



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

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

Quarterly Newsletter

October, November and December 2014

Rescue Challenge - And The Winner Is...

By Tamma Trump

Over the years, we at GERL have become painfully aware that horses with little or no training, no matter their age, are very difficult to place into adoptive homes. A huge majority of horse owners are looking for a horse that is safe and ready to ride. These owners have little horse training experience and even less desire to take on such a challenge.

Near the beginning of this year, the GERL Board of Directors, of which I am a member, was discussing the "GERL Get Well Plan". The Plan acknowledges and seeks to correct, problems with placing horses which have received no quality training. I don't know exactly how it came to be, but before I knew it, we were planning a year-end event which would showcase and promote some of our foster horses.

We planned to invite a number of Georgia horse trainers, each to work with one of our horses for a period of 120 days (4 months), and then come together for a competition which would demonstrate the level of accomplishment attained with each horse. Also, before I knew it, I found myself in the role of the 2014 Rescue Challenge Committee

Chairperson! That was just the beginning of months of teleconference meetings, composing letters of explanation and invitation to selected Georgia Trainers, putting together a dependable and hardworking planning committee, selecting and inviting judges for our event, and researching available and acceptable venues. Whew!

After we visited the UGA Livestock Arena near Athens, we were certain that was the perfect place to hold our event. We reserved the venue for the weekend of November 15th. and then set out to make it all happen.

Our planning committee was divided into sub-committees which would be responsible for procuring vendors and sponsors, soliciting quality items for both a silent and a live auction, insuring that we had adequate food vendors, the matter of

ticket sales, securing awards, writing the rules of the competition, designing the courses for the competition, securing volunteers for all sorts of duties, including cleaning and parking.....the list goes on and on. It turned out to be a HUGE undertaking but, in the end, it was worth every minute it required.



Winner First Place Adult Division -
Joann McBride and Faye Dunaway

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We agreed that nine horses would participate and then we selected nine trainers from those who applied. Horses were assigned to trainers by drawing names from a hat. Since some of the horses had actually been somewhat trained to the saddle and some had rarely been touched, preceding the drawing, the horses had been “handicapped” by Betsy Moles who is a very well respected equine trainer and competitor in Georgia. That process involved an entire day of traveling around our state (over 300 miles) to visit and evaluate each horse. The handicap scores were never revealed until after the final competition. In addition to being evaluated for temperament and level of training, each horse was evaluated by a veterinarian for soundness

There were many details to be addressed during the planning stages for our Rescue Challenge but well before November 15th, all of the available tickets had been sold and



Rescue Challenge - Color Guard

a perfect gentleman. Laurie did a great job of keeping the audience informed and engaged. Toby Jack was an added bonus appreciated by everyone. I doubt that many had ever seen a mule quite that well trained before!



Laurie Wilson and Toby Jack

excitement was high.

Most of the trainers used Facebook to help promote the event by keeping all interested parties informed about the progress of their GERL horses. I was joined by many who could hardly wait to log on to Facebook each evening to see the pictures they posted and read their comments.

On Friday, before the event, all of the trainers arrived with the horses and everyone was delighted to see them all together, working in the indoor arena, under saddle, and behaving themselves perfectly!

Saturday morning found everyone bursting with excitement. By the time the opening ceremonies were complete, the audience was assembled and ready for the Challenge to begin. The judges were in place and the first horse entered the ring. Each horse and trainer performed one at a time, in hand, over obstacles, and in a “free style” exhibition designed by the trainer.

Laurie Wilson was our mistress of ceremonies astride her beautiful mule, Toby Jack. Laurie was dressed for the part in her cowgirl attire and Toby was beautifully groomed and



Toby going over the teeter totter during the free style event

...Rescue Challenge Article continued on page 7



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Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

Honey Glazed Salmon

- ✓ 4 salmon filets – 6 to 8 oz. each – boneless (skin-on)
- ✓ 2 TBS vegetable oil
- ✓ Coarse salt
- ✓ Fresh ground black pepper
- ✓ 2 TBS toasted sesame seeds
- ✓ 4 cups cooked brown rice
- ✓ 1 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- ✓ ¼ cup honey
- ✓ 1 tsp. fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- ✓ 1 clove garlic, peeled and grated



Feed Bag Recipe Submissions

Putting On the Feed Bag is popular in our Newsletter. Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Please submit your recipe to: recipes@gerlltd.org

Combine soy sauce, honey, ginger and garlic in a small saucepan. Simmer over medium-high heat until bubbling; reduce heat to medium-low and allow to simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat.

Heat a large non-stick skillet or sauté pan over high heat. Rub the salmon filets all over with vegetable oil and season both sides with salt and pepper. Place filets carefully, skin side down, in the hot pan and press gently with a spatula. Cook for 5 to 6 minutes, then glaze the tops of the filets. Swirl the pan so that the glaze helps caramelize the skin. Turn off heat; using the spatula, gently loosed the skin from the pan and flip the filets so they are skin side up. Allow them to rest 3 to 4 more minutes in the hot pan. Place each filet on a bed of one cup cooked brown rice. Drizzle with glaze in the pan, then sprinkle with toasted sesame seeds. Fantastic with steamed asparagus or a fresh green salad!!

2015 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

March 7th

– Poker Ride, Dawson Forest, Dawsonville, GA

April 25th

– Spring Trail Ride, Mingo Trails, Toombsboro, GA

May 2nd

– Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride, Round Oak, GA

July 19th

– GERL Polo Match, Chukkar Farm, Milton, GA

October TBA

GERL Rescue Challenge

November 14th

GERL Stallion to Gelding Castration Day

December 12th

– GERL Christmas Party, Bethlehem, GA

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

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



LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By *Patty Livingston, President*



Shortly after the Rescue Challenge, I was contacted by someone who had attended the event. I was pleased when they requested a summary of the remarks and statistics that I presented in my opening remarks. I replied with some of the statistics and other information that often comes to mind when someone asks me to talk about our horse problems. We emailed each other back and forth a few times with questions and answers from others on the distribution. It was then that it dawned on me that a large number of horse people have no idea of the enormity of the horse problem in our country. We at GERL are very close to the problem,

while other equine organizations are just now becoming aware. I have quoted these thoughts and statistics many times but I feel compelled to put them before every person who cares about horses and wants to end the madness surrounding horse owners who are ignorant and/or uncaring.

1. Facts That Contribute to The Problem:

- ✓ There are over ten million horses in this country. We have more horses in the U.S. than any other country in the world.
- ✓ There exists a glut of "unwanted horses", the result of, among other things, 30 years of over-breeding. When supply surpasses demand, the value of any commodity is reduced. That is exactly what has happened in the horse industry in our country.
- ✓ The price of many horses is so low today that it is possible for people on welfare to own them. Even if they are knowledgeable concerning horse care, these people often lack the means to meet their own living expenses, much less to properly provide for a horse.
- ✓ Horses with little or no training, often find themselves in the "unwanted horses" category. These horses are frequently the result of "backyard breeding" by horse owners who give little thought or effort to insure that they become useful, desirable animals.

2. "Get Well Plan":

Four years ago, GERL created, and has been vigorously promoting, a "Get Well Plan" designed to address and reverse the contributing factors to the horse problems in Georgia. The plan calls for a common-sense, 5-step approach.

- ✓ Slow Reproduction of Horses
- ✓ Prosecute and Fine Equine Abusers

- ✓ Disbursement/Disposition (this involves placement of "homeless" horses as well as
- ✓ encouraging and assisting with the dispersal of herds kept by hoarders).
- ✓ Financial

The GERL Rescue Challenge was created as a part of the "Disposition" category in the plan. While it was intended to showcase rescue horses and the trainers who had worked with them for a period of 120 days, it was also to bring attention to the BIG picture and the plight of many horses today.

Details of the Plan can be found on the GERL website home page (left navigation bar): www.gerlltd.org

3. Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA)

Equine Program:

- ✓ No other state (of which I am aware) has equine protection laws, nor an equine program supported by the Department of Agriculture.
- ✓ Georgia Department of Agriculture employs many dedicated Equine Inspectors who regularly investigate reports concerning abused or neglected equine all over the state. The Inspectors are provided state vehicles and fuel.
- ✓ The GDA Equine Program has four impound barns, two of which are located in State Prison facilities (Lee Arrendale State Prison in Alto (North Georgia) and Pulaski State Prison in Hawkinsville (middle Georgia)).
- ✓ For quite some time, there have been inadequate state-appropriated funds to fully support the care of horses impounded by the GDA Inspectors; therefore, G.E.R.L. has raised and contributed over \$500,000 in goods and services to the GDA Equine Program over the past twenty years. In 2013, G.E.R.L. provided approximately \$42,000 for the purchase of feed, hay, vet care, and other expenses associated with the GDA Impound Program. This year (2014) that amount climbed to \$60,000. It is easy to understand why a solution to the starvation, mistreatment, and abandonment of horses in our state must end.

There are currently 48 licensed equine rescues in Georgia. GERL is the only one who provides financial support to the GDA Equine Program. BTW, surprisingly, none of the monies collected through the sale of the Georgia Equine License Plate goes to the GDA Equine program.

The Rescue Challenge was GERL's largest fund-raising event of 2014. It was so well attended and supported that we plan on making this an annual event. And let me say this about that, I see this as a bridge to a whole new group of equestrians who join G.E.R.L. in caring about correcting Georgia's horse problems, and are willing to get involved. It is very exciting to think about! I look forward to 2015!



GERL Wins a Photonic Health Red Light Kit!

By Tamma Trump

During the summer it was suggested by my veterinarian, Dr. Ava Talmage that we try light therapy on my foster horse Butter's withers that had been broken and were not healing. For weeks I searched in vain for a unit that I could borrow or rent with no avail.

In my search I came across a company called Photonic Health that has a giving back program and gives away a Red Light Therapy Kit each month to a 501(c3) organization whose mission is to not only rescue and rehome pets, but also provide them a job and purpose in life. Bingo!

I contacted the company to see what all was involved to be considered for a system. They sent me a long list of requirements and one was to send pictures of our facility, my heart sank as GERL only has foster homes.

I replied back to my contact at Photonic Health and explained how GERL works in that we don't have a facility so all of our money can go directly to helping the horses and not paying overhead on a building. After some discussion it was decided that I could use pictures of my rehab facility for the entry as the unit was going to be used on a horse at my location!

I submitted the application along with Butter's x-rays and 2 months later we were selected to receive a unit!! As soon as I complete the rest of the training I will be able to help many horses with their healing needs.



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

The following is a list of volunteer opportunities.

“Like” our GERL page on Facebook and encourage your friends to “like” us. Share our stories on your page.

Sign up for the AmazonSmiles Program and choose GERL to receive a donation every time you shop. It is a free program for you and you can sign up at <http://www.smile.amazon.com>

Specify GERL to receive benefits from your Kroger Plus card.

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

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

Become a member of GERL.

Participate in online auctions and auctions at events.

Participate in GERL trail rides and other GERL events.

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

Assist with transporting GERL horses to foster homes.

Store hay for the winter.

Give presentations to local civic groups.

Provide a foster home or adopt a GERL horse.

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

Become an Area Coordinator for GERL.

Donate hay, feed and equipment.

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

Report suspected abuse cases to the Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Division by calling:

404-656-3713 or 1-800-282-5852.



Rescue Challenge Trainers and Horses

I cannot say which of the Challenge events was the most exciting but all of the spectators were on the edge of their seats as each of the horses entered the ring to attempt the obstacle course. That course was designed by Laurie Wilson and proved to be quite challenging for all. None of the trainers knew in advance what might be asked of them. Each horse was required to cross the ever scary tarp that moves and makes a noise when stepped upon. They were required to back, side pass, walk, trot, canter, jump, and negotiate a clover leaf pattern, but the most interesting obstacle proved to be being asked to walk through a small plastic swimming pool filled with Styrofoam packing peanuts! Of course, each horse stopped and lowered their head to investigate the thing that they were being asked to step through. That was when the fun began! As the horses snorted with curiosity and anticipation, the Styrofoam peanuts blew up into their faces and flew all over the place. Quite a variety of reactions took place. Some of the horses refused to have anything to do with such a “horse eating monster” and some of them were persuaded to put one foot into the pool. When all was said and done, it was the little dun mare, Faye Dunnaway who, after thorough investigation, a few snorts, and some gentle persuasion from her trainer, Joann McBride, walked right through the pool. Even though they had been asked to hold all applause until each performance was complete, the audience could not help but burst into a frenzy of whistles, shouts, and clapping when Faye overcame her fears and performed so well by walking through that pool full of packing peanuts!

Some of the free style performances were outstanding but all were quite commendable. Each of the horses performed with a total willingness to please their trainers. It was very gratifying to realize that just four months prior to this event, every one of those horses faced an uncertain future.

After the horse demonstrations were completed, the winners of the silent auction were revealed and the live auction began. Our ever faithful auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, was in rare form and, as usual, squeezed out every possible penny for each item offered. All of the auction items had been donated and were responsible for the bulk of the money raised during the event.

Next, the Challenge horses were auctioned. That was the most disappointing aspect of the day. Only two of the nine horses were sold. We are certain that it had nothing to do with the desirability of the horses. It was just that the audience was there to see the show and not to buy a horse. To buy a horse is to take on a HUGE responsibility and should never be the result of a “spur of the moment” decision. After thinking about that, we were okay with the trainers taking the horses back to their facilities and we will now join them in promoting the remaining, very well trained horses, to owners who will appreciate their true value.



...Rescue Challenge Article continued from page 7

We were very pleased that Dixon was bought during the auction for Jenny Fox (his trainer) by her husband. We knew early in the training process that Jenny had become quite attached to Dixon and would love to be able to purchase him. Rocky, aka Tony the Pony, was purchased by a wonderful couple for their grandkids to ride.

The winner of the Rescue Challenge (Adult Division) was Faye Dunnaway, trained and shown by Joann McBride. Standing under 14 hands, and being ridden by a rather tall trainer, never effected Faye's performance during her training nor in our competition. They actually looked perfect together! In the Young Adult Division, the winner was Halle Berry trained and shown by Jordan Faulconer, a level four Parelli student.

Yes, cash and other awards were presented to the top three adult finishers and both young adults, but we wished that each of the trainers could have received even a portion of the value of awards equaling our gratitude. They all did a fantastic job and were able to make the most of each horse entrusted to their care.

Our panel of judges included Amanda Johnson, Eric Gray, and Ed Dabney. These three very knowledgeable horse people traveled many miles to officiate at our event, gave their entire day, and did an outstanding job! To say 'thank you' to each of them, is not nearly enough.

We are very grateful to each of our sponsors and each vendor who braved the very cold temperatures to help add interest to our event. Those who donated auction items are collectively responsible for our being able to raise over \$15,000 during that one day. I would like to mention that each vendor gave at least one item for our auction inventory.

In addition, knowing that none of the benefactors of this year's Rescue Challenge wish to be singled out or for the details of their contributions to be revealed, I will simply mention three names of those who went way "above and beyond" to insure the success of our efforts. They are Dr. Jan Smith, Dr. Jeanie Barsanti, and Dr. Rebecca Jimenez.



Jason Dover, one of the many vendors that attended.



Ed Dabney and Eric Gray, 2 of our Judges accept a gift from GERL.



The registration table manned by Diana Kelsey and Anne Ensminger

...Rescue Challenge Article continued on page 9

Our crew of volunteers was beyond belief! The guys who handled the parking were out in the cold for most of the day and had to reach deep into their imaginations to get everyone safely settled. When the event was over, the REAL work began. We were instructed to leave the facility as we found it if we expected to have our deposit returned. Many of us worked very hard to make that happen. All chairs and tables were stored in the proper place, every trash can was emptied, every floor was swept and mopped, the auditorium was thoroughly inspected and all trash picked up, the horse stalls were cleaned and the vendor and stable areas were swept. To top it all off, even the bathrooms were cleaned and mopped! I felt that was well above what should have been expected but that is what our volunteers did. As a result, we not only had our deposit returned, but we received “special consideration” related to our final bill and we were invited to return to the venue next year! That made me very proud.

We recently had our “post event” de-briefing and were able to identify some things that went very well and some things that we will change for next year. I held my breath as the question concerning which of our Challenge Committee members would be willing to serve again next year, was asked. To my surprise



The crowd cheering on their favorite horse.

and delight, every member of the Committee agreed to return! Overall, we were tremendously pleased with the outcome of the Challenge. We are convinced that it will, not only become an annual event looked forward to by many, but a major GERL fundraiser in the future. Beyond all of that, it is exciting to think that some of our rescue horses will be transformed from almost impossible to place, into horses that will be assured of a comfortable and useful future.

Thank you to our Rescue Challenge Supporters

The Georgia Equine Recue League is grateful to everyone who supported this event. We could not have done it without everyone who participated. The event was a wonderful success and there are no words that can express our gratitude to those of you who played a part in making it happen.

Sponsors:

Amicalola Veterinary Services
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Painted Acres
Rucker Horse & Pet
Technical Large Animal Emergency Training
The Sparkle Queen
Tucker Milling, LLC
Watkinsville Service Center

Continued on page 11...

GERL ADOPTABLES

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



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



BUTTER is an 11 year old Grade mare. She is a beauty. We are evaluating her to see if she has been ridden. She has great ground manners and is easy to be around.



Holly is a sweet 3 year old Arab cross mare that loves attention, she is easy to work with and is very quick to learn new things, she has been under saddle since August 2014 and took to the work like she had been doing it her whole life.

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



JESSIE JAMES is a 15 year old Chestnut Thoroughbred gelding. He is a great horse on the ground and gets along well with other horses. Due to an old fracture in his hock area Jessie is not rideable. Jessie will need to be grained and hayed, hot bloods don't always do well on just pasture. Jessie is a very special guy.



Meet Toby, trained by Stacey McCoy. He does great out on the trail, the only spook I have gotten out of him, was a runner, coming down a hill behind him. Goes anywhere, crosses water, bridges, over grown trails. Down trees that come up to his chest, he will step over, or jump if asked. He willingly loads on strange trailers, and backs off quietly.



Red Rocky is a 9 year old grade gelding. This boy can do it all. Trained by Samantha Schrader, Red has proven himself on the trail, jumping, endurance. During the freestyle at the Rescue Challenge, Samantha road him bridle less cantering around the arena shooting a gun off him and taking those jumps like a pro. He loves to go but you will have to gain his trust.



China Doll is a 10 year old Grade mare. She was trained by Danielle Perry for our GERL Rescue Challenge. China has a lovely walk, trot and canter. She has a very level head and will try hard to complete the task



Thank you to our Rescue Challenge Supporters

Vendors:

5th Georgia Cavalry
Algin Realty
Amy Cox
Barbara Rush Fine Art
Barnyard Treasures
Berger Allied Van
Betsy Moles
Biker Tuff Skins
Bits to Bling
Bleats N Teats
Chubbs Barbeque
Clear Water Troughs
Community Partners Realty
Cowboys for Christ Middle Georgia
Creations by RAZ/R. A. Ziebell & Co
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association
Dependable Equine Alternatives
Edward Jones Investments, Rod Trahan
ER Equine Remedy
Georgia Department of Agriculture, Equine Division
Georgia Professional Farrier Association
Georgia Horseback
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Jane Gilbertson
Jane Harmon
John Megel Chevrolet
Kel Mac Saddle Club
Lester Barns
Little Bene's Creation
Maggie's Menagerie Vet Services
Mary's Tack & Feed
Northeast Georgia Physicians
Pallets Creations
Pony Factory Sock Ponies
R Ranch
Sadi Jodi Designz
Savi Pet Message
Seminole Feeds
Seven Cedars
Southern States Feed
Sundowner of Georgia
Susan Akins Custom LLC
Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue
Yoga of Pottery

Trainers

Danielle Crist
Danielle Perry
Jordan Faulconer
Jenny Fox
Joann McBride
Lee Ann Gilson
Stacey McCoy
Nancy Faulconer
Samantha Schrader

Judges

Amanda Johnson
Ed Dabney
Eric Gray

Volunteers

Anne Ensminger
Becky Gregory
Becky Shivers
Becky White

Betsy Moles
Betty Sue Hearin
Bill Lynch
Billy Abrahamsen
Cici Calli
Chris Michael
Cindy Wauhup
Debbie Whitworth
Diana Kelsey
Donna Pieper
Jackie Moore
Jeanne Barsanti
Joan Hall
Keith Flemming
Laney Marable
Laurie Wilson and Toby Jack
Leslie Gassman
Linda Kundell
Linda Venable
Lynne Robinson
Marge Mabey
Marion Finco
Mickey Farmer
Pat Dean

Patty Livingston
Samantha Lynch
Sandy Lynch
Steven Neal
Sue Vetsch
Sue Wrensen
Susie Bond
Tamma Trump
Valerie Puryear
Vickie Shultz

The Horses

China Doll
Dixon
Faye Dunaway
Holly Day
Little Joe
Red Rocky
Rocky (Tony the Pony)
Toby

Who's Who

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Stallion-Gelding Coordinator

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Jaye Herrington / jaye@gerlltd.org

Facebook Coordinator

Andee Rogers / andee@gerlltd.org

Grant Writer

Position Open

Rescue Challenge Coordinator - Tamma Trump

(770) 655-0819 / mswhinney@juno.com

Merchandise Coordinator - Linda Kundell

(706) 769-6395 / kundell@bellsouth.net

Flea Market Coordinator – LaVon Kern

l.kern@att.net

Education Coordinator—Sue Vetsch

(678) 410-8793 / sue@uccommunitypartners.com

GERL Chaplain—George Lilley

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

Website / Newsletter Layout - Steve DeMoss

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

GERL Advisory Board

Billy Myers, DVM

Rhonda Veit, DVM

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

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

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

If you would like GERL to assist with an Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

Area Coordinator Director, South GA.

Eddy O'Hern

(478) 328-8308 / (478) 397-1135
edohern@bellsouth.net

Area Coordinator Director, North GA.

Lynne Robinson

(404) 435-5746 / lynne@gerlltd.org

Kevin Hines

A great loss for one of GERL's hardest working members and Area Coordinators (Thomas and Mitchell Counties) was suffered on January 1st by Deborah Hines when her husband, Kevin passed away. Debora was the "horse person" in the family but always had the full support of Kevin. Our hearts are heavy as we join Debora in mourning the loss of her mate, the father of her children, and longtime friend to all of us, Kevin Hines.

Feed A Horse Program

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

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

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



I would like to make a donation of:

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

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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

THANK YOU!

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

We Need Your Help! Auction Items are Needed.

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

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

Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!

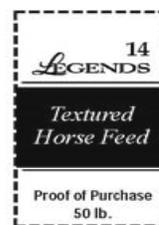
If you have items to donate or have additional questions please contact:
Sue Wrensen / (770) 331-6947
swrensen@comcast.net

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



Kroger Plus Community Rewards Program: Important Re-Enrollment Announcement

The Georgia Equine Rescue League has received \$925.94 from the Kroger Plus Program so far this year calendar year. GERL is very grateful to everyone who has chosen GERL as their designated charity to receive donations from the program.

Did you know that you have to re-enroll your chosen charity each year? GERL supporters who have chosen GERL as their designated charity on their Kroger Plus card will need to re-enroll GERL for the 2014-2015 program year beginning 9/1/2014. Please go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com> to re-enroll GERL as your chosen charity. If you have not chosen GERL as your charity in the past, please consider supporting GERL through this program.

GERL currently has around 100 households participating in the program. Imagine what GERL would be receiving if 200 people were signed up? 300 people? Even more?

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



GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Anne Ensminger

Laurie Wilson is her name. Horses (and mules!) have long been her game. Many may remember a story about an aged Quarter Horse named Vandy that had been in permanent G.E.R.L. foster care for nearly ten years until his recent death. Vandy had belonged to Laurie's father, Bob Hayden, until he could no longer care for the old horse. I first met Laurie on the day that foster caregivers, Leslie Lambert and Jacki Moore traveled to Mr. Hayden's farm to get Vandy.

The next time we saw Laurie was years later. She had just been very surprised to learn that Vandy was still living and she had made arrangements to travel to Leslie and Jacki's farm for a visit with the then forty year old gelding. It was a grand, emotional reunion and, just as we had sadly predicted, it was the last time she ever saw Vandy.

That was the beginning of a wonderful association between G.E.R.L. and Laurie Wilson. She is quite an accomplished horsewoman and has connections all over our state with many leaders in the horse community. When she learned of our plans to hold an event that involved seeking trainers to work with some of our rescue horses for a time and then coming together for a competition, Laurie was excited. She never hesitated to accept our invitation to become a member of the Rescue Challenge Committee and her input and guidance proved to be invaluable to the eventual success of the event.

It was Laurie who put us in touch with most of the wonderful trainers who participated as well as our judges. She was instrumental in the planning process for the entire event and single handedly de-



signed the obstacle course and outlined the program.

The entire Committee worked very hard to produce the Challenge but we could have never met with such success without Laurie's direction. To top it all off, Laurie agreed to be our MC for the event. She carried out those duties dressed like a very savvy cowgirl while astride her unusually beautiful mule, Toby Jack. She did a great job as MC and the addition of Toby Jack was just the icing on the cake!

Jack Pesserilo

True happiness in life comes from loving and being loved. The certainty of that statement is what brings us peace and allows acceptance when we learn of the passing of someone who is very special to us. We at GERL have known and loved Jack Pesserilo for a very long time. Our hearts were saddened to learn of his death on January 5th. A quiet, sensitive man of the Jewish faith, Jack was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a dear friend to many. Yes, his life was full of love so we will accept our loss with grace as we extend GERL's wish for God's comfort to his wife, Ronnie, daughter, Estraya, and granddaughter Eva.



G.E.R.L. Honored by Kel-Mac Saddle Club

By Linda Kundell

While out feeding my horses this morning, I was thinking about the Kel-Mac End of Year Banquet which was held on December 7th. Kel-Mac Saddle Club is 38 years old this year. We are a family oriented group of good people who love enjoying our horses together. Each year we produce four open horse shows and sponsor several trail rides as a way to raise money. These activities require the help of many hard working volunteers but all who pitch in, always share an awesome feeling of accomplishment when the work is completed. At year's end, we give the money raised to several deserving causes having to do with horses.



For the past several years, the Kel-Mac members have voted to make G.E.R.L. the recipient of a large portion of the money we accumulate during the year. Many of us are active G.E.R.L. members and volunteers as well. This year, Kel-Mac donated \$2000.00 to G.E.R.L. at our banquet. We were also happy to lend our show jumps and poles for use in the recent G.E.R.L. Rescue Challenge.

Patty Livingston (GERL President) didn't make it to the banquet this year so it was my pleasure to accept the check for them. The accompanying photograph was snapped by Barbara Cumming who is obviously NOT a professional photographer, nor are we who are pictured,

professional models! Since Barbara did not let us know she was ready to take the picture, we all seem to be looking in different directions. However, you may be certain that when it comes down to business, all Kel-Mac members are looking in the same direction and that is to "promote quality equestrian activities in an educational and family atmos-

phere" (from the Kel-Mac website).

We look forward to Patty Livingston coming to speak to our members each September to give us an update on the many ways that G.E.R.L. is helping horses. Kel-Mac has a beautiful website which is kept current, so please go there to see our schedule and be sure to come to some of our activities or to hear Patty speak.

And The Winner Is.....

As you may remember, back in the spring, GERL embarked on a major membership drive. It was our goal to reach 500 members. We offered a \$200 cash prize to a current member to be drawn on November 15th at the GERL Rescue Challenge. I am pleased to announce that the winner is LeeAnn Householder. LeeAnn has been a member of GERL for over 10 years and is well known to many GERL members. When she found out that she was the winner, she contacted Anne Ensminger and told Anne that she wanted to donate the money back to GERL. Thank you, LeeAnn, for your generosity.

I also would like to thank all GERL members, new and old, for supporting us. We did make it to 480 members. We hope to add that last 20 members this quarter. Please spread the word about GERL and help us reach our membership goal.

The GERL Christmas Party – 2014

By Patty Livingston

Unlike the past few years, the day of the GERL Christmas party was beautiful and dry; perfect for a bonfire. And, what a bonfire we had! It was fueled by a brush pile that had been accumulating for at least 2 years, since we didn't burn a fire last year. Thomas Threatt, who furnishes the firewood every year, arrived early and lit the fire before everyone arrived. That turned out to be a good thing. Like I said...it was a big fire!

The food that arrived with each guest was an assorted variety of deliciousness! Scott Harris had cooked up some of his special recipe Boston butt for which he is famous. I always love to try new foods, especially

casseroles and salads. That's one thing I love about this kind of party. There was a huge pan of banana pudding that got worked over pretty good by the end of the evening. Need I say more? The food was the best in town!

It was good to see old friends, some new friends, friends that have been ill, and friends who are always there. Mickey Farmer and Thomas Threatt entertained the crowd for most of the evening around the fire. Later, somebody brought out a guitar. A perfect ending to a perfect night.

...continued on page 18



Caption #1: Scott Harris, Susie Hansen, Donna Pieper and Keith Fleming in the Christmas spirit!



Caption #2: LR:Sue Wrensen, Patty Livingston, Linda Venable, Norma Webber and Laura Williams



L to R: Randall and Susan Sengstock, Jackie Mooney, Susie Bond, Linda Kundell, Sue Wrensen and Bob Long.



Mickey had a large time!



Wow! Tamma Trump drove all the way from Acworth to attend the party!



L to R: Susie Bond, Patty Livingston, Diana Kelsey and Bob Long



Christmas came early for our GERL Horses for Adoption

We could not be any prouder of our GERL Rescue Challenge Horses and Trainers. Because of the wonderful training Dixon, Tony the Pony, Faye Dunaway, Halle Berry, and Little Joe have all found their perfect forever barns.

Dixon was adopted by his trainer Jenny Fox and will be doing Civil War reenactments in all his Rebel glory.

Tony the Pony was adopted by Leslie Lambert and will join Hemi(adopted from GERL)as a first pony for her grandchildren. What lucky kids.

Faye Dunaway was adopted by Vicki Holland for her daughter so she too can follow all her horsy dreams.

Halle Berry was adopted by John & Tara Harris of Tranquility Stables in Appling. She will be joining their lesson program and horse camps.

Little Joe was adopted by Dave Crist yep brother of Danielle Crist, Little Joe's trainer. I'm so happy they are keeping him in the family.

Booth was also adopted by a young determined rider, Naumi. She has such an old soul for a horse and I know that she and Booth will have years of happy memories.

Moses has a new home too. Atha just fell in love with this kind boy. He will be her fence checker since he will be living on over 100 acres.

Blaze & Glory are living large at their new farm. Marion fell in love with these two flashy girls.



Most Recent GDA Horse Sale

By Anne Ensminger

As the deadline for putting together the G.E.R.L. Newsletter approaches each quarter, G.E.R.L. President, Patty Livingston, sends out assignments to those of us who have firsthand knowledge of various pertinent events from the previous quarter about which our readers might enjoy reading. This time I was assigned to recount the details of the most recent GDA Horse Sale which took place on December 6th. at the Mansfield Impound Barn. I chose not to remind Patty that I did not actually attend that sale because I did not feel well on that day.

I felt confident that, since I had attended many, many GDA Horse Sales in the past that I could describe exactly how it went. Our wonderful auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, who graciously donates his time and talent to officiate at all G.E.R.L. auctions and most GDA auctions, arrived in plenty of time to set up and be ready to inspire the bidders with his amusing and repetitive chant.

The facility was spotless with freshly mowed grass and newly bedded stalls. There was not a sign of horse manure in the paddocks or the stall area. The horses were beautifully groomed and being exhibited in a large paddock by some of the inmates from the Pulaski Women's Facility near Hogansville, GA. Those ladies had been working with the horses for a period of time to make sure they could be classified as "riding horses".

G.E.R.L. is always represented at the GDA Horse Sales, if for no other reason, than to show our support. Actually, the GDA Inspectors, some regular GDA Volunteers, and the inmates handle the entire event. We sometimes have a flea market of items which have been donated and we sometimes cook hamburgers and hot dogs as a fundraiser.

GDA Horse Auctions are held at intervals as horses complete their rehabilitation, are evaluated and released for sale. The sales are sometimes held at the Lee Arendale Women's Prison Equine Center near Alto, GA but most usually they are held at the Mansfield Impound Facility on Marbin Farm Rd. near Mansfield, GA.

The number of horses available at the sales varies from over twenty at times to just five or six. A complete listing and description of the horses being offered can be found before each sale in the Georgia Farmer's Market Bulletin and on the GDA Website. It is remarkable to

note that many of the same spectators attend most of the auctions. These "regulars" don't seem to be interested in purchasing a horse but they don't seem to ever miss a sale.

Now to the really sad part. There are some very nice horses offered at the GDA Horse Sales. I sometimes think that the GDA Horse Sales are the Georgia Horse Community's best kept secret. Yes, the horses were rescued from undesirable situations but they have been fully rehabilitated and are ready to go to permanent homes and be of service to their new owners. Some of the horses are registered and their papers are available. Many of them are too young to begin their saddle training, therefore; these young animals rarely receive even a minimum bid. Some of the animals are older but are in good condition and possess a world of experience which should have value to beginner and/or timid riders, yet they bring very low bids. Those horses shown under saddle bring the highest bids but those bids are rarely over \$500.00. Every horse sold in a GDA Horse Sale is fully vetted for soundness and if there is the least doubt concerning anything about the horses, it is revealed.

It hurts all of the GDA workers and volunteers, as well as all from G.E.R.L. to watch Mickey Farmer beg for just ten more dollars to be bid on a horse that we know has cost GDA and GERL thousands of dollars to bring back to optimum health after they have been starved and abused by their former owners. The real "kicker" is the realization that the previous owner has probably faced no consequences for his actions and that he or she has likely been to a horse auction, perhaps in another state, and obtained another horse.

Does it make us angry and frustrated? Of course. However, we cannot slow our efforts to put an end to the outrageous cycle and we must be grateful that the horses sold in the GDA Horse Sales have been given another chance for a good life. All we can do is pray that turns out to be the case for each of them.

Addendum: Horses which fail to sell at GDA Auctions are returned to the prison inmates for continued training and handling. Some are purchased at private treaty and some are adopted as companion animals or "pasture ornaments". Some are returned to a future sale and offered again.



A Note from the Secretary's Desk

by Anne Ensminger

All of us who love horses for all of the right reasons, know that it is in our heads, in our hearts, and is an integral part of our being. I was born loving horses. Don't know why, but horses are a part of my soul. I was not one of those fortunate kids who

was raised with them. My father was a military man; therefore, we moved to a new assignment every two to three years. There was no way for me to have my own horse but I thought of little else. Naturally it follows that the very first thing I bought when I finished my education, was a horse.....before I even bought a car! At last I was settled, enjoying gainful employment, and could afford a horse. Of course, my inexperience led me to buy the WRONG horse. Actually, I guess it turned out to be right... for the horse. He was a beautiful registered Tennessee Walking Horse. I was so proud of him but, unbeknownst to me, he suffered from chronic laminitis. Never having ever even heard of laminitis or founder, it didn't take me long to realize that something was terribly wrong with "Mac's Billy the Kid". I was devastated when I learned of his diagnosis and prognosis. I called the man who sold Billy to me and was told, "Lady, you rode the horse, you liked the horse, you bought the horse, he is now YOUR horse". Wow, what an introduction to the ways of those who deal in horses for all of the WRONG reasons! Actually, the end of this story leads to my becoming much more savvy about how to evaluate the soundness and temperament of horses, and to my owning many wonderful horses over the years. Poor old Billy the Kid lived with me until he died ten years later and I did all in my power to keep him comfortable during that time. I guess I could write a textbook on laminitis, its prevention and treatment. Still, I have sadly lost two other horses over my 40 years of horse ownership to that terrible condition.

But then, this is not a compilation of my thoughts on laminitis, nor any other of the many maladies that can occur in horses. As I sit here I am remembering some of the many horses to which I have come into contact over the twenty plus years I have been associated with G.E.R.L. I have too often seen, first hand, man's failure to do what is right for horses in their care. I have felt frustrated, angry, and helpless concerning the way in which some horse owners fail to accept their responsibility and the fact that, even though we have laws to prevent equine neglect and cruelty, the offenders are rarely punished.

I suppose the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Equine Inspectors could, and I have often thought should, write volumes filled with accounts of cases they have handled. I feel that whenever a horse, donkey, or mule is impounded by the GDA, it is the luckiest day of that animal's life. The dedicated, underpaid GDA personnel and volunteers who work with the impounded horses are very often responsible for literally snatching those horses' lives from the arms of death. Yet, we rarely hear about the long days and nights

they are with the very weak ones, administering IV fluids and medications, hand feeding, or caring for them in hundreds of ways.

Occasionally, during or after a horse has been nutritionally rehabilitated, it is discovered that they suffer from a variety of other health related and soundness issues. Many of the horses which are rescued with very low body scores, suffer from heart murmurs which can be temporary or permanent. Others present with multiple lameness, respiratory, and soundness issues. If the horses are in intractable pain, they are humanely euthanized. If they are comfortable but merely unfit for riding or other common uses, it is amazing how often they are placed as companion animals or pets with people who just enjoy caring for them and enjoying the undisputable beauty of a horse.

Being aware and very grateful for the tremendous successes attained by the GDA Equine Program, it was easy for G.E.R.L. to make the decision to increase our financial assistance for feed, hay, and veterinary expenses incurred by them. This decision was extremely important to insure the viability of the Equine Program due to state budget cuts which were making it necessary to reduce the number of horses impounded each year. Known as the "G.E.R.L. Feed a Horse Program", this is by far, our most costly effort, however we simply cannot imagine the fate of many Georgia horses if the GDA Equine Impound Program did not exist. Thankfully, we have some very generous and regular donors to "Feed a Horse" and we have been able, thus far, to continue to fund the program.

As I have said many times in the past, just because a horse is a "rescue", does not mean that it is an inferior animal. It simply means that the horse has fallen into the hands of someone who is either ignorant or uncaring. Either of those characteristics in a horse owner usually means undeserved misery for the horse.

I wish every member of G.E.R.L., every horse owner, and every horse lover in Georgia could have attended our Rescue Challenge in Athens on November 15th. It was truly amazing to see nine horses, all coming from rescue situations, compete in a very strenuous competition and every one do extremely well. Thanks to the skill and four months of work done with the horses by nine wonderful horse trainers, each of the horses performed to outstanding and unexpected levels. Every horse was shown in hand, over obstacles and completed a free style exhibition designed by their trainers to showcase their abilities. It was AWESOME!

G.E.R.L. still has five of those nine horses available for adoption. We were regretful that more young 4-H and Pony Club members, as well as those becoming interested in showing horses or trail riding, did not attend the Challenge and observe the horses performing. Any of the nine horses would be an outstanding mount for such purposes. If you know a person who deserves the privilege owning a horse and who might be seeking a well-trained and gentle horse, please tell them to contact GERL about these horses.

As we enter another new year, we are excited to again sponsor some of our usual annual events and plan for new ones. It is our hope that we will be able to attract some monetary grants, thanks to some who have expressed an interest in helping us in that way. We also have plans to step up our use of social media to get the word out about our mission and our needs. We are determined to do all in our power to find ways to raise money so that we can continue to fund the GDA Equine Program as well as our other very important G.E.R.L. programs which promote our efforts to end the neglect suffered by many equine in our state.

The GERL Rescue Challenge Auctions

By Patty Livingston

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the donors and supporters of our recent Rescue Challenge live and silent auctions. Between the 30 live auction items and the 60 something silent auction items, we ended up making almost \$8000. We haven't made \$8000 at our auctions in a very long time. It made me very happy that we had done so well.



The items for the live auction were awesome

I volunteered to be in charge of the auctions a year ago and vowed that I would do my best to gather good quality items that would perhaps bring in more money. I already had some ideas of some things that I wanted to donate. I started putting out the word many months ago and, as things often happen, everybody came through. Also, there were a lot of items that were donated by the vendors who attended. I think most people who attended were impressed by the selection and quality.

As usual, our favorite and "almost famous" auctioneer, Mickey Farmer, did a fabulous job and he was able to squeeze a lot of money out of some folks. One of the items in the live auction was a huge stuffed white horse that was donated by Wells Fargo Bank. There were two separate people in the audience who wanted that horse and he ended up bringing over \$200.

When we started planning this event a year ago, we had no idea what to expect in the way of a return on

our labor and investment. We knew that we would most likely have more people attending the event than the number that usually attends our trail rides, but we never dreamed that it would be a "sell-out". I'm not sure that GERL has ever had a "sell-out" at any event before.



Some of the great merchandise that was donated to the silent auction



The cowhide and wood items were a big hit

We have live and silent auctions at all of our events and they are typically the "bread winner", bringing in the largest return. We were blessed to have this first Challenge so well attended by vendors, sponsors, trainers, volunteers and spectators. And, heck, that was with an Artic Vortec for the backdrop. Just wait till next year; this is only going to get better!

A Peek into the Future

by Patty Livingston

I am always thinking and dreaming up ideas to make GERL better; more efficient, more helpful and more of what we need to do to carry out the “Get Well Plan” and our mission. All of the pieces have been in the plan and most everything has been created and working well. All that is left to do is to embellish the programs we currently have and to grow our organization. And, speaking about embellishing a current program, I’ll have to admit that most of my ideas are about our castration programs. I guess no big surprise there.

Here’s a little peek of some of the ideas I jotted down:

Stallion to Gelding Castration Day:

- ✓ Billboard Advertisement in South or Middle Georgia
- ✓ Pick-up/delivery service for castration day
- ✓ Create a bumper sticker to advertise
- ✓ Create a committee

As I traveled home on I75 from Florida recently, I couldn’t help but notice the billboards lining both sides of the highway and many of them reflecting “advertise here” or “for rent” signs. Of course, this made me start thinking of how effective it would be to have a “GERL GELD’EM” billboard up there for everybody to see. It would need to be something catchy to get people’s attention, and perhaps would display statistics that would drive home the message.

During the holidays I watched a celebrity fundraiser for rescue dogs and they displayed some statistics about the number of puppies produced by just one un-neutered male dog over a 15 year period. The number was staggering at 65,000 offspring! Holy cow! That sounds impossible to imagine! I immediately tried to imagine what the number would be for one stallion. I tried to think of a common situation in our world of equine rescue today that would fit and thought of the many “backyard breeders” there are. It is not uncommon for stallion

owners to have 3 mares in their herd and of course, they are all running together. Based on that scenario and using the same 15 year marker, I came up with 45 offspring. I realize that not all stallions have 3 mares to breed every year, but I also had to consider the number of offspring that are being produced via artificial insemination, Premarin babies that are produced solely to capture the mare’s urine to produce a hormone drug and the number of wild mustangs that continue to reproduce out West. I did read somewhere that the number of horses in our country is increased by 300,000 per year.

Anyway, I said all that to say that there are still a lot of horse owners who are still breeding, despite the fact that there are over 10 million horses in our country. The majority of people who attend the GERL Castration Day are not the culprit. They would most likely have their stallion gelded, even if GERL were not offering a discounted castration clinic. The real “culprit” does not intend to geld and would never attend a castration clinic, even if it were free. So, my attention goes to figure out how to reach these people. Thus, the idea of a pick-up and delivery service on Castration Day. Of course, this is a long-term idea that would have to be supported by each community.

And, lastly, I was thinking that a small committee of interested people who could meet and discuss ideas to implement and improve the Stallion to Gelding programs would be beneficial. I know there are like-minded people out there and this is something that would not take a lot of anybody’s time or effort. I’m hoping that in 2015 we can start to implement some enhancements. If you have any interest in being a part of a committee to discuss ideas, please contact me at gerlpatty@yahoo.com.



GDA Success Story

This is the story of Cloud. She came to the Pulaski Impound facility on July 15, 2013. Upon arrival to Mansfield, she came in at a body score of 1.5. She was shy and scared. She had been found tied to a tree and tangled in her tether on the ground.



Cloud is currently in great body condition, body score of 5.0! Cloud was sold at the GDA Impound Auction on May 17, 2014. She was purchase by one of GERL Members, Valerie Puryear. Valerie has been successfully gaining her trust and moving forward with her under saddle training. We can't wait to hear more about their journey together.

THANK YOU
Georgia Equine Rescue League!!!



The 4th Annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Day

by Patty Livingston

As is our custom, Anne Ensminger and I met at Countryside Animal Hospital in Jersey to set up a booth for GERL during the annual castration day. We didn't have the GERL cargo trailer this year since we seldom sell merchandise at this event. We had brought hand warmers and blankets to take off the morning chill as we waited for the patients to arrive.



Vets and students wrap up the day with a photo around the last patient.

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine students and vets were already there and waiting to get started. I noticed that there were more students participating this year than last. There were also a couple of male students in the mix which is more unusual than you might think. The entire group seemed interested to learn about GERL and the ways in which we help horses. They were all excited about the opportunity to perform surgery and several thanked us for providing the opportunity. I asked them how many had participated the previous year and there were none. I thought that was interesting.

As our Castration Day approached, I regretted that I had to let it be known that the event would have to be smaller this year. I wrote about our lack of funds for this program in our last newsletter and the response that followed was very gratifying. We were able to allow the participation of five additional veterinarians who had expressed an interest in helping this year. Because of the generosity of G.E.R.L. members, the participating Georgia veterinarians, many volunteers, and the UGA students and instructors, we were able to help with the castration of 96 stallions on November 8th. Thanks very much to all who did not hesitate to step up and donate to help make this happen. I also want to thank Dr. Rebecca Gimenez who graciously offered to cover any overage. It felt good to realize that there are others as passionate about the G.E.R.L. Castration Program as I.

G.E.R.L. is always very appreciative of the veterinarians who agree to host a clinic on our Castration Day each year. They

perform castrations at the greatly reduced rate of \$100.00 per stallion. The stallion owners pay half of that fee and G.E.R.L. pays the other half plus the cost of medications. The only extra charge to the horse owners is for a required tetanus inoculation if their horse has not had one recently.

This program was founded as part of the "G.E.R.L. Get Well Plan" and is our way of addressing the overpopulation of horses, a great contributor to the horse problems in our state. Below are a list of the equine vets across the state who participated:



There were a lot of minis at this clinic.



Dr. Dan Carter hosts this opportunity for the students each year.

The 4th Annual Stallion to Gelding Castration Day

by Patty Livingston

- ◆ Dr. Ava Griner Talmage, Amicalola Veterinary Services
- ◆ Dr. Dan Carter & Dr. Billy Myers - Countryside Animal Hospital, Jersey
- ◆ Dr. Dr. Ross Kittrell, New South Equine Medicine, Good Hope
- ◆ Dr. Logan King, King Equine Vet Services, McDonough
- ◆ Dr. Wanda Thompson, Royston Animal Hospital Royston
- ◆ Dr. Mark Korb, Barnesville Animal Clinic, Barnesville
- ◆ Dr. Eric Sjoberg, Dr. Brittany Bell and Dr. Jennifer Adams, Maggie's Menagerie Veterinary, Ila
- ◆ Dr. Jennifer Baker & Dr. Bill Baker, Equine Associates, Hawkinsville
- ◆ Dr. Katie Lott-Ellis, Jacksonville Equine Associates, Waynesville
- ◆ Dr. McCord, Bowdon Animal Clinic, Bowdon
- ◆ Dr. Hagart, Town & Country Animal Hospital, Mt. Airy
- ◆ Dr. Melissa Fulton, Fulton Equine, Spalding County

To my way of thinking, this is one of the most important programs that we sponsor and the GERL Board of Directors all join me in vowing that we will do all in our power to ensure that we continue to host this event every November.



They work as a team.



Another Mini



All smiles.

Welcome Kim Trahan – New G.E.R.L. Volunteer Coordinator

By Anne Ensminger

Isn't it amazing how problems seem to work themselves out? Diana Kelsey has been the G.E.R.L. Volunteer Coordinator for a very long time. She has done an outstanding job of securing much needed volunteers to help make our events and fundraisers successful and it is hard for us to imagine not having her in that role. However, Diana recently let us know that she is ready to take a break from some of her G.E.R.L. duties and asked us to find someone else to take her Volunteer Coordinator position. Oh dear, what now!?



We tried to ignore her request but 'low and behold', she solved the dilemma we had been avoiding, on her own! While visiting with a long time member and friend of G.E.R.L. at the recent Rescue Challenge, Diana was asked if there was a position in the organization that needed filling. Diana's eyes widened as she hugged Kim Trahan and began describing the Volunteer Coordinator position.

Kim has been a G.E.R.L. member over the years but she was a busy professional, was raising a family, and had little extra time to give. Now she is retired, her family is grown, and she is enjoying a new grandchild. She and husband, Rod, both want to become more involved with G.E.R.L.'s efforts on behalf of horses in need. Having known Kim for quite some time, Diana knew that she would be the perfect person to take over and that the two of them could work very well together on the transition. To have Rod willing to help is a welcome bonus!

Kim and Rod live on a small farm near Jersey, GA and have horses of their own. Although Kim has been "grounded" from riding for a while, she is now ready to get back in the saddle and again feel the joy that only "true horse people" can feel when riding a good horse.

All of us at G.E.R.L. look forward to working with Kim and we share Diana's gratitude that she accepted the position as soon as she learned of the need. Looking forward to working and riding with you and Rod, Kim!

The cover of the 2015 GERL Wall Calendar features a stylized purple horse in a dynamic, rearing pose. The background is a light blue and white pattern. Text on the cover includes "Living Life at Full Tilt", "2015 Equine Art Calendar by Barbara Rush", "Featuring 12 Incredible weeks of art Worth Over \$500", "www.gerlltd.org", "\$5.00 OF THIS PURCHASE PRICE GOES TO GERL", and "2015".

**The 2015
GERL Wall
Calendar**

**\$5.00 is donated
to GERL
for each calen-
dar purchase**

\$24.95

www.gerlltd.or

Honorariums

Alias Lima for his 2nd birthday by Stacy Lima
Bruce Ott by Clare Connell
Dorothy Benson by Diana McEntyre
Sandy Hage by Denesa Snell
Cathy Merritt by Denesa Snell
Sharon Reynolds by Denesa Snell
Gail & Gerry Williams by Denesa Snell
Laney Marable by Marian Finco
Chris Altizer by Marian Finco
Kim Hampton by Sally Guthrie
and her employees

GDA and Other Updates

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

GERL recently paid \$2,554 for feed for the Mansfield Impound for the current quarter
GERL paid \$1,402 for vet care for horses at the Mansfield Impound for the current quarter
GERL recently paid \$3,360 for hay for the Mansfield Impound for the current quarter.

Foster Horses

Tamma Trump/ Butter
Ann Murphy/Jessie James
Chris Altizer/Starr
Anne Ensminger/Honor
Tiffany Bergdorf/Lucky

Big Rocky/Samantha Schrader
China/Danielle Perry
Holly/Lee Ann Gibson
Toby/Stacey McCoy

Sincere Condolences to LaVon Kern.

We are truly sad to report the passing of LaVon Kern's wonderful sidekick and friend, "Buster". For many years when any of us greeted LaVon, we immediately started looking for her wonderful Boxer. Buster loved everyone and everyone loved him. It was unimaginable that LaVon would be anywhere without Buster by her side. We all regretted when the hair on his face became more and more white, a sure sign of the passing years. Many of LaVon's G.E.R.L. friends share in her grief at losing her best friend. Rest in Peace, Buster.



LaVon Kern and "Buster"

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

New Member	Referred By	From
Diane Joy	Adams	GERL Andersonville
Nicole	Beyer	GERL Collins
Kristine	Bird	GERL Greensboro
Christine	Brubake	GERL Hull
Linda & Hoyt	Bruce	GERL Covington
Susan	Bruno	CTHA Dahlonga
Pollyanna	Chavez	GERL Lawrenceville
Susie	Cottongim	GERL Buckhead
Kelly	Diodati	Tamma Trump Marietta
Eileen	Driscoll	Nancy Faulconer Athens
Dayle	Faulkner	GERL Watkinville
Pamela	Forry	GERL Lawrenceville
Jenny	Fox	Margaret Clowers Macon
Dylan	Gazaway	Rebecca Gimenez Dalton
Lee Ann	Gilson	GERL Adairsville
Melanie	Herron	GERL Good Hope
Rosmarie	Kelly	GERL Covington
Carole	Kline	GERL Athens
Tiffany	Lewis	Rebecca Gimenez Macon
Katie	Maddox	GERL Gray
Lisa	Morris	GERL Monroe
Lisa	Muffley	GERL Athens
Tina	Mulvihill	GERL Social Circle
Jessie	Murray	GERL Social Circle
Ansley	Parker	GERL Loganville
Don	Parsons & Family	Susan McCullar Madison
Devon	Pfeifer	GERL Peachtree City
Natalie	Smith	GERL Loganville
Amanda	Tinkle	GERL Winterville
Kim and Rod	Trahan	GERL Covington
Riley	Tucker	GERL Social Circle
Lynn	Williams	GERL Matthews
Lisa	Wilson	GERL Winder

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

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

Renewals due for January

Dee	Allen
Pat	Allen
Larry & Betty	Altman
Flinn	Anderson
Tina	Ashford
Butch & Marie	Babcock
Rita	Benfield & Mike Wade
Virginia B.	Bilbo
Cheryl	Bray & Family
Lou & CeCe	Calli
Joanne	Campbell
Bob	Cooper
Joseph & Judean	Drescher
Susan & Dixie	Eberhart
James	Elzey
Sandra	Freeman
Lee	Hager
Joan	Hall
Jane	Harmon
Clay & Lindsay	Harrison
Phillip & Lisa	Henson
Sherry & Dennis	Irwin
Diana	Kelsey
Karen	Kight
Diane	Kirby & Family
Jody	Kitchen
Gina	Lance
George	Lilley & Family
Arline	Livingston
Patty	Livingston
Marge	Mabey
Cynthia Fuguet	Mare
Joe & Leslie	Martin
Moira	McCracken
Carol	Moore
Sarah	Pallas
Julia Lynn	Pignolet
Martha	Shepherd
Sandy	Stephenson
Terry & Tina	Turner
Bob & Margaret	Wallace
Jill	Williams
Kelly	Woodham
Pamela	Wright
Janice	Yann
Ray & Pierrette	Ziebell
George & Charlotte	Zubowicz

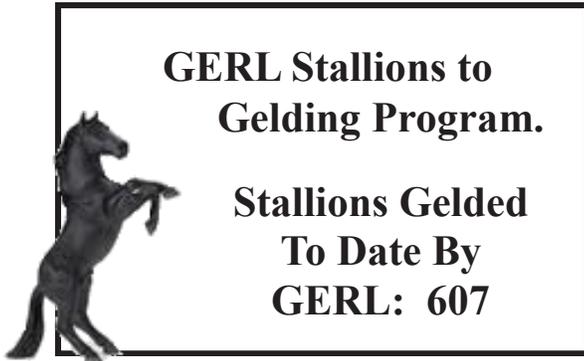
Renewals due for February

Karla	Adams
Carrie	Collins
Heidi	Crawford
Bryan	Gandall
Janine Marie	Gosselin
Susie	Hansen & Scott Harris
Marie & Steve	Hilliard
Cindy	Keen
Erin	Murphy
Ken & Brenda	Owens
Jennifer	Peebles
Tammis & T.E.	Pennington
Marie	Simrod
Charles & Linda	Stephens
Ava	Talmage, D.V.M.
Dea	Williams
Erik	Wittenzellner

In Memory of:

Erwin Topper by Patricia Smith
Erwin Topper by Nancy Ellanson
Erwin Topper by Douglas Beachem
Erwin Topper by Jane Estes
Erwin Topper by Mrs. Jerry R Luther
Erwin Topper by Jo West
Glory by Barbara Decker
Bars for Joyce & Jim Nolter by Joanne Medlock
Hi Cotton by Pat & Hugh Hester
Jessie by Jo West
Valerie Puryear's beloved dog Otter by Marian Finco
Stetson by John and Laurie Absalon
Our angel ponies by Lenore Threlkeld
Tara, our mini, by Michael & Carrie Russell





**GERL Stallions to
Gelding Program.**

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By
GERL: 607**

Stallion-Gelding Thank You

Sylvia Wade
Dr. Jan Smith
Alice Stagg
Alice in
- *Water Land, Inc.*
Nancy Fitzgibbons
Martha Woodham

Nancy Ozburn
Marian Finco
Delmar Finco
Patti Henry
Ed Merritt
Jo West
Margaret Wallace
Kel-Mac Saddle Club

Thank you for your donations

Lilah Krugman
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Sherry Massey
Amy Lathi
Dawn Maines
Tina Marshall
Family Physicians at Summer Grove, PC
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Catherine James
Laurie Wilder
Singletree Ranch Paso Finos
Christopher and Susan Futrelle-Gregory
Bonnie Lavoie
Christine Garrett
Margaret Korges
Margarita Ireland
Wayne & Sophie Riggs
Kathryn Idzik
Lori Dillard
Marcia Geraci

Renewals due for March

Frank	Abrahamsen
Janet	Ackerman, DVM
Cynthia	Anderson & Family
Elaine	Bishoff
Anna	Brookshire
Susan	Brookshire
Sandra	Bryant
Danny & Faye	Burton
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Joray	Lockridge
Tim	Miller
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Sandi	Simpson
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Jim & Susan	Stevens
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Dante & Claudia	Tomaselli
Tamma	Trump
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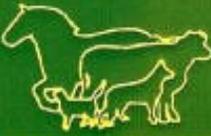
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