



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June 2022

The Horses of Cumberland Island

The title of this article makes you think of a Hollywood movie, the words flowing like a romantic song. On a recent visit to Cumberland Island, I found it to be anything but a romantic account. The thin horses and the obvious evidence of horses everywhere was actually sad to me.

It was my first time to ever go to Cumberland Island, although I had been to St. Mary's previously and had picked up brochures about the island and the horses on the island. It was a beautiful (romantic) photo of a healthy herd of horses running on the beach. I'm not sure when those photos were taken, but I'm pretty sure that it wasn't recent.



A small herd of young fillies with a stallion nearby.

My friend picked me up from the ferry's second stop and we strapped my overnight bag on the front of a 4-wheeler. My seat was a cushion on top of the back rack. We rode for almost an hour to the North end of the island. All along the narrow sandy/dirt road there were horses. A single young stallion in the process of taking a sand bath in front of us, produced an opportunity for me to get off and take some photos. He was the beautiful gray color that everybody seems to be so crazy about. He was a little thin, but not near as thin as the fillies I would see later.

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The Horses of Cumberland Island

by Patty Livingston

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As we continued on our way, we ran across more horses and/or their droppings. We went to the Dungeness mansion ruins and the grass reminded me of a putting green because it was so short. Every where I looked were mounds of horse poop.



A young stallion crossing the road

We soon came upon a freshwater spring that had three horses and a foal gathered around an old bathtub that someone had put there. To clarify, two of them were mares and were both skinny, and the only fat one was the stallion. He was ready to rebreed this mare in her foal heat and unfortunately, that is her lot in life, as it is with every filly that comes into heat on the island. They spend all of their lives foraging for three: their nursing baby, the baby they carry inside and themselves. It is not a pretty life.

I wondered about the history of horses on Cumberland, so I took some time to do a little research. I learned that Europeans brought horses, native to the open

plains of Southeast Europe and Asia, to North America on early exploring expeditions. The stock from which the island horses descended arrived in the 1920s, when island residents released a train-car load of feral horses from Arizona.



A small herd stops at a freshwater spring



Another herd on the beach

The horses on Cumberland Island are the only feral herd that is non-managed on the Eastern shoreline. I read an article that stated that the average life expectancy of a horse on the island is ten years. That was pretty shocking, but testimony to the fact that the island is not kind to the horses, despite the beautiful herd running on the beach on the front of the brochure.

The Horses of Cumberland Island

by Patty Livingston

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Volunteers of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

This month our Volunteer of the Quarter article will actually be recognizing a whole group of volunteers. A group of seven people who worked tirelessly to help with the GERL flea market. Of course, as with any event, there is always a lot of work that has to be done beforehand. Jacki Moore and Leslie Lambert were the first two loyal volunteers to step up way before the scheduled flea market in June to gather, clean and sort. That is a laborious job all by itself, but these two show up before every event to tackle this necessary task.

The Friday before the flea market we had people who showed up at my house to set everything up. Words cannot express my gratitude when each one arrived. Leslie showed up first with a truck full of tack. Cindy Farris, Linda Kundell, Susan Reid and Jacki Moore arrived on her heels, and we immediately started to unload their vehicles. Shortly after that Margaret Clower and Steven Neal arrived and we had a full-fledged team working in different areas to display all of the goods. After several hours of labor, I called in for

a couple of pizzas and we all took a break to cool off and break bread together.

The next day, my “seven amigos” showed up bright and early and we were all ready when the crowd started arriving. It was a long, but successful day. It was very encouraging to see so many people show up and buy! It spurred us through the day. By 2:00 the crowd had dwindled and all of the volunteers shifted gears to start packing things up. It is unbelievable what 6 or 7 people can do in an hour! Steven Neal and I started unloading the stock trailer that was full of donated Jeep mats and wheels. By this time the others had everything loaded up and were ready to go home. As tired as everybody was, they all came over to the trailer and made a procession of hands from the trailer to a nearby pallet where they were stacked. Our volunteers are the BEST, and I cannot ever thank them enough for what they do for GERL!



GERL Heroes: Jacki Moore, Cindy Farris, Leslie Lambert, Margaret Clower, Susan Reid, Steven Neal & Linda Kundell.



Leila Goes to Her Forever Home

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) recently took in three horses from Walton County Animal Control. They were as different from one another as any three horses could be. There was a gray Draft cross mare, a black and white TWH Paint gelding and an older mustang mare. Of course, they were all hooked to each other, but the big mare, we named Leila, clearly was the boss of this small herd.

After a couple of weeks of settling in, we decided to test out Leila's riding skills since we had a couple of potential adopters who were anxious to find out more about this horse. My go-to girl, Rylee Nash, gladly agreed to come over and take on the task. We were pleasantly surprised by her riding knowledge, but she was absolutely a bulldozer on the ground. This horse was really going to need a strong rider to control her. She was used to getting her way and she had a way of letting you know.

Sometimes people come along at just the right time that are a perfect match for a horse in our program and Deb Kovac was that person. I'm not sure what makes a person gravitate to a certain horse, besides color, but it was clear that there was something going on between Leila and Deb. Deb was not deterred by the pushiness one bit. Since their initial meeting, Deb came back to visit her, and she was delighted when we told her that Leila would be going home with her if she was still interested. It was an emotional moment for Deb when she heard



Leila and Deb getting to know each other

those words. I was glad I was there to witness something good!

CTHA Donates to GERL

By Patty Livingston

The Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) recently sponsored a Juni Fisher concert to raise monies for several of the state parks that they support. If you've never had the pleasure of hearing Juni Fisher, you don't know what you're missing! She is a western and folk singer/songwriter who has received ten awards from the Western Music Association. CTHA has sponsored a Juni Fisher concert in the past and they were excited about having her back this year. They had a great turn-out and a very successful fund raiser.

Much to my surprise, I received a phone call from CTHA Board member, Jo West. She wanted to let me know that the club had voted to donate \$600 to GERL to help with our Horses & Veterans program. HUGE thanks to Jo and all of the CTHA members who worked so hard to raise funds to help others!



Juni Fisher Concert
CTHA sponsored event

Greeting from Calvin Center's Horses & Warriors Program!

By Kate Robbins

My goodness with so much happening at Calvin Center ---it's hard to know where to begin!

Last newsletter Sara Reams, our fearless Horses & Warriors Program Coordinator, wrote about a "real - time" emergency drill when we had to pull all of our participants and horses quickly into the barn when a sudden thunderstorm blew in bringing wind, rain and hail. While in that scenario all human and horse fared well, our barn and arena did not. This powerful micro-burst was one of 4 "little" storms this season that tested our humble little facility to its max! By Mid-April, we discovered our several roof panels on both the barn and the arena had been battered to the point of disrepair, and the sky lights were falling off in chards, leaving us unable to teach our lessons or house our horses safely on a breezy day. This coupled with an inherited poor drainage issue in the barn forced our hand to research ways to fix the problem. After weeks of receiving several bids, we remained deflated wondering how on earth are we going to make this happen? Calvin Center's equestrian programming is just on the edge of recovering from the financial turmoil of COVID—how are we going to find \$33,000 needed to fix the roofs/drainage?

Toot the horns! --- GERL is how!



Continued on page 7

Greeting from Calvin Center's Horses & Warriors Program!

By Kate Robbins

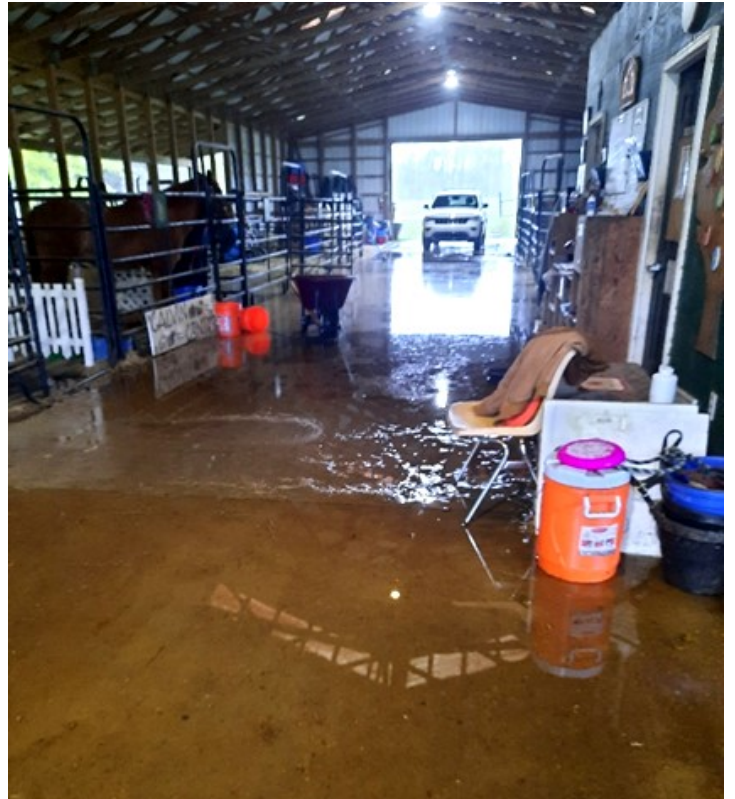
After several conversations explaining our immediate needs, it was decided we would utilize the “2021 gift of a bathroom” funds for the “2022 gift of the repair the roof” funds. While the allotted funds will not cover the entire repair, Calvin Center is so grateful. Our Horses & Warrior Program, along with our daily therapeutic riding program has touched hundreds of people this year alone—it was breaking our hearts (and our pocketbook!) to turn down sessions due to damage to the facility. It was determined by Calvin Center's Executive Board; we would immediately use the GERL funds to get the job(s) rolling and Calvin Center is committed to work hard to find additional funds to offset the rest.

May 25th was a wonderful day! Trucks, diggers, scaffolding, and three crews all descended on the grounds—like the Calvary coming to the rescue! Despite weather and holiday delays—the work is almost complete and our arena and barn in finally back in tip top form! We are so appreciative for GERL's continue sponsorship. We are so proud of the work we do at Calvin Center's Equestrian Program, and there is no room to compromise when it comes to safety—for our horses, participants or volunteers.

Thank you! Thank you to all who support GERL, the Calvin Center Equestrian and our Horses & Warrior would not be the program it is today with you!

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Robbins



Spotlight on Our Area Coordinators

Joan Bell

I was born an animal lover but didn't start seriously indulging it until I retired. I grew up outside of St. Louis and went to school in Massachusetts where I spent my career as a medical researcher. I finally left the city and went to southern Utah where I volunteered with a nonprofit that worked with mustangs.

What a life-changing experience! The women that owned and trained the herd were practitioners of natural horsemanship, so my first serious exposure to horses was a truly special experience. We spent our time gentling them and working with them in therapy sessions. It truly was magical.

My partner and I boarded horses there until we moved to Georgia to be closer to family and get a property that allows us our own animals. We still board, but also have two horses of our own. Both "rescues" who were about to be sold into working situations in spite of having bad knees. We were lucky to be in the right place at the right time and now Ed and Tootsie are enjoying a pretty pampered retirement. They join the chickens, goats and dogs on 8 acres of pasture!

Recently I drove by a home that had an emaciated horse out front. I called the authorities who quickly followed up and determined that the horse actually was under a vet's care, was elderly and had a hard time eating. I can't tolerate abuse and happy to join GERL to help out.

Attached is a photo from a few years ago (before pandemic "natural" hair!) working with Scout one of the mustangs who was just learning to walk on a lead.



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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.

For updated Area Coordinators:
<https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/>

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GERL
THROUGH THE
AMAZON SMILES PROGRAM.**

As of June 2022 GERL has received **\$7,387.53** 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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Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 (16-ounce) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.25-ounce) cans no salt added diced tomatoes (or fire-roasted!)
- 2 (11-ounce) cans no salt added sweet whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (4.5-ounce) can chopped green chili peppers, drained
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon Tabasco pepper sauce
- 1 large ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped cilantro
- Baked tortilla chips

Directions

1. In a large bowl, stir together the black beans, diced tomatoes with liquid, corn, chili peppers, oil, vinegar, salt and Tabasco. Cover and refrigerate 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.
2. To serve, thoroughly stir in the avocado and cilantro. Serve with tortilla chips.

Mexican Fiesta Dip



By ingredients, this recipe is dairy-free / non-dairy, egg-free, gluten-free, nut-free, peanut-free, soy-free, vegan, vegetarian, and generally food allergy-friendly!

WARRIOR RANCH UPDATE

By Paula Smith

Mother's Day was a good day at the Ranch. Veterans came out with their mothers to pet the horses and to get some love.

We are moving forward with our work: Our covered arena is on it way to 100% completion with the delivery of the rubber it made a huge difference. Six big bags (1000 each) were delivered, and it was quite the task or spreading it out.

The tractor came in handy with spreading the rubber footing.

Our pastures are beautiful, and the weeds have been taking care of with the help of funding from GERL. This assistance has helped our pastures to be healthy and killed off many dangerous weeds for the horses.

We are planning our next event: July 23rd fellowship day.

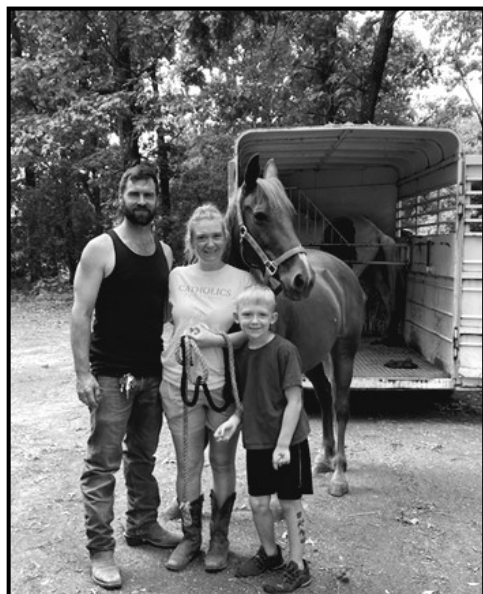
Future plans:

Horse clinic that will end with a two-day ride and over-night campout

Competition BBQ in mid-September.



The tractor came in handy with spreading the rubber footing.



Nick, Kristen and Colton were happy to have Cinnamon home

Cinnamon Goes Home

By Patty Livingston

You may remember a story about Cinnamon being adopted back in one of our older newsletters. She was originally known as Betty Lou when she first entered the GERL foster program back in September of 2020. She was one of the last three horses that came from the Lee Arrendale State Prison equine impound. She has been the main attraction in my front pasture for the past couple of years, but she finally went to her new forever home. Congratulations to Kristen and Nick on the new addition to their new farm!

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
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 gerlpatty@yahoo.com



~ With Sincere Thanks from ~

Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South GA

Dear Patty and GERL, Thank you so much for your generous donation to our silent auction fundraiser. The amazing artwork, western wear and more helped make the event extra special for the bidders and helped make it a great success. We are committed to advocacy for equestrian trails, education on Leave No Trace and good stewardship of the

land, and volunteerism- maintaining trails for the enjoyment of all. A few of our goals this year include sponsoring chainsaw certification classes, buying safety equipment for our sawyers, putting up tie posts at popular break areas to prevent damage to trees, and improving footing in problem areas. Thank you again for your generous support and making a difference! Sincerely on behalf of our members, Blaine Lower, President, 2022.





Join our Feed A Horse Program



Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for horses located in the Veteran facilities that GERL supports, as well as the horses taken into GERL's foster program. 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



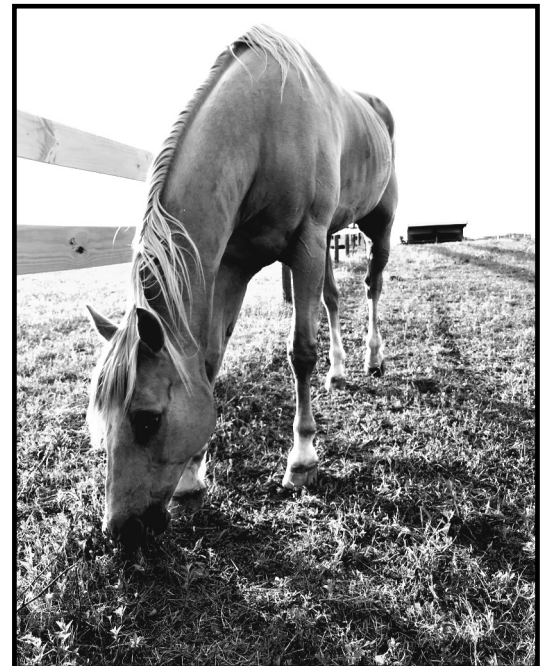
Boone is a 14 year old black/white TWH Paint gelding. He is 14 hh and is a very sweet boy. We were told that he does ride, however, due to his low body score we have not had a chance to evaluate his riding skills. He has good ground manners.



Luna is a 3 year old Gray Arabian filly. She has just spent 2 months with a trainer. Luna needs someone who is willing to go slowly with her training from here. We suspect that she was abused at some point in her life.



Gypsy is a 22 year old Mustang mare. She is 13.1 hh and is a very shy. She is slow to trust humans, and it is obvious that she has not been handled a lot. We are offering Gypsy as a pasture pal. She is very sweet.



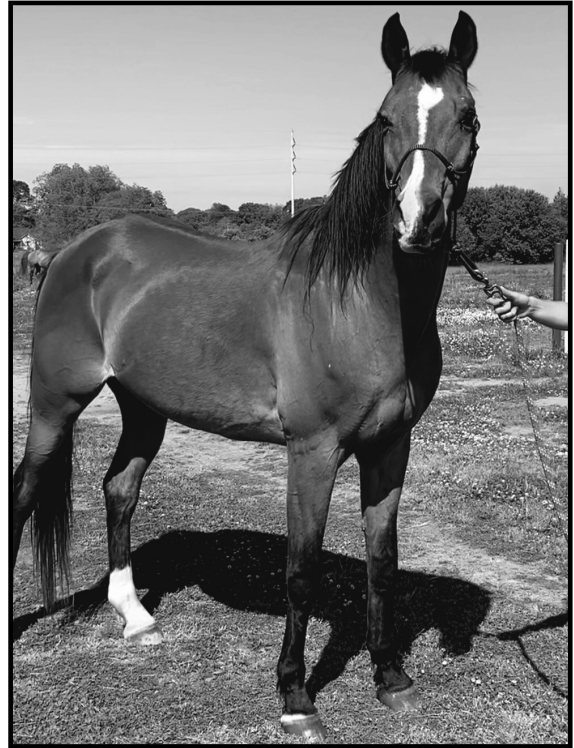
Cisco is a 25 year old Palomino QH gelding. He was one of Mickey Farmer's horses. Cisco is retired and being offered as a pasture pal. He is very sweet, not aggressive to other horses and very pretty to look at! Cisco has a lot of personality, too!.

GERL ADOPTABLES

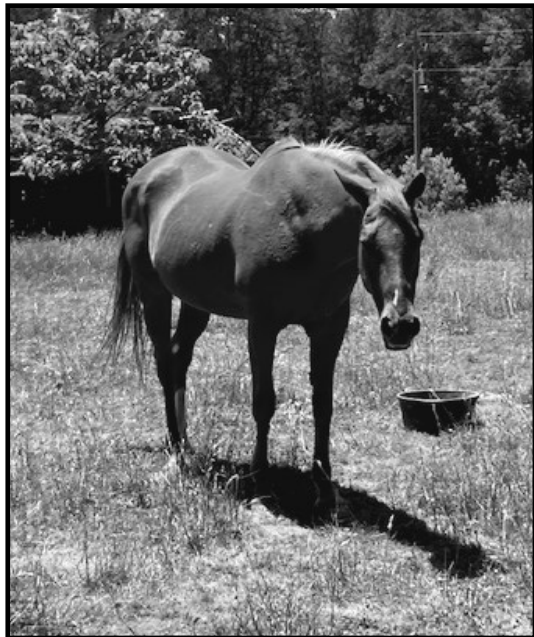
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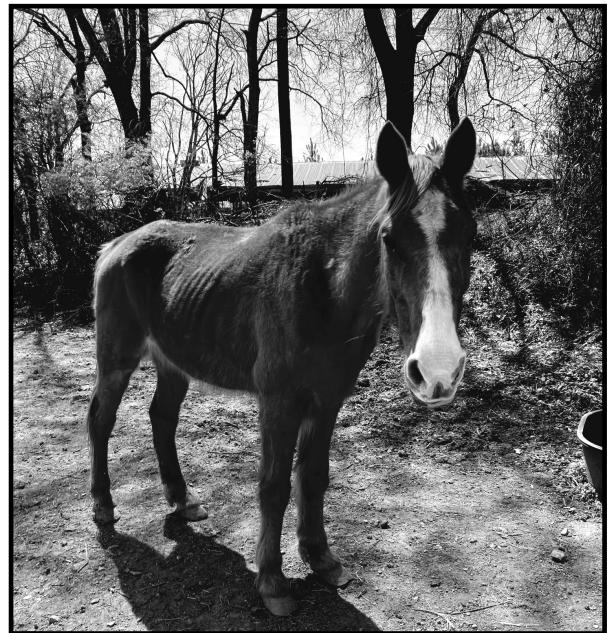
Casper is a 15 year old Cremello QH gelding, 15.2 hh He was one of Mickey Farmer's horses. Casper had his right eye removed in 2013 after an injury, but he has adjusted well. He was used as a trail horse. He is very good boy



Sultan is a 21 year old Bay Arabian gelding. He is a former show horse but still has a lot to offer someone who is looking for a horse who has been there, done that.



Coco is a 31 year old Sorrel QH mare. She is being offered as a pasture pal. CoCoe is very sweet, not aggressive to other horses and very pretty to look at! Maybe someone has a pasture where CoCo could live out the rest of her days?



Captain is a 20+ year old Sorrel TWH gelding. He is being offered as a pasture pal. Captain is the boss of the pasture! He currently shares a pasture with Coco.

Thank you for your donations

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Bob Long
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Linda Stallings



In Memory of

- The Mighty Flynn-small but able to escape and be picked up by Marietta Police; able to unlock any door; able to put Tamma on her butt by Dr. Ava Talmage
- Terri Groover, sister to Christine of Sticky Limbs Stables, Ludowici, GA.
- Shameless, beloved companion of Janel and Samson Hernandez, by Denise Silbert
- Magic Beloved horse of Brad Montgomery by Dr. Ava Talmage
- Tanner, Little Creek Farm, Decatur. "A gentleman and a scholar" by Nancy Scott
- JJ, beloved donkey of Sandy & Bill Lynch & Samantha Holsten by Marian Finco
- Grey Baby & her foal by Sandra Piver

Welcome New Members

Grania Holman & family
Sandra Piver
Jeff Light
Suzanne Dutcher/Beach
Gypsies
Deb Kovac
Ricki Wolf Trotter
Joan Bell

Feed A Horse Program

Erik Wittenzellner
Constance Burchette
Brenda & Ronald Allen
Jim Januzelli
Rosa Allen

In Honor of

Adrianna Lee Barry by
William Rickles
GERL Volunteers by Patty
Livingston

Kroger

Quarterly Check \$98.39

Building Fund for Calvin Center

Jane Buckler
Jean and W.R. Vandeventer
Jeanne Barsanti

Amazon

Your AmazonSmile charity
received \$497.03

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

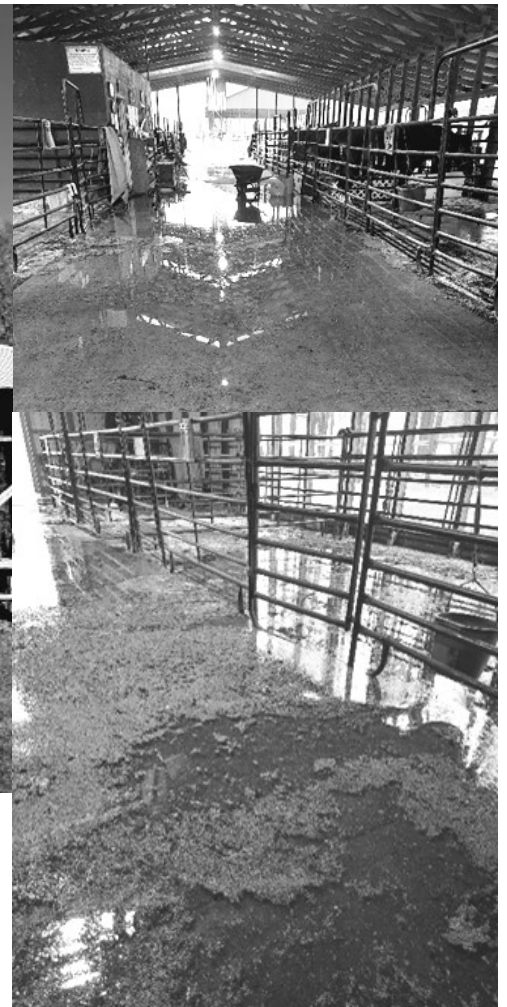
GERL Kicks Off Campaign for Calvin Center Roof Repairs

By Patty Livingston

Last year the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) Board of Directors voted to donate \$25,000 to get a handicapped bathroom, complete with septic tank, built for the Calvin Center equine facility located in Hampton, GA. Kate Robbins, the Calvin Center Equestrian Director, has been obtaining quotes from various contractors and septic tank companies.

Meanwhile, the Winter and Spring rains and wind have wreaked havoc with the tin on both the barn and the arena roofs at the Calvin equine facility. Where there was originally two or three flapping pieces of tin, there are many more now and it is very unnerving to the horses. It is not an ideal situation for therapy to take place while the wind is blowing. Also, they have had a huge issue with all of the water flowing back into the barn and flooding everything. Estimates to fix both roofs and to redirect the water away from the barn are approximately \$33,000.00. The bathroom project has been put on hold for now while we help with the expenses of repairing the roofs. GERL recently sent a check for \$15,000 to help offset the expenses while we raise monies to help cover the remaining costs. We are committed to the veterans who utilize this facility and want to provide them with a safe place to meet and ride.

If you are in a position to help, please consider donating to GERL through our website at <https://www.gerlltd.org> and note Building Fund for Calvin Center. Thank you in advance for supporting our veterans and GERL in this endeavor.



The roof of the arena requires 25 new pieces of roofing and approximately 300 LF of new pine purlins. It will cost \$7,500 just to correct the drainage issues in the horse stall barn.

The last remnants of the Georgia State run Equine Impounds

By Steven Neal

In October of 2008 the Georgia Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Corrections created an equine impound at the Pulaski State Prison. This facility would augment the Mansfield Equine Impound but with prisoners providing the care for the neglected and abused horses that had been turned over to the state. Along with the support that the GERL was already providing for the Mansfield impound support was also provided for this new facility. GERL contributed hay, feed, medical care and supplies, buckets, water troughs, coral panels, saddles, saddle pads, turn out blankets, halters, bridles, brushes, and a host of many other items necessary to provide proper care for horses in dire need of this care.

This facility had its risks of course but ultimately turned out to work so well that in October 2011 a second equine impound was created at the Lee Arrendale State Prison. For this new facility GERL also made significant contributions including not only the supplies listed for Pulaski but the setting up of stalls, a round pen, and creating a coral area for the horses to graze separate from the DOC cattle being maintained there.

While this program lasted the prisoners provided an unexpected benefit in that many had grown up caring for horses and were often skilled riders. The opportunity to care and work with the horses was a reward for good behavior that allowed them to be involved with animals that they already had a love for.

Unfortunately with the GDA decision to close the equine impounds these two impound facilities have also been shut down. To close this book, earlier this year GERL collected all the supplies that had been contributed and on Saturday June 11, 2022 sold most of it at a GERL sponsored Flea Market. A second GERL Flea Market is planned for the fall. The proceeds from these sales will be

used to support abused and neglected horses in other programs that GERL is developing.

See GERL article “The Mansfield Impound – The End of an Era” published in the GERL April, May, June 2020 Newsletter for further details. URL Link provided below:

https://www.gerlltd.org/newsletter_archives/GERL_2020_apr_may_jun_newsletter.pdf



Bruno Finds His Forever Home

By Linda Kundell

I needed a gelding to be a companion to my mare, Jazz. I tried a friend's mare, but Jazz was not very nice to her. I could hear the kicking and screaming when I was in the house! I called Patty and she had Bruno. I went and got him right then. He wasn't too interested in getting in the trailer and it took us over an hour to load him. Since he was going to my house and he probably wasn't going to ride in a trailer again, I was fine with it.

It's been almost a month since Bruno arrived at my farm. He was pushed around a little bit by Jazz but they are buddies now. He is still on the thin side, but he loves his food. He likes to stand in his stall and Jazz stands outside

guarding him. He's got a fan to keep him cool. My grass is almost gone but they both eat the hay. This is a rescue horse that knows he's got a good place to live and a mare to boss him around. What more could he want!



GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

November 2022

Stallion to Gelding Castration Month

Participating Vets Across Georgia

Check the GERL website Oct 1st for participating veterinarians.



JOIN US ON

facebook®

<https://www.facebook.com/georgiaequine.rescueleague>

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

When newsletter time rolls around every quarter it is a good opportunity for me to get familiar with the day-to-day financial activity that comes into GERL. It always makes me feel good about the number of dedicated supporters that we have and who believe in our cause. I've always been of the opinion that you need to run an organization with transparency, while ensuring that your actions would be pleasing to the majority of supporters. That philosophy has served me well over the past 14 years and I continue to follow those main rules with everything with regard to GERL's involvement.

I have never been one to worry about things, especially, things that I cannot directly control. I've stated many times over the years that I'm following the Keven Costner school of thought: "Build it and They Will Come". GERL has an outstanding reputation of helping horses in ways that no other equine rescue operates and for that reason, we have collected a number of devoted supporters and volunteers over the years. None of that would be possible without YOU!

Every new member who signs up makes a difference, as does every existing member renewing their membership each year. GERL has a small group of individuals who give monthly and have done so for years. Y'all are GOLDEN! Words cannot express how appreciative I am to have so many people support a cause that I love so much. You have all given me the opportunity to dream of new programs and opportunities that will benefit Georgia equine and work towards ending neglect and abuse, while resolving the issues of the unwanted horse.

While I'm giving out praise, let me say this about that...GERL volunteers ROCK, too! If you've read through this newsletter you know about the big flea market/tack sale that we recently had at my farm. It was a labor of love, for sure! We had seven familiar faces show up to do the manual labor that it takes to put on such an event. I think I am a pretty hard work-

er, but these folks took "hard work" to a new level. They came early, stayed late and never complained. I feel proud and privileged to also call these people my friends and I don't want to think of GERL without them.

It takes an army and GERL continues to build one; an army of dedicated equine enthusiasts who also understand that there are solutions to many of the equine issues that we are experiencing today. And, not just in Georgia, but all across our country. Other states are collaborating with each other to share equine knowledge. I am looking forward to the future for GERL and excited about any opportunities where we can make a difference!



The Rescue @ Spirit Ridge Farm

Annie's Story

Hi my name is Annie and I was rescued from a Texas kill pen and brought to Spirit Ridge Farm. I have horse PTSD and they say I'll never trust enough to be ridden safely and they are probably right but I am very thankful that someone cared enough to rescue me. I was sick when I got to the farm, and I lost my foal. But I have learned these last three years that most people aren't bad. I used to only let Miss Meg or Miss Sabra or her granddaughter, Kadence touch me and then only sometimes. Now I let other people hug and touch me but Mr. James is my favorite and he volunteers at the rescue. He gives me alfalfa treats. He is kind and I like his hugs. Mr. James says he is just a regular guy with a little bit of damage from living life but I hear him say all the time how much volunteering at the farm has helped him and his children. Lilly is sweet and I think Ben is funny. All the volunteers are pretty cool and I hope everyone understands how much they have helped me.

My name is Sabra Rockwell and I am the Director of The Rescue @ Spirit Ridge Farm. Being retired law enforcement I struggle everyday with my own life purpose and PTSD triggers. 3 years ago, I and ran across an Equine Assisted learning Veterans program. I knew what my horses did for me, but it never occurred that they might help someone else. Saving Annie gave me the idea. After much research I knew this is what I wanted to do at my farm but the time wasn't quite right for me. I didn't have the knowledge I needed to put this into reality so I put it on the shelf and began taking classes to become an Equine Specialist and an Equine Assisted Learning Specialist. 2021 I was ready to go but then the pandemic hit, and I put it back on the shelf again and continued to educate myself. This summer I talked to some friends about my idea. They were in 100% and we seriously began the journey.

It wasn't enough to just offer it to Veterans. I knew First Responders and at-risk children with trauma-based PTSD needed this program as well, so we expanded our thought process to include them.

Our team of volunteer humans + rescue horses provide an alternative to traditional life coaching to help our

learners process and cope with life challenges. Through one-to-one, personal interaction with the horses that we rescue, our Equine Assisted Coaching/ Learning addresses learners' responses such as disconnection, dependence and depression and restores emotional well-being with the help of the connectedness modeled by horses in the herd dynamic. With the guidance of equine partners and a Certified Equine Assisted Learning Coach program facilitator, Learners shift their mindset from self-defeated to self-directed.

Our Vision is through the utilization of rescue horses, that every

veteran, first responder, at-risk child and everyday heroes can have the tools, resources, and support to live an empowered life and make positive contributions to their family and community through Equine assisted coaching.

Our goal is to make our program available free of charge through

grants and generous donation. Unfortunately, currently we do need to charge for sessions to help pay the bills. But as we all know, those who need it the most are usually the one that can least afford a program like this. No one will ever be turned away because they cannot pay.



GERL Stallion to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL:**

1270



Horses in our Foster Care Program

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

Horse	Age	Color	Ridable	Foster Farm
<i>Ransom</i>	28	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Cooper</i>	26	Sorrel	No	Steven Neal
<i>Luna</i>	3	Gray	Yes	CeCe Calli
<i>Boone</i>	14	Paint	Yes	Patty Livingston
<i>Leila</i>	14	Gray	Yes	Patty Livingston
<i>Gypsy</i>	22	Bay	No	Patty Livingston
<i>Cisco</i>	25	Gold	No	Liberty Stables
<i>Casper</i>	14	Gray	Yes	Liberty Stables
<i>Sultan</i>	22	Bay	Yes	Liberty Stables

REACH THOUSANDS OF POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS! ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Coverage in our Newsletter and website!

Business Card Page (Color) Annual: \$100.00

1/4 Page: \$150.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

1/2 Page: \$200.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

Full Page \$300.00 per year (Newsletter/Website/Color)

(Above 3 ads include a 2" X 3.5" color on the front page of our website)
(Customer supplies business card/photos/graphics)

Contact: ads@gerlltd.org

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.

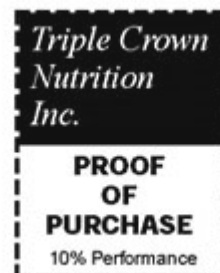
Southern States and Triple Crown Proof of Purchases (POPs) continue to trickle in. We were able to take advantage of the TC offer again this year, which is 1 \$25 VISA gift card for every 12 POPs. Thanks to our TC donors, we had enough for all 12 gift cards! Thank you, again, to our consistent donors 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



The Story of Punch

By Sandy Stephenson

In the fall of 2017, my friend Martha Fillingham, owner of Cohutta Stables in Blue Ridge, and her daughter Reba and I made a trip to Lexington, Kentucky to see the last Saddlebred Show before they moved it to the Horse Park. It had always been held in the city of Lexington. We visited the Horse Park while we were there and discovered that the last day of the Extreme Mustang Makeover was going on. Martha knew how crazy I was about the mustangs, so we went to see the Freestyle portion. Reba was just 10 yrs. old, and she was totally taken and inspired as we watched the Youth Competition. She wants to be a trainer when she grows up and is well on her way. I have been involved with the Mustang Heritage Foundation since it began and had rented a booth at the shows when they were being held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, selling my cowboy clay sculptures. I must admit that it was a good thing I always took someone to help me because I would get so involved watching the competition that I did not pay much attention to my booth.

When we got back to our room that night, Reba kept rattling on about how she wanted to compete and Martha kept telling her that when you do the youth competition, you get a yearling, and you must keep it for a year. Reba already had 3 horses and that was enough. The next morning, Martha was beaming from ear to ear and had a surprise for me. Okay, what if Reba gets the horse, trains it, and competes and when the first 4 months is over and the competition is done, Sandy takes the horse!!

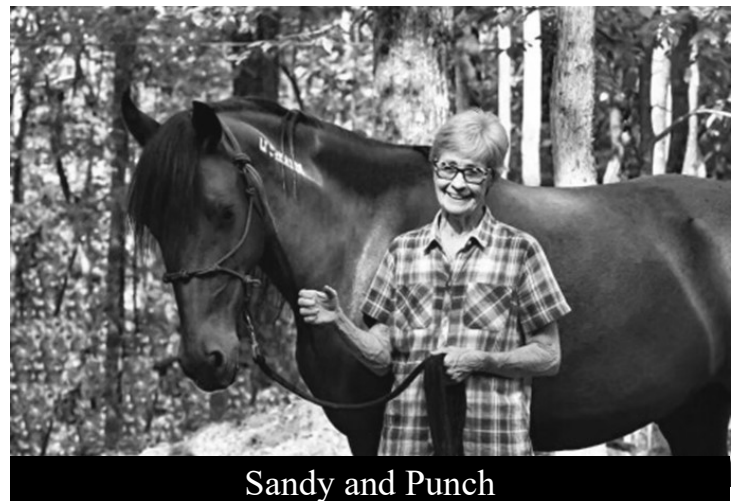
I had always dreamed of having a mustang, but never had all the required equipment to do so. You needed a stock trailer to pick up your horse and mine is a slant load. You need a round pen with 8 ft walls and I no longer have a round pen. Martha has an arena, stock trailer and the round pen. As we drove home Reba, who had been like my grandchild, and I got more excited. She applied to be a contestant and just after Christmas called me all excited, she got excepted and we were to pick up her yearling on February 25, 2018, in Lebanon, Tennessee. When the day came, we headed out. My thoughts were how wonderful a gift Martha and Reba were giving me. We purchased a bunch of alfalfa because we knew that was what they fed in the

holding pens.

The friendly guy from the BLM told Martha to back her trailer into the shoot and he would push the horse into a shoot leading into the trailer. I smiled as he expressed his amazement at Martha's trailer backing skills as she easily whipped it into the spot. As he led this cute little 7-month-old into the shoot so we could put a halter on him. He simply walked in and sat down! We laughed and easily put the halter on him. He was a nice red bay with a black mane and a sorry looking black tail. It looked like maybe the other horses had been eating on his tail. He seemed to have kind of an easy going dufus kind of personality.

On the way home, Reba and I were in the back seat as Martha drove and we started playing Punchbuggy like we always did on our trips. I sent photos of the horse to my friends, and they were coming back with all kinds of names for our gelding like Nevada Prince. He came from the holding pens in Nevada. After a while Martha just blurted out "The horse's name is Punchbuggy." Perfect! Fits his personality, a reflection of the relationship between Reba and I, and I drive an old VW Beetle!

When we got home, we discovered that he sure did not act "wild." He loved attention and wanted to be hugged on and in your space. He was fine in his stall and could not wait for attention. He was born in the holding pens and had a bunch of mares telling him what to do and he liked his new freedom.



Sandy and Punch

Continued on page 24

The Story of Punch

By Sandy Stephenson

We fed him the alfalfa and tried putting his grain on the top of the flakes, so he eventually got used to eating grain. Martha had another yearling so we decided he could go in a pasture with the other young one. Problem was, Punch had never eaten grass. So, picture this Reba is down on all fours in the grass pretending to be eating the grass. Punch is watching her like she is nuts but tries it. It worked! He liked it. We put him out in the pasture and for two weeks it took us half an hour to catch him!

Reba then had until June to teach Punch all his groundwork and we needed to think about what she would do for a freestyle too. We learned that he was brave about most things, and it did not take long before he was easily joining up with her and backing and side passing and doing well. Things went great for the first couple of months and then it did not. Reba got sick of both me and her mom trying to help her. Punch was confused and Reba quit listening to us. The competition was less than a month away and we were at a standstill. Martha knew a great trainer who lived close by, but he had a double lung transplant less than 6 months prior, and we did not know if he could help us. Mark Gregory did come. He sat down in the middle of the arena and quietly, calmly took charge and Reba listened. Before long we were back on track. We introduced Punch to some silly balloon cows on a stick and the music to the Cattle Call with lots of yodeling and practiced our freestyle. Mark really rescued us so Martha decided that Mark should go to Lexington with us.

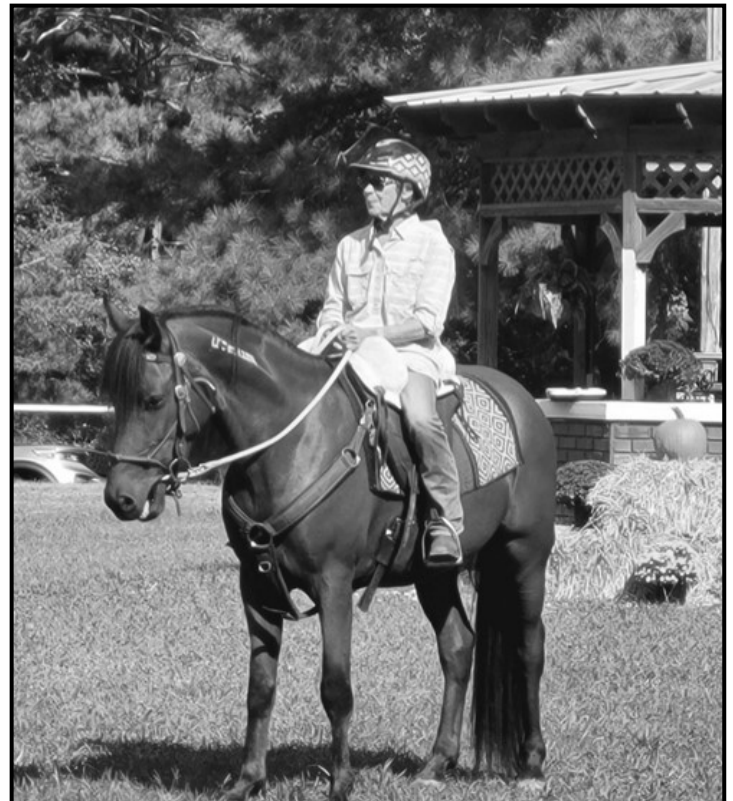
I had been doing monthly reports to the BLM which is required and found that his progress was fun to report and often had to giggle at some of his antics. What we did was that Reba was the competitor, and I took ownership from the beginning. I paid \$25 for Punch. One of the best deals I ever made.

I was of course upsetting my daughter. I was 72 when we picked up Punch. The last thing I needed to be doing was taking on a young horse. I owned 4 horses and my budget was slim. I did it anyway and am glad I did! He has been a reason to get up in the morning and has never attempted to hurt me in any way.

When we got there, we were disappointed to learn that Reba would not be competing in the 8-12 yr old division. They had decided that the youth division would be 8-18 and that Reba would be up against competitors who had done it many times and won big, like Cat Zimmerman. One of the reasons Martha wanted Reba

to do it was that she would soon be 12 and no longer in the 8-12 division. We decided we had come this far and were not gonna let it bother us. Reba went out there with lots of confidence and ended up in 17th place! The top 10 were pretty much the older kids, but we were enormously proud of Reba and Punchbuggy. Mark was fascinated with the whole thing, and it was fun watching him get the "Mustang Disease." We call it being "branded."

Everyone is all about getting the mustangs good homes. They help each other and it is fascinating to see just how much these horse crazy people can do in just 4 months. It is all about Natural Horsemanship and the love of horses. We met so many wonderful people! Everyone has an awesome poster on the outside of their stalls of the trainer and the horse. We printed up the rules to play Punchbuggy and handed them out. The horse in the stall across from ours was laying down one night and we all got concerned. Someone found the trainer and she came to investigate. We all laughed when she explained that he often did that and even snored. She went in and laid down with him!



Sandy and Punch

Continued on page 25

The Story of Punch

By Sandy Stephenson

After we got home and I got my place all ready, Punch came home to live with me. I took it slow. Once he accepted the blanket and then a saddle, I either just walked him or would pony him behind my mare who kept him in line or behind my old man TWH Jake who is his friend. Then I found a 6ft Teddy Bear at a yard sale for \$10 and tied it on to the saddle and Punch carried it around. The neighbors got a kick out of seeing us coming down our backwoods quiet road most every day and Punch thought he was big stuff carrying that big bear.

In March of 2019, after I had him for a year, I applied to the BLM for ownership and soon received his “papers”. He is mine!

In June of 2019 we all went to Lexington again to watch Mark Gregory compete with his mustang Hartley. He named the mare Hartley after the young man who donated his lungs to him and Hartley’s whole family was there to watch. Mark came in 11th and bought Hartley in the auction and brought him home with him. I now must compete against Hartley at our saddle club obstacle competitions. Hartley is amazing and the bond between Mark and his mustang is so incredibly special. I love it that we got him branded. When Mark first got Hartley, he was disappointed because she is a cremello and a mare. No cowboy wants a mare or a cremello. We do not get to pick the horses for the Extreme Mustang Makeover. We must just take what the BLM gives us. In the adult competition the horses go up for auction after the competition is over. Because Mark came in 11th, Hartley sold high. It did not take Mark long to say, “No good horse is a bad color.”

In October of 2019 I lost my Fancy. The best trail horse anyone could have dreamed of. Forward as hell and she took care of me so many times on so many crazy obstacles on the trails. I was so heart broken. Then in November I lost my 16 yr. old Aussie, Bodhi. Double whammy. In March of 2020, I ended up in the hospital twice and thank God for Martha, she came and got my horses and took care of them. It was May before I was back on my feet and then turned around and broke my back twice that year. It was September before I could work with Punch. He was my savior though. I got on him for the first time and he never even flinched. I rode him in the arena, and he was great. Being an old lady, I decided to ask an old friend

Josh Littlejohn to put the first trail ride on him. He followed my mare down the trails like he had always been out there! We have been out there ever since. He has been shown at our local shows and competed in obstacle competitions. He always does me up proud! He will be Five in April of 2022 and his tail touches the ground! He is beautiful! I had his DNA done and it came back Fell Pony. He is not a pony, but he is a bit stocky and has lots of thick mane and tail and I love all the compliments he gets. He is an awesome representative of the mustangs and I sincerely invite all you horse lovers to consider anytime you are thinking of another horse, go to a makeover or a TIP challenge and purchase one. They have 4 months training on them, and they are amazing! Thank you, Martha, and Reba, for making this all happen. No one could ask for a better friend.



Punch is quite a character, according to Sandy.



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**

GERL FLEA MARKET/TACK SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) volunteers have been picking up donated tack from our supporters and hosting flea markets for years. We found that it provides a nice boost to the proceeds we make at our events. GERL has a 10X12 storage building on my property that is usually full of donated items. In addition, GERL maintains a 10X10 booth at Picker's Paradise in Monroe where we display donated tack for sale. The shed is always full even though we pull items out from time to time to stock our booth at Picker's and to transport to an event where we setup a flea market.

All of the tack, fencing supplies and other horse related items that were located in the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) impound barns across Georgia were all been transported to my garage, outbuildings, and back yard. In addition to horse tack, we also had approximately 300 donated Jeep cargo floor mats that were donated by Omix-Ada, Inc., a Jeep accessory company located in Suwanee, Ga. Omix-Ada also donated a set of 5 Jeep wheels to GERL to raise additional funds.



Fencing supplies



Saddles and saddle pads galore!



Volunteers Linda Kundell, Cindy Farris, Jacki Moore and Susan Reid

GERL FLEA MARKET/TACK SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Patty Livingston

We had eight dedicated volunteers who showed up Friday morning and started organizing everything in preparation for the next day. Huge thanks to Jacki Moore, Leslie Lambert, Margaret Clower, Susan Reid, Linda Kundell and Steven Neal. Dedicated to the cause, they all showed up the next morning to help.

The gates opened up at 9:00 am and we were covered up with people until 1:00. It was amazing to see so much disappear with the most enthusiastic buyers. There was so much to look through, most people were there for a while trying to decide what to buy. Erma McClain showed up with some unframed art that was recently donated by Arlene Kosack and they went like hot cakes. Huge thanks to Arlene and all of the others who donated to our sale. Because of you, we were able to make over \$7,000.00 that day. Who would have believed it!?



Customers had plenty of items to choose from.



CeCe Calli & Steven Neal



Margaret Clower



The Jeep mats were a big hit

Update on Jenny, one of the Six Amigos

By Angie Hammond

I got my first horse I got when I was 16 years old. He was my heart horse. I owned him for 23 years before losing him at age 29. I've had quite a few horses come and go through the years since him and I never thought I would have another heart horse. Boy, was I wrong. I was lucky enough to get Jenny as a foster horse and she was with me for two years. In those two years I fell in love with her, but I never had any intentions of adopting her because I already had three horses. I knew we had a bond, but she went off into training and I figured after that she was going to be adopted.



Jenny, one of the 6 Amigos

Well... Needless to say that did not happen. I was the one that ended up picking her up from the trainer and she came "home." We are turning out to be a pretty good team. She's already turning out to be a wonderful trail horse and also does great on the obstacle course at

Well... Needless to say that did not happen. I was the one that ended up picking her up from the trainer and she came "home." We are turning out to be a pretty good

team. She's already turning out to be a wonderful trail horse and also does great on the obstacle course at

Cece's. She went from a feral little 8-month-old to a beautiful 3-year-old with a super level head on her. She has a super willing attitude and I think just wants to please me. I definitely see a bright future for us and hopefully she will see her first horse show in August. Hopefully by next year she will become my little Hunter/Jumper horse.



Jenny and Angie are a team now.

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 \$2,078.45 on feed for the horses used by our veterans at Calvin Center.
- GERL spent \$667.38 on feed for the horses used by our veterans at Warriors Ranch.
- GERL spent \$1,649 for vet care for horses in our foster program.
- GERL sent \$15,000 to Calvin Center for repairs to their arena and barn.
- GERL sent \$10,000 to Warriors Ranch in Dublin for stalls and footing for their arena.
- GERL spent \$1,728 on Warriors Ranch for spraying pesticide on their pastures.
- GERL spent a total of \$31,122.83 in Q2 helping horses and veterans.

Animal Kindness

By Patty Livingston

My neighbors own 200 acres behind my property and there are approximately thirty head of cattle that roam on the 100 acres of pasture. Back in early February they discovered a very young calf whose mother had died for unknown reasons. They estimated that the calf was approximately a week old and immediately pulled out the baby bottles to provide the milk she needed to survive. Since I am retired and they work, I offered to help with the care of the calf. They readily took me up on it. So, I began my now job of bottle-feeding the baby calf, known as “Daisy Duke”.

It was during that timeframe that I moved Captain, an elderly sorrel TWH that GERL had recently taken in, over to the neighbor’s pasture to join with Coco, a sorrel mare, who has been there since Christmas. To complete this menagerie was a donkey named Dolly that GERL rescued the day before the big Atlanta ice storm back in 2013. She was adopted by my neighbor years before and had recently lost her pasture mate. Dolly is like most donkeys, very vocal.

In the beginning, the calf was penned up in a large stall that was erected under the barn with four panels that were turned upside down.



She had a nice comfy bed of shavings and hay, located in the barn which was very near my back yard. Every morning I would go out to feed Daisy and there was Dolly, standing at the gate begging for food in that vocal way that donkeys have. After a week I decided to let Daisy out of her pen, hoping that one of the other cows would adopt her. She ran around and kicked up her heels, but all of the mama cows moved out of her way, avoiding any chance of that.

Every morning afterwards, Daisy was at the gate at 8:00 o’clock sharp, along with Dolly, Coco and Captain. I gave each one of them a half scoop of feed

while Daisy waited patiently for her morning bottles. The three would usually be with the calf when she arrived in the late afternoon for her second feeding. I never got tired of seeing them hanging out together and seemingly so protective of Daisy. She felt comfortable



enough to lay down at their feet while she waited for the bottles to arrive.

Daisy is now weaned, and she no longer comes to the gate for a bottle. It makes me smile though, every time I think about the four of them hanging out together. Animals have a way of knowing when to be gentle and I thought it a good lesson for us humans to try a little kindness towards each other sometime. It will make you feel good!



GERL Gets Help with New Arrivals

By Patty Livingston

A few months ago, I received a phone call from a dad who wanted to let me know that his 9 year old daughter, Olivia, was trying to earn her Girl Scout Bronze Award. She had gathered up a box full of horsey items, including cookies, picks, brushes, and several other items. He wanted to know if he could drive over to my house and present GERL with the big box of items. Of course, I readily agreed.

What a nice family they turned out to be! I was able to meet Olivia's older sister and mom, who were all very supportive of Olivia's horse crazy ways. I invited Olivia and her family to come back sometime and help

me with the horses and lo and behold, they came one very hot day. What kind of things do you do with horses on such a day? Bathe them, of course! And, that is exactly what Olivia and her dad, Jeffrey, did! They bathed two of the new horses that had come into the GERL foster program and both were in dire need since they both were white.

I wanted to call out a BIG thanks to Olivia and her family for coming out and spending some time with the new horses and making them look so good! Thanks, Olivia!



Luna and Boone are now being fostered together and they seem to be the best of friends, already. Maybe that is because they are both at the low end of the pecking order and have spent much of their previous lives being bullied by older, bigger horses. In any event, all is good now!



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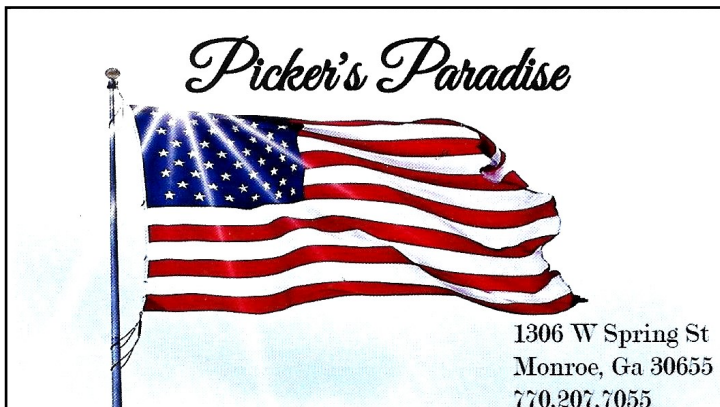
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