



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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

2012 Quarterly Newsletter

January, February and March

## STARVED TO DEATH

by *Lois Gibson*

I am just starved to death! We all have used this expression on occasion when we loudly express our discontent about getting served our supper too late. Regardless of the fact that most of us had lunch and more than likely a snack or two in between to hold us over. We might have had a tummy rumble or maybe even an uncomfortable empty feeling, but do any of us reading this story, sitting comfortably in the easy chair eating a cookie, really know or have experienced true hunger? I doubt it.

The same goes for our animals that we have in our care. When feeding our dogs and our horses, I always try to stick to the same schedule every day. Once in a great while, whether the excuse is due to a bad thunderstorm or I was sick in bed, I have been late with their feeding schedule. My chubby dogs will whine their protests as they stare at their empty bowls and my plump horses act like they have never eaten before or even seen oats and will practically knock me down as I fill their troughs all the while voicing their disgruntlement at the late hour of their breakfast!

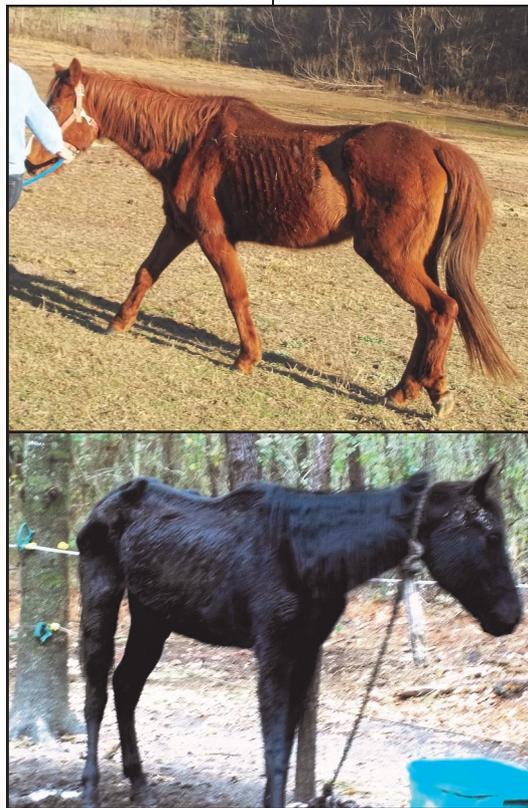
So, why is feeding animals on time every day so important? God gave man rule and authority over all ani-

mals, over all fish, birds and every living creature on this earth (Genesis 1:26-28). But did this mean for us to starve, abuse, neglect and torture our charges? No, of course not, you'll find lions, leopards, and bears, along with nearly 100 other animals, insects, and creatures in the pages of the Bible. I think it's

safe to assume that God is an animal lover. In fact, if you think about it, God made the animals before he made us! There are even passages in the Bible giving instruction as to compassionate care for our animals. Here are a few examples: (Exodus 23:12), God gives us detailed orders that on the day of rest, even the ox and the donkey should not be worked. (Deuteronomy 25:4), God commands us not to muzzle the oxen when they are treading the grain. Not putting a muzzle on the ox would allow the ox to snatch a mouthful of grain every now and then. I especially like (Proverbs 12:10), which says, "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel." And let's not forget the Biblical account of Balaam and his talking donkey which

is found in the book of Numbers 22. If you read this story, you will see that the donkey was smarter than the man! The best part is in the books of Second Kings and in Revelation, where there are multiple references to horses in heaven.

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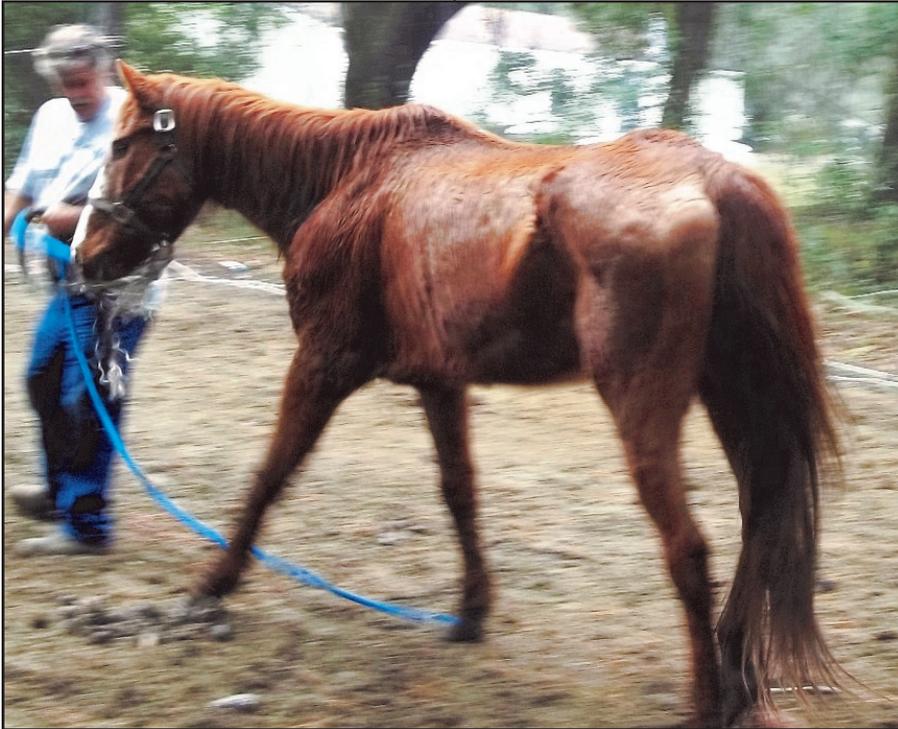
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I believe that God especially loves horses! So, even if you don't believe in God, or don't believe that the Bible is true, you will have to admit that these books, which are thousands of years old, command us to value and take good care of our animals. Even back in those times, people knew that it was wrong to neglect and abuse their animals.

There are many animals today that are experiencing and suffering with true hunger right now. This is the story of three of those animals. Three horses, one gelding and two mares, that quietly, silently and without complaint, literally starved to death at the hands of their owner.

When the horse owner first called, he told us that he had not been able to feed his horses for a few days and wanted to voluntarily surrender the horses to the G.E.R.L. A horse should not be too depleted in just a few days, so I was not expecting the brutal conditions and terrible sight upon arriving at the man's house. The three horses were in a roped off area smaller than a two car garage. They



were each tied very tightly to pine trees with such a short rope that none of them could lie down. There was no water, no hay, no feed and no grass anywhere to be seen. The two mares were nothing more than living skeletons while the gelding had seemed to fare a little better. The little black mare, that was named Black Beauty, was the worst of the three. She had a club foot so badly turned under that she was walking on the top of her hoof and had rubbed the skin and flesh totally off. The sorrel mare, that was named Princess, was missing her left eye and the open socket was dripping green puss and smelled putrid. The gelding, named Rebel was very thin, but not as skeletal as the two mares. He had been forced to stand in one place for so long that both his back legs were locked and he had developed stifles. All three horses were lacking in strength and we were

barely able to get them loaded in the trailer. The sight broke my heart.

I was shocked! How could all this suffering happen in just a few days? I have a feeling the man had lied to us to save his own skin. He must have known that this severe degree of animal abuse and neglect has consequences by law. He quickly signed the papers releasing his ownership and his rights to the horses. With a heavy heart, we headed back home with the three sickly horses in tow.

Upon arrival at our ranch, the three horses were quickly unloaded and placed in the round pen for assessment. Each one was given water and a very small amount of grain and hay. Black Beauty ate a few

mouthfuls, but the trip had been too much for her and her remaining strength gave out. She collapsed. As she lay on the ground, I put hay by her nose, cradled her head in my lap and tried to scoop water into her mouth. If nothing else, as this horse dies, her last memory will be the smell of sweet hay and soft touch of a loving hand. The next morning, with my family around her, the veterinarian

put her to sleep and she is now buried on my ranch. I like to think that Beauty is now running in the fields of heaven, happy and free. She was only about three years old.

Rebel and Princess were placed in the far pasture isolated away from our other horses. For the next week, every four hours, even throughout the night, the horses were given small measured amounts of grain and hay to build their strength. Inoculations and blood tests were given to each horse. Princess was given antibiotics for her infected eye socket. Both were given hours of attention, brushing, petting and love. The farrier came and trimmed and cleaned their feet. Slowly, their strength returned and their personalities began to shine.

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Now, a month later, Rebel has a personality that suits his name. He has put on weight and his coat is beginning to gleam. He loves to gallop back and forth in his two acre pasture. His stifles have improved, his hind legs still tend to stick a little bit, but that doesn't seem to hinder his love of running.

He likes to play tag and will come up to you, touch you with his nose and then take off down the pasture. Apples and treats are always a favorite and he will inspect each pocket of your coat. Ground work has begun and he is responding extremely well. He will be a wonderful pleasure riding

horse with an energetic and fun character for his new owner. Happily, Rebel has already been adopted by an older couple and their grandchildren. He will be staying for now at our ranch to be trained and where all our care and attention will never cease.

Princess has come a long way, but still has a long way to go. She has put on about 50 pounds. Her coat is still scruffy, but beginning to shine a little. Her teeth have been floated and she is still on antibiotics for her infection. When she has gained more weight, the veterinarian is planning to surgically remove the remainder of her eyeball and permanently close the eye. We have renamed her, Precious, as she has become so to us. She has become our ranch pocket pet and will follow you like a puppy around the pastures. She loves her sweet feed and



knickers softly when I approach her with her bucket. She loves attention and being around people. She is a quiet, loving horse with a sweet temperament and calm disposition as long as you talk to her before touching her, letting her know you are there since she is blind on her left side.

As I stand back and look at these horses and how far they have come in just a month, it makes me wonder how those people could have watched these gorgeous animals starve to death while standing in their back yard. A 50 pound bag of feed is around \$12.00. A square bale of hay is \$3.00. Water is usually free out of the garden hose. A 1200 pound round bale of hay is \$35.00. Yet, those horses were left with nothing while

those people made sure they never went without their cigarettes and their beer. So, the next time you think you are hungry because supper is late, please remember Rebel, Princess and especially Black Beauty, that sweet little mare who truly did starve to death.



We want Sonny Hinote to know that he was greatly missed at this year's Poker Ride. Sonny is our usual grill master and he is always a wonderful addition to any gathering. This year, Sonny was under doctor's orders to rest after a recent medical procedure. See you next year at Dawson Forest, Sonny!

Wishes for a complete and speedy recovery go to JoRay Lockridge who suffered a cracked pelvis after a fall from her horse during our Poker Ride. Friends came to her rescue in many ways from helping her get to where EMS Rescuers could help her, to packing up her belongings, caring for her horse, and seeing that she got home. We understand that JoRay is now resting at home and should be back in the saddle in about eight weeks.



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## Random Thoughts From my Barn

By Debora Hines

I often find myself wondering why people do some of the "things" they do such as **Animal Hoarding**, and there are times I say to myself... *I really don't like people!* Then, I will apologize to no one in particular and continue in my mental assessment of said



situation. The fact is, as much as I love horses and all animals I equally care for the people who are involved with them. We recently had another large horse seizure in my home county. This individual had 90 horses and almost half of them were grossly emaciated and living in squalor and this did not include the large numbers of other animals on the property. Local authorities as well as the State had been working for some time with this person and conditions only got worse for the animals as the individual continually refused help and would not downsize their herd. This is called Hoarding or Animal Collecting.

The most common statement I hear is "*why would someone want that many horses or animals?*"

Why does anyone collect anything at all? Collecting of objects, whether inanimate or not is a form of hoarding, one simply more acceptable than the other. The outward affects of different types of hoarding vary as much as the hoarders themselves. I would venture to say we all know someone who collects something. Is it about self-worth, control, rejection, love or the lack of love? I wonder.... I do know that it is horribly wrong to hoard and keep animals as this person was doing.

So what do we do about animal hoarders or animal

collecting? Learn the signs and symptoms if you think you know someone who is. Notify the proper authorities if they aren't already aware of what is going on. Offer assistance, but do not become part of their problem. Your first clue to the seriousness of their situation is if they refuse to downsize their herd or accept help. You then watch and wait. Watch to make sure the animals are being cared for, document your findings with photos without breaking the law. You cannot trespass on someone else's property. Wait for solid evidence and do not interfere with law enforcement. It takes time to build a case. This is often the most difficult for us to do once we feel the animals are at risk of starving and dying. Remember, they are striving toward the same goal as you but must prove it in a court of law. You are on the same team, work together.

Most importantly for me... is to pray... Pray for justice...compassion, mercy and grace. Not just for the Horses but for the people involved too. Don't misunderstand me, I believe if they have broken the law they should endure the penalties of the law but I also see a much greater problem not being addressed, people who hoard and or abuse animals need help! I don't think they woke up one morning and said "gee, today I'm going to become an animal hoarder and abuser."



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*\*Call or email for deadlines.*

#### **GERL Advisory Board**

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William Baker, DVM - Jennifer Baker, DVM

#### **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

## Thank You For Your Foster Homes

- **Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf**  
-fostering Lucky
- **Kim Smith** - fostering Haybaler
- **Anne Ensminger** - fostering Honor
- **Alline Jones** - fostering Alf
- **Patty & Nick Howard**  
-fostering Kyra & Rosie
- **Elaine Bishoff** - fostering Smokey
- **Linda Fears** - fostering Roma
- **Susan Richardson** - fostering Sable
- **Heatherlee Hammonds** - fostering Rocky
- **Tamma Trump** - fostering Rusty
- **Lester and Diane Aradi** - fostering Rayzer
- **Danny Gibson** - fostering Princess/Black Beauty/ Rebel/China/Star/Spook
- **Ken and Sharyn Canady**  
-fostering Lil Buddy
- **Stephanie Morales and John Carusle**  
-fostering Buddy
- **Leslie and Ernie Gassman**  
-fostering Abner and Ariska
- **Valerie Puryear** - fostering Thunder
- **Jacki Moore & Leslie Lambert**  
-fostering Vandy
- **Debra Young** - fostering Ginger
- **Patty Livingston** - fostering Britta/Stewie

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

## Tara Malcolm, The Grand Prize Winner

Article Written By: Lynne Robinson Yates

Tara Malcolm, the grand prize winner of the 2011 NickerStickers Photo Contest, seen here with her western pleasure show horse, Nevada. The picture below was taken by Tara's husband Todd, Tara and Todd own TnT Photography. Their Photography business all started with two basic things: a camera and a great passion for capturing those special memories. They started off by taking photographs of animals only and now have progressed into working with people too. You can find out more about TnT Photography by visiting <http://www.tntphotographs.com>.

Congratulations go out to Tara Malcolm of Conyers, GA, for winning the 2011 Grand Prize NickerStickers Photo Contest. Tara chose GERL as the winning charity and we received a donation of \$300. This beautiful picture is of Tara and her horse, Nevada, taken at a Newton County Saddle Club Show just 2 months after Nevada lost an eye. Nevada had a scratch on her eye that became ulcerated and ultimately had to be removed. This picture was taken after Nevada and Tara went back into the show ring for the first time after Nevada having lost her eye. They came home that weekend with two 2nd places & three 3rd places, one of which was in a championship class. After the class Tara got down from the saddle and gave Nevada the biggest hug she could possibly give her, and Tara could not contain the tears of happiness that flowed from her eyes. Obviously losing one eye did not slow Nevada down.

Tara's husband Todd, who is also an avid horseman, captured this beautiful moment between his wife and her beloved mare after they came out of the arena. Nevada is Tara's western pleasure show horse and they have another horse in training whom Todd is starting to show in western pleasure, both horses are in training with Asa Pippin of Senoia, GA. Tara says that if it weren't for Mr. Pippin, horses would not be a part of their every day lives and Nevada surely would not be doing as well as she is. They also have two other horses they use for trail riding.

Tara, a Georgia native, found out about GERL shortly after she, and her husband Todd, moved to Conyers about a year ago. That was when Tara first started using Countryside Hospital for Animals and the vet told Tara about GERL. Tara then became a member of GERL to help support us in our fight to end equine



\*Photo taken by: TnT Photography; [www.tntphotographs.com](http://www.tntphotographs.com)

abuse.

Tara knows something about horse rescue herself. Within the last year, she has rescued two horses, each from a different owner. In both instances, she became aware of a horse that had a dangerously low body score, indicating that the horse was not being fed properly. She approached the owner, offered to purchase the horse, and then provided veterinary care as well as plenty of needed hay, feed and attention. In both cases, she was able to find loving forever homes for these horses. Because of this experience, and because she believes in our cause, she chose GERL to be the recipient of the \$300 donation from the NickerStickers photo contest.

NickerStickers is graphic art company located in Olympia, WA. Owner and artist, Anine Colaire, produces custom animal-themed decals and stickers. Every month, NickerStickers sponsors a photo contest. Contestants submit their photos by visiting the NickerStickers contest page at <https://www.nickerstickers.com/photocontest>. The photo that receives the most "likes" on Facebook is the winner. At the end of the year, the \$300 grand prize winner is chosen from the 12 monthly winners. The grand prize winner chooses a charity to receive the donation. Tara became familiar with NickerStickers when she purchased a decal from them that had her horse's name.

Our thanks to Tara for supporting GERL. With help from her and all our members and volunteers, we will make a difference.

# 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.



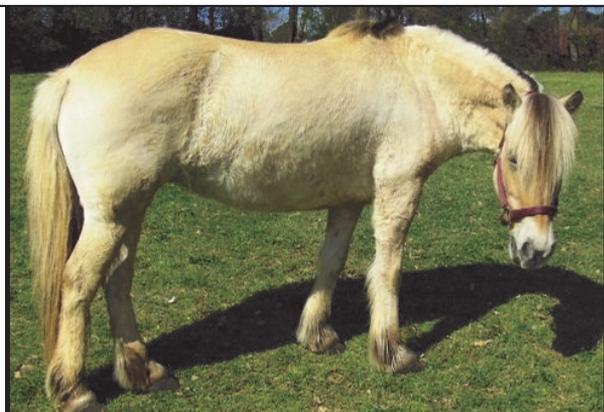
**Hay Baler** 3 year old gelding, Chestnut Thoroughbred cross, 14 hh and growing. Hay Baler is a handsome boy who has had lots of ground work done in his foster home. Loads, leads, stands nicely for farrier.



**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.



**Rusty** 4 year old Arab/Saddlebred x gelding. Sorrel, 14.1 hh. Very smart and affectionate, willing to please, has a playful streak! Stands to be groomed, loads, yields to pressure, cross ties, backs, lounges, picks up feet nicely. Has had extensive groundwork done and is ready to start under saddle.



**Britta** 9 year old Fjord mare. 13.1 hh, 913 lbs. She is described as a brown dun with dark feathers. Typical for this breed who are known for their gentle personality. Britta is an "in your pocket" kind of pony who loves people. We have ridden her very briefly and are still evaluating her riding experience.



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

# Fitch the Wonder Horse

By Helen Abercrombie

I have been involved with animal welfare for many years (animal control officer, director of a humane society, and currently a veterinary assistant). I knew that rescue is not all glory and roses, but for some reason I had allowed my mind to believe that horse rescue would be different.

In the past two years my rescue partner Donna Williams and I have successfully fostered and placed eighteen to twenty abused, starving, or unwanted horses into loving homes. We had just placed our last rescue, Dontpassmeby (or "Bernard", as we called him), a 3 year old Thoroughbred gelding into a fabulous home and we were ready to accept the next victim into our care. I placed a call to Becky Gregory to let her know that once again we had an open spot for a foster. One hour later the phone rang and it was my friend, Justin, calling to tell me he was on his way with a "present". He had gone to look at this sorrel gelding for purchase, only to be horrified when he arrived and saw the horses' condition. He advised the owners he would not purchase the horse but if they would turn the horse over he would bring it to someone who would provide the care it needed. The owners agreed and Justin delivered him to my farm.

When the horse arrived that Sunday afternoon I was horrified, but sadly not shocked, at his condition. His body score was 1 of 9, his eyes were dull, and his coat showed a good case of rain rot. When his eyes met mine, I could have just cried. We gently led him down to the barn as he swayed and staggered along, so weak and exhausted from simply trying to live. We got him settled in and comfortable, and then gave him a small portion of alfalfa hay. Just looking into his eyes brought out every emotion a person can have, sorrow, pity, hatred and anger towards the person(s) responsible and capable of allowing this to happen. I work for a wonderful veterinarian but since it was Sunday I decided not to ask her to come out until Monday morning (Vet's deserve time off too!). He seemed to be settling well into to his new surroundings and I began sending his photos to those at GERL who would be able to make the decision as to whether or not to accept the gelding into the program. I also asked for name suggestions and received both Fitch and Wonder so he naturally became "Fitch the Wonder Horse"!

On Monday morning I contacted Dr. Barnes and she came out immediately to do the initial exam. She gave me a very "guarded" prognosis but advised we were doing things correctly regarding the "re-feeding of starving horses". She drew blood and took a fecal sample to get a complete profile on his condition which we would get back on Wednesday. It was no surprise to us that he was loaded with parasites. We continued the daily frequent and small portions of alfalfa hay. On Tuesday morning I went down to the barn to do the morning feeding and he nickered at me and seemed so much more alert. I was absolutely thrilled to see a glimmer of hope and life in his eyes.

It was Tuesday afternoon at approximately 2 PM when Donna went to the barn for the afternoon feeding. She had not yet met Fitch until this moment and he was down in his stall and unable to get up. She called the clinic immediately to advise me of what was happening. A short 3-4 minutes later she called to say he had just had a seizure and had passed away. Fitch did

not die alone and he certainly took a piece of us with him. I raced home as if there was something I could do. Donna and I were both devastated. Our emotions ranged from fury to heart-ache and back to fury again. The roller coaster range of emotions that took place in both of us was hard to control and even more difficult to try to understand.

It has taken me a couple of months to write this story because I had to be able to tell the story with facts and not pure raw emotion. The blood work came in early Wednesday morning and Dr. Barnes determined that he had an extremely high potassium level. Some Quarter horses have a condition known as Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP). Episodes of this condition can be brought on by foods with high potassium content such as the alfalfa. Could our efforts at re-feeding this starving animal have brought on an episode of HYPP? Was this the cause of death or was his system so debilitated that nothing could have changed the course of events? We will never know.

We wonder why this had to happen. We wonder how it happened. We wonder why a human is capable of allowing such neglect and suffering while they themselves continue to thrive. We wonder why this horse was not found and intervention made before it was too late. We wonder why in a world where "HUMANS" are the most intelligent species, there are still humans who just don't seem to care. We wonder what would have happened had Justin found Fitch earlier, or what his life would have been like had our rescue attempt been successful. Would this wonder horse have had a loving owner who would have wondered the same things we did. So many questions once again left unanswered. But one thing is sure, Fitch the Wonder Horse was loved, if only for the 48 hours during which he shared his life with us.

So now as I look back on it, I can't help but think about the little sorrel gelding who crossed the rainbow bridge way too soon, at only thirteen years of age. And I think of how his name "Fitch-the Wonder Horse" is, and was so fitting. He only had this name for one day but Donna and I will never forget our "Wonder" horse.



The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club  
at UGA® presents

THE 8TH ANNUAL

# DAWG<sup>®</sup> JOG 5K

## APRIL 14, 2012

### BENEFITING THE GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

The 8th Annual Dawg Jog 5K is a fun race that aims to bring the Athens area communities together to raise awareness and funds for the Georgia Equine Rescue League.

The race will begin at 8:30am. Feel free to bring your dog to accompany you in the walk/jog/run. The course starts behind Stegeman Coliseum and winds through campus, past Sanford Stadium and the veterinary school. Awards will be given to the top two male and females in each respective category.

To register, or for more information:

*[pre-vet.uga.edu](http://pre-vet.uga.edu)*

(or email us at [pre-vet@uga.edu](mailto:pre-vet@uga.edu))



## Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes



### Overnight French Toast Casserole

*(30 to 45 minutes total prep time)*

- 1/2 C. butter or margarine
- 12 slices Texas Toast bread
- 1 C. brown sugar (\*You may wish to reduce the amount of sugar used to 2/3 C.)
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 5-6 eggs
- 1 1/2 C. milk

1. Melt butter/margarine in a microwave safe container & then pour it into a 9X13 baking pan.
2. Put 6 slices of bread in bottom of pan.
3. In a bowl, mix 1 Cup brown sugar with 1 tsp cinnamon.
4. Sprinkle 1/2 of the sugar mixture over bread.
5. Add another layer of 6 slices of bread.
6. In a bowl, whisk eggs with milk until well blended.
7. Pour egg mixture over bread layers.
8. Sprinkle with remaining sugar mixture.
9. Cover & refrigerate overnight. (I used foil)
10. Bake covered @ 350 for 30 minutes.
11. Uncover & continue baking 15 minutes or until set & browned.

### 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!*

**April 14, 2012**  
UGA Pre-Vet 5K Race  
*Athens, GA*

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

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

**August 4, 2012**  
Georgia Safe Trails Clinic  
Across the Way Stables - *Winder, GA*

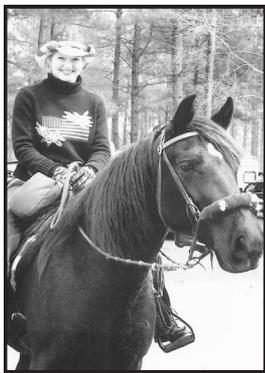
**October 19-21, 2012**  
Fright Fest Ride  
TBA

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*



I am well into my fourth year as president and the GERL Board of Directors' plan for the future is to concentrate on strengthening our framework. This framework is captured in a project plan that I wrote a couple of years ago and consists of breaking the state down into thirteen regions and securing

Area Coordinators, an Area Coordinator Lead and an Education Lead for each region. The two Leads would be the "go to" contacts for all of the Area Coordinators in that region, who would report to an Area Coordinator Director. The GERL Board of Directors and Executive Leads that we have in place today would be akin to a "corporate office" and all of the regions with their ACs and Leads would be the "branch offices". Our corporate office would help fund and guide the thirteen branch offices to host vaccination and castration clinics, multi-county meetings with law enforcement and animal control agencies, educational seminars and even host a fund raising event like a poker ride. The goal is to get each of the regions populated and running independently of the corporate office.

Currently, all of the fund raising activities are being performed by Corporate, but this is very labor intense and requires many volunteers to avoid "burn-out". It is our hope that we will see more fund-raising going on in the other regions. GERL has several regions that have a strong presence of Area Coordinators and have already hosted multi-county meetings in their area. Region 13, which is in the extreme southern part of the state, has hosted three vaccination clinics and two multi-county meetings in the past two years. Regions 2 and 5, which are in the northern part of the state, have hosted one multi-county meeting in Pickens County and have a second one scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. Region 8, located in middle Georgia, has also hosted a multi-county meeting, recently. A couple of our Area Coordinators in Region 4, the mid-eastern part of the state, and Region 10, the south-eastern area, have expressed an interest in hosting a multi-county meeting of law enforcement in their areas. And, Area Coordinators in Region 12, the south-western area, is entertaining the idea of a poker ride sometime in the future. Little by little, we are seeing growth across the state. To see the regional map that I am describing just go to the Area Coordinator page on our website. [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org).

I often say that building the framework of many volunteers is very similar to a bucket with a hole in the bottom. You have to realize and understand that some of the volunteers are going to be falling out of the bottom while we are putting new volunteers in the top. This is just a fact of life and can't be taken personally or negatively. Situations change with volunteers on a daily basis. They get divorced, get married, have kids, lose a job, get a different job, or move away and this can change everything for them. Some will be unable to volunteer as much and some will experience a change that may allow them to volunteer more. This is why it is important for GERL to build an army of volunteers who can cover when others cannot. Finding leaders is also a part of building the framework and finding those special volunteers who have organizational and people skills is like looking for gold; they are very rare and hard to find.

Education plays a BIG role in horse ownership. So many horse owners start out uneducated in what it takes to properly care for them and no thought to the fact that horses live 30+ years. It is our hope that somehow rescues and auction barns would offer the proper education before a new or potential horse owner lays down the \$10, \$50 or \$100 to purchase a horse. The burden falls mostly on rescues to be educators about horse ownership so that horses aren't being "cycled" through the rescue and auction circuit over and over. It's sad to see someone give up the horse they bought for their child who is going to college and no longer is interested, or the horse that sits in the back pasture neglected and forgotten and has to rely on rainwater to drink. Many of these scenarios could be avoided if people were informed properly on how much it actually costs to care for these beautiful creatures. Not to mention the fact that they will be shelling out these costs for close to half a human lifetime.

GERL has had to change our focus some in order to accomplish all of the things that we want to do in an attempt to fix Georgia's horse problems. We can no longer sit back and be just a horse rescue and fund raising organization because the growing number of horses is so overwhelming. I truly believe that people learn from example and if GERL can show that a well-thought out plan to build an army of volunteers to educate and support law enforcement and promote castration and education to the public can actually make a difference. Then, perhaps other rescue organizations and other states will take notice and follow our example. We are always eager to share what we have learned with others and let me say this about that, when we have an army of people working towards a common goal we will start to see an improvement for our equine friends!

In Honor of Karen Lipp, Christi Meyers and the riders and staff at Top Hat Dressage by Elizabeth Jacobs.

In Honor of Karen Lipp & Christi Meyers by Kristine Pinto.

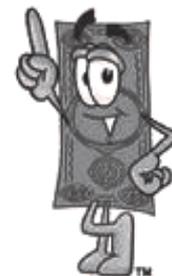
In Honor of Christi, Karen and our friends at Top Hat Dressage! Love, The Hewitts

In Honor of the riders and trainers at Top Hat Dressage by Jody, Gari & Alex Kitchens.

In Honor of Christi Meyers and Karen Lipp of Top Hat Dressage by Melody Jackson.

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

**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 Donating To  
Our Stallion to Gelding  
Program.**

**ASPCA for their Generous  
Grant Donation**

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**Sarah Hill**

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## Condolences

We would like to express our sincere condolences to Steven Neal, former member of the GERL Board of Directors, for the loss of his father earlier this year.

The recent passing of Mike Medlock is a huge loss to, not only his family and many friends, but to GERL and every trail rider in our state. He was a true advocate. Mike not only encouraged expansion and management of wilderness trails for all of us to enjoy, but he regularly put his muscle into helping to build and maintain those trails. His friendly and warm personality nurtured a solid relationship with state park and forestry officials on behalf of Georgia Trails for many years. You will be greatly missed, Mike, but your work will never be forgotten.

***In memory of our friend, Mike Medlock:***  
A gift to remember and honor Mike Medlock by Mabel Pugh. A donation by Lyn & Mary Walters of Portsmouth, NH.



**GERL Stallions to  
Gelding Program.**

**Stallions Gelded  
To Date By GERL: 190**



# Feed A Horse Program

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!***

## **The UGA Bulldog Classic Hunter Jumper Show** *by Jacquelin Twiss*

The UGA Bulldog Classic annual horse show was held at the UGA Livestock Arena on February 4, 2012. I had never been there so I was expecting to have to set up a tent, tables, the whole nine yards, but NO. They had already set up an area inside complete with table and chairs. All we had to do was hang merchandise. With the volunteers who had signed up and the GERL members who showed up, we were done in all of 5 minutes. Don't you wish all events set up this easy?

The show was smaller than expected due to a few large barns backing out but we still made \$378.00 in sales. I met some new members including the new AC, Janine Gosselin. It was great fun to sit, talk, and socialize. It was nice to have people there so when a minor emergency came up, I felt comfortable leaving.

While we were there, the local police stopped by to see if we knew who 3 loose horses belonged to. Of course they didn't go with the show, so off they went in search of the owners. I had given them my name and number, just in case they needed any help. Well not 10 minutes later, the police called asking if we could help them catch the horses and

get them out of the road. The WAY COOL thing was, I ran back to where the show was being held, yelling that I needed 3 halters and lead ropes. OMG – those people just handed over the good stuff, not the barn halters – the show halters. Phil and I set off and helped get the horses, which actually belonged to UGA back in their pasture. The point of this is, how willing to help horse people are. Those people in that show didn't know me from Adam, and yet they were so gracious in lending their tack. Speaks volumes!



## **Another Very Sad Sign of Our Times** *By Anne Ensminger*

GERL recently received a call from a lady who lives near Griffin. She had lost her job and was in eminent danger of losing her home. She was desperate to place her four horses since she had to be prepared to leave the property at a moment's notice. She loved these horses very much. Who among us can imagine being in such a position?

There were two Haflingers (a mare and a gelding), one Fjord mare, and one Arabian gelding. None of these horses were in poor condition and they are all lovely riding horses. How unusual for us to receive horses with no apparent physical issues and which we feel that we will be able to easily place.

Not only did this lady give her horses to GERL, but she gave us a good round pen, horse care equipment, tack, fence chargers and even a nice dog house. It was truly heart breaking to know that these horses and all of the other donated items represented, not only money she had earned over years of working, but her dreams of owning and enjoying horses.....the same dream most GERL members have had for our entire lives. Of course, GERL is happy to help in situations like this while we pray that it does not become ever more common.



# TheStore



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



Ladies Polo's  
S-XL \$20.00  
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White,  
Light Blue,  
Yellow Haze,  
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Dark Olive, Pumpkin, Light Pink  
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Men's Polo Shirts  
S-XL \$20.00  
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Light Blue,  
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Heather Grey



Adult T-Shirts  
100% pre-shrunk cotton.  
S-XL \$12.00 XXL \$14.00  
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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, Tea!



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  
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ribbed knit, 5.8oz. 100%  
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Chocolate, Navy, Pink and  
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Youth T's. 100% preshrunk cotton  
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Ladies tank top, Comfort  
Colors, 100% pre-shrunk  
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Celedon, Seafoam, Flo Blue,  
Raspberry

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



We would like to send a very special WELCOME to GERL's newest Lifetime Members, Charles and Linda DeVane of Quitman, GA. Charles is GERL Area Coordinator for Brooks, Thomas, and Cook Counties. He said he wanted to become a lifetime member so he wouldn't have to remember to ever pay his dues again! That's how you do that, Charles!



Shortly after Beth Eavenson adopted Apache, now known as Koda, he developed cancer in one of his eyes. His eye was removed in January and Beth reports that it seems that he doesn't even miss it! She intends to continue Koda's training in hopes that he will become her perfect horse. Best of luck to Beth and Koda!

**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 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)

## Barley and Cracker Jack

*By Susan Archer*

I debated about what I wanted to say when asked to write about two mini-horses that Ken, Patty and I picked up in August of 2010 after Patty received a call about their needing a new home due to health issues suffered by their owner. They were full brothers (a gestation period apart). Fostered by Ken and me since that time, naturally they became very dear to us.

The three of us met to travel together to a lovely little farm beyond Monroe where we would meet Barley and Cracker Jack for the first time. It was a very hot and humid August day. When we arrived we found two darling little dark bays with matching black points and long, curly manes and tails that practically dragged the ground. At this point we were thinking we would have no problem loading them as they were so small. How much trouble could it be to get them loaded onto a regular 2-horse trailer? We soon realized that we were WRONG about that!!! Neither of them had ever been taken from their pasture, nor had they been asked to do anything without using feed or treats as an incentive. We were able to get pony halters, brought from our farm, on them and then began to lead the reluctant pair toward the trailer.

When we first arrived, we noticed that there were 4 goats sharing the pasture with the little stallions. When we began to take the ponies out of the pasture, we noticed that the goats wanted to go too!! The farm owner let us know that the goats needed new homes as well. We contacted a friend who keeps goats and in a short time, all four goats also had a wonderful new home.

It took all three of us, plus the owners to get those little 400 pounders into the trailer that day...needless to say there was a lot of sweating going on among both the two and the four-legged creatures. For any of you who know about minis, they can be kind, gentle, smart and loving or just the opposite. Luckily these two were wonderful even though they were still stallions and approximately 10 and 11 years old. Ken and I took them to our farm since we had an area that would be perfect for them until GERL could get them vetted and gelded, which happened just a few days later. We already owned a mini gelding that we had adopted earlier that year from GERL and we figured they could all live together since their needs were the same. After recovering from the gelding process, having a Coggins drawn, getting their shots and waiting

the usual quarantine period, we decided to turn them out with our BIG horses. What a sight that was! Even Ken's Alpha Quarter Horse gelding understood the power of those tiny back feet. After a couple of weeks of keeping a watchful eye on everyone, we realized that our guys had more or less accepted these new little ones. After all, they were already accustomed to our little Thumper who is only 31" tall.

After we had been caring for these two precious, mischievous rascals for a year and a half, a wonderful couple called to express interest in adopting them. By this time, I had become very protective and possessive of these guys and wanted only the best for them. The good Lord must have been watching out for all of us because I was beginning to have irrational thoughts about adopting them myself! At our age we should be thinking about downsizing, not adding to our herd! After all, these darling minis could possibly outlive us by years.

Mr. and Mrs. Easthope, the prospective adopters, came out to visit Barley and Cracker Jack and immediately fell in love with them. I have to say that I also felt good about the Easthopes. I realized that Ken and I were both very comfortable about them adopting our babies. As soon as the paperwork and required visits were completed, it was decided that Ken and I would deliver the little horses to the Easthope's farm on Christmas Eve.

After grooming them for the short trip to their new home, I felt a sudden sad emptiness at the thought of their leaving. Luckily our daughter Shannon and granddaughter, Allie arrived just about the time we were trying to load Barley. Not only were Shannon and Allie emotional support for me, but I don't know how we would have managed the loading without their help. I was thankful that Cracker Jack and Barley only weighed around 400/450 pounds and that our shoulders were still capable of hoisting little round rumps, for that is exactly what was required. Shan pulled from the front and we took a hip apiece and literally lifted them in, one at a time. Now, I know that is not the correct way to load an equine but by this time Barley and Cracker Jack were sweating and so were we. We were ready to get the job done! I am glad that I decided not to place big red bows on each or their necks, for I am now certain that the bows would have been smashed and quite droopy after all of that.

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At last we were off and headed to Jackson. We decided to take granddaughter, Allie with us since she was heartbroken about Barley and Cracker Jack leaving. We had done our best to explain that they were going to a wonderful new home where they would enjoy even more love and attention than they had received from us. As we were driving down Hwy 81, Allie looked down and noticed that a lucky Ladybug had landed on her hand. She looked at me with her big eyes and exclaimed that it must be the right thing to do for the boys since the Ladybug had come along too!!! Thank goodness for “ole adages, wives tales”, etc. The Ladybug made us all feel better.

When we arrived at the Easthope’s farm, Ken and I were both impressed with how they had taken great pains to make sure the little guys had accommodations like those they were accustomed to at our farm. They had built a small run-in paddock onto their shared stall which then adjoined a turn-out pasture. They have since covered the run-in area so that the little horses won’t get wet, but can still be outside when it rains.

We unloaded the boys, (which required much less effort than the loading) and let Allie and Brenda lead them to the pasture and turn them loose to explore

their new surroundings. Ordinarily horses leave when turned out into a pasture, right? Not these two. Allie chased them around a little until they dropped their heads and began munching on the green grass. We stayed and visited with the Easthopes a good while and made sure the boys were O.K. It felt good to drive home knowing that once again GERL had accomplished their mission of saving one horse at a time, two in this case. Ken and I, along with our entire family, are proud to be a part of Barley and Cracker Jack’s story. Brenda and I stay in touch and she fills me in on their antics and how much she and her husband have grown to love these two little special treasures.



## Condolences

GERL offers our sincere condolences to Cynthia Brayton for the passing of her brother in February.

GERL was sad to hear that Valerie Puryear lost her beloved horse, Beamer. It is always so hard to go through the passing of a dear, old friend. Our hearts go out to you, Valerie.

GERL condolences go to Gloria English for the loss of “Tallie” and congratulations on her adoption of “Torrie”.....which we hope, makes it all better.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Lisa and Jeff Carroll for the resent lose of Lisa’s mother.

## Well, I Said That I Want To Help More

By Linda Kundell

I got a call from Diana Kelsey about something else entirely but ended up moving three horses. Someone died, three horses and one pony needed help, I have a three horse trailer and so it went.

Don't get me wrong, I volunteered to help. I had moved a couple of horses for GERL before and it was not hard and it kept me busy. I know everyone has too much stuff to do. So do I on the weekends. Give me something to do during the week. I mean it. I seem to be the only retired person that I know that just doesn't have enough to do during the week. Now you have to understand, I'm a high energy, gotta move, don't just sit still person. I mean I have things to do around here (fences wait for no woman, the chicken coop always has something happening, the grain store beckons me fairly often, etc.). And I ride, quite a bit according to my friends, and I camp when I can. So I get things done but I need



something more. So when Diana said they were going to move the three horses and the pony, I jumped at it. Did they need help? I'm willing. And then on Monday we did it. They were right near Hard Labor Creek and I met everyone at the local store. We needed a policeman to have the legal work done and as soon as he arrived we went to the little farm.

Catching Buddy, the Paint stallion wasn't bad. Put a halter on him. Catching George the gelding wasn't bad. A minute longer but not bad. Then Gracie the mare. She just didn't know what she wanted. She was scared and upset. She was running around and trying to get to the other horses. We were willing to let her be near them. That meant a better chance to catch her. Finally, we got the gelding into a three sided shelter and then she slipped in behind him. Of

course, that meant that someone had to get between the two horses and put a leadline on her. I was not up for that. I'm pretty tough about most things but I've been hurt and had some broken bones. Now days it takes not days, not weeks, but many months for me to heal. So I just stood back. Diana Kelsey was holding the gelding. Becky Gregory was with the stallion. That left Alline Jones. She didn't hesitate. She got between them and got the leadline on Gracie. Once Gracie was caught she was quiet and gentle.

O.K., we're holding horses and standing behind my trailer. Still Lil Buddy, the bay pony to catch. He wasn't bad. He was thin and a little food did the trick. Then we started to load the first three in my slant load trailer. Buddy first since he was going to be the last off. Then Gracie, and then George. They went on like they knew they were going some place good. Lil Buddy was going into Becky's straight load and was in real quick. Diana and Becky were taking him to Ken and Sharyn Canady in Loganville for fostering. We were all ready to go.

We said goodbye to the policeman and I got in my truck.

After a little backing up and turning to get out, Alline and I took off for the first place. Thank goodness she was with me. She knew the couple that would be fostering them. She knew where they lived. I just followed her directions. Turn right, turn left, follow the road and we were there. As we were driving I said that we were going to unload the mare and gelding and leave very quickly. That stallion was going to be upset at losing his pasture mates. Leslie and Ernie Gassman in Social Circle were waiting for us. We unloaded, wormed both horses, and were back in the truck in record time. Ernie had the gate open in a heartbeat and we were out of there. Poor Buddy was upset and starting to kick.

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...continued from page 20

Back on the road we headed to Buddy's new foster home with John Carusle and Stephanie Morales in Covington.

Alline called and got directions. We had to call again and get some more directions. Stephanie said that she would meet us on the last road in a white pickup truck. There she was. Alline and I were joking about whether we were following the right truck with the right person to the right place. Turned out we were. We pulled in to her pasture and unloaded. Buddy had calmed down pretty quickly and was easy to unload and lead to his new paddock. He was released and just stood and then down went his head to bliss – otherwise known as grass! We did a little talking to Stephanie to be sure that she was happy and ready for him.

I took Alline back to her house and dropped her off (she has a very nice house and pasture set up). Then I headed home. It took a little over six hours from my house to get the horses, move them to foster homes, get them settled and for me to get back home. That was really good. I cleaned out my trailer. Wow, three horses really leave a mess! I'm used to one horse. My lawn should do wonderful this summer.

Both Buddy and Lil Buddy were stallions and they have now been gelded. Ilene has been over to Covington and has ridden Buddy. He is green broke. Alline is helping Stephanie and showing her what she needs to be doing with him.

I enjoyed helping to move the horses knowing that it was good for them and they are all going to a good life. I enjoyed visiting with Diana, Becky and Alline. We certainly did a good deed that Monday. I went home and took a 15 minute break and then started working outside. As I said, fences wait for no woman!!



## Condolences

Jack and Ronnie Pesserilo had to say goodbye to their dear canine friend, Jesse. Jessie has been camping with us since the early GERL days and she will be missed so much by all of us. Sweet dreams, Jesse.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Nancy Tyn-dal, who lost her beloved Great Dane, Blue recently. He loved to ride the trail with Nancy and her horse, Lee.

## In loving memory of Nan Hughes:

Judy Heilman  
B.J. Tucker  
Ronnie Pesserilo  
Nancy Watkins  
Verleen Flaig  
Robin Gray  
Sandy Parrott  
Sandi Austin  
Catherine James  
Tina New

## Memoriams—April 2012

Mid Allen III by Dee Allen  
Snooks by Bob Burris  
Ruby Syx Ansley by Rick & Lani Wemmers  
Erin Tarpley by Mimi Tarpley-Benkoski  
Nan Hughes by Judy Heilman  
Dan Hunt by Christina O'Brien  
Cotton by Martha Shepard  
Lloyd "Milt" Milton McKnight by Nancy Thrasher  
Martha Cobb, by Drew & LeAnn Householder  
Lt. Col. Robert Wagner by Ruth Hershberger  
Rusty by Beulah Newton  
Gene Ensminger by the Shelhimer Family  
Martha Cobb by Deane & Brad Taylor  
Proof & Timber by Amie Close  
Cobweb by Scott Harris & Susie Hansen

## Congratulations to Dr Billy Myers!

Pfizer Animal Health's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Council was proud to have launched the first annual Customer Diversity & Inclusion Award program that recognizes and honors deserving veterinarians who demonstrate exceptional levels of inclusive behavior and respect for individuals within their organization and beyond. Only five awards were given across the country. Dr. Billy Myers of Countryside Hospital for Animals was awarded and honored for his outstanding and sacrificial work and time he donates to both the Navajo Indian Reservation and also to veterinary students from the University of Georgia. Every year Dr. Myers takes time out of his busy schedule to travel across country and not only give back to those whom are less fortunate, but also to use these opportunities as learning tools to better enhance the education of students at UGA. His demonstration of exceptional efforts to promote



an environment exhibiting inclusive behavior and respect for others has earned him the honor of being recognized as one of Pfizer Animal Health's first Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Awards. Congratulations to Dr. Myers and to Countryside Hospital for Animals for your outstanding accomplishments!



### Remember Rusty?

Rusty came to GERL, a starved, long legged colt of questionable lineage. He has been in and out of our Foster Program for several years. Now being fostered and trained by Tamma Trump, Rusty has become a beautiful adult gelding full of promise. Tamma has worked wonders with Rusty and we are now hopeful that he will find his forever home with someone who will appreciate his energy! We love you, Tamma Trump.



#### In Honor of:

Frosty by Jo West  
Karen Lipp & Christy Meyers by Carol Phillips  
Carolynn Potts by John Bushfield  
Carri Haigh by Jennifer Lindskoog

The Greg Thaxton family by Christine Felker  
Emilyjean Hackett by Deborah Hackett  
The Christmas lights on Mineral Spring Rd.  
*-by Judy Bradberry!*  
Cecilia Barnes by Bearden Barnes

# Wanted

## Skittish Horses



**Reward:** A horse willing to follow the rider's lead over the fence, down the trail and into the field without fear of what might be around the next bend in the road

**Information:** **GA-Safe Trails clinic to benefit GERL.**  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### **Bomb Proof/Sensitivity Training**

Includes introduction to various objects and obstacles: Working through problem areas: Exposing your horse to training aids that would effect your horse in every sense, Sight, Touch, Sound and Smell.

### **Cost:**

\$100.00/horse -\$85.00 to GA-Safe Trails, \$15.00 to GERL.

Auditors: \$20.00

Clinic limited to 20 horses/riders and 25 auditors.

Hosted by Across The Way Stables 770.402.2659 for more information

## Koda, My One-Eyed Wonder Horse

I've always loved horses—always—and I've had a horse of my own for over six years now, but it wasn't until last year that I started reading about equine rescue. Once I learned about the importance of equine rescue I searched the internet trying to find an organization in my area. I found The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL). I read everything on their site. Finally, I read about becoming a foster home and I decided I wanted to get involved. It seemed perfect. We had plenty of space and time and love! I told my parents all about it and they were on board. My mom told me that I needed to find out what we needed to do and I needed to do it.



So, after talking it over with my parents I emailed Becky Gregory about how I could become a foster home for GERL. She was great about helping me out and by October of last year we were an approved foster home! We waited about a month and then I got an email from Becky with a picture of a sorrel and white medicine hat gelding with beautiful blue eyes. Truly, I think I fell in love with him then. She told me that he had been rescued, rehabbed and adopted earlier in the year, but due to circumstances outside of his adoptive mom's control, he was now being put back into foster care. His right eye also had cancer and would probably have to be removed.

About a week after I got that email Koda arrived. From the moment he stepped off of the trailer he's been wonderful and I've been in love! Koda got off the trailer like he was arriving home. He was just so relaxed and calm. Within two days he and my two geldings were grazing together contentedly. Before the end of that first week we had already gone for a couple of rides. He rode great even though he was still a little green. He also stood still for the vet to check on his eye. The vet confirmed that Koda would have to have his eye removed. Things moved really quickly after that. Both of the wonderful vets from New South Equine came and removed Koda's eye. They did a great job!

Koda recovered quickly and acts like nothing happened. Amazingly just days after surgery he was still not spooky and just two weeks later he rode great, and acted totally normal! He continues to amaze me every day!

Well, about a month after Koda arrived Becky asked me if I'd like to adopt Koda. Of course, after my parents and I discussed it we decided that Koda was a part of the family now! Even my aged Morgan gelding loved him—the two of them are usually side by side and eat out of the same pile of hay. None of us can imagine life without him now! He's been absolutely wonderful! We currently enjoy riding at our house and on our street and are using the Parelli Natural Horsemanship methods. We're hoping to go on some trail rides and compete in local shows soon! I also look forward to fostering for GERL again!

I am so thankful that God brought the Georgia Equine Rescue League and Koda into my life!

Happy Trails,  
Beth Eavenson

## Talking to kids isn't hard!!

By Linda Kundel



Jody Wisdom, a teacher at Loganville Middle School, e-mailed to let Patty know about a very interesting club at her school.

The club is called the Positive Referral Club. This club is a "we pat the members on the back monthly and the members do a community service project monthly." (What a great idea!) Last year their big project was helping a little girl get a seizure alert dog by selling raffle tickets. They raised several thousand dollars! On a small project side, they collect pet items monthly and give them to the Walton Animal Guild. They were in need of a project for this year and Jody thought it would be nice if they did something to help GERL. Jody had been brainstorming and was hoping that Patty might have a project idea. Jody and Patty came up with the idea that the club members could sell GERL stickers (the ones we all have on our cars) for \$2 each and give the proceeds to GERL. A plan was set in motion.

Jody also wanted to know if someone from GERL would be interested in coming to the school, talking to the kids about GERL and maybe bringing a horse to really get the point across and help motivate the club members. GERL is always honored to be asked to do something like that.

Patty and Anne were getting ready to go the next day when Patty e-mailed me the night before. It was about something else and she mentioned this trip to talk to the kids and asked if I would be interested in going. Well, truth is, I like horses and I like kids. The two together were impossible to refuse.

The Positive Referral Club has about 125 members. We met them in the school gym and Patty, using her power point presentation, talked to the kids about how GERL helps horses. Wow, they asked questions! That was really good since, to me, that meant that they are listening.

After the presentation we all went outside and Anne got her foster horse, Honor out of the trailer and gave a little talk about him. She showed them a picture of what he looked like when he was rescued. There was a lot of "oh no" and "how sad" talk going around among the kids. More questions and, of course, "can we pat him?" Our time was up much too soon as the kids had to get back to the gym to get their decals

and get to their buses.

Just the day before I had been riding with some friends and I mentioned that, as a GERL Area Coordinator, I felt that I should be doing something. My problem was that I didn't know what to say at a presentation. I was happy to learn that I didn't need to worry about that. Patty already has a presentation to use. Now, I have to admit that I found the presentation a little wordy on the screen. As I was trying to read it and listen to Patty at the same time, I realized that what she had to say was much more interesting than trying to read all of those words. Since my husband is very good at things like that, I asked him to look at the presentation and see if he could make it a little livelier. Oh, oh he just mentioned that he would be happy to take some pictures since he's a photographer. Great! Pictures always add interest to any presentation.

After he works on it, I'll be ready to go out and talk on behalf of GERL. Boy, sometimes I can really talk. My daughter was in Oconee County 4-H so I plan on talking to that group first. Then maybe the FFA in Oconee County, then maybe schools, then etc.,etc.

I believe that two people should do this together since what one forgets to mention, the other will remember. We must bring our picture board (which is very heavy) and maybe a horse (which always adds interest). Yes, we need two people to pull this off. This is beginning to sound like a fun project to me!

I know that we need to get the word out about the abuse of horses and how GERL is ready to step up and help, not just by taking horses and placing them in foster homes, but by helping people who have experienced temporary life setbacks. They may have lost their job, had unexpected medical bills, gone through a devastating divorce, or any number of events which make it difficult for them to feed their horses temporarily. I sometimes say "stuff happens!" or words to that effect. We want people to know that GERL can help.

I could go on and on but my fingers are tired, my dog needs to walk and my horses need to be fed. Oh, by the way, when I came home from the afternoon at Loganville Middle School I spent time with my animals. I told them all about my day. I know they won't remember, but it makes me feel good!

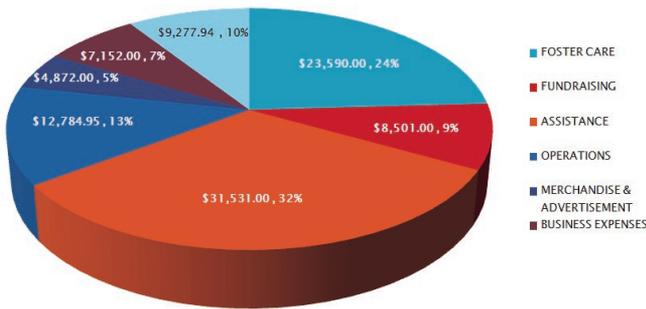


## Let's Talk About the Money

- We raised \$28,716 at FUNDRAISERS.
- We received \$12,626 in MEMBERSHIPS.
- We received \$38,119 in DONATIONS.
- We received \$7,500 in GRANT FUNDS.
- We received \$9,290 in donations for Feed-A-Horse program.
- We received \$3,194 in donations for our castration program.
- We received \$7,810 in Adoption Fees.

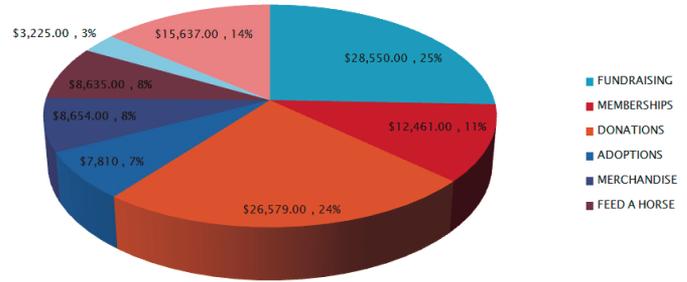
TOTAL INCOME FOR 2011 WAS \$127,438

## Let's Talk About the Money



EXPENSES 2011- \$99,469

## Let's Talk About the Money



INCOME 2011- \$127,438.00

## Let's Talk About the Money

- We spent \$31,531 on assisting horses:
    - \$11,661 on goods & services for the GDA
    - \$ 1,450 on other individual assistance.
    - \$ 4,460 on Animal Control agencies.
    - \$ 7,584 on Crisis Intervention grant.
    - \$ 6,497 on vaccination clinics
  - We spent \$9,353 on castrations.
  - We spent \$24,221 on foster care.
  - We spent \$8,501 on fundraising events.
  - We spent \$6,747 on merchandise & equipment.
  - We spent \$12,785 on operations (newsletter, etc.).
- We spent a total of \$99,469 in 2011.



**The 2012 GERL Board of Directors.**

*From Left to Right:*  
 Diana Kelsey, Treasurer;  
 Cynthia Brayton, Alter-  
 nate; Anne Ensminger,  
 Secretary; Eddy O'Hern,  
 Vice President; and Patty  
 Livingston, President.

## Our Co-Volunteers of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

Traditionally, most GERL activities take place in North Georgia because that is where the greatest concentration of our members can be found. I am delighted to report that in the past few years, we have acquired some enthusiastic new members in South Georgia who are excited about the path that GERL now follows as a way to accomplish even more for horses in need.

When we realized the importance of encouraging yearly vaccinations for all horses, especially in the southern part of our state where the largest concentration of EIA is reported, then new member, Debora Hines stepped up to organize and host a GERL sponsored Vaccination Clinic near Cairo. Long time GERL member and supporter, Judy Ricketson, who had just moved to the area, never hesitated to step up to help. Judy later organized a second vaccination clinic in Valdosta. These two remarkable horsewomen managed to put on yet another Vaccination Clinic the following year and have co-hosted two hugely successful and well attended Multi-County Meetings on behalf of GERL as well. In addition, Debora organized the first South Georgia Castration Clinic in November 2011 with Dr. Alex Greenberg of Cairo Animal Hospital.

A resident of Thomas County, Debora Hines presently holds the title of GERL Area Coordinator Director for South Georgia. She was previously recognized as one of our special GERL Volunteers in 2010. Judy Ricketson has been an active GERL member since the early nineties. Always ready to

volunteer, Judy now serves as GERL Education Lead and Area Coordinator for Lowndes County where she now resides. They are both what I like to call real “go getters”. Both of these task oriented ladies have proven their willingness and ability to orchestrate the planning of successful events. GERL is extremely fortunate that they are willing to bring awareness to, and encourage support of our work in the south. We are very pleased to recognize their hard work by naming them our special co-volunteers of this quarter.



Judy Ricketson and Debora Hines prepare lunch for hungry Sheriff's Deputies and Animal Control officers who attended our recent Multi-County Meeting near Moultrie.

All attendees enjoyed learning about the work of GERL and how they might more effectively enforce Georgia's Equine Protection Laws.

**Congratulations** to Ken and Susan Archer on the birth of their latest granddaughter, Fynn. What a cutie!

**Congratulations** to Debora and Kevin Hines on beginning their new “King’s Harvest Ranch Ministry”. Best of Luck!

## Condolences

Sincere condolences to long time GERL member and friend, Kathy Chandler, for the loss of her mother.

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of Marion Cobb's mother, Martha Cobb in early February.

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

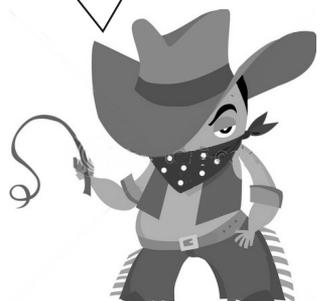
## May 4-6, 2012

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)

# Registration Form—Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

**If registered before April 16th:**  
 GERL Members: Adults \$55 / Children 12 & under \$ 25  
 Non-Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30  
**If registered April 16th or after:**  
 GERL Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30  
 Non-Members: Adults \$75 / Children 12 & under \$35

There are a limited amount of power and non-potable water hook-ups, sites  
 will be assigned as registration forms are received.

All reservations must be made on this form through GERL, please do not call Ron & Adriane Cook!

For further information, please contact Anne Ensminger, 770-464-3348 or missanne612@bellsouth.net



All attendees must register, riders and non-riders alike!  
Single & non-family members, please register separately.  
See website for additional forms: gerlltd.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Negative Coggins Required**

Two night minimum for power sites.

<i>Adult Campers/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$55 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Adult Campers/ Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$65 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Children/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$25 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Children/Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$30 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Power &amp; Water Site</i>	_____	<i>X \$20 per night</i>	=	_____
<i>Primitive Camping</i>	_____	<i>X \$10 per night</i>	=	_____
<i>Coming Sat. nite only: Dinner, Auction, Dance</i>	_____	<i>X \$15 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>After April 16th: Late registration fees: Add \$10/adult and \$5/child</i>			=	_____
		<b>Total Amount Due</b>	=	_____
		<i>50 % deposit non-refundable deposit</i>	=	_____
		<b>Amount Due at Check-In</b>	=	_____

**Please make checks payable to GERL  
 Mail to: Anne Ensminger  
 3662 Dally Rd., SE, Covington, GA 30014**



## A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

I said goodbye to a precious equine friend yesterday. Mickey wasn't beautiful, as are many horses. He did not possess smooth gaits, I could not brag that he

could "stop on a dime", and he certainly would have never won a halter class or a race. He was just Mickey, the cutest miniature donkey in the world.

As a child, it was said that I was "horse crazy". When my friends had birthday parties, much to my delight, we would often play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey". I can still see in my mind, that huge picture of a darling grey donkey hanging on the wall waiting for a blindfolded child to return his missing tail to the proper spot on his body.

I suppose Mickey was the embodiment of that childhood memory for me. He served no purpose on this earth other than to bring a deep joy each time he leaned into me, which was his way of begging for an ear rub. He rests this morning under a huge oak tree at the edge of our woods. His pasture mate, Glory Con Dios, still calls for him as I write. It adds to my sadness to realize that only one aged Arab mare and an even more aged lady are Mickey's only mourners. That's too bad because he lived a perfect life.

As Secretary for this organization, it is my privilege to, on behalf of GERL, to send expressions of sympathy to members and friends when they experience loss of loved ones, be they equine, feline, canine, or human. I think grief is grief, no matter what brings it to us. The caring of others is most certainly comforting.

Grief usually is the result of loss but it can also be joined with anger when our attention is called to a starving or otherwise mistreated equine. GERL has been involved with equine in such situations since 1992. During that time we have seen things that are unimaginable.

We frequently see starved horses that can hardly stand. We have seen untreated injuries that have led to long time suffering and eventually loss of life. I remember one horse which had a gunshot wound to his hip delivered by an owner who was angry because the horse was hard to catch. Then there are the

halters which have been left on a horse for years and have imbedded themselves into the face.

I am asked sometimes how we can continue to endure constant exposure to the results of man's inhumanity toward equine. My answer is, how can we NOT continue? We feel the grief that comes when our efforts to save just one more, are not successful. Oh, but that grief is soon lost in the pleasure we experience when one of our foster horses finds the perfect home.

Members tell me that they wish they could help more. I assure them that just their continued membership is hugely helpful. If they make the effort to attend some of our fund raising events, that is also very helpful. Our Area Coordinators, our foster homes, and the rest of our unpaid staff are immeasurably valuable to us. It takes everyone working together, no matter how small the contribution of some, to make horse rescue work in Georgia. I am very proud to be a part of Patty Livingston's GERL Board of Directors. We don't please ALL of the people, ALL of the time but we work very hard for the horses and GERL will continue to be a thorn in the side of those who would starve, mistreat, abuse, or abandon horses in Georgia. Thankfully our state is one of the few which has laws to protect horses. GERL is finding more and more ways for equine abusers to have to face consequences and punishment for their ILLEGAL actions! As our friend, Supervisor Kevin Hearst, Dekalb County Animal Control says, "I love putting animal abusers in jail.....Woosa!" We truly appreciate each of you who help in many ways and who continue to stand behind us.



**MR. JACK CASHIN OF  
CHUKKAR FARM AND POLO CLUB**  
is again hosting an



# **Exhibition Polo Match**

to benefit

# **Georgia Equine Rescue League**



**COME ON OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN!  
BRING A LAWN CHAIR. ENJOY WATCHING  
SOME EXPERT HORSEMANSHIP AND  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING SPORT!**

**Cold Bottled Water  
and Soft Drinks  
Available**

**SILENT AUCTION**



**Date: Sunday, July 15, 2012**

**Time: Gate opens @ 1 PM Match @ 2 PM**

**Where: Chukkar Farm and Polo Club**

**1140 Liberty Grove Rd. Alpharetta, GA**

**Driving Directions: <http://www.chukkarfarm.com>**

**Bring a Picnic Lunch!**

# POKER RIDE 2012

*By Anne Ensminger*

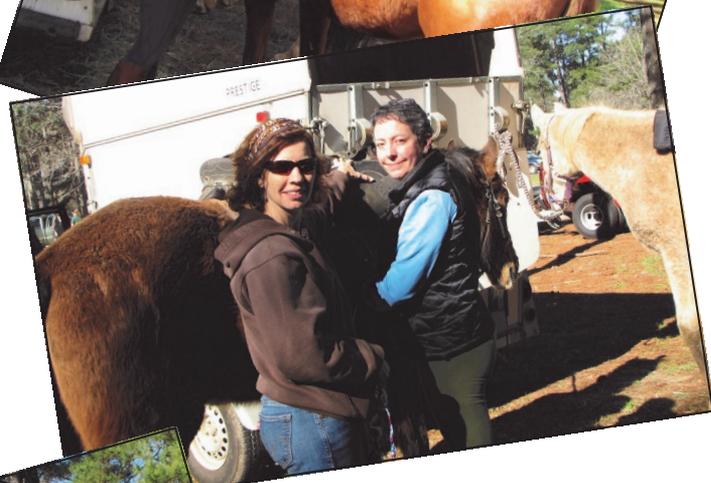
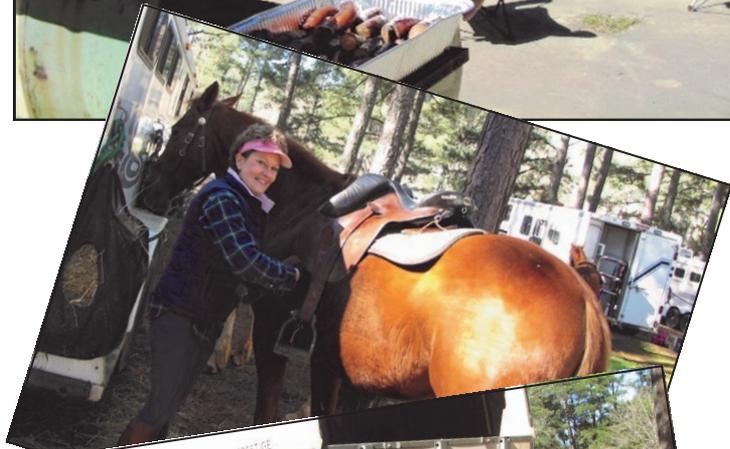
Trailers began arriving at the Dawson Forest camp area on Friday. Old friends gathered to share camp fires and the usual conversation about anything having to do with horses.

The Weather Man could not have sent us a more beautiful day than Saturday turned out to be for our Poker Ride. As many day riders started arriving, finding places to park, and grooming horses, the whole camp smelled of spring with whiffs of wood smoke and coffee brewing.

Riders lined up to register for the ride and to draw their first card for each poker hand. They then mounted up and left camp to follow the beautiful Dawson Forest red trail. The cool of the morning soon gave way to cozy warmth from the rising sun and the anticipation of an enjoyable ride and the possibility of collecting a winning poker hand from the card stations which were manned by Phil Twiss, Tim Miller, and Ray Ziebell.

We had a record 80 riders participating in this year's Poker Ride. Dorothy Thomas and I were very grateful for the help of new member, Lynn Yates at the check-in table. As soon as Lynn arrived, she and Dorothy started thinking of how we could expedite the check-in process and they were quite successful. Thanks, you two!

All of the riders arrived back in camp in time for a delicious lunch consisting of the best hamburgers in the world, Polish sausage hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, and numerous tasty deserts. It's amazing what a horseback ride on a beautiful, cool morning will do to stimulate the appetite!



# POKER RIDE 2012

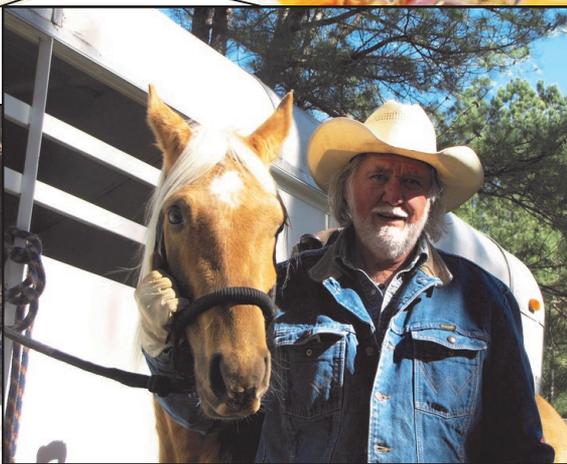
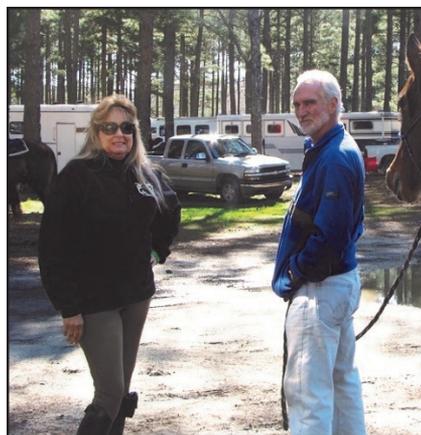
*By Anne Ensminger*

Diana Kelsey was our grill master and the food was artfully served by members of the Greg Masey family who came all the way from Jenkinsburg, GA to help. We were surprised to learn that Diana could actually cook! A very special thank you goes to Alan Brown, who again donated most of the food.

Thanks also to Jacquelin Twiss for hauling the GERL trailer to this event and for taking care of merchandise sales for the entire day. Amy Cox was everywhere with her camera for most of the day and we very much appreciate her generous sharing of her pictures with everyone.

Numerous door prizes were awarded after lunch and the winning poker hand was held by Linda Venable who had four of a kind and was awarded a cash prize of \$100. Congratulations to Linda! Second place was won by Norman Denton and third place winner was Lollie Beck. Both received GERL T-shirts.

We ended up clearing over \$2,100.00 on the poker ride, which is a great accomplishment! Thanks to everybody who showed up and especially to all of the volunteers who made this event possible!



## 2012 GERL Annual Meeting

As sometimes happens with GERL events, the 2012 Annual Meeting took place on about the worst day, weather wise, of the year. Dawn broke on January 21<sup>st</sup>. to discouraging weather reports of rain and possible severe thunder storms. Indeed, that is just how it went for the entire day. Still, amazingly, we had an excellent turnout for our meeting. There were some who came to learn more about GERL and ended up becoming members. There were also some who drove long distances to attend. Annette Raybon and two of her Paulding County Horse and Pony Club members, Taylor Brock, and Ashleigh Messer presented a donation of \$144 to GERL from their club.

This time, the Annual Meeting was held at the Lion's Club Building in Winder. The Lion's Club provides much more space than the restaurants where we met in the past and we don't have to be in a hurry to leave to make room for another group. The one drawback of the new location is that we do not have the luxury of food being available for purchase. We decided to ask everyone to bring something for a "pot luck" lunch and that turned out to be a great success.



Paulding County Horse and Pony Club members, Taylor Brock, and Ashleigh Messer, present Patty Livingston with a check while Annette Raybon looks on.

GERL President, Patty Livingston gave an overview of the activities of the previous year and presented plans for the coming year. Patty informed our members that we had more horses in foster care last year than ever. At one time, we had near 50 horses in our program. Our wonderful Foster Coordinator, Becky Gregory, somehow managed to find enough homes for that many horses and over several months, Adoption Coordinator, Ruth Wilson managed to work her magic and place all but about 15 into new homes.

Treasurer, Diana Kelsey, gave a financial report which revealed that, thanks to the hard work of our members and the generosity of many who join us in our concern for the welfare of horses, GERL is financially sound and anxious to continue our fight to end abuse of horses in our state. Diana let us know that we will continue to be able to hold periodic vaccination clinics and encourage the castration of as many stallions as possible by

paying a portion of the cost of the surgery for any stallion.

After lunch, we were treated to a very informative and interesting talk by Alan Cassidy of Georgia Safe Trails. Alan, his wife, and some of his fellow law enforcement friends, have developed a wonderful program to teach people how to insure the best outcome when they find themselves in dangerous situations. While Alan's teaching was directed toward trail riders, his advice would be useful in many instances. He stressed awareness of one's surroundings and gave some excellent tips on self defense and how to escape from a possible attacker.

After the meeting, many stayed just to visit and catch up with old friends. Second only to the good feeling that comes from helping horses in need, is the wonderful closeness felt by a diverse group with a common interest and a goal about which they are passionate. That is Georgia Equine Rescue League.



CeCe and Lou Calli and Dotti and Jack Carter making a GERL poster board.

## The GoodSearch Challenge



I'd like to challenge each and every one of our readers to register on GoodSearch.com and list GERL as your charity. Once you have registered, GoodSearch displays the top five supporters every time you open your browser and bring up the GoodSearch page. This would be every single time you open a browser if you also make it your home page. And, quite frankly, I just don't see how you're going to beat Miss. Anne, who is leading the pack with over \$2.25 earned. I can remember when she was at the bottom with zero! How did she jump up there in first place? Easy. All she did was make GoodSearch.com her home page and she uses their search engine to search the web. She earns money for GERL every time she searches. I made a challenge to her to see who could earn the most money and within one week she had passed me! Now, I'd like to challenge you! It's easy and you don't have to register your credit card to earn money if you don't want to.

Georgia Equine Rescue League - GERL Charity ID 859475	
Amount Raised:	\$85.90
Supporters:	69
<a href="#">take action</a>	
<a href="#">support us</a>	
Top Supporters	
	Earnings
Anne Ensminger	\$2.24
Shawn Liburdi	\$1.62
Susie Bond	\$0.91
Patty Livingston	\$0.82
CeCe Calli	\$0.71
Heatherlee Hammonds	\$0.65

\* Total number of supporters reflects both registered and un-registered users that are currently supporting this cause.

## GERL Multi-County Meeting, Moultrie, GA

Yup, another one! We want to let our members know that we are working very hard to enlist the help of Sherriff and Animal Control agencies to enforce Georgia's laws which protect equine from cruelty of many kinds. The Georgia Department of Agriculture simply can no longer totally meet the demand for intervention in such cases.

Last month, on February 17<sup>th</sup>, Patty Livingston, Diana Kelsey, and Anne Ensminger traveled to Moultrie, GA to attend this informative meeting of law enforcement officers and other interested parties, near Moultrie. This meeting had been totally organized and produced by two very valuable GERL members in South Georgia, Judy Ricketson and Debora Hines. This is actually the second such meeting for which they had taken responsibility.

There were a total of 22 participants who were anxious to learn more about Georgia's equine protection laws and how to properly gather evidence for successful prosecution of offenders. Mat Thompson, Equine Manager for the GDA Equine Division, and Supervisor Kevin Hearst of Dekalb County Animal Services have become regular speakers at these meetings and we greatly appreciate their dedication. Also in attendance was Dr. Mary Rogers, DVM, who added much to our discussions. We were very pleased to welcome Anita Meisen and Ann Campbell of Dancing Cloud Farm Horse Rescue near Ochlocknee, GA. We greatly appreciated their taking the time to attend the meeting and learn about what we're doing to help law enforcement in their area.



GERL President Patty Livingston welcomes law enforcement and animal control officers to the multi-county meeting in Moultrie.

# WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

New Member	Company	Referred By	Location	
Cecilia Barnes		Website	Atlanta	GA
Barbara Bendzunas		GERL	Comer	GA
Terry Berglund	Oh Horse Sit	Donna Pieper	Cumming	GA
Teresa Brown & Family		GERL	Barnesville	GA
Lou & Cece Calli		GERL	Hartwell	GA
Sharyn Canady & Family		GERL	Loganville	GA
Margaret Carden		Patty Livingston	Athens	GA
Pam Carter		GERL	Lincolnton	GA
Roy & Amie Close		Andee & Diana	Murrayville	GA
Donald & Beth Dillard		GERL	Claxton	GA
Brenda Easthope & Family		GERL	Griffin	GA
Katie Lott Ellis		GERL	Hortense	GA
Rick & Alice Enix	Alice in Water Land Inc	Patty Livingston	Bethlehem	GA
Marian Finco		GERL	Watkinsville	GA
Janine Marie Gosselin		GERL	Tucker	GA
Marie Greer		GERL	Winder	GA
Sherry Massey & Family		GERL	Thomson	GA
Ute Moore		Debbie Merkert	Washington	GA
Sarah Pallas		Christie Stanton	Atlanta	GA
David Scudder		Mike Rogers	Locust Grove	GA
David Steedley	City of Homer A.C.	Danny Gibson	Homerville	GA
Ava Talmage	Amicalola Veterinary Services LLC	GERL	Canton	GA
Mimi Tarpley-Benkoski		GERL	Bogart	GA
Brenda Vostreys & Family		GERL Member	Conyers	GA
Becky White	Heaven's Bounty	GERL	Dacula	GA
Susan Wis & Family		GERL	Tallapoosa	GA

## ATTENTION: "MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE" WILL NO LONGER BE LISTED IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

Your membership renewal reminder will now come to you each year via email! If you do not have an email address, you will receive a reminder in the mail. When you renew, you will receive your membership card through the mail as always, but your renewal will no longer be listed in the newsletter. We want to use our newsletter space to give you more news! Thank you!

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



### There Are Angels Among Us

Flicka is an "untouchable" mustang mare whose owner has been unable to afford to feed her due to health issues. GERL has committed to pay for Flicka's hay and feed for the next two months while Tracy Clarkson from Mustang Makeover and GERL AC Linda Tucker work with her. Their goal is to gain her trust and confidence to get a halter on her. The photo shows Tracy coaxing Flicka to eat out of the bucket. This is a huge step for Flicka!

## Thank you for Your Donations—April 2012

Tri-County Equine Association  
Susan Mead  
Nancy Fitzgibbons  
Paula LeCates  
Heather Wahner  
Kristin Randall  
Kim Hampton  
Michael Davis  
Melinda Merryfield-Becker  
Pamela Wright  
Moira McCracken  
John Orr  
Tammie Walz  
Susanne Lauda  
Ken & Beth Dykes  
Patricia Petelle  
Carole Paige  
Melissa Allums  
Greg & Cindy Masey  
Alice Stagg  
Ashley & Marilyn Whitener  
Judith A. Clark  
Tom & Karen Komatz  
Art & Elizabeth Bartlett  
Lynn Garrett  
Rosa Allen  
Tina & Terry Turner  
Linda Stallings  
Donald & Kim Daws

A sincere thank you to everyone at Patchwork Farm for picking GERL as the recipient of their Holiday outreach program!

Nancy Pahl  
Kate Lariner  
Lauren Patton  
Lesley Posey  
Lauren Huelen  
Janet Salem  
Kim Cronin  
Sara Hinckley  
Kristin Akridge  
Lindsay Nolan  
Diane Bailey

Special thanks to Charles & Linda DeVane for their donation to help with expenses for the Moultrie Multi County meeting held in February!

Thank you, Joe & Susan Echols, for your generous donation!

Thank you to the Athens Area Hunter Jumper Association for their generous donation to help us with horses in Georgia!

Thanks, Jen Adams, for donating to our foster horse, Apache! He had cancer in one eye and had it removed. Apache is recovering well thanks to his wonderful foster family!!

### GERL Online Auction Under-going Improvements



Our online auction has recently undergone some major improvements with the automation of the registration and bidding process. These improvements were implemented by our wonderful Webmaster, Steve DeMoss, and will make things easier and less confusing for not only the bidders, but for the GERL volunteers, as well. Our Online Auction Coordinator, Marge Mabey, is currently working on setting up several auction items and plans to start running regular auctions soon!

### Thank You For Donating To Our Feed A Horse Program 2012

Erin McFarland  
George Lilley  
John Capers  
Erik Wittenzellner  
Constance Burchette  
Kathryn & Riley Duncan

Thank you, Patti Henry, for donating to our Feed A Horse program! You have helped feed a horse for one year!!!

GERL thanks Mary Jane Mallady for her generous donation to our Feed-A-Horse program!

## Farewell to “Cobweb”

A special farewell to “Cobweb”, a throw away, one eyed, Appaloosa gelding adopted from GERL years ago by Scott Harris. The pair traveled many trail miles together. Scott was often heard telling others that the only problem with their horse was that it had one too many eyes! Cobweb died of cancer at a ripe old age after several years of quiet retirement. He will forever be missed by Scott, Susie, and many of us who knew and loved him.



## Pal-O-Mine

*By Anne Ensminger*

Pal-O-Mine’s story has been deep in my heart since midsummer 2011. I wrote about what was described as a “walking skeleton” which was discovered in a bare “pasture” by DEA Agents who were flying over Walton County searching for marijuana plants. They reported what they had seen and GERL soon became involved.

After learning about the old horse from postings on Facebook by Andee Rogers, many sent donations to help pay for his care. Pal was lovingly rehabilitated by Susan McCullar who is quite an expert in such matters. We are so fortunate to have her on our team.

When Pal was ready for adoption, we were delighted that he was selected by Lee and Dr.Phil Rast of Chattooga County to come and live out his life on their beautiful farm.

Sadly, the anticipated perfect retirement for Pal was much too short. Two weeks after Pal went to live with the Rasts, in what can only be described as “horse heaven”, he was found dead in the pasture. He still had his warm blanket on and there were no signs of a struggle. His pasture mate and dear friend, twenty eight year old, GERL rescue mare, Breeze, was standing over him. We will never know the reason for this very sad conclusion to Pal’s life. Lee Rast was devastated. Some things are simply beyond our understanding.

It is now certain that Pal-O-Mine will spend eternity in that lush pasture in Chattooga County with Breeze and the other horses which have been rescued by Lee and

Phil Rast. Horses being as they are, we know that Pal totally forgot the ten or more years he lived in isolation with only weeds and the ever decreasing grass in his pasture to sustain him. He died, once again looking like the beautiful Palomino gelding that he had been before his elderly owner passed away and left him in the care of an unknowing (?), uncaring (?), family.

So, that is the sad end of this story. Heaven knows, there will be others to follow. Maybe the facts will be a bit different but some of the stories will be just as sad. I don’t see Diana Kelsey, Susan McCullar, the Rasts, those who so generously contributed to Pal’s care, me, nor GERL (all very involved with Pal’s story) ever giving up our efforts to make life better for just one more horse.



# BUSINESS CARDS



*Alice In Water Land, Inc.*

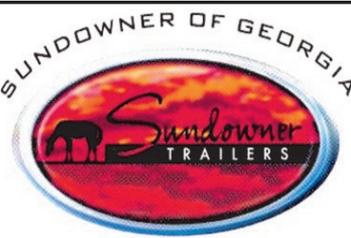
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Diana Kelsey  
[diana@gerlltd.org](mailto:diana@gerlltd.org)

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