); Newton County Special Olympics Equestrian Team; Morgan County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund; as well as Camp Twin Lakes in being honored by this 35 year old club. It was truly moving to hear comments made by representatives of these organizations, describing the good work of each.

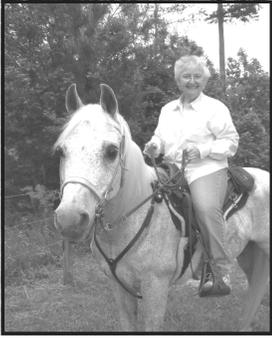
Special thanks to the officers and members of Kel-Mac Saddle Club for your continuing support of GERL. Many of you are members of both organizations. In addition, Patty and I are extremely grateful to four individual Kel-Mac members who gave us a check for \$100 in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts among themselves. I'm beginning to feel the Christmas spirit!

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### MGEN Sponsors "Make A Change" for GERL

The Middle Georgia Equine Network (MGEN) Christmas party was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the new Piedmont Equine Associates equine facility in Madison. Drs. Pike and Elliott were hosts of the event this year. MGEN members decided to do something different when they were discussing what organization would be the recipient of their fund raising and how they wanted to come up with funds. They challenged everybody to roll their loose coins to donate to GERL and bring a check to the party for that amount. GERL received a total of \$145 from the "Make A Change" challenge. Thank you to all of the MGEN members who participated and especially to Ruth Wilson who came up with the creative idea of giving!





## A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

So much has happened since our last newsletter.....mostly good. GERL Treasurer, Diana DeMoss told us a short time ago that 2011 donations to GERL were seriously down. While that was a concern for me, our very positive President, Patty Livingston was not the least bit worried. She gave us a "pep" talk and continued to work her "buns" off for GERL. Well, Patty was absolutely correct in reminding us that most of the things we humans worry about, never come to pass!

The Christmas season has reminded those who care deeply about the welfare of horses, to dig a little deeper in their ever shrinking pockets. Those caring people have responded in many ways and we are once again feeling on top of the world.

Donations of money, hay, horse related items, and commitments of time have greatly increased. Our Treasurer is happy, we will be able to help feed some hungry horses this winter, and we already have a portion of the needed items for our next fund raiser auction. To quote my dear friend, Kathy Chandler, "Life is Good!"

Our online auctions are going well and I encourage all to check on items offered in the future. Many of the items have been bought for a "song" while many potential bidders sat on their hands thinking that the bids would surpass what they may be willing to pay. Example: GERL friends, Bob and Dorothy Thomas (Dawsonville) are still amazed that they managed to obtain a 55 inch, color, rear projection, "big honkin' T.V.!" for \$25! The T.V. works beautifully.

A special thanks to our new officers and program coordinators. We look forward to working with each of you. I have never known GERL President, Patty Livingston to turn down an invitation to represent

GERL at a special event or to speak to any group about our organization unless she had a previous commitment. She often drags me along for company and to take pictures. Because of that, I have met some awesome "horse people" as I stand in awe of Patty's energy and determination to make GERL better each year.

One of the few "perks" Patty has received in return for her hard work came last week when she was invited to attend the arrival of the Cavalia horses in downtown Atlanta and to a "sneak peek" of the upcoming Cavalia Odysseo Show. Joining Patty were Ruth and Tommy Wilson, Diana DeMoss, and me. Wow! What beautiful animals!

I want to mention at this point, the work of our Foster Coordinator, Becky Gregory and Adoption Coordinator, Ruth Wilson. Mercy! Just a few months ago, GERL had well over forty horses in foster care. Today that number is around fifteen. These two ladies have worked beautifully together to find great homes for each of the horses, some difficult to place. Thanks to Ruth and Becky for an ongoing and outstanding job! Of course, the BEST thing you did was place Pal-O-Mine in the perfect home.....I love that old horse.

Additionally, I am thrilled to remind our readers of the success of our Multi County Meetings where we inform Sheriff's Deputies, Animal Control Officers, and interested citizens about GERL, Georgia's Equine Protection Laws, and encourage prosecution of offenders who break these laws.

Our Vaccination and Castration Clinics have been outstanding successes. These clinics cost GERL money but in return, horses are protected from disease and many stallions will never reproduce, which will be a start toward limiting the number of foals born in Georgia each year. We feel that we must gain control of the overpopulation of horses which leads to their becoming the unappreciated property of potential abusers.

## Cavalia Is Back In Town!

*by Patty Livingston*

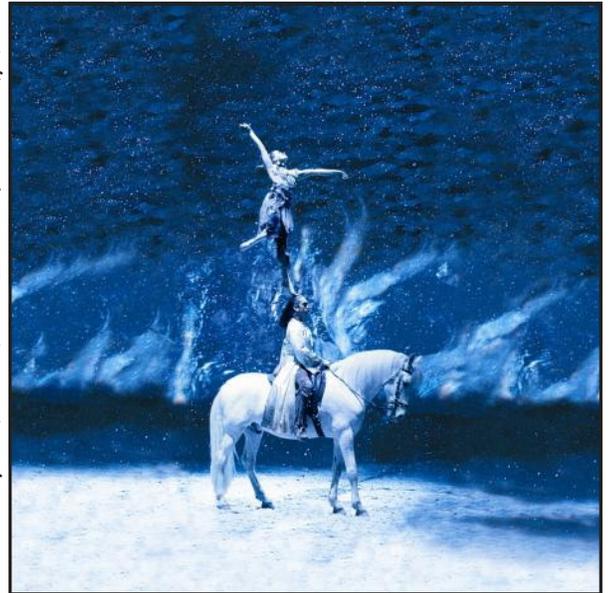
Cavalia's equestrian odyssey returns to Atlanta with an all-new adventure, ODYSSEO. A new tribute to horses and the relationship humans have shared with them for thousands of years,

GERL was lucky enough to receive a two ticket package to the opening night of Cavalia to auction off on one of our online auctions which brought in a donation of \$425. I was also invited to attend the opening night and was totally blown away with this show!

ODYSSEO is an invitation to dream, to travel beyond the boundaries of time and space and to journey toward the mystery of new horizons and cultures. After weeks of speculation and interest from Atlantans, ODYSSEO has been unveiled. Cavalia arrived in Atlanta and opened the U.S. Premiere of ODYSSEO December 7, 2011 in the heart of Midtown Atlanta.

For Normand Latourelle, Cavalia's President and Artistic Director, "It's only because of horses that humans were able to imagine that they could travel to the ends of the world. The horse is a powerful and natural wonder. This animal enabled mankind to build bridges between cultures, to create alliances amongst people and thus freely roam the planet. He has been one of the most important instruments in the evolution of humanity. This is the essence of ODYSSEO."

ODYSSEO will be presented under the world's largest touring big top, two-and-a-quarter times bigger than Cavalia's original touring tent. The immense theatre, with no obstructed views, houses a 2,500-square-metre stage. Surrounded by projections and visual effects, 69 horses and 55 artists will embark together on a journey and travel through the greatest wonders nature has to offer. GERL is able to offer participants a ten percent discount on tickets by going to our website to order.



## Update on Pal-O-Mine

By Anne Ensminger

Yesterday I traveled with Patty Livingston as we took a three hour drive to witness the happy ending of Pal-O-Mine's story. Well, I suppose the story has not ENDED, but instead Pal's new and wonderful life now begins. That is great news for Pal, for me, and for all of you who sent donations and have expressed concern for the old horse.

Entering the GERL Foster program in June of this year, Pal has spent the last six months in the loving care of Susan McCullar. Susan has a way of bringing horses which are near death, back to health, as few can. She starts with a plan which includes parasite management, dental care, foot care, and superior nutrition. A much needed healthy routine is maintained for all of the horses in her care no matter what else is going on in Susan's life. She called a few weeks ago to let us know that Pal was completely rehabilitated and ready for a permanent home.

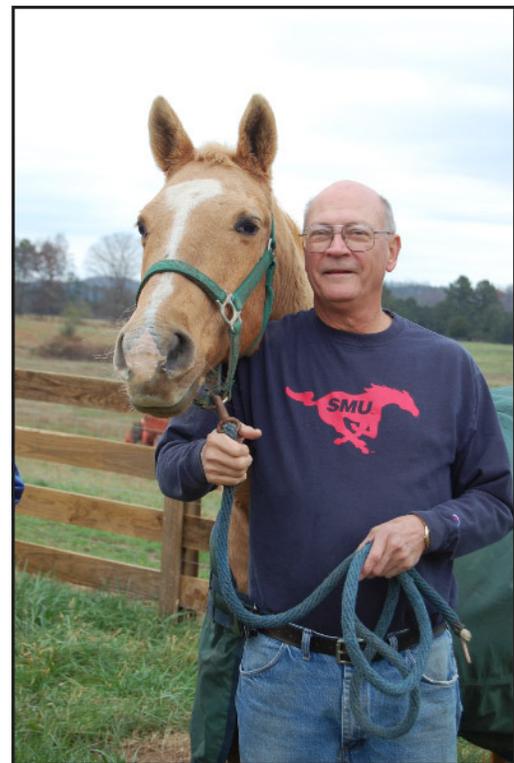
When Pal arrived at Susan's farm with a body score of one, little did any of us know what an outpouring of love and generosity would follow after Andee Rogers shared his story with our members and friends on Facebook. As soon as word of his condition was revealed, GERL began to receive donations earmarked "for the care of Pal". We were amazed and delighted! Eventually, Pal's bank account reached over \$1400! When he left our program yesterday, his account balance was approximately \$100, which was just about enough to cover the fuel cost to deliver him to the gorgeous Chattooga County farm of Dr. and Mrs. Phil Rast, where he will spend the remainder of his life.

Before we knew that the Rast's would be interested

in adopting Pal, Patty Livingston and I went to pay him a visit, take "after" pictures, and evaluate his ridability. After an almost humorous, halfhearted objection to the tightening of the girth, the old horse stood steadfastly for Patty to mount. He then walked away at a very impressive forward walk, turned left and right at her direction, and then stopped and backed with the slightest tug on the rein. Patty then

got brave and urged him into a trot. She reported that he had a jog "to die for" (we supposed she meant very smooth J). Patty declared that she would not hesitate to ride him anywhere his advanced age would safely permit. We were thrilled to be able to say that Pal is a rideable horse although we were

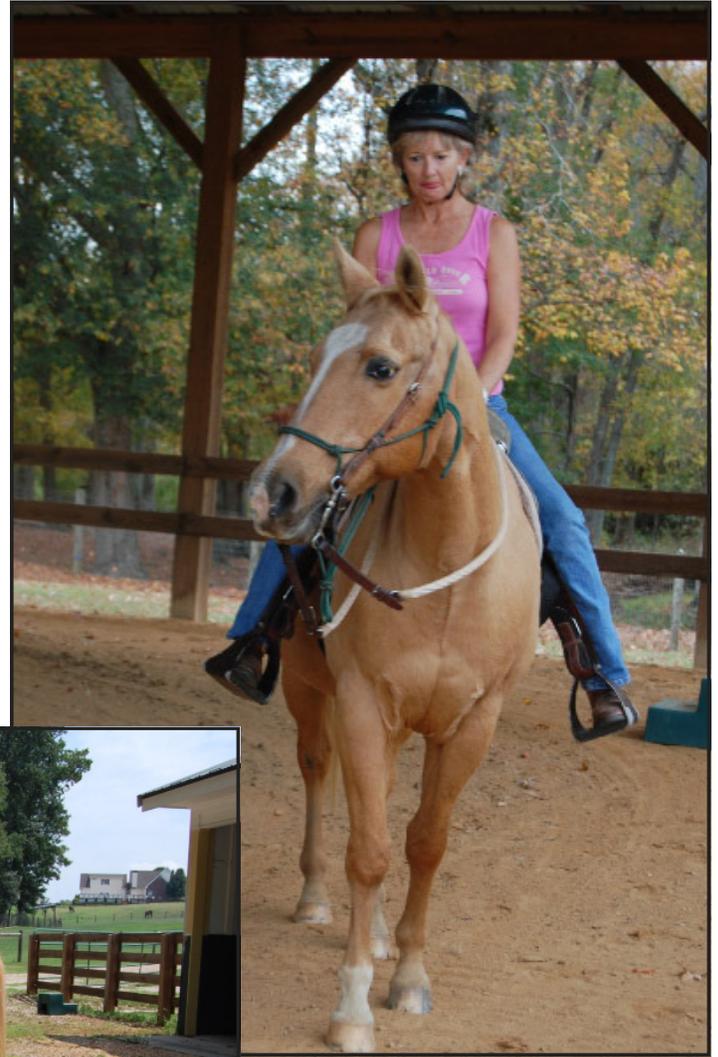
certain that he had not been ridden for many years.



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As it turns out, Dr. Phil and Mrs. Lee Rast will probably never ride Pal. Perhaps the grandchildren will ride him around their lovely new arena under Grandma and Grandpa's supervision but I have a suspicion that our Pal-O-Mine is now on "Easy Street" for whatever time he has left on this earth. Oh, how we wish the same for all of the other horses we have, and will have, in the GERL Foster Care Program.

One more thing.....the Rasts also adopted Pal's new love, Breeze. She is a 28 year old mare and the two horses became great friends when they were pastured together overnight at Patty Livingston's farm before their transport to Chattooga County. Thanks to Shawn Morris of Walton County Animal Control, Diana DeMoss, Dr. Rhonda Veit, Susan McCullar, Andee Rogers, the Rasts, and many of you who cared, this story could not have had a better ending!



## GERL Membership Stickers

In an effort to cut GERL operating costs, we will no longer automatically send GERL stickers with membership renewals. New members will receive them as usual. At a cost of nearly fifty cents each, and with the certain knowledge that many of them end up in a drawer or thrown away, we will only provide them to established members by request.

We want all members to proudly display GERL Stickers on their vehicles and other places, so if new stickers are needed, please email:

[missanne612@bellsouth.net](mailto:missanne612@bellsouth.net) or send a request to 3662 Dally Rd. S.E. and let Miss Anne know how many you need. They will be mailed immediately and free of charge.



## Thank You To Our Foster Homes

### **Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf**

*Fostering Lucky*

### **Michelle Rabold**

*Fostering Itty Bitty*

### **Anne Ensminger**

*Fostering Honor*

### **Kim Smith**

*Fostering Haybaler*

### **Alline Jones**

*Fostering Jenna and Alf*

### **Patty & Nick Howard**

*for fostering Kyra & Rosie*

### **Ken and Susan Archer**

*for fostering Barley and Cracker Jack*

### **Linda Fears**

*for fostering Roma*

### **Elaine Bishoff**

*for fostering Smokey*

### **Allison Altman**

*Fostering Maggie Mae*

### **Susan Richardson**

*for fostering Sable*

### **Tamma Trump**

*for fostering Rusty*

### **Lester and Diane Aradi**

*for fostering Rayzor*

### **Valerie Puryear**

*for fostering Thunder*

### **Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert**

*for fostering Vandy*

### **Debra Young**

*for fostering Ginger*

### **Beth Eavenson**

*for fostering Apache*

### **Susan Prugh**

*for fostering Tucker*

Heartfelt condolences to Jo West for the loss of her beautiful gaited horse, "Frosty". Many will remember Frosty, the "above and beyond the call of duty" care given to him by Jo in his later years, and how much she loved him. We are very sorry for your loss, Jo.

## Thank You for your donations!

Dear Mr. Merritt—your donation will help so many horses! Thank you so much!!

Thank you, Elaine Bishoff, for your generous donation!

Nancy Fitzgibbons, you are a blessing to the GERL!

Thanks to the Oconee Equestrian Team for their donation!

Tim Hoon—you are the best! Thank you for your recent donation!

Thank you, Dr. Janet Ackerman and the Animal Medical Center of Cairo, for your donation to help horses!

Thank you to Toi Wall, Apple Butter Treats, for donating a portion of your profits to GERL.

Thank you, Susie Cottongim, for your donation on behalf of Robin Parks, Barbara Cumming and Linda Kundell of Kel-Mac Saddle Club.

Thank you, Doug & Sandy Mundrick, for your donation for the horses!!

Linda Kundell, thank you for your donation!

Thank you for the time you put in volunteering for GERL!

Kel-Mac Saddle Club donated \$2000.00 to GERL as their year end donation! \$1000 for the Feed A Horse program and \$1000 for the Stallion-Gelding program. YOU ROCK!

A special thanks to A-Action Bail Bonds and 24/7 Express Ankle Monitoring of Lawrenceville for donating to GERL for food for the Winder Multi-County Meeting!

Thank you, Hoyt Pittman, for your donation in the name of Laura King.

Thank you, Ken & Brenda Owens, for your generous donation!

## With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference!

### Changes Coming in 2012

We have a couple of changes within the GERL Board of Directors to announce, as well as a few other changes and openings to report in 2012.

The GERL Vice President position previously held by Ken Archer will be filled by Eddy O'Hern of Bonaire. Eddy currently serves as the Area Coordinator Lead for Region 11 (Middle/South Georgia) and has also fostered and trained for GERL in the past. The Board of Directors includes an alternate position, previously held by Steven Neal, which will be filled by Cynthia Brayton of Conyers. Cynthia will also be serving as the GERL Education Director. She already serves as an Area Coordinator for Rockdale and Henry counties and is an active volunteer.

Debora Hines of Thomas County has accepted the position of Area Coordinator Director, replacing Jack and Dotti Carter. Debora currently serves as the Area Coordinator Lead for Region 13 (extreme South Georgia) and

does a fabulous job. She has already coordinated a couple of very successful GERL Vaccination Clinics in her part of the state.

We are currently looking to fill the position of Event Coordinator, previously held by Susan Archer. Susan leaves a big pair of shoes to fill, but we're hoping that there's someone out there who might be interested in taking on the challenge. We do several large fundraisers every year, so this is a very important role. We are also looking for someone who would be willing to take over the Stallion to Gelding program, which has grown into a separate job of its own. If you are interested please contact Patty Livingston at 770-867-0760.

I want to thank all of the outgoing officers who gave such a large part of their lives to support GERL for the past three years. I also want to welcome the new officers and leads who are stepping up and getting more involved. Fasten your chin straps as we continue to make a difference for horses in Georgia!

# WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

New Member	Referred By	Location
Marian Anderson & Family	GERL	St. George, GA
Lester & Diane Aradi	GERL	Mineral Bluff, GA
Kathy Barkley	Cheryl Pritchard	Atlanta, GA
Jeri Bennett	Judy Ricketson	Dixie, GA
Denyse Brackett & Family	GERL	Acworth, GA
Wilton Bryan	GERL	Tifton, GA
Sally Clark	GERL	Atlanta, GA
Deborah Ann Clippard	Heather Wages	Winder, GA
Charlie & Susan Eavenson & Family	Facebook	Oxford, GA
Mary Beth Edwards	GERL	Gainesville, GA
Robin Etheridge	GERL	Sandersville, GA
Ray Evans	LaVon Kern	Belvedere, TN
Lee & Wendi Griffin	Diana DeMoss	Ballground, GA
Angela Hammond	GERL	Bowman, GA
Suzanne Hanks	Countryside Hosp.	Monroe, GA
Ray Harris & Family	Ruth Wilson	Woodbine, GA
Bill & Dale Haydon	Judy Ricketson	Pavo, GA
John & Jennifer Hutchinson	P. & J. Twiss	Winder, GA
Brenda & Elizabeth Ingles	GERL	Monroe, GA
Tara Israel & Family	GERL	Franklin, GA
Humberto Izquierdo, Sr.	Patty Livingston	Johns Creek, GA
Wayne & Cindy Johnson	GERL	Loganville, GA
Suzanne Jones & Family	Facebook	Jefferson, GA
Mark Kemensky & Famil	GERL	Mauk, GA
Chris Lobkowicz	GERL	Stone Mountain, GA
Candice Meadows	AJC	Cartersville, GA
Steve & Nancy-Ann Merka	GERL	Monroe, GA
John Carlise & Stephanie Morales	GERL	Covington, GA
Jessie Parker	GERL	Loganville, GA
Wayne Parton	GERL	Atlanta, GA
Cathy Poulsen	Melody Sorrells	Cumming, GA
Philip & Lee Rast	GERL	Lyerly, GA
Rob & Kathy Russell	GERL	Cleveland, GA
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Jennifer Vickers	Andee Rogers	Jackson, GA
Angela Welbon	GERL	Cleveland, GA
Erik Wittenzellner & Family	GERL	Acworth, GA
Lynn Yates	Website	Kennesaw, GA

***With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference!***

## GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

It is our custom to honor by recognition, one outstanding GERL volunteer each quarter. This quarter our special volunteer is Ruth Wilson, GERL Adoption Coordinator. Ruth lives with her new husband, Tommy, on a beautiful farm in Madison County.

She fills her days with teaching riding to young students, caring for her personal horses as well as the boarded horses on her farm, and working long hours in her office for the benefit of GERL. An almost extreme animal lover, Ruth finds it difficult to turn away any dog, cat, or horse needing a meal or a home. Example: She even brought a small dog home when she and Tommy returned from their recent HONEYMOON! They spotted the little thing hanging around a restaurant where they stopped for a meal. Ruth relates that soon after they left the café, she asked Tommy to turn around so that she could get that dog. They had already been told that it had no owner. That little thing is now the boss in her yard where four other, much larger, rescue dogs reside. There are similar stories concerning several cats which share their home. Yes, Ruth Wilson is a softie.



A little known fact about Ruth is that she is an author. She has actually written several books and will be helping GERL in the area of grant writing and newsletter articles in the future. Ruth is one more example of why we are continually amazed by the talents of GERL members with whom we work.

The GERL Board of Directors has long been aware that we could not possibly have found a better person to be our Adoption Coordinator. It is uncanny how Ruth seems to be able to match horses with adopters. She is very good at listening to people who contact her with interest in providing a home for a rescue horse. Ruth knows well the available horses and is frequently able to correctly match them with people who possess experience and a skill set compatible with a particular animal. She is able to assess temperament and personality in both the people looking for a horse and the horses looking for a home. It is her gift and we are grateful that she continues to share her gift with GERL.



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Thank you, Ric & Wanda Baxter,  
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*\*Membership form is on the back cover or visit [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)*

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Marya Tietz  
Tommy & Ruth Wilson

 As a convenience you can renew your membership on our website using PayPal @ <http://www.gerlltd.org>

### Due March

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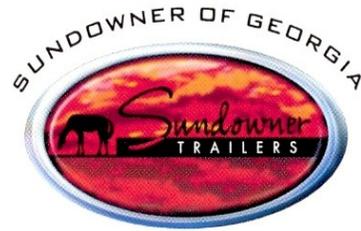
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