

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #165

www.gerlltd.org

April 2009

Elf - The Christmas Miracle?

By: Robin Easley, GDA Field Inspector

It is an unseasonably warm December day in the 70's just before Christmas. My day has gone well so far. Most of my cases had improved. I pull into the driveway on a farm in Hancock County where I have been checking on a group of horses quite frequently during the last year. The owner of the property is standing outside her house chatting with a neighbor. While approaching them I see a horse in the pasture on the ground out of the corner of my eye. After all it's warm and sunny so at this point I'm not concerned. As soon as I greet them, the owner tells me that the horse that is down is not hers and that this horse and another horse wandered into her yard about 10 days ago and that their owner is working on fixing the fence and she agreed to keep them until then. Now I am concerned! She continues to tell me that the horse has been down since the previous late afternoon and that she had contacted the owner but that he was in Atlanta. She had unsuccessfully tried to get her up the previous night. And no, a vet has not yet been contacted.



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(continued on page 8)

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William Baker, DVM

Jennifer Baker, DVM

Michael Chisolm, Esquire

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

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

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***If you are interested in becoming an Area Coordinator
for a county not listed here, please contact**

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By: Patty Livingston, President

I've been suffering from writers block, lately, not knowing what to say in my monthly article for the newsletter. Now I realize that I just needed to do something good for the horses and the words would come. I've just returned from the Circle S Arena in Buckhead (not the one downtown) where the GDA held their horse auction.

Ken Archer, GERL VP, Mickey Farmer, our famous (and favorite) auctioneer, GDA Inspector, Pam Borst, and myself, arrived on Friday morning with our trailers to spend the night. We helped with getting the horses assigned to their stalls and cleaned up. After which, all of the horses needed to be saddled and ridden around in the arena to get them accustomed to what would occur on auction day. It was also an opportunity for us to work alongside the GDA inspectors and volunteers and learn more about what they encounter with these horses on an every day basis. It was similar to watching a mother with her babies. These inspectors and volunteers have grown to know and love these horses that have been under their care for the past several months.

After dinner at Bonner's, we stayed busy setting up the tables for the auction items that was to precede the horse auction on Saturday. By this time, all of the horses had been fed and were bedded down for the night. Everybody left to get some much needed rest before arriving back, bright and early the next morning.

The first thing on the agenda was to feed horses and clean stalls. Then everyone split up to perform their allotted tasks, whether it was getting the horses ready, tying down a panel or to put the finishing touches on the auction setup. The items auction started at 11:00 am and we couldn't help but notice that the prices were down. So many items went for only a dollar or two, so, there were lots of bargains to be had. We made approximately \$360 on the items auction, which was just a little icing on the cake for the GDA kitty.

Immediately following was the horse auction. There was a pretty big crowd that showed up, most pulling horse trailers. That's always a good sign. There were 44 horses that sold. We were a little disappointed that the average price was under \$200. Believe it or not, there were several that sold for only \$10! And, I'm talking about some nice horses, too. Prices are down and evidence of the ailing economy is everywhere. However, let me say this, about that ... seeing these horses go to a permanent home where they will have a chance at a better life is so very gratifying. It is an adrenalin rush, actually. I met so many new people ... people who are generous, kind and dedicated to the welfare of the horses. It makes me very proud to be associated with such a remarkable group of folks.

Speaking of which, I'd like to recognize the many volunteers and inspectors who got up early and drove to Buckhead every day to help with the horses and to set up everything for the auction. This was a tremendous effort and turned out to be a lot of fun and generated over \$9,500.00 for the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Bless each and every one of you for what you do for the horses!

Donations Made to GERL In Memory Of Gene Ensminger

Sue & Rich Chalmers
Powder Springs, GA

Bill & Ann Kuhn
Covington, GA

Ken & Helen Wyatt
Jackson, GA

Clifford & Jaye Herrington
Monticello, GA

Brian & Connie Keener
Hoschton, GA

Hal & Betty Warlick
Inman, SC

Thank You Dr. Ken Marcella

for providing our membership
with such informative articles
each month.

See page 18 for
this month's article



**THANK
YOU**

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By: Anne Ensminger, GERL Secretary

If you missed the Annual Meeting, you missed a good one. Brian Dees started the meeting with a re-cap of 2008 as he "went out like a lion" and then Patty Livingston took the reins like the true lady that she is, and "came in like a lamb". Anyone who knows Patty was not deceived by her quiet demeanor. She is a ball of energy, intelligence, and business experience, all wrapped up in the able body of one who is excited about this opportunity to work with the growing numbers of GERL members to reach our, ever elusive, goal of ending equine abuse and neglect in Georgia.

As we said goodbyes and expressed appreciation for the work done by the previous Board of Directors, I felt sad to think that I would no longer be working as closely with them in the future. Change is a certainty in this life and, at age 66, I am finally learning to embrace, rather than fight it. I will be satisfied to know that my former colleagues have earned a rest and that I will now be working with a new group of wonderful people with the very same goals. Still, I will miss them.

The future of GERL starts today! Susan Archer, GERL Events Coordinator, has quietly taken care of all of the details for the Poker Ride, which will have already taken place when you read this newsletter. She has now completed most of the arrangements for the Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride at Round Oak in May. Excitement for that ride is building and we expect a wonderful turnout.

We all enjoy our fund-raisers but they provide much more than fun. The success of these events is essential for us to be able to help horses in many ways. We have several horses in foster care at present and no doubt, there will soon be more. When possible, we would rather help people who are experiencing temporary hard times, to be able to take care of their horses rather than accept the horses into our foster program. Sometimes a GERL Angel steps up to lend a hand. I would like to tell you about a recent and heart-warming incident that demonstrates just that.

Some long-time friends of GERL, with great reluctance, contacted us requesting temporary help with feeding their horses. The family was experiencing the effects of the economic slow-down, family illness, and loss of a vehicle due to an accident. Wow! We were grateful for the opportunity to help these good people and their horses.

We contacted Michele Leach, of Michele's Feed and Seed near Jersey, Georgia, just to ask if she would

set up a GERL account so that feed and hay could be delivered to the folks in need, that day. She not only opened an account for GERL, but she also donated half of the feed and sold us the rest of the feed and the hay at her cost! On top of that, she insisted on delivering the items! To simply say 'thank you' seems inadequate to express our gratitude to Michele Leach but I have the feeling that it is more than she expects.

Other feed stores and many veterinarians are often on our list of those to whom we are very grateful. David and Marilyn Crabb of the Stock Market in Conyers attended our Annual Meeting and arranged for a very fine speaker who traveled from Florida to speak to our Area Coordinators. Larry Mack, of Seminole Feeds, provided valuable information concerning rehabilitation of starved horses. The Stock Market also holds a Customer Appreciation Day and Flea Market each spring and fall, with all proceeds donated to GERL.

Past GERL Vice President, Pat Dean delivered a huge box of items to our Annual Meeting from Sabine and Fabio Yepes at T.C. Country Store in Canton. These items will be sold in our upcoming auction at Round Oak, the first weekend in May. Additionally, T.C. Country sponsors an Angel Tree each Christmas to benefit GERL.

I would also like to mention that Boss Brothers Country Store in Loganville and The Barn Door in Dawsonville, regularly contributes auction items to GERL and have always met our expressed needs, when called upon.

When I start listing the kindnesses shown to GERL and to the horses, I am often overcome with feelings of gratitude and fearful that I might leave someone out.

I could write for a week concerning the many caring veterinarians who have provided their services free or at reduced rates for GERL.

The great thing about all of this is that people who love and care about horses are so good. They donate not only their money but also their time. It is the responsibility of your GERL Board of Directors to be good stewards of all of this confidence. We do not take this responsibility lightly, nor do we take your giving nature for granted. We feel humbled by the opportunity to work side by side with each of you and we ARE making a difference.

Welcome New GERL Members

Joe Thompson
Barbara Jones
Michele's Feed & Seed
Victoria & Mark Eubanks
Linda Reed
Bob & Snooks Burris
Linda, Kaitlyn & Lucas Pain
Linda Venable & Family
Amy Cox
Betty Sue Hearn
Sandy Wedlake
Benji Mitchell
LaVon Kern
Jean Anderson
Amy Booker
RePonda "Repo" Baily
Pam & Tim Moody
Jim Barlow
Al Cofer
Philip & Cyndi Israel
Randy Moon
Kevin Moon
Dinah Peevy
Julie Williams

Eatonton, GA
Madison, GA
Covington, GA
Commerce, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Jacksonville, FL
Dawsonville, GA
Lula, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Suwanee, GA
Jefferson, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Dahlonega, GA
Dahlonega, GA
Gainesville, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Loganville, GA
Loganville, GA
Kennesaw, GA
Loganville, GA
Loganville, GA
Tallulah Falls, GA
Alpharetta, GA

Referred By:

Ken Archer
Ken Archer
Anne Ensminger
Susie Bond
Pam Borst
Patty Livingston
Betty Evenson
Patty Livingston
Patty Livingston
Mickey Farmer
Patty Livingston
Patty Livingston
Patty Livingston
Ken Archer
Ken Archer
Patty Livingston
Patty Livingston
Ken Archer
Ken Archer
GERL
Ken Archer
Ken Archer
GERL
Marge Mabey

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference



**A
Horse Lover's
Catalog**

**(800) 332-9251
thebarndoor.com**

WINTER CLEARANCE UP TO 80% OFF!

We Need Your Help! Auction Items Are Needed

We have two upcoming events that will include auctions - the Gene Ensminger Benefit ride and Fall Fest, 2009.

We need you to help by donating auction items. These items can include new or used tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc. Remember ... our auctions are only as successful as the items that we have to offer.

Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental? Do you have a timeshare that you do not use? Perhaps you would consider donating a few nights or a week for one of our upcoming auctions. It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

Thank You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate
or have additional questions please contact

Susan Archer, Event Coordinator
(770) 554-1381
susangerl3@bellsouth.net

Check Out The GERL Website

Steven Neal continues to rework and update the GERL website.

Take a look!
www.gerlltd.org

You will find an updated Calendar of Events, Who's Who, info on Membership, Foster Care and Adoption, and most impressive ... the current GERL Newsletter in PDF form!

The GERL website is a very important tool and it's very time consuming to keep it current.

Thank you Steven for your hard work and dedication. We appreciate it!



Foster and Adoptive Homes Desperately Needed By : Anne Ensminger, Secretary

As everyone has seen by now, 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 and Adoption Coordinator. Donna Pieper has taken on this monumental task and is 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.

Can you offer a horse a temporary home until a permanent home can be found? Are you interested in adopting a GERL horse?

If you have answered yes to either of these questions please contact Donna Pieper at (404) 797-3333 or gerl-donna@bellsouth.net. Let Donna know what you are able to foster and if you are looking to adopt, what sort of horse would work for you (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 Donna. The need is great. Please help us meet this need and help these horses!



Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Susie Bond
William & Janet Bryant
Barbara Clark
Lisa Creedon
Michael & Debbie Crowe & Family
Deborah Dickinson
Libby Driskell
Marsha Earp
Dave & Pam Forcier
Katy & Jimmy Futrelle
Len & Michael Garrison
Susie Hanson & Scott Harris
Catherine & Bobby James
Barbara Jones
Brian & Connie Keener
Leisa & David McCannon
Suzy Preston
Heather Russell
Olivia Schubert
Dr. Shelia J Smith
Bob & Dorothy Thomas
Victoria & Mark Eubanks
Clifford & Jaye Herrington
Carol & Robert Horsfall
Dell Keeble
Rebecca Kilgore
Elizabeth & Brian Mitchell
Linda Reed
Christie Stanton
Susan & George Wrenson

Social Circle, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Statham, GA
Snellville, GA
Loganville, GA
Jasper, GA
Dawson, GA
Snellville, GA
Canton, GA
Temple, GA
Watkinsville, GA
Monticello, GA
Jasper, GA
Madison, GA
Hoschton, GA
Covington, GA
Watkinsville, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Commerce, GA
Monticello, GA
Hells Hollow, GA
Bloomingdale, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Villa Rica, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Loganville, GA
Canton, GA

Joe Thompson
W.R. & Jean
Vandeventer
Heather Wages
Jill Williams
Ray & Pierette Ziebell
Marty Paulk
Gloria English
Peggy Giddens
Shereen Roberts
Tim Hoon
Karen Kight
Jean Long
Carole Paige
Melody Sorrells
Michele Leach
Pam Borst
Lisa Sikes
Theresa Camp
Andrea Elmore
Joan & Chip Grant
Emily Harpster
Sonny & Kay Hinote
Dan Hutchins
LaVon Kern
Bonnie Kirschling
Steven B Neal

Eatonton, GA
Lavonia, GA
Monroe, GA
Bostwick, FL
Dawsonville, GA
Alpharetta, GA
Conyers, GA
Murphy, NC
Milner, GA
Marietta, GA
Dublin, GA
Macon, GA
Mitchell, GA
Loganville, GA
Covington, GA
Loganville, GA
Townsend, GA
Canton, GA
McDonough, GA
Hoschton, GA
Snellville, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Davisboro, GA
Dawsonville, GA
Milledgeville, GA
Rutledge, GA

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**
With Your Help ... We Will Make A Difference

Elf - The Christmas Miracle? (continued from the cover)

I'm heading over into the pasture. My first impression is that I'm looking at a skinny aged horse but as I get close enough to check her teeth I discover that this horse is only about 2 years old. She's extremely lethargic and I can't motivate her to move at all. As I'm trying to get her up the owner of the property and the neighbor offer to help. The 3 of us manage to get her into a sitting position and she attempts to get to get up on her own but even with our support she crashes back down - flipping over on her other side. On top of the massive rain rot and bite marks on her back that I already observed, I can now see multiple abrasions and pressure sores all over that side of her body and her eye has dirt in it and is swollen. She looks pathetic. I ask the owner of the property to call the horse owner to ask him to call a vet out. He just states that he can't remember his vet's name and then we lose the connection.

By now the filly, who is a body score of 1, is so lethargic that she doesn't object to me cleaning her eye out with water. I'm determined to get her back on her feet and ask the property owner if she would help me with her tractor to pick her up. She agrees and I rig up some type of sling with some western girths and ropes. The filly lets us slide it underneath her without any protest. It works! Once she has all 4 feet on the ground she manages to stand. She's very wobbly but she's up. I offer her some water and she immediately starts drinking. I stay a while longer to make sure she's not going down again. The owner will have until tonight to get a vet out. I'm thankful that the weather is still going to be warm for another day. I don't think she would have made it this far during typical December weather.

The owner does not comply with the violation notice left and we return the next morning with a veterinarian called by the GDA to examine her. The vet recommends that she be impounded. I'm relieved to see that she is still standing. While loading her she goes down again but 4 of us are able to get her back up.

Once at the impound barn we had to keep her in a sling for almost a month. She has since been released by her owner and has gained weight rapidly despite being in a sling for so long. Some people working with her during her recovery didn't think she was going to make it, but I knew she was a fighter and after all - what is a better time for miracles than Christmas?

Follow 'Elf's' progress on our new GDA website www.agr.georgia.gov and look for 'Elf' in an upcoming GDA auction.



GERL Adoptables

Banjo a 16 year old Arabian-type mare. **ADOPTED!!!!**

Rusty is a 2 year old Arab-cross colt with a great mind and plenty of energy. He is ready to be partnered with someone who can begin his education and work with him to become a great partner.

Nadia is a 3 year old Arab-cross filly. She is currently in training with Ed Huie for basic groundwork. Nadia will be a perfect project for someone who is interested in natural horsemanship and will take the time to make her into a willing partner.



RUSTY



NADIA

Spice a 10 year old Quarter Horse mare who has never been ridden but has been a pet for all of her life. Her owner has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and Spice must find a new home. Spice is very sweet and is starved for the daily affection that she once knew. If you could use a companion horse or would like a wonderful project, please come meet Spice.



SPICE

For adoption fees and additional information please contact

Donna Pieper
GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333
gerldonna@bellsouth.net

GERL Annual Meeting – February 28, 2009

By: Patty Livingston, President

The GERL Annual Meeting was held at the Golden Corral in Winder on February 28th. It was a very rainy day, but not enough of a deterrent to keep approximately 45 people from coming. Our guest speaker, Larry Mack, a nutritionist with Seminole Feeds, spoke on the topic of rehabilitating a starved horse. It was really an interesting presentation that sparked the interest of many of our Area Coordinators and members, alike.

A review of 2008 highlights and accomplishments was presented by Brian Dees, past President, who then turned over the meeting to Patty Livingston, new GERL President. Below are the 2009 goals for GERL that were presented:

- **Help Fund new GDA Pulaski Prison Impound facility**
- **Continue to Support/Fund all GDA Impounds**
- **Partner with GDA to help with their auctions and fund raising events**
- **Provide Funding to Dawson County Animal Control for New Equine Impound Facility**
- **Revamp GERL Website**
- **Revitalize GERL Newsletter**
- **Return Poker Ride to Dawson Forest**
- **Create New Spring Ride (Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride – 5/1)**
- **Increase Membership to Include 500 Members**
- **Education:**
 - **Attend horse fairs, meetings and other clubs' events to educate public and bring awareness;**
 - **Involve Youth in the Education Process**
 - **Support Potential Neutering clinics hosted by GDA**
 - **Educational Clinics for Animal Control Facilities and Sheriff's Departments**
 - **Create Educational Brochures/Handouts**

- **Build Network of Foster Homes**
- **Consider repair of roof @ Mansfield Impound**
- **Help Families with Lost Jobs and Health Issues**
- **Increase Event Profitability**
- **Increase Number of Volunteers**
- **Return of GERL Christmas Party!**

As you can see, there are a lot of things going on and a lot of changes that have already begun to happen with the GERL.

I look forward to a very successful year and hope that you will decide that this is your year to get more involved and help us obtain these goals. I can promise you that it will be a lot of fun and one of the most gratifying things you can do!



**Georgia Equine
Rescue League, Ltd.**

**With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference**

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

Buzz & Joan Ahrens	Canton, GA	Virginia Bilbo	Conyers, GA
Don & Beth Bohannon	Waverly Hall, GA	Jamie & Dot Bosworth	Senoia, GA
Cindy Russell Bounds	Washington, GA	Tammy Croghan &	
Jennifer DeFelice & Family	Roswell, GA	Phil Connor	St Mountain, GA
Leanna Dick	Roswell, GA	Chuck & Carol Ewing	Alpharetta, GA
Gail Ford	Winder, GA	Jack Garber	Alpharetta, GA
Jill Gray	Dahlonega, GA	Jane Hillegas	Douglasville, GA
Donna & Bob Kelley	Danielsville, GA	Ray & Mary Margaret Lee	Lawrenceville, GA
Tammerly MacDonald	Marietta, GA	Laura Mulvaney	Alpharetta, GA
Stan Reich	Cumming, GA	Julie Remenick	Alpharetta, GA
Penny & Ferrell Sellers	Ray City, GA	Martha Shepherd	Decatur, GA
Marya Tietz	Roswell, GA	Paul & Cheryl Turner	Social Circle, GA
Lee & Jill Webb	Palmetto, GA	Patricia West	Cumming, GA
Wade & Denise Wheeler	Sharpsburg, GA	Fran Wilde	Bogart, GA
Kathleen Womack	Atlanta, GA		

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**



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 everyone she sends to
Southern States.

Dear GERLS

We have received our 1st check from Southern States in the amount of \$220.45 – that’s 1,416 POP’s!!

Soon I’ll be placing another payment request for \$223.05. I cannot thank you enough for the support this program has received. I especially want to thank the following people: Sheila Wallace, Deborah Boyle, Dawn Brady, Ronja Henderson, Lynn Bengtson, Al Merritt, Tanya Cochran, Penny Kwirant, and Susan Allen. Without your POP’s, this would not have been possible. If I forgot anyone, I apologize, but you ALL have my sincere gratitude.

If anyone out there is thinking of changing feeds, please consider Southern States’ brands – you’d be getting great nutrition for your pampered pet, as well as helping to raise money for those not-so-pampered ones – the abused & neglected horses of Georgia.

Please keep those POP’s coming!

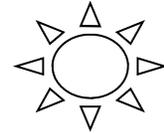
THANKS!

Ginny Scarritt

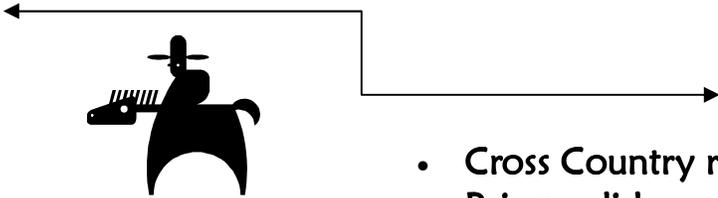
GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE

TO BENEFIT THE GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

May 1 - 3, 2009



**Fundraiser to be held at Ron & Adrian Cook's place
Round Oak, GA - near Monticello & Hillsboro**



- Cross Country riding in the Oconee National Forest
- Bring a dish and join us for Pot Luck Dinner Friday Night
- Dinner and Dance on Saturday Night
- Breakfast Saturday & Sunday Morning
- Live Auction Saturday Night
Mickey Farmer - Famous Auctioneer!
- Limited power and water hook-ups available
- Plenty of primitive camping
- High ties provided with power sites, pens o.k.
- GERL Merchandise will be for sale on site

I wouldn't think of missing this!

*DOWNLOAD
RIDE
REGISTRATION
FORM AT
GERLLTD.ORG



Start packin' up,
honey! We're gonna
have a blast!



Patty

I got my GERL newsletter on Friday. I don't know how to express my pleasure! It's back to being about the horses!!! It just made me feel so good, and it looks like the lines between the GDA and GERL are improving. It made me want to go back to volunteering at the impound in Decatur, which I plan on doing soon. If only I had more room, I would love to be a foster home. That gives me a goal to work toward. I do have a big trailer and truck and would be more than happy to help transport if you need me.

Thank you so much for all you are doing, and keep up the great work!

Sherry

P.S. - So sorry I missed the annual meeting - the time just slipped up on me. Hope you had a decent turnout on Saturday.

Get Well Soon Mike Medlock

Sincere wishes for a speedy
and complete recovery!

Hurry back, Mike. We need you!

Below - Mike and Spud enjoying Fall Fest



Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With You

Marty Paulk
as you continue your
battle with cancer

Lady Needs A Home

"Lady" needs a loving home. 17 year old Quarter Horse mare, chestnut with blaze and 4 socks.

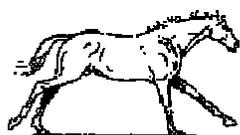
Very gentle, and in good health. Approx. 15hh Will give to the right home.

Call Monique at (678) 732-4214 Ellenwood, GA.

Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

GERL friends send our sincere best wishes for a speedy recovery to former GERL Vice President, Pat Dean's husband, David, after an accident in their home.

We hope you will soon be back
on that motorcycle, David!



2008 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Take the challenge ...
help GERL and win great prizes!

Attention all GERL Supporters ...
A GERL Membership Drive is about to begin
and we need YOUR help!

Don't get left out!
This is a great way to get involved and help to grow GERL's membership.
Ask everyone you know if they will join GERL and support a wonderful cause!

So you want to know how a Membership Drive works ...

Make plenty of copies of the GERL membership application that is on the back of this newsletter or visit GERL's website for a downloadable PDF. Where you see "referred to" - write your name very legibly. Give a membership form to everyone that you can think of - co-workers, boarders at your barn, folks around the show grounds, your riding clubs, your vet, your farrier, etc. When your friends fill out the form that you have given them and return it to GERL with their check, we will be able to see that you referred the membership and you will be given "credit" for that new member.

1st Prize - \$100 CASH

2nd Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate from The Barn Door, Inc.

3rd Prize - \$15 Gift Certificate from The Barn Door, Inc.

Winners Will Be Announced
at the
Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride
the weekend of May 1st

*CONTEST RULES ... Contest will run from March 1 - April 30, 2009. Referrals must not have been a GERL member for anytime during the past 12 months. Membership fees must accompany the membership forms when returned to GERL. The GERL board has the final say in all contest rules, etc.

A Sign of the Times
Robin Easley, GDA Field Supervisor

On Saturday February 21st, the Georgia Department of Agriculture held an equine impound auction at the Rockin' S Arena in Buckhead, Georgia. Forty four horses and ponies of varying breeds, colors, ages, sizes, and disciplines were offered for sale. Although the prices received for many of them were disappointing, I guess they are a sign of the times.

The hard work began on the Thursday prior to the sale. Supplies and horses were loaded and taken to the arena, stalls and pens were prepared for their arrival, and the selling ring and round pen was constructed. The grooming began. Those of you who have horses that live in the Georgia red clay know what a task that can be!



All horses of all colors appeared to be sorrel, and we had to turn them back into grays and paints and attempt to show white stockings. The horses finally got settled in at their new location and quieted down after feeding time. I would like to thank Southern Cross Guest Ranch in Madison, Georgia for assisting in the hauling of the horses; the use of their large trailer saved several round trips. Also a special thanks to Susie Bond for hauling the panels for us and to all of the Mansfield volunteers (Tanya, Coop, George, and Rick) who spent the day helping the horses get adjusted.

Reinforcements arrived on Friday just in time for feeding and stall cleaning. GERL members Patty Livingston, Ken Archer, and Mickey Farmer unloaded, set up camp, and jumped in with both feet to help our regular volunteers and staff. Knowing that food is close to all our hearts, GERL graciously donated lunch for all of the workers. Following the daily chores, the horses were pulled out individually and exercised in the arena. Weanlings, yearlings, and nonriding horses were lunged. Patty took on the challenge of riding the gaited horses, Ashley Zimmerman worked with "Buck", the Saddlebred, and inspectors Courtney Farnon and Pam Borst rode the others.



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A Sign of The Times

(continued from the previous page)

Some of the horses had never “been to town” before, much less set foot in a covered arena. Several of them were scared of the shadows, some of them did not want to leave their buddies down in the barn, and others just felt frisky in the blustery winds. Ms. Anne Ensminger and Patty worked on the set up for the donated items auction and Patty gave us all a fashion show. Ken and Mickey joined ranks with George and Coop as the man power doing the move this, build that, and fix all of the other. At the end of the day, the horses were ready for auction, and the volunteers and staff were exhausted!



Ready or not, sale day came. Following the morning chores, sale duties were assigned, and the horses were divided up among groups of volunteers and workers. The horses sensed a buzz in the air and while they enjoyed the extra attention, I think they were apprehensive about the uncertain future. The day was filled with activities. The GERL conducted the donated items auction which raised over \$350.00. Cotton Candy Pony Rides from Monroe, Georgia set up pony rides for children who wanted to try their hand at being a cowboy or cowgirl for a few laps. GERL volunteers Donna Pieper, Keith Flemming, Patty Livingston, and Thomas Bush were recruited to help ride horses through the sale. Other volunteers included Lauren Bush, Tara O'Donnell, Lynn McMinn, Katie Cash, Lucy Ray, James Ledford, Joey Nix, George and Margaret Bailey, Susie Bond, Tanya Kingsley, Ashley Zimmerman, Starr Archer, Jessica Bailey, Ken Archer, and Mickey Farmer, the BEST auctioneer! Horse trainer Chad Ray of Turnaround Training Stables in Gainesville, Georgia did demonstrations on “Butter”, a GDA impound horse he volunteered to train. When Butter arrived at Turnaround Training Stables, he was recently gelded, barely halter broke, and was somewhat aggressive. After 40 days, Chad had him broke to ride. Butter could go through all of his gait transitions, cross creeks, jump, and side pass. Chad could even throw a rope off of him! Tripping Horse Photography set up a display booth featuring highlights of Butter's training with Chad. Nicole even donated a framed photo of Chad and Butter to the new owner. Alongside the photos, Leslie Martin set up a video showing the training of Butter and his trail riding experiences. Sadly, Butter was sold for less than his training would have cost. I guess this is just a sign of the times.



At the end of the day, all of the horses were sold. “Humphrey Bogart”, a black pony gelding, was purchased for the grandchild of long standing GDA volunteer and GERL member, Susie Bond. We look forward to more photos and stories of Humphrey and his adventures. All in all, the sale is considered a success. With the team work amongst the volunteers and the GDA staff, all of the horses were sent on their way to their new homes. We hope all of them thrive and wish the new owners the best of luck. I can not close without thanking Sara Jarrell of Rockin' S arena for the donation of the use of the facility. It is because of the people mentioned in this article – their love of horses, their kind hearts, their willingness to give of their time, their talents, and their worldly possessions – that the Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Impound Program can continue to intervene and provide care for the horses who have suffered inhumane care and treatment. I believe that this display of compassion, dedication, and support is also a sign of the times as GDA and GERL move forward together with one goal – making a difference for the horses.

**Eating Like A Horse
Or
Treats for Trigger
Flavor Preferences in Horses
By: Kenneth L. Marcella DVM**

Horses spend more of their time eating than any other domestic animal. Nearly 60% of the average horse's day is devoted to consuming food. Yet horses are also more likely than many other grazing animals to be affected by what they eat and they have a notoriously sensitive digestive tract. Given these two factors- eating a lot and being sensitive to what is eaten, it would seem to make sense that horses should have very important and specific food preferences. Karen Launchbaugh, a professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Iowa says, "On the surface, diet selection is simple; herbivores eat what they like and avoid what they don't like". It has only been relatively recently though that much research has begun to focus on exactly what horses like to eat.

In the wild, horses spend their day moving across relatively large tracts of land, eating as they go. They consume nearly 50 types of grasses, weeds and forages depending on their location. Very few wild or natural ranges are composed of pure grasses so most horses eat a mixture of forages in each bite. They do not naturally get to choose discrete meals as it is far too difficult and time consuming for horses to pick out one favored plant in a mixed grassland. As horses have become domesticated and confined to smaller areas their diets have changed as well. Commercial feeds have been formulated to provide all the necessary requirements-protein, energy, fat, fiber, vitamins and minerals. Hays and grasses have been planted and cultivated with an eye for both equine nutrition and for the human concerns of expense, viability in specific locations and practicality. Horses were fed oats and alfalfa, or other traditional combinations, because it met their needs and farmers could produce it. But hardly anyone ever asked if horses really liked it. They ate it but they were not given much choice.

Researchers in a number of fields eventually began to investigate horse eating behavior and started looking at why horses in the wild ate what they did and exactly what did horses like to eat. It has been debated as to whether horses inherently know what foods are good for them- those plants that will provide adequate energy, have good taste and digestibility and will not poison or make them sick, or if such knowledge is a learned trait. Researchers, such as professor Launchbaugh, believe that the answer is a combina-

tion of both. Dr. Katherine Houpt, a veterinary behavioralist at the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University has shown that horses can learn to avoid foods that made them sick but that they are not as good at this task as most other animals. Predators such as wolves and coyotes will quickly and almost permanently learn to avoid food that has been treated to cause stomach upset and vomiting. This technique has been studied and used to try to change eating behavior to protect food animals from wild predators. Similar work has been looked at to possible try to keep horses from ingesting poisonous plants but the very nature of the horse works against such learning. Predators eat single foods- a sheep, a deer, a rabbit, and they take small bites of novel foods to gauge their response.

Horses eat a mixture of foods in each meal and they eat large amounts often very quickly. Any horse owner watching a horse first put out on fresh grass has seen this rapid and non-discriminate gobbling first hand. Horses may nuzzle through a grain meal and carefully avoid every crumb of a medication or needed supplement but in the animal world they are not generally considered picky eaters. And they are lazy. Researchers have learned that when trying to investigate food preferences in horses no more than two different choices can be presented at one time because horses will then simply go to the food that is closest regardless if it tastes better or not. The theory is that horses need such a volume of food to provide needed energy and they have to spend so much of their time eating to consume that food so they tend to not waste much time choosing. And because they usually get large quantities of mixed plants it is very difficult for them to learn to avoid any one particular plant.

With the domestication of the horse and the fact that volumes of food are now provided with easy access, it has become more important to actually look at what horses may like to eat. Scientists at Montana State University cited the increase in numbers of horses in the United States from 3,020,117 in 1997 to 3,644,278 in 2002 and concluded that this dramatic increase "is creating a large industry in the U.S. for specialty items produced for equines" and among these specialty items is the very lucrative business of specialty hay farming. A. Bastian and his research group at Montana State University looked at hay preferences in horses and, as is typical in this research, they measured intake and refusals for various hays.

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**Eating Like A Horse
Or
Treats for Trigger
Flavor Preferences in Horses**
(continued from the previous page)

Factors for food preference for horses include palatability (actual taste), digestibility (ease of chewing and post ingestion processing), rate of passage (the faster food moves through the intestine the sooner horses can eat more), chemical composition and physical factors (texture, smell, size of particles and so forth). These researchers compared horse preferences for orchard grass, timothy, alfalfa, and sainfoin grass combinations. They found that horses preferred the timothy/alfalfa and orchard grass alfalfa combinations over other local blends and concluded that a new trial, using pure grass choices, should be done next.

The recent dramatic increase in the use of compounded medications for horses has opened up another field of research in horse eating behavior. Compounding pharmacies have utilized available flavor technology and have begun to offer a staggering array of choices to clients. Jelly beans were likely the first foods on the market to fully embrace this flavor technology. One could buy a "JellyBelly" bean that tasted like toasted coconut, or grape, or mango or a mixed flavor like a banana split. The popular Harry Potter books introduced "Any Flavor Bot" candies which were then produced commercially and which further pushed this technology. New tastes were developed such as dirt, ear wax and even vomit proving that just about any flavor could be created.

Many equine compounding pharmacies now offer hundreds of flavors ranging from eight different apple blends to sweet potato and watermelon to creamed corn and even pink champagne. It became important to find out not which foods horses preferred but what flavor they liked best, since any commercial food could be easily flavored with the desired choice and this information could be used to help horses eat more, to encourage better consumption in "hard keepers", and to help medicate sick horses. Dr. Deborah Goodwin and her research team at the University of Southampton in England published the results of a flavor preference trial in the journal of Applied Animal Behavior Science in 2005 that finally answered the question as to which flavor horses like best.

Dr. Goodwin began with 15 flavors chosen from general equine taste preferences around the world. While some of the flavors may seem strange to us it should be remembered that other countries and parts of the

world have unique local foods and that many horses routinely eat things that may seem unusual. The Southampton scientists looked at apple, banana, carrot, cherry, coriander, cumin, Echinacea, fenugreek, garlic, nutmeg, oregano, peppermint, rosemary, turmeric and ginger flavors. Maybe you have a horse that loves bubblegum or pizza or some other food and these individuals do exist but the majority of horses have preferences that fall in line with more general tastes and this is what Dr. Goodwin's group was investigating. They mixed 1 gram of powdered flavor with a cereal by-product and looked at quantity consumed, consumption time, rejections and refusals.

The first round saw the elimination of Echinacea, nutmeg and coriander because of consistent rejections. The researchers then chose the top eight flavors based on fastest consumption and tested these in a head to head preference trial. Horses were given identical tubs with one of two flavors to choose from. The top flavors in this trial were, in order of preference, fenugreek, banana, cherry, rosemary, cumin, carrot, peppermint and oregano. This represented a mix of traditional horse treat flavors and some lesser known flavors such as fenugreek which is an herb used in Italian sauces and Indian curry dishes. In a last trial banana and fenugreek were tested as flavoring for a mineral pellet and horses preferred the banana flavor. There is historical evidence for these flavor preferences since fenugreek was used as a hay conditioner by ancient Greek horseman and bananas were the preferred treat for seven equestrian teams at the last Olympic Games. Bananas are high in potassium, provide good amounts of energy and are high in beneficial phospholipids so they may be as much a good horse food as they are preferred in taste. (One caution may be to avoid their use in quarter horses susceptible to HYPP as these individuals have trouble with high levels of potassium).

While you can still give your horses Corn Chex, molasses cookies, spice gum drops, or Skittles, this research may help equine nutritionists and veterinarians determine flavor preferences that can now be used to improve food intake in elderly horses, poor eaters and in situations where consumption of medications or supplements are crucial. Most horse owners can probably remember a particular situation where they created an equine smorgasbord trying to tempt a certain horse to eat. The frustration of that situation may be relieved by simply knowing more about what horses may want to eat and now being able to offer it to them.

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"Carats" to Help Horses

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Agriculture Equine Impound Program**



One Carat total diamond weight-Ring appraised at \$1000

Drawing to be held May 2nd at the Georgia Equine Rescue League's
Gene Ensminger Memorial Trail Ride

Ticket holders need not be present to win.

CARATS RAFFLE TICKETS

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Patty Livingston
gerlpatty@yahoo.com
(770) 867-0760

The Rhinestone Rodeo Chics Drill Team 2nd Annual Fundraiser Trail Ride

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. - Ride begins at 10:00 a.m.
Georgia International Horse Park - Conyers, GA

\$25 donation includes lunch

Please RSVP

Heather Wages (678) 313-6929 or aprilfool_1972@yahoo.com

Everyone is invited!!!

Please Make Note of GERL's NEW ADDRESS

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Bethlehem, GA 30620**



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

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Catherine & Bobby James
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Sonny & Kay Hinote
Mickey Farmer
Carolyn Griggs
Tammerly McDonald



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Your Change Jars**

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GA Farm & Ranch Supply
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Thank You To Our Foster Homes

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for fostering Rusty

Harriet O'Rear
for fostering Miss Greenway

Jean Long
for fostering Lucky

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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.

GLOSSARY OF HORSE TERMS

Hock: Financial condition of most horse owners.

Stall: What your rig does at rush hour in an unfamiliar city on the way to a big horse show.

A Bit: What you have left in your pocket after you've been to your favorite tack shop.

Fence: Decorative structure built to provide your horse with something to chew on, scratch against and jump over.

Well Mannered: Hasn't stepped on, bitten, or kicked anyone for a week.

Rasp: Abrasive metal tool used to remove excess skin from ones knuckles.

Lunging: Popular training method in which a horse exercises their owner by spinning them in circles until dizzy.

Gallop: Customary gait a horse chooses when returning back to the barn.

Nicely Started: Lunges, but not enough health insurance to even think about riding him.

Easy to Load: Only takes 3 hours, 4 men, a 50lb bag of oats, and a tractor with loader.

Easy to Catch: In a 10x10 stall.

Easy Rider: Rides good in a trailer; not to be confused with "ride-able".

Endurance Ride: End result when your horse spooks and runs away with you.

Hives: What you get when receive the vet bill for your 6 horses, 3 dogs, 4 cats, and 1 donkey.

Hobbles: Walking gait of a horse owner after their foot has been stepped on by their horse.

Feed: Expensive substance used to manufacture manure.

Cribbing: The vice of chewing your pencils while worrying as you're figuring the cost of next year's hay.

Light Cribber: We can't afford to build anymore fencing or box stalls for this buzz saw on four legs.

Equitation: The ability to keep a smile on your face and maintain proper posture while your horse tries to crow hop, shy and buck his way around a show ring.

Mustang: The type of horse your husband would gladly trade your favorite one for . . . preferably in a red convertible and V-8.

Overreaching: A descriptive term used to explain the condition your credit cards are in by the end of show season.

Quitter: A term trainers have commonly used to refer to their clients who finally come to their senses and pull horses out of their barns.

Tack Room: A room where every item necessary to work with or train your horse has been put, in a place where it cannot be found in less than 30 minutes.

Versatility: An owners ability to shovel manure, fix fences and chase down a loose horse all in one afternoon.

GERL POKER RIDE '09
By: Patty Livingston, President

If you were anywhere in Georgia on the weekend of March 14th, you know that it was wet and cold. Despite the challenging weather, 43 people showed up for the GERL Poker Ride at Dawson Forest. A last minute attempt to salvage the weekend had me suggesting something very different from all of our other Poker Rides... leave your horse at home and come, anyway. Of course, I had no idea whether or not people really would come out and brave the nasty weather.

What a wonderful surprise it was when people started arriving! It wasn't soon before our little Taj Mahal of tarps and canopies was crowded with people. It made me think about the movie with Kevin Costner called "Field of Dreams". "Build it and They Will Come" was the theme of our Poker Ride.

I arrived at Dawson Forest around 1:00 pm on Friday to find a very large tarp already draped across a long rope between two trees. Amy and Scooter Cox and Kaitlin had already been there and started the construction. Susan and Ken Archer, Steve Stowers Marge Mabey, Ray Ziebell and Mickey Farmer all arrived shortly after me. The rain held off most of Friday, with the exception of an occasional few short sprinkles. This enabled us to build a cover high enough to have a good sized fire and house approximately 50 people. Steve Stowers, assisted by Duane Evenson, volunteered his time to help with the construction which required a lot of tree and ladder climbing to tie off the ropes. We had also erected several walls that kept the wind blocked. We were proud of ourselves after surveying the finished structure and getting a fire started.



Marge Mabey & Susan Archer

We were lucky enough to get a visit from Janet and Darryl (Butch) Adams, GERL members from Hiawassee, while we were building "Tent City". Darryl is recovering from a bone marrow transplant that he underwent back in the fall and is looking great. It was wonderful to see them, again, and I'm hoping that we'll be seeing more of them at some of our other functions in the near future.

Saturday morning started out very overcast and about 40 degrees. Our dedicated volunteers arrived bright and early and proceeded to set up for registration and the food. Surprisingly enough, there were five rigs there with horses, but only two were brave enough to actually saddle up and ride the trails. Those guys were Rusty Hutton and Louis Hartzler. Meanwhile, Sonny Hinote was cooking the chicken and Italian sausage, while Ken Archer cooked up a huge pot of chicken noodle soup. Alan Brown of Processors Co-Op Inc. donated all of the food. Alan has always been a wonderful friend to GERL and I thank him from the bottom of my heart. Anyway, everybody stayed dry as we gathered around the fire to eat lunch and socialize with each other. It was great to see some old friends and meet some new ones.

(continued on the following page)



Rusty Hutton & Louis Hartzler
our only riders

GERL POKER RIDE '09

(continued from the previous page)

14 year old Caroline Mabey won \$100 for the top poker hand with a flush (that's five cards of the same suit for those of you who don't know). That little sweetheart donated most of the money back to GERL! David McCannon won 2nd prize and Julie Williams and Keith Fleming won 3rd.

It takes a lot of volunteers to put on a function like this and I'd like to recognize and thank each and every person who helped make it happen: Ken and Susan Archer, Mickey Farmer, Steve Stowers, Scooter and Amy Cox, Russell and Kaitlin, Marge Mabey, Ray and Pierette Ziebell, Terry Camp, Leisa and David McCannon, Kelly Lockerman, Kristen Glushko, Donna Pieper, Keith Fleming, Steve Stowers, Kelly Lockerman, Betty and Duane Evenson, Sonny Hinote, Diana Kelsey DeMoss, Steven Neal and Alan Brown.

We raised a total of \$1,425.00, overall with a total of 43 people in attendance. We had ten new members sign up and two renewals. We also had two more people sign up for the Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride coming up on May 1 - 3. We had \$160 in expenses, with a total profit of \$800 from the Poker Ride, excluding memberships. I think this is certainly something to be proud of! One thing that we learned from this very wet Poker Ride event is that it CAN work and the next time we have a rainy forecast, we will build it and they WILL come!



Steve Stowers and Duane Evenson working hard to get our shelter up before the rain started on Friday



Victoria Taylor and Blackjack on Friday before the rain started



Sonny Hinote our wonderful cook

More Poker Ride Photos

Mickey Farmer was our fire keeper ... making sure that everyone stayed warm



Tent City ...

Everyone looks like they are staying warm and catching up with old friends



Ray Ziebell in his Poker Ride attire



Louis Hartzler & Merlin

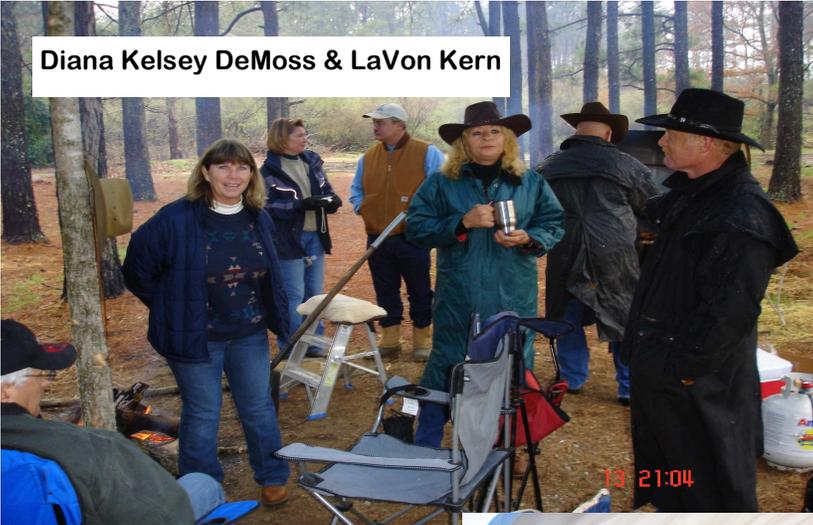


Rusty Hutton & Josh



More Poker Ride Photos

Diana Kelsey DeMoss & LaVon Kern



Jack Pesserilo
keeping warm



David McCannon,
Ronnie Pesserilo
& Patty Livingston

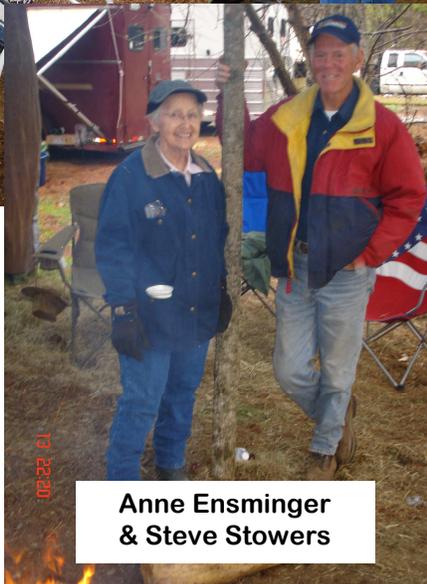


Duane Evenson
hard at work?



Kelly Lockerman,
Ken Archer &
Terry Camp

Anne Ensminger
& Steve Stowers



More Poker Ride Photos



Duane Evenson
& Ken Archer



David McCannon, Susan Archer & Rebecca Kilgore



Tent City

**Donations Made to GERL
In Memory Of Ruth McGarvey**

**Lynne Long
Kennesaw, GA**

**Kenneth & Pamela Bonner
Acworth, GA**

**Billy & Camellia Glosson
White, GA**

**Nancy & Mike Janas
Marietta, GA**

**Irving & Helen Long
Kennesaw, GA**

**Susan & Craig Waldron
Anniston, AL**



**Ruth "Ruthie" Anne McGarvey
1950 - 2009**

Ruthie, born in Dayton, Ohio lived most of her life in northwest Georgia. She was an avid horse lover, potter, and painter who was loved by many and brought smiles to every face. As a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend she enjoyed being outside and teaching art to elementary-aged children.

Ruthie was diagnosed with an astrocytoma brain tumor in October 2007, and later that year was diagnosed with a glioblastoma. She passed away on February 9, 2009.

We invite you to help us help others ...

**Ruthie's Charity Cookout & Auction
May 9th - 4:00 p.m.**

to be held at
**RiverGait Farm
2408 Owens Gin Road
Calhoun, GA**

For further info and to RSVP
cookout@qtruthiescharity.com

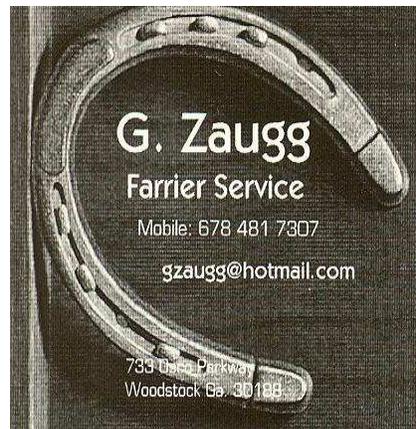
All proceeds of Ruthie's Charity Cookout will go to Angels Among Us which helps to fund research and clinical trials of brain and spinal tumors at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University.

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For info contact Betty Evenson
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March 5, 2009

Seminole Feed
P.O. Box 940
Ocala, FL 34478-0940

Dear Seminole Feed,

I am writing on behalf of the Georgia Equine Rescue League to thank Seminole for sponsoring Larry Mack, who spoke on Re-Feeding Starved Horses at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 28. He is an excellent speaker who exhibits a wealth of knowledge concerning equine nutrition, which he shared so willingly.

His lecture was quite meaningful to our organization and we hope that he will return in the future to teach us more as we develop educational programs aimed at helping horse owners learn more about the subject of equine nutrition.

These are difficult times for many horse owners and GERL is often called upon to rescue severely debilitated horses that require an individualized feeding regimen for successful rehabilitation. Thanks to Mr. Mack and Seminole Feed, we now feel much more prepared meet these needs.

Please convey our gratitude to Mr. Mack, not only for his excellent lecture, but also for his willingness to travel to Georgia on a Saturday to help us learn.

GERL Calendar of Events

Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride
May 1st - 3rd
Round Oak @ Oconee Nat'l Forest
*See page 12 for details & registration form

Fall Fest, 2009
October 30th - Nov 1st
Location to be announced

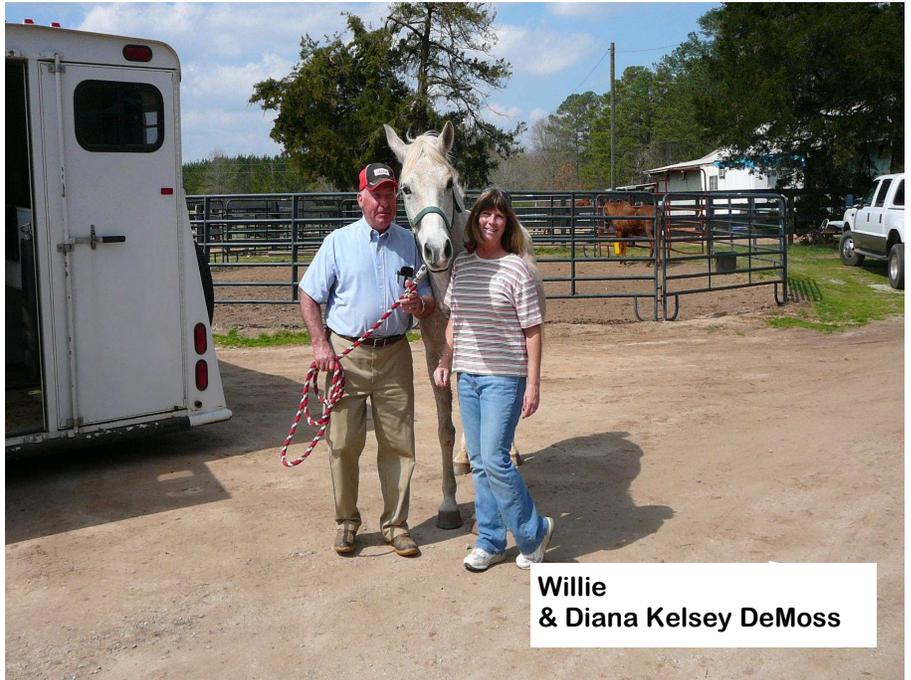
Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful rides that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time ... a benefit for a wonderful cause and a wonderful way to see old friends and meet new friends!



Banjo Has a Permanent Home
By: Diana Kelsey DeMoss, Treasurer

Banjo was our cover story last month. She had been rehabilitated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the loving crew at the Mansfield Impound. Banjo has a condition known as “Sweeney” and could not be sold at auction, so the GDA asked GERL to find a permanent home for her.

We advertised Banjo in the newsletter and on the website. Margaret and Albert Hill saw her on our website and emailed Steven, our webmaster, with questions. They immediately fell in love with the “horse of a different color”. They have an older horse that had recently lost his pasture mate and was depressed. Banjo fit the bill perfectly! And - she was white - which would be a novelty since all of their horses are chestnut!



**Willie
& Diana Kelsey DeMoss**

Steven sent their request and information to Ronnie, our Area Coordinator Director, and she promptly called Susie Bond and Tanya Kingsley. Susie and Tanya are Area Coordinators and happened to be free to go out and visit with the Hill’s and look at their facility. One of the most important steps in placing a horse with an adoptive home is making sure that the facility is safe and well kept, and equally important - that the humans are a good match for their prospective equine.

Tanya and Susie reported back to the Board that the Hill’s were wonderful folks, their facility was a perfect set up for Banjo - and recommended that Banjo be placed with them permanently! What great news!



**Banjo being beautified
before heading to
her new home**

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So - here we go again - off to pick Banjo up at the Mansfield Impound and deliver her to the Hill's. This time, Ken didn't get lost even once - although he is a bit directionally challenged. I can't go into that right now - I am watching my back ...

Anyway, we were greeted at the Impound by Judy, Willie and Meagan - all part of the caring staff there. Banjo was out in the pasture, so Willie and Ken went out to fetch her while Meagan and I organized the paperwork that will make the



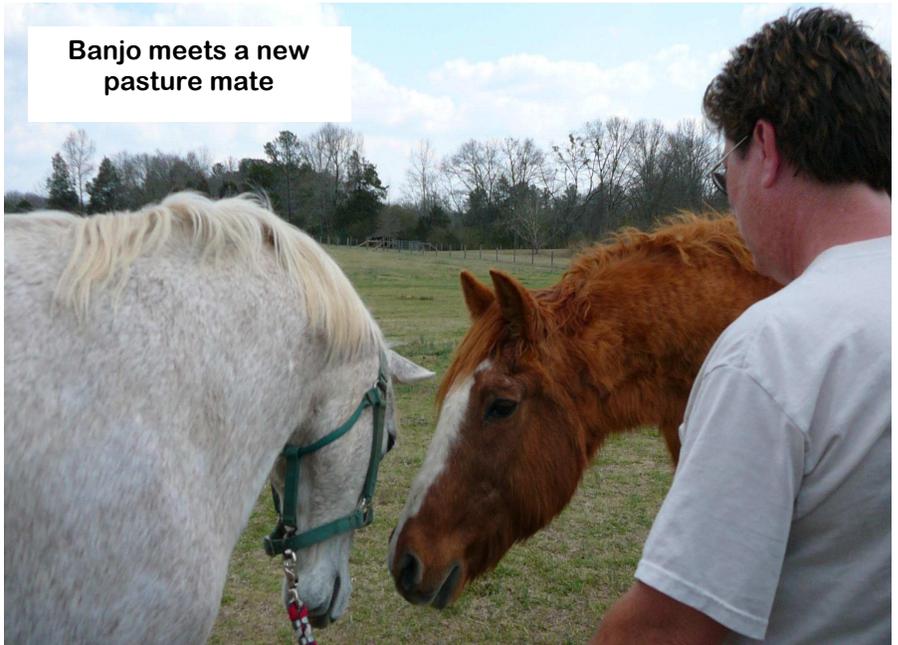
Banjo at her new home with Margaret & Albert Hill

Hill's official owners. She was brushed, stood quietly for her photo op and loaded up just as nicely as you please. Off we go - Banjo's new home is out I-20 near Warrenton.

We arrived at the Hill's to the smiling faces of Margaret and Albert. They were so excited to meet Banjo. Banjo seemed happy to be there, looking around, anxious to put her head down and start munching. After a few more photos, Margaret introduced Banjo to her pasture mate. I know they are both happy to have one another - Banjo happy to be with just one other horse in a large pasture, and her new friend is happy to have her company!

Ken and I have a great job - we get to travel, meet great people - and best of all - there's always a happy ending. I wish it could be that way for each of the horses. As we like to say around here ...

WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Banjo meets a new pasture mate

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