



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

July, August & September 2021

GERL Takes a Field Trip to Calvin Center

By Patty Livingston



GERL members pose with the Veterans at the Calvin Center Equine Facility

This story starts with a little history, for those who may not know. The Georgia Equine Rescue League's (GERL's) sole mission for the past 27 years was to support the horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Equine Division. In February of 2020 the GDA closed all of the impound facilities and stopped picking up horses, pushing the responsibility to each individual county. It did not take

long for me to realize what a huge financial burden GERL had been relieved of. When that door closed, almost immediately, a new one opened into the world of our veterans.

After some research, we chose the Calvin Center's Horses & Warriors program as one of our recipients for support.

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GERL Takes a Field Trip to Calvin Center

By Patty Livingston

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If you aren't aware of the Calvin Center and what they do I will share a bit of information that I have learned. Calvin Center (originally named Camp Calvin) opened its property in 1960 for two weeks of summer camp. Located on 536 acres in Metro Atlanta, Calvin Center is a year-round retreat & conference center. They offer a welcoming sanctuary for re-creation and Christian nurture.

They also have superb equestrian programs, providing recreational horseback riding lessons and trail rides. Because they serve all people, they also provide therapeutic horseback riding lessons for those with developmental, physical and learning disabilities. This includes their Horses & Warriors Veteran program which is military helping military heal through the use of equine-assisted activities. Through mounted and un-mounted activities, participants meet physical and emotional goals such as increased muscle tone, stability and balance, improved mobility, and gait. They also are able to receive peer support from other military personnel and community members.

GERL has been paying the feed bill for the horses at Calvin Center since July 2020, however, because of the pandemic, we never had a chance to visit their facility. September 3rd was the perfect opportunity since that was the date that the veterans program started up again, after taking off during the summer months. We arrived at 11:00 and were greeted by the new Equine Director, Kate Robbins. We were allowed to watch their session in progress. It was very humbling to witness a simple task of leading a horse bring purpose for these men and women who gave so much to our country.

They do not normally allow the public to come to the facility on veterans' day, but they welcomed us and treated us



like we were the most important people in Hampton! They thanked us a hundred times for supporting their program by feeding the horses they have grown to know and love. Kate took us for a tour around their facility and shared some ideas she had about improvements, while pointing out the items that needed repair. The item at the top of her list was a real handicapped restroom with plumbing. There wasn't anybody among us who disagreed!

After the tour around the barn facility, we gathered for a group photo with all of the veterans before driving up to the Calvin Center Lodge for a special lunch prepared just for our small group. Again, the veterans let us know how happy they were to have us come and visit and how thankful they were for the help we were lending. It made us want to do more and we were talking over each other with ideas on the drive to the lodge.

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GERL Takes a Field Trip to Calvin Center

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 2

Upon entering the lodge, we were met by the CEO/ Executive Director of Calvin Center, John Westlund, who had a huge smile and warm handshake. He seemed genuinely pleased to have us there. Marilyn McDonald, their Office Manager whom I already knew, but had never met in person, was also there to join us for lunch. It was a perfect sized gathering that allowed us to get to know each other better. We learned a lot about the recent woes of the Calvin Center Lodge and how many contracts had been canceled because of Covid, which really put them in a financial bind.

There was a lot of conversation on the way home about the needs of Calvin Center's Horses & Warriors facility. Many of their needs were definitely something we felt we could help. It reminded me of one of my favorite sayings: "If money will fix it, it's not a problem." We were all very glad that we made the trip to the Calvin Center to meet these wonderful people who gave so much!



Update from Unbridled Joy

By Cindy Burt



Unbridled Joy has made some great connections this summer regarding our Veterans' Program. We have been awarded a scholarship from PATH International and the Bob Woodward Foundation for equine assisted psychotherapy regarding PTSD. Our partner in this training will be Rick Baker. Rick is a Veteran and a Licensed professional counselor with a Masters in Counseling Psychology. He has years of experience in this field and is highly recommended by horse trainer Ed Dabney regarding his professionalism and character. We are excited to see our program grow after this training, which will include courses on EAP-PTSD and its development, training in appropriate equine selection for clients with PTSD, treatment guidelines, the benefits of group experiential therapy and how it differs from traditional alternatives, and an understanding of Veteran culture. We are grateful to PATH International for this opportunity to better serve our local heroes.



We are waiting for the final details on the arrangement for the H. Reyno Petree Veterans Ranch, so we have been concentrating on our mobile services, clients with other special needs and fundraising. One of our fundraising avenues is to offer miniature horse parties. Our mini horses have the perfect personalities to be able to offer therapy to people that may be home bound, hospital bound, or are just more comfortable with their size in a session compared to a regular sized horse. We are planning to work with the VA hospital in Atlanta to bring the minis inside to our hospital bound Veterans once the restrictions from Covid-19 are lifted. One of our support-ers, Chelsi Hudson, had her birthday party at our farm this July and had a blast. She was the winner of our free party offered from a drawing at the Monroe Fall Festival. The donation for every party goes to help support the care for our therapy horses and to be able to offer sessions on a sliding scale to those in need.

We had so much fun participating in the Georgia Horse Fair. Two of our therapy horses, Manny and Shawnee got to show off in the Parade of Breeds. We were very inspired by the presentation of Waypoint Ranch and their interaction with local Veterans and giving them the opportunity to experience horseback riding. We met many wonderful fellow horse lovers which resulted in interest in our mission and some great new volunteers. Thank you to GERL, Nancy Cox, and all the volunteers for a well-organized and entertaining equine event.



Getting the Word Out

By Cynthia Anderson

At Georgia Equine Rescue League's (GERL) annual meeting in Winder Ga the topic of membership was discussed. The president, Patty Livingston, set a goal to increase our membership this year to at least 300 active members. This really is not an unrealistic goal. We just need to get the word out about all the wonderful programs GERL has and everything it does to help starved, neglected and abused equine in Georgia.

Taking this need for increasing membership to heart I decided to start attending events in my area. My intent is to provide information about GERL and the Georgia Horse Council (GHC). So, on September 18th and 19th with the help and support of Susie Bond and Allison Lunsford I attended the State Barrel Racing Championship in Perry Georgia. Allison was kind enough to get all fees waived. I was allowed to set up a small table to provide information about GERL and GHC.



This was a great event. Barrel racers of all ages from all over the state attended. I set up my table, put up the banners. I had a few items to give away, Newsletters, membership applications, and of course candy. I took my seat and started watching the event. Soon enough people started stopping by and asking questions. I was surprised at how many people had never heard of GERL or the GHC. Well, I was more than happy to share what GERL is all about and what we are doing. I was impressed by how receptive and supportive the barrel racing community was. Hopefully we will get a few new members.

I tell you this weekend really woke me up. We have got to get GERL's name out there. We have got to do a better job of letting people know about all the wonderful things GERL is doing for unwanted, abused, and neglected, horses in Georgia. So folks help GERL get their information out there. Talk to everyone you know about GERL.



GERL Holds Annual Meeting at Winder Lion's Club

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) usually holds its annual meeting in February, but with so much uncertainty going on with COVID, we voted to postpone until a later date. That date turned out to be September 11th and we held it at the Winder Lion's Club as usual. One thing that was unusual is that we had beautiful weather. For the past several years we've been met with a snowstorm, tornado and even an ice storm.

Jacki Moore, Leslie Lambert, Cindy Farris and her granddaughter, Katelyn Hewlett, all arrived early to set up the flea market. Everything was laid out so perfectly, a Jacki trademark. The flea markets we have at our events bring in a lot of money and I want to express my sincere thanks to these "three musketeers" and Katelyn, who always jump in and do the hard lifting. I very much appreciate them!

The food was just as good as ever and everybody enjoyed their fill before Kate Robbins, our guest speaker arrived. Kate is the new Equine Director at Calvin Center located in Hampton, Ga. She spoke to our group about the history of the Calvin Center and brought everybody up to date on their programs and the current situation with a shortage of funds. It was a very interesting speech and everybody in our audience enjoyed hearing what she had to say. Before she left, we presented Kate with one of the five \$1,000 grants GERL is currently offering non-profits for veteran equine therapy sessions. She let us all know how appreciative she and all of the folks at the Calvin Center are to GERL for the help.



Everybody loves a pot-luck lunch!



Our Speaker, Kate Robbins



Nancy Cox,
Winner of the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

GERL Holds Annual Meeting at Winder Lion's Club

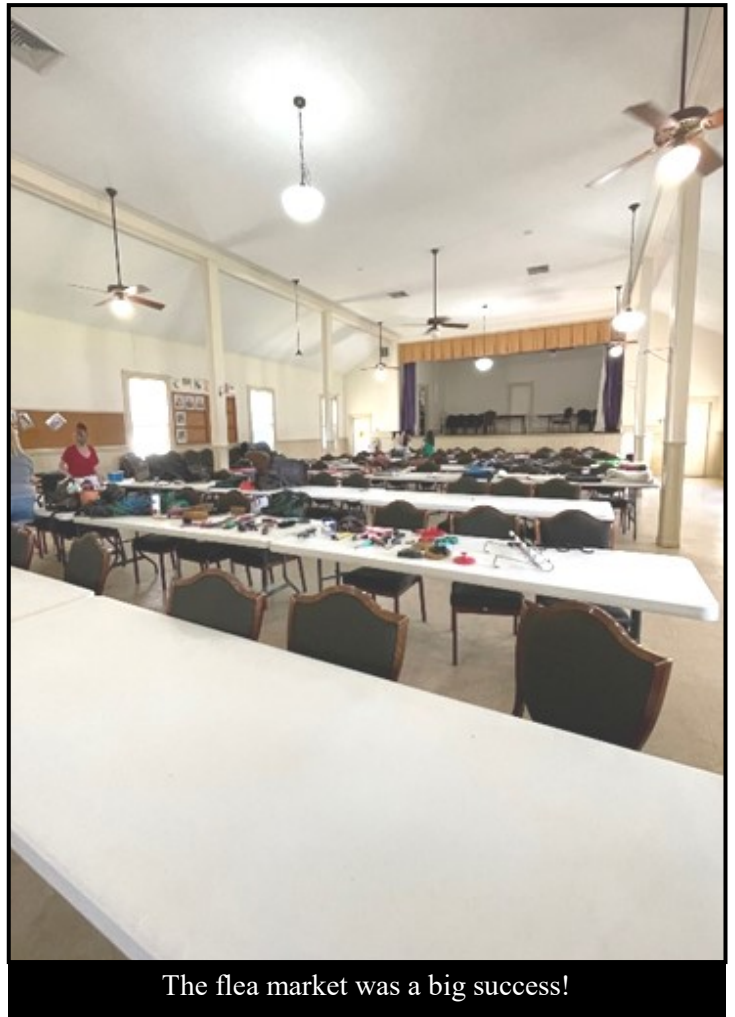
By Patty Livingston



Margaret Clower & Valerie Puryear



Frank Cetera, Cindy Burt and Lindsay .



The flea market was a big success!

We presented the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award immediately after Kate's presentation. The winner was a secret up until the last minute, but I'm pretty sure that nobody in that room was the least bit surprised that the recipient was Nancy Cox. After all, she IS THE BOMB when it comes to putting on an event. I cannot say enough good things about her organizational and people skills, which she clearly demonstrated for the almost 2 years of planning the horse fair required.

I kicked off the meeting with a presentation that reflected our achievements, as well as our goals. A lot of our discussion was about the Calvin Center and their needs. On behalf of the entire GERL Board, I think I can say that finding such a deserving organization that is worthy of our help gives us a renewed energy. I think that the people in the room also felt the same. I went home feeling good about the day.

GERL to Assist in Large Herd Dispersal

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) recently drove to Carroll County to evaluate approximately thirty French Arabian and Arabian/Appaloosa horses. Their ages range from 4 to 22 years old. Some are rideable, some are not. Many are registered and/or double registered. The owner is no longer able to take care of his herd and has asked GERL

to step in and help with the dispersal which will occur from the owner's property. Check out the GERL Facebook page for more photos, videos and information about the horses. Please contact GERL Adoption Coordinator, CeCe Calli, at (706) 371-5804 or gerlfoster@aol.com if you are interested.



These are just a few of the 27 + horses that need to be rehomed. Most are pure bred French Arabian horses, which are the larger boned specie in the Arabian world. They are very athletic and often used in racing



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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 (770) 867-0760 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 2021 GERL has received \$6,140.32 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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Contact us for more info:
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info@georgiahorsecouncil.com

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

Pumpkin Pancakes

INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon white sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup pumpkin puree

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground ginger
½ teaspoon ground allspice
1 egg
1 ½ cups milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest



Step 1—Combine flour, brown sugar, white sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large mixing bowl, and whisk together for two minutes to aerate.

Step 2—In a separate bowl, combine pumpkin puree, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, egg, milk, 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Mix in the flour mixture, and stir just until moistened. (Do not overmix.)

Step 3—Coat skillet with 1 teaspoon vegetable oil over medium heat.

Step 4—Pour batter into skillet 1/4 cup at a time, and cook the pancakes until golden brown, about 3 minutes on each side.

Estate Planning for Your Horse:

Published by the United Horse Coalition

The following information is intended to be a general guide for estate planning as it applies to your horses. The UHC recommends contacting a knowledgeable attorney to guide you through the details of estate planning involving your equine.

While it's common for people to regularly think about what they need to do to establish their will and ensure that their property and belongings are taken care of in the event of their death, it's not common that their horses are included in this process. Without a will, your horse could become the property of your heirs, and these family members may have no interest, or even the required knowledge, to inherit and care for your horse.

Some owners might just elect to have their horse sold at either a private sale or a dispersal sale at an auction. However, some owners may also be wary of this as once a horse leaves an auction, its fate can sometimes be unknown, and the horse may end up in the wrong hands. Additionally, horses that are retired or have special needs might be more difficult to sell or place in a

good new home.

How do I protect my horses if they outlive me?

One of the first things to consider when estate planning is “Who”: Who do you know among your equine contacts, friends, or family that has the knowledge, and most importantly, the desire to care for your horse after your death? Will this person not only be able to care for the horse, but will he or she also be able to successfully sell or rehome him? Another consideration is “How”: How does this person you have identified take ownership of your horse? Here there are two options: Naming the horse in a will; or creating a trust for the horse.

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, we were not able to reprint the entire article entitled “Estate Planning for Your Horse”. This 4-page article can be found on the United Horse Coalition website at:

https://unitedhorsecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UCH_Estate_Planning_For_Your_Horse_2019.pdf



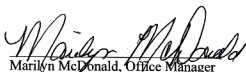
Dear GERL,

On behalf of Calvin Center Therapeutic Riding Program, I thank you for your ongoing generosity to our programming. We enjoyed the recent visit by the GERL Board to Horses & Warriors, as you considered our grant application. And we thank you for the \$1,000 grant we were awarded. These grants are a great option for any veterans program.

Calvin Center Therapeutic Riding Program is truly grateful to GERL for your continuing support of our work, through help with our herd feed bill, and now with this veterans grant. Programs such as ours continue to struggle, due to COVID. But, because of the nature of the work done by Horses & Warriors, it is important to our veterans that we continue to meet weekly. Because of your help, we have been able to meet this need.

We do not take your generosity lightly; and it is with sincere thanks that we send this note.

Sara


Marilyn McDonald, Office Manager



Sara Reams
Calvin Center Horses & Warriors
(678) 438-3116
saracchfh@gmail.com

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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 \$3,529.00 for feed, hay, vet care and farrier service on our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$2,250.00 on training for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$1,984.15 on feed for the horses at Calvin Center Horses & Warriors.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$7,763.15 THIS QUARTER HELPING HORSES

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!

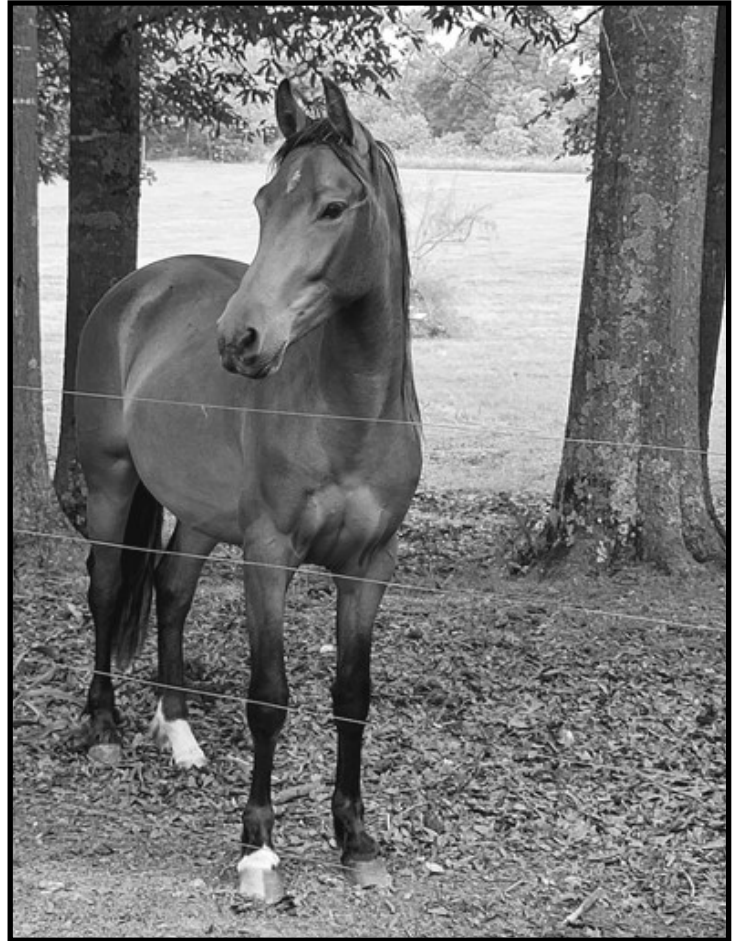
*Your donation is
tax deductible!*

GERL ADOPTABLES

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



Forrest is also one of the “Six Amigos”. He is approximately 13.2 hh, 3-year-old Bay Grade gelding. Super cute! He is currently spending time with a trainer to get him started.

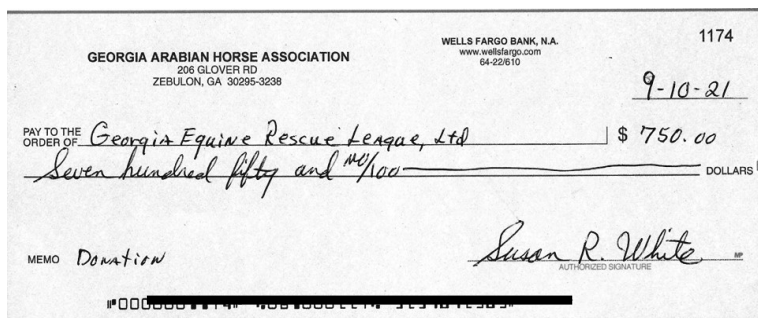


Jenny is one of the “Six Amigos”. She is approximately 13.2 hh, 2 1/2 year-old Bay Grade mare. She would be perfect for someone who wants to start with a fresh slate with their horse.

GERL Receives Donation from the Georgia Arabian Horse Association

“The Georgia Arabian Horse Association (GAHA) recognizes and appreciates the great work that GERL does” and presented us with a check for \$750.00!

Thanks so much to all of the members of the GAHA for your support. These funds will help us provide feed and hay to the horses at Calvin Center Horses & Warriors program, located in Hampton, Ga.



Support GERL by purchasing our merchandise!

Adult Short Sleeve T-Shirt \$20.00



Front

Colors:
Kiwi/Violet/Chalky Mint

Back

T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Gildan Soft style Ladies V-Neck Tee \$16.00



Front

Colors: Azalea Only

V-Neck T-Shirt with printed logo on front
Sizes available: M (6-8), L (8-10), XL(10-12) & 2X(12-14)

Sweat Shirt \$55.00



Colors:

Sweat Shirt with printed logo
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

T-Shirt \$16.00



Back of shirt

Colors: Mint/Blossom/Melon
T-Shirt with printed logo on front/back
Sizes available: M, L, XL & 2X

Available to purchase on our website www.gerlltd.org

Thank you for your donations

Lauren Norwood
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Peggy Paris
Kathy Adams
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Sherry Massey
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Bonnie LaVoie
Constance Burchette
Ben Hudson
Margaret & Bob Wallace
Laura Edmunds
Robert Cooper
Jim Januzelli
Dr Christopher & Susan Gregory

Welcome New Members

Robin Damron
Sheri Lunsford
Lisa McKinney
Kathlene Miller
Max Resnick
Kellie Pless

Kroger

Quarterly Check \$90.34

Amazon

Your AmazonSmile charity received a \$380.40 donation

In Honor of

Lucy Hight by Ginger & Floyd
Branscomb

In Memory of

Cherokee Rose, long time companion of Keeve Krasner, by Dr. Ava Talmage
Lady Gray, beloved mare of Marlie Collini, by Dr. Ava Talmage
Tamma's Tattoo-one mighty pony, companion of Tamma Trump, by Dr. Ava Talmage
Sharon Leonard by Cynthia Groom
Cognac, Lady & Traveler by Carlos & Carol Martel
Punk'd, beloved family member of: Kristina Pollard by Dr. Ava Talmage
Jag, beloved horse of Susan Moody
Saber, beloved gelding of Ella Durden, by Marian Finco
Shine by Julie Floyd
Joanne Symmes by Leigh Richardson
Joanne Symmes by Adam Rauh
Joanne Symmes by Cheryl Mitchell - *God Bless Joanne! She loved her horses!*
Joanne Symmes by Lisa McKinney - *Her passing left a hole that can be filled only by her example and inspiration*
Joanne Symmes by Elizabeth Halsema
Joy, beloved horse of Lisa Clark by Dr. Ava Talmage
John Hobbs by Kara Huntoon
Magic, Marian & Del Finco's beloved horse, by Susan McCullar
Magic, Marian & Del Finco's beloved horse, by Valerie Puryear
Magic, Marian & Del Finco's beloved horse by Sandy Lynch
We are so sorry for your loss of Magic. He was a beautiful boy and will be missed.
Cash, by Andrea Lamer - *We will miss Cash, but his spirit will be remembered forever.*
Jake, beloved horse of Linda Kundell, by Marian Finco



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

A Therapy Horse

By Sara Reams

Not being very acquainted with horses of any type, when I first began volunteering in the therapeutic riding program at Calvin Center I had a lot to learn. I was fortunate to have wonderful mentors in Cathe McKinnon and Tom Anderson. They taught me how to take apart Priefert stalls, to grade the floor of the barn; how to chop up the ice in water troughs with a hammer and remove ice with a tennis racket; the formula for determining how much hay horses will need in Winter weather; how to blanket a horse; how to drag an arena; how to clean a horse's wound from the inside out; and so many other things that my then 56 year old self never thought I'd be learning!

Most importantly, they instructed me in working with students in a therapeutic riding program. Grooming and tacking up safely, and then being a horse leader and a sidewalker were crucial to the safety of the riders with whom we worked. Cathe strongly emphasized the NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association – now PATH, Intl., Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) rules, and made sure that our therapeutic riding program was at its highest standards.

As important as the human skills were, the horses used in our therapeutic riding program were the absolute key to its safety and success. A horse-wise human is bettered by a wise horse. They have so much to teach us!

My first time working with a rider will stay with me always. This was a little boy with autism. He was probably eight years old, and non-verbal. When his parents brought him to the barn he was interested, but not really engaged. He was paired with Fire, the large sorrel Quarter Horse that was his weekly ride. We helped him groom Fire, and assisted with tacking up on this big horse, way over his head. Then Fire was led to the mounting ramp where this little boy was put on the saddle.

Our therapy program has a lovely trail, with a sensory section at the very beginning. Large activity pods are scattered along the trail, designed to stimulate the senses of hearing (large and small hanging bells and gongs to be rung), touch (pool noodles hung from trees, to be ridden through, touching the rider's body as they move along), smell (flowers planted along the trail), and sight (bright colors throughout).

This small boy, quiet until the moment we entered the sensory trail, was suddenly overtaken by the wonder of his surroundings. His face opened into a huge smile, he suddenly began to very loudly shout joyful sounds, and he began to vigorously wave his arms. As startled as I was, as his sidewalker, I immediately became concerned at how Fire would react. Tears came to my eyes as I watched Fire quietly stand there, accepting his role as the caretaker for this tiny human. His strength was his gentleness.

This was the first of so many times when I have witnessed the wonderful work done by these horses used in our therapeutic riding program. Not a 5/10 on the scale of temperament – they all are a calm 1/10, and ready for a job. Whether it's as the mount for a small boy with autism, or for an adult rider competing in Special Olympics; going over to check on a child who has tripped and fallen nearby; being sensitive to a prosthetic limb on a rider; standing while being painted and dressed in all sorts of funny costumes; being groomed by an older veteran in a wheelchair; so many ways these horses show themselves to be the true heroes of the therapy world.

I love all horses, and marvel in their beauty and intelligence. But horses used in therapeutic riding will always have my heart.

Pasture Management Course

By Lisa Clark

Armyworms are crazy prevalent this year...they've zipped through our area and hayfields. My county agent sent out an email on the topic offering a couple of options to use on lawns/pastures. Researching those I found many carry the RESTRICTED USE classification – meaning buyer needs a Pesticide Applicators license. Theoretically the one most effective and not RESTRICTED was pricey and a larger quantity than I needed for my small grazing lots. (License covers pesticides and herbicides)

I remembered seeing how to get a “non-commercial” license from “The Leading Rein”, a UGA equine

newsletter. \$25 for an online course, that is supposed to take 4-5 hours, requires computer with internet access (no iPad) and pass tests at the end of each module. (tests can be taken repeatedly until you pass). The course appears to be more about steps to determine the pest (weed, insect, etc) you're battling and when/how the best way to deal with it. I thought this might be of interest to other horse owners who manage their pasture/fields. Here's a link to the newsletter – info under Pasture Management article. [The-Leading-Rein-Newsletter-March-2021.pdf \(uga.edu\)](#)



GERL Mail Bag

Dear GERL,

Just a quick note to once again thank you and the whole GERL team for your generosity and kindness in supporting Calvin Center's Horses and Warrior program as well as the Calvin Therapeutic Program as a whole! The H&W program will quickly put the \$1000.00 to use as support for the veteran participants, and well the BATHROOM--- THE BATHROOM!!!! will be a legacy gift for any and all who come to experience all of our wonderful programming !!!

Your monies are not only helping us survive--but they are helping us DREAM, and that in itself is such a special gift. Thank you.

I am working on finding a contractor to get some numbers in for the bathroom and will let you know something as soon as I know something.

I will work on our other wish list items and send your way...

Warmly,

Kate

--

Kate Robbins

Calvin Center Equestrian Director

PATH Intl. Advanced Riding Instructor, CTRI

PATH Intl. Workshop/Certification Faculty Evaluator and Mentor

13550 Woolsey Road * Hampton, GA 30228 * 770-946-4276

GERL's Horses Heals Veterans Grant Awarded

By Cynthia Anderson

In 2020 Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) announced the Horses Heal Veterans program. Over the past year GERL has done a lot of work trying to figure out the best way to assist Veterans Equine therapy programs. One way GERL decided to help is to offer five one thousand dollar grants.

These grants are being offered to 501c3 organizations in the state of Georgia that offer equine therapy to veterans dealing with PTSD. As we all know the cost of running a therapy program can be quite expensive. While most organizations would love to provide free session to the veterans, it is not always possible. GERL saw a need and decided to offer grants designated to cover the cost of the therapy sessions for the veterans.

In June of 2021 GERL opened the Grant. I am pleased to announce that the Horses & Warrior program at the Calvin Center in Hampton Ga was the first to apply for the grant. On September the 3rd the GERL board visited the facility. We met the horses, staff, and some of the volunteers. What a wonderful visit it was. We were impressed with the facility and the program being offered. On September 11, 2021 the first of these grants was awarded to the Calvin Center's equine therapy program, Horses & Warriors.

If you would like to know more about the grant, please check it out on our website. www.gerlltd.org.



James "Bo" Inoogua

GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

November 2021

Stallion to Gelding Castration Month

Participating Vets Across Georgia
Check the GERL website Oct 1st for participating veterinarians.



December 11, 2021

GERL Christmas Party

61 McElhannon Rd. SE
Bethlehem, GA



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

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



LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

We recently received a phone call from an older gentleman who requested help disbursing his herd of approximately 27 French Arabian and Appaloosa horses. As he continued to talk, he described his horses in detail. I had never heard of a French Arabian and he educated me on the breed, telling me that they are the larger boned horses of the Arabian breed, and they were very athletic. He told me that he had raced a couple of his horses back in 2008. Before the end of our call, I made an appointment for the following week to travel to his farm and meet his herd.

Cynthia Anderson and I rode together and upon arrival were greeted by Rita Benfield, one of GERL's Area Coordinators. It was a two-and-a-half-hour drive for Cynthia and me, but Rita lived within an hour. Thankfully! Rita had already been inside the house and had met the owner, whom I will refer to as Mr. Wayne. She led us into his office and made the introductions while we each found a chair. I had made up a form ahead of time in an attempt to organize the situation of rehoming so many horses. I took notes on my form from Mr. Wayne for the next hour and we were able to dig up the information on 14 horses to complete the first page. For times sake, I left him with a couple of blank forms so that he could fill out all of the information on the other 14 or so horses and we moved outside to start taking photos and videos.

Approximately 6 or 7 horses were scattered in different paddocks around the barn, including his prized 16-year-old registered Bay Arabian stallion that raced as a 3-year-old in 2008, on a track in Delaware. He had another stallion named Zander, also 16 years old, double registered, French Arabian/Appaloosa cross. (Arabalooosa?) Zander shared a pasture with Zeb, his 22-year-old twin, except he was a gelding. I had noted that Mr. Wayne wanted these two to go together. I took decent photos of all of the horses around the barn, despite not having someone holding them. Next, we got in Mr. Wayne's truck, and he took us for a tour around his 65 acre farm where we came up on the "rest of the herd". In a large pasture were at least 20 horses, all Ara-

bians or Arabian cross. It was a beautiful site to see them all together. As we drove through their pasture, they all came over to check us out and get some attention. They were accustomed to Wayne's visits to their pasture, apparently, because they weren't one bit afraid of his loud diesel truck. I snapped photos and took videos from the back seat, trying to remember which of these horses I had jotted down on my list of 14. There were so many, I was confused most of the time. And let me say this, about that, my brain had already shifted to Plan B. There was no way we were going to be able to sort through so many horses to come up with 6 that we would concentrate on adopting out. We are going to have to let the interested adopters come and see the horses and pick out the horse from the herd. Since they are all friendly, I'm hoping that this plan will also be less traumatic for the horses.

All of the horses will go through GERL's adoption process which means that an application and farm visit will be performed on each potential adopter. We want to ensure that all of these horses go to great homes. They are nice horses. Most are registered or can be registered. They range in ages from 4 years to 26 years. Some are broke to ride, though they have not been ridden in a few years. If you or a friend are looking for a new horse, this is a great opportunity to find a great horse without breaking the bank. All photos, videos and copies of papers will be posted on the GERL Facebook page. Please help spread the word by telling someone.

It's been a few years since GERL has been involved in a large herd dispersal. I can't say that they all went well, but I am happy to report that this situation is different because there is no law enforcement involved. This man has realized after a recent injury that he isn't as young as he used to be and he is physically unable to take care of so many horses, despite the fact that he loves them all. He called me to ask for help. And, we're going to do our best to find great homes for all of his horses!



Becoming a Horse Mom

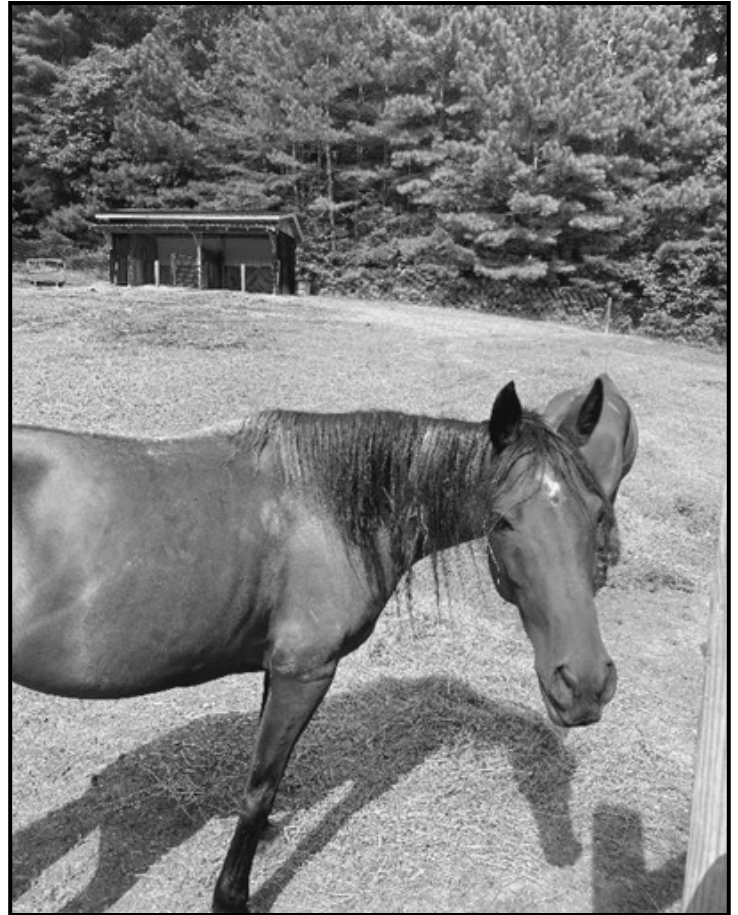
By Anita Caston

My name is Anita Caston and, along with my husband, Howie, we live on 17 acres in Northern Georgia. A few months ago, I reached out to Patty hoping to adopt a horse. This is where my story and my life take a turn.

First, I met Betty Sue. This kind woman was my Bennett's foster mom. A few days after our meeting, we officially became Bennett's family. For me, Bennett found his forever home. But we also realized that Bennett needed a pasture pal. A few weeks later we were able to foster Jazzy. Eventually, Jazzy became our newest addition to our family.



Anita with Bennett



Jazzy Cat loves her new home.

Our adoption story is probably similar to others, but I wanted to express how this experience turned our life into a Love Story. Yes, we have had challenges and I think we will continue to have our moments. But the pleasure we receive from our horses is a blessing for us.

Getting to have a horse family has made us better people. Grateful people. This experience has brought us joy and lots of laughs. Plus, we have made friends that helped us through our journey.

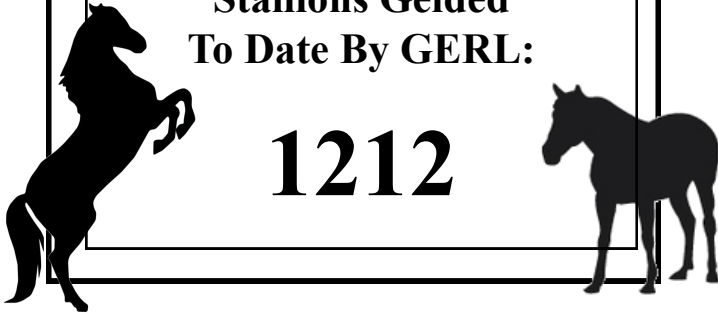
Thank you for allowing us to be caretakers for these beautiful souls! We hope their dams here at Green Acres are days horses dream of.



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

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
Ransom	28	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
Cooper	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
Forrest	3	Bay	No	CeCe Calli
Jenny	3	Bay	No	Angie Hammond



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.

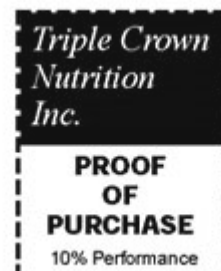
Southern States and Triple Crown Proof of Purchases (POPs) continue to trickle in. We were able to take advantage of the TC offer again this year, which is 1 \$25 VISA gift card for every 12 POPs. Thanks to our TC donors, we had enough for all 12 gift cards! Thank you, again, to our consistent donors and thank you to our newest POP donors: Rebecca Testerman, Suzanne Cottingim, A. Wester, Grace Kanavage and the Roberts on Commercial Rd. in Athens.

Please clip your Legends, Southern States, Triple Crown and ProElite POPs and send 'em my way! Let's do our part to end the suffering of many Georgia horses and put them on the path to their forever homes. Thank you for your support!

Ginny Scarritt

and send them to:

4835 Kendall Court * Atlanta, GA 30342



Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

Charlie Santoriello

I first got into horses when I moved into the Atlanta area in 1977. I worked for the airlines, and transferred so we could buy some land. My wife liked horses, and we wanted to have a small farm.

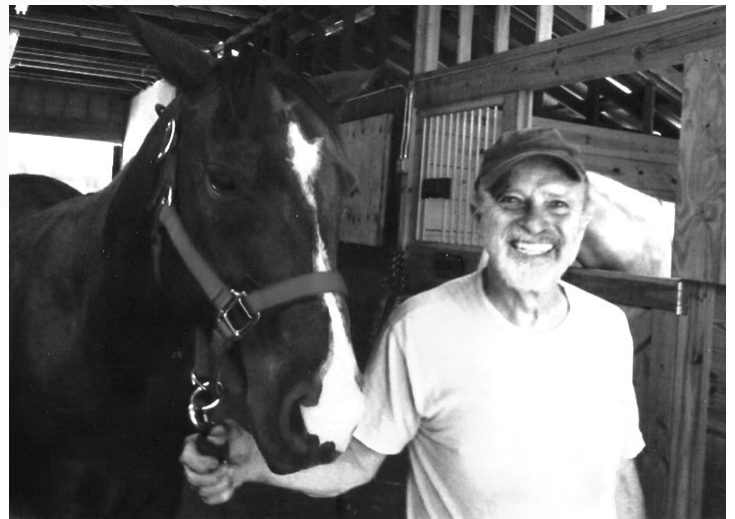
I purchased some land in Fayette County, built a house and a small barn, and fencing. Then I bought a pregnant mare from a neighbor. After a young filly was born, our life in the horse world started.

In five years, I bought more land and started boarding. My first mare had a Palomino colt Quarter Horse. We raised him as a stud. I started training horses when a 17 year old girl taught me how to start horses under saddle. Then I went to farrier school in Oklahoma.

One of my clients was the Calvin Center. They have a therapeutic riding program and a horse camp for children. When they expanded to a veteran's program, Horses & Warriors, I volunteered, being a Marine veteran. I have been able to help with the horses and riders as the program expanded. It is very satisfying helping these wounded warriors and disabled veterans.

I have been working with horses for more than 40 years. It is a major part of my life. I consider myself very blessed with the satisfaction and friendships I have made. Over the years I have gained some knowledge and am still learning. I am happy to be able to pass it on.

I always say, "Let's do what is best for the horse."



Braveheart Goes to His Forever Home

Braveheart is one of the "Six Amigos" herd of feral horses that GERL brought into the foster program 2 years ago. He is a beautiful Bay Arabian gelding. He also happens to be the winner of the 2021 Rescue Challenge. We were not concerned when Braveheart was not adopted immediately after he won the Challenge. We have learned that waiting will more likely produce the perfect adopters.

And so, it was in this case. Julia and Bernie came along and fell in love with Braveheart. We do believe that it is a match made in heaven. They are enjoying time on the trails together. Happy Trails, Y'all!



LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

By Cynthia Anderson

Wow, time sure does fly by. I cannot believe that we are over half way through 2021. This first half of 2021 has brought about a lot of changes for GERL. With the 2020 Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) closing the Mansfield impound and no longer picking up horses, GERL has had to redirect its mission. It has taken the past year for GERL to find its way. This year has been very challenging as GERL navigates these changes. I am excited to share what has been going on.

Since 1993 GERL's main mission was the financial support of the starved, abused, and neglected horses picked up by the GDA. Over the past 28 years GERL not only provided financial support for the horses picked up by the GDA, volunteers helped with auctions, work days, rehab, and placement for these horses. The closing of GDA's impound left GERL with a void in our mission. Thankfully the void is being filled by a need to help organizations that provide equine therapy to veterans with PTSD.

This summer GERL's board voted to provide some financial support to the folks at the Calvin Center's Horses and Warrior program. A bathroom that is handicap accessible is a top priority. We are also considering the loan of GERL's John Deere tractor to the Calvin Center's equine facility. It has just been sitting under cover since the closing of the GDA impound. GERL would really like to see it being used. We are also happy to announce that Calvin Center Horses and Warrior program is the first recipient of our Horses Heal Veterans Grant. Get the word out about the grant. We have four more one thousand dollar grant still to award.

GERL still supports law enforcement in the state of Georgia. Educating police and animal control officers

about equine is still a priority for GERL. The GDA has taken over hosting law enforcement training; however, GERL is still involved. We will be participating in a GDA hosted law enforcement training session in Evans County on October 26, 2021. Now the GDA does not have any horses we have been asked to provide the horses, trailer, in addition to giving our presentation. Of course we are happy to do so. It is just one way we can help the unwanted, starved, neglected, and abused horses in our state.

Our adoption program is in full swing. We have a successfully adopted out all of our horses but four. Recently we have also been asked if we can help with a herd dispersal. If we are able to help with this situation it will involve approximately 20-30 horses give or take a few. I do not have any more details on this situation at this time. If this comes to fruition we will update everyone in the next newsletter.

Do not forget that November is GERL's Stallion to Gelding month. Please check the web site to find a list of participating veterinarians. We would love to see more stallions turn into geldings. This program is definitely one of the best ways to help the unwanted horse problem in our state.

GERL is also attending some state and local horse shows. We are setting up tables and providing information about GERL and our mission. If anyone is interesting in attending some of the local horse shows in your area and talking about GERL and all our good work please contact us. We will make it happen. Remember we are a volunteer organization. Our members are our life's blood. Please help our organization continue to grow and help the unwanted, neglected, starved, and abused horses in Georgia.



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

2020-21 GERL Board of Directors



(Left to right)

Cynthia Anderson
Vice President

Linda Kundell
Alternate

Patty Livingston
President

CeCe Calli
Treasurer

Not pictured:
Lisa Muffley, Secretary

GERL's Annual Castration Days Reminder

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 2021 Stallion to Gelding programs, including the November gelding clinics where a dozen or so equine veterinarians all over the State of Georgia participate by hosting a low-cost castration clinic at their facility.

Look for the list of participating vets on the GERL website on October 1st.

We received a spay/neuter grant from
BISSELL Pet Foundation

**Georgia
Equine
Rescue
League**

Help us say thank you
by following their work in action:

instagram: @cathy_bissell & @bissellpets
facebook: Cathy Bissell & Bissell Pet Foundation
website: bissellpetfoundation.org

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®
Until every pet has a home.

Sox

By Savannah Thompson

Sox was a very sweet, curious little guy always ready for the challenge. He reminded me of myself. I was quiet excited when CeCe asked me to work with him. When I brought him home I gave him lots of love and assured him we would become best of friends. By day 5 he was uncatchable in his paddock even with grain. I sat down threw my hands up and cried thinking why does he hate me? I was done! No sooner than I could



stand up I could feel his breathe on my neck. He understood now! Sox's and I went to work that day almost immediately was riding. Wasn't long we was on trails, carrying flags, walk, trot, canter. Wasn't anything I couldn't do on my boy. I'm only 16, my family trains horse so I've sat allot of horses in my life. He may have been little but he was a big fun guy to be around. Never had a horse make such an impact in my life, probably never will. Oh, I never had another problem catching Sox after that day. I could go to his paddock with a halter in hand and right up to me he always came. Thank you Cece and GERL for allowing me to be a part of his life.

Savannah Thompson

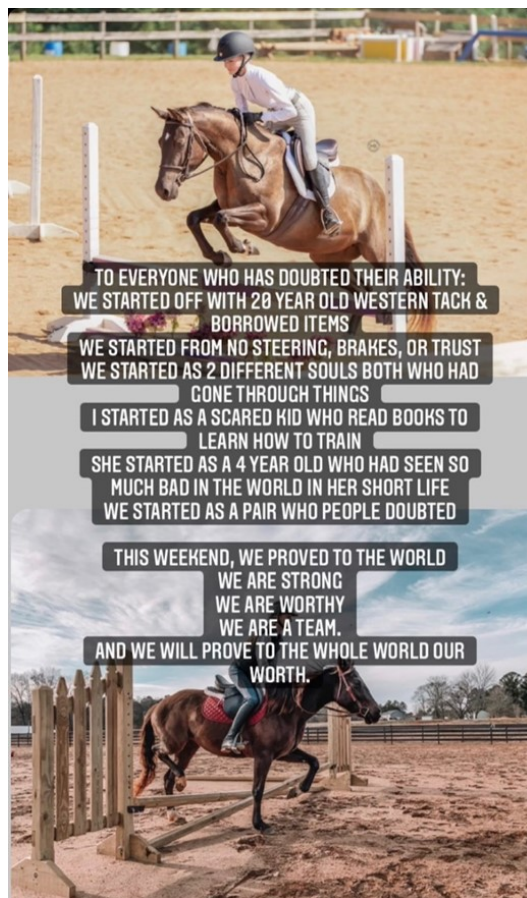
Iva SC

Another Update on Annie Oakley and Micha

By Patty Livingston

We love receiving photos and updates about the horses who have been in our program throughout the years. That is especially true when a particular horse remained for a prolonged period of time. Such was the case of Annie Oakley. When I first met her, she was at the Mansfield Impound barn. We were there to pick out a few potential candidates for our annual Rescue Challenge competition. We didn't consider her as a candidate because of her young age.

Fast forward a couple of years and Annie Oakley has come into her own. She was adopted by Micha and her family last Christmas, and it has been a Cinderella story ever since. The photo to the right was created by Micha, herself!



The Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award

By patty Livingston

For those of you who do not already know, the Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award was created in memory of a special lady who epitomized what a cheerleader was all about. Mary Paulk was one of the early pioneers of GERL dating back to the nineties. I first met her at my first GERL Fall Fest weekend trail ride fundraiser in October of 1994, and she was at every Fest and function that was hosted as long as I can remember. Unfortunately, Marty lost her battle with cancer, but I hope that this award, bearing her name, will help keep her memory alive. She did so much for the horses!

There have been many who have received this coveted award over the years, but none more deserving than Nancy Cox who is our 2021 Marty Paulk Cheerleader Award winner. Nancy stepped up and volunteered to orchestrate and drive the 2021 Georgia Horse Fair that was hosted by the Georgia Horse Council and GERL. She single-handedly selected the performers and eventers that would fill the one-day event.

Nancy was presented with her award at the GERL an-

nual meeting that was held at the Winder Lion's Club on September 11th. I believe that she was totally surprised by the award, but I'm pretty sure that most of the people in the room were not. We all know it takes at least a small army to put on an event of that magnitude and, of course, Nancy had a committee who each did their part. However, it was Nancy's project management skills, patience, and ability to not "sweat the small stuff" that made the horse fair the great success that it was. People still come up and tell us how much they enjoyed the fair. I always say, "You can thank Nancy Cox!" She is the BOMB!!

Congratulations to Nancy Cox for demonstrating what Marty Paulk was all about!



Update on Juliet

By Katherine Porfilio

It has been a year since Juliette, a delicate sorrel mare came into our lives. When she first arrived at the farm, we could identify with how she felt—reminiscent of a first day of school and feelings of apprehension. She had to adjust to new friends and surroundings and it took awhile for the herd to accept her.

Well, here we are a year later, and all of the herd as well as all of the humans at the farm have fallen in love with her.

Her body has grown stronger and is full of life which gives all of us much joy to behold. Her coat glistens and her hooves have dramatically improved since her arrival (they were in poor condition due to malnutrition).

We believe that to create good health, proper nutrition and exercise, along with inner peace and harmony is what gives radiance to the body. Juliette has all of her needs taken care of. She is safe, has flourished in



her new home, and has grown in confidence. When you are in her presence, you can feel her strength, gentility, and gratitude.

We too have grown along with her and know and appreciate what it means to be rescue owners of such magnificent and exceptional animals.

In gratitude,

Penny Kalish and Katherine Porfilio

“Your Angel’s Wings” Hosts Walton County Special Olympics

By Patty Livingston

On September 18, 2021, thirteen young people came to “Your Angel’s Wings”, a Recreational Horse Therapy facility located at the home of Kenny and Debi Dalton of Monroe, to compete in the Walton County Special Olympics.

This was the first time that CEO and President, Debi Dalton, had hosted this annual event and she could not have been happier about the turnout. “There were so many kids that signed up to compete, we had to divide the event into 2 days.” The second round of competition is scheduled for October 2nd. Debi had asked me to come and judge the event and I was excited to be able to witness a Special Olympics event for the first time.

The weather was beautiful, and everyone enjoyed being outside. One by one, each rider entered the arena, astride their favorite horse, and walked through a maze of obstacles. Most had two or three spotters walking alongside to ensure that each rider was safe. Their choice of music played in the background while their family and friends cheered them on. Every rider is taught how to hold the reins and how to turn, stop and back-up their horse. Each did an AWESOME JOB! All of the contestants received a gold medal and a gift bag, thanks to Jacob’s mom and GERL!

Kudos to the young ladies who volunteer for Your Angel’s Wings. They worked tirelessly all day and even provided the crowd with a drill team type routine on the horses during the break. They ROCKED!!

It was an extremely uplifting and successful day. I got to meet a lot of new people and witness what a simple horse-back ride can do for a person’s spirit! BIG thanks to Debi for inviting me to come and be a part!



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.



will host the 11th Annual



GEORGIA STALLION TO GELDING CASTRATION MONTH November 2021

Details: Equine Veterinarians all across Georgia are joining together with GERL to host a low cost castration clinic for \$175 per horse. GERL will pay \$75 and the owner/client will pay \$100.00. Check the GERL website in October for participating vets and the specific date and location of each clinic. (www.gerlltd.org)

Call for details:
Marian Finco
(706) 340-4368



Disclaimers:
No Cryptorchids.
Tetanus required.
Ga. Residents only.

HONKEY DONKS

Diana Kelsey

GERL rescued 2 miniature donkeys last August and I was the lucky winner. I wondered if I had lost my mind when they dragged me all over Patty's backyard and it took 3 of us to load them onto my trailer. I knew nothing about donkeys, miniature or otherwise, and my first encounter was less than stellar!

It's been a year since that fun loving day, and the donkeys and I are still alive! Thriller, my TWH, has allowed these cute boys to enter his space and all is well. That was the main deal, Thriller had to love them. So, now they are a herd – inseparable. Thank you.

Radar and Lester are geldings that stand 32" and 33" respectively. They are troublemakers, always getting into something that doesn't belong to them. It's like having toddlers, everything must be put beyond their reach! Feed bowls get hidden overnight, hay and poop are scattered all over the paddock, the wheelbarrow is always overturned, and the rake is four feet away! What is the world is going on at night? Do they ever sleep?!

The sweet young lady at my vet's office texted me one day with a picture of two cute mini donks and a black and white horse on my street – the caption read: Is this Thriller and the donks? Why yes, it is! I have no idea how they escaped but there they were, in living color, two doors down and across the street in my neighbor's yard. Someone took a picture and posted it on the neighborhood social media site and she saw it – wonder of wonders. Now, every time a donkey is spotted outside a fence – I get a call! Troublemakers!

These two boys are so fun and loving, I don't remember what we did for entertainment pre-donkeys!

If you ever get a chance to foster or adopt one or two, do it! Don't forget to take your camera to the barn every time you go – I am now working for a reputable equid magazine getting paid enormous amounts of money for my amazing capture of donkey shenanigans. Just kidding – or dreaming!

Thank you all for supporting GERL! With Your help – we can make a difference!



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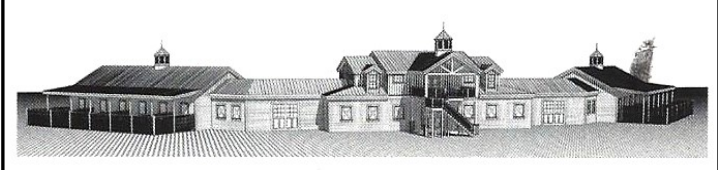
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