



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May and June 2014

6th Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

By Patty Livingston

We had several meetings to get ready for the Gene Fest Ride. This year the format was changing and it would be a one-day event, much like the annual Poker Ride that we have hosted for the past 20 years. Still, it was different. It was a different venue than Dawson Forest, therefore, we would be able to hold our auctions, which was the secret to pulling in more money. We were only furnishing one meal, which was lunch on Saturday. The auctions would follow and the event would officially be over by 3:00 on Saturday. Of course, we

charged less because we weren't having to pay for a caterer to provide the other three meals. I was actually looking forward to the change. And, I know Miss Anne was looking forward to it because she brought a horse to ride!

Ron and Adriane Cook's beautiful farm is a great venue to hold a ride and having the luxury of camping with electricity and water, the pavilion, complete with kitchen, convenient high ties available for your horse, not to mention, two of the nicest people you will ever meet, make Round Oak one of my favorite places. Oh, and did I mention great trails? You can ride along the river in the cool shade, through a beautiful rug of fern and revitalize. All of this, within 2 hours of my

house!

The first two people I saw when I pulled in early Friday evening were Kay and Sonny Hinote. What a surprise to see them in the saddle, again! I waved and headed to the pavilion to drop off all of the food and auction stuff that I had



loaded into my truck and trailer. Miss Anne and Adriane helped me unload, as everyone else had gone out for a quick ride before dark. I was amazed at the amount of work that had already been done, as evidence by the auctions and flea

market that were already set up. I was also pleasantly surprised by the number of rigs that were there. It was going to be a beautiful weekend and we were the beneficiaries!

After dropping off half of my load at the pavilion, I pulled my rig into my camping spot and started setting up camp. After getting most of that accomplished, I decided to grab my camping chair and my dog and go camp-hopping. My first stop was a visit with Libby Whatley, Diana Kelsey and LaVon Kern, who were parked across from me. After dark, I made my way to the nearest campfire to help out with the drop in the temperature. I was again, reminded of how blessed we were with the weather.

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Sue, LaVon, Daniel, Cynthia and Linda

The next morning started early with people bustling about, feeding horses, saddling horses and getting ready for the day. There weren't that many day riders who arrived; nevertheless, we had a crowd on horseback. We posed out in the grassy area for a group photo and then hit the dusty trail. It was a great ride and wonderful to be on a horse, again. Ron brought us all back to camp in time for lunch.

We had a great group of volunteers who showed up to help put this event together, under the direction of GERL Event Coordinator, Jaye Herrington, and Volunteer Coordinator, Diana Kelsey. A HUGE THANKS to John Lynn and Carol Royer, Ronnie and Jack Pesserilo, Tanya Kingsley, Linda Kundell, Sue Wrensen, Lynne Yates, Tamma Trump, Anne Ensminger (of course), Cynthia Anderson, Ray and Pierette Ziebell, Donna Pieper and Keith Fleming, Mickey Farmer and everybody else who jumped in to help. We couldn't do this without YOU!

Linda Kundell had pulled the GERL cargo trailer to this event and had all of the GERL merchandise laid out. She has a couple of new items that have been added to the inventory, including a rain coat and travel coffee mug. The merchandise was laid neatly on top of a piece of plywood across two saw horses, compliments of our hosts, Ron and Adriane Cook. A couple of our dark green table cloths completed the look of pure professionalism. After six years of hosting Gene Fest in the same location, we have it down to a science.

Ray Ziebell and Jack Pesserilo volunteered to cook the Italian sausage and chicken breasts for lunch. They did a great job, too! All of the food was delicious and we have our friend, Alan Brown, President of Cut Your Food Costs, to thank since he donated the food to GERL.

We closed out the silent auction shortly after lunch, giving a last call to any last minute bidders. At 2:00 Mickey started the live auction, doing what he does best...pull money out of folks! I had given a short speech entitled "it's ok to go home with empty pockets" prior to the start, so I was hoping for BIG results! And, things did get off to a great start with the first few items bringing great profits for GERL. And then, Mickey auctioned off a \$50 Gift Certificate to Bass Pro Shop for \$90! And, so it went, time after time. People opened up their hearts and

pockets and GERL ended up the winner. When I think about how much money it is costing GERL to take care of the small herd of horses that was picked up by the Georgia Department of Agriculture a few weeks ago, it puts things in perspective. Every dollar we raise at these fundraisers is going towards helping horses.

One of the things I always like to talk about is the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award. I made two home-made display boards that weigh about fifty pounds each, and I drag them all over Georgia to set up at our event so that we can display this award. I want to display our winners and tell everybody about Marty Paulk and what she did for GERL (and horses, in general) and what it means to win the award. My sentiments are the same with regard to hosting this ride in memory of Gene Ensminger. One of the louvered display boards is dedicated to his memory. We have five or six pictures of him with his horse and family so that people who didn't know him can get a mental picture of the man for which our ride is named. He did a lot of wonderful things for GERL, for which I am happy to work to raise money for horses in his honor.



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As soon as the auction was over, we pulled the winning raffle tickets for the two week-long vacations we've been promoting for the past six months. Jaye Herrington, our beloved Event Coordinator, was the winner of the trip to Kissimmee and Lee Hix from Cleveland, GA, was the winner of the trip to Panama City. Lee is an EMT and administrative assistant in an Urgent Care office in Gainesville. Thanks to Dr. Jan Smith for donating these two raffle opportunities to GERL. Funds from the sale of the raffle tickets helped boost our bottom line.



Screw your neighbor crowd

Everybody gathered up their stuff and started back to their trailers. It was only around 3:00 and we (volunteers) were "officially" off the clock. It was a great day for GERL and this new found "freedom" for the remainder of the weekend made us all feel great! Several people were saddling their horses to go back out on the trail, including Miss Anne who hadn't been able to go out earlier because of registration duties. I enjoyed sitting in a chair under the pavilion with several other friends, just doing nothing. I really like this new format. It is the answer to several problems, including the high incidence of burn-out. Not to mention how much less our expenses were for this event, compared to last year. We done good!

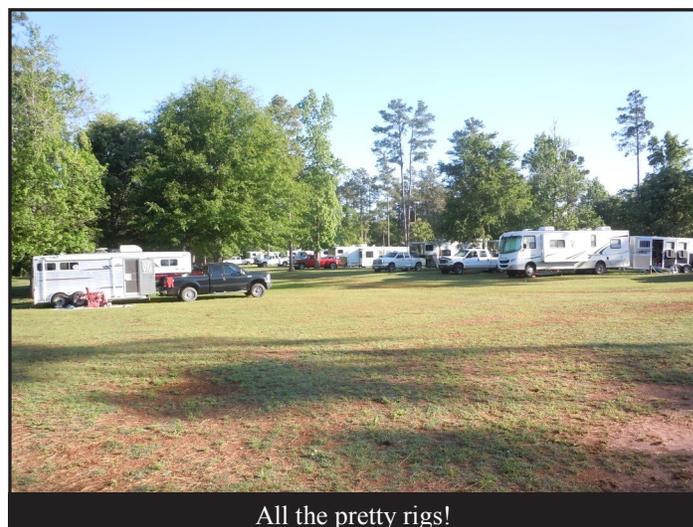
That evening, Mike Rogers brought out his guitar and played for a small crowd hanging out at the pavilion. LaVon and several other volunteers were packing up all of the flea market stuff that didn't sell. They just joined in with the music! I always enjoy hearing Mike sing and several others must have thought the same thing because more people came back to the pavilion and hung out for a while.

After everybody had left the pavilion and headed for



Anne Ensminger & Mike Rogers

bed, a small group of us had a late night card game of "Screw Your Neighbor". It is the most fun you can have with \$3 and a deck of cards. Sue Wrensen won the pot, much to her surprise because she "never wins anything"! We had a lot of laughs and a whole lot of fun at Gene Fest 2014! Precious Memories, as Willie would say.



All the pretty rigs!

Who's Who

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GERL Advisory Board

Billy Myers, DVM

Rhonda Veit, 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.

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Area Coordinator Director, North GA.

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GDA and Other Updates

For those of you who like to know where GERL spends your donated dollars, below is an update since our last quarterly newsletter:

GERL accepted a horse impounded by Morgan County Animal Control into the foster program.
GERL recently took two horse from the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture that didn't fit their curriculum.
GERL recently paid \$7,197 for feed for the Mansfield Impound for the current quarter.
GERL recently paid \$4,200 for grading work and planting grass seed for the Pulaski Impound.
GERL paid \$4,343 for vet care for horses at the Mansfield Impound for the current qtr.
GERL recently paid \$960 for hay for the Pulaski Prison Equine impound.
GERL paid \$2,042 on hay and feed for the Lee Arrendale Prison Impound for this quarter.

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

Fresh Egg Frittata

(for all those egg farmers out there!)

4 large eggs
4 tbs. water (NOT MILK)
dash pepper

2 oz. thin sliced prosciutto, chopped
4 oz. mozzarella, shredded
4 oz. can sliced mushrooms, rinsed and well drained

2 tbs. olive oil

Preheat oven to 375. Heat the olive oil in a cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Meanwhile, lightly beat the eggs, water, and pepper. Stir in the prosciutto, mozzarella and mushrooms. Swirl the olive oil in the skillet so that it is evenly coated, then pour in the egg mixture. Bake for 10 minutes; knife inserted should come out clean. Slice and serve with fresh melon or garden salad as a side. Makes a great quick brunch or dinner!



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

2014 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

July 13 - Polo Match - Milton

**Nov. 8th - GERL Stallion to Gelding
Castration Day - Various Castration
Clinics Across Georgia**

**Nov. 15th - GERL Rescue Challenge
UGA livestock arena—Athens, Ga**

**December 13th
GERL Christmas Party
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.*





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

Is Hosting

Exhibition Polo Match

Proceeds to Benefit

Georgia Equine Rescue League



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!

Flea Market

SILENT AUCTION



Cold Bottled Water
and Soft Drinks
Available

Hamburgers
&
Hotdogs

Admission: \$15.00
Per Person

DATE: Sunday, July 13, 2014

Time: Gate opens @ 1 PM Match @ 2 PM

Where: Chukkar Farm and Polo Club

1140 Liberty Grove Rd. Alpharetta, GA

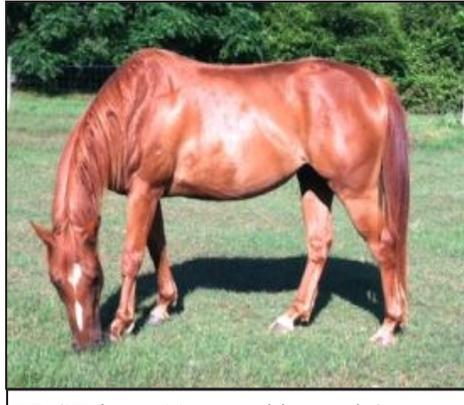
Driving Directions: <http://www.chukkarfarm.com>

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator.
(706) 376-2410 / adopt@gerlltd.org



STARR is a bay 8 year old Mustang. He is doing very well with his ground manners and gets along with other horses. Starr has very sensitive skin and bugs really bug him. He is looking for that person that can take him to the next level of his training under saddle.



IRISH is an 11 year old sorrel Quarter Horse. He has recovered from fractured withers and is ready to go back into light training. Irish is very well broke and with some tuning up will make you a wonderful riding horse. He loves attention and will melt your heart.



"Meet **Bonnie & Clyde**" 2 mini donkeys. They are about 5 years old and as sweet as can be. Clyde is an in your pocket boy while Bonnie is a bit shy-er. They have both been handled expertly by their foster folks. Bonnie & Clyde will only be adopted together. They will make wonderful pets...."

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



BLAZE is a 18 year old Paint mare. She stands 13.3 hh. She has a nice disposition and does ride, but requires an experienced rider.

She loves attention and is the first to leave the pasture to come to the fence for petting. Blaze is looking for the perfect person to take her to her forever home.



My friends here are watered, fed, vetted and ready for a new home...just saying.



GERL Attends the Lee Arrendale Horse Auction

By Patty Livingston

On Saturday, June 21st, the Lee Arrendale State Prison Equine Impound held a horse auction to sell nine horses that were in their facility as a result of their previous owners' lack of care. It was a hot day with temps already in the 80's when we arrived at 9:00. Our saving grace, we were on a hill and there was a fine breeze.

Lynne Yates arrived first with all of the food and drinks that we would be selling that day. Some of the inmates helped her set up her canopy and tables and everything was pretty much done by the time I arrived a little after 9:00. We didn't have a lot of volunteers sign-up for this auction and it was also the first time that we didn't have the GERL cargo trailer there, but we had food and drinks and that was the most important thing.

There were a couple of other booths set up on the other side of the gate. Boling Feed Supply, the local feed store, was selling some neat horsey things and giving away door prizes. The other one was giving free pony rides for the kids. The prison fire department arrived, as they always do on an auction day, and all of the inmate fire were wearing big smiles. The chairs had already been set up around the arena, and the stage where Mickey would be standing to do the auction was already in place.

Our booth area was right beside the entrance gate, so we could see everybody who arrived. There were several familiar faces, including Sonny Hinote, our cook for the day, Starr Archer, David Lee, Judy Sophianopoulos and Mickey Farmer, just to name a few. We even had a surprise visit by Gary Black, our Georgia Ag Commissioner. Several of us remarked a couple of times that we needed more bidders to show up and occupy all of the empty blue chairs. The auction kicked off and most of the chairs remained empty.

Mickey was trying to get a bid on a beautiful yearling gelding who was having a little tantrum over being led around the round pen. His handler, one of the inmates, stood by patiently trying to calm him, but still nobody was bidding. Mickey, almost begging by this point, decides to have the Commissioner say a few words about this program and how important it is that these



Mat Thompson, Comm. Gary Black, Mickey Farmer, the Arrendale State Prison Fire Dept. and Captain Dennis Gallman pose for a photo after the auction.

horses go to new homes so that new ones can take their place. Commissioner Black then thanked the crowd for coming out, and Mickey immediately picked up where he left off, asking for a bid for the naughty little gelding. And he got one, too! Sadly, it was only \$25, but that is not the most important thing. The most important thing is that he found a new home.

This just goes to prove what I've been preaching for the past 5 years...babies do not sell well in GDA auctions. They should be moved on to local rescues, if possible. Unfortunately, if it doesn't ride, it typically doesn't sell. We have seen it time and again. And, one reason why is because the number of people who show up at these State horse auctions are very, very few. There were some great riding horses in this auction that went dirt cheap. It is painful to watch. Now, don't misunderstand, there were some great riding horses that also brought \$700 - \$800. This was a good day. All nine of the horses sold, leaving room for others.

Please help spread the news about our GDA Equine auctions. They have some great riding horses to pick from. Come out to the next one and see for yourself!



Ag. Comm. Gary Black gives a speech about the equine program while Mickey Farmer, an equine program inmate and Mat Thompson look on.



One of two yearlings that went up for bid at the auction. This one brought \$25.

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TOP GEORGIA TRAINERS



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ABILITIES IN 120 DAYS OF TRAINING.

Trainers: Danielle Crist, Jordan Falconer, Nancy Falconer, Jenny Fox, Lee Ann Gilson, Joann McBride, Stacey McCoy, Danielle Perry and Samantha Schrader.

Judges: Ed Dabney, Amanda Johnson and Eric Gray

Log onto <http://www.gerlltd.org> to purchase your tickets via Pay Pal.

Georgia Equine Rescue League, LLC * P.O. Box 328 * Bethlehem, Ga. 30620
<http://www.gerlltd.org>



NOVEMBER 15, 2014
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

UGA LIVESTOCK ARENA

2598 S. MILLEDGE AVE.
ATHENS, GA 30605

ADMISSION:
ADULTS: \$12.00
CHILDREN: \$5.00
(12 AND UNDER)

ADULT AND YOUTH
DIVISIONS

FIRST PLACE ADULT
\$1000.00
FIRST PLACE YOUTH
\$500.00

LIVE AUCTION
SILENT AUCTION

FOOD AVAILABLE

VENDORS

COST OF BOOTH
\$25.00

VENDORS CONTACT:
VENDORS@GERLLTD.ORG

Good-Bye Dear Friend!

By Sue Vetsch

About 14 years ago my family got a second horse. That meant we had to find a barn that we could afford since looking at close to \$1000 a month was not something we could do. So we searched high and low. Then we found a farm in Monroe owned by Wayne Schmitz. Wayne was so wonderful to my 2 young kids and great to help me with my Maggie Mae. There are so many stories to share. One is about the day we met our new farrier Ronnie Moore. Wayne took Danielle and a friend that was boarding and let them take a ride on Elvis. Next thing I know 2 girls bailed off. Or the story about all the birthday parties and cook outs that we have so many great memories. But one of the best for me was when Wayne said "Lets load up and go for a trail ride". Umm Maggie had not had too much saddle time on her when I got her from GERL. So I put my big girl jeans on and loaded up. So many eventful rides but the one I will always remember was when we were on the side of a mountain with multiple bikes coming up on us. To say that Maggie was not happy is such a serious understatement. So Wayne got behind me and parks Elvis across the path and told me to ride on and find a place to get her over. He sat there holding the bikes back until I was safe. Then he slowly came up with them following him. A day I will never forget. I can say that without Wayne's help Maggie would have never become the great trail horse she is now. We spent 3 hours at Tribble Mill going in and out of the water but after that she had no problem with water. Of course Wayne liked to have a beer or

two. So one day I asked him to carry a bottle of water for me. I cannot tell you how much he got on me when I did not drink my water and it took up room for other beverages. Of course always with lots of humor and kindness. He is the only person I know that had a Boston/Georgia accent. We were very happy for Wayne when he met the love of his life Cindy and got married. We missed his place but were so happy to finally have our own farm.

Not long ago Wayne called me and said he was ready to sell his farm as they were moving to TN. They took such great care of the beautiful 20 acre farm. Everything I asked they did. No matter what he was going to do what needed to be done. Wayne had fought lung cancer for 8 years. Until the very end he was always Wayne, joking and laughing. Just a few days ago he was showing me a new app. for my phone so I would not get lost. Early this morning Wayne lost his battle with Lung Cancer. When we're talking with Cindy she told us about one of the last conversations she and Wayne had. She told him the first thing he needed to do once he got to Heaven was find Elvis and go for a ride. So now my dear friend is up there with his beloved Elvis riding and smiling. We will miss him dearly! Please accept this donation to GERL on Wayne's behalf. He loved to go to the GERL trail rides.



Please "Like" Us on Facebook

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

As you probably already know, the Georgia Equine Rescue League has a Facebook page. We currently have around 5800 who "like" our page. With your help, let's see if we can get 10,000 "likes"!!!

By "liking" our page, you will receive up-to-the-minute information about everything GERL. On our Facebook page, we post updates about our foster horses and how they are progressing in their rehabilitation and training. We post information about upcoming events and post pictures from past events. We post information about horses that are ready to be adopted along with their pictures. We post links to interesting stories and information about horses and equine.

By "liking" our page, you will be helping to spread the word about GERL. Once you begin following our page, our posts will begin showing up on your newsfeed. If there is a post that you find interesting and you "share" or "like" that post, it then goes on your newsfeed for your Facebook friends to see. If your friends see one of our posts, they might decide to "like" our page and that will help spread the word even more. Please help us get to 10,000 "likes". If you are already following our page, please encourage others to "like" us. If you see one of our posts on your newsfeed, please share it so that others will see it and share it. This is something you can do that doesn't cost a cent but it is of tremendous benefit to GERL.

As always, we appreciate our members and the support they provide to GERL. I look forward to seeing you soon at the next event, or on Facebook.



Miss Anne has gone and got herself in a donkey wreck, involving a bucket. Two busted ribs has her taking it easy for a little while. Hope you're feeling better soon, Miss Anne!

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

Online GERL Auction Updates

By Alice Enix

2014 "New" G.E.R.L. AUCTIONS were a total success. April & May we had some great items to auction and people responded.

A BIG Thanks to all of those who looked online at the items.

A another great big thanks to everyone who gave bids and Buy Now, on items. It was a close \$1,000 dollars added to this horse rescue.

Next, we are looking for a GREAT Auction during the Race to the Horses. Please, while cleaning out or throwing away items, ASK.. Could we clean with up and be a treasure to someone? IF YES, bring it to Alice Enix attention.

alice@aliceenix.com. I am looking again, for donations to post online and at the coming event.

Alice Enix



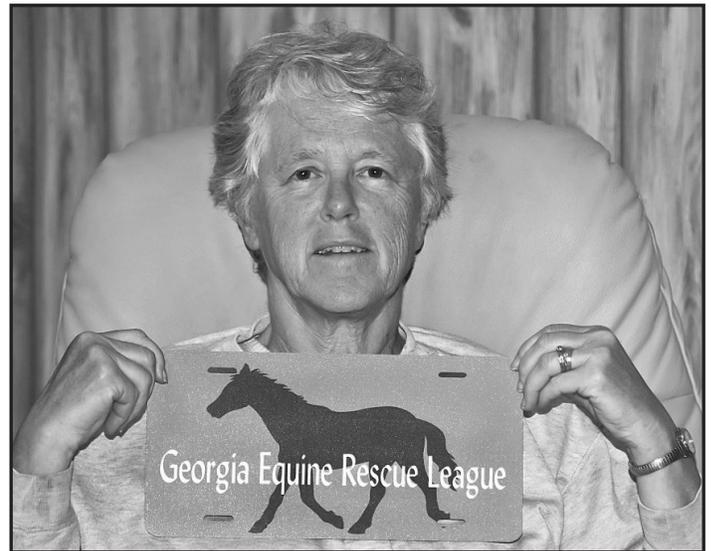
Please Help! GERL receives money for the following ...

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

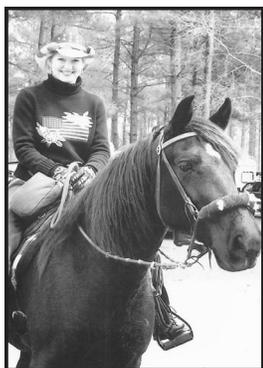


New item for GERL!

As the picture shows we have a vanity plate now available. Ignore the fact that it looks like I'm going to jail. It is a stand out tag that will have people looking at it and commenting on it. Wait until you see this in person. It is lovely. It will sell for \$20.00. This is something that people will ask you about so be ready with answers. One for your truck, one for your car and one just for the heck of it!

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By *Patty Livingston, President*



Lately, there has been a lot of activity on our hotline and Facebook regarding emaciated horses. It isn't the time of year that we typically get a lot of complaints, but several of the situations involved large herds of 15 or more horses. It didn't seem to matter the number, the people reporting the incident fully expected that the Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Division (GDA)

should impound them all. The thought of that happening scares me. Of course, along with the reports, comes the usual GDA bashing from fellow Facebookers, neighbors or other folks who may have become involved in the situation. I always wonder if these people who are doing the bashing because the State inspectors don't impound, know that the cost of feeding and vetting these horses must be considered at the same time. Probably not. Watching a horse slowly starve to death is a very stressful situation and they're not thinking about anything except getting the horse out of there!

I'm pretty sure that most of our members already know that GERL supports the GDA equine impounds almost exclusively when it comes to paying for the needs of the horses. The dollar amount associated with that was over \$42,000.00 annually for the past two years. The amount that we budgeted for the GDA in 2012 and 2013 was actually 18% of our annual income, which was approximately 100K. The GERL Board had previously voted to pay whatever was needed as long as the money was available, which is how we went from \$18K to \$42K. I am encouraged with the number of people who understand the importance of our state equine program and support it through GERL.

It is not unusual for the vet bill for the Mansfield impound to run over \$1500 per month. Particularly, after they impound a large herd of skinny horses. This is a fact about this business that we gladly accept. When you rescue a horse, you then become responsible for its needs, and starvation brings along a whole batch of bad news and a lot of extra needs. We've been seeing a lot more of these types of issues, lately. In fact, poor Ethel has been in a sling over at the Mansfield impound for almost a month now. She is improving enough to get out of the sling for short periods to be hand-grazed, but she is still not strong enough to be on her own. Last update we heard about Ethel is that her white blood count

was still elevated and a request was made to GERL to approve a "belly tap" to capture fluid to figure out why. We never say "no" when it comes to what these horses need. Money can fix a lot of their issues.

Speaking of money, I have been very concerned about reducing the overhead at our fundraising events. It meant making several changes in the way we do our fundraising rides, but it was a change that has already brought about positive results. Our recent Treasurer's report reflects a decrease in fundraising expenses by \$3,500. Not only did the change reduce our overhead, but it also reduced the amount of work, stress and volunteers that we usually require. The change has been the right thing for GERL and a great thing for the horses. That's \$3,500 that we can spend on helping more horses.

We're starting to gain some new members as a result of our GERL Treasurer, Lynne Yates', recent membership drive. One of my goals for GERL for the past five years is to have over 500 members. I often wonder if we will ever get there, but Lynne reports that we are slowly creeping upwards. I am a patient person and I'm in this for the long-haul, so, 500 members will continue to be the goal until it becomes fact. We typically take in around \$10K in memberships annually. Memberships help GERL help more horses. It's hard to believe that a \$25 - \$35 membership can add up and do so much, which is why our members' support is so very viable to GERL and all of the programs that we offer.

Speaking of programs, you may have heard about the newest program that we are planning for the fall. It is a rescue horse competition that will showcase local trainers who will have 120 days to train one of our rescue horses. There will be 9 trainers in this competition and nine horses. Some of the horses have been in GERL's foster program for over 2 years. A couple of the horses will come from the GDA equine program, as well. This new fundraiser will do two things: bring public attention about the serious plight of unwanted horses in this country, and as a fundraiser, replace the usual trail ride with something bigger and more lucrative.

One of my favorite sayings is "If money will fix it, it's not a problem". How true that is. Obviously, the more money that we receive, the more horses we can help. Somehow the money comes. I am very humbled and grateful for the wonderful supporters we have. And, let me say this about that...the Department of Agriculture realizes the importance of GERL's role in keeping their program alive and are very grateful, as well. They are very passionate about the equine program and want to see it continue to thrive. Our goal is to see that it does just that!

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!***

GERL Volunteers of the Quarter

Featuring “GERL Cooks”

One thing’s for sure, if GERL is hosting an event of some type, most likely there will be food available. We have always cooked at our Poker rides and Fall Fests and Spring Fests over the years and we started cooking at all of the GDA auctions a couple of years ago. So much so, that we recently bought our own four-burner grill. Getting a volunteer to come and cook is a different topic. That is usually the last job that most people want to do. It’s hot and greasy, and smoky too!

For this edition of our Volunteer of the Quarter we decided to do something a little different by recognizing all of the GERL Cooks who have stepped up and volunteered to do the least favorite thing on the entire volunteer list. Our chef’s cap is off to Sonny Hinote, who has been our Poker Ride chef for many years, as well as Tracie Merson and Steven Neal, who have booth cooked for several of the Mansfield horse auctions; Ray Ziebell and Jack Pesserilo recently joined up to cook at our Gene Fest ride. Another pair of cooks we want to thank are Clay Harrison and David Lee, who cooked at our last Polo Match.

As you can see, It takes a lot of cooks to fill GERL’s needs! Thanks to all of you who gave your time! We LOVE our COOKS!!



Ray Ziebell and Jack Pesserilo -our cooks at Gene Fest 2014



Clay Harrison and David Lee were the cooks at our Polo Match



Sonny Hinote – GERL’s long-time cook @GERL Poker Rides and most recently our cook at the Arrendale horse auction



Tracie Merson, cooked at our Poker Ride and also several of the Mansfield horse auctions.



Donna cooked at one of the Mansfield auctions



Steven Neal – Volunteers to cook regularly at the Mansfield horse auctions

Butter's Story

By Tamma Trump

Last winter GERL was contacted by Jessie with the GDA regarding a nice mare they called Butter. Butter was one of 11 horses seized in January 2013 and had a leg injury that would not heal.

Butter was impounded with a body score of 2, pregnant, and had an un-treated leg injury that had a softball size proud -flesh mass growing on it. Over time her weight improved and on March 8th 2013 she birthed a Palomino filly they named Hope.

In 2013 Butter made the rounds through all of the GDA Facilities, Mansfield to Pulaski back to Mansfield then off to Alto for training where she re-injured her leg so back to Mansfield she went. The GDA had done all they could and were seeking alternate options to keep from having to put her down.

GERL board members agreed to take Butter into our program to see if we could get her leg to heal and get her broke. On April 9th I met Jessie at the Decatur Barn and met Butter, her left hind leg was swollen and crusty, one of the worse injuries I had seen and I wondered how on earth I was going to get this to heal. With every new horse I care for I breathe into their nostrils to start the bonding process, but Butter was different, she curled up her lip and just stared at me! She was wide eyed but trusted Jessie and loaded into the trailer and we were off to Acworth. Butter whinnied all through downtown Atlanta, cars would pass me smiling and pointing at the trailer.

Upon arrival I unloaded her and turned her loose in my introduction paddock. Butter immediately started running around kicking at the other horses through the fence! She was completely wild and out of control... my heart sank she

would never get that leg healed at this rate. I sent Jessie a message asking if she had been on grass, no just hand walked a few hours a day, ah so that was the reason she was so wound up! She finally calmed down but I could not catch her but was able to herd her into a stall in the barn. She seemed to be afraid of tall people, oh great, and people in hats.

That Friday I had the vet come and evaluate her leg. It did not look promising for her to be more than a pasture pal. The area had calcified and the joint was becoming stiff and would possibly end up totally frozen. The x-rays showed a fracture that had healed which could explain some of the slow healing process. Tissue samples were taken to check for fungal/bacteria growth which will also affect the healing process. Basically her leg was scabbing over and not healing inside out. I started doing a daily scrub to remove the dead tissue on the upper part of her leg and a dry wrap that would be changed every other day to help remove the dead tissue and help to promote new growth on the joint.

In time she calmed down, getting her off the 14% feed helped, and she started to warm up to people. I started leav-

ing her out all the time with access to her stall. With the ability to freely move around the swelling decreased and the oint started to move! All my boarders thought she was beautiful and made it their personal goal to befriend her.

I have had Butter for 2 months now. She has come out of her shell and loves all of the attention and has made several friends in the pasture. The geldings think she is wonderful and two of them are vying for her attention. Her leg has almost healed and she will be one of the 9 horses competing in the GERL Rescue Challenge on November 15th.



Adoption Updates

By CeCe Calli

Up Up and Away

Angel has found a new home with Casey Whitaker of Creekwood Stables in McDonough. Within a few weeks of the adoption, Casey took Angel to her first Hunter Show. It seems our little Angel loves to jump! It makes us feel good when our horses go on to have a job that they like. Congratulations to Casey and Angel!

A Little Girl's Dream

Joker has found the perfect little girl to love forever. This well trained, experienced, and beautiful Arab gelding and his new owner are just right for each other. Joker has been there, done that, and his little girl wants to GO there and DO that! We wish them the best!

Donkeys, Donkeys, Sweet Wonderful Donkeys Throw in a Couple of Mares and a Zony

Some were grey, some were brown, some were grey and white, and some were brown and white. My head was spinning and my adoption list was overflowing with donkeys! Add a couple of mares and zony (donkey/pony cross) to the mix and I had no idea where to start to find homes for them. As usual, my concerns were short lived. We found homes for all of them except two of the darling donkeys which are still in GERL Foster Care. We feel strongly that these two cuties should be adopted together and will do whatever it takes to get them placed into just the right home.....together! Thanks to all who stepped up and provided homes for these animals.

Patience Pays Off

Not personally known as a patient person, I could never understand why we had so many inquiries about Dakota and then those inquiring, seemed to fall into a big black hole and were never heard from again???? I suppose things usually turn out as they should. My patience finally paid off when Dakota was discovered and adopted by Peggy Fleming. Thankfully, Peggy has survived the "black hole" and will be taking Dakota on trail rides and overnight camping trips. This is PERFECT for Dakota (AND Peggy!)



“With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference”

GERL Mingo Trail Ride 2014

By Eddy O'Hern

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



George Lilley, Billy Bisette. Sarah Schelkoph and Eddy O'Hern

We had a better turn out this year with of over 50 folks that registered. Some folks wanted a bit 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 not seen for a while. Our hosts from MINGO were the best and so very accommodating, there was nothing that we needed that was not provided.

Saturday morning started off with a wonderful breakfast made by the MINGO folks in the Kitchen, thanks to the folks that prepared the meal.

The rides at 10:00 and 2:00 were led by Billy Bisette President of MINGO Saddle Club The trails are beautiful and offer a great 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. We also had arena games this year which were the hit of the ride. We played 3 games that where: Water in a glass race, flag race and obstacle course. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Saturday evening started off 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 the supper we had our Live Auction with some Great Auction calling of by Billy Bisette, he was calling it out like a true professional. It was a wonderful turn out and we made \$1,434.50 for our cause (GERL). We all had a great time at the supper and the auction. We had such great visits with old and new friends. Thanks to Billy for

calling the auction. And thanks to our auction helpers, George and Janice Lilley, Patty Livingston and Sarah Schelkoph.

And of course all day Saturday our booth was open for business, thanks to George and Janice Lilley. Through their efforts we brought in \$242.00 on donations and sales. The registration was also done at our booth and there was \$2,135.00 made with \$815.00 paid to MINGO for electric hook ups. On memberships we made \$140.00 Over all we did very good for our second Trail Ride in Middle Georgia. Our total profit for GERL came to \$3,333.00. Not too shabby...

Our Raffle winner took home \$191.00 this year.

I want to give a huge THANKS to all of the folks that volunteered to help make this happen. I had some real special folks helping me with all the planning and preparation. Thank You goes out to George and Janice Lilley, and Sarah Schelkoph. With out their help this would never have happened.

A Big Special Thank You goes out to the Duke and family the owners of the property, you are a truly wonderful family for letting your beautiful property be used for the betterment of horses and people. Also, A big thanks to Billy Bisette and all of the MINGO folks for their wonderful hospitality.

Everyone please remember this is an annual event and is held on the last weekend of April every year. So everyone put it on your calendars and look forward to a great time at MIN



Eddy O'Hern helps out with the games.

GO in Toombsboro Georgia next year. And if you're looking for a great ridding club MINGO is one of the best, join them and ride whenever 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 that showed up to help support GERL. We all had a wonderful time and look forward to next year.

GERL Presentations to Rotary Clubs

By John R. Absalon

As a newly appointed Area Coordinator, I decided to reach out to the citizens of the counties I serve (Bartow, Cherokee, Floyd, Gordon and Paulding) through leading service and social organizations like the Rotary Clubs International. That idea seemed to work well with the groups I contacted, because, after all, service is our mission, too, just like theirs.

On April 24th, I spoke to a group of about two dozen business leaders at an evening meeting of the Cherokee County Rotary Club, in Woodstock, as the guest of past president Dr. Nancy Wesselink. The presentation seemed to go well and I received some good questions at the conclusion. The photograph shows Dr. Wesselink presenting me with a certificate of appreciation.

On May 29th, I spoke to the Bartow County Rotary Club as the guest of past president Anthony Bentley. The noontime meeting was convened at the Cartersville Country Club and was attended by approximately thirty business leaders and a few physicians. I was pleased to learn that several horse owners were Rotary members. There's nothing like a sympathetic audience! A number of excellent questions were posed by Rotary members at the post-presentation Q & A

session. After the last question was answered, the group voted to send a check in the amount of \$100 to GERL's Bethlehem address.

We have a few more irons in the fire, so that I can talk to as many groups as are willing to listen to me.



GERL Participates in Kroger's Community Rewards Program.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League has received \$450.00 from the Kroger Plus Program so far this year. GERL is very grateful to everyone who has chosen GERL as their designated charity to receive donations from the program.

GERL currently has about 50 households participating in the program. Imagine what GERL would be receiving if 100 people were signed up? 200 people? Even more?

The Kroger Community Rewards Program is an easy way for you to support GERL without have to spend a dime. All you have to do is go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> and link your Kroger Plus card to GERL. This does not affect the shopping rewards that you receive through the program.

GERL Volunteer Coordinator Needed

The volunteer coordinator will be responsible for securing volunteers for all GERL events and booths that require assistance.

What are the requirements?

You must have a computer and be proficient using email.

You must be a self-starter, meaning that when you are asked to get volunteers for an event, it has to be done in a timely manner and followed through until the event is over.

You should have access to the Internet and know how to create a Google Excel spreadsheet.

You do not have to attend events, but it is always a plus to have the Volunteer Coordinator present at large events.

You do not have to live in a specific area in the State, 99% of this job is done on the computer!

Please contact Diana Kelsey @ diana@gerlltd.org or 770-267-0867 if interested!

GERL RESCUE CHALLENGE

By Tamma Trump



GERL is in the midst of putting together the largest event in GERL history, a rescue challenge to help the numerous unbroke horses in our program get adopted.

Last summer Patty approached me with the idea of doing some sort of program similar to the Mustang Makeover or Road to the Horse and would I be interested in being in being the Chairman for the event. Wow what an honor, wow what an undertaking! I accepted her offer and planning began in September of 2013. Patty sent me some ideas that that Debora Hines had put together along with a list of names of people interested in helping, we had a start. The Committee Members are: Patty Livingston, Anne Ensminger, CeCe Calli, Laurie Wilson, Linda Kundell, Eddy O'Hern, Lynne Yates and Sue Vetsch.

Our first meeting was held in October and the largest decision we had to make was what to call the event. Everyone liked Backyard Road to the Horse but I was fearful of infringement rights on the name, a nice letter from Road to the Horse confirmed my fears so the committee voted on GERL Rescue Challenge, simple and to the point. We had a name so now we could begin advertising for trainers. I set up a Facebook Page and dur-

ing out November meeting I sat and watched the number of Likes grow, wow it was really taking off, so many positive comments, so many people interested in being a trainer!

Mark your calendars! The event will be held Saturday November 15th at the UGA Livestock Arena in Athens, due to limited seating there will only be 400 tickets sold. After careful review of all the applications we have selected the following trainers: Danielle Crist, Jordan Falconer, Nancy Falconer, Jenny Fox, Lee Ann Gilson, Joann McBride, Stacey McCoy, Danielle Perry and Samantha Schrader. CeCe Calli our Foster/Adoption Coordinator chose the following horses currently in our program: Little Rocky, Rocky, Little Joe, China, Halle Berry, Miss Holly Day, Butter and Quickstep. The judges will be Ed Dabney, Amanda Johnson and Eric Gray!

The GERL Rescue Challenge will begin at 9 A.M. with a Color Guard Presentation by The Central Georgia Mounted Color Guard and end with a live auction of the GERL Rescue Challenge horses. There will be vendors, a silent auction and a live auction as well. Please contact vendors@gerltd.org if you would like to be a Vendor or Sponsor. All fees and donations will be tax deductible! If you are interested in purchasing one of the horses in the challenge there is a pre-qualification form on the GERL website. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

R-Ranch A.C.T.H.A. Ride

By Anne Ensminger

The American Competitive Trail Horse Association (A.C.T.H.A.) is rapidly catching on in our country and in our state. It is a wonderful way for horse owners to enjoy their horses while engaging in an activity aptly described as "Casual competition. Serious fun"!

On April 12, 2014 an ACTHA ride was organized by long time GERL member and friend, Sandy Stephenson. Sandy is the Sales Manager at R-Ranch in the Mountains near Dahlonega. The property is a vacation haven for those who enjoy mountain activities such as hiking, horseback riding, swimming, boating, canoeing, and fishing. GERL was greatly honored to be chosen to benefit.

GERL was represented at the ride by Patty Livingston, Dorothy Thomas, Anne Ensminger, as well as Ray and Pierette Ziebell. The ride was well attended as it was a lovely spring day which was perfect for trail riding. It was great to see some new and some dear old friends competing and having fun with their beautiful horses.

Thank you Sandy Stevenson and R-Ranch in the Mountains

for hosting the event and for giving GERL representatives an opportunity to tell others about our work! Additionally, we appreciate the nice check GERL recently received as beneficiary of the event.



Merchandise – Here We Come!!

By Linda Kundell

I had received a message from a member about an item that they wanted to have. Well, here it is. Vanity plates are now available. I got such a good deal on them that I brought a lot!! Oh my, I have a lot. I hope that everyone wants one. You do, don't you? Just think about it. If you put one on the front of your car and your truck, everyone will ask you about the organization. Of course, you will have to answer many questions about GERL so be sure that you know the answers.

We also have orange vests for fall (remember that the hunters need to be able to see you in the woods), rain jackets, coffee cups and tee shirts for sale. All these items raise money for GERL plus help to advertise the organization. I am keeping the cost low so that everyone can buy something. There are lots of people that still haven't heard about GERL. Well, here's your chance to get the word out.

We still haven't gotten a new design for the tee shirts. We are working on it. Things just keep getting in the way. My horses take a lot of time because I like to talk to them. Understand that they don't talk back to me. Well, at least not in English. They do get the message across that life is moving on and that they are getting older. JoJo actually lost quite a bit of weight this past winter. I found it hard to believe since he has always had a weight problem. Oh, wait a minute; it's me that has the problem!! Anyway, he is gaining it back and I am very happy. After all he is getting up there in age, as am I, and life is catching up to him. I hope that we

have many more years together and I'm riding as much as I can.

I went to the Mingo trail ride and had such a good time. I haven't made very many GERL rides where I actually got to ride. I had a great time. My Kel-Mac buddies went with me and we rode a lot. Of course, GERL had three fun classes and I went in all three (I believe that we might say that I was pushed, pulled, hog tied and forced to go in them). Actually I had volunteered to help but Patty said she would cover for me (I think that was part of the pushing and pulling!!). Timed events are really not my thing but the Follow me class was right up JoJo's alley. I mean really. Put treats in front of that boy and he's all over you. I did have to run a little bit but I managed to stay upright and get it on.

I also went to the Gene Fest this year. I took the GERL trailer and even though I didn't get to ride I had a good time. Lots of people to talk to and I did sell some shirts, orange vests, etc. which made it worthwhile. Lynne Yates made me laugh when she told me the story of her trip to get to Gene Fest on time. Lunch was very good (I love the sausage!!) and I made it home before dark. Before dark is a big thing in my life when I'm traveling alone.

So, here's the deal. Do you have a design that you think would look just beautiful on a tee shirt? Send it to me. Remember my e-mail kundell@bellsouth.net. That's an order now, you hear!!

Dear GERL,

Southern Association of Saddle Sisters (aka SASS), an all-women's saddle club, got together for a good time with our horses & each other at Grove River Ranch (owned by CJ Farmer) in Gillsville. In addition to having some good times with one another, we wanted to do something beneficial for a horse-related charity. We were able to raise a total of \$396.50 for GERL!

On behalf of the Southern Association of Saddle Sisters, Margie Moschetti, & CJ Farmer, I want to thank you & all the volunteers of GERL for all that you do for horses in need here in Georgia!

Sincerely yours,

Ann Harris



A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

GERL is growing. GERL is helping more horses, in more ways. Members and friends seem to be aware of those two facts and are lending their support by volunteering to help with our events and donating money to support the work of GERL. This is as it should be, and must be.

Some of us who have been involved with GERL for many years, while still passionate about the mission of our organization, are simply out of new ideas. I don't feel that we are "burned out" but we are weary. We are weary of the equine mistreatment we see almost every day. We are weary of low class horse owners who spout "creative" explanations for the very low body score(s) of their horse (s). We are weary of owners of multiple horses who ask GERL for "emergency" help to feed their herd, yet refuse to reduce the number of horses they own. We (your GERL Board of Directors) continue to be amazed when we spend our time to consider requests for help for a myriad of reasons, decide to grant the requested help, and then finding that we are unable to get the person in need to even call us back. What happened to their urgent pleas for help? Are our requirements too stringent? Did they expect us to fill their request without question?

Sigh.....none of the above will ever change, so guess what?! We must get used to dealing with people, learn from each such situation, and continue to fight the good fight on behalf of the horses.

If my above short "pity party" sounds as if all is hopeless, be assured that nothing could be farther from the truth. It is new people with new ideas and new energy that will help us to remain enthusiastic and will continue to grow this organization.

One example of just such a person is Lynne Yates, our new Treasurer. Lynne is truly a breath of fresh air. She is full of new ideas and is tireless concerning the welfare of GERL and the horses. She is a great thinker and we find ourselves turning to her very often for problem solutions. Her present single handed membership drive is producing great results in the form of increased membership renew-

als and, very importantly, NEW memberships.

We are all aware that new members mean new ideas and that is just what we need. When some of our new members learn of our need for representation over the state, they immediately inquire about becoming a GERL Area Coordinator. We are delighted when that happens. While we do have AC training from time to time, as well as periodic AC conference calls, the best way for a new AC to learn their role is to join an experienced GERL member and tend an information booth on behalf of the organization. We are being asked more and more often by groups or businesses to present these booths at their sponsored events. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to introduce the work of GERL to many as we solicit new members and donations. It is amazing to realize that GERL has been in existence for over twenty years, yet many horse owners and animal advocates have never heard of us! It is our ACs that can most effectively change this.

Our upcoming Rescue Challenge event has produced a whole committee of people who are, not only full of new ideas, but full of energy which they are willing to use to make this event a huge success. GERL Board member, Tamma Trump, has done an outstanding job of organizing and leading the Challenge Committee. Please do not miss the Challenge in Athens on November 15, 2014. Information concerning the event, the participants, the horses, the judges, and tickets will start to appear in the GERL Newsletter, on the GERL Website, and on the Rescue Challenge Facebook page in the near future.

Our very successful (and costly) Stallion to Gelding Program, the "brain child" of Patty Livingston, is responsible for taking many possible producing stallions out of breeding service. This provides the horse world with some great geldings and hopefully, reduces the number of foals produced each year.

So you see, it is new ideas and the energy to put them into action, that will keep GERL (and ANY organization) growing and prospering. We encourage our members to take an active role in the everyday activities of the organization. We want to hear your ideas but be aware that we hope you are willing to roll up your sleeves and provide the "elbow grease" needed to implement them. With five large GERL events already on our yearly calendar, multiple speaking engagements, and attending GDA periodic horse sales, the "same ole', same ole'" workers can do little more, while knowing that what GERL needs is MUCH more.

Love Lives Forever in the Heart

By Anne Ensminger

The certainty of passing from this life brings sadness to all who must bear the accompanying loss. Just because the lost life was that of a horse or other animal, the grief suffered is no less. Vandy is gone but there are those of us who will always keep him in our hearts. He quietly passed away in early April of this year. Remarkably, the wonderful old gelding had lived past 40 years of age. He was GERL's longest foster care resident. I wrote a brief description of his life in our July, August, September 2013 Newsletter. His is a beautiful story full of love and caring. On behalf of GERL, I wish to express tremendous gratitude to Jacki Moore and Leslie Lambert of Conyers for making Vandy's last years everything his owner of many years, Mr. Bob Hayden, (now deceased) of Jackson, GA could have wished for him.

Another much loved GERL foster horse also recently lost her battle with old age. We know very little of Sally's early years but it was plain to see when GERL became aware of her, well into her advanced senior years that she was in desperate need of rescue. That rescue was provided without hesitation by Barbara, Nelson, and Katy Argo of Monroe, GA. They took the old, swaybacked, crippled, white mare into their life and provided care such as she had not known for a long time, if ever. She was treasured, comfortable, and happy for her last year of life. I called to thank the Argo family for what they had done for the sweet old mare but I was assured that it was THEY who were blessed by Sally's time with them.

We also want to express our sympathy as we mention the passing of our longtime friend, Bob McCrory's gelding, Clyde, at the age of 27. Bob and wife, Judy, had owned and cared for Clyde since he was 18 months old. They had traveled many miles together. Sincere condolences to Bob and Judy. We are very sorry to report that another tremendous loss was suffered this quarter by Cynthia Anderson's family of Baldwin County. They were so excited to adopt little "Silver" from GERL earlier this year. He was the cutest Mini Horse in the world and was the perfect pet for their young granddaughter. Sadly, Silver suffered a broken leg and had to be euthanized. Imagine trying to explain such a loss to a child when your own heart is full of grief.



Silver and CJ

And the list goes on. We were very sorry to learn about the passing of Tammy Trump's granddaughter's horse. At age 23, "Gidion" was one of those middle age horses that had "been there, done that". He was the family's "go to" horse when dependability was especially required. His too short life was ended when he suffered a fatal colic. Another GERL member, Linda Tucker, recently lost her best friend, her mare Starr.

I cannot end this writing without mentioning my wonderful gelding, Dillon. In late April, I found him in the pasture with a broken shoulder. We will never know how it happened but he is gone and my broken heart is now being mended by the passing of time and a new horse. His name is Marty, a gift from my dear friends, Bob and Dorothy Thomas of Dawsonville. Thankfully, it is true that "when one door closes, another opens".



Dillon



Star and Aladdin

A GERL Favorite Lost to EPM

By Anne Ensminger

GERL Adoption Coordinator, CeCe Calli carried out the sad duty of informing us of the recent death of a favorite GERL horse, "C.J." (Conclusive Jim), due to the effects of EPM. If ever there was a GERL horse that was adopted by just the right person, it was C.J. Only this past February Billy Abrahamsen of Locust Grove adopted this beautiful sorrel gelding. They quickly bonded and became a wonderful team. A few days ago Billy noted that C.J. was tripping in the hind end which was unusual. Within a very short time, the condition was much worse and the horse seemed unable to control his movements which led to his falling and struggling to try to get up. It was Dr. Logan King's obligation to make the diagnosis which he did not want to make. C.J. was humanely euthanized and Billy is left with only memories of their short time together and the dreams he had for their future.

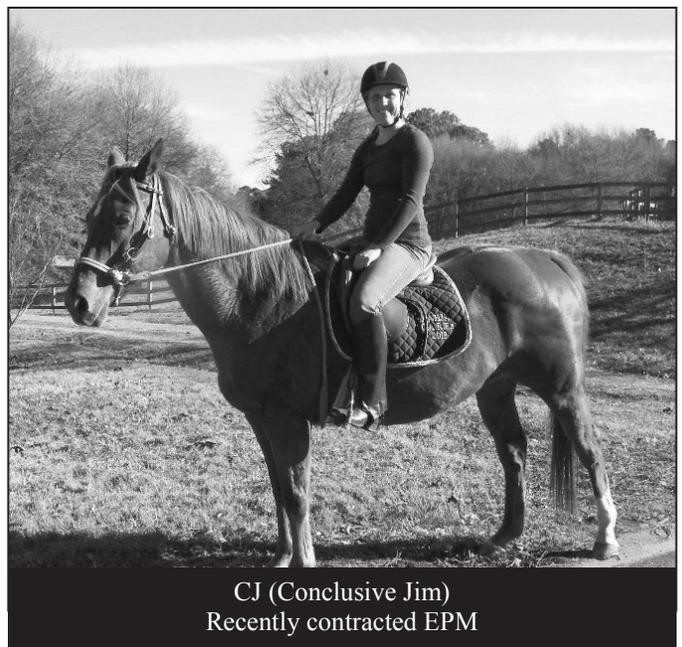
As might be expected of such a fine young man, Billy was so deeply affected by this that he has made the decision to change his education major from Pre Law to Pre Vet. This terrible experience has planted a burning ambition in his mind to learn more about Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis with an eye toward possibly finding a cure and developing better preventive measures.

It seems we are hearing more and more about this terrible equine neurological condition which is believed to be spread by sporocysts carried in the feces of opossums. Many horses are exposed to these sporocysts which can get into unprotected feed, water, or grazing areas. Some horses are not affected or obvious symptoms may be minimal such as stumbling or mild lameness. With quick diagnosis and proper medication, most horses recover, however permanent damage may exist. More severe cases show symptoms such as those suffered by C.J. Treatment is lengthy, expensive, and outcomes are uncertain. Blood or spinal fluid tests must be done to distinguish EPM from other neurological disorders such as West Nile Virus, rabies, or viral encephalitis.

Information concerning EPM is available through your veterinarian or can be found online. This experience not only made me sad but prompted me to thoroughly clean my barn this morning and make certain my horse feed and supplements are in secure containers with tight lids.

The goal for all of us must be to make our stable area as unattractive to opossums as possible. These unattractive little critters will eat almost anything including dead animals or birds, cat or dog food, and certainly horse feed. Spilled feed must be cleaned up immediately.

There remains the ever present danger that the horses might come into contact with "possum poo" in the pasture. This frightening possibility has created some diabolical visions in my imagination. They involve a shot gun, wild animal traps, and a very big, very mean possum hating yard dog! Anyone who knows me is certain that these thoughts will remain a mere fantasy in my mind but SERIOUSLY, most of us have always taken pride in keeping our barn area clean and comfortable for our beloved horses. We now realize that it is important for more than just esthetics. It could be a matter of life or death.



CJ (Conclusive Jim)
Recently contracted EPM

GDA Mansfield Auction

May 17, 2014

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) has equine auctions two to four times a year. The horses that the GDA impounds are rehabilitated and then sold at auction. The funds brought in at the auction are used to care for the next horses brought in by the GDA.



When I first started volunteering with GERL two years ago, the bids were very low and it was discouraging for those of us in the equine rescue business. If someone is getting a horse for such a low price, will that new owner take proper care of that horse? At that time, I tried to meet each and every person who had a winning bid and everyone I met seemed to be great horse people. I have even stayed in touch with some of them and the horses are thriving in their new homes.

About the time I started volunteering, The GDA partnered with the GA Department of Corrections to open equine training facilities at Pulaski Women's Prison and Lee Arrendale Women's Prison. The prison program allows the horses to be trained to ride and the goal is to make the horses more marketable in order to have a better chance to find a great new home and to bring a better price. The theory behind this is if someone is willing to pay a good price for a horse, there is a better chance that the horse will be valued and receive proper care.

As the past two years have rolled along, it seemed that the bid prices were coming up a bit. That made sense; you would expect horse prices to come up as the economy improves. The auction on Saturday, however, did not live up to our expectations. The prices were as low as they were two years ago. There were two horses that did not receive bids over \$100 so the GDA elected to keep them. These are horses that have received training through the prison program and are broke to ride.

Most of the horses impounded by the GDA have been saved from certain death and have been fully rehabilitated. These horses receive high quality feed, hay, farrier care and veterinary care. The GDA personnel at the impound go to great lengths, often on their own time, to make sure that these horses receive the best care available. They truly have a second chance at a good life, but this only works if good people like you step up to provide that second chance. The next time you see that the GDA is having an auction, please come on out and see if there is a horse there that will fit into your barn,



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Even if you aren't in the market for a horse, consider coming out and visiting with all the GERL volunteers. We cook hot dogs and hamburgers and have merchandise available. There is always a friendly face that would like to get to know you and answer any questions you have about GERL.

If you have a horse that you bought at a GDA auction, I would love to hear from you and get an update about you and your horse. You can send me an email and a picture to lynneyates@aol.com. I try to write an article each quarter called "After the Auction." I would love to tell your story.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that spent their Saturday helping GERL at this event: Anne Ensminger, Rose Williams and her husband Walt, Patty Livingston, Jaye Harrington, Valerie Puryear, Tracie Merson, Sonny Hinote, Seven Neal, Sue Wrenson and Susie Bond.

My heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, our members and to the people who come to the auctions and give these horses a new home.



An Article About Horse Slaughter

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

The mention of the word “slaughter” strikes a passionate cord for those of us involved in equine rescue. In a perfect world, there would be no horse slaughter and every horse would be in a loving home provided with plenty of feed, hay, medical care. There would be shelter provided from the weather with the availability of a grassy pasture for grazing and running. Do you recognize that world? Me either.

This article is not pro-slaughter. This article is not anti-slaughter. It is my attempt to introduce some reality into a dialogue that is often high on emotion and low on facts.

Prior to 2007, the US slaughterhouses were in operation and had been for a long, long time. About 1% (around 125,000) of the horse population was being sent to slaughter each year. The horrific conditions inside the trucks carrying the horses to slaughter as well as the deplorable conditions inside the slaughterhouses were well documented. The vast majority of the horsemeat produced was then shipped overseas to be made available for human consumption.

Most people in the United States are against the slaughter of horses for many reasons. The inhumane treatment along the slaughter pipeline is unconscionable and many believe that horsemeat is unsafe for human consumption. Horses are not raised for human consumption in the same way that other livestock are raised. During its lifetime, a horse may receive a variety of medications that should not be given to an animal that will ultimately be consumed by humans. For these reasons and perhaps others not listed here, the US population fought hard to have the US equine slaughterhouses shut down and they were successful in 2007 when the last plant was closed.

That sounds like a happy ending to the story, but unfortunately nothing changed for the better for horses when the US slaughterhouses ceased operations. There is still about 1% of the horse population being sent to slaughter each and every year. The only difference is that these horses must endure a long truck ride to a slaughterhouse in Mexico or Canada. The trucks are packed with horses where often no food or water is given for days. Some of the horses are so sick or injured that they expire before their last trip is over. When they finally cross the border and arrive at their final destination, the conditions are deplorable and often worse than the conditions in the US slaughterhouses.

It appears that closing the US slaughterhouses did not do anything to improve conditions for horses. Many believe that trucking horses to Mexico or Canada has actually made the whole situation much worse.

Currently, there are two schools of thought on what it would take to improve the plight of unwanted horses. On one hand, many want to pass legislation that would stop the transportation of horses to the slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada, effectively eliminating the practice of slaughter of US horses. On the other hand, others believe that if owners are not able to send their unwanted horses to slaughter, that these horses would become subject to abuse, neglect and starvation.

I think the question to ask is, what will happen to 125,000 horses each year that are not sent to slaughter? Even with 125,000 horses being slaughtered each year, equine rescue organizations are not able to handle the starved and neglected horses that can be found in all of our communities. There are simply too many horses being born each year and not enough good homes to take them. Imagine increasing the number of unwanted horses by 125,000 each year. Do you believe that donations to rescue groups will triple so that they can take care of these horses? Do you want to increase the staff and budget of animal control departments or state equine agencies so they can remove these horses from neglect and starvation? For those lucky enough to be impounded or rescued, where will the 125,000 new homes be found?

I’m not trying to say that every owner who is currently sending horses to slaughter would then simply starve their horses because they can’t ship them to slaughter. I’m not saying that EVERY owner would do that, but I do believe that many of them would.

The situation seems pretty bleak. What is the answer? The answer is to reduce the number of horses being born. Imagine if 125,000 less foals were born each year. There would be no need for horse slaughter because it would be much more likely that good homes could be found for all horses. Better yet, what if 150,000 less foals were born each year? What if 200,000 less foals were born each year? In that situation, we would have plenty of good homes available to our horses, even the older ones who simply need a nice pasture for retirement.

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GERL to Host Equine Training for Law Enforcement

GERL Education Director, Sue Vetsch, as well as other volunteers, plan to coordinate a Multi-County Meeting for law enforcement in Walton County. The Rescue League partners with the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Equine Division, DeKalb County Animal Services and the Cobb County Asst. District Attorney in hosting these types of equine training. The tentative date is September 4th and law enforcement and animal control officers from twenty surrounding counties will be invited to attend.

The need for law enforcement officers to receive equine training is largely due to the increase in the number of unwanted horses.



Thank You For Your Foster Homes

Ann Murphy/China
Alicia Mohr/Halle Berry
Tamma Trump/Holly, Butter and Quickstep
Tiffany Bergdorf/Lucky
Beth Eavenson/Dixon
Melissa Moore/Irish
Heatherlee Hammond / Rocky
Anne Ensminger / Honor

Chris Altizer/Starr
Steven Neal/Amber
Billy Abrahamsen/Coal
Patty Livingston/Blaze
Casey Whitaker/Jessie James
Cindy Farris/Big Rock
Bill and Sandy Lynch/Bonnie & Clyde
Tara Payne/Little Joe

Walton County 4H Horse Club donates to GERL

By Susie Bond

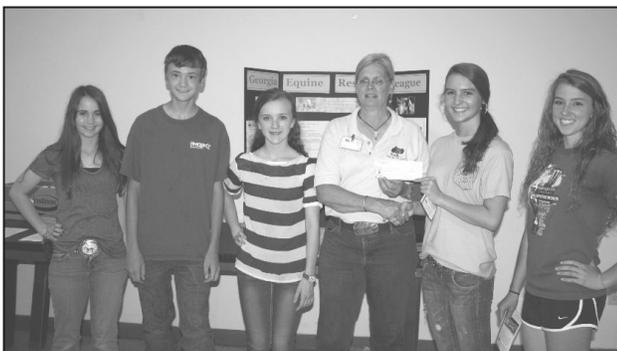
The officers of the Young Riders 4-H Horse Club of Walton County presented GERL with a \$100 check on May 12, 2014 at the Walton County Agricultural & Education Center on Criswell Road in Monroe. Club members wrote their names on a piece of paper for the door prize drawing which was a horsey wristwatch donated by GERL President Patty Livingston. The winner was Bethany Lemonds. All of the members received a GERL brochure and newsletter. They have invited me back sometime next year in early spring, as a guest speaker, (and, to receive another donation) for GERL.

Many Young Riders 4-H members will be competing at the Georgia State 4-H Horse show on June 11-14 in Perry, GA. There is no charge to spectators to watch the daily activities. Their next 4-H Horse club meeting will not be until September 2014 in Monroe, GA. If anyone is interested in joining Young Riders 4-H club (ages 9-19), or 4-H Cloverbuds Horse Club (ages 8 & under), and/or supporting them, please contact Mrs. Grimes at the Walton County 4-H Extension office, 770-267-1324. www.caes.uga.edu/extension/walton/4h/index.html. They also have a FaceBook group: "Walton County 4-H Horse Club".

As a "side note", back in 1990, when my husband and I were looking for a farming community in Georgia to move from Virginia, one of our "priorities" was a county with a great 4-H Horse program. We found the best: 4-H leaders Thom Peterson and Judy Ashley. We moved to Social Circle, and both my daughters, (Jodie & Kelly), enjoyed many, many years in 4-H. They met "forever friends" in 4-H, and both girls became a "Master 4-H'er", (the highest level of achievement within 4-H). I was a 4-H club co-leader for a few years, sharing responsibilities with another well-known GERL volunteer, Leisa McCannon. ... And, in September of 2013, I enrolled my granddaughter, Kayla, in the 4-H Cloverbud Horse Club. ... - "Happy Trails", to all.

Thanks, Susie Bond

Area Coordinator for Newton, Morgan, and Greene counties.



Club officers from left to right: Hailey Bittles, Chase Jackson, Kayla Shelnutt, Susie Bond, Lauren Rutledge, and Bethany Lemonds.

Honorariums

In Honor of:

For Patrick, in Social Circle,

by Susan Brookshire

For Lisa Carroll by Ronnie Pesserilo

Does GERL Need To Go To The Doctor?

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, then that means you have an active membership with GERL. I'm interested in knowing, what do you do with your newsletter when you have finished reading it? Have you ever thought about taking it to the doctor's office or the hairdresser's office and leaving it there to share with others?



For those of us who work on the newsletter, it is truly a labor or love. We feel that it is the best representation of GERL and what GERL is accomplishing with your membership fees and donations. We are very proud of our newsletter and hope you enjoy reading it.

When I finish my newsletter, I take it to work and put it in the break room. I have had many of my coworkers mention how much they enjoy reading it.

The next time you are headed out the door to go to the doctor or hairdresser, why don't you grab that newsletter and take it with you (you may want to remove your personal name and address) and share it with others. That newsletter might find its way to someone who decides to volunteer at an event, or foster a horse, or become a member. It is like throwing a pebble into a pond, you never know where the ripples might go.

I think it's time for GERL to go to the doctor.

UGA Bulldog Classic Horseshow

April 26, 2014

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

For the past 5 years, the UGA Collegiate Horsemen's Association has sponsored and organized the UGA Bulldog Classic Horseshow. Each year, GERL is the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from the show. We always attend the show so that we can set up an informational booth and hand out newsletters. We want to make sure everyone knows GERL's mission and understands how the proceeds from the show will be used by GERL.

The UGA Collegiate Horsemen's Association is a student group that seeks to be involved in all things pertaining to the horse and horse industry. It promotes horsemanship, horse education and gives UGA students an opportunity to be involved in horse-related events.



I arrived the morning of April 26 to set up the GERL booth. I was immediately met by Kalila Clarke, the President of the Horsemen's Association. I was also introduced to Camille Guss who is the Vice President of the Association, as well as the event Chairperson. I met some of the other members and volunteers from their group. It was obvious how much work had been done by this dedicated group and I was humbled by their efforts.

I set out to introduce myself to the other GERL volunteers. Jean Nash was there to volunteer on behalf of GERL. Jean found out about GERL when she began volunteering at one of the GDA impound facilities several years ago. Once she realized what GERL was all about, she wanted to work with us as well and I was very happy to meet her and learn her story.

I also met Cynthia Fuguet Mare and her daughter Madeleine. Cynthia was a brand new member to GERL and this was her first event. I introduced myself and explained how the Bulldog Classic had been my first GERL event two years ago and that I hoped she would come to love the GERL family as much as I have.

Once introductions were complete, we got down to business.



As people came to our table, we handed out newsletters and tried to spread the word about all the good work being done by GERL. While we were doing our thing, everyone was enjoying the horseshow.

The Bulldog Classic is always a fun show. It has traditional English and Western classes, but it also has some fun and whimsical events. They had a lipstick race whereby the riders had to apply lipstick while trotting across the arena. The rider with the most lipstick in the right place, and the least lipstick in the wrong place, won the event. I walked out to the show and met Amy Hester and her horse T-Man. They were waiting on their next event.

In addition to the show, there was a silent auction with a beautiful pair of cowboy boots with the big UGA "G" on the boot. They had other items in the auction, including some beautiful hand-made pillow cases.

At the end of the event, it was estimated that GERL would receive over \$1,000 from this event. I am so grateful to the wonderful group of students for all they did and continue to do for GERL. My thanks go out to the UGA Collegiate Horsemen's Association, we well as to Jean Nash, Cynthia Fuguet Mare and Madeleine Mare. Will your help...we will make a difference.



GDA Presents.....BABIES, BABIES, BABIES...



Meet **Princess**, She was born on 3/13/14. **Princess** and her mom **Beatrice** were sold at the May 17th Impound Auction. Above is a picture of her before the Auction.



Meet **Sunshine**, she was born on 3/27/14. Here is a good picture of **Sunshine** checking out our volunteer, **Susie's** rain poncho!



Meet **Lil Red AKA George**, He was born on 4/27/14

Trotting for the TATAS

Cancer is a word that usually strikes fear in our hearts, but on June 7th, we all donned our cowboy boots and trotted out to “Give Cancer the Boot!” **Trotting for the TATA’s** was the first Breast Cancer Fund Raiser Poker Ride, a vision of Amy Cox,

GERL member and breast cancer survivor along with her daughter in law, Danielle Cox as well as Sharon Keating and Maud Brodd, both breast cancer survivors and very non-horsey women. The trio teamed up to raise funds to walk in the Atlanta 2 Day Walk, October 11

& 12, 2014. Sharon and Maud, mother and daughter have walked the walk for several years. They chose this walk because all the funds raised actually goes to breast cancer screening and treatment support for men and women in Georgia. There are only 4 paid staff members of this particular 501(c)3, all the rest of the work is done by an army of volunteers. For the walk that has 1,200 walkers, it takes 800 volunteers as well as numerous state policemen to pull it off. It is important to us to choose a charity that stays true to its cause. We are so grateful that GERL agreed to join with us to make the **Trotting for the TATAs** event memorable indeed.

Registration began at 8 am and we all enjoyed a special treat as the riders were asked to “dress up” their horses and themselves in pink and bling for the ride. Excitement was in the air due to a contest for the best dressed horse and most pinked and blinged human. Both categories were tough to judge as everyone went all out on their costumes. The painted horse with family photos and magenta ribbons and bows took the first place and won \$100 from Romancing the Range. The humans had a tie and went to a “dance off”. If you missed this spectacle, you

missed out indeed as Rodney Cox and Amy Nicole were really put to the test and pulled out all the stops on their costumes. Rodney might be the first 1 balloon breasted man in history! Rodney danced away with the \$100 prize after a gruelling dance duel.

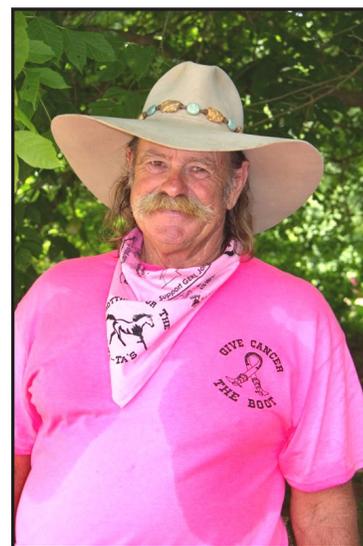
Congratulations Rodney!



Sounds of Sawnee and 8 Up with Dixie serenaded us all afternoon under the boughs of a large evergreen tree while a corn hole toss tournament ensued in the background. The children had their own play area complete with bounce houses

and face painting. And we all enjoyed the smoked chicken which was delightfully smoked by Wilkes Meat Market with sides of baked beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, dessert and the Pool Room’s famous sweet tea! We were so blessed to have such an outpouring of support from numerous businesses in Dawson, Cumming, and Gainesville who donated the delicious food, and loads of door prizes! We would also like to thank the 4-H for manning the card stations on the

trail, and Ray Ziebell for providing his awesome 10 x 20 canopy. We all would have wilted without the shade for sure! Regions bank provided as much cold bottled water as we could drink and South Life and Modern Woodman and VIN video as well as a Breast Cancer Survivor booths provided us with valuable information.





A unique twist to the poker playing piece was Amy's dart throw for the first and last card for the poker hand. That provided a whole canopy of additional entertainment! The darts and the sparks were flying from that corner of the forest! Amy also designed a beautiful 20 x 20 bandana with a full color map of the 5 WMA trails. What a keepsake for riders which will be used over and over again. And our tee shirts for this event were "safety pink" with black logos - what a glorious sight - a sea of pink with added touches of bling and of course - cowboy boots! Give Cancer the Boot!!

But the highlight of the day was the drawing for the Pink Glock donated by Dawson Gun and Pawn. I can still hear the drum rolling as name of the winner was drawn, Steve Bracken from Lilburn, GA. His daughter is a breast cancer survivor, 2010, and she is going to be the lucky recipient of the glock as her dad wants her to have it. A fitting home for the coveted Pink Glock. Many Thanks to Dawson Gun and

Pawn for their generous donation to help "Give Cancer the Boot"!

Our deepest gratitude to GERL for your gracious support in the form of the numerous volunteers who came out to help us with this event! It has been my great pleasure to be introduced to such large hearted folks!! Thank you thank you thank you for all your help with the **Trotting for the TATAs** event both leading up to and the day of the event. We truly could not have done this without you! Because of the generosity of GERL we have raised the funds towards our lofty goal of \$10,000 for the Atlanta 2 Day Walk this fall and we are all one step closer to "Giving Cancer the Boot".

If you were unable to attend Trotting for the TATAs but would like to help us achieve our goal of \$10,000, we can still accept donations through our team web-site:

http://2daywalk.kintera.org/2014walkers/sharon_keating or by check made out to:

Its the Journey

c/o Maud Brodd
48 Brickton Way E
Dawsonville, Ga 30534

Many thanks from Sharon, Maud, Amy and Danielle!

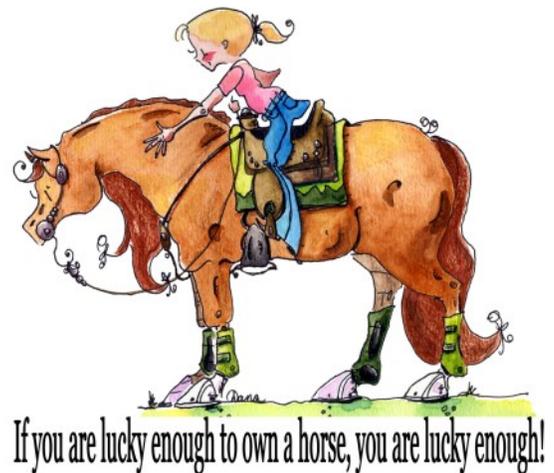


Athens Technical College comes to the GDA Mansfield Impound Facility

GDA and Athens Tech has developed a wonderful relationship over the years, providing necessary vaccines to the impounded/surrendered equine along with hands on experience for their students! Athens Tech Veterinarians, Dr. Carole Miller, Dr. Jeffery Light and Vet tech Dr. Anna Santos donate necessary vaccines for the amount of horses/equine at the Mansfield impound barn to allow their students some hands on experience. This year Athens Tech donated 25 5 way and 25 Rabies vaccines. They also donated a dozen of their students for a day of hands on horse handling and vaccinating! They also donate Mansfield's two barn cats, annual vaccines as well.



Jaye Herrington, GERL Event Coordinator, was the winner of the raffle for the trip to Kissimmee, Fla in August. Jaye is the GERL Event Coordinator and couldn't have been happier about her win! Thanks to Jaye and all of the other people who purchased tickets to support GERL!



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The Georgia Equine Rescue League has long sponsored low cost castration clinics in an effort to reduce the number of foals being born, but GERL can not do it alone. We need your help to get control of this issue. If you hate the idea of horse slaughter, then here are a few things you can do to help:

If you know a "back yard" breeder, tell him or her about GERL's Stallion-To-Gelding Program. Educate him or her about the plight of unwanted horses. Offer to help transport the stallion to a clinic for castration.

Urge professional breeders to manage their breeding program in such a way to produce only top quality offspring that will bring a higher price. The price of a horse is all about supply and demand. Less horses being born should ultimately result in a higher price for those that are born. Professional breeders took a big hit when the economy took a nosedive taking horse prices down with it; but they can do much to improve the situation by not over breeding. When buying a horse, choose a breeder with a sensible breeding program. Of course, we always hope people will consider giving a home to a rescue horse.

Do you use Premarin, a drug made from a pregnant mare's urine? There are thousands of premarin foals (called PMU foals) born each year. Some of these foals are lucky enough to be saved by a rescue group but many are left to starve and die. If they happen to live long enough, many go to slaughter. The life of the mares producing the urine isn't all that peachy either. While I would not presume to give anyone medical advice (this should not be construed to be medical advice),

you might consider talking to your doctor to see if there are any medically advisable alternatives. In any event, your doctor's advice is what you should follow.

Work to educate yourself and others about the plight of nurse mare foals. The nurse mare foal is a by-product of the racing industry. A nurse mare foal is a "throw away foal" born to a mare needed to nurse the thoroughbred foal of a brood mare. Here is how it works. A mare is impregnated and gives birth to an unwanted foal. The foal is disposed of and then the mare is then used to nurse a potential racing champion whose mother is a brood mare. There are thousands of these nurse mare foals born each year. There are many rescue organizations that specialize in finding homes for these foals, which are often left to simply starve to death since they are too young to be sent to slaughter. Frankly, I don't know how individuals such as you and I can stop this practice but it certainly worth a dialogue to figure it out.

People are very passionate about the subject of horse slaughter. I support everyone's right to have their own opinion on the subject. I would like to challenge you to think about the subject of horse slaughter in a different way. Familiarize yourself with the underlying causes of why horses are being sent to slaughter and commit to doing something to help. As for me, here is my opinion. Ending the slaughter of horses is a noble goal. I want to put an end to the REASON that horses are sent to slaughter. That is why I volunteer for the Georgia Equine Rescue League.

Ethel

Ethel is a miracle. She had such a will to survive. She was brought into the Mansfield impound with several other horses by the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Equine Division. The inspectors and barn crew at the impound made sure she got her chance. This is Ethel in the sling that enabled her to recover at her own pace.

Ethel was so excited to get out of that sling! She's doing so well!

Thank you for your donations that helped give Ethel the chance she needed!



WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

New Member	Referred By	From
Cindy Brooks	GERL	Gordon
Deborah Galloway	GERL	Jasper
Brittany Gilleland	GERL	Trion
Sherri L. Hendley	GACA	Sylvester
Mary Pat Hill	Rebecca Gimenez	Atlanta
Gary & Lori Janes	Mingo	Milledgeville
Bill & Sandy Lynch	GERL	Nicholson
Sharon Martin	GERL	Screven
Laura McCracken	Gail Carmody	Acworth
Carlos & Debbie McDonald	Kel-Mac Saddle Club	Danielsville
Melody Milbrandt	GERL	Stockbridge
Tara Lin Payne	GERL	Conyers
Patti Reynolds	Carrie Russell	Carlton
Carol Samples	GERL	Monticello
Cheryl Evans Shedd	Jan Smith, MD	Oakwood
Becky Shivers	Rhonda Veit, DVM	Watkinsville
Patricia B. Stone	GERL	Buford
Big Springs Equine Medicine, Dr. Rhonda Veit	GERL	Watkinsville
Matt & Suzanne Watson	GERL	Lawrenceville
Rose Williams	GERL	Good Hope
Countryside Equine Veterinary Service, Dr. Tom Wilson	GERL	Armuchee
Tifton-Tift County Animal Shelter/Save Our Pets	GERL	Tifton

If you have any questions about when you need to renew contact:

Lynne Yates: lynne@gerlltd.org or 404-435-5746 / Join or renew on our website: www.gerlltd.org

2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

QUALIFY TO BE INCLUDED IN A DRAWING TO WIN \$200

We are excited to embark on a major membership drive beginning now and ending October 31, 2014. Anyone who is an active member of GERL as of October 31, 2014, will be entered into a drawing to win \$200. The drawing will be held at the *GERL Rescue Challenge* on November 15, 2014 at the UGA Livestock Arena. You do not have to be present to win.

We need your help now more than ever, so that we can continue to save starved, abused and neglected horses across Georgia. Your tax-deductible dues provide feed, hay and medical care to horses that are in critical need. The annual membership fee is only \$25 for a single membership, \$35 for a family membership, or \$50 for a business membership.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture works to remove horses from terrible situations, but they do not have the funds available to provide all the feed, hay, and care that the seized horses require. GERL uses your membership fees and donations to provide the necessary care for these neglected and abused equine.

GERL has long urged local law enforcement to arrest owners who allow their horses to starve, and we are encouraged to see more and more Georgia counties willing to prosecute for equine neglect and starvation. Just recently, Peach County arrested the owner of 16 starving horses. These horses are being cared for by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and GERL is providing the majority of their feed, hay and care. As county law enforcement becomes more active in horse neglect and abuse cases and more horses are taken in, the need for GERL assistance grows. While GERL is excited to see law enforcement become more involved, it puts more strain on our resources as we struggle to care for these equine.

The Georgia Equine Rescue League thanks you for supporting our work to save horses in desperate situations throughout our state. We are grateful for your generosity and your compassion. Your donations help us speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and to advocate for the humane treatment of all horses and equine.

With Your Help...We Will Make a Difference

Renewals due for July 2014

Amy Abel-Kiker	Ernie & Leslie Gassmann
Damian & Rebecca Bartholomew & Family	Christy Fore Graw
Evelyn Braile & Family	Kathy Hansen
Patty Brown	Bobby & Catherine James
Lamar & Kathy Chandler	Victoria Joyce
Elizabeth Dees & Family	Carole Paige
Carol Doeffinger	Krista Pezold
Tommy & Tonia	Robyn Placek & Family
Epps & Family	Ginny Scarritt
Kay Fletcher	Linda Stringer

Renewals due for August 2014

Joanne Byrom & Family	Alison Ibsen
Paul & Susan Carlson	Ann Murphy
Ondrea Culp	Karen Nash
The Decker Family	Cathy Patnode
Becky Gregory	Steve Prediletto & Family
Suzanne Hanks & Family	Valerie Puryear
Debora Hines	Mary Turner
Judi Honea	Emily Vermillion

Renewals due for September 2014

Cleon Akins	Sammy & Marie LeVert
Judy Bradberry Family	Gene & Nancy Ozburn
Jennifer Elder Family	Denise Schmidt
Chuck & Carol Ewing	Cathy Spivey
Alice Farrar	Alicia Taylor
Cindy Farris	Russell Thompson
Bob & Shirley Guhl	Michelle Williams
Mary Joe Hanes	Susan Wis
MargotJudd	

Thank you for donating to the “Feed a Horse” Program

Erik Wittenzellner	Carol Royer
Mary Alice & Ben Hudson	Valerie Puryear
John Lynn	(for Patrick)



We are always looking for people who want to join the GERL family and help us stop equine abuse.

The following is a list of volunteer opportunities.

“Like” our GERL page on Facebook and encourage your friends to “like” us. Share our stories on your page. Sign up for the AmazonSmiles Program and choose GERL to receive a donation every time you shop. It is a free program for you and you can sign up at <http://www.smile.amazon.com> Specify GERL to receive benefits from your Kroger Plus card.

- Sign up at <http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>.

Make GoodSearch.com your home page and list GERL as your charity.

Become a member of GERL.

Participate in online auctions and auctions at events.

Participate in GERL trail rides and other GERL events.

Volunteer at GERL events and/or at GDA equine facilities.

Assist with transporting GERL horses to foster homes.

Store hay for the winter.

Give presentations to local civic groups.

Provide a foster home or adopt a GERL horse.

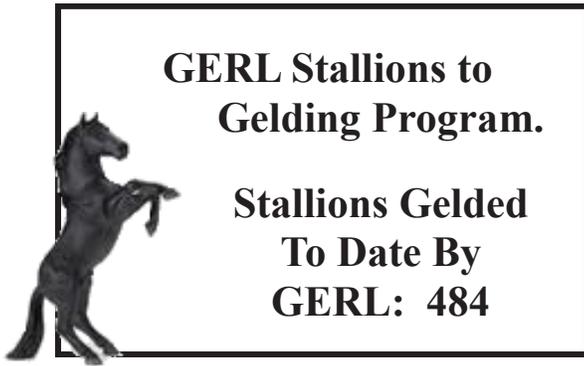
Volunteer to do site visits to approve prospective foster or adoptive homes.

Become an Area Coordinator for GERL.

Donate hay, feed and equipment.

Donate tax-deductible dollars so that GERL can continue to rescue animals in need.

Report suspected abuse cases to the Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Division by calling: 404-656-3713 or 1-800-282-5852.



**Thank you For Helping Peach
County and Henry County Horses**

Jane Allen
Barbakam LLC

**Thank you to our Rescue Challenge
Sponsors and Supporters**

Jan Smith
Linda Kundell

Thank you for Helping Quickstep

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Tracie Merson

Stallion-Gelding Thank You

Sarah Hill



In Memory of:

Gerald Longe *by Thomas and Sylvia Wade*
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Eagle *by Sonny and Kay Hinote Rebel*
by Lisa Sikes
Ned and Ginger *by Jacqueline Conort*
Bud and JackieO *by Patty Livingston*
Oasis Batal *by Sherry Massey*
Susie Cottongim's horse Jay *by Jane Estes*
Beaver, a special horse,
by Cheryl Evans Shedd
Miss Anne's wonderful horse Dillon,
by Gloria English
Risky *by Lisa Creedon*
Chris Elliott *by Susan Lang*

Thank you for your donations

The Thomas and Sylvia Wade Charitable Fund	Nancy Fitzgibbons
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Sherry Massey	Linda Stallings
Beulah Newton	Ron and Adriane Cook
Christopher Gregory	Judy Sophianopoulos
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Sandra Bryant	Rosa Allen
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BUSINESS CARDS ADS



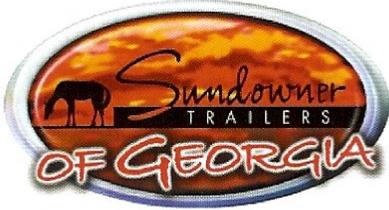
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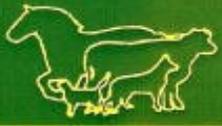


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www.gerlltd.org

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Membership Application



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

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone (home#): _____ (cell#): _____

E-mail Address: _____ Referred by: _____

_____ I am a horse owner

_____ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

Annual membership dues are:

\$35.00 Family _____ \$25.00 Single _____ \$15.00 Junior (12 & under) _____ Age: _____

\$50.00 Club, Organization or Business _____ \$1000.00 Lifetime _____

Misc. Donation: _____

In Honor of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

In Memory of _____ for the amount of \$ _____

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

Sign Up Today! With Your Help We Will Make A Difference!

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