



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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

2013 Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June

Crisis Intervention & Equine Rescue

Story By Diana Kelsey

There are all types of rescue situations, but for the last 3 or 4 years, GERL has been doing rescue a little differently than in the past. There are so many horses in trouble, so many people out of work or facing tremendous medical expenses. Unfortunately, animals are the last to be fed when money is low. Many of these financial situations are temporary, and with a little help, these animals can be brought through the "crisis" and not suffer while their owners get back on their feet.

GERL has created a program called "Crisis Intervention", a spin-off from a program that we piloted for PetSmart Charities. It is a process in which we evaluate the needs of owners and their



equine and determine whether they will be able to pull through a financial set back with a little help. The point of this program is to allow people

to keep their animals and not have them get into an emaciated state, hence having to be rescued, placed in a foster home, rehabilitated, then put up for adoption. Call it "preventative maintenance", if you will.

Education also plays an important role in the business of rescue. We see

many horses in bad shape simply because their owner has no clue how to take care of them. Our Area Coordinators are trained to help educate owners, therefore avoiding a possible rescue situation. Good ending for the horse.

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Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

P.O. Box 328

Bethlehem, Ga. 30620

770-464-0138

<http://www.gerlltd.org>

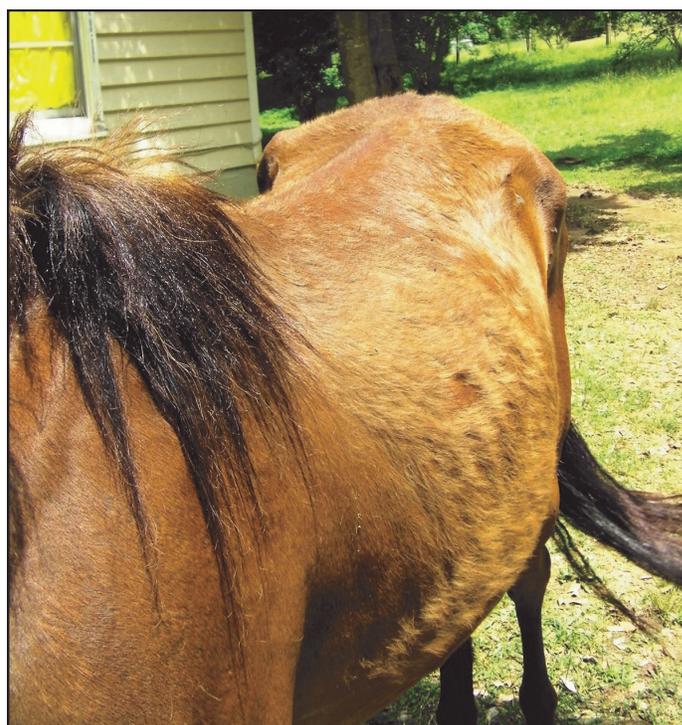
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In many cases, there is no “light at the end of the tunnel”, no way the owner will get back on their feet before a horse reaches a crisis level. Some owners have been incarcerated for one reason or another and the burden of caring for their horses has fallen on their family members who have no means or knowledge to take on this task. Even though they don’t really qualify for our crisis intervention program we have had to sit down and discuss exactly how we can treat these cases. It is hard to turn down people who are asking for help and, especially, when the horses are suffering as a result. The GERL Board has decided to make some allowances by providing feed, hay or vet care on a temporary basis while we help owners with information on how to “re-home” their equine. We feel that it is important for owners to take responsibility for finding a good home, which would include making a flyer with all of the information needed to advertise their horse and posting the information in their area. Once they have done this, GERL will post their flyer on Facebook to boost visibility. Typically, someone will step up and take the horse. We will require a farm inspection to ensure that the horse is going to a good home. A good ending for the horse.



As you can see, almost every week brings us a new situation and a different way to handle that situation. The common goal of GERL is to help horses, whether it be supporting individuals or the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture, Equine Division. *With your help, we will make a difference!*



A DAY AT TRACTOR SUPPLY JUST FOR FUN

APRIL 20, 2013

Well we all woke up this morning and found ourselves at Tractor Supply again. This time we were giving Surrey Rides pulled by our favorite Haffy Goldie. We set up at about 10:00 and were ready when the public started showing up. As usual we gave out a good number of our News Letters and sold a few Raffle Tickets. We also talked to several folks that were interested in becoming Foster Farms. We gave them all the information and phone numbers to call along with News Letters and Pamphlets. All the kids that showed up for the rides seemed to absolutely love Goldie and the Surrey Ride.



We had some folks show up that had some awesome wood carvings to sell and told us that if we let them set up next to us that they would donate 5% of what they made on sales to GERL. Well of course I said, "Yes Sir" unfortunately for us they didn't have any sales. But he sure had some nice stuff. It was all done with a chain saw and others chisels and tools. He had a large horse head that was beautiful. But I didn't have \$400.00 to spend on it.

Anyway we all had the same fun we always have when we get together at TSC. We didn't have any sales either but we did get \$71.00 dollars in donations.



I again would like to send out a great big thank you to George and Janice, Tiffany Bowen, Catrina Kay and one of GERL's newest members Sarah Schelkoph. Welcome to GERL Sarah.

And a big thanks of course to our Star Attraction Goldie. What a great little guy.



Who's Who

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

Board Members

Patty Livingston, President

(770) 867-0760 / gerlpatty@yahoo.com

Eddy O'Hern - Vice President

(478) 328-8308 / edohern@bellsouth.net

Diana Kelsey / Treasurer

(770) 267-0867 / diana@gerlltd.org

Anne Ensminger / Secretary

(770) 464-3348 / missanne612@bellsouth.net

Cynthia Brayton

(678) 490-6266 / leaper12@hotmail.com

Foster Coordinator - Tommy Wilson

(706) 342-4096 / gerl.fosterhome@gmail.com

Adoption Coordinator - Ruth Wilson

(706) 342-4097 / gerladopt@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator—Diana Kelsey

gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org

Auction Coordinator - Sue Wrensen

(770) 331-6947 / swrensen@comcast.net

Online Auction Coordinator - Marge Mabey

mabey@atnex.net

Stallion-Gelding Coordinator

Heatherlee Hammonds / mysticalhorses@yahoo.com

Public Relations Coordinator - Bob Long

(678) 409-8893 / housek9@windstream.net

Event Coordinator

Jaye Herrington / jaye@gerlltd.org

Facebook Coordinator

Andee Rogers / andee@gerlltd.org

Grant Writer - Cynthia Anderson

(770) 713-9887 / gomaisfat@yahoo.com

Merchandise Coordinator - Diana Kelsey

diana@gerlltd.org

Webmaster / Newsletter Layout - Steve DeMoss

(678) 427-5771 / steve@gerlltd.org

GERL Chaplain—George Lilley

(478) 320-5625 / nightstars@cox.net

GERL Advisory Board

Billy Myers, DVM - Kenneth Marcella, DVM

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?

Area Coordinator Director, South GA.

Debora Hines

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

Area Coordinator Director, Middle GA.

Eddy O'Hern

(478) 328-8308 / (478) 397-1135

edohern@bellsouth.net

Area Coordinator Director, North GA.

Cynthia Brayton

(678) 490-6266 / leaper12@hotmail.com



Karen Czarick presents GERL President Patty Livingston with a check for \$160 from feed bag totes sales. Karen's 90 year old mother, Adelia Young, makes the totes from various feed bags and donates half of the proceeds to a different non-profit organization every month. GERL was the recipient for the month of May. Karen also donated some of the totes to GERL to sell at auctions. Thanks so much to Karen and Mrs. Young for supporting GERL!

40 Something Cowgirls Feisty Fillies Support GERL *by Patty Livingston*

On May 11, 2013, the “40 Something Cowgirls Feisty Fillies” hosted The ACTHA Summer Blast Competitive Trail Course at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers. I was thrilled to attend the event which was to benefit the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and the work we do. I got to witness first hand all of the neat costumes that some of the participants created for themselves and their horses.

When I first arrived I was totally surprised at all of the beach decorations that the volunteers had used to spiff up the cano-

pies. It made you feel like you were in Hawaii with all of the leis and grass skirts! All that was missing was the water! They even had a silent auction set up under one of the canopies with some really neat stuff for the high bidders. They gave out prizes for the best dressed horse in beach attire, as well as ribbons in Open, Pleasure, Scout and Junior Divisions. It was definitely a fun event and the weather was perfect. GERL would like to thank Kerri Foster and all of the volunteers of the “40 Something Feisty Fillies” for their hard work. They presented GERL with over \$1,000 for this special event. The money will be used to support the impounded horses at the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s Mansfield facility.



Several of the 40 Something Feisty Fillies volunteers.



Two of the participants dressed in beach attire.

Department of Agriculture Hosts Luncheon for GERL

by Patty Livingston

I received an email back in April from Mat Thompson, the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s Equine Manager, who extended an invitation from Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black to attend a private luncheon for a few members of GERL. We were in the middle of our busiest fundraising season at that time, but we were able to come up with a date that was suitable for everybody and on May 7th several GERL Board members and Executive Leads caravanned downtown to the State Agriculture Building.

We were met by Mat when we arrived and ushered into the “Test Kitchen” where a beautiful long table was already set for us. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship, some of us meeting each other for the first time. Commissioner Gary Black let us know how much he and all of his staff appreciate what GERL does for the GDA Equine program and presented us with an autographed hard-back copy of “Georgia Grown”, a publication created and copyrighted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. This was truly a memorable occasion and one we all appreciated!



Front Row: Bob Long, Anne Ensminger, Ruth Wilson, Jessie Murray;
Back Row: Patty Livingston, Susie Bond, Adriane Cook, Lynne Yates,
Comm. Gary Black, Mat Thompson, Diana Kelsey and Steve DeMoss.



GERL Area Coordinators List



CeCe Calli - Hart, Franklin and Elbert
(706) 376-2410 / LCEStables@aol.com

Lynne Yates—Cobb, Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Douglas and Fulton (404) 435-5746 / lynne-yates@aol.com

Heatherlee Hammonds—Monroe, Bibb, Crawford
(478) 952-5942 / mysticalhorses@yahoo.com

Marjorie Leder—Banks
(706) 778-8271 Cell (818) 203-5017 maleder@aol.com

Rita Benfield - Douglas, Haralson, Carroll
(770) 330-0877 / rbenfield@printpack.com

Annette Raybon - Paulding , Cobb, Bartow
(770) 445-8655 / raybonta@bellsouth.net

Candace Meadows - Paulding , Floyd, Bartow
(678) 767-9071 / shogungirl@gmail.com

Sue Wrensen - Cherokee
(770) 331-6947 / swrensen@comcast.net

Brantley, McIntosh, Tattnall, Long
(912) 202-7490 / gibsonlois@windstream.net

Bob & Judy McCrory - Harris, Meriwether, Marion, Chattahoochee, Talbot, Troup & Muscogee
(706) 582-3268 / ridgeway12@aol.com

Lynn McMinn - Gwinnett, Walton, Oconee
(404) /372-9245 / lynn.mcminn@yahoo.com

Tanya Kingsley—Jasper, Butts, Monroe, Jones & Putnam (706) 468-0794 / twkings@gmail.com

Susie Bond - Newton, Morgan & Greene
(770) 464-4353 / gerlsusie@att.net

Maria Land—Walton
(770) 207-0280 / marialand01@comcast.net

Amy Aronson-Friedman - Lowndes
(229) 834-2455 / aaronson@valdosta.edu

Ray Ziebell - Dawson & Pickens
(770) 354-0293 / razfences@msn.com

Marion Cobb - Forsyth
(404) 625-0346 / marioncobbjr@comcast.net

Dotti & Jack Carter - Towns
(706) 896-4997 / (706) 835-5677
frogleap@windstream.net

Debbie Whitworth - Elbert & Hart
(404) 805-4409 / rlwdpw@hotmail.com

Cynthia Brayton - Rockdale & Henry
(678) 490-6266 // leaper12@hotmail.com

Charles & Linda DeVane—Brooks, Thomas & Cook
(229) 263-7714 / (229) 560-0844

Linda Tucker - Jackson & Barrow
(678) 770-7704 / lindahoschton@aol.com

Nicki Thigpen - Warren, McDuffie & Columbia
(706) 755-4375 / daydreamfarmga@yahoo.com

Marla Morris - Lamar, Upson & Pike
(770) 584-9554 / georgiashebear@yahoo.com

Eddy O'Hern - Houston, Bibb & Peach
(478) 328-8308 / (478) 397-1135
edofern@bellsouth.net

Michelle Williams - Spalding
(404) 290-8115 / shelly@kuntrylivin.com

Cynthia Anderson - Baldwin & Putnam
(770) 713-9887 / gomaisfat@yahoo.com

Helen Abercrombie Winn - Union
(706) 781-9215 / helenaber1@yahoo.com

Donna Williams - Union
(706) 781-9111 / dtuttlew@windstream.net

Kathleen Hales - Fayette , Coweta, Henry & Clayton
(770) 713-0684 / chattokat@comcast.net

Linda Kundell - Oconee, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Athens & Clark (706) 769-6395 / kundell@bellsouth.net

Lee Rast - Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon and Bartow
(404) 964-5665 / rastla@aol.com

Janine Gosselin - Gwinnett, Dekalb, Cobb
(818) 259-6627 / janinemarie2003@hotmail.com

Jessica Wheeler - Berrien, Lanier & Cook
(229) 237-0655 / jd Wheeler09@gmail.com

Shalee Cooper - Grady and Decatur Counties
229-221-7397 / painthorses3@gmail.com

Debora Hines -Thomas, Colquitt and Mitchell Counties
(229) 403-9386 / equineharmony@rocketmail.com

Area Coordinator Director, South GA.
Debora Hines (229) 403-9386
equineharmony@rocketmail.com

Area Coordinator Director, Middle GA.
Eddy O'Hern
(478) 328-8308 / (478) 397-1135
edofern@bellsouth.net

Area Coordinator Director, North GA.
Cynthia Brayton
(678) 490-6266 / leaper12@hotmail.com

GERL ADOPTABLES

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



Little Joe is a 12 year old gelding pony, 13 hh and a beautiful sorrel paint color. He is very trusting and “in your pocket” kind of guy who adores attention. He was originally in our program in 2011 and was adopted by an elderly couple who had to sell their farm due to health issues. He was a pasture ornament while in their care, but is very capable of being so much more. We have had him under saddle, but are still evaluating his training level. He does have an allergy to biting insects and requires a daily dose of medication and we feel would do best in the northern part of Georgia.



Dakota is a 19 year old Tennessee Walker. He is such a gentleman and still has quite the pep in his step. His foster Mom is using him to trail ride and he is doing great. He is very sociable and sweet. He stands well, loads and a very nice boy!



Keister is a rose grey Arab, 22 years old, 15 hh. He is a bit mischievous, and as sweet as they come! He tends to crib and is a bit of a hard keeper, so he will need a home that understands his special needs. The right adopter will be so lucky to have this handsome fellow!

Cody — 25 year old dark bay TWH gelding. Very sweet; still has a bit of light riding in him, wonderful companion horse



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Meet Beau! He is a 20 year old black Tennessee Walking Horse gelding, sweet and rideable (light riding only). Beau needs a forever home with lots of love and someone to help build his confidence.



Rocky is 2 year old ,12hh. He has a very sweet temperament and is an "in your pocket" pony. He loves attention and spending time with people. His is halter broken and is learning manners very well on the lead line. He is learning to stand quietly for the farrier.



JESSIE is a 16 year old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding, 16.2 hh. This good-looking guy is sweet and loves attention; needs an experienced rider. Loads, stands for farrier.



ANGEL is a 19 year old registered QH fleabitten gray mare, 15.2 hh. She has extensive trail riding experience, but requires an experienced rider. She is an Alpha mare and will be dominant when put with other horses.

RHYTHUM is a 14 year old Blue Roan Missouri Fox Trotter gelding, 15.2 hh. He is trained as a Field Trial horse and spent his early years traveling to Field Trial events with a well known Field Trial Judge/Trainer. He is a sweet,



energetic boy who needs an experienced hand when ridden with a large group of horses. He has been ridden by novice riders when only one other horse is along. Rhythum's adoption fee is \$800, which is higher than GERL's normal adoption fee, but he is NOT a rescue horse and was donated to GERL last year by his former owners.

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Buddy is five years old and green. He is in a new foster home where he is being trained to move to the next level...riding! He is a sweet boy and just needs someone who has the time and skill to finish his training under saddle. Buddy has great ground manners, loads and loves people! Buddy is a QH type.



Alf is a 3 year old 14.1hh sorrel gelding with lots of personality! Will probably mature at around 14hh. He's an in-your-pocket kind of horse, and is always the first one to greet you. Alf has completed Parelli Level One horsemanship and is a very quick learner! Extremely curious and playful. Alf has recently started under saddle and is doing GREAT! He responds to pressure, backs, lunges, picks up his feet, and loads on a trailer without a problem. Level headed and has great movement with beautiful smooth gaits. Could go English or Western; lots of hunter/jumper or HUS potential. Alf will be a great horse for a teen or small adult. Whoever adopts this handsome boy will have a terrific equine partner!



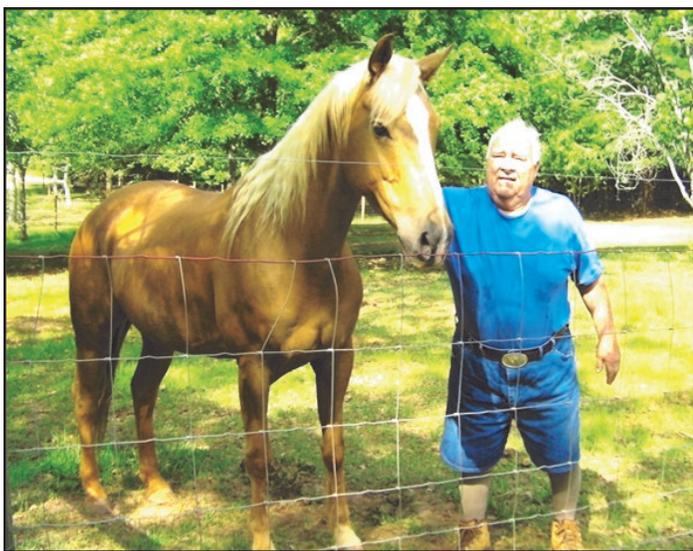
ELOUISE is a 10 year old Bay Arabian/QH X mare, 14.3 hh. She is somewhat skittish, but likes goats and children. We were told that she is rideable, but we have not had an opportunity to evaluate her level of training yet.



Gracie is a sweet nine year old gray pony mare, around 14 hh. We have not evaluated her riding ability yet, but we have been told she is rideable.

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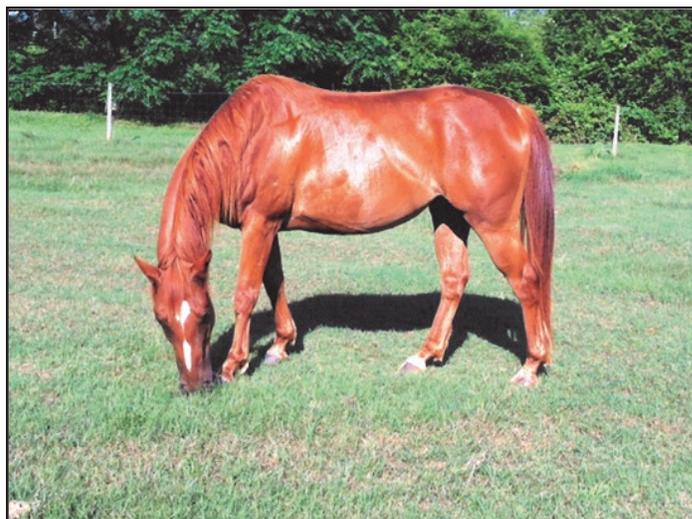
SKYE is a 9 year old SaddlebredX Palomino mare, 15.1 hh and requires an experienced rider. We have not had an opportunity to evaluate her training level under saddle. She does not react well around children and goats. This beautiful girl would make a great trail horse!



Joker is a flea-bitten grey Arab, 17 years old, 14.3 hh. He prefers his own space and can be a bit standoffish. Joker is VERY smart, and needs a home that understands Arabs! What a beautiful face this boy has!



China is an 8 year old Bay mare. She is difficult to catch and will require an owner with patience. She would make a nice project for someone who is looking for a challenge. She is a beautiful girl, looking for a special forever home!



Spook is a 10 year old sorrel QH who is a very sweet boy! We have not evaluated his training level, but have been told that he has had some professional training and is broke to ride. He stands well for the farrier and vet and would make someone a great trail horse!

RAFFLE TICKETS TO BENEFIT GERL

A week at the beach in Ormond Beach, FLA

The dates are September 14 to 21 at The Cove on Ormond Beach. The condo is a two bedroom that sleeps 6.

It is in Ormond Beach, just north of Daytona. Ticket Price: \$20 each for a chance to win.

\$20.00



The Cove on Ormond Beach

Raffle Ticket
Proceeds to benefit
Georgia Equine Rescue League
A week at the beach in Ormond Beach, FLA

TICKET

Ticket EXAMPLE
2 Bdrm/Sleeps 6

Spend a fun filled week in Florida at The Cove, September 14 - 21, 2013



One Week at Westgate Smokey Mountain Resort and Spa – Gatlinburg, TN

Dates: Nov. 22 – 29, 2013 (Includes Thanksgiving Day)

One bedroom/one bath condo- sleeps four. Ticket Price: \$20 each.

\$20.00



Westgate Smokey Mountain Timeshare

Raffle Ticket
Proceeds to benefit
Georgia Equine Rescue League

TICKET

Ticket EXAMPLE

Spend a week at Westgate Smokey Mountain Resort & Spa. Dates: Nov. 22 - 29, 2013
One bedroom/one bath Condo-sleeps four

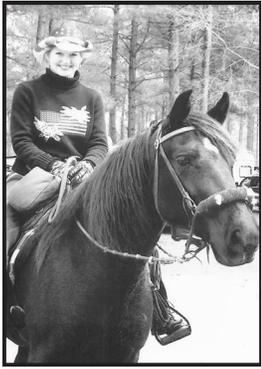


Drawing July 14th

For more information contact Patty Livingston, (770) 867-0760 / patty.livingston@gerlltd.org

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President



GERL recently hosted the 5th Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride in Round Oak at the home of Ron and Adriane Cook. Heavy rains were in the forecast which kept a lot of our regular participants at home. Despite the small crowd we were still able to raise over four thousand dollars during the three day event. This was the last weekend ride that GERL will host going forward. The GERL Board of Directors has been discussing the large overhead and lack of participation at our weekend functions for the past two years. High gas prices and an ailing economy are much to blame, but I also think that people are going to be where they want to be and obviously, it is not attending a weekend trail ride, anymore.

I remember going to my first GERL Fall Fest in October of 1994. It was pouring down rain when we arrived at Sunburst Stables on Friday, but despite that fact, other campers arrived and packed out the large field for the weekend. I had the time of my life and vowed that I would be a regular at GERL Fests from then on. What was particularly interesting was that nobody had a fancy rig (trailer) back in those days. Everybody was in a tent or an old stock trailer draped with tarps. There were no electric sites and everybody used the porta-potties. Nobody cared and we had a ball!

Today, most campers have fancy trailers with all of the amenities, but most of us are twenty years older now and no longer enjoy camping in the rain. Still, the show must go on and GERL events have always been "rain or shine". It doesn't matter if it rains we are on the hook to pay for caterers and large tents which are very

costly. Last year we raised over \$33K at our fundraisers. However, we spent over \$10K in expenses to put them on. That is a third of our profit gone.

One of my many goals for the past four years is to become more profitable at our fund raising events. Since we rarely have any sponsors, that means that every single dollar that we spend to put on a ride or event comes right off of the top. It was pointed out to me that we are clearing as much money at our one day events such as the annual poker ride and the polo match as we do on a three day trail ride. Also, a three day trail ride is very labor intense and requires a lot of volunteers. I have been resisting changing the format of our weekend trail rides because I felt that they were a part of GERL as much as supporting the Georgia Department of Agriculture. That's just what we do! However, it is evident that it is time for a change in the format.

We will be hosting one day rides for our fests, starting with the next Fright Fest which will take place on October 19th at Bull Mountain, Dahloga, Ga. The format will be much like our Poker Ride that we do every March at Dawson Forest, except that there will be a live and silent auction to follow lunch. The folks who just come for the day can stay for the auctions and still get home before dark and the people who have come for the weekend can relax and enjoy the free time, and the ability to ride again, on Sunday. And, let me say this about that...the GERL Board members and Executive Leads who generally are running around from one obligation to the next will even be able to enjoy ourselves and RELAX!

I hope you'll find our new format and lower prices more inviting and come out to support GERL and the horses!

There are Angels Among Us

by Patty Livingston

GERL has been blessed to have a faithful supporter for many years now who is best known for her generosity and love of the horses. Not only has she given merchandise to our auctions, but she used to run the auctions back in the day. I'd like to recognize Dr. Jan Smith who is the person who recently donated the two timeshare condos that we are currently selling raffle tickets for to raise extra money. Dr. Jan has been donating her personal week-long timeshare at Daytona Beach for the past few years, but she decided to go online through the timeshare company and bid on some extra vacation condos to donate to GERL. It was also her suggestion to raffle them off which is something the current Board has not tried before. She also donates neat auction items twice a year for both of our Fest weekend rides, including Coach purses, beautiful blingy headstalls and chest plates and a plethora of awesome merchandise that she purchases especially for GERL. She has always wanted to remain an anonymous donor so many people have no idea of the lengths she goes to when it comes to supporting GERL. I have always wanted to give her the recognition that I think she deserves for the wonderful things she does. It is great to know that there are angels among us! Thank you so much Dr. Jan Smith!



Dr. Jan Smith with her grandson, Logan.

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

Creamed Corn Casserole

- ✓ 1 ea. 14 oz. can creamed corn
- ✓ 1 egg, beaten
- ✓ 20-30 Ritz crackers, crumbled
- ✓ 2 T. butter
- ✓ salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl mix together corn, beaten egg and crackers. Pour into an appropriately sized baking dish. Dot the top with bits of butter. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 45 – 60 minutes or until the corn is firm in the center. *By Janice Lilley*



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



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

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!***

UGA Bulldog Classic Horse Show

By: Jeanne Barsanti

On Saturday, March 30, I met Diana Kelsey to pick up the GERL booth items and eagerly drove to the UGA livestock arena in Athens. I was set up and ready to meet the public by 11:30 am. The UGA Horse Club provided a great location for the GERL booth, right across from the registration desk and near the concession stand. I had a nice conversation with the UGA student in charge of the registration desk. A few people came by who I happened to know. They were parents, transporting and cheering on their children in the show. It was good to catch up with them and to tell them a bit about GERL, using the pictures for emphasis. I was soon joined at the table by David Lee. He took over and I wandered around the show a bit, admiring the horses and well attired young people. I ran into Patty Livingston and am always amazed at how she is able to arrange to be wherever GERL is. She came to the table and we all enjoyed lunch together. I had to leave at 1:30, but David stayed on to talk to more folks and he later returned the GERL materials to Diana. I enjoyed meeting David and sharing our interest in all the good things GERL does. GERL would like to thank the Bulldog Classic committee for donating the proceeds of their show to GERL every year!



An Update on Captain Jack, Now Known as Jackson

I have spent the last 18 months establishing a relationship with and bonding with my Jackson. We have a life long bond established. He is definitely MY horse. Jackson, now 4 years old, is in training with Dan Burle who is an expert in natural horsemanship. He is doing fabulous and blossoming. I am in training also since we have many years together. I can't wait until he graduates and we can enjoy many trail rides together. He is a special horse and I'm so grateful that God put us together. There is no doubt in my mind that it was a divine intervention.

Thanks again for allowing me to adopt him. He's my treasure. You know he will always have a good and loving home with me.
Rose.



GERL LOGO MERCHANDISE

Ladies Polo's
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White,
Light Blue,
Yellow Haze,
Heather



Men's Polo Shirts
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White, Light Blue,
Yellow Haze, Heather
Grey



Youth Sweatshirt Navy
M-XL \$15.00



T-Shirts - 100% pre-shrunk
cotton. S-XXL All sizes \$10.00
Blue Spruce, Cactus Green
River Blue, Khaki



Ladies contoured fit, cap
sleeve, ribbed T. 90% cotton,
10% poly. S-XL. \$10.00.
Deep Heather, Raspberry,
Black



Adult Vest Black
13.5oz., 100% spun
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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
and 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



Otto 6 panel, low profile
caps. \$15.00
A MUST HAVE!!
Dark Olive, Pumpkin,
Light Pink
Dark Brown (not shown)



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



Adult T-Shirt Horse
Logo 100% pre-
shrunk cotton.
M-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00



Youth T's. 100% preshrunk
cotton. Grey is 90/10. S-XL
\$6.00 - Royal Blue, Black,
Heather Grey



Horse Logo
Ladie's Combed Ringspun
T- Shirts
S-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00 - XXXL \$16.00
Iris, Banana, Pink, Cantaloupe



Visit our website to place an order: <http://www.gerlltd.org>

The One and Only Starr-----and Chris

By Linda Kundell

I have Starr the mustang at my house. I didn't know that he was a mustang until Chris came into our lives. One day when she was combing his mane she found his brand. I was interested to find out about him since I have been very curious. My Vet said he was a thoroughbred mix and he was a bay dun color. When GERL got him he was checked by a Vet and he was a Quarter Horse with something else. He was a dun that time. Of course, I'm still not sure what color he is since I don't know colors very well.

Chris and I met because she saw my name on the GERL website. Chris called and said that she wanted to work with a rescue horse. Well, she was an answer to my prayers. I love having Starr here but I was out of my area of knowledge when it came to him. He wasn't wild. He was just not easy. He had not been handled a lot. He was real upset if I put a halter over his ears. He was just passed around and not handled. Well, now days he gets handled quite a bit.

When Chris started working with him I had a breakable halter on him since he wasn't easy to catch. Within a week or so we took that off him because he learns very quickly. He now is easy to catch, groom, pick his feet, comb his mane and she is working on fly spraying him. My Ferrier trimmed him and he did quite well for him. Starr has an off again, on again lameness that we are working on. The Vet says that we can figure this out. The Ferrier says that we can figure it out. So we will figure it out. Chris measured him the other day and he is 15 hands and three inches tall. He's a very quiet boy and my horses were quick to put him in his place. Not that they had to do it. He knows where to go to get his grain so they are

happy with that. He has started to nicker when it's time to eat and he sees me.

Chris spends anywhere from a few minutes to an hour or so working with him when she can. That means that sometimes she is here five days in a row and sometimes only two day out a week. Chris told me that her approach to working with horses is based on a lifetime of learning from many horses. She is after a healthy partnership with each horse that compliments their individual personality and athletic abilities. Her focus on a high level of horsemanship starts with taking the time to build a solid foundation through groundwork. Basics include haltering, standing to groom, saddling and bridling with ease, leading out with purpose, standing for the ferrier, smooth and peaceful trailer loading and consistent movement of the front and hind quarters. Chris works with a gentle hand and respect for the horse. Her ultimate goal is to build a relationship based on trust that results in an enjoyable existence for the horse, and a positive experience for the rider. You can contact Chris at Ebb and Flow Horsemanship: (706) 254-4845 (voice only).

Right now I can see the three horses out in my front pasture. They are grazing and swishing their tails. It's a perfect day for them. I'm happy to be able to watch them be horses. In a few minutes I'll be going out to feed them their grain. They will all come to the fence and greet me with their soft nickering. I'll have my dog Dusty with me and we'll spend some time with them. Starr usually lets Dusty have a bite before he tosses his head and gets Dusty to move away. After all there is only so much stealing of grain that a horse can put up with!



Proof of Purchase Seals Update

Since we started the Southern States program in 2008 we have raised \$7,558.10 for the horses. Plus we should be receiving another check this summer. My regular donors are amazing - I am forever in your debt. I also get very excited when I see a new donor's name on an envelope because that means even more POP's to come. GERL is doing everything they can to help the starved, abused, and unwanted horses of Georgia and I'm thrilled to be able to help with your ongoing support. HUGE thanks again to my consistent donors. I would also like to thank the following new donors: Celia Gilner, Kathleen Womack, Carol Samuels, Alexandra O'Toole & Wisteria Farm, Martha Woodham, Andrea O'Connor, F.G. Marable, Sarah Hill, Denise Skelly & Ed Creel at Lambert's Stables, Sheri Fennell & Fennell Farms, Willie Perkins & Flying D Stable, Leslie Martin & Dancing Pines, Barbara Decker, Bonnie Martin, Joan Grant, Jennifer Peebles, the Stock Market in Conyers (thank you, Susan Archer), Denise Schmidt & Painted Acres, Tori Joyce, Crossing Point Farm, Cindy Groom, Beth Mitchell & Rocky Springs Stable, Brenda Vostreys, Betty Altman, Jane Estes, Paulette Wallace, Lisa Creedon, Shirley Howard & Southern Grace Farm, R. Placek, and Linda & Craig McKinney. Please continue to send in your POP's & spread the word too. Let's give every horse in Georgia a chance at a happy, healthy life.

With my sincere gratitude,
Ginny Scarritt

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

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

Unusual Art Object for GERL Online Auction

We will be offering an authentic 1993 US Arabian Western Pleasure, Jr. Horse, National Championship Trophy which is topped by the famous Gladys Brown Edwards sculpture depicting the perfect Arabian horse. The trophy stands 17 inches tall and is 16 ½ inches wide. The base is beautiful light wood and the statue appears to be pewter. Sadly, the original owners of the winning horse are deceased so that is why the trophy became available. Even though this prize was won by someone we don't even know, it remains a treasured art object for those of us who love Arabians and can imagine the pride it once brought to someone who shared that love and was fortunate enough to own a national champion in their lifetime! An email will go out to announce the start of our next online auction. Additional details available by contacting

Miss Anne @ missanne612@bellsouth.net.



GDA Horse Auction at Lee Arrendale Prison Impound a Success

by Cynthia Brayton

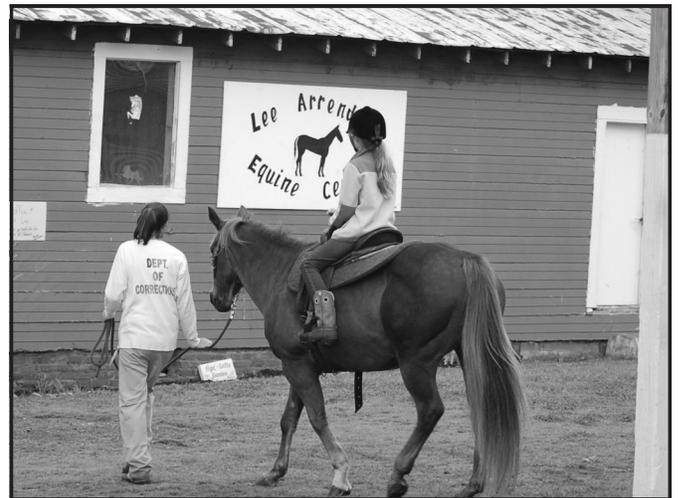
The rain did not dampen the spirits of the buyers, impound staff, inmates and GERL volunteers at the GDA Auction at the Arrendale Impound. As everyone gathered an Arrendale inmate sang our national anthem. Her beautiful voice touched everyone who was standing proudly with their hands on their hearts. The GDA volunteers led by Linda Kundell and Lynn Yates went right to work setting up the merchandise table and flea market just before the rain started. We fired up the grill to cook as the auctioneer fired up the buyers to bid.



stances that led to the horses entering the GDA program were dire but the GDA's partnership with Arrendale Women's prison is a win-win. When the auction was finished the once empty horse trailers were all filled with horses that were going to enjoy a better home than they came from although it would be hard to beat the loving care and attention the inmates provided for them. The women I talked to were sad to see the horses leave because they had become attached to them. These women made such a difference in these horses' lives. Truly the women at Arrendale and the horses in their equine program have been given a second chance.

The horses were mostly yearlings but there were also several rideable horses and all fetched a good price. The inmates at Arrendale who wish to participate in the equine program have special privileges and must be exemplary prisoners one inmate told me. She said this program made a difference in her life and she has only six months to finish serving her sentence. The fillies and colts were led into the roundpen by inmates and could those babies lunge - I thought I was at a horse show. The inmates are taught equine care by a staff of experienced personnel who have an true desire to see the women learn a skill and better their lives.

The bids on the horses were great and we knew they were finding their forever homes. The circum-



Update on Smokey, Now Named Hershey Kiss

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates and Molly Showman Snyder

LYNNE ROBINSON YATES: Smokey is a thoroughbred cross who was only about 1 year old when he came into the GERL foster program. He was rescued along with his father Leroy and his half-brothers Hay Baylor and Sable. He was first fostered by Steven Neal and then he went to live with Elaine Bishoff who was willing to provide him with much needed training. Elaine ended up fostering Smokey for several years before we were able to find him a wonderful new home. During the time that Smokey was with Elaine she taught him everything a young gelding needs to know, all the way from ground manners to giving him a great start under saddle.

I started as an Area Coordinator in 2012 and one of my first tasks as a new AC was to inspect the barn for a young lady who wanted to adopt Smokey. I drove to Powder Springs and met Molly Showman Snyder. Molly is the Barn Manager at Sydney's Stables and she also gives riding lessons. Her current lesson horse, also named Smokey, was getting on in years and Molly wanted to go ahead and get a younger horse and get him trained before she retired her Smokey.

After talking to Molly for just a few minutes, I knew that Smokey would be in good hands with Molly. She was committed to giving Smokey the training he needed to make a great lesson horse. The barn was spotless and beautiful. The pasture was expansive and full of grass. I knew that Smokey would be very happy with Molly. After Molly took possession of Smokey, I "friended" her on Face book so that I could keep up with Smokey's progress. Before long, I was seeing pictures of Smokey with a smiling child on his back. I asked Molly for an update here is the rest of the story.

MOLLY SHOWMAN SNYDER: Let me start by saying that his foster mommy, Elaine Bishoff, did a fantastic job starting him under saddle. Elaine had told me he had only had about 30 rides under his belt. He has been such an easy gong horse. When I went to try him out before adopting him he was such an angel, even with it being a windy cold day. I knew he had a good head on his shoulders. I adopted him in the middle of March 2012 as a birthday present to myself.



Also, so he could slowly start in my lesson program and lessen the burden on my 21 year old gelding Smokey.

Once he was officially mine, it was time to find a new name because I didn't want to have two Smokeys. All my lesson students helped in finding the perfect name for him. Hershey Kiss was the one that stuck. When I got him to his new home he settled in quickly and enjoyed his new pasture mates. I started training immediately. My original plan was to wait until fall to start him with the advanced lesson kids. In June, plans quickly changed. My 21 year old horse, Smokey, somehow injured his ligament. It was stall rest for him for the next few months. By that point, Hershey was a willing horse under saddle and he really enjoyed the lesson kids. They spoil him SO much! I started letting my advanced students ride him, and then my intermediate riders, and then my beginners. He was perfect for them. He really "babysat" the students.

Now Smokey is all better and lessons are split between the both of them. When the students have the option to pick who they want to ride, most of the time they pick Hershey!

I am SO happy I found Hershey. I have bonded with him a great deal and he has found his forever home!

Happy Endings ... “A little ditty ‘bout Carl and Dianne...”

By Suzi Kersey

Dianne’s happy ending begins with a GERL rescue on a cold and rainy night, the tragic loss of her companion, two frightened goats, a predator on the loose, and a new Georgia resident with a big heart for animal rescue.



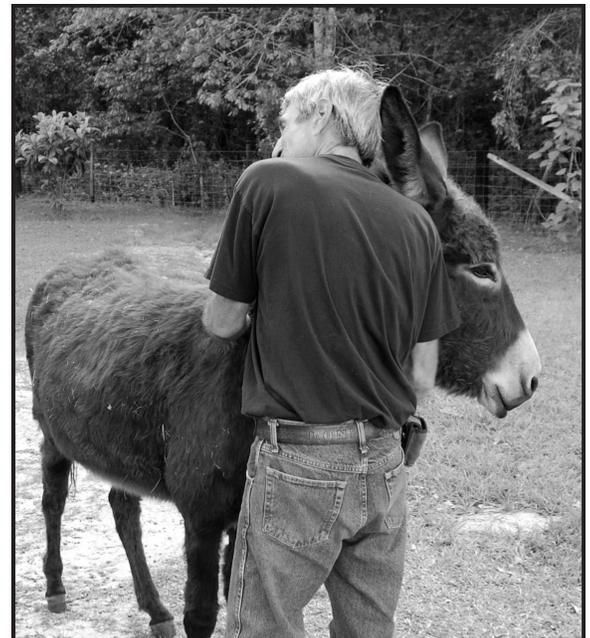
Candler County resident, Carl Berman, moved from New York to his new home near Metter just last year, bringing with him his two rescued dogs and two rescued goats, Georgie and Martha. One day, when Georgie and Martha failed to show up for their usual morning visit to his back porch, he knew something was very wrong. The agitation of his dogs and the freshly killed small animal carcass he found strengthened his conviction that a predator had passed nearby, but the frightened expressions on the faces of his normally confident and loving goats as they cowered in the barn, confirmed it all. Georgie and Martha needed a ‘big sister’ to protect them and Carl knew just where he wanted to look. He found GERL’s website on the internet and immediately placed a request for a small donkey whenever one became available.

Well... it just so happened that....While Carl was in the process of searching GERL for a little donkey, GERL was in the process of rescuing two precious little donkeys named Jack and Dianne. Having been starved, neglected and abused, Jack’s story would sadly end soon after his rescue, despite GERL’s valiant efforts to save him, but little Dianne’s journey was about to begin. After being lovingly cared for in her first weeks of rescue by her foster parents, Tommy and Ruth Wilson, Dianne then needed a very special forever home with someone who would help her continue to gain confidence on her road to recovery...someone who would be her family...someone with a big heart for animal rescue...someone she could trust... actually, someone a lot like Carl Berman. You know, sometimes, Heaven just smiles.

Dianne, also known as “Princess Di,” is now living happily in her new home, along with Georgie, Martha, two dogs, and Carl. She has free access to her barn at all times, plenty to eat (including peppermints!), her own small garden to browse, and a huge enclosed yard where she can wander freely with her new friends. It’s not unusual to see Carl working on the renovations to his new home while ‘his kids’ hang around to keep him company. They are, indeed, family. Dianne sleeps in the barn with Georgie and Martha, then greets Carl with a loud bray every morning when he goes to the porch to drink his coffee. The routine is always the same...Carl goes to the porch, Dianne brays, Carl says “Good Morning. I’ll come get you after my first cup of coffee.” Dianne brays. Soon after, he opens the barn gate and Dianne, Georgie and Martha join him for the day’s adventures.

Carl says his first realization of Dianne’s love and devotion came when he was taking ‘the family’ out for an evening walk (yes, he does that!) and Dianne got a little bit behind the rest. Suddenly he heard hoofbeats thundering up the path and spun quickly, thinking that she was about to run them all down...not a chance! Once Dianne caught up with the group, she snuggled right up to Carl and settled down for the rest of the walk, obviously content in the knowledge that she is now right where she belongs, a precious and treasured member of the family.

We, ourselves, learned long ago that you don’t choose whether or not to adopt a donkey - they choose whether or not to adopt you. With that in mind, I can say, without any doubt that Carl, Georgie and Martha have been completely adopted into Dianne’s gentle heart and that they all will be forever safe and loved. It’s just what families do.



**GERL MEMBER, JACK CASHIN
OF CHUKKAR FARM AND POLO CLUB**

is again hosting an

Exhibition Polo Match

All Proceeds to Benefit

Georgia Equine Rescue League



Cold Bottled Water
and Soft Drinks
Available

Admission: \$15.00
Per person



COME ON OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN!

BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND A PICNIC BASKET.

ENJOY WATCHING EXPERT HORSEMANSHIP.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING SPORT!

SILENT AUCTION



Date: Sunday, July 14, 2013

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>



A Note from the Secretary's Desk

GERL has always had a phone number where people could call to report any number of horse related problems. Members of the Board of Directors have traditionally taken turns, one week at a time, answering the phone lines and trying to solve the many problems presented. Not many years ago, to give the five members of the Board some relief from this regular and time consuming duty, we put together a roster of GERL members who agreed to help with the phone lines. That has worked out beautifully and it has a side benefit of familiarizing more members with the processes involved with the day to day workings of the organization.

Well, “they” have taken me off of the GERL Phone Line Duty roster. In other words, I’m fired. There are a couple of reasons and I am fine with it. One reason is that I have answered those calls for so many years and have simply become exhausted with solving “people problems”. I never mind helping any horse in any way but it is horse owners (people!) who cause me a great deal of frustration. Example: Why would anyone who has a family, living on welfare or at a poverty level, and can’t pay their rent or mortgage, accept ownership of a horse?! Well, it happens every day.

Some of these people simply make the decision to feed their kids (a GOOD thing!) instead of their horse, and the horse starves to death (NOT a good thing!). Thankfully, there are some who reach out to GERL for help. If their hardship is temporary, we have a crisis intervention program which provides financial help to buy feed and hay, for a set amount of time. Most often, however, these people know that their lives will never change (and I wonder if they are even willing to put out the

“sweat equity” needed to make such changes happen).

After the initial thrill of horse ownership becomes the reality of regular and costly feeding, grooming, foot care, dental care, and having to deal with mountains of manure, they simply want to “get rid of” their horse. They expect that we will take the horse, find it a new home, and it will live happily ever after. Wouldn’t that be nice?

The problem is that there are too many such situations. GERL cannot possibly step up and relieve these people of their responsibility concerning THEIR horse (s). In most cases, GERL is the first call these people make. They do not want to even make an effort to rehome their horse. Can you feel my frustration at being caught between contempt for low life horse owners and concern for the horses?

It is very often my concern for the horses that prompts me to deviate from GERL protocol and end up “giving away the farm”. I absolutely understand that we have procedures which must be followed or we would soon exhaust our precious financial resources and therefore, not be able to continue to help horses at all! Still, there stands a skinny, suffering, old horse needing care.

So that is the second reason “they” have fired me from the phone line roster. I don’t seem to be able to understand or adhere to the GERL protocols for acceptable ways for GERL to help horses. Now, don’t get me wrong. The protocols are excellent and very necessary. However, at age 71, I am not even going to apologize for my “mushy” heart where horses are concerned. I will just continue to help with GERL events where we raise money to help horses in many ways and work every day in my office for the organization. The young “whippersnappers” can take care of the day to day problems as they arise.....and believe me, the problems will just keep on coming! Thanks to you, “Whippersnappers”. I love and appreciate each of you!

New Arrivals-Mansfield Impound

We recently had a brand new baby born at Mansfield on May 12th, 2013, Mothers Day!!! New baby colt. Deputy, was named by long time volunteer Carol Doeffinger. He is a big baby! Below are pictures of him of on birth day with Carol and two days old with Willie.



We also want to welcome our March Baby Hope! She was born on March 8th, 2013 and pictures below Hope's playing with Willie!

First Annual Middle Georgia GERL Spring Ride At Mingo Trails

By Eddie O'Hern

WOW! What a great time we all had at the First Annual GERL Spring Ride at MINGO Trails Ridding Club. If you missed it you missed a good one.

We had a good turn out of around 50 folks in spite of the weather man telling us it was going to rain. (Which it never did) Some folks wanted a bit of extra ridding time and came in on Thursday but most everyone showed up on Friday and started setting up their camp sites. There were sure some beautiful horses there and a lot of great people. I met some awesome new friends and got to visit with old friends I had not seen for a while. Our hosts from MINGO were the BEST and so very accommodating. There was nothing we needed that was not provided.



Saturday morning started off with a wonderful breakfast made by the MINGO folks in the club kitchen. We are grateful to those who prepared it.

The rides at 10:00AM and 2:00PM were led by Billy Bisette, President of MINGO Saddle Club. Both rides went out on time and everyone had an enjoyable time. The trails are beautiful and offer a very relaxed ride. One of the favorites is the trail they have named the "Roller Costar Trail" it is up and down and follows along a drop off to the creek. All the trails wind around the woods and provide a wonderful look at some of Middle Georgia's great outdoors and wild life.

Activities on Saturday evening began at 6:00 PM with a Pot Luck supper that was out of this world. If you



didn't get enough to eat it was, for sure, your own fault. There were some great deserts that came with it too. Thanks to MINGO for providing the iced tea. Right after supper we had our live auction featuring the great auction calling of Jack Upshaw of Warner Robins. Jack was calling it out like the professional he is. It was a wonderful turn out and we made \$1,037.00 for our cause (GERL). We all had a great time at the supper and the auction. Thanks to Jack for calling the auction. And thanks to our auction helpers, Jim, Harry and Sherry Strickland, Kristy Herak, George and Janice Lilley, Devin O'Hern, Patty Livingston and Sarah Schelkoph.



Susie Hansen and Scott Harris

All day Saturday our GERL booth was open for business, thanks to George and Janice Lilley. Through their efforts we brought in \$258.00 from donations and sales. The registration was also done at our booth and produced \$945.00. We picked up one new member (\$35.00) for GERL with many others stating they will be joining. Over all we did very well for our first Trail Ride in Middle Georgia. Our total profit for GERL came to \$2,057.50. Not too shabby...

Our 50-50 Raffle was won by one of the MINGO members, Randy Carter. He and GERL split the pot and both took home \$227.00. The Raffle was a success.

I want to give a huge THANK YOU to all who volunteered to help make this event such a wonderful success. There were some truly special folks helping me with all of the planning and preparation. Thank you goes out to George and Janice Lilley, Jim and Sherry Strickland, Kristy Herak and Sarah Schelkoph. Without your help, this would never have happened.

A very special Thank You goes out

to C.W. and Mary Duke and Family, owners of the property. You are a truly wonderful family for letting your beautiful property be used by many who appreciate a safe place to camp, enjoy friendships, and their horses. We can't forget a heartfelt special thank you to Billy and Terrie Bissette and the other MINGO members for their wonderful hospitality.

After the ride we, along with the MINGO folks decided to make this ride an annual event on the last weekend of April every year. So everyone put it on your calendars and look forward to a great time at MINGO in Toombsboro Georgia next year. And if you're looking for a great riding club MINGO is one of the best, join them and ride when-

ever you like. I for one am planning on becoming a member.

And last but not least, I'd like to say thank you to all of the GERL and MINGO folks who showed up to help support GERL. We all had a wonderful time and look forward to next year.



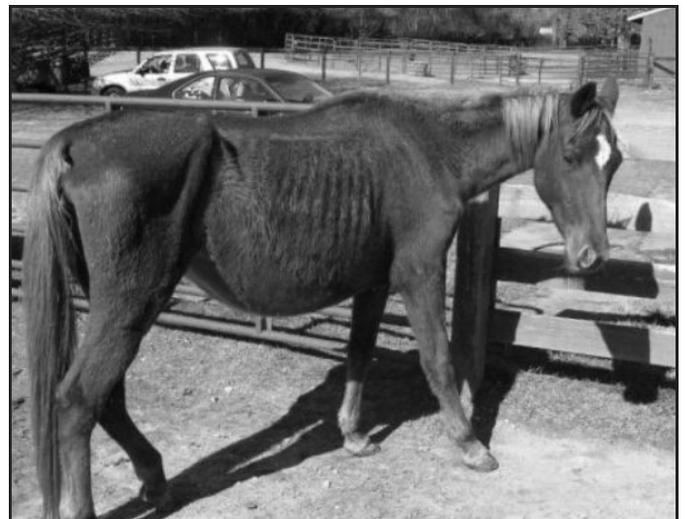
"Yes, he is real"

Positive Referral Club at Loganville Middle School

GERL is once again, honored to be chosen as the recipient of funds raised by the Positive Referral Club at Loganville Middle School. This club is made up of outstanding young citizens and membership is by invitation only. Led by Mrs. Jody Wisdom, these fine young people come together each spring to work on a project that will benefit the community or other special area of need. Just as they did last year, they set a goal to raise \$1000 for starved, abandoned, or mistreated horses in Georgia. They reached their goal and GERL has received their check for \$1000! Thank you Positive Referral Club and Ms. Wisdom!

GDA Success Stories

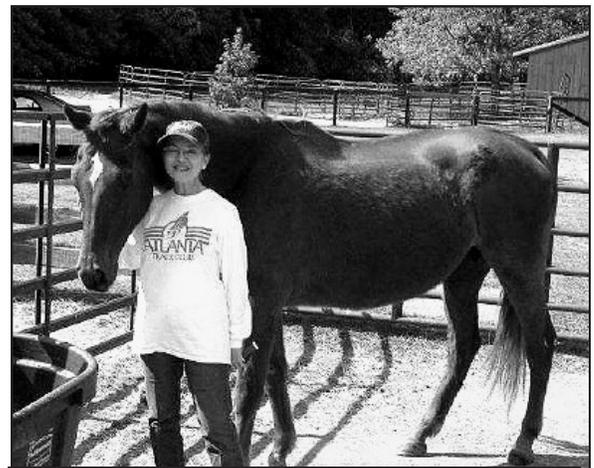
Charlotte came into the program in February 2012 her incoming weight was 800lbs. We all were concerned that she wasn't going to make it. She was very weak. She was immediately adored by all of the volunteers at the Decatur impound. Andrea, volunteer, took a loving shine to her. As she regained her strength and began to put on weight slowly but surely. Andrea inquired about purchasing her and continuing her rehabilitation under her care. Pictured below is Andrea & Charlotte before leaving the Decatur impound. Charlotte's departing weight was 923lbs and was to continue gaining at her new home! Andrea and Charlotte are doing well. Below is Charlotte fully rehabilitated, healthy and happy!!



This is Charlotte—Before.



This is Charlotte—After.



Andrea and Charlette

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Book Fair in Middle Georgia

By Janice Lilley

It was a dark and stormy night..... Sorry. I always wanted to start a story that way. Actually it was a cloudy and rainy day on May 18, 2013, the day we chose to have our book fair.

Sometime in March George and I went to Books-a-Million (BAM) to ask for donations for our trail ride auction. The nice manager who helped us politely told us that they could not donate anything to us from the store. She then went on to tell us about the "bookfair" program that the BAM Corporation offers.

It works like this. A charitable organization picks a day and a start time to have a book fair. The book fair runs for 5 hours. The organization fills out the request form, receives a book fair number and prints out vouchers downloaded from the BAM website. The members of the organization then pass out the vouchers to friends and family. They can also pass them out to customers as they enter the store during the fair times. Each purchase made using the voucher gets a donation to the organization from BAM. The donation is 10% of sales up to \$2000 of receipts during the fair. It goes up to 20% for sales over \$2000 and so on.

Our book fair was set up at the Warner Robins Books-a-Million store. We set up our table and display board, talked to people about GERL and passed out about 300 vouchers at the door. At the request of the store manager, we had Goldie, the unofficial GERL of middle GA spokes horse, there for people to see and greet. As always, Goldie was a big hit with the visitors.



Samson has a new forever home!

By Becky Gregory

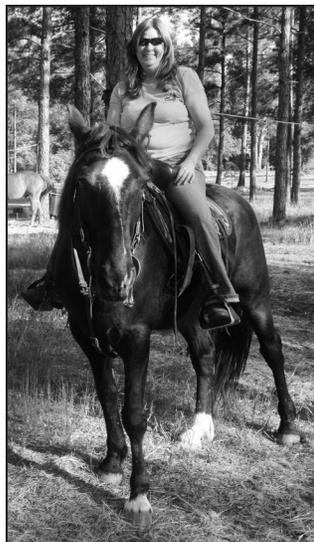
I didn't have a trail horse, although I was riding everyone else's extra horse. My friend, Diana Kelsey, told me that the GDA asked GERL to help them find a home for a black TWH named Samson who had been returned after being sold at one of their auctions. He was a starved stallion when he was impounded by the State and was gelded shortly after coming into their program.

Patty Livingston fostered Samson and started working with him and taking him on trail rides. I went over to Patty's farm to check him out and I immediately liked him. I kept in touch with Patty over the next several weeks to see how he was coming along. All that was left was to actually ride him and I got the opportunity when I went down to the GERL spring ride at Mingo Trails. I fell in love with Samson, so much so that we loaded him up on Diana's trailer and he got dropped off at my house on the way home.

After coming to live at my farm he started going through fences for grass on the other side. I have never seen anything like it. He doesn't jump them, he just climbs and the fence comes down. We put him in the pasture that has hot wire and he is staying put. He hangs out with a retired horse named Nick. There are other horses, goats, sheep and cows all around their pasture, so they have plenty of company.

Samson and I hope to see you all at a GERL ride in the near future!

Happy Trails,
Becky & Samson



2013 GERL Calendar of Events *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Exhibition Polo Match

July 14, 2013

Chukkar Farms, Alpharetta, Ga.

Fright Fest

October 19, 2013

**Fall Fest will be held at
Bull Mountain in Dahlonega, Ga.**

Annual Stallion to Gelding

Castration Day

November 19th

**Various Participating
Vets Across Georgia**

GERL Christmas Party

December 14th

Bethlehem, Ga.

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

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

Thank You For Your Foster Homes

Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf / Lucky
Michelle Williams /Joker & Kiester
Cindy Farris /Angel, Eloise & Skye
Heatherlee Hammonds / Rocky
Lester and Diane Aradi/ Beau
Ann Murphy / Lizzie
Brannon Reeves / Payday
Alicia Mohr / Dakota
Beth Eavenson /Alf
Jackie Moore & Leslie Lambert / Vandy

Anne Ensminger / Honor
Elaine Bishoff / Buddy
Debora Hines / Crystal
Debra Young / Ginger & Hoss
Susan Prugh / Jessie
Kim and Dan Smith /Spook & China
Patty Livingston / Rhythum and Little Joe
Tamma Trump /Twilight
Leslie & Ernie Gassman / Cody & Gracie
Linda Kundell / Starr

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

Josey Gets a Home

By Anne Ensminger

Josey is a large, older Appaloosa (we THINK) gelding. I have no idea how he came into our program but he has been with us for quite some time. Patti and Phil Henry of Monroe have been providing foster care for him and they tell us that he will be missed around their farm. Still, we are all delighted when one of our horses gets a forever home. Not a particularly beautiful horse, but quiet and respectful in all matters which includes his immediate acceptance of several goats with which he has been sharing a pasture, we knew that Josey would make a good first horse for someone.

That someone appeared in the person of Isaac Brisbane who came all the way from Dooley County to meet Josey. Isaac and his wife are retired and have several grandchildren who love horses and want to learn to ride. The Brisbanes did not take the first horse they looked at. In fact, it took over a year for them to choose one. Isaac told me that he wanted Josey from the first time they met. That's the kind of home we try to find for EVERY horse in our care.

GERL is actually quite a large organization if you consider how many members we have BUT, when it comes to transporting horses, there are only a handful of people who are equipped and willing to help in that way. That duty very often falls to Patty Livingston, who is of course, the GERL President and already has too many things "on her plate", as she says. Still, when one of our horses gets a home, eve-

rything is put on a back burner until we get that horse settled, so Patty was happy to say she would transport Josey. I tagged along for company. Besides, a four hour drive (each way) gives Patty and I time to discuss the many things that excite us about ways GERL can help horses in the future. The future for GERL is a work in progress, as is each of our lives.

When Josey stepped off of the GERL trailer, it was as if he knew he was home. He just walked into his pasture with the nice little shed for shade, met his pasture mate (a mare) and dropped his head to graze. She was much more curious about him than he was about her. He never even lifted his head to whinny a good bye and that was just fine with us. We felt good about leaving him there with Isaac. We'll be checking on Josey but this is one happy ending that we think will last for a very long time.



In Memory of Ray Nunley

Loganville Mayor Ray Nunley passed away on April 16th. Mr. Nunley had been the Mayor for Loganville for 5 years. He loved showing prize winning cutting horses and was a member of the AQHA and the NCHA. We would like to thank the Nunley family who requested that memorials be made to the Georgia Equine Rescue League.

Dept. of Ag Mansfield Horse Auction

by Patty Livingston

We couldn't have ordered better weather for the recent Department of Agriculture's horse auction that was located at their Mansfield impound. There were twelve horses on the roster and a small crowd of folks who came out with the hopes of taking one or two home with them. This was evident by the number of vehicles parked along the fence that had empty trailers attached. This was definitely a good sign for what was to come.

I arrived about 9:00 am to start setting up the three GERL booths that we would be manning that day. One for the food, one for t-shirts and one for the flea market, that has become one of our trademarks at the auctions. We had enough volunteers show up to have all three areas covered.

The Pulaski prison inmates arrived with saddles and bridles in hand. They gathered the horses that they had come to ride into the large arena across from the barn and began saddling. It was clear in a short time that they knew what they were doing. They have been riding many of these horses that came from the Pulaski impound prior to the auction. Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Mickey Farmer, arrived to do what he does best...squeeze money out of people! And he did an excellent job of that. All of the horses sold except one and the average amount of money that they brought has definitely come up compared to the auctions a year ago. I must add though, there were a good many nice, rideable horses in this group and that is what people are interested in today.

Big thanks to all of our volunteers who came out to help: Anne Ensminger, Cynthia Brayton, Lynne Yates, Valerie Puryear, Linda Kundell, Marian Finko, Cynthia Anderson, Leslie Lambert, Steven Neal, Jeanne Barsanti, Briar Murray and Susie Bond.



Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2013

by Lynne Robinson Yates

The fifth annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride (Gene Fest) was held on May 3-5, 2013 at the farm of Ron and Adriane Cook. This ride serves to honor Gene Ensminger's contribution to GERL and as well as to raise funds to support GERL's equine rescue programs.

Gene and Anne became members of GERL shortly after it was formed. Gene served on the Board of Directors and was instrumental in developing and publishing the bylaws under which GERL operates. At his own expense, he made a number of slings and presented them to the GDA. Gene loved attending



GERL events, but he missed church on Sunday morning, so he started Cowboy Church. I have been told more than once that Gene was the heart of GERL.

Ron and Adriane's farm is the perfect place for a weekend trail ride. They have camp sites with electricity and water as well as primitive camping spots. There is a great big covered pavilion where the meals and auction took place.

As you might imagine, there is a great deal of planning that goes into a three-day event. A few days before the event, the forecast was for rain. Everyone was concerned that no one would show up so I headed for the farm on Thursday night hoping for the best.

Friday morning it was time to get everything ready.

Tables and chairs had been delivered and needed to be set up. The GERL merchandise trailer needed to be unpacked. Sue Wrensen arrived with her trailer full of goodies for the auction. LaVon Kern was there getting the flea market area set up. Diana Kelsey stayed busy most of the morning getting the mer-



chandise area set up. Jaye Herrington was busy in the kitchen area of the pavilion as well as attending to last minute details. Leigh Ann Holton and Amie Close and several other volunteers were on the scene to do whatever needed to be done. Ron and Adriane interrupted their farm chores to come and lend us a hand. Everyone jumped in to help and, by early afternoon, we had the pavilion set up and ready for the events to come.



Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2013

by Lynne Robinson Yates



While we were unloading Sue's trailer, we all had the opportunity to look at the quilt that had been made and donated by Lara Homans. It was made of GERL t-shirts and everyone was hoping to be the high bidder and take the quilt home. By the time Sue's trailer was unloaded, there were about 15 great big tables full of live and silent auction items. GERL sincerely thanks everyone who donated items for the auction.

A few people arrived on Friday and were able to go on a ride with Ron Cook leading the way. There had not yet been any rain and we all had our fingers crossed that maybe the rain would pass us by. The riders made it back late Friday afternoon and the rain arrived soon thereafter. It wasn't a deluge, but everyone sported umbrellas, rain coats and rain boots for the rest of the day.



Friday night was the potluck dinner. If you have never attended any of the GERL events, you have missed out on some great food. The table was laden with main dishes, side dishes and desserts, all cooked to perfection. After dinner, we had a cake walk. Later, there were some games played and then it was off to bed. We all fell asleep listening to the rain beating on the trailers.

On Saturday morning the rain was still coming down. People went to the pavilion to have a delicious breakfast catered by Allen Orr. It was still raining after breakfast, so many people hung out at the pavilion to visit. Some folks went back to their trailers to read or rest.

As the day went by, trailers started arriving. In spite of the rain, loyal GERL members and friends showed up to give their support. Many people worked very hard to make the event happen and they were all very grateful to the people who ignored the weather and came to the event.

About 7 pm Saturday night, it was time to begin the evening festivities. To kick off the evening, Patty Livingston, President of GERL, welcomed everyone to the event and thanked all the volunteers and sponsors who had made it happen. This was the first time GERL had corporate sponsors for the event. New South Equine in Watkinsville, Nash Chevrolet in Lawrenceville and Bar G Horse and Cattle in Bishop were our corporate sponsors. Dr. Jan and Robert Smith also provided support. Please let them know you appreciate their help the next time you visit their business.



Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride 2013

by Lynne Robinson Yates

The evening started with a delicious catered BBQ dinner supplied by Allen Orr. While everyone was enjoying the wonderful meal, Perri and Dan Walden played some great bluegrass music for everyone to enjoy. Perri is the daughter of Gene Ensminger and she and her husband Dan have played at Gene Fest for many years.



While we were all eating dinner, the silent auction was in play. After the silent auction was over, everyone was anxiously checking the bid sheets to see if they won their coveted item. Since silent auction bids are by number, some folks were surprised to find out the identity of their competitor.



Next up was the live auction. Mickey Farmer was the auctioneer extraordinaire. He once again donated his services to GERL as he has done for many years.

There was lots of spirited bidding, especially on the beautiful quilt. As we all expected, the quilt received the highest bid of the night.

The last event of the evening was live music provided by Mike Rogers, Ron Pennington, Tony Blackwell and Joey Cardel. They have been providing live music at Gene Fest for many years and everyone enjoyed the music and dancing. We even had someone up and dancing on the table. Did I mention it was still raining?

Sunday morning arrived with the rain still falling. Breakfast was again provided by Allen Orr and the hot meal was much appreciated given the weather and the rain. Cowboy Church was scheduled after breakfast and was led by Judy McCrory. After church, it was time to pack up and go home. Once the work was done, we all said our good byes and left for home.

GERL would like to thank everyone associated with Gene Fest. That includes the sponsors who provided financial support. It includes the board and committee leaders who worked so hard to plan the event. It includes the volunteers who showed up to lend a hand. It includes those who donated their services, or donated items for the auctions. And finally, it includes those who ignored the rain and came out to show GERL that our members are the best in the world. GERL was able to raise about \$4,400 and that is all because of you.

Gene Fest Sponsors

NewSouth Equine, Watkinsville

Nash Chevrolet, Lawrenceville

Bar -G-Horse & Cattle, Bishop

Dr. Jan & Robert Smith, Gainesville

Mickey Farmer, Auctioneer

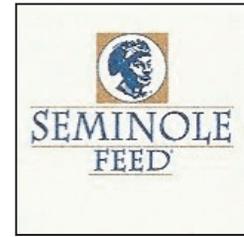
Quilts By Lara, Lara Homans

Honorariums

In Honor of:

- ◆ Beau by Jack & Dotti Carter.
- ◆ Tony Pyle and his dedication to a girl and her horse, by Kristin Tucker.
- ◆ Lisa Sikes—my donation to GERL is your Christmas present from your sister, Judy Gore!
- ◆ Tony & Susan McCullar, by Charles & Sandra Bone.
- ◆ Linda Schwab, my childhood friend and “stable brat” mate by Cheri Jordan.
- ◆ In honor of Jessica Rekos from the ESR Competition Team.

In honor of Betty Altman, who recently helped me with my new rescue and first horse! She was very gracious and generous! Holly Couch.



Seminole Feed Donates to GERL and GDA
Thanks to Seminole Feed for donating one and a half tons of feed to GERL to be used by the Lee Arrendale Prison Equine Impound located in Alto. Please take the time to thank Seminole Feed for this very important gift on behalf of GERL and the Georgia Department of Agriculture!

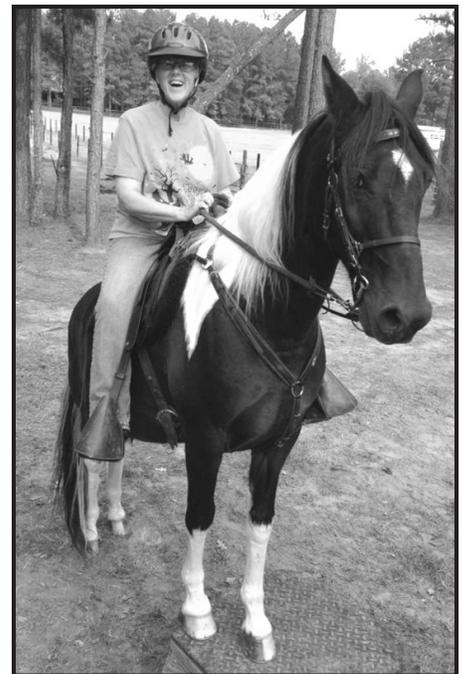
GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

This time, our featured volunteer is a lovely, smart, energetic lady who should have “NATURAL BORN VOLUNTEER” tattooed on her forehead! Any time there is something going on where help is needed, all we have to do is turn around and there is Linda Kundell. No matter how far she has to drive or how long she will be there, Linda makes herself available.

When asked to write for our newsletter about G.E.R.L. events she has attended, Linda never refuses and always manages to intertwine some of her ever present, tongue in cheek, humor into her colorful accounts.

I first became aware of Linda as an officer and volunteer for CTHA (Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association). Linda was always in attendance when we gathered up at Jake Mountain in Dahlonega to clean trails. Then, I learned that Linda was also an officer and volunteer with the Kelmec Saddle Club on one of the first occasions that organization presented G.E.R.L. with a very nice check at their end-of-year banquet. She seemed very interested in our mission and before we knew it, she had become a member and enthusiastically set out to make herself a very valuable member of our team of “helper bees”. G.E.R.L.’s gain did not take away one minute of the time she continued to give to C.T.H.A. and Kelmec and their various activities throughout the year.



A devoted wife and grandmother, Linda often finds time to enjoy riding her own horse, but it is her deep love of all horses that inspires her to do everything in her power to promote family activities involving them and to work very hard to help G.E.R.L. raise money to care for many equine which fall into unfortunate circumstances. Thank you for what you do, Linda Kundell!

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS



New Member	Referred By	From
Rebecca Bouras	GERL	Auburn, GA
Leah Fox	George Lilley	Warner Robins, GA
Debbie Frampton	GERL	Cumming, GA
Paul Frevele, Jr. & Family	Bob Long	Winder, GA
Mary Alice & Ben Hudson	GERL	Madison, GA
Al Chambless & Evelyn Ikner	GERL	Gordon, GA
Erin Jones	Sister	McDonough, GA
David Lee	Diana Kelsey	Gainesville, GA
Doramy Morgan	GERL	Blue Ridge, GA
Richard Naylor	GERL	Talking Rock, GA
John Palmer	George Lilley	Centerville, GA
Christine Rodick	Linda Kundell	Athens, GA
Sarah Schelkoph	Eddie O'Hern	Kathleen, GA
Chris Smith	George Lilley	Warner Robins, GA
Bonnie Smith	George Lilley	Warner Robins, GA
Don & Tina Vollrath	GERL	East Dublin, GA
Sue Hope Ware	Marion Finco	Gainesville, GA
Laura Williams, Blacks Mill Tree Farm	Patty Livingston	Dawsonville, GA
Carl Berman	GERL	Metter, GA
April Heiderich & Family	GERL	Anderson, SC
Layne Oldfield	Jim & Susan Stevens	Suwanee, GA
Nancy Atkinson	GERL	Gray, GA

If you have any questions about when you need to renew contact: Diana Kelsey; diana@gerlltd.org or 770-267-0867.

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

A Personal Tribute and Condolence

By Anne and Diana

We have served on the GERL Board of Directors with Patty Livingston for several years. We have come to know her, love her, and greatly respect her.

Many, many GERL members and friends have camped and ridden trails all over the southeast with Patty, her beautiful Walking Horse mare, "Lilly", and will recall that she was always accompanied in camp by her two dogs, Jackie O and Bud.

We all knew Jackie O and Bud through the puppy stage and into their older years as they began to show the unmistakable signs of age and physical decline, while remaining totally loyal to Patty, and she to them. Sadly, we must report that Patty recently lost both of these old friends within days of each other.



Our hearts ache when a friend must bare such a loss. Who among those of us, who love animals, knows not the emptiness with which our friend is left? We love you, Patty, and want you to know that we join you and many others who will also miss feisty little Jackie O and sweet old Bud.

Renewals due for July 2013

Damian & Rebecca Bartholomew & family
Ann Cofield
Adria D'Alesio
Suzanne Hanks
Valerie Purear
Lori Robertson & Family
Melody Sorrells & Family
Jessica Wheeler

Your membership dues help many horses each year. Please take time to renew today so that we can continue our important mission to save starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia.

Fill out and mail the form on the back of this newsletter, or go to www.gerlltd.org, click on membership and pay via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account.

GERL thanks you for supporting our cause! Tell a friend about us!

Thank you for your donations.

Karen Stubbs	Peggy Paris
Judith Clark	Lisa Casey
Bobbie Brown	Cynthia Adler
United Way of Central Indiana	Cork-Howard Construc- tion
Denise Mortensen	Debbie Powell & Family
Peggy Paris	Clay Atkins
AT&T United Way	Regina Parker
Lisa Clark	Susan Stevens

GERL would like to give SPECIAL thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Leeanna Dick
Nancy Fitzgibbons
Michael & Patricia Petelle
Sylvia Wade
Beulah Newton
Mark & Lynn Garrett
Audio Visual Atlanta
Tails of Joy, Elayne Boosler
Geri Kono

Thanks go out to the Athens Area Hunter-Jumper Assoc. for their generous donation!

Help spread the word about our organization, proceeds go to help our abused horses in the Georgia.

We have added a new online store of GERL logo merchandise. Please visit our newest online merchandise page <http://www.gerlltd.org>.



Memoriams

In Memory of:

Aladdin by Steven Neal
Hershel Crowder by Elaine Hargadon
Ace by Mary Jane McNeill
Draw by Judy Close
Whitson by Jane Estes
Possum by Diana Kelsey

In Memory of Ray Nunley

The Class of 1962
Rita Foust
Neal & Peggy Byrd
Jerry & Val Archbold

In Memory of Budski & Jackie O:

By Marian Finco

**Thank you for donating to the “Feed a Horse”
Program— for June 10th, 2013**

**Erik Wittenzellner
Ben & Mary Alice Hudson
Carol Royer
John Lynn**

Gene Fest

By Anne Ensminger

There are so many who deserve our thanks for making the “soggy” 2013 Gene Fest as success but I must single out one precious friend who went to extraordinary lengths to make the event even more special than usual for me.



Anne Ensminger

I am speaking of Jaye Herrington. Jaye had a friend (I’m sorry I don’t know the friend’s name) draw a delightful caricature of my Gene baking his famous Dutch oven biscuits beside a camp fire. She and Diana Kelsey had GERL event tee shirts displaying that picture, made for Gene Fest. It was a complete surprise to me when they unveiled and presented the first shirt to me at Gene Fest after the pot luck dinner on Friday. I was very moved by such a gesture and hope that many of Gene’s friends will buy one of the shirts at future Gene Fests! Thank you, Jaye!

**GERL Stallions to
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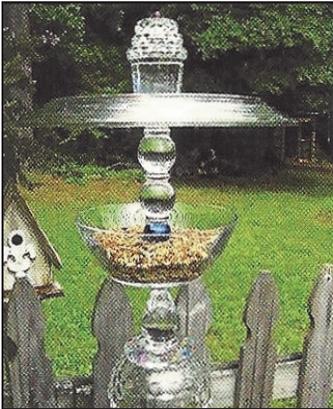


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_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

Annual membership dues are:

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In Honor of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

In Memory of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

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