



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

July, August & September 2020

GERL Lends a Helping Hand To Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

I was so pleased when Patty asked me to write about Calvin Center Horses & Warriors for the GERL Newsletter! First of all, it gives me an opportunity to thank Patty and GERL for your generous support and encouragement of the Calvin Center Equestrian Program. GERL's financial assistance has enabled us to pay our outstanding veterinary bill, as well as paying the cost of our herd feed for the remainder of 2020. During these difficult months of COVID, this monetary help has been so appreciated. It is an honor to have our veterans program being a partner of GERL. And second, I'm always happy to let others know about the value of equine-assisted activities for wounded warriors.

Horses & Warriors began in February 2011, after 18 months of research into veterans programs - a relatively new programming area for PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship). This therapy has been used by the Israeli military for decades, but was first used in a U.S.

military program in Ft. Hood, TX, in 2005.

After attending seminars, visiting an active program in Arizona, and listening to panels of wounded warriors, we came away with what would be the defining part of Horses & Warriors - an all-military volunteer program. We learned that the camaraderie of being surrounded by other veterans and active-duty men and women was the key to establishing an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance for these wounded veterans trying to find their way into a new life. To that end, we visited American Legion and VFW posts in the area, encouraging them to

volunteer in our program. While not a lot of these veterans had horse experience, they were mostly Viet Nam era veterans who were so eager to "give back" to the military men and women returning from war today. While so many of them felt unwelcome upon their return from war, they wanted to give today's returning troops a better experience.

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GERL Lends a Helping Hand to Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

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Another standard of Horses & Warriors is that we offer all our programming at no cost. Riders can continue for as long as they desire, at no cost to them. We raise funds through donations and grants from the Wounded Warrior Project, the Veterans Administration, and other entities. The local American Legions and VFW are strong partners, with both volunteers and donations. We are always grateful for the monetary benefit and encouragement these monies contribute.

Volunteer training began in earnest before we accepted our first participants (we call riders and groundwork people “participants” – all others are volunteers). Many of these new volunteers had never even been around a horse. Some picked it up immediately – others not quite so easily. Brushing was easy – picking hooves was always a challenge for first-timers! For those of us who weren’t veterans – our instructor Marywill and myself – we learned very quickly that a veteran volunteer was unlike any volunteer in another program. These men and women would do anything asked of them – and even more. They learned how to go into the field, approach and safely halter a horse; how to groom and tack up (both Western and English); how to enable a rider to safely mount at the ramp; how to be horse leaders and sidewalkers (to make the team that would keep each rider safe); and how to safely end the ride and return the horse to the field. One challenge that continues even today is how to identify which horse is which in the pasture! At one time we had 22 horses (today we have 14) – most of them brown. Ivan was easy – a big Grey, as was Cherokee – our first Pinto. We’ve tried everything – pictures of each horse by their tack, written descriptions by each name, you name it – we’ve tried it. But, for many it’s still a “brown horse”. This is often fun – as the time that volunteers came back to the barn with a Thoroughbred, known to be difficult to catch! They had no problem catching Tootsie, and she came along so happily. They were all disappointed to turn her back out.

Riders were first recruited from the Atlanta VA Medical Center, in conversations with therapists and doctors there. We require a doctor’s referral to ride in Horses & Warriors. One of our first riders had never even touched a horse. He came at the urging of his therapist, who was looking for a way to get him out in places other than the VA and his home. As we talked

to him that first day, he had no desire to get on a horse. His wounds had affected one side of his body, making him very unstable. He told us that he was afraid of losing his other side, and being completely immobilized. One of our volunteers “became him”, showing him how the sidewalkers and horse leader would support him, and what would be expected of him. Convinced to give it a try, he had just mounted at the ramp when his therapist pulled up to watch. Sitting on the horse, he happily yelled out her name and waved – and the rest of us just cried. He rode with us for quite a while, until he had gained enough confidence in himself that he enrolled in college! Another former rider is now one of our most-valued volunteers, ready to help others as he was helped. Another rider brings homemade chili several times during the year, for us all to enjoy together. Our riders stay with us for as long as they would like. One rides on his motorcycle from Lawrenceville, weather permitting, and has done this for years!



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GERL Lends a Helping Hand to Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

By Sara Reams

Continued from page 2

An unexpected outcome of our AtlantaVAMC visits was a call from the Eagle's Nest Living Center, asking if they could bring some of their nursing home residents out for a visit. Their monthly visits have continued for all these years, and they are the highlight of each month! Our volunteers greet the van, help the residents in their wheelchairs, and make sure that they are welcomed with coffee, cookies, and lots of good reminiscing. Some of our horses are comfortable being groomed by a person in a wheelchair, and that's always a nice experience for these veterans. We've had memorable moments with harmonicas, wigs, many jokes, and many proud stories of military service.

In addition to the Living Center visits, we also have monthly visits from two VA mental health groups. These men and women come out to do groundwork with the horses, and to visit with volunteers. We now have several riders who made their first visit with one of these groups, took home the paperwork, and came back on their own as a rider. A particular inspiration to us all is a gentleman who lost more than 100 lbs so that he could ride! We all continue to be in awe of this man's courage and strength.

The barn is a happy place on Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.! We have coffee and cookies, and start our program with sharing prayers. Then we get to work! There is a lot of laughter, encouraging, good-natured military rivalry (right now, the only branch of the military that isn't represented is the Coast Guard), and preparing for the work of the day. Team assignments are given out, the horses are brought in, and work begins. Everyone heads into the arenas for warm-up, then often they head out on a trail ride. This is something that everyone loves – riding through the quiet woods. Some like to talk, and healing takes place in those conversations – healing for all involved. We never offer advice, just a friendly visit among veterans. Others prefer to just enjoy the peace and the ride.

Our family of Horses & Warriors has become just that – a family. We share in each other's joys and sorrows. Lasting, strong friendships have come from our Fridays together. Our program has grown in ways that we never imagined; and we continue to seek new ways to make a difference to our veterans. We value input from participants, riders, and medical professionals.

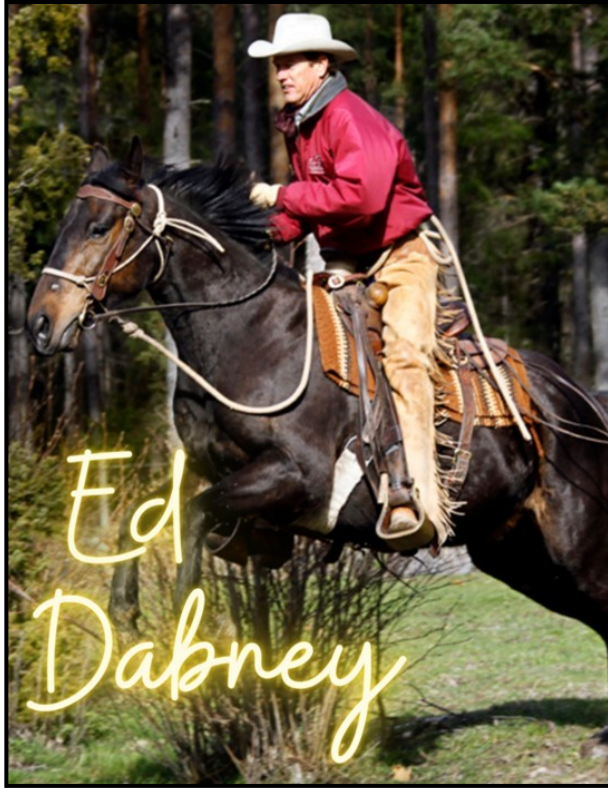
I wish GERL the very best as you move into this new area of programming. May it be as rewarding to you all as it has been to us.



Veterans at the Calvin Center Horses for Warriors



Featured Performer: Ed Dabney



The Georgia Horse Fair 2021 has a great lineup of performers already signed on! One of our featured performers is Ed Dabney!

Ed Dabney is an internationally acclaimed clinician, presenting horsemanship and riding clinics in many areas of the US and in Europe. Ed's blending of natural horsemanship and classical equitation has made an indelible mark with students across the United States and now also in Europe, drawing the attention of serious riders searching for the lightest touch and the deepest connection with their horses irrespective of breed or discipline.

Ed has worked with horses all his life, being involved in diverse fields including the ranching, motion picture and horse training industries. Ed Dabney, a fifth-generation horseman, gained rich insight and understanding into the horse's instinct and culture through his experiences in the wilds of Wyoming, where Ed conducted an outfitting business near Yellowstone, worked with Mustangs and trained horses for several large ranches. Check out more about Ed Dabney at <https://www.eddabney.com>



Dear Patty & Members of GERL,

A note of thanks to signify our gratitude would be too large for the USPS to deliver! So please accept the sincerity of this small card, when I tell you how deeply grateful Calvin Center Equestrian Program is for your most generous contribution for our horse feed and vet care. We were truly speechless when Patty told us of your consideration.

I know you understand the expenses of the care of a herd. And now that we are limited in our programming, funding had become critical. Your generosity is not only financially beneficial, it is also encouraging that you believe in the work we do. Horses & Warriors is honored to be considered a partner in your care of veterans. I hope that you will visit us on a Friday, once we start again.

I think Emily, our Equestrian Director, has offered our help in any way GERL might need us. Please remember that offer.

You gave us Chief, and now this donation. We are so very grateful! Best Wishes as you find new focus for your work.

Sincerely,

Sara Reams
Horses & Warriors
Calvin Center

Lucy Hight Does it Again!

By Patty Livingston



Lucy Height's birthday was July 9th and a small party was held in her honor at her lesson barn in Loganville. I was invited by her mom to attend the festivities and accept a donation from Lucy. It was hard to believe that she was turning 11 years old and has been fund-raising for GERL in lieu of birthday presents for four years now. Lucy became the Georgia Equine Rescue League's (GERL's) youngest lifetime member two years ago when she raised \$1000 for the horses. Last year she raised \$1300 and in true Lucy style, she beat that record this year with \$1440!! What a special little girl she is!

Lucy's donation was dog-eared to the GERL Feed-A-Horse program which ensures that 100% of the donation goes directly to feed horses. A week or so after the birthday party, I made a phone call to Sara Reams at the Calvin Center Horses & Warriors organization to see how things were going with their veteran program.

They offer equine-assisted activities for Wounded Warriors. Sara told me that their program was in jeopardy due to the COVID19 and their inability to open for business. Their donations were down, and they did not know what they were going to do. I immediately responded with an offer to go to the other GERL Board members and get their approval to pick up their feed bill for the remainder of the year. You cannot imagine the emotion at the other end of the phone when I told Sara the good news the next day!

Doesn't God work in mysterious ways? It seems that there are thin threads that bring us all together like a piece of fabric to make something awesome happen. Because of Lucy's generous donation and others who support the Feed A Horse program, GERL was able to commit to pay their feed bill through the end of the year. The Calvin Center's dedication to our wounded warriors and the importance their program plays in the healing process for our veterans made us all feel good for doing something that makes a difference.

Happy birthday, Lucy, and thank you for what you do for the horses and the veterans!





Parade of Breeds

While we have a few breed representatives committed, we continue to seek more participation to make this a spectacular parade of the wide range of horse breeds that we all know and love. As of this newsletter, we have on board: Appaloosa, Arabian, Andalusian, Friesian, Irish Cob, Lipizzan, Peruvian Paso, and Thoroughbred. If you have a horse for a breed NOT listed, and want to participate, please apply at georgiahorsefair.org or email contactus@georgiahorsefair.org.

Rescue Challenge

The Georgia Horse Fair is now the home of the GERL Rescue Challenge! There will be a new format and slightly longer time frame for the trainers to prepare for the event. The grand finale of the Horse Fair is the final phase of the Rescue Challenge, capping the end of the day for our event.



Tickets are On Sale – Early Bird Pricing in Effect

Until February 17, 2021, we have early bird pricing in effect: \$15 for adult, \$8 for child 10 and under. After February 17, the prices will be \$20 for adult, \$10 child 10 and under.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Georgia Equine Rescue League as this is our primary fundraising activity for the year. We look forward to seeing every GERL member at the event! It will be a great day.

See you there!

Nancy Cox, Program Director

GHF Clinician Spotlight: Brynn Pennington and her OTTBs



Ever wonder what happens to thoroughbred race horses that finish their racing careers?

Every year in the USA roughly 20,000 Thoroughbreds are born, most of them for the purpose of racing. Every year, roughly 7,000-10,000 Thoroughbreds are exported from the US for slaughter. The math isn't in their favor. Too many retired racehorses and not enough homes.

There is also the challenge of retraining a racehorse. Thoroughbreds are smart and, particularly when young, can be high energy. Skilled trainers are needed to make the transition successful to a second career. If only there were more people to do this.....

Meet Brynn Pennington! Head Trainer at Pine Lane Farm in Conyers, GA. Brynn specializes in the Hunter/Jumper discipline. At Pine Lane, she is responsible for training horses and has a large roster of students. She is the quintessential horse person, and brings along her young students to develop a strong



work ethic and comprehensive horsekeeping responsibility. But she really knows how to have fun too!

Brynn grew up riding at Pine Lane where she showed in a little bit of everything

with her amazing Appaloosa Beamer. As much as she loved competing, her fondest memories are those of her and her best barn buddies racing in our back pastures, saddling up and heading out for all day trail rides, jumping anything and everything, with their incredible horses that were game for anything. Now, almost 30 years later, Brynn is the Head Trainer at Pine Lane trying to create those same memories for her young riders.

Her journey with OTTB'S (off the track thoroughbred) started with American Soldier, who shares the same sire as American Pharoah, the triple crown winner. He has been a total training restart. Brynn's students watched her as she and her horse struggled, took baby steps, reached small milestones, and eventually became a team, now jumping 3'.

Watching Brynn gave her students the OTTB bug, and the majority of them now have their own OTTB as well, making their OTTB "herd" 16 horses at this point! Together they train and compete at local hunter jumper shows, in ranch horse divisions, and at every opportunity load up and head out to the trails. Oh, and perhaps a Christmas parade riding bareback (pictured here)!

The kids do the majority of their own training, under her instruction. For Brynn "there is nothing more rewarding than watching these "crazy thoroughbreds" develop into incredible, well rounded, horses of a lifetime for their young riders".

Pictured here are Brynn's students and their OTTB horses, rider/trainer ages range from 12-16, horses 4-10!

Brynn is a true hero to the OTTB. Come see Brynn and her team and their wonderful off-the-track Thoroughbreds! Learn their training process, see how far they've come, and ask questions.



DONKEY LOVE

by Diana Kelsey

I must be the luckiest person in the whole world! GERL picked up 2 mini donkeys in early August, when I saw them advertised for adoption I could not get to the phone fast enough to call Cece, Foster/Adoption Coordinator for GERL. She told me to hurry and call Patty because there was already interest in them. My heart was beating so fast, I just had to have these donkeys. Patty said, “they are yours” and I was jumping up and down asking when I could pick them up!!

I had been looking for a bonded pair of donkeys for 8 months. My sweet TWH, Thriller, has been alone in the pasture for 1 ½ years and needed a companion (or two). Well, when I proudly presented his donkeys to him over the fence, he did not appreciate what lengths I had been through to make him happy. What were these odd looking, loud, stinky things? “I think I

will just try to take a large chunk out of them”, he said. When I finally put them all together, he chased them everywhere, because this is HIS pasture and THEY are not allowed to get close to him or his feed!!

It has now been a month. Radar and Lester are allowed within feet of him while he eats. They can eat his hay, too – this must be a miracle! I have never owned a donkey; I had no clue what I was missing! They are so loving, well, Radar is. Lester just wants to be left alone with his food. They are wonderful with my grandchildren and they love them back. It is like a love fest over here!!

Thank you, GERL, for all your hard work and dedication! It takes a village and lots of love and passion to do your jobs – I love you for it! Radar and Lester say THANK YOU! They will be well loved and taken care of for the rest of their lives. Honk honk!



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AREA COORDINATORS NEEDED in MIDDLE AND SOUTH GEORGIA!

We Need You!! Please consider volunteering to be GERL's horse "go to person" in your area. The types of things that you might be asked to do would be to perform a "drive-by" to check out a "skinny horse" report in your area. Perhaps someone in your area has applied to adopt one of our horses and we need someone to perform a farm visit. Please call Patty Livingston at the number above if you can spare a little of your time.

BIO's online: <https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/>

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GERL THROUGH THE AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM.

As of August 2020 GERL has received \$4,490.91. That is very encouraging, thank you to those who always go to the Amazon Smile link and support GERL while you do your shopping. If you shop on Amazon through their Amazon Smiles program, 0.5% of your purchase is donated to GERL. In order to support GERL through the Amazon Smiles program, all you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2080606> and choose Georgia Equine Rescue League as your charity. You also have to begin shopping via that link in order for your purchases to be credited toward GERL. What a great way to support a great cause without spending any of your own money.

You can find links to both of these programs on the GERL website at <https://gerlltd.org>. Our thanks go out to all of you who have chosen to support GERL through these programs.

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You shop. Amazon gives.



JOIN THE GEORGIA HORSE COUNCIL

ALL BREEDS. ALL DISCIPLINES. ONE VOICE

MEMBERSHIPS START AT JUST \$45/YEAR AND INCLUDE:

\$1,000,000 EXCESS EQUINE LIABILITY INSURANCE

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNTS



Contact us for more info:
www.georgiahorsecouncil.com
info@georgiahorsecouncil.com

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe - Pumpkin Cheesecake with Cookie Crust

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 12 pecan sandie cookies, plus more for garnish √ 1/2 c. roasted salted pecans, plus more for garnish √ 3 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted √ 2 tbsp. granulated sugar √ 3/4 tsp. kosher salt, divided √ 3 (8-oz.) packages cream cheese, at room temperature √ 1 (8-oz.) container sour cream, at room | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 1 c. packed light brown sugar √ 4 large eggs, at room temperature √ 1 (15-oz.) can pure pumpkin puree √ 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract √ 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon √ 3/4 tsp. ground ginger √ 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg √ Sweetened whipped cream, for serving |
|--|--|



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F with the rack in the middle position. Pulse cookies and pecans in a food processor until finely ground, 10 to 15 times. Add butter, granulated sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon salt and pulse until well combined, 5 to 7 times. Press cookie mixture firmly into bottom of a 9" spring-form pan.
2. Bake until edges begin to brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack. Wrap outside of pan with aluminum foil. Reduce oven temperature to 300 degrees F.
3. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, and light brown sugar on medium speed with an electric mixer until blended and smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until incorporated after each addition. Add pumpkin, vanilla, cinna-

- mon, ginger, nutmeg, and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, beating until just until blended. Pour batter into crust.
4. Bake until edges are set but center is still wobbly, 1 hour 10 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes. Turn oven off. Let cheesecake stand in oven, with door closed, 1 hour. Remove from oven, and gently run a knife around outer edge of cheesecake to loosen from sides of pan. (Do not remove ring of pan.) Cool completely on a wire rack, at least 1 hour. Cover and chill, at least 8 hours.

Remove ring and bottom of pan, and transfer cheesecake to a serving plate. Top with whipped cream and garnish with cookies and pecans.

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.



will host the 10th Annual



GEORGIA

STALLION TO GELDING

CASTRATION MONTH

November 2020

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 and the specific date and location of each clinic. <https://gerlltd.org>

Call for details:

Marian Finco

(706) 340-4368



Disclaimers:

No Cryptorchids.

Tetanus required.

Ga. Residents only.

Who's Who

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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?

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Where Does the Money Go?

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

- GERL spent \$3,340.00 for feed, hay and farrier service on our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$1,096.00 on vet care for our foster horses.
- GERL paid \$6,316.90 to King Equine for vet services provided to the Calvin Center therapeutic equine program.
- GERL spent \$260.00 on feed for the horses at the Lee Arrendale State Prison impound.

Join our 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!



Itty Bitty Before



Itty Bitty After

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!

...or donate online @ <https://gerlltd.org>

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

<https://gerlltd.org>

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

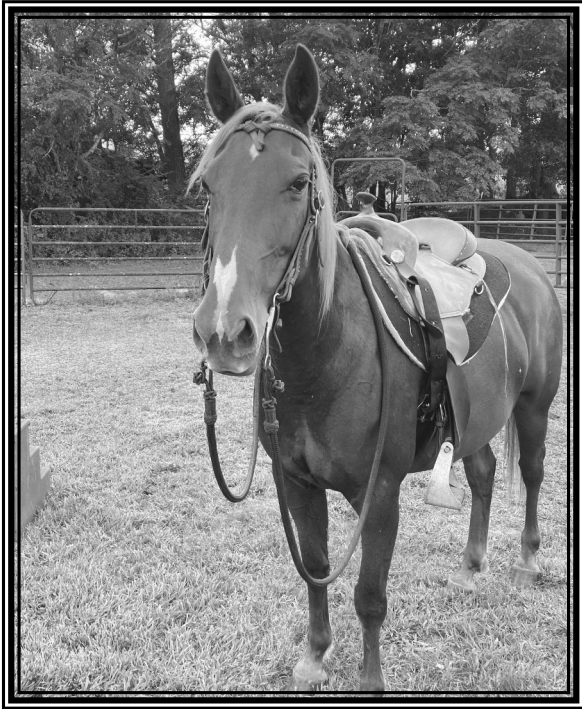
Make check payable to:
GERL
Mail to: P.O. Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

*Your donation is
tax deductible!*

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information, please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator. (706) 371-6804 / adopt@gerlltd.org



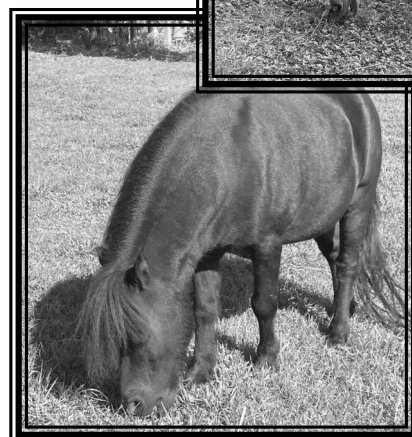
Betty Lou is a 14.0 hh 9 year old Sorrel Grade QH Mare. She has had a saddle and bridle on her previously, but her riding skills have not yet been determined. She is very friendly to people, easy to catch, great feet and very easy on the eyes. This is a nice mare! Check her out!



Bennett is a 14.2 hh 12 year old Sorrel Grade Paso Fino gelding. He does not seem to have much saddle and bridle experience. Bennett loves people, is easy to catch, loads and is good for the vet. He is a good boy and needs someone to take some time to help him feel comfortable with a rider.



Red is a 14.0 hh, 19 year old Bay Arabian gelding. He has been a pasture ornament his entire life and when his owner passed away he had to be rehomed. He is a good boy and gets along well with other horses. He is also very handsome, easy to catch, and great feet. Check Red out if you're looking for a pasture pal!



Charm and Huckleberry must go as a pair. Charm is 20 years old and very sweet. She seems more interested in food than people. Huckleberry is a 10 year old gelding. He was a stallion up until a couple of years ago. He is also very handsome, easy to catch, and loves attention. Anyone looking for a couple of pasture pals?

GERL ADOPTABLES

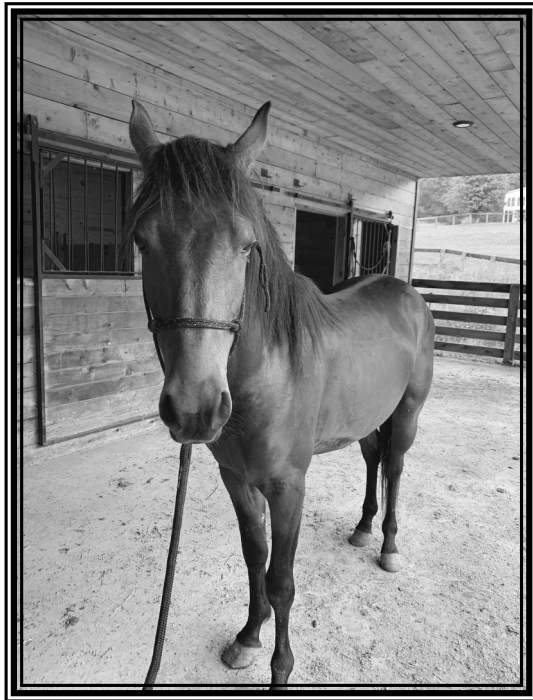
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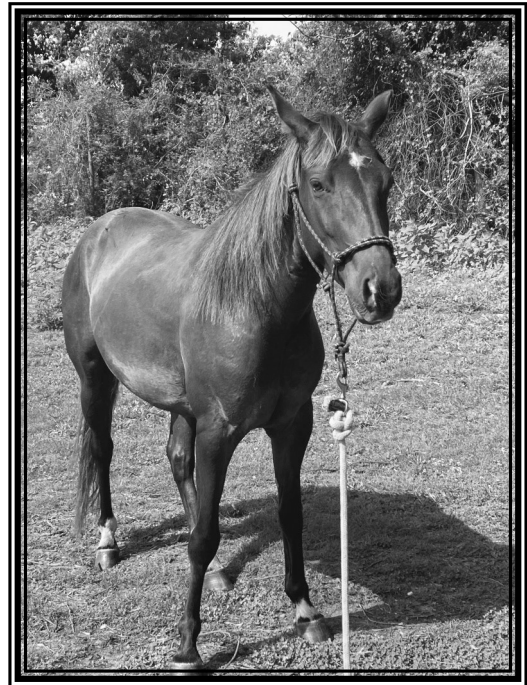
Kourtney is a 14.3 hh 4 year old Sorrel QH Mare. She had hernia surgery last year at UGA and missed the opportunity to go into the 2019 Rescue Challenge. She is such a nice horse we hate to keep her stashed for the next Rescue Challenge due to the fact that it is not until 2021. This is a nice mare! Look!



Sox is one of the “Six Amigos” herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program. He is approximately 14.0 hh, 4-year-old Grade gelding. He was sent to a trainer to be broke to halter and work on ground manners. Potential 2021 Rescue Challenge prospect.



Braveheart is one of the “Six Amigos” herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program recently. He is approximately 14.0 hh, 4-year-old Bay Grade gelding. He was sent to a trainer to be halter broke and to work with his ground manners. Potential 2021 Rescue Challenge prospect.



Annie Oakley is a 14.0 hh 4 year old registered QH mare who won second place in the 2019 GERL Rescue Challenge event. Annie has excellent ground manners and is a rideable horse best suited for an experienced rider. She gets along with other horses and is very sweet.

Visit our website for up to date adoptable horses: <https://gerlltd.org>

Thank you for your donations

Lauren Norwood
Peggy Paris
Anonymous
Kim Hampton
Sherry Massey
Susan Lang
Angela M. Samuels
Stacy Hurd
Cheryl Bray
Lisa Sikes

Catherine O'Neil
Jan Smith
Valerie Warburton
Denise Mortensen & family
Robin Mead
Amelia Bolton
Sara Reams
Ellen Day
Debbie Lord
Karen Johnson

Anita McMurtry
Jill Tolsma
Christina Washington
Kristen Olterman
Marina Brenke
Cecelia Severens
Frieda Minga
Jane Cranshaw
Jos Mottershead

Welcome New Members

Unbridled Joy
Gwen Rountree
Robin Mead
Karen Stewart
Lynn Jacobi
Verleen Flaig
Sara Reams
Deanna Helie

Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner
Rosa Allen
Carol Royer
John Lynn
Georgia Arabian Horse Assoc.
Bonnie LaVoie
Constance Burchette
Mary Karom

Nancy Pahl
Robyn Smith in memory of
Ben Hudson in memory of
Mary Alice Hudson
James Braantley
Jim Januzelli
Deanna Helie

In Memory of

Viva and Bun's Grand Boy, Paso Finos, by Gwen Rountree
Mr. Sid, beloved horse of Gail Ford, by Marian Finco
Jake, much beloved friend, and companion by Jane Estes.
Jake, owned and loved by Jane Estes, by Susie Cottongim
Amy Nicole Sanders by Jill Tolsma
Amy Sanders by Anita McMurtry
Amy Sanders by Marina Brenke
Amy Sanders by the Georgia Preschool Association
Amy Sanders by Frieda Minga
Amy Sanders by Christina and Quinton Washington

Amy Sanders by Betsy Primm
Amy Sanders by Candace Dixon
Lee Nicely by Jane Cranshaw
James W. Threath, Jr. by Dianne Lacefield
James W. Threath, Jr. by Marge Mabey
Mr. Alton Argo, Margaret Clower's dad, by Marge Mabey
Mr. Alton Argo by Betsy Gilman
Betty Fink by Betsy Gilman
Little Bit by Charla Craig
Katherine Lindsey by Susy Klass
Maggie the Magnificent by Marian Finco
In honor of Martha P. Thurmond's birthday by Marian Finco



Please visit our website for articles, membership application and general information: <https://gerlltd.org>

Amy Nicole Sanders Obituary

Recent donations to the Georgia Equine Rescue League were made by family and friends of Amy Nicole Sanders of Stone Mountain. Ms. Sanders passed away on July 26th. She loved teaching and she loved animals, especially her two Clydesdale horses, Hoss and Little Joe. She was a Kindergarten teacher in the City of Decatur and had also taught in the City of Atlanta. She was devoted to her students and viewed teaching as her gift.

The donations were made to honor her love for horses and to continue her belief that “we do what we can, when we can”. She is remembered with love by her parents, her “baby brother” and a host of friends.



GERL Speaks at Law Enforcement Training

By Cynthia Anderson

On September 8, 2020, I traveled to the Bleckley County Cooperative Extension Office in Cochran, Ga. I represented the Georgia Equine Rescue League Ltd. (GERL) at the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s (GDA) law enforcement training. I presented a brief history of GERL, explained the programs offered by GERL, and explained the support available to animal control and law enforcement by GERL.

As most of you know the GDA closed the Mansfield impound at the end of May this year. The GDA will no longer be impounding equine for neglect and cruelty. They have turned this responsibility over to county and city animal control and law enforcement in the state. The GDA feels the problem of equine neglect and cruelty will be better served at the local level by local law enforcement. The GDA is taking on the role of educator to these entities about the equine problems they will face in the future. As GERL had supported the GDA since inception, GERL is very appreciative that they would like us to stay involved and to help support Georgia counties as they

transition their roles. I personally feel that our presentations play a vital role in this transition. However, I am not sure.



After the training I was asked if I thought our presentation was well received. Well, I had to give the answer some thought. I replied back that I thought we were well received. After all, we are offering financial support if the counties are willing to prosecute. We offer help with the horse, when possible. We help with placement of the impounded equine. So, were we well received? GERL’s presentation was just as well received as any of the others. However, I must say that I was disappointed in the lack of interest by some of the animal control officers and police, in attendance. Not just in GERL’s presentation, but in all the presentations in general. I had to remind myself that there are plenty of other counties

who are enthusiastic about prosecuting animal cruelty cases and some of them took a few years before they were on board. The GDA has more training planned for the future.

Georgia Sling Goes to Non - Profit *in Oklahoma*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League spent several months cleaning out the Mansfield impound barn. One of the first things we loaded up were the heavy Anderson Slings. There appeared to be multiples of everything. There were also several large, heavy-duty slides that are used to move a downed horse. The State had not used these items in a few years, but I knew how valuable they were in the right hands. A few weeks later, Rebecca Husted, the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) guru and her husband, Mark, came over to my farm and went through all of the sling equipment to see how many complete slings we actually had. Rebecca took photos and marketed all of the equipment to some of her contacts. Within two days I received a text from a non-profit in Oklahoma that had formed after flooding in 2013 took the lives of thousands of equine in their state. They were delighted to have the equipment and GERL gave them a good deal!



Rebecca and Mark sort through the equipment.



A complete Anderson Sling and slide loaded up and headed for Oklahoma.

GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

February 13, 2021

GERL Annual Meeting

Winder Lion's Club
Winder, GA

April 21, 2021

Georgia Horse Fair

For more information
<https://georgiahorsefair.org>

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 for up to date information on events: <https://gerlltd.org>



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

Things have been very quiet in the world of horse rescue with regard to the pace of new arrivals that once filled the Georgia Department of Agriculture's (GDA's) impound barns. All of the barns stand empty now that the responsibility of picking up horses rests with the counties. It is hard to believe that there are no skinny horses in Georgia, yet we have received no phone calls from any animal control or sheriff's office requesting help.

I did receive a phone call from an acquaintance that complained about a skinny horse in someone's yard that was reported to the local authorities who did nothing. I obtained the address and decided to go for a ride to see what was going on. I did, indeed, see a very skinny horse and since it was visible from the road, I slowed down and took a couple of photos. I followed up with the county animal control to report the incident and was told that they are only handling dog and cat issues right now. I was told that the State was handling it. I then called the State and sure enough, they already had an open case and had one of their inspectors following-up. I couldn't have been more pleased.

The Department of Agriculture has not pushed the responsibility of enforcing the Georgia Equine Humane Care laws to the counties without training and guiding them through issues that arise. Also, just a reminder that GERL and the GDA have been training law enforcement and animal control officers for ten years now. They continue to train and advise counties as the requests come in.

The GDA recently scheduled three law enforcement training meetings back to back. They are smaller gath-

erings than what we used to hold, but the COVID has much to do with that. It is my hope that after the virus issues are behind us that more counties will reach out to the State and request training. GERL continues to stand by and support any county that prosecutes offenders of equine cruelty and neglect and that is not going to change.

GERL Vice President, Cynthia Anderson, recently spoke at a law enforcement training meeting put on by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. She made a comment about the lack of attention and enthusiasm displayed by some of the attendees. Years ago, we often used to tease that some officers came to the training because we served donuts and a free lunch. In reality, there are counties that do not have a high level of horse issues, therefore, I would suppose that their level of interest might be low.

In any event, there are many counties in Georgia who have been handling their own horse issues for years and they continue to handle things without the aid of the GDA. They are our champions! Unfortunately, there are going to be some counties who would rather ignore animal cruelty cases and it is going to be up to the community to be the eyes and ears for equine that are being neglected or abused. Calling one time may not be enough. And, let me say this, about that, never discount the power of a "squeaky wheel". I encourage concerned neighbors or passerby's to be just that. A horse's life may depend on it!



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

GERL VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

by Patty Livingston

Our volunteer of the quarter is someone who has been recognized for her outstanding efforts in the past. Her name is Jacki Moore and she is GERL's official Flea Market Coordinator. The only fund raiser that GERL put on this entire year was a huge tack and yard sale that took place on July 25th at my farm in Bethlehem.

Several volunteers and I had been moving everything from the Department of Agriculture's Mansfield impound bar that had accumulated in 27 years. It was stored all over my farm and none of it was clean!

Jacki came over with her pressure washer earlier in the week before the big flea market and washed everything. She was a gal on a mission, for sure! It took several hours, but when she got finished with the cleaning, she started organizing all of it. She understands that presentation is important when you are selling things and it brings in more money if you take the time to clean it.

Jacki has blown us all away in the past with her bargaining skills and her ability to move the items that are donated to GERL. However, this yard sale was the

BOMB! GERL made more money that day than what we would have typically made on a one-day fundraiser so I'm going to begin my thanks with Jacki Moore!



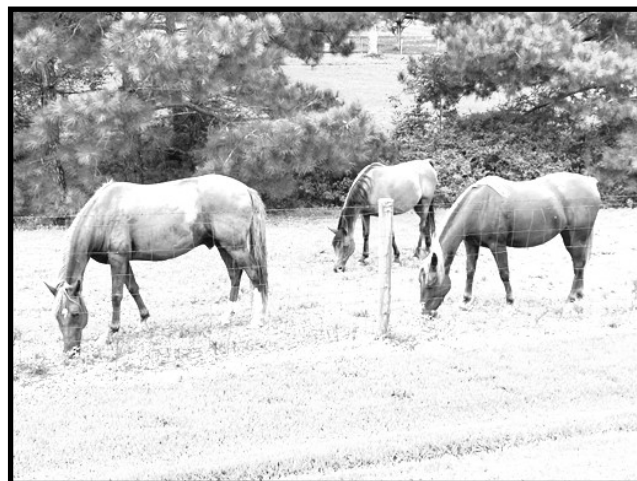
GERL Receives Last 3 Horses from State Program

By Patty Livingston

On August 26th the last 3 horses that remained in the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine program were delivered to my farm. They had all come from the Lee Arrendale State Prison Equine impound where they had been for months. The inmates were not able to do anything with the horses due to COVID19 changes that had been implemented at the prison. But, honestly, I'm not sure they were doing much with the horses before COVID19.

The GDA Equine Division recently requested that GERL take over the responsibilities associated with the two existing prison equine impounds and the GERL Board of Directors voted to accept. The question at this point is whether or not either prison impound will have the budget to continue with this program. We'll see.

As for the horses: They are a pretty bunch and I've seen several people slow down when they pass my house to get a better view. Their names are Betty Lou, Red and Bennett. You will be hearing more about them in the future!





LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

By Lisa Muffley, Secretary

We are already into the last quarter of the year, and what a year it has been! We had to cancel the annual Andee Rogers Poker Ride because of the virus, and if we had planned on a Challenge this year, putting money and energy into it, it would have surely been canceled also. But we instead have been planning all year on a new venture with the Georgia Horse Council which will take place April 17, 2021. The Georgia Horse Fair will incorporate the Challenge with a whole day of events.

WHAT IS THE GEORGIA HORSE FAIR? The Georgia Horse Fair is a 1-day equine fund-raiser in Conyers, Ga. Held April 17, 2021 and will mark our 1st annual event.

WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT THE GEORGIA HORSE FAIR?

Whether you are a horseless horse lover, new horse owner, or seasoned professional, there is something for everyone to enjoy at the Georgia Horse Fair. Non-horse owners, families, and children can meet the horses up close by touring the Pavilions. Many different breeds of horses are represented during the breed demonstrations in the arenas. Clinics, seminars, and educational events are presented by some of the top horse professionals from around Georgia. Vendor booths offer shopping opportunities with something for everyone.

We have begun selling tickets and asking for volunteers. For more information and to sign up or buy tickets, visit www.georgiahorsefair.org.

We have also begun a brand-new program that will promote and support therapeutic equine services to our vet-

erans. This program, much like GERL's other programs, will be part of the Equine Get Well Plan that was written and designed to fix Georgia's unwanted horse problems. The mission of GERL's "Horses Heal Veterans" program is to support and promote non-profit equine therapeutic organizations that cater to veterans with PTSD. The 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report shows a staggering rise in veteran suicides from fourteen to seventeen per day. Twenty out of one hundred veterans are currently suffering from PTSD. There is a need to help heal visible and invisible wounds and help our heroes adapt their lives back into civilian society.

Rescue horses are exceptional therapy animals for veterans because they share a keen sense of their surroundings for survival. Most also share a history of trauma. Just as soldiers are taught to be aware of their environment at all times for their safety, horses share this hyper-vigilance as a prey animal. Dependence on the herd for survival makes the horse an expert at relationships. Their authenticity and ability to mirror a human's behavior can help teach a veteran how they come across to others and to recognize and acknowledge their own emotions. Veterans tend to isolate themselves. The purpose of rehabilitating a rescue horse shows them they are needed and gives them the ability to put their skills to work.

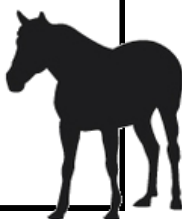
So yes, though it has been a really crazy year, we have continued planning and working as usual. For more information on these programs and more, go to www.gerlltd.org.



GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:**

1149



Horses in our Foster Care Program

CeCe Calli—Foster Care Coordinator
(706) 376-2410 * foster@gerlltd.org

| Horse | Age | Color | Ridable | Foster Farm |
|-------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------|
| Kourtney | 4 | Bay | No | Susan McCullar |
| Sox | 3 | Sorrel | No | CeCe Calli |
| Annie Oak- | 4 | Brown | Yes | Patty Livingston |
| Ladybug | 24 | Sorrel | No | Steven Neal |
| Ransom | 27 | Sorrel | No | Steven Neal |
| Cooper | 25 | Sorrel | No | Steven Neal |
| Red | 19 | Bay | No | Patty Livingston |
| Braveheart | 3 | Bay | No | CeCe Calli |
| Forrest | — | Bay | No | Angie Hammond |
| Jenny | — | Bay | No | Angie Hammond |
| Jazzy Cat | — | Bay | No | Rylee Nash |
| Betty Lou | 9 | Sorrell | Yes | Patty Livingston |
| Bennett | 12 | Sorrel | Unsure | Betty Sue Hearin |
| Huckleberry | 10 | Black | Mini | Patty Livingston |
| Charm | 20 | White | Mini | Patty Livingston |

Cargill Announces new Ultra Premium Line of Horse Feeds

Cargill Feed has a new ultra-premium line of horse feed, ProElite which has now been incorporated into the SHOW program. Triple Crown POPs will also be accepted.



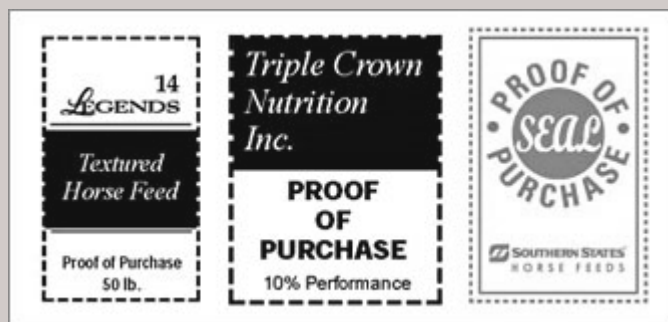
Please save Proof of Purchase seals from ProElite and Triple Crown and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342

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

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

Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



JOIN US ON
facebook

Penny wrote a poem inspired by Juliette about her first ride:

NOT JUST ANY HORSE

No question, the horse has healed me!

Over and over again, I witness me through your awesomeness of spirit, of grace, of silence!

Today you gave me strength and peace.

You gave me courage and connection!

Never faltering, always present.

We together will be humbled in our kindness and kinship.

Neither one overpowers the other.

Your four legs, my two.

Joining a journey, each of us carrying our intangible hearts in silence.

May I give you comfort while you give me life!

The Horse, Not Just Any Horse..... Juliette....

Unbridled, unencumbered

My first day that you carried me

Your first day entrusting me.

—Penny Kalish



Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

Lori Roush

Originally from the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, I now call Warrenton, Georgia my home. Apparently, my Quaker ancestors conspired to have me settle in Warren County, Georgia. After crisscrossing virtually the entire United States as a satellite communications technician - space command (no Trump did not just invent it) in the United States Air Force; and as an employee with Raytheon, I now live just a few miles from the original Quaker settlement in the county! My farm, Dancing Star Arabians, reminds me of home with its rolling hills, Alaska with its birch trees, and Northern California with its towering pines; all wrapped up in one package.

I originally joined GERL around 1997 and subsequently adopted a 20 year old chestnut mare in 2002. When rescued by GERL she had a body score of 1, *possibly 2* at best. My career had just changed from a Telemedicine and Distance Learning call center manager, trainer, technical writer, and software tester/

developer with Raytheon, to full time Mom and farm manager. I raised my son, arabians, and hay; not necessarily in that order. It depended on the priority of each day! Hay and horses remain, but my son has since slipped off to college.

While my beloved rescue, Ginger, passed on to proverbial greener pastures at 31, I still have her granddaughter. Ginger's legacy and GERL's mission is ever present on the farm, and a story I share with anyone who will listen. The photo featured is Ginger's daughter being shown in Scottsdale, Arizona after fighting for and successfully regaining Ginger's registration; making her daughter eligible to compete with the big boys. I remain at GERL's service as an area coordinator in honor of the love and memories Ginger brought to our farm.

Lori Roush Area Coordinator for Warren, Hancock, Wilkes, McDuffie, Glascock and Washington Counties.

GERL Has Tack Sale to Raise Funds

By Patty Livingston

With all of our 2020 events being canceled due to the COVID19 virus, we decided to do something different to raise money. It was a no-brainer for me to suggest we have a tack and yard sale at my house. GERL volunteers have been cleaning out the Mansfield impound barn since March and all of the equipment was stored in my sheds, barn, and my back yard. There were at least a dozen water troughs, all different sizes, rescue slings and slides, panels, gates, and a plethora of other items. In addition to the Mansfield items, we had a trailer full of tack that Linda Kundell and Pat Allen had gathered, and Pat had cleaned.

GERL has a 10X10 shed in my backyard where we store all of GERL's equipment and tack donations. It was full of tack and donated items that had not yet been cleaned. We certainly had enough stuff to host a major yard sale, but we all realized too, it was going to be a lot of work and would require volunteers. The first task was to pick a date and July 25th would give us enough time to plan and execute the event. (Yes, we put a plan together for a flea market.) This was going to be 2-day event for the

volunteers because we needed Friday to set up everything.

Jacki Moore showed up with her pressure washer several days before the sale and cleaned all of the buckets, feeders and anything else that needed it. We had several volunteers who showed up on Friday to set up and organize everything. After the bulk of the work had been done, we ordered pizza for lunch and enjoyed hanging out with each other.

The next day started out wonderful and just kept getting better! I couldn't believe how many people showed up and how quickly the stuff was disappearing.

We ended up making right at \$4,000 on our impromptu tack sale! That will help feed some horses! Big Thanks to our Volunteers: Leslie Lambert, Jacki Moore, Linda Kundell, Pat Allen, Terry Allen, Sue Wrensen, Steven Neal, Ronnie Pesserilo and granddaughter, Eva, Donna Pieper and Brian Greene.



Friday volunteers breaking for lunch.



The Crown Room - Saddles & Bridles



Jacki Moore and Leslie Lambert.

Veterans Find Purpose on Working Ranch

Georgia Ranch Brings Veterans and Horses Together

By Summer W. Bacharach * Photos by Frank and Cyndi Braski



Veterans work cattle at Gore Farms, Griffin, GA

A waypoint is defined as a stopping point or point at which course is changed. Once you reach that waypoint, there is no turning back. Choosing that point and finding the willingness to work toward reaching it is the first step in creating change for those involved with The Peace at Home Project at Waypoint Ranch.

Waypoint Ranch in Carrollton, Georgia was founded as a nonprofit organization to provide a place where veteran families can find effective, evidence-based treatments combined with holistic alternative therapies on a working ranch. Having experienced first-hand the toll military service takes on a family, Founders Ray and Stephanie Cirasa are dedicated to supporting veteran families through the challenges associated with recovery from service-related injuries. Over the past 16 years this program has rehabbed more than 50 horses and supported over 500 individuals.

Ray graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and retired after 20 years of service and ten assignments as a Logistics Readiness Officer. He has served in Afghanistan and Iraq to include commanding the Air Force's only convoy squadron.

Kris Kanzler, Army Special Operations, Ranger and veteran peer mentor at Waypoint Ranch reports: "During this week, I learned to drop all my own labels—the PTSD label, the somehow-damaged veteran label – and just focus on the horse and becoming his partner and earning his trust. This was beyond therapy; it's changed my whole future."

Stephanie was born into a Navy family and married into

the Air Force. Having experienced the challenges military life presents as a child, spouse and parent, she is passionate about helping other families navigate service-related obstacles. Stephanie is certified in EAGALA model Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and trained in Trauma Focused EAP, Rhythmic Riding, Sensory Integration Riding, has Air Force Military Family Support Services training, and extensive experience in support of trauma recovery therapies.

"First-hand experience with PTSD and suicide has given us an understanding of what families are going through, and we're going to do something about it", says Stephanie.

Nancy Slater (pictured on next page instructing as Parelli Foundation Executive Director and Waypoint Ranch Founder Stephanie Cirasa look on), says "When the Peace at Home Project received funding from the Parelli Foundation, I immediately wanted to participate. I let them know I would match their funding with time spent as my way to pay it forward. Horses are intuitive and know when people are afraid, angry, upset, unfocused, uncaring, etc. If we want them to do something for us, we need to be kind yet strong. Clear and honest. Present and motivated. Once we learn to speak Horse fluently, we team up with each other, naturally. Veterans and horses know the feeling of being in a tribe. Veterans who have returned from war share something else with horses. It's called vigilance. Horses' number one concern is safety – when is something going to surprise us? A vet can look a horse in the eye, and the horse will look back with acknowledgment: You know what I know."



Kris Kanzler, Army Special Operations, Ranger and veteran peer mentor at Waypoint Ranch.

Veterans Find Purpose on Working Ranch

Georgia Ranch Brings Veterans and Horses Together

By Summer W. Bacharach * Photos by Frank and Cyndi Braski



She explains “this program is simple and straightforward. Both people and horses need a ‘job’. Work plus purpose equals growth. The goal must be meaningful. We are action-oriented people, who continuously ask ourselves ‘Why is this experience beneficial?’ We are constantly examining, changing and evolving towards growth. One key focus is to remove barriers. These are unique for each participant and horse. Whether physical pain, a broken belief system, financial hindrance, barriers inhibit forward movement. Being alive is not enough, we want our tribe to thrive. Thriving requires being present, connecting to other living things, and bringing the mind, the brain and the body into harmony. In a working ranch environment, veteran and active military clients and their families can regain a sense of purpose and reconnect. Connection is essential.”

This connection comes in the form of a relationship with one or more of the many horses on the property. At Waypoint Ranch importance is placed on not only traditional therapies, but also the healthy daily habits of a harmonious working environment.

Jay DeBaker, Army Special Operations, Ranger and veteran on “Crow”. This was Crow’s first time ever carrying a flag, an educational exercise creating a connection between horse and rider, while adding to this young horse’s training.

Stephanie emphasizes that the ranch’s various activities “benefit a bigger purpose through willingness to put in work to reach a goal. Sometimes goals include helping create trust in a horse with a background of neglect or abuse. By being asked to ‘work with the horse that shows up today’, the men and women participating here are tasked with helping another being; learning to be a part of the solution.”



Counselors also benefit from this healing through horses and have committed to learning to communicate and benefit from these equine partners, both to do the best job for our participants as well as for their own mental health. Barry Bouillion, USMC veteran and marriage and family therapist, (pictured here with Stephanie Cirasa) asks participants “What makes you come alive?” Barry explains that horses help counselors do this job without burning out.

Continued on page 27

Veterans Find Purpose on Working Ranch

Georgia Ranch Brings Veterans and Horses Together

By Summer W. Bacharach * Photos by Frank and Cyndi Braski

Continued from page 26

Another part of the work that appeals enormously is working cattle on supporter Dr. Jim Gore's third generation Gore Farms in Griffin, Georgia with Johnathan Brown, someone Stephanie says "has a way with men and horses. He sees and reads people as well as he sees and reads horses; proving that practicing horsemanship can be applied to helping people."

Jonathan plans to start Refuge Ranch through his extensive work with City of Refuge Church. Refuge Ranch is soon to be a place where those needing it most can find a purpose and a place. He currently directs his efforts to 'heal brokenness' by involving veterans from Waypoint Ranch in working cattle at Gore Farms and during 'ranch retreats'. Jonathan stresses the importance of getting back to "doing life. We take the therapy Stephanie does in the arena, come to the ranch, and put it to life".

Counselors also benefit from this healing through horses and have committed to learning to communicate and benefit from these equine partners, both to do the best job for our participants as well as for their own mental health. Barry Bouillion, USMC veteran and marriage and family therapist, (pictured here with Stephanie Cirsara) asks participants "What makes you come alive?" Barry explains that horses help counselors do this job without burning out.

Seeing this incredible take on therapeutic horsemanship, the Parelli Foundation has provided Waypoint Ranch with over \$7,000 in grant funding through its Heroes and Horsemanship Initiative to pursue retreats and purchase virtual equipment, increasing both education and reach. Through these grants, veterans and counselors have attended retreats with Nancy Slater, a Licensed 2 Star Parelli Professional.

The Foundation's Heroes and Horsemanship Initiative

supports non-profit therapeutic horsemanship organizations serving veterans, active members of the military, first responders and their families. This program supports those who protect our country by extending their access to horses and Equine-Assisted Therapy, giving our American heroes the opportunity to heal and cope.

Retired Colonel Dr. Sean Hollonbeck, MD, MPH, Army aerospace & family medicine physician who is also a board member the Parelli Foundation explains: "After extensive research, there is arguably no better modality for addressing PTSD than Equine Therapy for those with continued PTSD. Globally, short, focused equine-based models with natural

horsemanship educational principals are changing lives. Horses are nature's ultimate prey survivors. They are non-judgmental, want to serve, and can teach immediate tools to veterans and other PTSD survivors."

Jonathon Brown at a Waypoint Ranch retreat at Quercus Cattle Arena in Gay, GA. Ranch retreats are held several times per year at varying locations. There is a need to expand this 'Ranch Retreats for Rangers' program to other working ranches.

Now, more than ever we are called on to make

a difference and the Parelli Foundation is proud to have continued to give vital grants during this unprecedented time. Making grants available to organizations like Waypoint Ranch is especially meaningful during such a trying time for those we strive to support through this program.

Waypoint Ranch is currently exploring opportunities to expand in the Southeastern United States. Please contact stephanie@waypointranch.org to get involved.

Contact the Parelli Foundation to learn more about this and other programs or to find a therapeutic program near you.



Jonathon Brown at a Waypoint Ranch retreat at Quercus Cattle Arena in Gay, GA. Ranch retreats are held several times per year at varying locations. There is a need to expand this 'Ranch Retreats for Rangers' program to other working ranches.

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We also have two sponsors on board at this point: ProElite Horse Feed and Triple Crown Horse Feed. We are seeking additional sponsors and offer a great benefits package with an affordable sponsorship. Contact us for more details at contactus@georgiahorsefair.org.

Performers and Clinicians

The event now has a nearly complete roster of performers and clinicians, making this day a very special action-packed event. Some of our featured performers and clinicians are:



Follow us on Facebook and on the Georgia Horse Fair website (georgiahorsefair.org) and catch our newsletters for details about each of our performers and clinicians!

SAVE! Early bird ticket pricing is in effect until February 17, 2021 * <https://georgiahorsefair.org>

Fear Not, Juliet, Your Home is Calling

By Kate Porfilio

On the morning of June 20, 2020, a sweet little chestnut mare came into our lives. Anxiously awaiting her arrival, we were thrilled when Patty Livingston's pick-up turned into the driveway of the horse farm.

As the trailer door opened, we held our breath as the mare hesitantly stepped out onto the driveway of her new, adoptive home. Her name was Juliette and her big, brown eyes looked around with a sense of curiosity and sadness.

As Patty shared her knowledge of the mare's background, Juliette stood by patiently.

We learned that in July of 2019, she had been picked up by the GDA with a stallion named Romeo. She was very thin, malnourished, and pregnant. Romeo found a home and Juliet was rescued by GERL.

Juliet foaled in March of this year and tragically, her colt had a rare tissue condition and had to be euthanized.

We vowed on the day of her arrival, that Juliette would have a different life, one where she could heal, both physically and emotionally, and where she would be safe, loved, and well-cared for.

It has been just two short months since that eventful morning, and Juliette has completely transformed. The sadness in her eyes has been replaced with confidence and peace and every day, she opens up even more. With over forty-acres of pasture, creeks, and forest to roam (along with a dozen other horses), she has filled out beautifully, and looks strong and proud.

When we first started working with her and brought her into the ring, you could tell she was anxious. It was as if she was anticipating she would be pushed hard to perform. We did just the opposite and focused first on developing trust, working one step at a time, and with no expectations.

By building on each success, Juliette has begun to relax and enjoy her training sessions. She wants to please and responds well to Liberty training and bridleless riding. We also give her lots of spa days where she gets brushed, rubbed, hugged and showered with kisses—because she deserves it.

It's been a privilege to have her in our lives and we can't wait to see her blossom even more.



Juliette in her new home, happy and thriving



Juliette under saddle

Kate Porfilio

Juliette is co-owned by Kate and Darren Porfilio and Penny Kalish and Tonya Aaron, who had a vision to join forces and provide a safe, forever-home for a horse in need.



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