



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

*Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia*

Quarterly Newsletter

October, November & December 2020

## Turner - GERL's Newest Arrival

*By Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League recently received a call from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) requesting help with several horses that needed to be rehomed. The county animal control was also involved. One of the horses was getting out of the fence and was living tethered to a tree. GERL Vice President, Cynthia Anderson hooked up her trailer and headed to the address intending to bring back a couple of horses. These would be the first horses to come into the GERL foster program through law enforcement in a year. Cynthia ended up going home with only one, but it was the gelding that was tethered, so we were happy. Besides, the horse we left behind was in good flesh.

Cynthia kept him at her farm for a couple of weeks before bringing him to my place. We named him Turner. He was covered in rain rot, even underneath

his belly and thighs. The bottom third of his tail looks like a giant loofa because it has been so long since it has been combed. He is thin (not skinny) and his coat is dull. We had our vet check him over and pull blood

to learn that he is heavy with parasites. In addition, his halter had been left on for so long that it had started to embed in his nose, which was pink and raw looking.

Otherwise, Turner is a very nice 15-year-old Quarter Horse gelding. He gets along with everybody, stays by himself mostly, but never gets too far from his pasture mate, Betty Lou, who is the dominant one of the two.

I have noticed that she does not try to take his food like some others whom she has shared her pasture with in the past. So, he has that going for him!



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# Turner - GERL's Newest Arrival

*Continued from page 1*

Turner was very forward and pushy when he first arrived at Cynthia's, and she immediately started working with him to correct it. He would also pace up and down the fence line, almost in a panic state, if one of the other horses was removed from the pasture. He had worn a path where he paced for much for the next two weeks.

He continued that behavior for a couple of days after arriving at my farm and then, suddenly, he just settled down. Just a reminder to us humans that horses suffer and act out negatively when they undergo change, too. Poor Turner had been taken away from his pasture mates that he had been with for many years. He needed to cling to other horses in order to feel safe and taking them away from him was definitely upsetting his apple cart.



Turner – Week 5 of Rehab



Turner was covered with rainrot

He is a fast learner and since we have continued to re-enforce what Cynthia started, he now stands back and waits for the gate to be opened and walks out at our pace instead of his. Turner is a good boy and I am hoping that someone will see his potential and provide him with his forever home.

Turner is currently in rehab to gain weight and heal up the sores on his back and nose. We were told that he rides, and I am anxious to put a saddle on him and evaluate his riding skills. Look for more updates on Turner in the near future!



Week 3 of Rehab – Turner's nose is healing.

# Update on Annie Oakley

By Sonya Jahn

When I took my daughter, Mischa, to attend the 2019 GERL Rescue Challenge, I had no idea we would be meeting the horse that would eventually change our lives. It was our first time attending the Challenge, and we were so excited to see the events and meet the trainers. As a Mom of a child who loves horses, it seemed like the perfect way to spend a day. I remember being smitten with a horse in the Challenge trained by Douglas Owens (Kendall), but Mischa immediately was drawn to a shy, nervous little quarter horse named Annie working with Tinker Moffit. At that time, Annie had been under saddle less than 90 days,

our lives. For some reason, that little, scared quarter horse stayed in the back of my mind, and I set out on a mission to find Annie. After a lot of digging, emails, and texts (thank you to Patty and Cece for putting up with me!), I finally found the little mare, still available and needing a home. I was able to set up a time for us to see Annie, and for me to see if the bond that was there 2 years ago between Mischa and Annie was still there.

After a riding lesson in mid-December, Mischa and I made a surprise stop on the way home. Mischa had no idea where we were or what we were doing, and I was about to explode with nervousness. When we pulled into the driveway, I told Mischa I had finally found Annie, and that she was available for adoption. The moment Mischa and Annie locked eyes, I knew this was the horse that was going to heal our family, and, in turn, we were going to heal her. On Christmas Day, we officially adopted Annie, and welcomed her into our family.

The past three months have been amazing to witness. I've watched a girl find confidence in herself and renewed passion in the animals she loves so fiercely. I've watched a little quarter horse go from being nervous of everything to being confident under saddle and loving the work she does with Mischa. I truly think the future is limitless for this pair.

Thank you so very much to GERL, Patty, and Cece for all your help in bringing Annie to us. Our family will always be a huge supporter of everything this organization stands for and brings to the equestrian community. You saved two souls the day you rescued Annie. Her's and a girl named Mischa.



Delivery Day: Annie and Micha.

and Tinker made it very clear she was a horse that was not for a beginner. Mischa didn't hear any of that, and, instead, stayed parked at Annie's stall any time she was in there. She was convinced this horse was special, but the Mom in me said she was 'too much' horse for us. I left that day with a heartbroken 13-year-old.

Fast forward 2 years, and I had watched Mischa grow as a person and a rider. In the late Summer of 2020, we lost my father to pancreatic cancer, and our world shattered. I watched my daughter and son struggle fiercely with loss, and it was, by far, the hardest thing to see and live through. Around November of 2020, I had this overwhelming thought that we needed something to bring joy back into



Micha taking Annie over a jump.

## Meet Bennett

*By Betty Sue Hearin*



Bennett is a bit face shy and skittish, but once you have a lead line on him, he is a perfect gentleman. He has great ground manners. Stands quietly for farrier and vet. He takes a saddle and bridle, however, after you mount, he has no idea what to do. May be best suited for pasture pal. He does require OTC allergy medicine with his food. Bennett is a sweet boy and gets along with other horses. I hope someone out there sees how nice he is and provides him with his forever home!



Bennett is a beautiful 14.2 hands high, 14-year-old Sorrel Grade Paso Fino gelding. He has an old injury (Sweeney Shoulder) which does not seem to affect him at all. I started fostering Bennett in September of 2020. I was told that he was one of the last three horses to come out of the Lee Arrendale prison program. The inmates spent little or no time with him or the other two horses that were in the program.

## Selena Needs a Forever Home

*By Patty Livingston*

Selena is a beautiful 10-year-old pony. She came into GERL's foster program along with two other mini/ponies, a year ago. She was adopted immediately and was much loved by her new family. During that time she lived her life as a pasture ornament, along with several other animals. However, changes in the family's ability to take care of her, necessitated her return.

"Misty" as she has been renamed, is very pretty, with one blue eye. She is easy to catch, ties and stands for the farrier. She has good hooves and will walk on a lead. She is also an easy-keeper. We think Misty would be best suited as a pasture pal. If you are interested in Selena/Misty, please contact me at [gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com).



# Hello Betty Lou!

*By Patty Livingston*

Betty Lou, a 9 year old mare, was delivered to my house in March of last year, along with an older bay Arabian named Red, and a gelding named Bennett. All three had come from the Lee Arrendale State Prison (LASP) equine program. They were in good body condition, although the inmates had not been allowed to go to the impound and take care of them for months. Their feedings came from the guy who was in charge of the prison's cattle.

I well remember when the Georgia Department of Agriculture's equine division pulled into my driveway and started unloading them. Betty Lou caught my eye, immediately, with her flashy mane and tail. I thought she was beautiful and decided that she probably wouldn't be around long. Who would have guessed that Red would be the first of the three to go to his forever home, but that's exactly what happened. We know that somebody took a lot of time with Betty Lou (and Bennett) to get them to the point of being rideable. For some reason, progress on both stopped after the mount.

Betty Lou is one of the most sociable horses that I have had the pleasure of fostering. People stop along the fence in my front pasture to look at Betty Lou. She is such a ham. When she sees someone stop, she abandons whatever she is doing and goes to the fence for petting and maybe a treat or two. I decided that the only reason she is not gone is because I haven't done a good job about getting the word out about how awesome this horse really is!



## Abey and her kids.

Meet the Warren kids. They (and their parents) have been fostering Abey for a year now. She actually wasn't working out because she did not want to be caught. Then, Selena arrived on the scene. Abey then became easy to catch and a more willing partner for the Warren children. Selena didn't work out, but she improved the situation.

Congratulations to the Warrens for adopting Abey and giving her a forever home full of love and children.

# GEORGIA HORSE FAIR



The 2021 Georgia Horse Fair is coming together with an exciting lineup of performers, clinicians, and vendors (for some awesome shopping)!

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](mailto: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:

## PERFORMER LINEUP

<h3>Clinician A</h3> <p>Carl Bledsoe - The Gaited Horse Nancy &amp; Jordan Falconer - Working Together in Harmony Kelly Sigler - Liberty Clinic Laurie Wilson &amp; Joann McBride- Mules: the Horse's Versatile and Durable "Cousin" Shetlands and Minis! Paso Fino- Breed Spotlight American Saddlebred - Breed Spotlight</p>	<h3>MAIN</h3> <p>Ed Dabney Diamond D Cowgirls Drill Team <b>Parade of Breeds</b> Kim Butler: Mounted Archery Brynn Pennington: OTTB Second Act Kelly Sigler: Liberty Demo Tinker Moffitt: The Ranch Horse Charlotte Osborne: Classical Dressage Sandi Forrester: Western Dressage <b>GERL Rescue Challenge Finale</b></p>	<h3>Clinician B</h3> <p>Lauren Norman: Hippotherapy; Horses that Heal Louis Wild - Equine Massage Michele LeRo - The Masterson Method Gypsy Dharma - Yoga for Equine Sports Susan Jung - The EAGALA Model Stephanie Cirasa - Peace@Home Project Nancy Bardy - English Saddle Fitting: the Art and Science</p>
<h3>GERL RESCUE CHALLENGE</h3>		
<h3>Classroom</h3> <p>Dr Kari Turner - Your First Horse Caitlin Bennett Jackson - Conformation Clinic Dr. Daniel Pike - Breeding Basics</p>	<p>Dr. Kylee Jo Duberstein - Vaccinations &amp; Worming Lucy E. Ray - Pastures &amp; Fencing Dr Robin Barrow - Should I Call the Vet? Dr Dan Carter - Equine Joint Health</p>	<p>Juliette McKinley - Are You Ready to Ride? Warming Up for Success</p> 

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

Buy Tickets Online: <https://georgiahorsefair.org>

# Update on Tanner

by Marion Cobb

For those of you who did not see my first article about Tanner last year I will give you a short update. Tanner was one of the 22 neglected horses rescued in Henry County in February of 2020. After the loss of my quarter horse, CJ, I wanted another horse. I called GERL and talked to Patty Livingston and found out about Tanner. After getting him to the barn I was wondering, what was I going to do with this little horse? After a few months of care, feeding and gaining his trust it was time to go to work.

After I was bucked off the second time, I decided it was time for some help. I was talking to my farrier, Austin Talley, and he told me about Josh Littlejohn, a trainer who lives in Dawsonville. After talking with him and then meeting Josh he came up with a plan on how to work with Tanner.

After nearly ten months of waiting and working with Tanner, the day came when it was time to head to the trail. Our first trail ride was February 5th, at Fausett Farms where I met up with Josh. Not really knowing what Tanner knew about trail riding, I found out that he had "been there and done that". He never questioned or refused to go where I wanted him to go. All in all, it was worth the wait.

After finding a gaited saddle for Tanner, on the next ride we went to Garland Mountain with LeAnn Householder and her Romeo. Tanner did great!!

I want to make sure I say thanks to Josh Littlejohn for all his help working with Tanner and me.



Hey I'm Katie I Love horses Thank you  
for all that you do, When I grow up  
I want to have a horse farm.



## Residual Income from Programs

Kroger - \$94.32

From AmazonSmile charity we received  
a quarterly donation of \$347.28

Triple Crown Nutrition, Inc. \$235.90

## Volunteer of the Quarter

*By Patty Livingston*

Our Volunteer of the Quarter is somebody who holds a very important role in the world of GERL and has never been recognized for her efforts. Her name is Lisa Clark, and she is our grant writer. Grant Writers are very patient people. It takes a lot of effort to actually achieve snagging a grant. As a result of Lisa's efforts and tenacity, GERL was recently awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from The BISSELL Pet Foundation. This grant will pay for the entire cost of our 2020 Stallion to Gelding castration programs. What a nice surprise! No sooner had we gotten word that we had gotten the BISSELL grant and Lisa was online looking for another one!

Recently retired, Lisa is co-president of Friends of Garland Mountain Trails and a Master Gardener. She also enjoys trail riding when she is not looking for grants.



Many thanks to Lisa for the time she lends to GERL while serving in one of the most important roles in the world of non-profits.

## CeCe Calli Named GERL Treasurer

*By Patty Livingston*

It has been two years since GERL has had a dedicated person to fulfill the title of Treasurer. I have been doing the best I can to make sure that the bills get paid and the highest priority items are handled. But, our membership database and other chores of a Treasurer are not getting the appropriate attention that they deserve and in some cases, we are losing members because of it. Our automated database has many assets available to GERL, such as a membership drive and marketing capabilities. However, nobody has time to learn how to utilize these tools.

I recently approached CeCe Calli about filling the treasurer's position and she has accepted! It is only because of the changes that have impacted her job as GERL's Foster and Adoption Coordinator that allow her to do anything else, much less the position of a treasurer. I call it the ripple effect, and, in this case, it has given us a break. CeCe has been volunteering for GERL for many, many years and she has a background in accounting, so here we have the perfect candidate right amongst our midst. We thank her!





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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 February 2021 GERL has received \$5,357.15 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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## Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe **Slow-Cooker Pork Shoulder**

### INGREDIENTS

- ✓ 1 boneless, skinless pork shoulder, boston butt about 6lbs
- ✓ 20 cloves garlic
- ✓ 1/2 c. olive oil, divided
- ✓ 2 tsp. cumin
- ✓ 2 tbsp. salt
- ✓ 1 tbsp. black pepper
- ✓ 3 tbsp. oregano leaves
- ✓ 1/2 c. fresh squeezed orange juice
- ✓ 1/4 c. fresh squeezed lime juice
- ✓ 1 serrano, seeded, and diced
- ✓ 1/4 c. freshly chopped fresh cilantro
- ✓ White rice, for serving, optional



1. Dry pork shoulder with a paper towel and make 1" incisions with a knife all over.
2. Pulse garlic, 1/4 cup oil, cumin, salt, pepper, and oregano in a food processor until a paste is formed. Remove 2 tablespoons of the paste and set aside.
3. Rub pork shoulder all over with remaining paste, pushing some of it into the incisions.
4. Place pork in slow cooker, cover, and cook on low until meat is fork-tender but not yet completely falling apart, 7 1/2 to 8 hours.
5. To make the sauce, heat remaining 1/4 cup oil in a small saucepan over medium heat until shimmering. Add reserved 2 tablespoons garlic paste and let sizzle, stirring continuously until fragrant, just about 1 minute. Remove from heat and let cool before whisking in orange juice, lime juice, serrano, and cilantro.
6. Serve sliced pork over rice with sauce drizzled on top.

# On the Road with the Six Amigos

By CeCe Calli

The Six Amigos all have come so far in their journey. Taken into our foster program, having never been touched by a human and lost in a herd of a total of 81 feral horses. Like something out of the old west but this behavior is alive and living well all over the states.

Braveheart, Sox, Rocky, Forrest, Radar and Jenny have all proven even the wildest, frightened, anti-trusting horse can be shown the light. It has been a wild ride for the six of them.

Rocky and Radar have been adopted and are moving right along. Braveheart is one of the 2021 GERL Rescue Challenge horses being trained by Cassie Hoban. Jenny is being fostered by Angie Hammond and is turning into one beautiful filly with a brain to match.

Sox who was the most stand-offish is one deep boy. He picked his human and it seems that it's me for now. He is very brave and very willing but has a freeze up when things get too close or too complicated. Just give him a second to process and he is right back with you. Sox is not a fan of many people and his bug eyes will let them know that. When he is haltered up, he knows it time to pay attention but out in the paddock he is a bit of a loner. He is doing a great job with his ground-

work and saddling. I really think this guy is special and everyday he proves that to me.

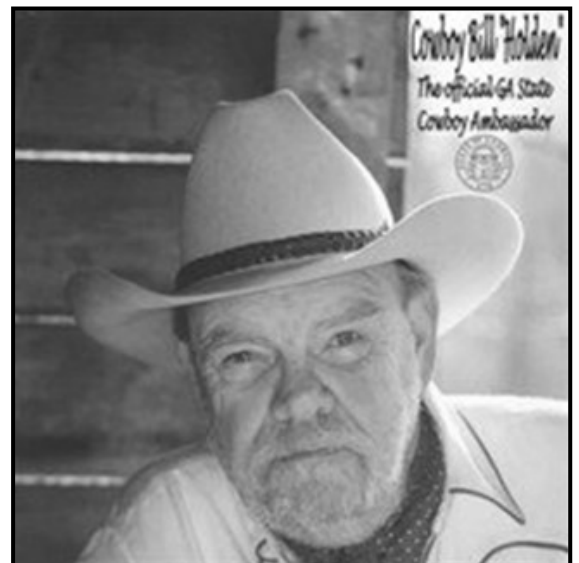
Forrest came to my place to hang out for a while. He was gelded January 5 and healed up like a champ. The only thing Forrest liked was food and his head rubs. Haltering, leading and, Oh My Gosh, walking through a gate was his nightmare. Now he is getting the hang of all this crazy stuff. Forrest reminds me so much of Braveheart (I think they are related). Both have proven to be very willing very curious and very handsome.

I truly enjoyed fostering Braveheart and I'm so unbelievably proud how far he has come and such a willing partner for Cassie in our Rescue Challenge. Sox has from the first time I saw him has a special place in my heart. He was such a mess, ripping down his stall door and busting up a gate I still really think he is going to be a great partner for his special person. Forrest is just sweet and at only 2 I see great things in his future. I love that these boys have spent some time with me and my right-hand horse, Tulsa. Tulsa has proven to be a great boss mare and with his guidance, all three boys have leaned to respect their elders and are mindful of personal space.

## RIP Cowboy Bill

by Patty Livingston

Cowboy Bill Holden died on February 25, 2021 after a short illness. Bill is better known to his friends as "Cowboy Bill" and he lived up to his name. He was part of a cowboy traveling band, a theatrical stunt team made claims of keeping the wild west alive! Bill was Host of The Cowboy Way Radio Show (WIMO 1300 AM Winder), a part of the ABC Radio Network. He was also an inductee to the Atlanta, GA Country Music Hall of Fame 1999, and GA Radio Personality of the Years in 2007. Bill also appeared in numerous Georgia made motion pictures such as Fried Green Tomatoes and My Cousin Vinnie, just to name a couple. He was a colorful prankster who loved the cowboy life. RIP Cowboy Bill.



# Who's Who

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**GERL Advisory Board - 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**  
**Patty Livingston**  
(770) 867-0760  
gerlpatty@yahoo.com

## *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 \$6,670.00 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service on our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$515.00 on castrations for the Stallion to Gelding Castration Days.
- GERL paid \$288.00 to pay for feed provided through the Crisis Intervention Program.
- GERL spent \$635.00 on feed for the horses at Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

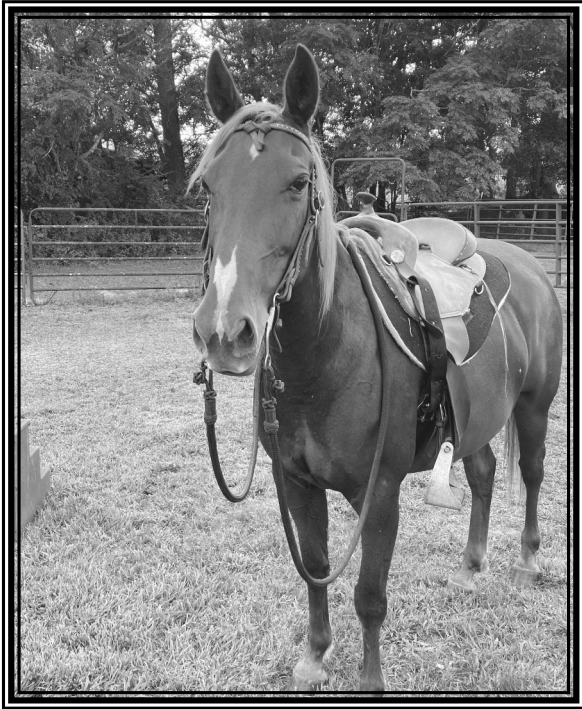
Make check payable to:  
GERL  
Mail to: P.O. Box 328  
Bethlehem, GA 30620

**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



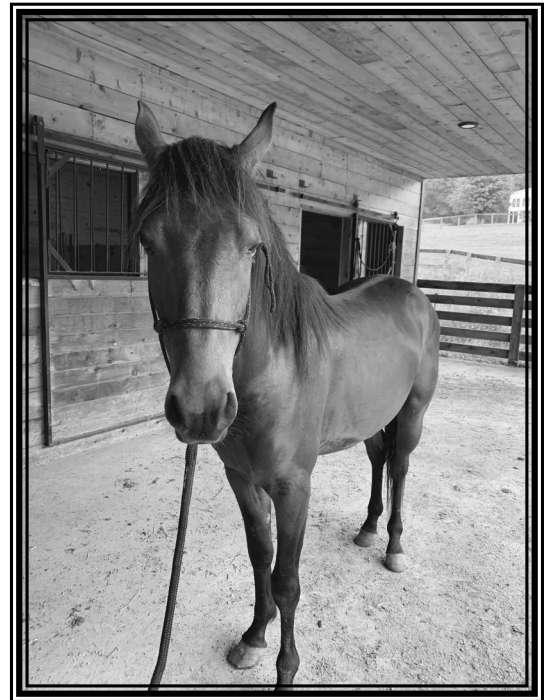
**Betty Lou** is a 14.1 hh 9 year old Sorrel Grade QH Mare. She has had a saddle and bridle on her previously, but she has no idea what to do with a rider. Betty Lou is very friendly to people, easy to catch, great feet and very easy on the eyes. This is a nice mare! Check her out!



**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 a forever home!



**Kourtney** is a 14.3 hh 4 year old Sorrel QH Mare. She had hernia surgery two years at UGA. She is a very nice, laid back horse. She is one of this year's Rescue Challenge entries.

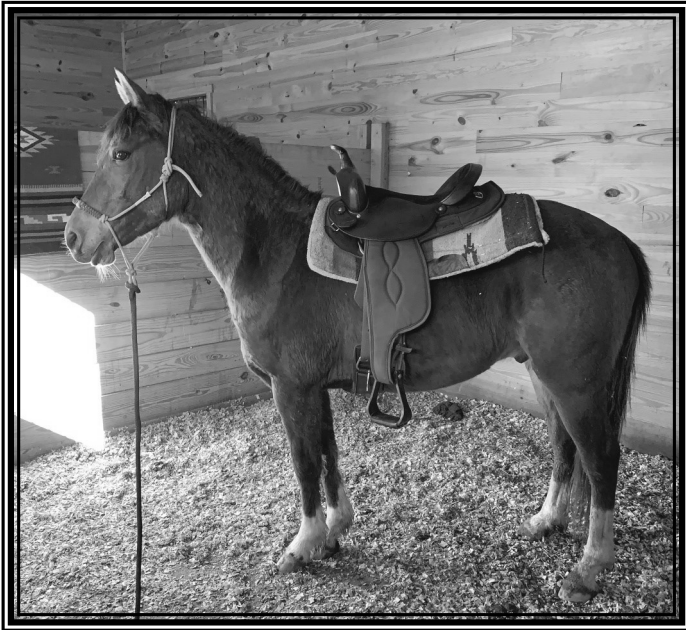


**Braveheart** is one of the "Six Amigos" herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program a year ago. He is approximately 14.0 hh, 4-year-old Bay Grade gelding. He is one of the 2021 Rescue Challenge prospects.

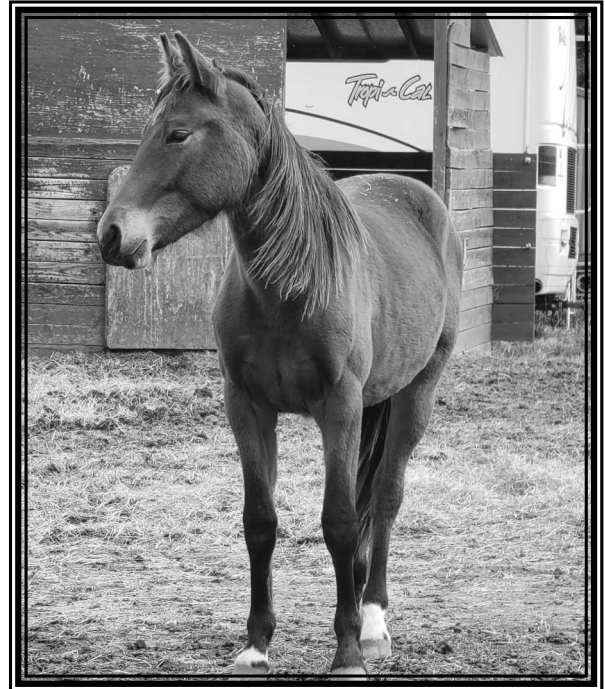
Visit our website for up to date adoptable horses: <https://gerlltd.org>

# GERL ADOPTABLES

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



**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.



**Forrest** is also one of the “Six Amigos” . He is approximately 13.2 hh, 2-year-old Bay Grade gelding. Super cute!



**Jenny** is one of the “Six Amigos”. She is approximately 13.2 hh, 2-year-old Bay Grade mare. She would be perfect for someone who wants to start with a fresh slate with their horse.



**Turner** is a 14.2 hh, 15 year old QH gelding.. His riding skills are being evaluated. He is currently in a rehab stage, but will be ready for adoption soon!

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

## Thank you for your donations

Lauren Norwood  
 Cecelia Severens  
 Peggy Paris  
 Kathy Adams  
 Lisa Casey  
 Anonymous  
 Kim Hampton  
 Sherry Massey  
 Susan Lang  
 Angela M. Samuels  
 Stacy Hurd  
 Jan Smith  
 Robin Mead  
 Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Gregory  
 Terry & Tina Turner  
 Michael & Patricia Petelle  
 Karen Johnson  
 Tonia Epps & Family  
 Carlos and Carol Martel  
 Jo West

Martha Shepherd  
 Robert & Jan Collins  
 Angela King  
 Debbie Ferrell  
 Gail King  
 Linda Wallace  
 David Meyers and Top Hat Dressage  
 Countryside Equine Veterinary Services, Inc.  
 Carol Sauers  
 Joanne Symmes  
 Lisa Clark  
 Karen Stubbs  
 Lee Hager  
 Rebecca Testerman  
 Debbie Jackson  
 George and Denise Mortensen  
 Teresa Dobrosky  
 Laurie Wilder

Victoria Daniels  
 Beulah Newton  
 Cheryl Bray & Family  
 Allison Jenkins  
 Wendy Davis  
 James Sylvia

### Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner  
 Carol Royer  
 John Lynn  
 Bonnie LaVoie  
 Constance Burchette  
 Ben Hudson  
 Margaret & Bob Wallace

## In Memory of

Tango, Susie Cottongim's beloved horse by Jane Estes  
 Ben, beloved cat of Del & Marian Finco by J. Barsanti  
 Shorty by Teresa Byrnes  
 Tango by Susie Cottongim  
 Banjo, Jo McPhail's horse, by Elizabeth Kemp  
 Jennifer Powell's Father by Christa Castile  
 Johnny, Lisa Clark's horse, by Dr. Ava Talmadge  
 John T. Harris of McDonough, by Ann Haymons  
 Sylvia Mooney, Andee Rogers, Clifford Herrington & Marge Mabey by Diana Kelsey  
 Jaydee by Carole Paige  
 Cody, Nancy Foy's pony, by Dr. Ava Talmadge  
 Tank, beloved mini horse owned & loved by Sandy & Bill Lynch & Samatha Holston by Marian Finco  
 Quinn, beloved rescue horse of Franci & Hank

Wayland, by Marian Finco  
 Sharie Penney (mother of Vic Massaglia) by Elizabeth Odette  
 Playboy, Elizabeth Jinks' beloved horse, by Susanne Buchanan  
 Sharon Morrison Hoerman, from the Walnut Hill chat Connection Group. Sharon was a great lover of horses. She passed away on March 5 2021 after a long battle with lupus.  
 Teresa Pruitt-Dekle by Debra Shirley  
 Leslie "Pat" Burns by Rhonda Wilson  
 Teresa ("Terri") Louise Pruitt-Dekle by Rita Benfield Chess, beloved by so many in Calvin Center's therapeutic riding program, by Sara Reams

### Welcome New Members

Diane Dawson & family  
 Tracy McClain - The Lawn Ranger  
 Lauren Spears  
 Marijke Tromp-Blackburn & Family  
 Merinda Lee  
 Bobbi Bryant  
 Pamela Fowler  
 Cathy Norris  
 Dante & Claudia Tomaselli  
 Linda Wallace  
 Jerry A. Chastain  
 Laurie Wilder

### In Honor of

Laura Carlucci and Family by Chrissy  
 Flatt - Compassion and Beauty are eternal  
 Jane Estes – Patrick by Susie Cottongim

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



# Happy Birthday, Senya!

*By Nancy Bogardts*

If you are looking for a feel-good story, we have one for you today! Senya Kero told her Mom, Mandy, that she wanted a horse for her 11th Birthday. (We completely understand, Senya!) Unfortunately, Mom had to tell Senya that they were not quite ready for that responsibility, but Senya had another idea. She wanted to raise money to donate to help horses rather than receiving birthday gifts herself. What a mature and thoughtful thing to do! Senya raised \$350 and we are honored that she chose GERL as the recipient of her donation!! Senya and Mandy, we are so proud to count you among our supporters! Happy Birthday, Senya!!



## **We'd Like To Hear From You!**

**Do you know any special kids who deserve a shout out for their good works? Contact us. We would like to feature them in an upcoming newsletter!**

**[gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com)**

# GERL's Horses Heal Veterans Program Grants

By Cynthia Anderson

In late 2019 it was brought to the attention of Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) president, Patty Livingston that veterans suffering from PTSD could benefit from veteran equine assisted therapy sessions. This knowledge led to GERL establishing the Horses Heal Veterans Program in 2020.

As you know, 2020 was a very difficult year for everyone. The COVID-19 shut down has affected everyone. Some of the hardest hit by the shutdown are non-profit organizations and programs. With the establishment of GERL's program Horses Heal veterans; we saw this as an opportunity to help organizations offering equine assisted therapy to veterans suffering from PTSD.

GERL is proud to announce that one aspect of the Horses Heal Veterans program is a grant opportunity for organizations that offer Equine Assisted Therapy for veterans suffering from PTSD. In 2021 GERL will be offering five (5) one thousand dollar (\$1000.00) grants to qualified 501c3 organizations. These grants will help cover the cost of equine assisted therapy sessions from PATH (Professional Association of therapeutic Horsemanship), EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association), or other certified instructor or organization.

GERL is excited to be able to provide these grants targeted at helping our veterans. For Information on applying for one of the grants please visit our website: [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org).



Dear GERL,

Once again, this card isn't large enough to hold the grateful thanks for your support of Calvin Center Horses & Warriors. Another \$5,000 to our herd's feed bill was unexpected, but so very helpful. We are slowly getting programming back to normal; but our expenses have never decreased. I know you all understand.

GERL has now become a well-known and much-loved organization around here! We still look forward to the day when you can pay us a visit.

We wish you all the best as you establish your veterans' program. If you run it as well as you run equine rescue for many years, I know you will be successful. Please stay in touch. It's important for our veterans' programs to support each other. Same team, same fight.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sara Reams  
Calvin Center Horses & Warriors

## Update on the Georgia Prison Equine Programs

By Patty Livingston

In 2008, The Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Division partnered with the warden and other personnel at the Georgia Department of Corrections Pulaski Women's prison to create an equine program where the inmates would care for some of the horses impounded by the State. This program was 3 years in the making, due to the fact that the program also includes courses at the local State college that would further enhance the inmates' knowledge about equine. A few years later, the same program was created at the Lee Arrendale State Prison in Alto, Georgia. For the past 12 years these prisons have been working with horses that would later be sold at auction. There is no doubt that many inmates were empowered by this program and used the opportunity to create a better life for themselves when released.

The GDA turned both of their prison impounds over to GERL last year after closing down their Mansfield impound barn. Due to the fact that COVID was impacting the inmates' ability to go out into the yard to feed and work with the horses, both prisons' equine program became dormant, and all of the horses were removed.

GERL was contacted by the Pulaski Prison personnel this past November, requesting a couple of horses. Since that time, we have been going back and forth with legal agreements that were required to be signed and adhered to. One huge change in the agreement was the requirement for GERL to furnish liability insurance at the prison. This is something that was not required before since GERL representatives never went to the prison impound. After consulting with a lawyer and our GERL insurance agent, both advised against carrying the liability. In fact, our insurance agent could not get any carrier to cover their equine program. For this reason, the GERL Board of Directors voted to decline the ownership responsibility of furnishing horses to the prison. We recently sent a formal reply letting them know.

It is a bit sad for me because of how important I think this program was for a lot of people and a lot of Georgia's unwanted horses. But, again, it is also a sign of the changing times. Having a new venture with the veteran's program does make this decision a lot easier.

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

**April 17, 2021**

Georgia Horse Fair/Rescue Challenge  
Georgia Int'l Horse Park  
Conyers, GA  
<https://georgiahorsefair.org>

**TBA 2021**

GERL Annual Meeting  
Winder Lion's Club  
Winder, 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 for up to date information on events: <https://gerlltd.org>*



# LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

*By Patty Livingston, President*

Life in the world of GERL continues to swirl for me. After almost a year, I received a phone call from a county law enforcement deputy asking if we could take a couple of horses into our program. Of course, we said yes, but ended up with only one new horse. Who would have thought that our previous supply of “unwanted” horses would dry up? Since we have been educating law enforcement for 10 years, I guess I just expected that the flow would continue after the Department of Ag closed their barn.

Since GERL maintains a hotline, we have gotten calls about horses, but most of them have been about a horse running “at large”. That falls under the responsibility of local law enforcement because of the safety factor involved, so our local Area Coordinators do not typically get involved except under extenuating circumstances. For those of you who do not know, GERL has guidelines with regard to bringing horses into our program. First and foremost, we must have clear ownership. Secondly, we never purchase a horse to rescue it.

I have been giving a lot of thought about the programs that we have today that are impacted by this huge decline in the horse numbers. The Rescue Challenge is at the top of the list. We will soon be hosting our 7th Rescue Challenge event and I do believe it will be our last. We do not have the influx of horses to select from in order to justify the work that goes into hosting such an event. This year’s Challenge has 3 horses from our program that will have 120 days of training at a cost of \$5500. We have had to keep all 3 of these horses in our foster home program for a minimum of a year to have enough candidates for the Challenge competition. One of the horses has actually been in our program for two years. So, let me say this about that, we could afford to pay a trainer to work with any

young horses that come into our program rather than holding them for extended periods of time so they can compete in an event that just does not seem to grow.

With the decline of horses in our own program, we were recently able to offer assistance to Calvin Center with their feed bill, once again. Last year we spent right at \$8,000 on feed for their therapeutic horses. That agreement was fulfilled at the end of December. They were delighted when we called to tell them the news that GERL would be donating another \$5,000 towards their feed bill starting March 1st. It is not cheap to feed 16 horses and it is gratifying to be able to help them out, especially since they are helping veterans.

Another thing that we are able to do this year because we don’t have the burden of so many horses is to offer small grants of \$1,000 each for other non-profit organizations that provide equine therapy sessions to veterans. Look for more information coming soon on our website about available grants and how /when they will be available.

Fewer horses coming in also means the end of our foster program as we now know it. In the future, I’m hoping that any new rescues that we bring into our program will be able to live on the veterans’ ranch. I would love to create a program with the veterans to teach them how to get a horse ready to be adopted, including everything that goes along with that task.

The possibilities are endless since we are in a position to create our veterans’ program just the way we want. We are all looking forward to learning about the world of equine therapy!



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

# Why a Veterans Program is Different

By Sara Reams, *Horses and Warriors*

To those of you who saw the Jan. 24 *Atlanta Journal Constitution* article on the veterans at Calvin Center, you will already understand why working with veterans is a hugely rewarding opportunity. As GERL develops its veterans' program, there are some things that I'd like to share that have been our experience at Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.

Almost 12 years ago we began our research into starting an equestrian program to work with wounded warriors. From seminars, roundtables, panel discussions, and visits to existing programs, the one thing that was emphasized was to create an all-military program. Wounded warriors seek those who understand them. They don't want to be glorified and celebrated. They want to be in the company of men and women who have been where they have been. Those who will support without judgement. It's much easier to train a veteran how to work with a horse than it is to train a civilian how to work with a wounded warrior. That was the choice we made, and it has repaid our program many times over.

Benefits of working with veterans are so many! If you're five minutes early, you're already late. They will do whatever is asked of them and do it well and without complaint. They find things that need to be

done, and then do them. They seek no recognition but appreciate being thanked – as we all do. If necessary, they will offer constructive criticism, always with respect.

In the absence of a photo, I'll tell you about a recent Friday at Horses & Warriors. If you had been at our barn this is what you would have seen: five veterans spreading gravel from the bed of a truck onto the potholes in the driveway leading to the barn. This gravel was purchased by a veteran who saw the need. One of the workers was a visitor, who grabbed a shovel and joined in the work. Another veteran was driving the tractor, emptying the manure spreader. Several others were practicing the drill for an Honor Guard ceremony taking place for a fellow veteran, in preparation for his funeral. Then we had the veterans who were working with our riders and groundwork folks. This last is the reason for our program – the other activities were all representative of the initiative taken by our wonderful men and women.

So, if you are fortunate enough to be planning a veterans program, consider yourself moving in a wonderfully positive direction. And I wish you all the best!

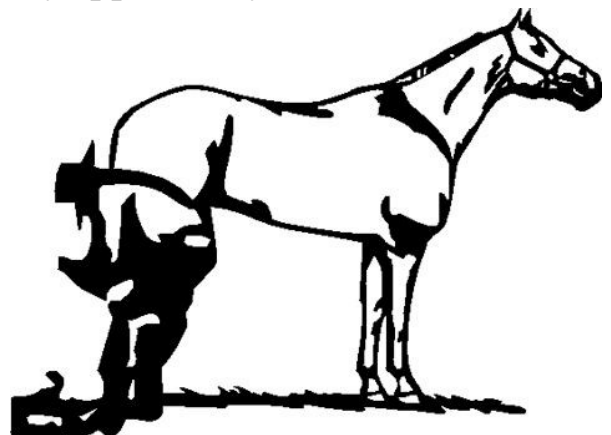


## GERL Annual Meeting Postponed

By Patty Livingston

Back in December when it came time to reserve the Winder Lion's Club for the annual meeting, the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) Board of Directors decided that we needed to push out the date. There was still too much uncertainty and fear about the COVID virus that would easily cause people not to attend. There were other events being canceled that were also scheduled the early part of the year. It is our hope that we will be able to reschedule our annual meeting in a few months so stayed tuned for more updates.

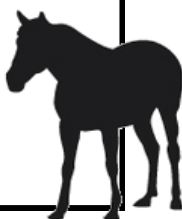
**Big Thanks to Travis Wallace, Wallace Farrier Service, out of the Cumming Area who donated his services to Bennett, one of GERL's foster horses. We really appreciate your kindness!**



## GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded  
To Date By GERL:**

**1212**



### Horses in our Foster Care Program

**CeCe Calli**—Foster Care Coordinator  
(706) 376-2410 \* [foster@gerlltd.org](mailto:foster@gerlltd.org)

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
<i>Kourtney</i>	4	Bay	Yes	Rylee Nash
<i>Sox</i>	4	Sorrel	No	CeCe Calli
<i>Betty Lou</i>	9	Bay	No	Patty Livingston
<i>Turner</i>	15	Brown	Yes	Patty Livingston
<i>Ransom</i>	28	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Cooper</i>	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Braveheart</i>	4	Bay	No	Cassy Hoban
<i>Forrest</i>	2	Bay	No	CeCe Calli
<i>Jenny</i>	2	Bay	No	Angie Hammond
<i>Selena</i>	9	Paint	No	Christina Warren
<i>Jazzy Cat</i>	9	Bay	Yes	Riley Watson



## 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.

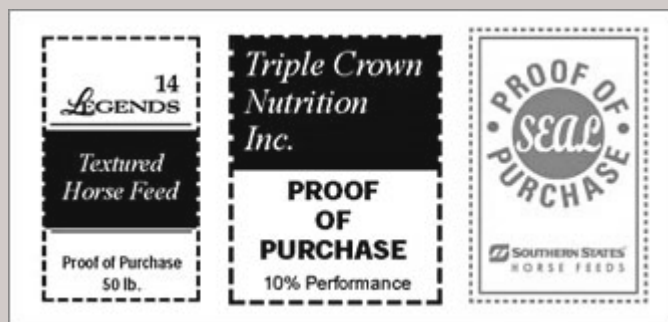


Please save Proof of Purchase seals from ProElite and Triple Crown and send them to:  
*Ginny Scarritt, 4835 Kendall Court, Atlanta, GA 30342*

### 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**

## Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

*Lynn Jacobi*

**Lynn Jacobi** is currently retired with 25 years of teaching emotionally handicapped children as well as 23 years in the aviation industry as a flight attendant. Lynn was born and raised in Miami, Florida. Her careers have allowed her to live in Florida, North Carolina and Michigan. She currently resides in McDonough, Georgia with her horses, goats, chickens and donkeys. Lynn's hobbies include caring for her animals, horseback riding, camping, and traveling the world. As a new Area Coordinator for GERL, Lynn will be covering Butts, Newton and Rockdale Counties to assist with any horse needs in her area.



# A CALL TO VOLUNTEERS

I am so excited to have the Georgia Horse Fair and Expo happening on April 17.th . This event has taken much time, planning and hard work. Embedded inside of the day is the GERL Rescue Challenge. We will need volunteers for this part of the event.

I know for many it has been a difficult year. I think many of us are tired of the isolation, the zoom calls and being stuck inside. With that being said our success now hinges on our volunteers. Without you we can not make this day happen. You are the backbone of the organization.

We will need the following:

10 Friday evening set up 4 still needed

- 4 flee market|
- 6 auction people
- 2 gate people
- 3 t shirt booth
- 1 stall person
- 4 ring people

All volunteers will get free admission and a t-shirt. Nobody will spend their whole day volunteering, so you too will have time to enjoy the activities. You may contact me through [gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org](mailto:gerlvolunteers@gerlltd.org), [lambertleslie@icloud.com](mailto:lambertleslie@icloud.com), or feel free to call me at 770-355-6528. If I don't answer, please leave a message. You may also text me. Questions welcome.

So come out enjoy the day at the horse park. Watch the activities and help the horses. With you we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lambert

Volunteer coordinator GERL

<https://gerlltd.org/sign-up-page/>



## ***Featured Performer: Michel LeRo, The Masterson Method***

Michele grew up in New York and began riding at the age of 8 years old and adopted her first horse, an off track Thoroughbred at age 13. She rode competitively through Long Island, NY before she earned a spot on the equestrian team at the University of Connecticut. She took a short time off from riding and owning horses as she went on to obtain her Masters Degree to become a Physician Assistant. Soon after earning her PA, she entered back into the horse world and she rescued another off track Thoroughbred, Parker, and relocated to Georgia.

Parker's journey ultimately inspired a new career with the discovery of the Masterson Method. Parker suffered with many ailments from thin soles to poor nutrition and overall lack of care after being retired from racing. As Parker began his rehabilitation and was brought slowly back into work a variety of issues surfaced that caused him to require time off from being ridden. It was at this point in time that Michele reached out to an equine chiropractor to bring Parker's body back in balance.

Parker's chiropractor encouraged Michele to look into the Masterson Method as a way to help release tension and support any adjustments she had made while Parker recovered. It was then that Michele realized that she could follow her dream of helping horses in combination with her interest in practicing medicine – this time with horses. The non-invasive and interactive process that the Masterson Method embodied spoke volumes to her. Through these methods she was able to see where Parker was hurting and where he needed strengthening. Noticeable improvements in his self-carriage and overall unrestricted movement confirmed for Michele that the Masterson Method was the answer both Parker and she had been looking for.

In Michele's free time, she enjoys riding with her husband and his warmblood mare as well and her two off the track Thoroughbred's around their property or riding with friends out on the trail. She has a passion for natural horsemanship and seeks to continue to become the kind of horse person who listens to the horse and communicates with them in a way they can understand in order to provide them with the ability to live a long, healthy life balanced in both mind and body.

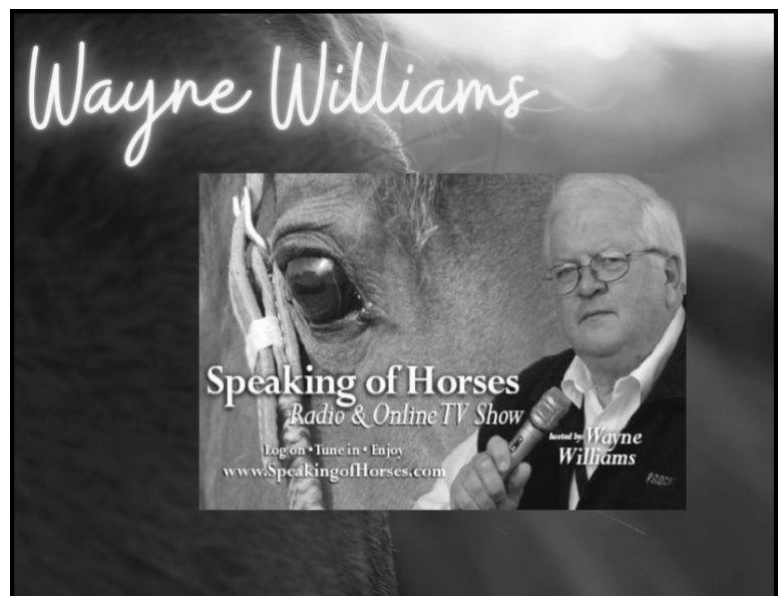


## ***Georgia Horse Fair Announcement: Wayne Williams to Emcee!***

Wayne Williams, a veteran and fan favorite of the horse fair and expo circuit, will be our Emcee for our entertainment line-up! He is also bringing his popular "Speaking of Horses" TV show to our event!

Wayne Williams has a long background in Radio and TV both: on-air disc jockey, newscaster, and working behind the scenes in sales and production. Since the age of six, Mr. Williams has always been involved with horses. He has appeared in many parades with highlights being the Indianapolis 500 and Rose Bowl Parades. He regularly exhibited in Open and Palomino shows, and he and wife Pat paid tribute to Roy Rogers and Dale Evans on Horseback with Silver Saddles and costumes of the era. Mr. Williams dedicated himself to the Equine Industry in 1985, making a part time passion into a full-time career.

Currently, he is the Host of "Speaking of Horses" TV and Radio which offers a variety of Equine information on [www.speakingofhorses.com](http://www.speakingofhorses.com).





# Update from the 2021 GERL Rescue Challenge Trainers

## Kourtney

By Rylee Nash

Kourtney is a 15hh, 5-year-old, APHA mare. She was picked up with five other horses who were living in knee-deep mud. When she was rescued, she had a hernia and endured a corrective surgery so she has a bit of scar tissue on her belly but it doesn't slow her down a bit. This girl has been such a joy to work with. She is tremendously kind and affectionate and enjoys a good grooming. She is a confident "go where you point her" kind of mare and she loves the water! She takes pleasure in seeing new things and not much phases her. She is sure-footed and is such an amazing mover. Kourtney is also extremely intelligent. She picks up on new concepts quickly, loves to learn, and is always eager to please. She is an easy keeper, gets along well with other horses and dogs but does not get pushed around. She stands tied, trailers, stands for the farrier and vet, bathes, accepts the bit and saddle well and stands to be mounted. She is always there to greet me at the gate and loves to play. Kourtney is the kind of horse everyone wants. From a lesson pony to trail horse to rodeo this girl could do it all! She is beautiful, well put together and has an amazing mind, the three ingredients for a great horse!



## Update on Jazzy Cat

By Riley Watson

"The way a horse learns is, Number one, from confidence, then understanding, then the achievement, the result. If you play it backwards, the result can be no better than how well they accepted and they can't accept anything until they get confidence that they're going to be safe." - Ronnie Willis

Jazzy has wonderful moments where I can catch a glimpse of the horse she truly is. Then, there is a side that is driven to protect herself no matter the cost. I've been spending the time I have with Jazzy assuring her that I am not one she needs to protect herself from.

Unfortunately, Jazzy has experienced a lot of trauma. I know this because she tells me every day with her behaviors and reactions. When recovering from trauma, it is rarely a straight line through. You 'll have ups and downs, good and bad days, and the same is true for horses. There are no short cuts. In the brief moments Jazzy can show her true colors, I see a horse that is incredibly smart with a ton of try. There is a never a dull moment with her. I have no doubts that one day Jazzy will go to the ends of the earth for her "person". But first, she needs to be allowed to take as much time as she needs to recover from past traumas and to find a state of peacefulness. I look forward to continue

helping this horse find her way.

I highly encourage anyone that may be interested in Jazzy to reach out! I would love to show what our sessions look like and really let you get a feel for where she is now and what she's going to be! It is of utmost importance to me that this little horse finds the right match so she can truly succeed.



## Update on the 2021 GERL Rescue Challenge Horses

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### Braveheart

By Cassy Hoban

Tender is a word that I would use to describe Braveheart. He has such a gentle way about him, that it has been a joy helping to build a foundation on this guy. Braveheart is looking for his person to connect with and be his partner. He has a real people pleaser type of personality and tries so hard to offer you what you want.

But, you can only teach a horse as fast as they can learn. And Braveheart is a thinker. It's so important as a trainer to know when to let them think and process what they are learning. My work with him has been a pattern of introducing new elements and letting him explore and gain confidence by not rushing him.

Braveheart is such a cool little guy, please don't wait until the competition to meet him. I invite you to our farm to spend some time getting to know him. I would love to show you what he is all about. Contact Cece

Calli or me if you are interested in this great horse and we can set up a meet and greet.

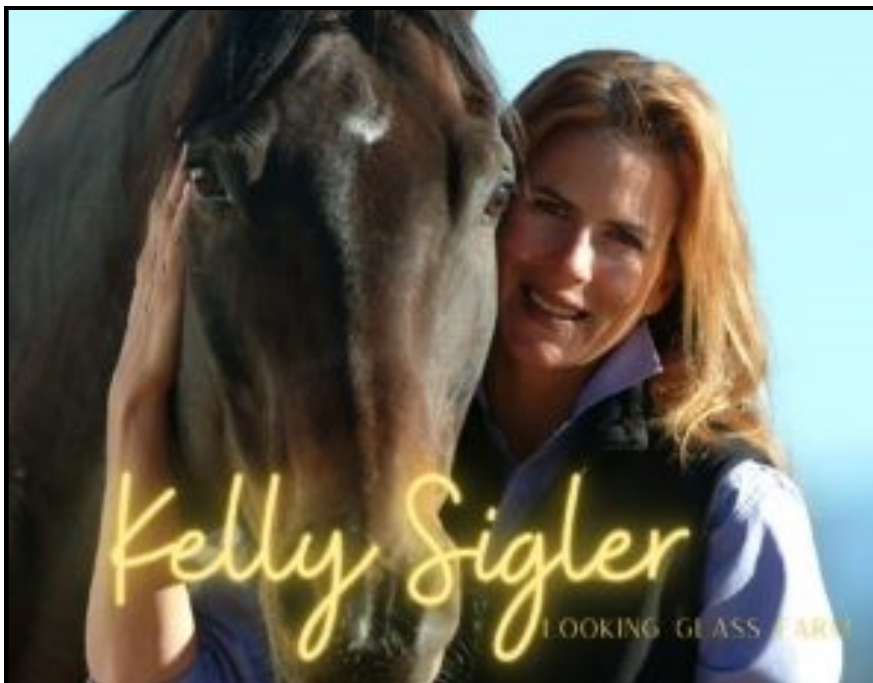


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### *Featured Performer: Kelly Sigler, Farm*

Kelly hails from South Texas where her journey with horsemanship began. She started out riding her aunt's horses, saving enough money by the time she was ten to buy her own. That horse, Pokey, a little green broke mare off the King Ranch, was her transportation to her friend's house, the store.....everywhere she could get to. From there, Kelly went on to compete in Eventing. After having some trailering issues with her horse, George, she found Parelli. She trained with them for five years as one of Pat Parelli's proteges.

She traveled across the country on the Parelli tour stops with her horse Buckley, also from South Texas and the King Ranch. Today, she trains out of her own farm in Wagener, SC specializing in Foundation Training for horses. Kelly also still travels the country and other parts of the world to teach horsemanship. She is a licensed instructor with Linda Parelli's new program, Happy Horse, Happy Rider. [kellysigler.com](http://kellysigler.com)



## *The Peace@Home Project, presented by Stephanie Cirasa of Waypoint Ranch.*

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We have a very special session at our Horse Fair ~

The Peace@Home Project, presented by Stephanie Cirasa of Waypoint Ranch.

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.



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.

The Peace@Home 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."

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## **GERL Extends Feed Grant to Calvin Center**

*By Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) Board of Directors is proud to announce the unanimous vote to extend a second feed grant in the amount of \$5,000 to Calvin Center Horses and Warriors veterans program located in Hampton, Georgia.



## *Featured Performer: Sandi Forester, Western Dressage*

Sandi Forester, based in a McDonough, GA, has been a horse trainer and riding instructor for over 50 years and has gained respect and admiration as a talented trainer and horsewoman.

A passionate and dedicated horsewoman for most of her life, Sandi began her career working with hunters, and from there moved on to combined training and western riding before focusing on dressage in the early 70's. Although she has had success in many disciplines – both English and western, Sandi's true passion remains classical dressage.

Through the study of horses in nature, Sandi believes in the ability to form an intimate, unique and sensitive understanding of the mind, body and soul of the horse. Regardless of market value of a horse, show or pleasure, back yard or fancy barn all horses deserve to be treated with love kindness and respect. Through the use of a combination of natural horsemanship and classical dressage a strong foundation for all disciplines and all breeds will be developed.

[www.sandiforester.com](http://www.sandiforester.com)



## *Featured Performer: Tierney Langdon, Gypsy Dharma Yoga*

For this session – prepare to participate! Tierney will take a few attendees to learn on the spot during her session. Her horse Keaton will be the equine partner for your exercises.

Tierney Langdon is the founder of Gypsy Dharma Yoga. The mission of Gypsy Dharma is to help those who are lost to find themselves. Life changes, challenges and trauma's all contribute to the gradual loss of self. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018, Tierney found herself completely lost. No longer the person she used to be, she transformed into someone new during her healing journey. This journey was central to the origin of Gypsy Dharma Yoga. Through her own personal healing she is able to share her experience, strength and hope with others.

A born dancer (and lifelong horse lover), Tierney found yoga and described it “like finding a long lost family member”, and began daily practice of yoga in 2016. After her cancer diagnosis, she began to use not just the physical aspect of yoga, but the mental and spiritual practice of yoga as well. Yoga became her guiding star for her journey, and she credits it with “truly saving my life.”

Tierney's passion for yoga is her driving force, with her favorite personal practice being Vinyasa Flow. As an equestrian, she found yoga practice to be beneficial in not only her position in saddle, but it also improved her relationship with her horse. As she focuses on her breath, and her horse's breathe, she can feel both coming in sync; almost immediately we are connected.

As a professional, she prefers to teach a Gentle Yoga Flow Format. Inspired by yogi's all over the world, she has incorporated yoga practice into her daily routine for physical strength, health and emotional healing. Her goal is to help others see that yoga can be for everybody, and most important of all it is her “passion to be the light in other people's life journey”.

[www.gypsydharmakeys.com](http://www.gypsydharmakeys.com)



# GERL Receives Grant from BISSELL Pet Foundation

By Lisa Clark, Grant Writer

Many are aware BISSELL Pet Foundation (BPF) actively supports efforts to reduce homeless canine/feline populations through their Spay/Neuter Grants. But are you aware BPF also recognizes the problem exists in the equine community?

BISSELL Pet Foundation awarded GERL a \$5,000 grant to support our 2020 Stallion to Gelding program including the November gelding clinics where over 60 horses were gelded. In the past our fundraising events have contributed significantly to funding this program. However pandemic restrictions in 2020 resulted in GERL cancelling almost every fundraising event. Receipt of this generous grant will help defray costs for a program critical to one of our primary goals, the reduction of homeless and abandoned horses in Georgia. THANK-YOU AGAIN to BISSELL Pet Foundation!



We received a spay/neuter grant from

**BISSELL Pet Foundation**

*Georgia  
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Website: [bissellpetfoundation.org](http://bissellpetfoundation.org)

**BISSELL PET FOUNDATION\***  
Until every pet has a home.

## Spotlight on our Georgia Vets

Editors Note: We would like to recognize some of the Georgia Veterinarians who support GERL. This quarter we are spotlighting Dr. Ava Talmage of Talking Rock, GA.

Dr. Ava Talmage graduated from UGA School of Veterinary Medicine in 1982. Beginning her family that same year, Dr. Talmage also started her veterinary practice, a mixed practice of horses, livestock and small animals. While raising her four daughters, she continued to practice on her own and provide veterinary relief at some of the small animal practices in Cherokee, Cobb, Pickens, Gilmer and Gordon counties. After working for 6 years at Wayside Animal Clinic in Jasper, she returned full-time to her first love; farm animal practice.

“I count it as a privilege and blessing to earn my living outdoors; driving through beautiful country, working with some of God’s most magnificent creatures and meeting the people who care for them. Each day is a new adventure and learning experience. I look upon myself as working in partnership with the owners to better care for their animals.”





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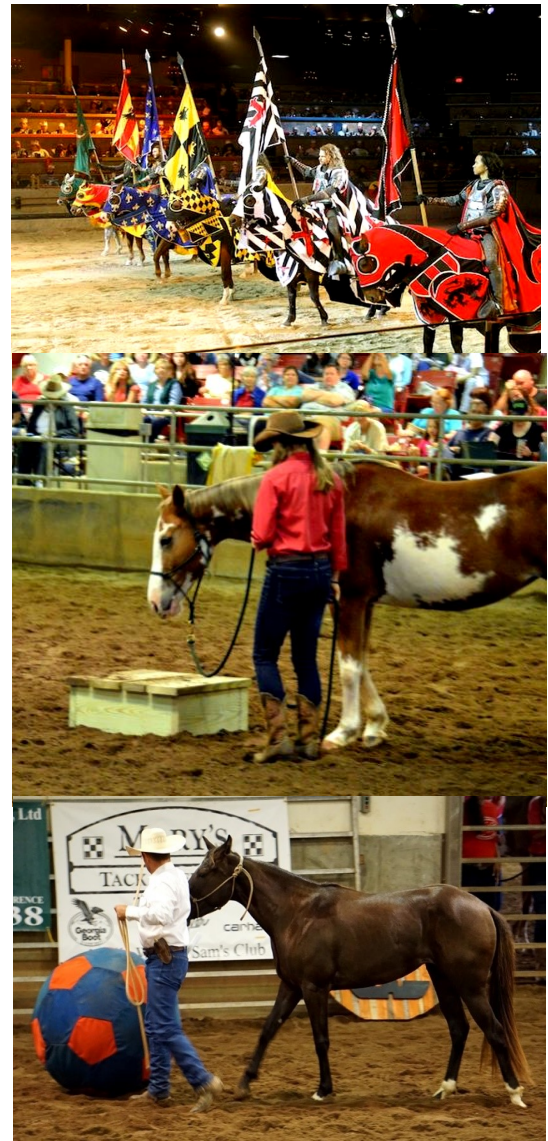
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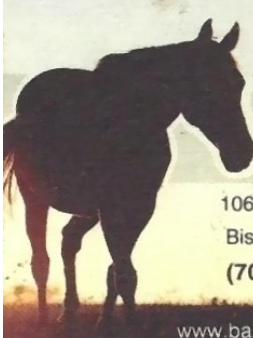
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