



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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

2013 Quarterly Newsletter

July, August & September

## "Bullet"

By Anne Ensminger

How do we tell this story? Some of it is ugly but it is mostly beautiful. It begins on a wintery day in January 2013 with the arrival of Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Inspectors at a location in Fulton County where they discovered eleven horses living in squalor and near starvation. All of the horses were seized and taken to the GDA Mansfield Equine Impound in an effort to save their lives. Two of the colts were in extremely emaciated condition and one of those was not expected to survive the night.



The Inspectors traditionally give the horses that come into their care, a name. I suppose a number would do just as well for identification purposes but a name seems more likely to impart a measure of dignity. The most severely debilitated colt was given the name "Bullet". I have often wondered if the name revealed their unspoken feeling that perhaps a bullet would be the kindest thing for him. If that was their feeling, it never slowed their efforts on the colt's behalf.

Over the next few weeks Bullet required constant observation as he suffered multiple bouts of colic and constant explosive diarrhea. As with any living organism, severe starvation and overwhelming parasite infestation predictably leads to organ failure, anemia, and severe physical debilitation. Drs. Rhonda Veit and Ross Kittrell from New South Equine Medicine in Watkinsville were frequently called out at all hours of the day and night to care for Bullet. GDA Inspectors, employees, and volunteers were always in attendance.

Remarkably, thanks to constant loving care and Bullet's unbelievable will to survive, after only a few months, he had managed to gain 400 pounds and his shaggy winter coat was shedding to reveal a beautiful red shine. With so much intensive care, he had become very familiar with, and gentle to the human touch. Bullet was not only a barn favorite but his rehabilitation was a shared triumph and source of pride for everyone involved.

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Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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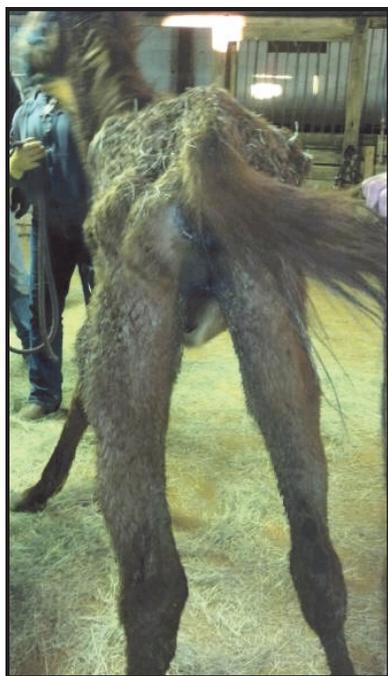
<http://www.gerlltd.org>

[reply@gerlltd.org](mailto:reply@gerlltd.org)

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Oh, if our story could only end here. After his extraordinary fight for survival Bullet was found to have an old fetlock injury on the left front which likely would preclude his ever becoming a saddle horse. Soon after being assigned that discouraging prognosis, he was found to be suffering from one or more dental root abscesses which had ruptured through his left cheek. The estimated cost of surgery to correct this problem at the UGA Vet School was \$3500.00.

The state budget for the GDA Equine Program has never even come close to meeting the need so we at GERL have worked very hard to help close the gap. We had already spent well over \$1000 for Bullet's medical expenses. Now we were faced with a decision concerning spending another \$3500 on a horse that would be only a pet or "pasture ornament" at best. Experience gave us the realization that if Bullet brought a bid at a GDA Auction Sale at all, it would be only a few dollars. Good sense and fiscal responsibility dictated that we, on the Board of Directors, decline. HOWEVER, after all that Bullet and those who now loved him had been through, we simply could not stand by and see him put down.



Ever known as our "Miss Positive", Patty Livingston, GERL President convinced the rest of us to launch a campaign on Facebook and other means of public communication, to raise the money for Bullet's surgery through donations. Our decision brought an immediate sense of relief and the certainty that we would be successful.

The rest is the really good part of this story.....the part that elevates humanity way above those who would ever let any animal get into a condition such as that suffered by Bullet. The response to our plea was overwhelming and hugely gratifying! Donations via Pay Pal, the US Mail, and quiet passing of cash and checks to GERL Board members began immediately. We also held a successful yard sale with the profits designated for Bullet's surgery.

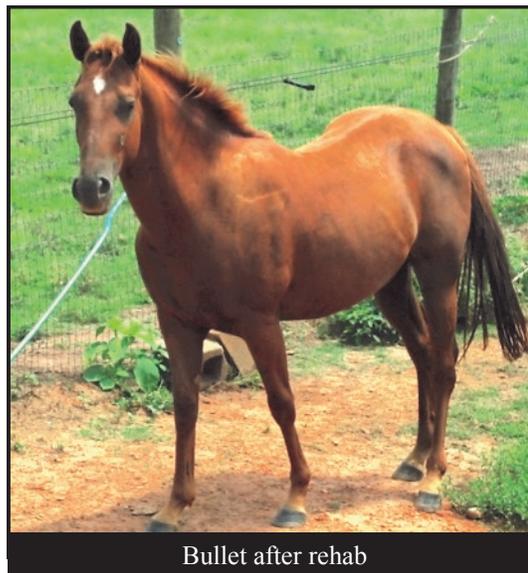
As our story stands today, Bullet had his surgery on August 21st. It was completely successful and Bullet did so



well that the surgeons were able to castrate him while he was under anesthesia. He spent a few post op days at the vet school and was then returned to the care of those at the Mansfield Impound. Thanks to many who joined us in being very moved by Bullet's story, his expenses are completely paid!

The owner of the eleven horses impounded in January has been prosecuted, tried, and found guilty of equine abuse. A large fine was imposed and regular restitution payments are being made to the state of Georgia. That is exactly what must happen in every case where our equine protection laws are broken if we are to ever make progress toward ending this kind of abuse and neglect.

We have been contacted by one person who may be willing to give Bullet a "forever home" and we, along with GDA personnel, will most certainly be looking into that possibility. This beautiful, sweet, and courageous little gelding has earned a future full of security and love. GDA and GERL intend to see that he has it.



Bullet after rehab

**Raffle to Benefit the  
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.**

# Hilton Head Resort

**South Carolina**



**Marriott's Harbour Point  
at Shelter Cove  
Hilton Head, South Carolina  
Vacation Dates:  
May 17 - 23, 2014**

**Ticket Price \$20.00  
6 For \$100.00**

**To purchase raffle tickets:  
Visit our website for more information  
<http://www.gerlltd.org>**

To Purchase Tickets: Send Name, Address and Phone Number with Check or Money Order to GERL, PO Box 328, Bethlehem, GA 30620.

Your tickets will be mailed to you.: For questions, contact Dr Jan Smith (404) 516-0639 [fiftystarranch@aol.com](mailto:fiftystarranch@aol.com)

# *Marriott's Harbour Lake* Orlando, Florida



**Two bedroom villa. One mile from SeaWorld and about 10 miles from Disney.**

**Vacation Dates:  
Saturday, May 24, 2014  
Through  
Saturday, May 31, 2014**

**Ticket Price \$20.00  
6 For \$100.00**

**Drawing Held Jan. 11, 2014  
(Need Not Be Present to Win)**

# Who's Who

## Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

### Board Members

#### **Patty Livingston, President**

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

#### **Eddy O'Hern - Vice President**

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#### **Diana Kelsey / Treasurer**

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#### **Anne Ensminger / Secretary**

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

#### **Lynne Yates - Alternate**

(404) 435-5746 / lynneyates@aol.com

#### **Foster Coordinator - CeCe Calli**

(706) 376-2410 / gerl.fosterhome@gmail.com

#### **Adoption Coordinator - Ruth Wilson**

(706) 743-3175 / gerladopt@gmail.com

#### **Volunteer Coordinator—Diana Kelsey**

gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org

#### **Auction Coordinator - Sue Wrensen**

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#### **Online Auction Coordinator - Marge Mabey**

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#### **Stallion-Gelding Coordinator**

**Heatherlee Hammonds** / mysticalhorses@yahoo.com

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**Webmaster / Newsletter Layout - Steve DeMoss**

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#### **GERL Chaplain—George Lilley**

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### GERL Advisory Board

**Billy Myers, DVM - Kenneth Marcella, DVM**

**William Baker, DVM - Jennifer Baker, DVM**

### **To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division**

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an

Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

### **Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?**

#### **Area Coordinator Director, South GA.**

##### **Debora Hines**

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

#### **Area Coordinator Director, Middle GA.**

##### **Eddy O'Hern**

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

edohern@bellsouth.net

#### **Area Coordinator Director, North GA.**

##### **Lynne Yates**

(404) 435-5747 / lynneyates@aol.com

## 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!

# Announcing GERL's "Backyard Road to the Horse"

By Miss Anne

A great idea has been born. An outstanding committee has been formed and this project is off and running! In an effort to make many of the horses that come into our Foster Program more desirable to adopters, GERL realized that the horses must be at a level of training commensurate with their age. Young horses must possess impeccable ground manners and in addition, older horses also must be safe for riding.

We have learned through experience that professional training is prohibitively expensive which makes it impossible for us to offer it to all of our rescue horses. It occurred to us that, in this age of a rapidly growing number of "Natural Horsemanship" devotees, there are many excellent "backyard" trainers who might be interested in

working with some of our horses for a set amount of time. In this way, these trainers can both help GERL, help the horses get the best possible home, and gain exposure by showcasing their talents to many horse owners in Georgia who then may seek their services.

GERL is excited about our "Backyard Road to the Horse" and we are moving forward with a plan. We are considering several venues in which to hold our competition. We have set November 15, 2014 as the date of our pilot "showdown" with an eye toward making it an exciting annual event.

As our planning progresses, our members and friends will be kept informed. We look forward to having some of you participate and hope that ALL of you will attend!

## GERL Board of Directors Change

Quite understandably, our long time alternate Board member, Cynthia Brayton, has realized that making a living must come before volunteer activities. Her resignation was reluctantly accepted but we are grateful that she has agreed to stay on as Area Coordinator for Rockdale and Henry Counties. We will be satisfied to accept any help she can give. Her quiet manner and sensible viewpoints will be missed by all of us who have enjoyed meetings with Cynthia over the past few years. Thankfully, we are not saying goodbye to Cynthia.

Taking Cynthia's place on your Board of Directors will be Lynne Yates. She has been very active with GERL as Area Coordinator for Cobb, Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Douglas, and Fulton Counties for quite some time. She is full of, and anxious to share her very good ideas to help our organization progress.

Not a horse owner, but certainly a horse lover, Lynn has long made herself available at every opportunity, to speak to young people and civic groups to promote the work of

GERL. At our last GERL Annual Meeting, Lynne (at her own expense) brought materials and photographs so that other Area Coordinators could make their own information boards to be used when they have an opportunity to present a GERL booth or speak to groups on behalf of GERL. Not only does she drink her coffee from a one of a kind ceramic cup imprinted with the GERL logo, but her cute little car has one of those magnetic signs on the side which announces sincere pride in her involvement with GERL. That is what we call esprit de corps! Welcome, Lynne!!!



## New Foster Home Coordinator

We are sorry to say goodbye to Tommy Wilson who has done a great job as Foster Home Coordinator and we are thrilled that a very qualified person has agreed to step into that position. CeCe Calli will be the contact for all foster home activities starting now. She can be reached at [gerl.foster@gmail.com](mailto:gerl.foster@gmail.com). CeCe will be in touch with all of our foster homes as soon as she gets organized.



# GERL Area Coordinators List



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lynn McMinn - Gwinnett, Walton, Oconee**  
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**Susie Bond - Newton, Morgan & Greene**  
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**Maria Land—Walton**  
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**Amy Aronson-Friedman - Lowndes**  
 (229) 834-2455 / aaronson@valdosta.edu

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Linda Tucker - Jackson & Barrow**  
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**Nicki Thigpen - Warren, McDuffie & Columbia**  
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**Marla Morris - Lamar, Upson & Pike**  
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**Eddy O'Hern - Houston, Bibb & Peach**  
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**Cynthia Anderson - Baldwin & Putnam**  
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**Donna Williams - Union**  
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**Linda Kundell - Oconee, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Athens & Clark** (706) 769-6395 / kundell@bellsouth.net

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

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

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

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

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

**Christy Graw - Wayne County**  
 (912) 271-8640 / christy.graw@yahoo.com

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

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

**Area Coordinator Director, North GA.**  
**Lynne Yates**  
 (404) 435-5747 / lynneyates@aol.com



# Eloise

By Pat Allen, Foster Mom

Eloise came to me in July. She had been re-cooperating with another foster parent for about a year. She did a great job of putting weight on her. She is slightly fat but needs muscle toning.

After a week to get used to her new surroundings I started her on ground rules. Using a lounge line I taught or re-taught her whoa (especially whoa), walk, trot and turn on command. She did extremely well.

The next step in my training is that I put a saddle on her and rode at the end of a lounge line with my husband manning the line.

I then rode her in my pasture a couple of times working on bends and adding a back up signal. We graduated to trail riding. She is level headed and non reactive to her surroundings. She paces herself a few horse lengths behind the horse in front on a loose rein. She will also lead the group when asked. She crosses water obstacles and walks across wooden bridges without a problem

She self loads into my straight load two horse trailer without any difficulties. I can stop and park the trailer with her in it and she does not fuss. She



will calmly stand tied to my trailer as long as I want her to.

I plan on taking to her to Croft state park this weekend for a four day trail ride.

Eloise will make a great dependable trail horse. She is a very sweet and smart mare and needs someone to love and ride her consistently. Please come and see her and give her the forever home she deserves.

Remember Grayson, the gray pony that GERL rescued from Gwinnett County last year? Grayson was adopted by the Tomaselli family who held a party in his honor. Grayson is also winning ribbons now! What a lucky boy.



# GERL ADOPTABLES

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



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



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



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



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



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



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

**KRYSTAL** is a beautiful 23 year old Arab mare who has been there and done that! She is very gentle and sweet; great horse for a beginner or a child. Has been used extensively as a lesson horse. She would be great for light trail riding.



**ELOISE** is a 10 year old bay QH/Arab x mare, 14.3 hh. Very sweet and smart mare. Dependable trail horse, will lead or follow; crosses mud, water, wooden bridges without issue. Loads easily; rides quietly on a loose rein.



# GERL ADOPTABLES

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



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



**RHYTHUM** is a 14 year old Blue Roan Missouri Fox Trotter gelding, 15.2 hh. He is trained as a Field Trial horse and spent his early years traveling to Field Trial events with a well known Field Trial Judge/Trainer. He is a sweet, energetic boy who needs an experienced hand when ridden with a large group of horses. He has been ridden by novice riders when only one other horse is along. Rhythum's adoption fee is \$800, which is higher than GERL's normal adoption fee, but he is NOT a rescue horse and was donated to GERL last year by his former owners.



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



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



**HOLLY** also known as "Twilight," is an adorable 2 year old Arab cross. She is a fast learner, loves to be handled and receive attention. She clips, stands for baths and fly spray. She is not spooky and will make someone a great Fancy Show Pony. She currently stands 13.1 hh and will probably mature at just under 14 hh.



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

# GDA Horse Auction at Mansfield

by Patty Livingston



GERL supports and attends all of the Georgia Department of Agriculture's horse auctions. It's something I always look forward to. I arrived at the Mansfield impound on Saturday, August 10th around 9:00 am to start setting up. Most of the volunteers had not arrived yet, but Anne Ensminger was there and she already had the flea market set up in one of the front paddocks.

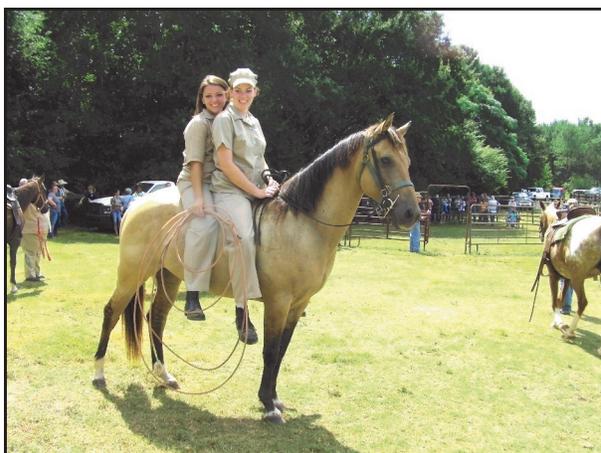
We were trying to raise money for Bullet, one of the GDA horses who needed some surgery on his teeth, and Miss Anne had gone through her garage and basement gathering up some items for the flea market which was going to benefit Bullet. She had some really good stuff that was all neatly tagged and several of the GDA inspectors were walking around picking out some items they wanted. I decided that I needed to shop at the flea market before I started setting up the booths and came away with an armful within ten minutes. In fact, I bought two pairs of cowboy boots that day.

Within a short period of time the volunteers all arrived and we all rolled up our sleeves and started getting all of the booths set up. The inmates from the Pulaski Prison arrived with their tack and began to work on grooming and saddling the horses. A small crowd of people, some pulling horse trailers, began to arrive, too. And, of course, our favorite auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, arrived to do the auction.

All of the horses sold except for one and they brought approximately \$3700 to the State's equine program. GERL sold food, t-shirts and lots of stuff from the flea market, making approximately \$800. We carried all of the leftover flea market items to the Pony Express to sell at their auction. Thanks to David McCannon who sorted through at least 10 tubs or boxes we had unloaded and made sure that it went through the auction that night. Later, GERL received a check for \$200 from the sale from Leisa McCannon, who also helps at the auction.

A huge thanks goes to all of the GERL volunteers who showed up to help, including Tracie Merson, Laney Marable, Marian Finco, Mary Turner, Anne Ensminger, Jackie Christian, Bob Cooper, Tanya Kingsley, Cynthia Anderson and Susie Bond.

It was a great day at Mansfield!





# Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

## Zucchini Bread

- ✓ 4 eggs
- ✓ 2 cups sugar
- ✓ 1 cup vegetable oil
- ✓ 3 ½ cups all purpose flour
- ✓ 1 ½ tsp. baking soda
- ✓ 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- ✓ 1 tsp. salt
- ✓ 2 tsp. Cinnamon
- ✓ 2 cups grated zucchini (skin and all)
- ✓ 1 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, well drained
- ✓ 1 cup raisins (golden are best)



### Feed Bag Recipe Submissions

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please submit  
your recipe to:  
[recipes@gerlltd.org](mailto:recipes@gerlltd.org)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Preheat oven to 350. Grease two loaf pans. Beat eggs, then add sugar and oil and beat until creamy. Add remaining dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Stir in zucchini, pineapple, raisins and pecans. Pour into loaf pans and bake for one hour. Set on rack to cool, remove from pans and enjoy! Great with cream cheese spread!!

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

**Fall Benefit Trail Ride**  
October 19, 2013  
One day ride to be held at  
Bull Mountain in Dahlonega

**Annual Stallion to Gelding  
Castration Day**  
November 9th  
Various Participating Vets Across Georgia

**GERL Christmas Party**  
December 14th  
Bethlehem, Ga.

**GERL Annual Meeting**  
January 11th, 2014  
Winder's Lion Club

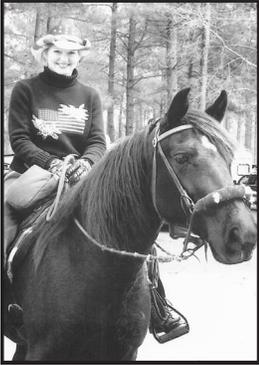
Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

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



## LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

*By Patty Livingston, President*



I am nearing the end of my fifth year as President of GERL and am amazed at how far we have come. Never would I have thought five years ago that I would be more committed to GERL at this point, than ever! I am as energized about the direction the organization is moving than ever before!

We have recently been working on a new program that we hope will answer the need to provide much needed training for many of our rescue horses. It is generally assumed that horses that come into a rescue situation are, at the very least, halter broke. That is often, not the case. Many horses come to us with “baggage” as a result of the abuse and neglect they have suffered. They require a special touch and time spent with them by knowledgeable horse handlers if they are to ever trust humans. Finding qualified volunteers who are willing to work with these horses is not easy. This is something to which I have given much thought; hence it is one of the five steps in my “Get Well Plan” for Georgia’s horse problem. GERL has been implementing the plan for the past three years.

The section entitled “Disbursement – Make Horses More Marketable” talks about creating a new program/event similar to the famous, annual “Road to the Horse” where unbroken, basically wild, horses are trained over a weekend by world famous trainers from around the world. Of course, what we’re proposing isn’t anything on the scale of “Road to the Horse”, but the point is to promote a competition between local trainers willing to give of their time and talents to pilot and promote this event in partnership with GERL. In this way attention will be brought to the problem, each trainer’s skills will be showcased, and hopefully it will make the horses more appealing to prospective new owners.

I am proud to say that we recently held our “Kick-Off” conference call meeting with a group of interested parties within GERL to get this much needed program off the ground. It will be called “Backyard Road to the Horse” and the date of the competition showdown will be November 15, 2014. We are seeking, and welcome suggestions concerning the perfect venue in which to hold our event. The committee has already drafted a basic plan, thanks to our

Southern Area Coordinator Director, Debora Hines. She has proven to possess a wealth of valuable knowledge in this area. We are also fortunate that one of our very valuable volunteers, Tamma Trump has agreed to be the Lead for this program. This committee will be meeting monthly to refine the details of this exciting new venture involving GERL horses; so, look for updates in future newsletters.

On a separate note, one of our Area Coordinators was recently contacted by a local County Extension Agent who was trying to find help for an older gentleman, with very serious health issues, to disburse his herd of thirty to forty horses before he passes. The owner wanted to insure that they went to good homes. Law enforcement was not involved, nor was there a reason for their involvement. There are at least nine stallions on the property and most of the mares have foals by their side and/or are most likely pregnant. They are tame to the old gentleman’s touch, but none have ever been ridden. The owner called several horse rescue groups requesting help and had been turned down by all of them. GERL has never done a large herd disbursement; however, we have been aware for quite some time that such situations would eventually begin to reveal themselves. In this case, the owner is asking for help. He is not looking to “dump” his horses on anyone. He is willing and able to share the cost of getting these horses ready for new homes by having the stallions gelded and all of the horses Coggins tested.

This was one of the topics at our recent Area Coordinator training meeting and it inspired quite a bit of excitement. All who attended that meeting have expressed a willingness to help if GERL accepts this project. The project was then presented to the GERL Board of Directors and they approved moving forward with helping with the disbursement.

Nobody was more excited than me about this approval. I believe we have an epidemic of large herd owners who have been “backyard breeders” for the past twenty to forty years. Like many Baby Boomers, they are getting “long in the tooth” and may also be experiencing health problems. Many of them no longer have the funds to take care of a herd of that many horses (or more) and the price of grain today makes it impossible for them to provide proper nutrition, much less basic vet, foot, and dental care for their animals.

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It is always sad to hear from families who are left behind to handle this kind of problem after a large herd owner dies. They do not have the interest, the knowledge, or the money to take care of large groups of horses. They usually find out that they are unable to even GIVE away the unrideable horses and are totally bewildered as to what to do. We typically hear about a couple of large herd disbursals per year and GERL has not been involved except to take a few of the horses. It is just a matter of time before we start seeing more and more of these types of situations and I would like to be prepared when that time comes. And let me say this about that, I am not talking about taking any of the horses into the GERL adoption program. It is my plan for GERL Area Coordinators and others to become experts at helping to disburse large herds of horses, from soup to nuts. In fact, I am so convinced that there will be a greater need in

the future that I am considering adding it to our Get Well Plan. We will be anxious to know the outcome of this pilot project. We will start by pulling blood for Coggins. The stallions will be gelded when the weather cools. Meanwhile, we will be photographing each and every horse for identification purposes and in order to promote them to prospective owners. Stay tuned for more updates on this program as things progress.

So, now you see why we are feeling so much excitement. There is a greater than ever need for knowledgeable GERL representation out in the field. If you have an interest helping with either of the two projects described in this article or any GERL activity, please feel free to call or send me a note!



## USE YOUR KROGER PLUS CARD & HELP GERL EVERYTIME YOU SHOP!



### TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

- Simply register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger or [register online for a digital card](#).
- Click on Sign In & Register.
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter name of organization (Georgia Equine Rescue League), select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their Registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Thank you,  
*The Community Rewards Team*

# Feed A Horse Program

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

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

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



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

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

**"Feed a Horse"  
Program**

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

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

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

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

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

**THANK YOU!**

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

# GERL Polo Match 2013

by Patty Livingston

When I arrived at the Chukkar Farm Polo Club I was praying that the heavy dark clouds looming overhead would hold off until after our event. It had been raining when I left Bethlehem that morning but since we had a back-up plan I didn't worry. Sue Wrensen was already there and had the silent auction tables set up and all of the items displayed and labeled. Lavon Kern, likewise, had all of the flea market items set up. Much to my surprise, there was a huge white event tent that was set up beside the patio area overlooking the beautiful polo field, leftover from a recent wedding, that hadn't been taken down yet. How's that for luck?

We got busy setting up the t-shirt, food and raffle ticket booths. In the meantime, Miss Anne and a handful of volunteers set up and manned the gate and helped with the parking. Thankfully, we had just the right number of volunteers to cover all of the areas where help was needed. We even had a little time to eat and socialize before the start of the match, which was definitely a nice change.

By 2:00 a nice sized crowd had arrived and the announcer, Jack Cashin's son-in-law, announced the start of the first chukkar. The field was beautiful and green with no mud in sight. The rain was holding off, but I said another prayer, anyway. There was a good bit of excitement in the air, even within the group of polo players; I heard someone say that they had been rained out the previous three Sundays so



they were all happy to be out on a dry field playing their favorite game. It was an exciting game, too, with close scoring throughout. At one point, one of the riders came unseated and went headon into the padded goalie. It was very scary to watch. I can't imagine how he wasn't hurt, but he climbed right back into the saddle and continued to play.

The silent auction and flea market were both open during the polo match and there were several people who kept the bidding going when they saw someone had raised their bid. I was manning the raffle ticket booth. We had two one-week vacations that we were raffling thanks to Dr. Jan Smith who donated both to GERL. This was the day that we would be pulling the winning ticket to see who had won. We had only ordered one hundred raffle tickets for each so the odds were pretty good and we sold the majority of them. We called 4 year old Logan, Dr. Jan's grandson, to the raffle table during the half time break and asked him to draw out a winning ticket from each of the bowls. Whitney Bartlett of Hokes Bluff, Alabama, won the trip to Gatlinburg and Judy Sophiandpoulos of Atlanta won the trip to Ormond Beach. Unfortunately, Judy was unable to attend and told us to draw another name. The second drawing was Joyce Davis who bought her ticket at the polo match. Congratulations to both of these GERL supporters!

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The closing of the silent auction had everybody hurrying to check their bids before all of the items were gathered by the auction volunteers. Meanwhile, the players were down to the last chukkar and the crowd was on their feet rooting for their favorite team. As the horn blew to signal the end of the match everybody started to gather their things to leave, while the players walked off of the field. Within five minutes the skies gave way and the rain started coming down in sheets. It made me smile as I said another quick prayer. This was an amazing day!

A huge thanks goes out to Jack Cashin and his family who invite GERL to come out and host this polo fund raising event every year. Jack is a long-time member of GERL and has always offered his support. We are very grateful. We are also very grateful for the wonderful volunteers who showed up to help: Lindsay and Clay Harrison, Betty Altman, LaVon Kern, Sue Wrensen, Alice Enix, David Lee, Linda Kundell, Pat Allen, Pat Dean, Becky White, Anne Ensminger, Donna Pieper, Bob Long, Ed Merritt, Cynthia Anderson, Patricia Petelle, Geoff Smith and Lynne Yates.



## Faye Decker, Celebrates her 11th birthday!

Our newest GERL member, Faye Decker celebrated her 11th birthday in style with a Derby theme. After a picnic lunch, derby hats were created, horse shoes decorated, hayride and bobbing for apples ensued. Guests were asked to bring donations for our GERL equines in lieu of birthday gifts. We gathered quite the collection of feed, wormers, halters, leads, brushes, buckets, treats and shampoo!



(top row l-r) Hannah Mace, Lily Meuninck, Maggie Rivers, Emme Engle, Jameson Truitt, Isabella Siegel (bottom row l-f) Gabrielle Mace, Faye Decker, Olivia Harvey

# UGA Horse Owner's Seminar

By Linda Kundell

Lynne Yates and I went to the UGA Horse Owner's Seminar on August 10th. I really wanted to go to the Mansfield horse auction but I had already said that I would do the Seminar. The arena where it was held was 10 minutes from my house but it took 1 hour and 10 minutes for Lynne to get there. I set the table up on Friday afternoon and figured that I would be there before Lynne in the morning. Can you believe that on Saturday morning she beat me there? I was so surprised when I walked up to the table and there she was. I believe that she had to get up a wee bit earlier than I did.

Well, it was a great day. There were about 150 people at the Seminar. There were tables set up for Georgia Horse Council, a couple of feed and supplement companies, and the Cooperative Extension service AND the vaulting team from Falconwood stables in Covington. I watched them practice and I'm amazed that those kids can get on the horse and stand up. Even when I was little I couldn't get on a bareback horse. I was the bane of my cousin's existence since she always had to get off and help me get back on (I fell off a lot!!)

Southern States was there and gave me the two open bags of feed which they had used for demonstration. They reminded me to tell GERL members to save and turn in the proof of purchase seals on every Southern States feed bag so that GERL can receive a rebate.

Lynne and I took turns visiting the other tables and introducing ourselves and our mission. Of course, our main mission was to make people aware of GERL. Our other mission was to enjoy ourselves which we did (we are suppose to enjoy ourselves, aren't we)! The Student Vet Association that puts this on every year was just super to us. We didn't have to pay for our space. We got a great lunch with beef, potatoes, green beans, a roll and a dessert. We met lots of people and visited with everyone that we could. And, of course, we brought lots of

raffle tickets (I just can't pass up a raffle even though I can't remember ever winning anything). I'm always hopeful that someday, somewhere my ticket will be drawn and I'll win something. Small? big? I don't care. I just want to win something! I was holding Lynne's tickets when she did win something. I think that I was as excited as she was because I got to say that I had the winning ticket. She got a huge bucket fill of some kind of supplement.

I had some friends that were there. Chris, who is working with my foster horse Starr, was there. Chris just wants to learn everything she can to make a horse's life better. I also talked with some other GERL members who were attending the classes. It never hurts to learn a little bit more about horses.



Lynne and I talked to at least 50 people about GERL. We handed out newsletters. We asked people to join, to buy shirts, to donate, and to talk to us. It seems that Lynne and I just love to talk to people and they love to talk to us. Whenever there was

a break, we were covered up with people. Every time I represent GERL at an event, I am surprised at the number of people who don't know anything about us.

We both enjoyed ourselves a lot. At one point it started to rain pretty heavily and I was very thankful that we were under cover and could just watch the rainfall. Of course, I did have to run through the rain and close my truck windows. Silly me, it was so hot I had thought that I could cool the truck off a little bit.

About 3:30 things were beginning to close up and we decided to head home, tired but feeling really good about the day.

I sent a thank you to the organizer of the Seminar. I really wanted to ask to her to be sure to invite us again next year. It was a good day for me and Lynne and a good day for GERL.

## Proof of Purchase Seals Update

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

With my sincere gratitude,  
*Ginny Scarritt*

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

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

*and send them to:*  
Ginny Scarritt  
4835 Kendall Court \* Atlanta, GA 30342

### **We Need Your Help! Auction Items are Needed.**

We have upcoming events that will  
include auctions.

We need you to help by donating auction items. These items can include new or used tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc. Remember... our auctions are only as successful as the items that we have to offer.

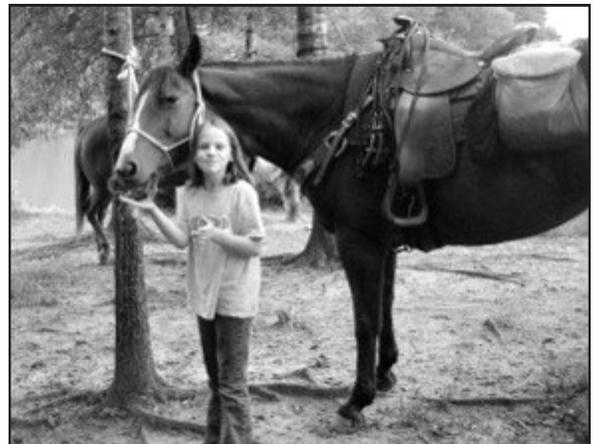
Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental? Do you have a timeshare that you do not use? Perhaps you would consider donating a few nights or a week for one of our upcoming auctions? It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

#### **Thank You In Advance For Your Support!**

If you have items to donate or  
have additional questions please contact:  
Sue Wrensen / (770) 331-6947  
[swrensen@comcast.net](mailto:swrensen@comcast.net)

GERL sends our love and condolences to Andee Rogers and her family for the loss of a wonderful, longtime friend, Glory Be. He was 31 years old, he was a great teacher and best friend. He taught Andee & Mike's children, Heath and Garrett, and all their grand children to ride (and ride they DO!).

Now he is teaching all of the angels in Heaven to ride! Glory Be, you will be missed!



**Taylor & Glory Be**

## Donations for operation for GDA's horse, Bullet

Audio Visual Atlanta — <i>Phil Yarbrough</i>	Katherine Burke Family Physicians at — <i>Summer Grove</i>
Victoria Joyce	Penny Worsham
Allison Webb	Lynn Smith
Leslie Elliott	Lonnie Joyce
Denise Arnold	Dave Ashford
Margaret Hartman	Jessica Casey
Judy Sophianopoulos	Linda Stallings
Debra Hughes	Amy Lathi
Shelby Anderson	Marian Finco
Linda Clark	Jennifer Rice
Kristina Fournier	Debra Harper
Candace Buckalew	Susie Hansen
Nicholas Adams	Kate Swenson
Kelly McCreight	Vickie Smith
Mary Calio	

### *In Memory of:*

Mary Sikes by the Silver Spur Riding Club  
Ray Nunley by Hugh & Linda Lentile, Jr.  
Draw by Paula LeCates for Judy Close  
Anniversary Skip by Sue Ware  
Amanda by Sara Vinson

## Thanks to all that have donated to GERL for Patches' eye surgery!

Michelle Lyle  
Margaret Carden  
Kristina Fournier  
Cynthia Fuguet Mare  
Susie Kessinger



**Happy Birthday to  
Mary Pat Hill from  
Laurie Wilson!**



Linda Kundell, GERL sends our love to you! Linda lost her beloved lab, Callie. It is always so hard to lose a best friend. It's comforting to know that you will see her again one day!

*Heartfelt condolences go out to  
Kim Flemming  
for the loss of her mare, Lady.*

## Meet Silver

*by Patty Livingston*

I received an email from one of the GDA Inspectors telling me about a mini horse that she had recently visited after the owners contacted them. They were moving to California after their rental home had suddenly been sold by the owner. They didn't have a lot of time to pack up and move and were concerned about their mini and where he would go. Since this was not really a situation that the GDA typically gets involved with, they asked GERL to take him. I hooked up the stock trailer the very next day and went to get him. He was adorable, but he is a stallion and you know how I feel about that! Well, it is not castration weather right now, so I am enjoying having Silver live at my farm until he is castrated. Afterwards, he will be going to live with one of our Area Coordinators who I showed this picture to. This is my kitten, Possum, sitting on Silver's back. You can see that Silver could care less!



# Update on Smokey, Now Named Hershey Kiss

*Written by Lynne Robinson Yates and Molly Showman Snyder*

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

# Happily Ever After... 'Spook'

By Ruth Wilson

"Spook" came to GERL as part of an animal hoarding case that had long legal entanglements. Once all the red tape was finally cut and Spook and his friends were adoptable, I decided to see how he would do under saddle. So in early July, Spook and two mares came to Silver Hill Farm for some up-close evaluation.

The first thing we did was change his name!! "Spook" is right up there with "Buck" and "Bolt" as far as I am concerned, when it comes to names for a horse! Several ideas came and went, but for some reason, "Irish" was suggested and tried, and that was the name he chose for himself. Every time I would walk out to the pasture and call, "I-rish!" he would fling his head up and whinny, as if to say, "Yes? I'm right here!"

Irish had one of those personalities that you can't help but like. I personally love a curious horse who engages with people, and Irish was like that right off the bat. "Whatcha doing? Can I come along? Can I help? Where are we going? Hey, here I am, pet me!" His ground manners were very nice (well, for the most part) and I just had a good feeling that he would do well under saddle.

We had a volunteer trainer come out, a young man with a lot of experience with green horses. Irish worked well in the round pen, so we saddled him up. He was totally unconcerned with everything we did; his whole attitude was, "What's the big deal?" So the trainer mounted up, cautiously, and off they went. Again, no big deal. Then it was my turn.

I admit, I was nervous. I'm too old to go getting myself bucked off a horse I don't know. But Irish had done so well, and he had demonstrated such a calm, quiet demeanor that I wasn't TOO scared. It was immediately evident that he had been ridden, many times, and that all he needed was a good refresher. We walked all around the yard, up and down the long driveway, around the pond and back again. All my horses, plus Irish's new mare buddies, were following our progress along the fence lines, back and forth, calling to us. But Irish ignored them; he was all about the business at hand. I even got him to trot, rather reluctantly (hey, it was 90 + degrees, I don't blame him) without too much effort.

We had an approved adopter, Angela, who had been waiting for just the right gelding to come along. I knew right away that Irish was the perfect match for her. So she came out to Silver Hill Farm the next weekend and again, Irish was a real gentleman! In fact, Angela walked out alone into the pasture with a halter and lead, and he came right to her! It was evident to everyone who had worked with Irish that he was definitely meant to be a woman's horse. So Angela said, "I want him."

Getting him to her was another matter entirely. Our first attempt was on a rainy Friday morning when I had somewhere to be by lunchtime. A male friend came with his trailer to do the transport. We had assumed (incorrectly) that, since he had trailered so nicely to Silver Hill, he would be easy to load. WRONG!! He had bonded pretty closely with the mares here, and he wasn't inclined to hop into the trailer with a perfect stranger. After two hours of what turned into a total battle of wills (which Irish won by default) back into the pasture he went, and Plan B was hatched. A few days later, when I had the whole day free, my good friend Valerie came over, and we loaded one of the mares into my side-by-side trailer first. Irish loaded pretty easily after that. Then we unloaded the mare and headed out before Irish realized that he had been tricked!

After a scenic two-hour drive, we pulled into the turnaround at the boarding stable near Dahlongega. My first thought was, Wow, what a view!! Angela was there with her other rescue horse, Petey, on a lead line, waiting to greet the new arrival. Irish tiptoed cautiously off the trailer, went straight to Angela with a request (well, okay, a demand) for a head-scratch, and then began grazing as if he owned the place! Once again, his laid-back demeanor was in full effect.

Valerie and I chitchatted with Angela a bit, toured the barn, signed the paperwork and prepared to leave. When I went to say goodbye to Irish, I was surprised to find myself getting teary-eyed! He had only been with me for a month, and I could see that he would be blissfully happy in his new home, but Irish has that kind of personality that just got under my skin. He is a special horse, and I am so glad we found a special adopter to give him his "happily ever after" home!





## A Note from the Secretary's Desk

My article in this issue, entitled simply "Bullet" tells the wonderful success story of a young horse that came very near to dying because of starvation and neglect. Sadly, his is not a story that we have never heard in the past.

This note from my desk is not nearly so much about Bullet as it is about those who stepped up to answer pleas for financial help for this innocent victim of human cruelty and ignorance after everything humanly possible had been done by many humans of a very different kind, to save his very life.

After being impounded by GDA Inspectors, Bullet was housed at the GDA Mansfield Equine Impound Facility with ten other horses coming from the same horrible location. There will never be a doubt that he would not be alive today if not for the around the clock, loving care he received from GDA employees, volunteers, and local veterinarians over the next few months.

All seemed to be going well for Bullet until it was discovered that he would require dental surgery which was estimated to cost \$3500.00 AND that he had been declared most likely unridable due to an old fetlock injury. It made absolutely no sense to spend that much money on a horse that would be almost impossible to place in a forever home and may even end up being put down. GERL provides hands on and financial help to lots of horses each year and that much money could go a long way towards the rehabilitation of a horse much more likely to be adopted.

That being the "sensible" way to look at this situation was not even a consideration for GERL President, Patty Livingston. Her argument on Bullet's behalf to the Board of Directors, charged with the decision of whether or not to spend \$3500 MORE dollars on this horse, went something like this: He is young. He is beautiful. He is as sweet as they come. He has long been a barn favorite because of his disposition and his cooperative behavior through one crisis after another during his four month period of rehabilitation. ALL of those involved with his care in any way, want desperately for him to survive. Last but not least, how can we ignore this little horse's

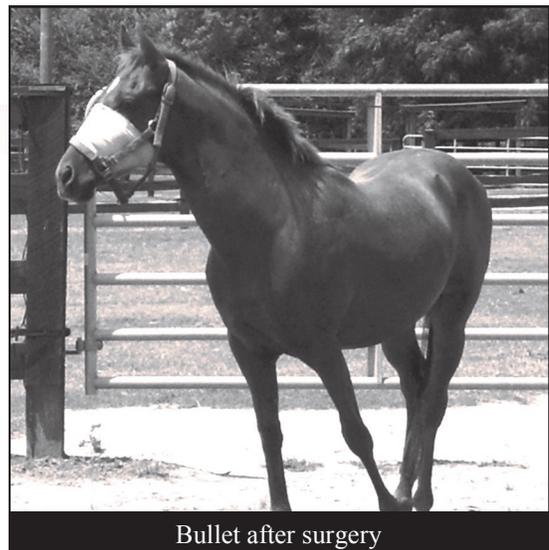
will to live?

Well, there was very little discussion after that. The Board decided to launch a campaign to raise the needed money specifically for Bullet and see how that went.

There are no more ways to explain the behavior of those responsible for Bullet's critical condition at the time of his impoundment than there is to explain the kindness and generosity of those who somehow become aware of such a need and make the decision to open their hearts and pocketbooks to help meet that need.

As soon as Bullet's story was made known on the GERL Facebook page, the donations started coming in! Some of the donations were for a few dollars and some of them were for hundreds of dollars. One person sent \$100 via Pay Pal, a week later he sent another \$100, and then he sent \$250 more! He is not a member of GERL and we have no idea how he became aware of this situation. He assured us that he would pray for Bullet. We join him in being very aware that sometimes it takes more than money! There were others who sent notes with their donations saying that if we did not reach our goal, to contact them and they could give more. Thanks to these precious people, Bullet has had his surgery and he is doing very well. We still need to find a forever home for him but we have every confidence that it will be provided.

This is the most humbling thing of which I have ever been a part. Just when our faith in humanity is rock bottom due to our close involvement with Bullet's story, other humans (the GOOD GUYS!) step in and lift our spirits by demonstrating the REAL "human condition". They are the ones that I hope to emulate when I grow up.

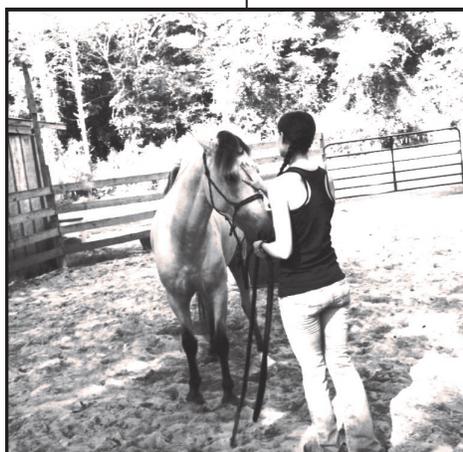


Bullet after surgery

# Diary of a Skittish Horse

by Eddy O'Hern

Introduction: This is a journal about Payday, a horse that was picked up by the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture (GDA). He was afraid of his own shadow and was untouchable to any of the inspectors who attempted to approach him, with the exception of Jessie Murray. Since the GDA sells their rehabled horses at auctions, it was obvious that Payday was not a suitable candidate for the State's program. The GDA asked GERL to take him into their foster/adoption program where he could receive the training that he so desperately needs before he is ready for a forever home. GERL VP Eddy O'Hern agreed to foster Payday in order to work with him and give him the special time that he needs to overcome his fears and eventually become a rideable horse.



Sarah and Payday

Below are excerpts from written notes that Eddy has been sharing with the GERL Board about Payday's training since he arrived at Eddie's farm in July:

**July 18th:** Payday and I have been working diligently since he has been here. At first I was wondering if he would ever come around and start learning anything and not be so spooky. The first few weeks all we did was get to know each other and he got to know the routine around the farm. I began by just being in the round pen with him and slowly was able to walk up to him and pet his neck. Over the weeks, I just kept rubbing him and going a little further each day. I can now pretty much touch him all over. I can pick his front feet up and rub his back legs. He still will not allow me to pick up his back feet but that will come in time. I'm hoping I can get there before too much longer because he is going to need his feet trimmed, which I will probably have to do myself because every time anyone new walks up he heads for the hills.

This week I have been able to start desensitizing him to the lead rope and he is doing well with it. I also started working with desensitizing with a string and the stick with a plastic bag on it. To my surprise he took to the plastic bag fairly well. I started free lounging him last week and also to my surprise he has done very well. He changes directions properly by turning in and not out. He walks, trots and canters by voice command. I was working him in the round pen and I have barrels in there that I use to work my horse with. Two of them are laid down end to end next to the fence. When we first started the free lounging he went around them the first 3 laps. Then on the 4th lap he was not paying attention and came up on the barrels too quick and had to jump them and WOW he decided he liked that and now every time he goes around he jumps them. His form when he jumps is absolutely beautiful. He will make some youngster a great little hunter jumper. He could also be beautiful pulling a cart because he has a very showy trot.

Tonight I tried lounging him on the lead and after just a little persuasion he started working pretty good. He will lounge left and right and will change directions properly. I also have been working on releasing his hind quarters and he has picked it up well also. But he still was very spooky after all we have been doing. Until tonight when I decided to see if I could teach him to back up. I stood out in front of him (far enough so he could not paw me if he wanted to) and shook the lead rope, he gave no response so I got more aggressive with it until he took a step back then I released all pressure and praised him. It only took 4 or 5 times and he picked it up and now will back when I shake the rope very lightly. But the best thing that happened was after he started backing it was like a light came on in his head that I was there to help him not hurt him. And I got to tell you that horse came up to me and put his head on my shoulder like he was saying, "ok I understand thank you". Man it about brought me to tears. This little guy has so much heart and wants to be with me so bad. When he lets go and becomes the horse I know he can, he is going to be one awesome little guy. It will just take time.

I will also say he has never once tried to kick, paw or bite me. So he is not aggressive just afraid.

**July 19th:** I came in this morning dripping with sweat but loved every minute of it. This little guy and I had another first this morning. After I finished working with him I worked with my horse and also rode for a while. When I got finished with her Payday was out in the pasture. I went out there to check a water trough that I have out there and I decided to see if I could walk up to him, he looked up and saw me coming and he walked up to me. I thought, Yee Haw, and I stood there and petted him for a bit then walked back to the barn. He is doing so good.



...Continued from page 23

July 29th: Payday is doing better, he allows me now to walk up to him even in the pasture and put his halter on. Today we worked more on desensitizing to the lead rope being thrown all over him and around his feet. He is doing well with it but is still a little bit worried if I stand off a bit and throw it at him. He is now allowing me to touch him all over. I am now also able to rub all 4 legs, however he is still a bit worried when I am at his back legs and kicked out a little this morning (nothing real aggressive) when I was at his back right leg. But he is coming around. He is lounging well and changing directions better now than he was. I do believe that this little guy will make a nice horse eventually. But it is going to take a lot of work before he will ever be able to belong to anyone other than an accomplished horseman/woman. It is still going to take a lot of work but he will get there. I work with him every morning Monday thru Saturday. I like to give the horses one day of just being horses all day. I believe it helps with their training. Again, I'll say, "He sure does want to be loved. I see it in his eyes and his expressions. But he is so worried about giving in and letting his guard down". But I also see him giving a little more every day. I just can't wait until I get him to the point I can give him a bath. I rub him and my hands come out black.

Aug 7th: I am now able to pick up his front feet and clean them with a hoof pick. He is still not sure enough with his back feet but coming along. I am now able to throw the lead rope all over his body with no problems. And the same with the stick and string, the stick and plastic bag and the buggy whip. As he lunges I can now sling the rope, stick and string and the buggy whip around his legs and over his body while he is moving around. This morning I decided to see what would happen if I cracked the buggy whip. The first time he just flinched hard the second time not much at all. So he is even doing ok with the whip cracking loudly. I can crack it as loud as a 22 gun fires.

This morning I also started desensitizing with a burlap bag and a partially rolled up feed sack that makes a lot of noise. I flap them both all over and around him and he is doing really well with them. I use the burlap bag to help get ready for the saddle blanket. He wore the burlap bag like a saddle blanket this morning with no problem. I also placed it on his rump and over his neck up to his ears and he lunged without any problem.

He is doing good with brushing now and combing out his mane and tail. He's a little "iffy" with the tail but not bad.

He is lounging very good now and changes directions perfectly. I even work him without the halter and lead rope and he lunges and changes directions on cue. He is also backing up on cue now. I just shake my finger in a left and right motion from in front of him and he backs right up.

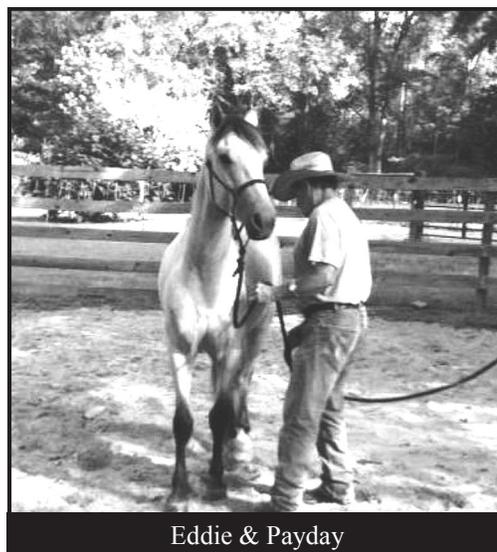
I'm working on his ears. He has a little bit of a fear from time to time with me touching them. Especially when I touch an ear that is on the opposite side that I am standing on. But he is do-

ing better with it. One thing that he loves for me to do is to stick my finger in his mouth and rub his upper gum above his front teeth between his teeth and front lip. I have read that that is another way to help a horse calm down and that it releases endorphins that are calming to a horse. It sure works on him. Getting them to lower their head will also help calm them but I haven't been able to get his head down further than his shoulder height.

I am real happy with his progress and so far he has progressed quicker than I thought. It is however, still going to be a while before he is ready for a saddle.

**August 25th:** Well another good day with Payday. I worked with him for about 2 hours and then let him stand with the rope attached to a blocker tie ring for the first time. (It slips if the horse pulls back on it). He stood tied for about 30 minutes with no problem. While grooming him I cleaned out his front hooves; while cleaning them out I decided it was time to see if he would be ok with me trimming them. I got my tools out and to my surprise I had no problem trimming his front feet. Now I just need to get him to allow me to get his back feet picked up and cleaned and eventually trimmed. I have been working on them but he is so protective of his flight ability that I have not gotten there yet. But he is slowly coming along with it. His back hooves are not as bad as his front ones were. So we have time.

**September 2nd:** I'm so excited, Sarah Schelkoph that just moved to Warner Robins this past September and a recent new member of GERL called me and asked if I would be willing to train her to train horses. I told her yes and to my surprise she has a lot of natural abilities and learns very fast. She has been out twice now and even Payday has accepted her. Here are some pictures of her working with Payday. Check out his form going over the barrel. He is awesome! Stay tuned for more updates and pictures of Payday as he continues his training with Eddy!



Eddie & Payday

# GDA Success Stories “Range”

By Jesse Murray, GDA Equine Inspector and Mansfield Barn Manager

This is Range. He was a impounded horse. He came to us along with a few others. When he arrived at the Mansfield Impound, his weight was 878 lbs. He came to the Mansfield Impound. He was a very well behaved and well educated gelding. Range was easily loved by all. Especially kids! He seemed to enjoy children more. Eventually after his weight gain he was moved to the Decatur Impound. There a volunteer, Ginger, fell in love with him and with his behavior towards children, she thought he would be a great first horse for her daughter Zoe.

At Range’s departure to his new home with his new loving family, he weighed 1043lbs! Zoe and Range, seen here, are doing great together. We all are so happy that he has the love of a young rider and her family! Hope to see more pictures and updates from Zoe and Range in the future!



## GERL ANNUAL MEETING



### AGENDA

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

- 12:30 Introduction by President Patty Livingston
- 1:30 General Meeting
- 2:30 Adjourn

**January 11th, 2014**  
**Winder Lion’s Club**  
**354 E. Broad St., Winder, GA 30680**

**GERL MERCHANDISE WILL BE FOR SALE!**

**Pot Luck—Please bring your favorite dish to share!**

# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.



will host the 3rd Annual



# GEORGIA STALLION TO GELDING CASTRATION DAY

## November 9, 2013

Details: Equine Veterinarians all across Georgia are joining together with GERL to host a low cost castration clinic for \$100 per horse. GERL will pay \$50 and the owner/client will pay \$50.00. Check the GERL website in October for participating Vets. ([www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org))

Call for Details:  
Patty Livingston  
(770) 867-0760

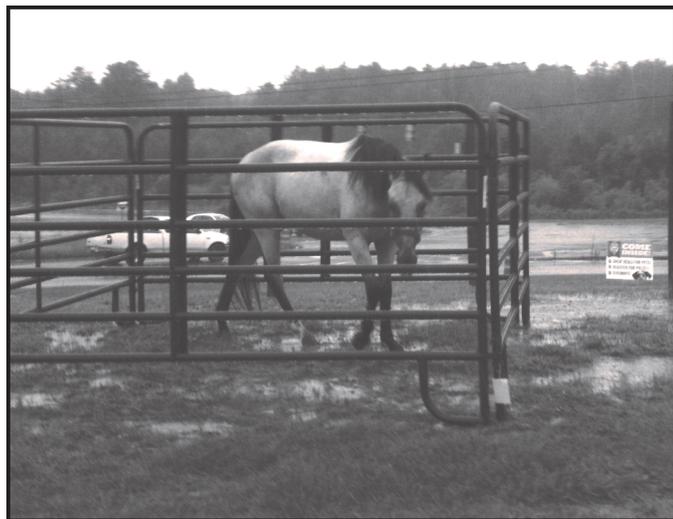


Disclaimers:  
No Crypt orchids.  
Tetanus required.

# Pet Appreciation Day at Tractor Supply in Warner Robins

By Eddie O'Hern

Well it was a Soggy Bottom Day at Tractor Supply Company in Warner Robins as we unloaded and set up for the Pet Appreciation Day, and no, believe it or not, we where not the only ones that set up out in the rain. There was a dog rescue and Southern Valley Ranch Horse Rescue was out there with us. Are animal people crazy or what?



We got there about 0900 AM and man, was it ever raining. It died down some so we jumped out and got all set up. We got some panels set up for the horses that were brought along and got the horses in the pins just as it came up another gully washer. Of course our favorite GERL spokes horse Goldie had his own canopy. What a spoiled Diva he is. We got the awning down on the side of the motor home and set up another canopy so we could try to stay dry (Which of course we did not). After we got the merchandise, pamphlets and such out we had some coffee and waited to see who might show up. Lol, every once in a while someone would pull up and holler out the car window, "what are y'all doing out here"? Of course we would run out in the rain and tell them we where waiting on the animals to



come 2 by 2. Then we would tell them who we were and what we were up to. One lady gave us a twenty dollar bill for donation and said, "God bless you for standing out in the rain for the horses". And if that was to be all we got today (which it was) I figured to be blessed is best of all. So, we stood in the rain and took care of the horses and talked to folks for 4 hours. No, we didn't bring in a lot of funds but we did let some folks know who we are and further passed along the word of GERL and our mission. We all had fun as we normally do standing around talking about all of our favorite subjects of horses and all things equine. We all ahd fun while standing and getting wet. You see, when horse folks gather together whether rain or shine we have an exceptionally good time. So everyone come join us next time and we will paint the town red. (If the sun shines that is).

I'd like to thank everyone that showed up and helped out today. It was so awesome that y'all could come out and walk on water the way you did. Thank you so very much.

*Thanks to:*

George Lilley and Janice Lilley, Sarah Schelkoph (it was nice meeting Sarah's husband Dan today), Tiffany Bowen, Patrick Bowen, Tina Bowen and Hayley Sunnigurl.



# Remembering Vandy's Story

By Anne Ensminger

I have been a member of the GERL Board of Directors since 2005. I remember like it was yesterday when one of my first meaningful involvements concerned our being asked to help find a home for an aged Quarter Horse gelding named Vandy.

Vandy was, at that time, over 30 years old and had belonged to the family of Mr. Bob Hayden of Jackson, GA since he was a three year old stallion. Mr. Hayden had long been known in the local horse community as "Cowboy Bob" and was now suffering from terminal pancreatic cancer. He was joined by the rest of his family in a deep concern for the future welfare of Vandy, a horse that had sired many of the nice Quarter Horses raised by Mr. Hayden.

I don't remember how it came to be that Jacki Moore and Leslie Lambert found out about Vandy and agreed to care for him but I was privileged to accompany them on the day that they went to get Vandy. I had never met either of them but immediately

became very fond of them and enjoyed spending most of that day getting to know them and making plans for Vandy's care. My respect and affection for them has continued to grow over the years since that day.

We didn't get to meet Mr. Hayden but his family told us about the day that Vandy came into their family. Mr. Hayden went to the farm where Vandy was purchased and rode him all the way home which was quite a long ride. When the young stallion arrived he was known to be a perfect gentleman from the very first day. He soon became a treasured member of the family and was a source of pride to all of them for many years.

Quite some time later when Mr. Hayden decided that he was no longer going to breed his mares, Vandy was gelded and became the mount that taught all of the grandchildren and later, the great grandchildren to ride. It was no small wonder that the family felt a great sense of responsibility for Vandy's final years.

Those years began to pass quietly for Vandy as he became accustomed to the routine in his new home. There were other horses on the property but they didn't seem to mind that Vandy was chosen to enjoy comfortable nights in the private stall with a fan and breezeway, built especially for him by Jacki and Leslie in their garage. The two haughty llamas and the

one eared goat hardly looked up when Vandy was taken from the pasture each night to receive his blanket and specially prepared geriatric meal.

In the eight years that Vandy has been with those two lovely ladies, GERL has never received a bill for one penny for his expenses. We all

lovingly think of Vandy's status as that of a GERL horse in "permanent foster care".

A few weeks ago I was contacted by Laurie Wilson who lives in Powder Springs and was interested in getting some input from GERL concerning a large animal rescue unit she was spearheading in conjunction with the local fire department. The area surrounding the neighboring city of Milton is known as Georgia "horse country" and the Milton Fire Department has had a very active and successful large animal rescue unit for quite some time. Laurie and the Powder Springs fire fighters want to emulate the Milton unit.

*Continued on page 29...*



...Continued from page 28

As we chatted, Laurie told me that she knew about the work of GERL because years ago her father was dying of cancer and GERL had taken an older horse of theirs for which they desperately needed to find a home. She mentioned that the horse's name was Vandy. You guessed it! Laurie is Bob Hayden's daughter! I told Laurie that Vandy was still alive and thriving under the care of Jacki and Leslie. She said that was impossible because Vandy would now be over forty years old!

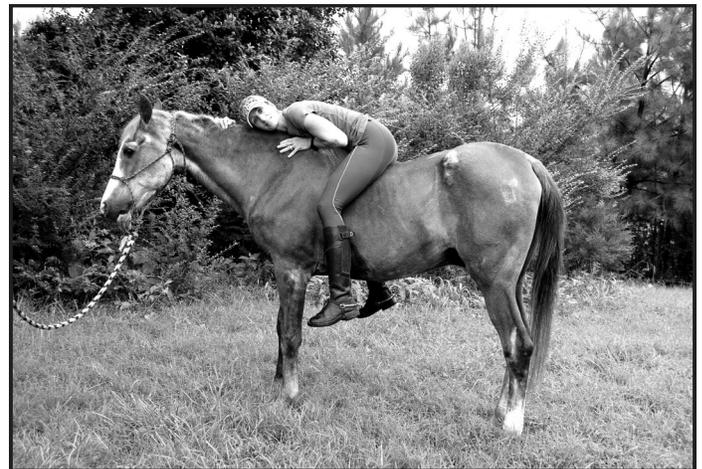
When I finally convinced her that her precious old family member was indeed, still living, she immediately began making arrangements with Jacki and Leslie to come for a visit with Vandy on the following Monday. She brought a friend with her and I asked if I could join them. It was a very emotional reunion, to say the least.

Laurie provided us with an old photograph of a young Vandy with one of the grandchildren from many years ago. I snapped her picture as she briefly sat on the old gentleman's back just long enough for a big hug and a photograph. Jacki told us that was the first time anyone had been on Vandy's back since he came to live with them.

After a wonderful visit, as Laurie and her friend left to return home, she must have had in her thoughts that this would probably be the last visit with Vandy. He is definitely showing his age but there is no doubt in any of our minds that he has at-

tained such an unusually long life only because of the tender care and vigilance provided by Jacki and Leslie after the time when Mr. Hayden could no longer provide such care. Besides, if ever there was a horse that deserved a long and comfortable life, it is Vandy.

By the way, Laurie, a very accomplished horsewoman, is still riding "Champ", a twenty year old son of Vandy. While Vandy's story has not yet come to an end, it is near. It feels good to all concerned to know that it will never be completely ended because his blood flows through the veins of many of today's fine Georgia Quarter Horses. GERL is pleased to have played a small part and been included in a portion of the story of Vandy's life.



## Thank You For Your Foster Homes

**Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf / Lucky**  
**Michelle Williams / Joker & Kiester**  
**Tommy & Ruth Wilson / Angel & Skye**  
**Heatherlee Hammonds / Rocky**  
**Lester and Diane Aradi/ Beau**  
**Ann Murphy / China**  
**Eddie O'Hern / Payday**  
**Alicia Mohr / Dakota**  
**Beth Eavenson / Alf**  
**Jackie Moore & Leslie Lambert / Vandy**  
**Anne Ensminger / Honor**

**Elaine Bishoff / Buddy**  
**Debra Hines / Crystal**  
**Debra Young / Ginger & Hoss**  
**Susan Prugh / Jessie**  
**Patty Livingston / Rhythm and Little Joe / Silver**  
**Tamma Trump / Twilight**  
**Leslie & Ernie Gassman / Cody & Gracie**  
**Linda Kundell / Starr**  
**Pat Allen / Eloise**  
**Susan McCullar / Halle Berry**

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

**REGISTRATION FORM  
 GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE  
 FALL BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE - October 19, 2013  
 Bull Mountain—Dahlonega, Ga.**



All riders and non-riders must be registered by Oct. 4th. so that we can order your T-shirt and food!

Registrations received after Oct. 4th will not be guaranteed a t-shirt or lunch.

Water truck will be parked on site for the day for your horse. The terrain at Bull Mountain is suitable for all riding levels. We recommend that your horse be shod.

Negative Coggins is required—*no exceptions.*

There is primitive camping at Bull Mtn. and neighboring Jake Mtn. (45 min. horseback ride to Bull) if you would like to camp for the weekend. No fees! There are tie lines @ each camp. Portable pens are allowed. Camping is on a first come, first serve basis.

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

**GERL MEMBER?**    Yes  No

Name(s): _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____

# of people:

Fee for adult GERL Members:	_____	X \$35 ea. = _____	
Fee for adult Non-Members:	_____	X \$40 ea. = _____	
Children (under 12) of GERL Members:	_____	X \$15 ea. = _____	
Children (under 12) of Non-Members:	_____	X \$20 ea. = _____	

**Make check payable to: GERL**  
**Mail to: Anne Ensminger**  
**3662 Dally Rd. S.E., Covington, GA 30014**

**Non-refundable**      Total due now = \_\_\_\_\_

**FILL IN T-SHIRTS SIZE(S):**



*WITH YOUR HELP-  
 WE WILL MAKE A  
 DIFFERENCE!*

SM	MED	LG	XL	XXL

**For additional registration forms, go to our website: [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)**

*Georgia Equine Rescue League*

# **FALL BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE**

**October 19, 2013 @ Bull Mountain  
Dahlonega, Ga.**

*Come join us and ride the beautiful trails in North Georgia*

**\$35 includes a hot lunch!**

***FREE*** event t-shirt with **pre-registration**

Pre-registration ([www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org)) **MUST** be received by Oct. 4

*...must be present to receive t-shirt (no mail outs)*

**Registration/Check in 8:00 am**

**Ride (*organized ride or on your own*) leaves at 10:00 am**

**Flea Market & Silent Auction open at 9:00 am**

**Live auction with Micky Farmer @ 2:30 pm**

**GERL Merchandise for sale**

***Rain or shine***

***Bring your own chair***



***Primitive camping @  
Jake Mt. and Bull Mt.  
(no extra fee)***

***Limited tie lines available.  
You may put up electric corrals.  
Please be "space" respectful  
so everyone has room!***

**Water provided only on the day of the ride.  
If you are camping you must bring water  
for your horses.**

***We look forward to seeing you there!! Thank you for your support!***

# GERL is Committed to Education Concerning Equine Abuse Prosecution

By Rita Benfield

I was happy when my offer was accepted to organize a multi county meeting where GERL has the opportunity to introduce local law enforcement and animal control officers to our mission and find ways that we can work together. I knew it was a formidable undertaking but I knew I had the help of my friends Charlene Baldwin, Cathy Spivey, and Annette Raybon so I never worried one minute.



Left to right: Patty Livingston, Ashleigh Messer, Lynne Yates, Easy Keeper (horse), Annette Raybon, Cathy Spivey (on horse), Anne Ensminger, Rita Benfield, Charlene Baldwin, and Linda Kundell

It all began with letters of invitation to Police, Sheriff, and Animal Control organizations from twenty north Georgia counties. These invitations were followed up by a reminder letter and then a telephone call. Meanwhile, Annette Raybon was securing the perfect place for us to hold our meeting which turned out to be Sara Babb Park near Dallas, GA. Yes, lots of work but it was well worth our efforts.

When the plans were all completed and the invitations mailed, we were all thrilled as the registrations began to come in. After all was said and done, we had 46 officers signed up to attend. We were told that was a record high number!

The meeting took place on September 6th. GERL President, Patty Livingston welcomed the attendees and gave a history of GERL and explanation of our mission. Then there was an interesting lecture on the equine protection laws in Georgia and a demonstration on basic horse handling and equine body scoring by Mat Thompson, GDA Equine Manager. He used live horses brought in by GDA Inspectors, Jesse Murray and Adriane Cook who assisted with the demonstrations. Next a very entertaining talk concerning the proper way to gather evidence for an ani-

mal abuse case in order to ensure successful prosecution by Kevin Hearst, DeKalb County Animal Control Supervisor was presented. This was followed by an excellent lecture on the importance of careful and non disputable evidence gathering to allow for successful prosecution of anyone who would abuse animals. This lecture was given by Sherwin Figueroa, Esquire, Assistant District Attorney from Cobb County.

She stressed the fact that no prosecutor can be successful in obtaining convictions without good evidence gathering by investigators in the field.



GDA Inspector Jesse Murray instructs an officer in determining body condition.

*Continued on page 33...*

...continued from page 32

A very special guest, Dr. James Sutton, Director of Operations for Georgia Department of Agriculture, was in attendance for the entire day. Realizing that Dr. Sutton was there to familiarize himself with GERL and this very important program, we did not ask him to speak but we hope he will be willing to do that in the future.

GERL provided coffee and sweet rolls in the morning and a nice lunch from Chick-fil-A at noon. Door prizes were given and many of the officers took home halters and lead ropes to keep in their patrol cars "just in case". Everyone paid close attention to all of the lectures as they are beginning to realize that they are more and more often called upon to intervene on behalf of horses and other large animals in the course of carrying out their duties.

The meeting was a HUGE success by anyone's standards. In addition to my helpers mentioned above, I would like to thank Patty Livingston, Linda Kundell, Tamma Trump, Lynn Yates, and Anne Ensminger from GERL who were there to lend a hand as well as Ashlee Messer who took a day off from school to represent the Paulding County 4 H Horse and Pony Club. Not only did Ashlee work very hard to help but she, acting as a representative of the Paulding County Saddle Club, presented a nice check from them to GERL. We want to thank Sara Babb Park for allowing us to use their wonderful facility at no charge and the Dallas Chick-fil-A store for providing lunch for all, at their cost.



Aileen Culberson (Paulding County Animal Control) and Kevin Hearst (DeKalb County Animal Services)



Everyone had a chance to catch and halter a horse and access body condition-----



Adriane Cook teaches officers how to use a weight tape to help determine body score.



Horse Handling 101

# Meet Halle Berry

by Patty Livingston

In late July I received an email from David Jones, one of the Hall County Animal Control officers, who wanted to know if GERL could help them with three horses that they have found running loose on the road. One of them had been hit by a car, but was doing fine with the exception of a case of road rash. One was a stallion and the other was a young mare that was not halter broke. He invited me to come over to Chicopee Woods where Hall County keeps their impounded horses to take a look. The following week I took a drive to check out the three wards and get some pictures and more information. David met me there.

The horse that had been hit by the car was only about six months old, very skinny and had quite a few scabby places where he had fallen down on the asphalt. David told me that there had been a show at Chicopee the weekend before and someone attending that show had wandered down to the three horses that were being housed in a separate barn from the show facility. That person obviously had a soft heart and wanted to help the little skinny horse; so, he approached Hall County about adopting him. They agreed and now there were only two who needed homes.



My visit was actually on the tenth day of their impoundment which meant that the horses were now the property of Hall County Animal Control since the owner had never come forward to claim them. They were getting blood pulled that day for Coggins. I asked about having the stallion gelded before we could take him into our program and was told that would be possible. We agreed that I would come back and get the horses after the castration.

The following week David contacted me again to say that someone had come forward who wanted the stallion and they would pay for the castration. The only horse that GERL needed to pick up would be the young mare. The Coggins had arrived and he let me know that I could come pick her up, anytime.

I left my house the next day to go get her. David and two other Animal Control officers met me at the barn. They told me to drive down the middle of the hall and stop past her stall. They were going to open the trailer door and her stall door and make a chute for her to walk into the trailer. They were able to get her on the trailer easy enough and I headed back to my farm with my new ward. She had no name and I began to try to think of something to call her. I finally came up with Halle, just because it started with the word "Hall" and would be a reminder



of where she came from. Every time I said the name Halle I naturally thought of Halle Berry and by the end of the day she was "Halle Berry".

Halle Berry was skinny and small for her two years. She had scabs on her legs and knees which made me think that she had fallen down on the pavement during her free run about town. She didn't know how to lead and was very skittish while being haltered and handling, in general. However, she was a brave little girl and showed no fear of being sprayed with fly spray. She was quite the "talker" and would knicker every time she caught a glimpse of me moving around in the yard. Halle Berry LOVES grain, but then, most horses we find in her condition usually do.

Halle Berry is now being fostered by Susan McCullar who is famous for rehabbing skinny horses for GERL. I can hardly wait to see updated pictures with some meat on her bones! I think she's going to be a beautiful girl, just like her namesake!



## *Dear Georgia Equine Rescue League:*

Hello, we are the Placek/Jones kids. (Despite they way it looks in this picture, we are totally normal. Okay, almost normal.)

Every month, we clean the house to earn money to donate to charity. This month, it was Peyton's turn to choose the charity, and she chose you.

Please use this money where it is needed most. Thank you for all that you do to help others.



Peyton - Austin - Trey

*It means so much to GERL to receive these wonderful types of donations! Thank you, Peyton, Austin and Trey for making a difference in the lives of horses all over Georgia!*

## **GERL Volunteer of the Quarter**

*By Anne Ensminger*

Sometimes our special volunteers come as a pair and cannot be separated. Never has that been truer than this time. They are a long time married couple who are fortunate enough to share, not only a strong love for each other but a deep love of horses. They are George and Janice Lilley and they live in Houston County.

Even though Janice has been very ill over the last couple of years and has been in and out of the hospital, with George ever at her side, it seems that every time we turn around, we learn that one or both of them have attended some event on behalf of GERL.

An article written by Janice can be found in the last GERL Newsletter which describes their participation in a book fair sponsored by Books a Million in Warner Robins to benefit GERL. Not only did they spend the day representing GERL but they brought "Goldie" to add interest. Goldie is the most beautiful little Haflinger gelding anyone has ever seen. He is just as gentle as he is beautiful and has come to be lovingly known as the GERL Middle Georgia "spokes horse". When Goldie is around, he is usually standing quietly while many young hands are eagerly touching his legs and body as the children marvel at being in his presence. Weather permitting, Goldie and George offer rides in their lovely cart, pulled by Goldie. George knows that these rides will be the memory of a lifetime for some of these young and hopefully future members, of GERL.



George & Janice Lilley

When we were approached by Eddy O'Hern about putting on a spring ride at Mingo Trails Riding Club last April, it was George and Janice who stepped up and volunteered to help make all of the arrangements and organize the event. It was hugely successful and we hope that it will become an annual event.

Just last summer, George was ordained as a minister of the gospel. He immediately offered his services as GERL Chaplain. We had never even dreamed of having an official chaplain but soon realized that this could be a very important role and we knew of no one who could fill it with more enthusiasm or humility than George Lilley. We are thrilled to have George as our chaplain!

We want George, Janice, and Goldie to know how much we appreciate their outstanding and frequent representation of this 100% volunteer organization. It takes each and every one of us to make it all work. George and Janice Lilley are certainly doing their part!

# WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS



New Member	Referred By	From
Amy Abel-Kiker	GERL	Macon
Pat Allen	GERL	Lexington
Patty Brown	GERL	Pelham
Joanne Byrom & Family	GERL	The Rock
Laurie Chaisson	GERL	Covington
Christy Fore Graw	GERL	Jesup
Judi Honea	GERL	Greenville
Angie Hubbard	GERL	Augusta
Mike & Tracie Merson	Dan & Shawn Liburdi	Canton
Cathy Patnode	GERL	Marietta
Steve Prediletto & Family	Google	Atlanta
Mary Rubins & Family	Google	Snellville
Sarah Schelkoph	Eddie O'Hern	Kathleen
Nancy Scott	GERL	Decatur
Joanne Symmes	Gloria English	Covington
Russell Thompson	GERL	Atlanta
Emily Vermillion	GERL	Athens

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

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

## Paulding County Saddle Club Horse Show Benefits GERL

*By Annette Raybon*

By an overwhelming majority, the members of the Paulding County Saddle Club voted to donate the proceeds of their recent charity horse show and silent auction to Georgia Equine Rescue League.

After months of planning, promoting, collecting auction items from local merchants and the hard work during the show, Ashlee Messer and I were very pleased to represent the saddle club by presenting a check for \$647.53 to GERL President, Patty Livingston.

As horse owners and horse lovers, the PCSC members were excited to be able to help the many horses in our state that have been starved or abused.



GERL would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Bobby & Jan Smith. Every year, they donate their timeshare to GERL and it is such a wonderful donation! Thank you to all those that have bid on and won this great prize!

## Renewals due for October 2013

Denise Arnold  
Reponda Bailey  
Jeanne Barsanti  
Judy Claborn  
Lisa & Jeff Carroll  
Jack Cashin  
John & Teresa Day  
Pat Dean  
Barbara Decker  
David & Terri Elsberry  
Chris & Dawn Forman  
Elizabeth Hamilton  
Heatherlee Hammonds  
Peggy & Barbara Hawley  
Melinda & Kelsey Hulsey  
Humberto Izquierdo, Sr.  
Majorie Leder/Greg Argarin  
Steve & Maria Land

Rosalee & Sandy Loudon  
Sherry Marshall  
Patricia Mayson & Family  
Lance & Tracy McClain  
Marla Morris  
Gary & Jeana Mullen  
Jean Nash  
Gene & Nancy Ozburn  
David Rape  
Steve & Elaine Ruggiero  
Bill Simpson & Family  
Nicki Thigpen  
Shirley Thomas  
Chris & Karla Vaughn  
Linda Venable  
Donna Wight  
Jan Wilson  
Debra Young



**As a convenience you can  
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## Thank you for donating to the “Feed a Horse” Program

Erik Wittenzellner  
Ben & Mary Alice Hudson  
Bob & Margaret Wallace  
John Lynn

## Thank you sincerely, from Jack & Dianne, the Rescue Donkeys:

Carol Sauers  
Allison Webb  
Tina Turner  
Elizabeth Tyler  
Rebecca Clark  
Leanne Lundquist  
Beth Hinton  
Sandra Green  
Bob Cooper

## Renewals due for November 2013

John Absalon  
Cynthia Anderson & Family  
George & Barbara Bullock,  
Ret. A.F.  
Lewis & Jennifer Eberhardt  
Jim Holland  
Linda Kundell  
Ray & Mary Margaret Lee  
Lew-Anne MacArthur  
JoAnne Medlock  
Ed & Sara Merritt

Tim Miller  
Alicia Mohr & Family  
Doug & Sandy Mundrick  
Annette Raybon  
Brannon Reeves & Family  
Michael & Carrie Russell  
Karen Squazzo  
Charles & Linda Stephens  
Howard & Candy Thompson  
Lynn Yates  
Nancy Witham & Family

## Renewals due for December 2013

Janet Ackerman, DVM  
Lester & Diane Aradi  
Cecilia Barnes  
Nancy Bogardts  
Sandra Bryant  
Charlie & Susan Eavenson &  
Family  
Robert & Lori Griffith  
Jane Harmon  
Clay & Lindsay Harrison  
Jane Hillegas  
Sonny & Kay Hinote

Mac Kendrick  
Janice Mahoney & Family  
Debbie & Lamar Mullinax  
Dale Overstreet  
Cheryl Popiel  
Neil & Gene Rowsey  
Rob & Kathy Russell  
Dan & Kim Smith  
Dante & Claudia Tomaselli  
Lenore Threlkeld  
Martha A. Woodham

## Honorariums

The Smith Family by Joanne Symmes  
Gene Ensminger by Rebecca Gimenez  
Peggy and my son, Jackson by Tanya Maxwell  
Starr by Linda Kundell

## GERL Stallions to Gelding Program.



**Stallions Gelded  
To Date By  
GERL: 378**

### Recent Online Auction Report

We are very pleased to report that most of the items in our recent online auction were successfully sold. All of the items were donated; therefore all of the proceeds will go to support our work on behalf of starved, abused, and abandoned horses in Georgia.

The Arabian National Championship trophy donated by Cindy Beall was bought by Mike Vanderslice of Vandermer Farms near Birmingham Alabama. Mike has been involved with Arabian horse showing for a long time and fully appreciates not only the monetary, but the sentimental value of such an item. He is familiar with the work of the artist who sculpted the horse which tops the trophy and was very excited to have made the winning bid. We are extremely pleased that he will be able to enjoy its beauty for many years. Thanks very much to Cindy Beall for securing and making this trophy available to GERL.

The winning bid for the 17 inch Western Saddle was made by one of GERL's newest members, Russell Thompson of Sandy Springs. Congratulations to Russ for obtaining this nice saddle for a very good price. We look forward to seeing you sit in it when you join us for one of our fundraiser rides! One of our most generous supporters, Dr. Jan Smith, won the lovely painting entitled "A Girl and Horse". When Dr. Jan sets her mind on an item at auction, it is very difficult for anyone to outbid her. We love that! Thank you to the artist and to Dr. Jan.

There was one other saddle in our auction which did not receive a bid. The opening bid was set at \$1500. This saddle, donated by GERL founder and former President, Betty Evenson's father, was made by Orthoflex and is very lightly used. It is in perfect condition. The original price was over \$3000. We will continue to try to find a buyer who is aware of the value of this item.

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

Madison County Trail Riders  
Nancy Fitzgibbons  
Whit Payne  
Rolling Hills Saddle Club  
Steve Prediletto & Family  
Linda Kundell for foster horse, Starr  
Jessica Wheeler  
Erica Gilmer  
Truist  
Nancy Scott  
ACTHA  
Lisa Clark  
Peggy Paris  
Erica Gilmer  
Rosa Allen  
Kay Fletcher  
Carole Paige  
Vickie Smith  
Judy Sophianopoulos

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

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

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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