



**Georgia Equine Rescue
League, Ltd.**
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference

Volume #163

www.gerltd.org

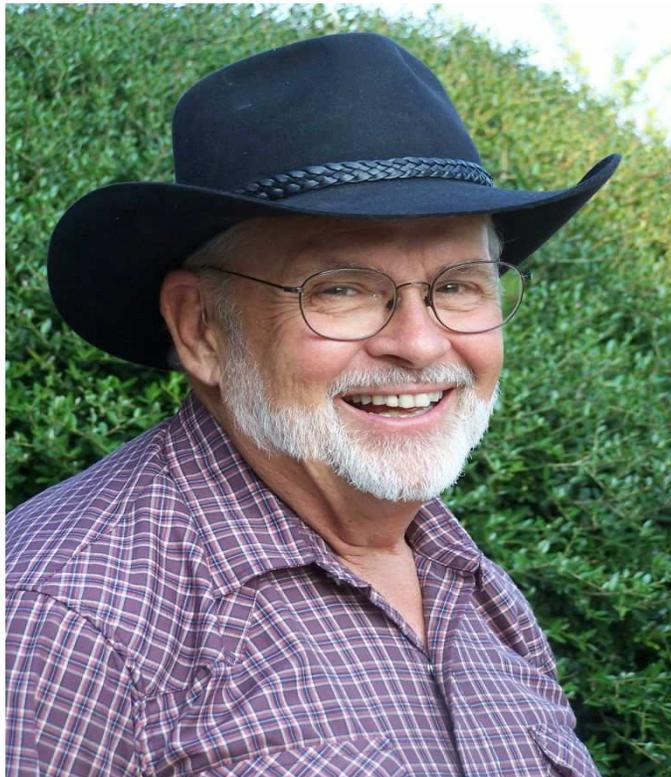
Jan / Feb 2009

**Dr. Everett Eugene Ensminger
1940 - 2008**

The following is an email that I shared with our friends the day after Gene passed away ... Patty has asked that I share it with you ...

As I reflect on my memories of Gene, I can't help but have in the forefront of my mind Life On A Train ... Gene sent this to some of us (via email) some months back. At that time it was most impactful to me and I knew that it was Gene's way of telling us that he would soon be exiting our train.

Whether Gene was on your train for months or for years, I think it is safe to say that he made an impact in some way in your life. I met Anne and Gene in the mid 90's and have many wonderful memories of camping with our horses, singing karaoke around the campfire, the cowboy church services, working endless hours for GERL and just having a good time.



(continued on page 8)

**Who's Who
Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.**

Board Members

Patty Livingston, President
(770) 867-0760 / gerlpatty@yahoo.com
Ken Archer, Vice President
(770) 554-1381 / gerlken@bellsouth.net
Diana Kelsey / Treasurer
(770) 267-0867 / gerlanners@bellsouth.net
Anne Ensminger / Secretary
(770) 464-3348 / missanne612@bellsouth.net
Steven Neal / Alternate
(706) 342-3422 / gerlsteven@bellsouth.net

**Area Coordinator Director
Ronnie Pesserilo**

(770) 466-4515 / gerlrone@bellsouth.net

**Adoption Coordinator
Donna Pieper**

(404) 797-3333 / gerldonna@bellsouth.net

**Events Coordinator
Susan Archer**

(770) 554-1381 / susangerl3@bellsouth.net

**Foster Care Coordinator
Robin White**

(478) 783-1156 / robin@cerakko.net

**Volunteer Coordinator
Kelly Lockerman**

(706) 353-0413 / gerl_volunteers@yahoo.com

***If you are interested in volunteering as an Area Coordinator for a county not listed here, please contact Ronnie Pesserillo (770) 466-4515 / gerlrone@bellsouth.net.**

**GERL Advisory Board
Billy Myers, DVM
Kenneth Marcella, DVM
Bill Newman**

**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**

Area Coordinators

**Nicki Thigpen - Warren, McDuffie, Columbia
Counties (706) 465-3905/
daydreamfarm@yahoo.com**

**Rebecca Kilgore - Dawson , Lumpkin, Hall
Counties**

(706) 429-5075/rkilgore@acs-ebiz.com

**Rita Benfield - Douglas, Haralson, Carroll
Counties**

(770) 489-0212/ritabenfield@yahoo.com

**Juli Williams - Chatham, Bryan, Effingham
Counties**

(912) 234-8458/reins2go@aol.com

**Annette Raybon - Paulding , Cobb, Bartow
Counties**

(770) 445-8655/raybonta@bellsouth.net

Susan Wrensen - Cherokee County

(770) 331-6947/swrensen@comcast.net

**LeighAnn Holton - Glynn, McIntosh, Wayne,
Brantley & Camden Counties**

(912) 267-0912/jtl_associates@comcast.net

Jan & Buddy Williams - Meriwether County

(706) 846-8277/jan@buddyscompanies.com

Anne Ensminger - Newton County

(770) 464-3348/missanne612@bellsouth.net

**Don & Karen McClain - Franklin, Stephens,
Banks Counties (706)754-6120/
gerlmcl@alltel.net**

Robin White - Pulaski County

(478) 783-1156/robin@cerakko.com

Lynn McMinn - Gwinnett, Walton, Oconee Counties

(404) /372-9245/lynn.mcminn@yahoo.com

Colleen Stewart - Rabun County

(706) 754-1030/olives@alltelnet

Ferrell & Penny Sellers - Lowndes, Berrien,

Lanier, Echols, Brooks, Cook Counties

(229) 630-1719/horselvr311@bellsouth.net

Joanne Hitman - Jackson County

(770) 536-4858 / (404) 697-9226

jhitman@mindspring.com

Tanya Kingsley - Jasper County

(706) 468-0794/twkings@bellsouth.net

Susie Bond - Morgan & Green Counties

(770) 464-4353 / gersusie@att.net

Kriston Glushko - Polk & Floyd Counties

(678) 757-1138 / krgs@earthlink.net

**Newsletter Editor - Betty Evenson
(706) 265-5045 / gerlbetty@aol.com**

***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
10th of each month for submission in the follow-
ing month's newsletter.**

Straight Truth

By Brian Dees

“I’ve dealt with my ghosts, and faced all my demons, finally content with a past I regret...found you firm, found strength in moments of weakness, for once I’m at peace with myself, I’ve been burdened with blame, trapped in the past for too long.....I’m movin’ on.”

That is the first verse of a song by Rascall Flatts....and it is pretty adequate of some of my experiences as President of the GERL. I have dealt with the ghosts that were troubling the GERL, faced the demons that were trying to block the GERL from ensuring its monies and materials were actually reaching the horses that needed them.

I am at peace with a past that I regret due to having to fuss too much, jump up and down and insist that people behave.

I found the members of the GERL firm in their commitments to the horses, and found strength in my moments of weakness from many, many members of this great organization.

I have been burdened with blame for all sorts of things that are just too long and dreary to go into, and trapped in the past too long, trying to solve problems that should have never existed.

And now....I’m movin’ on. And I am able to say that with all of the experiences I have had with the GERL, being President has been the one job that I loved the most. It has also been the one job that I hated the most at the same time. I have been honored....HONORED, to be your president these past years.

Each and every member of this organization in some way or another has enriched my life, and given me inspiration to keep on keeping on. I appreciate all the support and love and caring that you have displayed towards me, my family, and most importantly, the horses.

In January, Patty Livingston will take of the reins of the GERL, and I will go back to being a regular member. I am not going away, I will not to be in charge any more. I will however, be here to support Patty, and am asking that each and everyone of you do the same.

Step up, let her know who you are. Introduce yourself to her, and let her get to know you, if you do not already.

Our organization has only had two presidents prior to Patty. Betty Evenson was our first, and then myself. The fact that I was able to accomplish each goal I set when I entered as president, is directly attributed to my wonderful Board of Directors. I love and cherish them each and everyone.

Pat Dean, Anne Ensminger, Margaret Clower, and Mary Loudermilk are the strongest, smartest women, most diligent people in the world when it comes to taking care of horses, and the organization, and I could not have done it with out them.

To the ladies mentioned above, THANK YOU, from the bottom of my heart.

To my wife and children, and my parents, who have stood by me, while I took time away from them to devote to the GERL, THANK YOU!

To my assistants, Cindy Jackson, Margaret Poindexter, Robin White, THANK YOU!

To each of our foster and adoptive homes, especially to Jo Ann Hitman, THANK YOU!

To each member, who paid their dues, and volunteered, and sweated, and sacrificed right along with the rest of us, THANK YOU.

Each of you have made my term as President something of which I will always be proud.

To Patty Livingston, I hand to you, what Betty handed to me; the reins of this great group of people, who have always remembered our constant theme, “It’s all about the horses”. Take care to give them your all, for they deserve nothing less, and they will give you nothing less of themselves than everything.

Folks, it is time for someone else to take over, and I have every confidence in Patty and her new Board of Directors.

And that, my friends is the Straight Truth!

A Note From The (New) President's Desk

One of my favorite memories (and campfire stories) is my first GERL Fall Fest. It was October, 1994 and I believe it was the "1st Annual". It was held at Sunburst Stables and rained the entire weekend. I had a blast and vowed to make the GERL rides a part of my riding agenda. I've been attending Poker Rides and Fests, ever since. Anyone from back then will tell you that I never got involved as a volunteer. Sure, I helped to set up some tables or clean up after an event, every now and then, but I'm talking about putting my name on a list and "COMMITTING". My affiliation was strictly for my riding pleasure. That was 14 years ago and though I've handled the Fallfest auction a few times, I still avoided the BIG "C".

Most of the current board members have held their positions with the GERL for 5 years now and, with the exception of our Secretary, Anne Ensminger, have expressed a desire to pass the baton on to someone else. These folks have gone over and beyond fulfilling their positions. They have done whatever it takes to get the job done and I am personally grateful for all of the things they have accomplished and for the many sacrifices they have made over the years.

Many of you have probably heard that I have volunteered to be the next president of the GERL. This change was effective January 1, 2009. Brian and the other board members will be available to ensure that the transition is a smooth one. The new 2009 officers are:

President – Patty Livingston
Vice President – Ken Archer
Secretary – Anne Ensminger
Treasurer – Diana Kelsey
Alternate – Steven Neal

Pat Dean will remain the liaison between the GDA and GERL for now with this transitioning to me in the very near future. Betty Evenson has agreed to handle the newsletter and since this is a role she has performed in the past, the transition should be seamless. Robin White will continue as the Webmaster and Foster Care Coordinator. Ronnie Pesserilo will be our new Area Coordinator Director. We will be reviewing the current Area Coordinator positions to find out which volunteers wish to remain in that role and which counties will have a vacancy. These roles will be revamped in the coming weeks and more volunteers will be needed. Susan Archer will be the new Events Coordinator, which is a very important, huge job.

I have had several people come up to me and tell me that they will help. You have no idea how comforting it is to hear that from so many. It just proved a point to me that this organization is made up of a wonderful group of caring folks who just want to help the horses. Thanks to everyone who has already contacted me with your desire to help.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with more changes to come, including a new spring ride to honor our friend and a loyal friend to the horses, Gene Ensminger. With the effects of the drought and the slow economy, the horses need us now, more than ever!

Perhaps you are like me and resisted volunteering in the past because of one reason or another ... Maybe your situation has changed and you have some time to devote to helping GERL help the horses ... If so, I'd love to hear from you!

Happy New Year!
Patty

**Please Make Note of
GERL's NEW ADDRESS**

GERL - PO Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30260



A Note from the Secretary's Desk By Anne Ensminger

So much has happened since the last time I wrote the Secretary's Desk article. I find that I am the only remaining member of the GERL Board of Directors from that time. I am now a part of a new Board, which is made up of some very fine people. This newsletter is full of information concerning the changes so I will just say that I already miss my former fellow Board members greatly. We all thank them for a job well done and realize that they deserve a rest. I wish them God Speed and look forward to seeing them enjoying their horses at a GERL event very soon. (Photo left to right ... Margaret Clower, Anne Ensminger, Brian Dees, Mary Loudermilk, Pat Dean)



Foster and Adoptive Homes Desperately Needed By Anne Ensminger, Secretary

As everyone can see, we have a new Board of Directors, a new address, and a new newsletter editor, which has led to a new look for our newsletter. These things are just the beginning. We also have a new Foster Home Coordinator and a new Adoption Coordinator. Robin White is in charge of foster homes and Donna Pieper is in charge of adoptions. These two ladies are anxious to get to work making a difference for horses in need.

Never has the need been greater in these two areas. Horses are being abandoned and given up because of job losses or other financial hardships that are the result of the present economy in our country. GERL is now frequently called upon to help these horses, therefore, we are in need of help from our membership as never before.

If you could temporarily keep a horse until a home can be found, please contact Robin White at robin@cerakko.com. If you are interested in adoption, please contact Donna Pieper at donna.pieper@merial.com. Let Donna know what you are looking for (mare, gelding, young horse, old horse, pet, or riding horse). If you have made such an offer in the past and have not been contacted, rest assured that you WILL get a response from Robin or Donna. The need is great. Please help us meet this need and help these horses.

If Your Name Is Listed Here, Your Membership Is Due For Renewal! This Will Be Your Last Newsletter Unless You Renew.



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 Buck Laura
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 Fontaine Nancy
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 Hicks Pamela
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 Holliday Cheri and Family
 Holloway Donna
 Homans Lara
 Horne Danny
 Horsfall Carol & Robert
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Russell Terry
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Schwerder Catherine
Self Charles
Shelton Joesph & Stephanie
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Please continue to support GERL ...

**Junior Membership \$15 (12 and under)
Single Membership \$25
Family Membership \$35
Business, Club, etc. \$50**

***Membership form is on the last page of this newsletter**



Dr. Everett Eugene Ensminger 1940 - 2008

(continued from the front page)

Not only was Gene a wonderful friend to me, he was my wise advisor while serving for several years with me on the GERL board. Gene would listen to all options, opinions, etc. and always had a very wise statement to make regarding the issue. He was a wonderful addition to our board and I thoroughly enjoyed his involvement.

Gene fought hard right up until the end, trying each option that would give him a bit more time here with Anne, his wonderful wife who he truly adored. He was honest, courageous and a shining example of a strong Christian man as he leaned hard on his faith. He was blessed to be at home and spend his last hours with Anne. Gene's train ride is over and he has now gone to meet the Lord - and probably has the angels singing karaoke ...

I am proud to say that Gene provided me with wonderful baggage and although he has exited my train, he has left an everlasting impression on my life. I will miss him always

Betty Evenson

*Life On A Train is a wonderfully impactful email that Gene sent some of us in his last months. It explains life as a train ride - folks get on and ride with you sometimes for a short time ... sometimes for a long time. They exit at different times and under different circumstances. Sometimes they leave you with baggage (memories good and bad) and sometimes you barely remember that they even rode with you. It is a must read and a must share email. If you would like a copy of Life On A Train please email me at gerl-betty@aol.com and I will be happy to email you a copy.



Dear GERL

Please accept this donation in memory of Gene Ensminger who was the best GERL cheerleader EVER! His shining example will live on in others and I believe that was always his wish. I do know for a fact that he has influenced me and others to step forward and make a commitment to help.

Patty Livingston

See Ya - To My Good Friend Gene Ensminger

To my friend Doctor Gene, who I thought was keen, and loved a good song about trains.

He's traveling now, but I'll catch up some how, at the next rainbows end when it rains.

Dan Bellor

Memories of Gene Ensminger



My thoughts and memories of Gene are of best friend and neighbor. We moved to Dally Road when it was just a one lane dirt road and we were the only ones there but soon Gene and his family moved to the hill above us. We both had teenage girls and they soon were riding up and down the road on our horses and our families became great friends. They were the kind of neighbors that you wish everybody had, the kind that were always there for you.

When Gene was single again, he met wonderful Anne and he brought her to meet us. He was so in love and for the rest of his life, they shared something really, really special. I think it was instant knowledge that they were meant to be together and together they were.

We were fortunate enough to travel with Anne & Gene and our horses to Custer, South Dakota and ride some of the most wonderful places on earth. Gene planned each stop along the way and made sure they were the right ones for us and our horses. It was spectacular and the trip was one of a lifetime. A life worth living is one of memories, both good and bad but all of mine with dear, wonderful, teacher and friend, Gene are all wonderful and so special. He touched us in ways that he never knew and for that we are so grateful to have known him. We miss him so much and the hill above us will never be the same. However, we still have wonderful Anne on our hill and the memories will live on in our hearts.

We love you!

Lamar & Kathy Chandler

I have so many memories and thoughts about Gene that I would love to share. Those who had the pleasure of working with Gene knew what an open, honest and fair man he was. I have seen Gene fret about a problem that GERL was working on, never saying much until he thought things through, then offered what he felt was a fair and equitable solution that would work for all parties.

My very, very fondest memory though is one that will be etched in my brain forever. I cannot remember which GERL Fest we were at but Anne & Gene had been out on the dance floor for quite sometime enjoying themselves. Most of us had wandered back to the fire at our campsite. I happened to look up and saw Anne & Gene dancing their way over to the campfire, lost in each others arms with the biggest smiles on their faces and in their eyes. Full of love and life with Anne in his arms ... that is my best memory of Gene Ensminger.

Ronnie Pesserilo

Cowboy's Prayer

"I just came again to tell you, Lord,
How happy I've been
Since we've found each other's
friendship and you took away my
sin.

I don't know much of how to pray,
But I think about you everyday.

So Jesus, this is me
checking in today."

Shared with Gene by
Marion Cobb

Donations Made to GERL In Memory Of Gene Ensminger

Karla & Mark Matheson
Covington, GA

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Alpharetta, GA

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Pat Dean
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And Continued Support**

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Ava, Sandy, Diane, Robin, Catherine, Pat,
Angela, Mary Ann, Maureen & Luis of
Hickory Ridge Stable

**Is Your GERL Membership
Due For Renewal?**

See page 6 and 7 to see
if your name is listed for renewal.

If you are listed ... you must renew
or this will be your last newsletter.

Please renew today!

**GERL
Calendar of Events**

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 28th
Golden Corral - Winder, GA

Poker Ride

Saturday, March 14th
Dawson Forest - Dawsonville, GA
*See flyer in this newsletter

Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

May 1st - 3rd
Round Oak @ Oconee Nat'l Forest
*Details to follow in
next month's newsletter

Fall Fest, 2009

October 30th - Nov 1st
Location to be announced

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



A NEW RIDE TO HONOR GENE ENSMINGER

By: Patty Livingston, President

I already told you that I didn't volunteer to do much of anything prior to becoming president of GERL. I didn't tell you that the person responsible for my decision to step up was Gene Ensminger. As most of you know, Gene was a special person and he had a special place in his heart for GERL. You could always find his smiling face at any GERL function. In many ways, he was the heartbeat, along with his sweet wife, Anne. When Gene got sick and wasn't able to come to the rides, anymore, it seemed that things had changed with GERL, as well.

Dare I volunteer to be the President? OMG! What an obligation that would be! It was a thought that I tossed around for the better part of the day and decided to sleep on it and make a decision the next day. I woke up the next morning and knew the answer. Gene popped into my thoughts every time I started weighing out the "negatives". How could I not? I had to share this news with Anne, who was staying quite close to Gene's bedside by then. I'll never forget the excitement in her voice when I told her the news. She immediately told Gene, who was nearby. The news was just what Gene needed to lift his spirits. As the weeks unfolded, I continued to make my calls to the Ensminger household, each call reporting an addition to the new GERL Board and anything newsworthy to lift their spirits. I wanted to make Gene proud of us. He had this special ability to make you want to be a better person. He was a shining example of goodness. He will be missed!

It seemed the natural thing to create an annual ride to honor this wonderful man. Thus, "The Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride" came to be. I am very excited about this new ride that will take place the weekend of May 1st. It will be held in a new location to most folks. We'll be riding in the Oconee National Forest between Gray and Monticello. I have gotten great recommendations about this place and I think it'll be perfect to host this 1st annual event in Gene's honor. Mickey Farmer has already graciously agreed to do the auction. We'll have music, food and plenty of fun. I hope you'll put this ride on your calendars right now and come out and support GERL and honor a great man. Look for more updates about this ride in the coming newsletters.

1st Annual Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride To Benefit the Georgia Equine Rescue League

May 1 - 3, 2009

- Come honor a great man and support a great cause.
- Trail Riding in the Oconee National Forest - many miles of scenic trails
- Live auction with lots of great deals
- Bring a dish and join us for a "Potluck Dinner" on Friday night
- Breakfast to be served on Saturday & Sunday mornings
- Fantastic dinner on Saturday night
- Music / dance on Saturday night
- Catch up with old friends and meet new friends
- To be held at Ron & Adrian Cook's in Round Oak, GA, located between Gray and Monticello

**Mark your calendars and join us
for this wonderful celebration of
Gene's life and his commitment
to GERL.**

**Details and registration
information will be in next month's
newsletter.**





Youth Artists Needed For GERL Tee Shirt Contest

GERL would like to invite young horse lover's (no one over 13, please) to create a design that will be used on new GERL kid's shirts. Take a minute ... and think about what GERL means to you and create a piece of art.

Please have all entries submitted no later than March 1st. You may mail your entries to Diana Kelsey - PO Box 207 - Good Hope, GA 30641 or email them to gerlanners@windstream.net.

Dear GERLS,

Thanks so much to every one who has contributed the Farnum wormer UPCs over the years. The Farnum company has discontinued this program as of 1/1/09. We benefited by nearly \$8,000.00!! So thanks to you and thanks to Farnum. I got our next to the last check for about \$28.00 from Farnum about a month ago. I'm sure GERL has put it to good use already. I know it doesn't sound like much, but it is 3 bags of feed, or a bit of bedding that we didn't have before.

I just sent another 238 UPCs to Farnum today. So we should be getting one more check out of this program. A special thanks to so many of you. This last shipment of UPCs came from Mary Johnson in Covington, Brian Dees Clinics, Henry and Maryellen Pentland in Madison, Nancy Ozburn in Snellville, Bonnie Maloney in Lithia Springs, Lisa Henson in Pine Mountain, Carol Royer in Social Circle, Sally Bradiagn in Madison, Dee Allen in Armuchee, and Elizabeth Harris of Brindywine Equestrian Center. Some of you I have gotten so used to hearing from that I will certainly miss your mail!!

Several of you have asked about my health and my knee replacement surgery that went so wrong last year. On Sept 17, 2007, I had a partial knee replacement in my left leg because of arthritis, lack of mobility and PAIN. Unfortunately I contracted MRSA, an antibiotic resistant staff infection, while in the hospital. I stayed in the hospital for 3 months and eventually had 4 more surgeries to correct the problems and came out with a full knee replacement late January 2008. During rehab, my tibia below the prosthesis cracked, and as I found out later, so did the femur just above the prosthesis. So this past November 6, I had another replacement surgery (#6) with a "revision" and new prothesis. I lost another 6 inches of bone in my leg. Its not shorter or anything, because the difference is made up with steel rods.

I am doing great! No, really. Its slow and frustrating at times, but I finally feel energetic and GOOD. It will be another six months before I can participate in any 'strenuous' activity, but I am walking with a cane, and hope to be walking on my own in another few weeks. The bones have to heal.

Thank you for all your notes and good wishes. And thank you for your support for the Farnum Cash Club program over the years.

Jill Gray

Editor's Note: Thank you, thank you, thank you Jill. Your many years of work with this program have been very profitable. GERL greatly appreciates your efforts!

Dear GERL

Our fall Customer Appreciation Day and Flea Market was a great success. We are happy to say that we sold 30 booths this time. That means \$600 for the GERL!



We hope this will help make the holidays a little better for the guys that you help. Thanks for all the great work you do and Happy Holidays from everyone at The Stock Market.

David & Marilyn Crabb
The Stock Market - Conyers, GA

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With You

Marty Paulk as you continue your
battle with cancer



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

**"When I can't ride anymore,
I shall keep horses as long as I can
hobble along with a bucket
and a wheelbarrow.
When I can't hobble,
I shall roll my wheelchair out to the fence
of the field where my horses graze,
and watch them."**

by: Monica Dickens

Attention Trail Riders

Don't miss the 2nd annual
Back Country Horseman Benefit Ride
to be held at East Fork Stables - April 23rd - 26th.
Come enjoy great trails ... wonderful meals,
a live and silent auction and much more.

For info contact
Betty Evenson (706) 265-5045 / gerlbetty@aol.com



GERL'S Annual Meeting



**will be held on
Saturday, February 28th
from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
at
Golden Corral in Winder
163 E May Street
(770) 867-7111**

This meeting is for all GERL members, and anyone who is interested in GERL. We will have a review of 2008 and will share with you some of our plans for 2009 as we move forward with new leadership. We have lots to discuss this year! We hope that you will plan to attend.

**If you have any questions, please call
Diana Kelsey (770) 267-0867
Ken Archer (770) 554-1381**

WITH YOUR HELP... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

***Area Coordinators
please plan to be at Golden Corral
at 12:00 p.m. for a meeting prior
to the annual meeting.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE BUSINESSES
WHO DONATED ITEMS FOR FALL FEST
PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM WHENEVER YOU CAN**

The Stock Market - Conyers – David and Marilyn Crabb, Owners
The Barn Door - Dawsonville – Betty Evenson, Owner
Creations by RAZ - Dawsonville – Ray Ziebell, Owner
Mary's Tack, Feed & Pet - Bogart
TC Country - Canton - Sabina Yepes, Owner
Purina Feed Company
Nutrena Feed Company
Chris Cox Horsemanship
Clinton Anderson
American Paint Association
Schwab Leathercraft - Canton – Art Schwab, Owner
Chris Houck, Artist - Tuscon, AZ

**More Fall Fest Pix
(thanks to photographer Pierette Ziebell)**



Top Photo - Liz Dees & granddaughter Emma
Photo At Left - Thomas Threatt & Mickey Farmer



Top Photo - Ronnie Pesserilo
Photo At Left - Mary Loudermilk & Smoke

**Thanks to these individuals who
donated their time and/or items for
Fall Fest**

Mickey Farmer, Autioneer
Liz Dees
Dick & Chalice Surles
Jan & Bobby Smith
Jeff & Lisa Wiley
Anne Ensminger
Ray & Pierette Ziebell
Pat Dean
Margaret Clower
Margo Clower
Sue Wrenson
Mary Loudermilk
Mary Ellen Penland
Linda Tucker
Zoe
Barbara Decker
Ken & Susan Archer
Julie Schwab
Ronnie Pesserilo
Pat Hester
Iva McGraaw

I remember being concerned that there wouldn't be enough donations to justify having an auction at Fall Fest this year. I put a plea for help in a couple of the newsletters and the auction items started pouring in. You people are some of the kindest in the world and I'm sure it will be rewarded in Heaven someday.

And, in case you didn't hear, the auction raised a little over \$4,000.00! Overall, we raised over \$5,000.00 on Fall Fest. That is a fabulous feat, considering that we only had about 48 people registered for the ride. This proves my point above about the kind of people who support this organization. It also proves that Mickey Farmer can sell anything to anybody, AND, he CAN get blood out of a turnip!!

I know that I've forgotten some people who donated because many items started appearing the day of the auction. Please forgive me for that. I just want to make sure that everybody who supports GERL in any way... WE THANK YOU ALL!!!! Without you, none of this would be possible.

**More Fall Fest Pix
(thanks to photographer Pierette Ziebell)**



Photos From
Top

Pam Borst &
Lee Myers

(middle)
Pat Dean

(left)
Patty
Livingston

14th Annual
POKER RIDE

TO BENEFIT THE
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.



**Draw The Lucky
Hand and Win
A \$100.00 Prize...**



Lots of Prizes Awarded!

A donation of \$20.00 includes lunch and one poker hand. **GERL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 1 EXTRA HAND AT NO ADDITIONAL COST (JUST SHOW US YOUR GERL MEMBERSHIP CARD TO DRAW YOUR EXTRA HAND).** Additional poker hands are available to all for a donation of \$5.00 per hand. **You must show us your horse's negative coggins test (yellow original or certified copy only)** at the time of registration. Water is available on the trail, but not at the trailer area. ***WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING WATER FOR YOUR HORSE!*** Pre-registration is greatly appreciated, but not required. As always, we will have GERL tee-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, etc. available for purchase. Please call (770) 554-1381 or e-mail: susanger13@bellsouth.net for registration and further information. Come ride against horse abuse and help us raise money for the starved and abused horses in Georgia. **ALL PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT 2 PM!!!** *Dawson Forest has a \$5 trail fee. If you do not have an annual pass you will be required to pay an additional \$5 for this ride. GERL will collect this fee and forward it appropriately.

*Directions traveling Hwy 400 North from Cumming. Go through lights at Hwy 369 / Hwy 306 and Jot Em Down Road. Go left on Dawson Forest Road at Dawson Premium Outlet Mall. Cross Hwy 9 and follow signs. Go through gate and turn left into Dawson Forest parking lot.

Getting An Ear Full

By: Ken Marcella, DVM

There are volumes written about the diseases of the equine eye and most owners consider eye related problems to be an emergency. "You only get two of them", is a common response that keeps trainers and horse owners ever vigilant to ocular problems. There are only two ears to each horse as well and hearing is a very important sense but there is much less concern about problems and diseases of the equine ear and very little written about this subject. It is surprising since being able to hear and orient to its surroundings is a very important concern for a prey animal such as the horse. In fact the equine ear was designed to efficiently detect sounds, locate the origin of those sounds and to provide detailed information allowing the horse to determine their identity. Evolutionarily, the horse's survival depended greatly on its ears and its ability to hear approaching danger. The ear of the horse provides social signals to herd mates and to trainers and handlers as well and there are many diseases and medical conditions that can affect the ears or possibly be detected by close inspection of the pinna (or ears) of the horse.

Horses are able to hear sounds in a broader range than that for humans. Horses hear sounds in the 20 Hertz (Hz) to 20 kHz range, bettering human hearing a bit but still much less than the hearing range of most predators such as dogs and cats. Horses however have increased sensitivity to some sounds and they have an ability to use the structure of the pinna itself to boost their hearing. Humans have 3 muscles in the ear while horses have 10 such muscles. The long, cup shaped ear of the horse acts like a radio dish receiver and the muscles associated with it allow the horse to move that receiving dish to best focus on and pick up sounds. Horses can be commonly seen holding their heads in one direction allowing them to focus their eyes on what they see before them, all the while twisting and shifting their ears to pick up on sounds to the sides of or behind them. This remarkable ear motion and the resultant increased hearing ability make horses very good listeners. Commands can be given softly and, if the horse is paying attention, it will have no trouble hearing you. Horses do have more trouble

with low frequency tones however so very low pitched voices may be harder for some horses to hear.

There are a number of diseases of the equine pinna and a few that you may not think of that involve the ear as well. Because the ear is easy to see and handle, many ear problems can be noticed quickly and treated accordingly. This applies to the array of equine aural (of the ear) tumors. Horses commonly develop sarcoids, warts and melanomas on the ear. Quick recognition and surgical removal of these problems is generally recommended but is often difficult if the lesions are not brought to a veterinarian's attention early in the course of the problem. The equine ear is formed much like a sandwich with a piece of cartilage between two thin pieces of skin. The 10 ear muscles are strong but small and mostly located near the ear base. Consequently, there is little extra moveable skin and no muscle to use when removing tumors and rebuilding the ear. The earlier a small tumor or growth is noticed and addressed, the better the eventual outcome. Cryosurgery (freezing of abnormal tissue) works well on the equine ear precisely because of the thinness of this structure which promotes a deep consistent freeze of the growth or tumor and better destruction of this unwanted tissue. Excessive cold weather and freezing in some parts of the country can have the same effect on healthy, "wanted" ear tissue however and frostbitten tips of ears are commonly seen in certain areas. These ears are shorter, misshapen and have thick, hard edges palpable on the tips of the pinna.

A horse's ears are susceptible to a number of parasite related problems. Excessive fly/gnat bites can produce a raw irritated pinna where the inner surface is red, thickened and crusted with dried blood and skin debris. Rubbing the inside of this ear will produce a small pepper-like material. Wetting this material will show it to be dried blood from multiple fly bites (put the ear debris on a piece of white paper towel and wet it and a reddish color will appear indicating digested blood debris). While the bites themselves can be very irritating, the head shyness, halter avoidance and/or head-shaking that is sometimes seen in conditions of excessive fly bite trauma can be much more devastating.

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Getting An Ear Full

Fly sprays, fly wipes, fly masks and all manners of fly control are important in these cases. Ticks can also be a serious problem in some areas of the country at certain times of the year and ear tick infestation should be ruled out as a cause in all cases of head tossing or avoidance behavior. While all types of horse ticks can live in or on the ear, it is the spinous ear tick in the southwestern United States which causes the most damage. This soft shelled tick has a particular life stage that exclusively parasitizes the external ear of horses and there can be many ticks attached there and into the deeper ear canal as well. Numerous chemicals are available for the control and removal of ticks in horses and your veterinarian should be able to assist you in choosing the correct product, appropriate dosage and route of application for your situation. In some cases deeply attached ticks may have to be removed under anesthesia so an ear or otic examination with a handheld otoscope should be done if ticks are suspected. Such an examination can be relatively easily done in most horses and will certainly provide information about possible parasite problems but can also yield information about excessive wax build up, external and middle ear infections, deep ear canal warts, cysts and many other problems as well. "Equine practitioners should be aware that otic examination is possible and may provide important diagnostic information", is the take home message presented by Dr. Sandra J. Sargent and colleagues in a paper published in a veterinary dermatology journal last year. Dr. Sargent and her research group at the University Of Tennessee College Of Veterinary Medicine used otoscopes to look at the ears of 18 horses. They found that roughly half of the ears examined had no lesions and no bacteria of any type. The other ears contained low numbers of various types of bacterium. If a bacterial middle/inner ear infection is suspected then a culture should be done to be able to better determine the correct antibiotic choice. Most horses tolerated these otic examinations well and Dr. Sargent recommends that this type of diagnostic procedure be utilized more frequently when warranted.

One of the most common problems seen in equine ears is an aural plaque or acanthoma. This is a wart caused by a papilloma virus and it is frequently seen as a flat to raised white-yellow plaque growing on the inner side of the ear. Some horses may have one such lesion while others may have several. These plaques can be slow growing or they can rapidly proliferate, usually when the horse is stressed. Like most warts, these plaques tend to grow and become thickened and enlarged and then slough off or degenerate leaving a flattened area. This process continues for the life of the horse. Many owners have tried countless preparations in attempts to remove these structures but it is important that they be recognized for what they are. Cryotherapy and some compounds that chemically burn off the wart tissue may be beneficial but the lesions are cosmetic and do not usually affect the horse. Occasionally an owner will report a horse that is so irritated by the plaques that it cannot be haltered or ridden. Treatment is necessary in such cases but it is thought that likely previous attempts at scrubbing, rubbing or other methods of treatment may have made the horse head shy and not the aural lesions themselves. Black flies or other parasites are thought to be the vectors or the agents that spreads this papilloma virus between horses so fly control is the best method of prevention.

The position and character of a horse's ears can often be a valuable diagnostic tool when various potentially serious diseases are suspected. Lack of tone, lack of movement or excessive and erratic movement of the equine ear are all significant signs of medical problems. Drooping ears can indicate exhaustion, anemia or toxicity problems. Abnormalities in ear position can indicate brain tumors, neurological conditions, vestibular or inner ear disease, parotid salivary gland infection or guttural pouch disease. Many of these conditions are hard to initially diagnose and the ability to pick up on these serious problems by observing a horse's pinna positioning makes such attention to equine ears a worthwhile practice for all horse owners.

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Getting An Ear Full

Deafness in Horses

There are no statistics for the number of deaf horses born or the number of horse that become deaf throughout their lives. One of the biggest problems with generating those statistics is that horses hide their lack of hearing very well. Horses have good peripheral vision and it is thought that deaf horses or horses with reduced hearing become very adept at seeing things and reacting as if they were hearing them. Hearing impaired horses also tend to be expert observers of their herd mates and become dependent on other horses for evaluation of sounds. These horses closely watch the ear movements and body language of other nearby horses and respond accordingly so that many observers often have no idea that a particular horse is deaf. But deafness does exist in horses and should be suspected in a horse that spooks easily and seems unresponsive to external noise. Horses that do not twitch their ears or move their heads to look at a loud, unfamiliar noise (such as a motorcycle, weed trimmer, air horn) are considered unresponsive.

“Deaf animals”, according to Dr. Allison J. Stewart, a veterinary researcher at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University, “are similar to deaf humans in that there are rarely any mental deficits in these individuals”. She adds that with careful training deaf horses can develop into useful performance horses. One deaf horse named Snoopy has indeed capably served as a member of the Roanoke, Virginia Police Department.

It is important that owners be able to evaluate their horses and to determine if a hearing problem exists. This can be crucial when trying to deal with a spooky or hard to

train individual and may sometimes be a concern with pre-purchase examinations. Dr. Stewart and others at Auburn University are assessing hearing in the horse through the use of a brainstem auditory evoked potential test (BAEP). Simply coming up behind a horse and banging a pot (the very low-tech standard “startle” test) rarely gives conclusive information so researchers utilize the BAEP test to determine how much a horse hears. In this test, a standing tranquilized horse has electrodes inserted into the skin in various locations on the head. A headphone is held against the pinna and a series of clicks are delivered to the ear. Correlation between brainwaves and auditory clicks represent a functional sense of hearing. Clicks and no corresponding brain waves indicates deafness.

Dr. Stewart and researchers at Auburn have been using BAEP to evaluate blue-eyed paint horses. “Genetic correlation estimates in other species between deafness, eye color, and hair patterns reveal strong interrelationships among these characteristics”, says Dr. Stewart. She adds that congenital deafness associated with white coat or blue eyes has been reported in humans, dogs, cats and mink but not yet in horses prior to her work.

There are other acquired causes of deafness in the horse as well ranging from meningitis (viral or bacterial infection of the tissues around the brain), chronic kidney failure and liver diseases to toxins and other chemical causes. It is important that an objective test exists to determine if in fact a horse is partially or totally deaf. This information can be significant to a potential buyer and certainly is necessary for any reproductive decisions that are to be made regarding that horse. While deafness is not common in horses it can be seen and BAEP testing is the method of choice for a definitive diagnosis.

Submitted to
Thoroughbred Times.

**Don't miss GERL's Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 28th
See page 15 for details.**



Welcome New GERL Members

Chrstine Garrett
Patti Cornelius
Shelley Drummond
Larry Howell

Kennesaw, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Griffin, GA
Villa Rica, GA

Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Michael & Patricia Petelle
Susan McCullar
Rosalee & Sandy Loudon
Peggy & Barbara Hawley, Barlyn Farm
Karen Squazzo
Gina Lance & Family
Elaine Hargadon
Greg & Kristi Lindsay
Sally Hart
David & Terri Elsberry
Carole Paige
Nina Murphy
Lisa Schindler
Nancy Bogardts
Judith Clark
Pat Widener
Jean & Carol Strickland
Mike & Sandra Whisenant
Peggy Kwirant
Pat & Hugh Hester
Lenore Threlkeld & Family
Carolyn Grigg
Rena Hinson & Family
Manuel & Sarah Lopez
Gail Posey
Valerie Warburton

Marietta, GA
Madison, GA
Conyers, GA
Covington, GA
McDonough, GA
Dacula, GA
Waleska, GA
Lavonia, GA
Rutledge, GA
Temple, GA
Mitchell, GA
Loganville, GA
Cumming, GA
Oxford, GA
Bloomingdale, GA
Monroe, GA
Douglas, GA
Mansfield, GA
Whitesburg, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Pine Mountain, GA
Woodstock, GA
Covington, GA
Palmetto, GA
Cedartown, GA
Ball Ground, GA



Horse Lover's Catalog

(800) 332-9251
thebarndoor.com

**Thank You For Your Donations
And Continued Support**

Lori DePucci
William Newman
Christina Skinner
Charlotte Green

Thank you Dr. Ken Marcella

for your kind care for Miss Greenway

Thank You Ginny Scarritt

for your help in gathering and processing
proofs of purchase for Southern States.

**Donations in Honor
Of Leeanna Dick**

Dan & Ann Cain

**Donations in Honor of
Terry & Christine Kinnamon**

Tanya Kinnamon

**Donations in Memory Of
Martha Storey Hope**

Reba Storey
Shade Story, Jr.

**Donations in Honor of
Benjamin Jones**

Shelley Drummond

**Thank You For
Your Change Jars**

Tack's Fifth Avenue
Cumming, GA

The Stock Market
Conyers, GA

Southwind
Cumming, GA

GA Farm & Ranch Supply
Fayetteville, GA

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

Jo Ann Hitman
for fostering Dan & Nieko

Emily Harpster
for fostering R-filly

Anne Ensminger
for fostering R-colt

Harriet O'Rear
for fostering Miss Greenway



Please Help

Please send proof of purchase seals from bags of any Southern States feed to Ginny Scarritt- 4835 Kendall Court - Atlanta, GA 30342. Ginny is collecting them for GERL, and we will receive money for every one she sends to Southern States.

GDA OPENS NEW EQUINE IMPOUND AT PULASKI PRISON

By Patty Livingston, President

The GDA (GA Dept of Agriculture) has been working for the past three years to see a dream come true with the opening of a third equine impound facility in Georgia. The new impound just recently opened at the Pulaski Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, which is located south of Perry off of I-75.

As you may already know, there are currently two GDA equine impound facilities that exist in Georgia. They are located in Decatur and Mansfield. Because of the location of these two facilities, it was not logistically advantageous to haul impounded horses from middle and South Georgia all the way to either of the northern locations.

In many cases, an impounded horse was not able to withstand a trip of that duration.

In mid December, a few of the new GERL Board members were invited by the GDA to come out and tour the new compound. Ken Archer, Diana Kelsey and I arrived at the prison in time to follow GDA Inspector Laura Folkes, and GDA Director Mary Green, who were transporting the 7th horse to the impound. The other six horses have been there approximately 3 - 4 weeks, plenty of time to for the inmates to spoil them.

A qualified group of prisoners have been selected to participate in this special program that will earn them college credits for the one-year vet assistant course. This enables these inmates to have a skill set when they leave prison, while helping the horses at the same time. This is a win-win project and one that the GERL has committed to support.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Pulaski Women's Prison Equine Impound Project in future newsletters!



Condolences to Anne Ensminger

Our heartfelt condolences to Anne Ensminger in the loss of her husband of twenty-two years, Gene, who was a former board member and wonderful friend of GERL. He served as GERL's unofficial chaplain, and many of us remember his messages in Cowboy Church at past Spring and Fall Fests. He will be truly missed by all who knew him and were blessed with his friendship.



Our sincere condolences to Sue Vetch and family for their loss of little "Copper". Sue is a long time member and supporter of GERL where she serves as a foster home. She is also a tireless supporter of the GDA Equine Program as well as the Morgan County 4-H program and, most recently, organizer of the Ultimate Horsemanship Challenge in Georgia. She has also organized and headed Equine Day at the Capital for the past few years in an attempt to make our legislators aware of the need to protect our horses and to promote the equine industry in Georgia.



Her family is partial to Mini Horses. They have raised several of these adorable little horses and have recently suffered the loss of one of their favorites. Copper had to be euthanized after a severe colic. It was later learned that he had over 10 pounds of sand in his stomach!

Sue wants everyone to learn, as has she, that feeding hay on bare dirt is not a good idea. She now feeds hay from a platform and is using Sand Clear with feedings to insure that nothing like this ever happens at their farm again.

Our Time With Rusty

By Sue Vetsch

We received an email a little over a year ago from GERL asking for help. There were 7 horses that had been turned over to them by way of the GDA. There was a colt that could not be touched and we were asked to foster him. We set up the time to meet the GDA at the location and helped pick him and a filly up. It was awful. The little boy had to be close to a year as his mom already had another baby on her side and she was very malnourished. It took some time but we were able to get them in a stall. With some more time we were able to get halters on them. In walking him to the trailer he fell and the dog was on him. For a moment I thought that was the end of him. We were able to get him up and on the trailer. At a later time the other horses were taken. So the filly and the colt had gotten away from that horrible place to begin a new chapter in their lives.

We had Dr. Wright come out to assess him and give shots. His body score was a 1 if that. As you can see from his early picture there was no fat left on his body. He was very scared. When you had him in a halter he stood pretty good considering what he had went through. We had to leave a catch lead attached to have a chance at getting a hold of him. Danielle spent lots of time when she went out to feed just talking with him and getting him used to a person that was not going to hurt him. Very slowly we could put our hands on him by his neck. When we first got the colt his hair was coming off as well as skin on his forehead. It was hard to name him. Danielle decided to name him Rusty after her first horse that we lost to colic. Of course his color has something to do with it. But we did not really see how beautiful he was for many months.

He enjoyed the hay and the food. He learned this was not a bad place and began trusting us so much more. Off came the catch lead. A huge celebration for the first feet trimming. Of course the first time out it was only the front feet. If not for the incredible patience of Ronnie Moore our farrier the front would not have been trimmed. I continued working on putting my hands all over him out in the pasture. Finally I was able to pick up all of his feet without a lead rope or halter. He now stands to get all of his feet trimmed.

Rusty made his first trip out to visit the public at last year's Morgan county FFA horse show. The kids donated all the money they raised at the show to the GDA Impounds. Rusty was there to represent the horses and let public see just how bad it is for them when they arrive. Of course Rusty had already gained some weight and was not looking as bad, but the hip bones were still sticking out. By the way, he loaded like he had been doing it all of his life. The next trip was to Morgan County High School to take pictures with the FFA kids and Dr. Lee Myers. Again he handled it great.



Through time and patience we finally had a bath. We found a beautiful deep Liver Chestnut horse under all that uck!!! We have worked on lots of ground manners and he has proven to be a quick learner. Last Spring we decided it was time for gelding. So Rusty and his best friend in the whole wide world Hero became geldings. Of course they never acted like studs even when we had Sassy in the pasture with them. They both appreciated the chance at a new life. They were both very respectful but there was no need for them to stay stallions.

(continued on following page)

Our Time With Rusty (continued from the previous page)

Hero and Rusty play hide and seek in their run in. It is something to watch these two playing. Then there is nap time where they rest their heads on each other bodies to keep warm and comfortable.

Rusty is growing but I do not think he will be very big. I think a small horse or large pony. He has the most wonderful loving eyes. They are big and always watching but now he joins in with what we are doing. This year Rusty enjoys the warmth of a blanket. Something last year we could not get on him. This was very upsetting to my dad who lives with us. Dad is very happy this year. He stops to talk with the boys on his way to mailbox.



It is time for Rusty to go to his forever home. We have too many horses or we would keep him with us. It will hurt the day he loads in that trailer but it is for the best. Of course it is important to have another horse there for him to buddy up to. Rusty is such a wonderful boy and the person that takes him home will be getting a great horse. You just need to take time as you introduce new things to him. As soon as he figures out what you're asking he quickly responds. By the way I have also been lying on his back to get him ready to ride someday.

It is our hope that someone will step forward and take Rusty to their home to love and appreciate him. We spend lots of time just hugging on him and petting him. We

hope that his new family will continue our pasture love sessions with him.

It's As Easy As A Click ... PLEASE HELP!!!

Please support this ... only one little click feeds a furry friend ...

Please tell ten friends to tell ten today! The Animal Rescue Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of getting free food donated every day to abused and neglected animals. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "**feed an animal in need**" for free. This doesn't cost you a thing!

Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned/neglected animals in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to all of your animal lover friends!

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com>

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS...

- **My life is likely to last 10 - 40 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.**
 - **Give me time to understand what you want of me.**
 - **Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.**
 - **Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.**
 - **Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.**
 - **Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.**
 - **Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.**
 - **Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.**
- **Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.**
 - **On my ultimate, final journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.**
- ~Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters. We do not have to wait for Heaven to be surrounded by hope, love, and joyfulness. It is here on earth and has four legs!**



Don't Delay!

Renew your GERL membership today!

In Memory of Mr Bones

Donations in Memory Of Mr Bones

Ann McCloskey
Panama City Beach, FL

Carole Paige
Cleveland, GA

Judy Close
McDonough, GA

Bill & Gail Coffee
Luthersville, GA

Harold & Jennie Hollis
Alpharetta, GA

Dear Anne

I read your "note from the Secretary's Desk" in the November edition about Mr B (aka Mr Bones). I remembered him from the article you had written some time ago and was so glad he had found a wonderful home in which to spend his last years.

I too, have an elderly horse, which was given to me, and it is my hope "Draw" can spend the rest of his days as happy and contented as Mr. B did. I moved him from Houston less than a week before Hurricane Ike hit and he is enjoying being back in Georgia and of course it's great to have him close by once again.

I was touched by the fact you felt there'd be few memorial donations in Mr. B's honor. Even though I never met Mr. B or the Surles, who gave him a wonderful forever home filled with the love and care he deserved, I wanted to honor his memory and those who loved him with this small donation in the hope that other horses might have their chance at happiness too.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Close

Dear Friends at GERL

A couple of years ago, my friends and I started donating a little money on each of our birthdays instead of exchanging gifts. Since we all own and ride horses, the fund has become known as the "Birthday Babes' Horsey Fund". We read the touching story about Mr. Bones. What a wonderful old guy. Here is a small memorial donation from our birthday funds for Mr Bones. May his memory live on and on.

Jennie Hollis for the "Birthday Babes"

Volunteers Needed

We need many volunteers to make our Poker Ride a success! Duties will include check-in, marking trails, grilling lunch, selling tee shirts, dealing cards, and many other duties.

If you can help, please contact
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**Your business card ads
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