



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help...We Will Make a Difference!

2012 Quarterly Newsletter

July, August & September

FAREWELL TO GRACIE

By Patty Livingston

We were contacted through the GERL Facebook page by a woman in South Georgia who had rescued a horse that she had read about on Craig's List. When she went to see the horse it was so skinny that she purchased her just to get it away from its neglectful owner. She had no idea how to rehabilitate a starving horse and after a week or so contacted GERL and asked if we would take the mare into our program. We do not typically take in horses that have been purchased from owners who are starving them. These well-meaning folks unknowingly negated the ability for the Department of Agriculture or the local county animal control or law enforcement to do anything to the abusive owner. And, of course, the bottom line is that they have just rewarded the abuser by giving him money. In fact, in similar cases, the person buying the horse will often pay more for these horses just because the abusive owner knows that they will pay just about any price he hangs on the horse, especially if it is skinny.

I contacted the lady and asked her to send me some pictures of the horse, which she told me was registered. When I saw the pictures my jaw dropped. I have seen a lot of skinny horses in the four years that I have been doing this, but I have never seen a horse so skinny still

standing. Because of the mare's condition I approached the GERL Board about making an exception and taking her into our program. They all agreed and I immediately contacted the lady about coming to pick her up. It usually takes a few days to make arrangements for us to pick up a horse but I thought we would be on our way to get this one very soon after I let the lady know that we would take the mare into our program.



Unfortunately, that didn't happen and it was a full two weeks later before I could obtain the address where the horse was located and confirmation of a date when I could pick her up. During this time the mare is getting no vet care and no grain, only hay and some grass.

So it was that Miss Anne and I hooked up the stock trailer and head to South Georgia to pick up our newest addition. We found ourselves driving up and down a very long dirt road that ran between huge fields of freshly plowed dirt, trying to find a farm with a skinny gray horse. We drove around for almost a half hour before we finally found the address and a young lady standing out in the front yard with a very pitiful, skinny horse quietly munching on the green grass.

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Talking to her and getting more details about the horse was very confusing and we drove away wondering what “the whole story” with this horse was really about. We were both very concerned that the mare was not going to be able to make it all the way back to Bethlehem without us stopping and giving her a chance to rest. So, we stopped at a Cracker Barrel and went inside to get a bite to eat and let her relax for a spell. We had parked under the pavilion of a abandoned gas station so that she would be in the shade. She was still standing and nickered at us when we came out about forty-five minutes later.



We decided to name her Gracie and thought the new name fit her better than “Lady” which is what we were told her name was. Gracie arrived at my farm in Bethlehem and seemed very happy to get off of the trailer and settled into her new home. She immediately dropped her head and proceeded to graze on the lush grass in my pasture. While I cleaned out the trailer I continued to check on her to make sure that she was doing ok. Two hours later she was still grazing in the same ten foot area that she had gone to when I first put her in the pasture. In fact, four hours later, she was still grazing in that same spot. Gracie was put on senior feed and hence started her rehabilitation. The next day I contacted the vet and made an appointment for them to come out and do an examination on her and pull blood for Coggins. She was too thin to receive vaccinations. They were to come out towards the end of the week. In the meantime, Gracie loved her new stall with shavings and a fan and I noticed that she stood in it quite a bit. She loved her senior feed and the freedom of grazing on a pasture full of grass for a few hours each day.

On the morning of day four I went out to feed and noticed for the first time that Gracie wasn’t interested in her food. That was unusual and I became concerned. She had very loose bowels before and it appeared that instead



of improving it was getting worse. Towards the end of the day I had really started to get concerned with the changes I was seeing in Gracie. I decided to call the vet and take her into their clinic. There are so many things that can happen to an animal’s organs when the starvation process progresses. For instance, they will almost always develop a heart murmur. Unfortunately, Gracie died the next day and we were all just devastated. We were thinking that she was out of the woods and was going to be able to pull through, but apparently that was not to be. It was very sad around my place for the next few days. My neighbors and I all missed hearing Gracie nicker at us when she saw us coming. I know that she is in a better place, but it is still sad to lose one. I had to be satisfied with the fact that Gracie was able to know the kindness of people before she crossed the rainbow bridge. Farewell Gracie.



Coco's Angels

A Story of Compassion and Faithfulness

By: Carol Royer & Diana Kelsey

GERL has some incredible members, true champions for the horses. I am writing in conjunction with just such a member, Carol Royer.

GERL received a donation from Carol for our Feed a Horse program and with that donation was a picture of a very thin horse, Coco, and her explanation as to why she had not been funding that program for over a year. Coco's story was so compelling that I asked Carol her if I could put it in the newsletter for all to read.

Coco was in a pasture close to Carol's home and she stopped by to ask the owner, a 70 year old woman, if she could help her with her horse. The woman told Carol the horse was fine, just 29 years old. She thought that Coco's appearance (body score of 1) was "normal" since the horse was so old. She truly loved the horse and would not consider giving her away.

Carol was not about to walk away from Coco and for 8 months she and her friends, John Lynn, Fred and Linda Stallings and Valerie from Dr. Barrow's office fed Coco twice a day. Coco was wormed several times, had her feet trimmed, her teeth (not many of those left) floated and was bathed and brushed on a regular basis. Dr. Barrow oversaw Coco's care and Valerie fed in the evenings when Carol had to work.

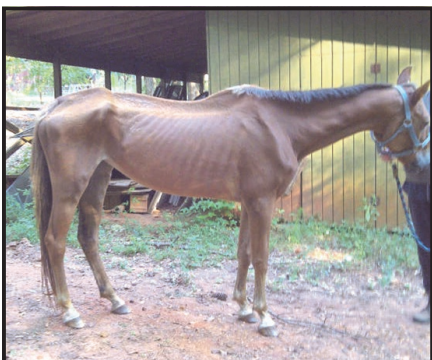
Coco thrived under these caring people! She gained 300 pounds on her mushy diet of senior feed, vitamins and alfalfa pellets. She trotted up to meet her "angels" at feeding time. She paced when they were "late" and talked constantly while her feed was being prepared.

Then, one morning, she wasn't there. Carol let Valerie know and when Coco didn't show up for dinner that night or breakfast the next morning, Valerie searched the entire 30 acres that Coco lived on. She found her in a small ditch, no signs of trauma or struggle on that pleasant evening in May. The sweet mare, Coco, had laid down to die. It was her time.

Coco had the best care in the last 8 months of her life – because of the compassion and faithfulness of a wonderful group of "angels".

Carol wrote on the bottom of her note, "This check catches me up since May and is donated in Coco's name, because she knew what it was like to be a body score of 1. Thanks for all you do."

Carol, John, Valerie, Fred, Linda – thank YOU for what YOU do! *With your help, we will make a difference.*



Please Help!

GERL receives money for the following ...

Please save Proof Of Purchase
seals from bags of these
Southern States feeds ...
Legends, Triple Crown & Reliance

and send them to:

Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
Atlanta, GA 30342

Thank You

Lynn Yates, thank you for your donation!
You just keep giving and
giving—you are a blessing to us!

Thank you, Georgia Safe Trails, for
your donation!

We would like to thank Gregory and
Rebecca Keyes for their generous
donation to GERL!

Nancy Fitzgibbons, thank you for
being our "angel"!

Thank you,
Juli Williams, for helping GERL with
Rocky's expenses!
He is recovering well!



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Saying Goodbye to My Best Friend

By Becky Gregory

I was a young mother of two and needed an out. I went looking for one and that's when I found Chocolate. He had spent the first 8 years of his life alone in a pasture that a bunch of kids played in. He was so dang cute I had to have him. Little did I know he would be one of the best friends I would ever have. I rode him in the Snellville Day Parade two weeks after I got him, with a flag! Bless his heart; he couldn't stand still so when everyone stopped I had to ride him in circles. I took him places that I will never see again. Not because I don't ride (I do), but I would be scared to go there anymore. I guess I was young and I had my Chocolate horse that never missed a step. I was showing



off to a friend one day. He backed up really good, little did I know he would rear up good, too. So then I also had a trick horse. I told him everything and he never told anyone our secrets. Chocolate didn't really like people, but he would still give me hugs. I don't know what kinda horse he was; just that he was the best. Chocolate could jump and you wouldn't even know he had done it. When my butt hit the saddle I could feel the excitement surge through him. We spent a lot of time running through the woods. What a wonderful time we had together. He will always be a part of me. We had a wonderful 22 years together. So I say goodbye to my best friend, I will love him forever. I know someday, if I am lucky, we will run through the heavens together.



**As a convenience you can
renew your membership on
our website using PayPal...**

<http://www.gerlltd.org>

**NEW MERCHANDISE
COMING SOON!**

WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES!

**GERL WILL SOON BE OPENING A NEW
INTERNET STORE! ITEMS INCLUDE MUGS,
BAGS, LICENSE PLATES, KEY CHAINS!**

STAY TUNED!

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William Baker, DVM - Jennifer Baker, DVM

To report a case of equine abuse,

call the Georgia Department

of Agriculture's Equine Division

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an

Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

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Thank You For Your Foster Homes

Greg and Tiffany Bergdorf /Fostering Lucky

Keely Ryan /Fostering Hank

Ryan McCarthy /Fostering Haybaler

Michelle Williams/Fostering Kyra & Rosie

Cindy Farris/Roma, Angel & Angel

Heatherlee Hammonds/Fostering Rocky

Lester and Diane/Fostering Beau

Jacquelin Twiss/Fostering Lizzie

Patti Henry/Fostering Josey

Beth Eavenson/Fostering Alf

Jackie Moore & Leslie Lambert/Fostering Vandy

Ruth Wilson/Fostering Ariska & Sable

Kim and Dan Smith/Fostering Spook & China

Susan Prugh/Fostering Jessie & Pistol

Debora Hines/Fostering Crystal

Ann Murphy/Fostering Star

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

Cork-Howard Construction Company Supports GERL

By Patty Livingston

For the past couple of newsletters I have written stories about an incredible group of employees and management at Cork-Howard Construction Company, located in Marietta, which has taken on a challenge of raising funds every month for GERL's Feed-A-Horse program. The ladies directly responsible for the ideas and fund-raising are Denyse Brackett, Liz Baxter and Janine Powell. Of course, there are other employees and friends who have jumped in and helped with the tireless chore of fund raising. They recently gathered up a bunch of donated items and attended the Woodstock Flea Market and Junk Day, battling the hot summer sun. They are also responsible for setting up a lunch meeting with country radio DJ, Dallas McCade of Kicks 101.5, to brainstorm ideas on how to get more exposure for GERL and the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine program which GERL supports. They always inspire me with the great ideas they come up with to help raise monies and bring awareness about GERL and the plight of so many unwanted horses today. Please join me in applauding these ladies and everything they do for the horses!



Lunch With Dallas McCade of KICKS COUNTRY RADIO 101.5

By Patty Livingston

I had the opportunity to have lunch with celebrity radio DJ, Dallas McCade, recently. Everything was arranged by my new friends at Cork-Howard Construction Company, Denyse Brackett and Liz Baxter, along with their friend, Janine Powell. The five of us met at the radio station and walked across the street to a pizza restaurant for lunch.

If you don't know anything about Dallas McCade, she has a very big heart for animals and five horses of her own. The other ladies and I had already discussed the agenda we wanted to present to Dallas in hopes of getting her endorsement to help communicate our message. Denyse asked about the "Homeless Pet" talk show where they feature Dr. Phil Good who promotes a dog or cat for adoption on the radio every Friday and if we can become part of the weekly segment. We also discussed a billboard campaign and a video. To our absolute surprise Dallas not only offered to do a video for us, but she even offered to donate the cost of the shoot. Holy Cow! This is a dream come true!

We are meeting at the Georgia Dept. of Ag Decatur Impound in mid-September to do the shoot. We are still in the planning stages as to the exact content of the video, but I know that it'll be great and it will bring more attention to the equine program and how important it is. I love seeing things come together for the good of the horses! Thank You, Dallas!



Janine Powell, Dallas McCade, Denyse Brackett, Liz Baxter
& Patty Livingston

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information please
contact Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator
(706) 342-4097 / gerladopt@gmail.com



Jessie is a 16 year old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding, 16.2 hh. This good-looking guy is sweet but shy; needs an experienced rider. Loads, stands for farrier. Lifelong buddy of Pistol.



Gable—Formerly known as “Sable,” Gable is a 3 year old bay TBx gelding, half—brother to Hay Baler. 14.1 hh. Great ground manners, stands tied nicely, yields to pressure. Handsome boy with possible hunter/jumper potential. Sweet and willing, Gable has just started under saddle and is currently in a 30-day Intensive Training program. Then he will be available to finish out YOUR way! He will not be released for adoption until the 30 days are complete, but we are accepting applications now. Only the best adopter will be chosen for THIS special boy!



Pistol -- Pistol is a special guy... he's a cancer survivor! Doctors removed the growth, but he will need to be checked annually. He's a 17 year old spotted red roan Paint/Appaloosa gelding. Isn't he handsome? Pistol is 16 hh. He's friendly and curious, has great feet, and is very well behaved.



Romona—Registered buckskin Quarter Horse mare with papers. 25 years old and 15.2 hands. Some arthritis in front leg. Gentle nature, Good pasture mate. COMPANION ONLY.

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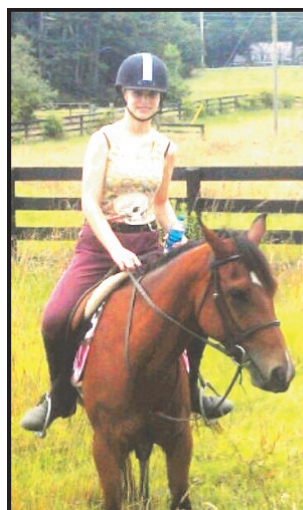
Rocky is an 11 hh yearling. He has a very sweet temperament and is an "in your pocket" pony. He loves attention and spending time with people. His is halter broken and is learning manners very well on the lead line. He is learning to stand quietly for the farrier.



Alf is a 2 year old 13.3hh sorrel gelding with lots of personality! Will probably mature at around 14hh. He's an in-your-pocket kind of horse, and is always the first one to greet you. Alf has completed Parelli Level One horsemanship and is a very quick learner! Extremely curious and playful. Alf has recently started under saddle and is doing GREAT! He responds to pressure, backs, lunges, picks up his feet, and loads on a trailer without a problem. Level headed and has great movement with beautiful smooth gaits. Could go English or Western; lots of hunter/jumper or HUS potential. Alf will be a great horse for a teen or small adult. Whoever adopts this handsome boy will have a terrific equine partner!



Hay Baler - 3 year old sorrel TBx gelding, half—brother to Sable. 14.3 hh, handsome boy with an in- your—pocket disposition. Hay Baler has had extensive groundwork done and has recently been started under saddle. Smart, a quick learner, very people—oriented. Needs a confident, intermediate rider. Hay Baler will be a deluxe horse for someone special! He has the potential for hunter/jumper, or to be a great trail horse.



Hank -- 5 year old bay QH type pony gelding, 14.1 hh. This handsome fellow is a nice quiet walk-trot pony who would make a great trail mount! He has been professionally trained. Hank needs a smaller rider; he would potentially be a good pony for a confident child.

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Meet Beau! He is a 20 year old black Tennessee Walking Horse gelding, sweet and rideable (light riding only). Beau needs a forever home with lots of love and someone to help build his confidence. He is a bit chunky in his picture, but he is getting into shape and is ready to be your best friend!



Meet Kyra! This beautiful 14 year old Arab mare cannot be ridden due to a congenital deformity of the fetlocks. But she is the sweetest pet and companion you will ever find! If you are looking for a pretty girl to love, Kyra is it!



This is Josey. He is a 25 year old appaloosa gelding, 15.3 hh. Josey is sweet and gentle, and is a great pasture companion. He is retired from trail riding, and could still be lightly ridden. Perfect for leading the grandkids around on his back!



This pretty girl is Rosie! She is the 7 year old daughter of Kyra. Rosie is a chestnut Arab, 14.1 hh. Rosie unfortunately inherited the same defect as her mother, so she is not rideable. But what a pretty pasture ornament and pet!

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

SPAGHETTI PIE

- ✓ 1 pound lean ground beef
- ✓ 2 cups spaghetti sauce
- ✓ 1/3 of a 16 oz. package of spaghetti noodles
- ✓ 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- ✓ 1 egg, beaten
- ✓ 1 TBS. butter, melted
- ✓ 1 cup ricotta cheese
- ✓ 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese



Break the spaghetti noodles in half; boil as directed. While noodles are boiling, brown and drain the ground beef. Add the spaghetti sauce and heat through. Drain the noodles. Add the beaten egg, the melted butter, and the grated parmesan cheese to the noodles; mix thoroughly. Press on the bottom and up the sides of a pie pan or shallow casserole dish. Spread the ricotta on top of the noodles. Top with the meat sauce. Bake in a 350 oven about 30 minutes. Turn the oven off, top the casserole with the mozzarella and put back in the oven about 5 minutes, or until cheese melts. Let pie stand 5 to 10 minutes, then slice and serve. You can add diced cooked onions or a jar of mushrooms (well drained) to the beef mixture, if desired. Double the recipe and have plenty left over!

Feed Bag Recipe Submissions

Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Putting On the Feed Bag is a new section in our newsletter and we want your suggestions.

Please submit your recipe to:
recipes@gerlltd.org

2012 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

**October 19-21, 2012
Fright Fest Ride
Dawson Forest**

**November 10, 2012
Ga. Stallion to
Gelding Castration Day
Clinics located across Georgia
Visit our website for
locations closer
to date of event**

**December 8, 2012
GERL Christmas Party
Bethlehem, GA**

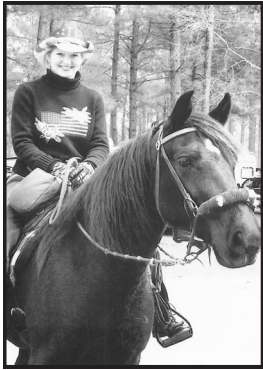


Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

Visit our website to download flyers and directions to some of these events.

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President



There's a lot going on in the world of GERL these days; all of it positive and exciting! Let me start with the topic that excites me the most and that's the Second Annual Georgia Stallion to Gelding Castration Day. Last year we had twelve veterinarians across the state participate and ninety-eight stallions were made into geldings. Plans are currently underway for this year's event and we already have twelve vets signed up to participate. Approx-

mately four of them are vets in areas that were not involved last year. I anticipate that we will have twice the number registered by the end of October. And, of course, something else to get excited about is the fact that we have ten thousand dollars in grant funds from the ASPCA to conduct these clinics! The event is scheduled for November 10th so check the GERL website for the map and veterinarian information of the vets who have already registered.

The second most exciting thing is the fact that we are seeing more and more county animal control and law enforcement agencies prosecuting owners who neglect and starve their horses. We still have a long way to go, but what we're seeing is very encouraging and a step in the right direction. Remember, if law enforcement's goal is just to remove the horse(s) from an owner who is starving it, we will never fix the problem we are

faced with today. Prosecution is a very important part of the "Get Well Plan" and must happen, otherwise, the same abusive owners will continue the cycle of abuse and neglect. I do want to point out that when I receive a call from law enforcement asking for GERL to pick up the tab for vet care and feed for skinny horses that they have impounded, the very first words out of my mouth are: "Are you prosecuting the owner?" I also want to point out that in the past four years that I have been involved in horse rescue GERL has received one restitution check from a county who prosecuted a horse owner. That check was for \$81. That is pretty pathetic considering that we have spent thousands of dollars on impounded horses to ensure that they receive the care they need to be rehabilitated. And, let me say this, about that...until we start to receive more restitution checks from counties who say they are prosecuting I'm not going to get off of my soapbox about this topic. Welfare doesn't work in any situation that I've ever witnessed and it sure isn't going to work with horse owners who starve their horses.

The third most exciting thing that I'm talking about these days is the fact that GERL has recently hooked up with well-known country radio DJ, Dallas McCade of Kicks 101.5. She has a passion for horses and all animals and is willing to get on our bandwagon and help spread the message about the plight of horses in Georgia. As I have said many times, I am a dreamer and a BIG thinker and I often envision driving down the road and seeing a billboard advertising the Georgia Stallion to Gelding Castration Day or one of GERL's many other programs. Having Dallas on GERL's team makes me realize that this really could come to fruition one day. So, fasten your chinstraps and hang on for the exciting ride ahead!

TLAER Horse Hurt during Training Exercise

By Anne Ensminger

I have said many, many times, with tongue in cheek, that if a horse can possibly get hurt, it will find a way to do just that. Who could have possibly imagined that one of the horses used in the well known and greatly respected Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Courses taught by Dr. Thomas and Dr. Rebecca Gimenez could ever get hurt? That is exactly what happened this past year during a demonstration of the proper way to use an A-frame metal pipe structure to lift a horse. "Torque" had been used for this demonstration many times but on this day he panicked and the frame came tumbling down on his head. He suffered a severe head injury and was hospitalized for an extended period of time. Thankfully, Torque is fully recovered and will be able to continue his duties with TLAER.

Many GDA Inspectors and GERL members have enjoyed learning about large animal rescue over the years by taking this excellent course. The accident was simply a freak occurrence and we maintain our total confidence in the knowledge gained from taking the TLAER courses. We join Dr. Thomas and Dr. Rebecca Gimenez in being very thankful that Torque has recovered and that no other participants were involved in this accident.

In Memory of:

Kismet, Jenny Troyer Gelb's 32 y.o. Polish Trakehner by Geri Kono

Sandra Lackey by Maggie & Jim Henry

Deuce, an exceptional Arabian horse that will be fondly remembered by Gail Carmody

Little Man, owned by the Simpson family, remembered by Terri Dekle

Doc by Spencer Holland

Gene Ensminger by Dr. Rebecca Gimenez

**GERL is proud to announce
you can now DONATE
on our website using Paypal!**



*Easy and secure,
just go to www.gerlltd.org*



Thank You For Donating To Our Stallion to Gelding Program.

Sarah Hill-you are ever faithful!
Thank you!



GERL Stallions to Gelding Program.

**Stallions Gelded
To Date By GERL: 200**



Little Man

By Anne Ensminger

Bill Simpson is a long time and very well known and respected horseman in Walton County. He loves breeding, training, and showing cutting horses. Bill is also deeply involved in the fairly new sport of mounted shooting. We are proud to say that he has been a member of GERL for quite some time.

If you have had horses for a long time, you know that they are all wonderful but that special "one" comes along maybe once in a lifetime. Little Man was that horse for Bill. The whole family loved Little Man. He could, and was always willing to do it all.

Little Man is gone now but he will never be forgotten. There are other horses on the farm that need ridin' but it will never be exactly the same for Bill.

Our deepest sympathy to the Bill Simpson family as they adjust to life without one of the BEST.

Feed A Horse Program

Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. "Feed a Horse" program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



I would like to make a donation of:

- ☐ \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$_____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- ☐ \$_____ any donation is gladly accepted!

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to:

GERL

Mail to: P.O. Box 328

Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

***Your donation is
tax deductible!***

Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.



will host the 2nd Annual



GEORGIA STALLION TO GELDING CASTRATION DAY

November 10, 2012

Details: Specific equine veterinarians all across Georgia will be participating by hosting a low cost castration clinic for \$100 per horse. GERL will pay \$50 and the owner/client will pay \$50.00. Please check the GERL website (www.gerlltd.org) for participating veterinarians

Contact for more details:

Patty Livingston
(770) 867-0760



Disclaimers:
No Cryptorchids.
Tetanus required.



TheStore

Ladies Polo's
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White,
Light Blue,
Yellow Haze,
Heather



Men's Polo Shirts
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White, Light Blue,
Yellow Haze, Heather
Grey



Youth Sweatshirt Navy
M-XL \$15.00



T-Shirts - 100% pre-shrunk
cotton. S-XXL All sizes \$10.00
Blue Spruce, Cactus Green
River Blue, Khaki



Ladies contoured fit, cap
sleeve, ribbed T. 90% cotton,
10% poly. S-XL. \$10.00.
Deep Heather, Raspberry,
Black



Adult Vest Black
13.5oz., 100% spun
poly. Lycra trimmed
armholes and hem.
Front pockets. XS-XL All
sizes \$27.00



Adult L.S. T's 100% pre-shrunk cotton.
S-XL \$15.00 XXL \$18.00
Black, Cobblestone, Chocolate
and Cardinal Red



Ladies Denim L.S. Shirt,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
S-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



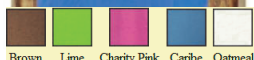
Men's Denim L.S. Shirt,
with front pocket,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
M-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



Otto 6 panel, low profile
caps. \$15.00
A MUST HAVE!!
Dark Olive, Pumpkin,
Light Pink
Dark Brown (not shown)



Ladies contoured feminine
body. Super soft 1 by 1 baby
ribbed knit, 5.8oz. 100%
combed ringspun cotton.
Chocolate, Navy, Pink and
Light Blue.
S-XL \$16.00 XXL \$18.00



Adult T-Shirt Horse
Logo 100% pre-
shrunk cotton.
M-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00



Youth T's. 100% preshrunk
cotton. Grey is 90/10. S-XL
\$6.00 - Royal Blue, Black,
Heather Grey



Horse Logo
Ladie's Combed Ringspun
T- Shirts
S-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00 - XXXL \$16.00
Iris, Banana, Pink, Cantaloupe

Visit our website to place an order: <http://www.gerlltd.org>

Third Annual Cairo, Georgia Vaccination Clinic

By Anne Ensminger

Seventy four horses and donkeys in South Georgia are now protected from some very serious equine diseases because of the hard work of two dedicated Cairo veterinarians, Dr. Janet Ackerman and Dr. Alex Greenberg, members of their office staffs, and GERL. All cheerfully gave up a Saturday morning for the third year in a row to insure the success of the September 8 GERL Vaccination Clinic. Four of your five GERL Board of Directors members, as well as the hardest working GERL member in South Georgia, Debora Hines, were on hand to take care of the "paper work", sell GERL merchandise, and tell people about the work of GERL. Dr. Janet Ackerman's wonderful husband, Gary, greeted the horse owners on arrival, started the process of obtaining information, and kept the horses moving through the line. It was a virtual, very smooth



Gary, Debora Hines, Diana Kelsey, Anne Ensminger, Eddy O'Hern
(Patty Livingston taking picture....recognize her shadow?)

running assembly line!

The clinic offered EWT, West Nile, Rabies, Rhino/Flu vaccines, and Coggins testing to horse owners at a discounted fee. The total paid by GERL was \$4828.00. Yes, this was a very expensive, but we feel important, undertaking. It has, however been decided that our vaccination clinics will not include paying any part of the cost for Coggins testing in the future. After all, the test provides no protection for any of the conditions about which we are concerned.

As long as horses (and humans) are exposed to mosquitoes, there will be risk of infection from mosquito borne disease. The southern region of our state has the ideal climate to promote breeding of mosquitoes and that is the reason that GERL sponsors most of our Vaccination Clinics in that area. We do, however, plan to hold clinics in other areas of Georgia in the future. Georgia Department of Public Health reports five horses in our state, known to be infected with EEEV this year. To become aware of the symptoms should inspire any horse owner to vaccinate against this deadly disease. High fever, loss of muscle control, and eventual paralysis are not anything



Dr. Alex Greenburg prepares to vaccinate
two beautiful Paint horses

we want our horses to suffer, especially if it can possibly be avoided by vaccinating. Unvaccinated horses carry a ninety percent mortality rate after contracting EEE.

West Nile Virus presents similar symptoms but carries a lower mortality rate. Once your horse has acquired either disease, there is no specific treatment regimen. Only supportive therapy is available and that can be quite expensive.

GERL is very proud to sponsor both vaccination and castration clinics during each year as our way of, both protecting the health of our horses, and to begin to chip away at the problem of an overabundance of horses in our state. GERL is acutely aware that too many available horses, allows horse ownership for many who cannot afford to care properly for them. While I would love for every person who loves and enjoys horses as much as I, to have one or more of them, I feel very strongly that horse (or any pet) ownership is a privilege which carries a substantial financial obligation. There are many regular expenses in every household which need to be met before animal ownership should ever be considered.



Dr. Janet Ackerman and assistant work with
a very willing patient

GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

PRESENTS: FRIGHT FEST 2012

OCTOBER 19, 20, 21



A BENEFIT RIDE TO HELP STARVED, ABUSED & NEGLECTED HORSES

TO BE HELD AT DAWSON FOREST, DAWSONVILLE, GA
26+ MILES OF TRAILS

Guided Trail Rides or
Go Out on Your Own

Pottluck Dinner Friday Night
Bring your Favorite Dish

Breakfast Sat. & Sun.
Dinner Sat. night
INCLUDED!!!



Costume and Best Decorated
Camp Contest - Judging on Sat. afternoon

Cowboy Church Sunday A.M.



Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday Evening
Mickey Farmer –World Famous Auctioneer

Donate Items for the Auctions!
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PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! WE WILL ACCEPT LATE COMERS ON A
SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ONLY. DON'T TAKE A CHANCE, REGISTER NOW!

DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM @ WWW.GERLLTD.ORG

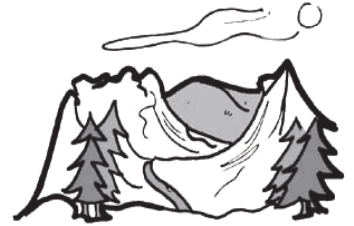
QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANNE ENSMINGER @ 770-464-3348 or missanne612@bellsouth.net

REGISTRATION FORM

GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

FRIGHT FEST 2012 - October 19, 20, 21

Dawson Forest, Dawsonville, Ga.



All riders and non-riders must be registered by Oct. 12th.
Registrations received after that date will not be guaranteed a camping spot.

Camping is primitive. There are trees in most areas for tie lines. Portable pens are allowed. Water truck will be parked on site for your horse. The terrain at Dawson Forest is suitable for all riding levels. We recommend that your horse be shod.

Volunteers will be showing you where to park when you arrive. Camping is on a first come, first serve basis.

Negative Coggins is required—*no exceptions*.

You will receive an information packet through the mail on the week of the ride. Please bring it with you! This packet will contain directions to Dawson Forest, a waiver that must be filled out by you prior to arrival at camp and a trail map.

For further information or questions please contact Anne Ensminger: 770/464-3348 or missanne612@bellsouth.net

GERL MEMBER? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

No. of Adult Campers/GERL Members: _____ X \$55 ea. = _____

No. of Adult Campers/ Non-Members: _____ X \$65 ea. = _____

No. of Children/GERL Members: _____ X \$10 ea. = _____

No. of Children/Non-Members: _____ X \$15 ea. = _____

**Not camping but attending Sat. night
dinner, auction and dance:** _____ X \$10 ea. = _____

Primitive camping: = \$10 Per Rig for weekend = _____

Per Day Ride Fee: _____ X \$7 ea. = _____

Total = _____

Make check payable to: GERL
Mail to: Anne Ensminger
3662 Dally Rd. S.E., Covington, GA 30014

50% non-refundable deposit
due now = _____

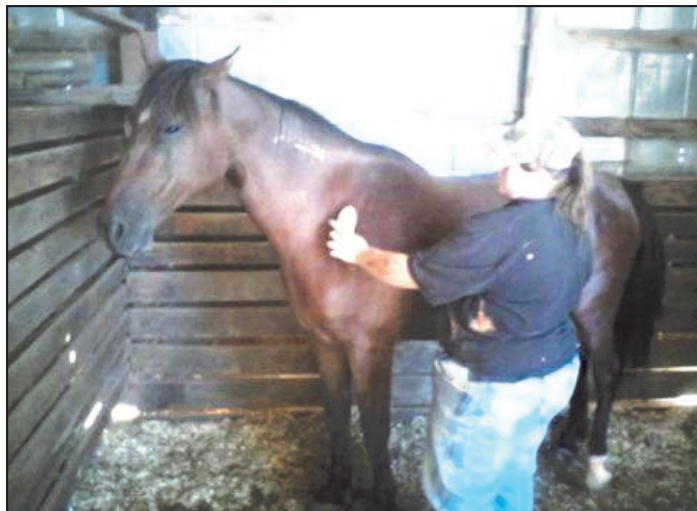
Balance Due at check-in = _____

For additional registration forms, go to our website: www.gerlltd.org

Update on Flicka the Mustang

Hey there!

Just wanted you to know that I made the decision to send Flicka the mustang mare to a trainer who would care for Flicka on a daily basis and also has a "way" with horses in Crandall, Ga. I could not get out to see Flicka in Canton and the other trainers were not coming out consistently. I met Celeste from a friend who rescued a mustang out in Dallas. Celeste adopted Montana who was a mustang stallion underweight and all alone. I had Celeste come out to see how she would do with Flicka and I liked what I saw. So, I loaded up Flicka a few weeks ago and she is doing really well. Now, you have to realize that well for a domestic horse would be a lot more than what "well" is for a scared, barely unhandled mustang. Celeste has Flicka in a stall and she has progressed to coming out of the stall into the hall of the barn. I decided against the chute even though I had a friend make one out in Canton. I did not want to flood Flicka and scare the crap out of her so this slow and steady progress seems to be just what the doctor ordered. Take a look at the photos.....she is now allowing Celeste to brush her. Flicka will be in Crandall for 2 months at 300.00



a month out of my own pocket. I pray to the good Lord that He will help me do what I need to do to keep my promise that I made to Flicka. I told her that she would never go hungry again as long as I was able to help her.

Take care and hugs to ya both,
Tracy Clarkson and Flicka the well fed mustang mare.

Buddy Finds His Forever Home

This is a letter from Buddy's new owner, Tonya Cantrell:

Hey Patty,

Buddy is doing great....He seems to have great ground manners...He is learning to load fairly well...he is wonderful for baths and grooming...cleaning his feet...picks up all four very well for me... We called the vet and he said to monitor him for the first week and see how he does...Says that stress sometimes can play a factor...as of this past weekend...he seems to be doing sooo much better...cuts and sores are clearing and urine stream is better and clearer...He's definitely on a regular routine and feed schedule...getting lots of love and attention... I feel once he knows he's not being moved and he's at "home"...He will be fine.. He seems to be very content and happy. i know I am. I am not even attempting to ride until we have established a bond and he trusts me and we put a few more pounds on him...have him completely up to par...

again...thank you so much for all you have done...for Buddy and all the horses....You guys are great.
Talk to you soon! take care!
Tonya :)



Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine SUCCESS STORIES

By Jessie Murray, GDA Inspector

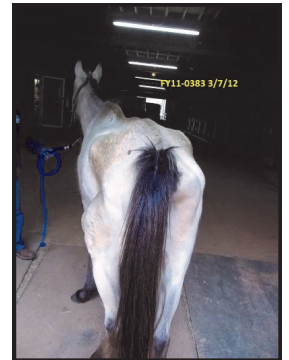
This is Sundance's Success Story. This is Sundance a 6 yr old Buckskin Stallion in March at his arrival to one of our equine facilities. He was in very poor body condition.



GDA Inspector, Sheila Ogle and
Dr. Ross Kittrell

Georgia Department of Agriculture has rehabilitated many equine during our program and continues to do it today. We receive LOTS of very needed support from Georgia Equine Rescue League, GERL. To Find out more about our Equine Program & how you can help, please check out our web-site

<http://www.agr.georgia.gov/equine-health.aspx>



Sundance was unfortunately not quite ready for our May Sale. He was greatly improved, however, he didn't make the sale's list for that sale. Well, we had a very nice couple, Tonya and Phillip. They were shopping and had come to our May Sale.

They noticed him in the pasture and inquired to the Equine Manager, Mat Thompson. Phillip said to Mat, "I will match whatever the highest bid is today for that buckskin gelding out in the field." Well Tonya and Phillip purchased Sundance, and supported our program.

This is Sundance today! Wow! Tonya and Phillip have done a great job. Sundance is NOW known as Buckshot and has a loving home!



GERL Benefit Polo Match 2012 at Chukkar Farm

By Anne Ensminger

Jack Cashin started offering to hold a benefit polo match for GERL several years ago. Why we never took him up on it, I have no idea. Perhaps it was because we members of the Board of Directors felt we were putting out all of the effort we could manage by producing the three large fund raisers we have done for years. Then we began to realize that those events were now producing much less income than they had in the past. That is when we became certain that we had to do more. I guess none of us knew a thing about polo and we must not have thought that it would attract an audience. How WRONG we were!

We finally accepted Jack's offer in 2010. Many of us saw our very first polo match when we attended. To be a spectator at such a fast paced event is truly thrilling. At my age, I doubly appreciate the outstanding horsemanship and athletic ability of both horses and riders. The farm venue itself is perfect for, not only the game, but for hosting most any kind of social gathering.



The Cork-Howard Construction Company friends

This year, the polo match was held on July 15th. Skies were overcast but it was hot and very humid. I, along with new friend, Ed Merritt, welcomed people at the gate and collected the fee for admission. We met some absolutely lovely people, many not familiar with, but very interested to learn about the mission of GERL. Some were seasoned polo fans and knew to bring chairs, drinks, and snacks.

Denyse Brackett and a group of her co-workers from Cork -Howard Construction Company in Marietta have been regularly holding fund-raisers to benefit GERL. A group of them showed up to help with, and enjoy the polo match but they did not come empty handed! They brought a huge misting machine for the comfort of everyone attending! What a great idea on a hot July day in Georgia.

This year we invited vendors to rent a booth as a way to make extra money. Denise Masters of American Horse Gifts had a lovely booth, as did Patty Livingston. Patty was unveiling her new entrepreneurial effort as "The Sparkle Queen". www.glassbirdproducts.com She makes and markets lovely bird feeders and bird baths made from vintage glassware. Ann Cofield was also there to promote her book, "Put Your Boots On, Missy" which is a delightful story for "those who have ever loved a horse or loved a cowboy. That description fits most of my lady friends.

Even though the heavens opened up and dumped a large amount of very much needed rain on the field after the intermission causing the remainder of the polo match to be called off, it was a fun and successful day for GERL and all who came out to enjoy the event. We offered to refund a portion of the price of admission but not one person accepted. Many went home with the satisfaction that comes with snagging a real bargain at the auction and/or flea market. Others were happy to have had an opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones as we were all forced to huddle together under the porch and pavillion to stay dry.

Thanks to Jack Cashin and all of the polo players. We look forward to visiting Chukkar Farms again next year!

Impound Sale 8-11-12 Mansfield Impound

By Mat Thompson



GDA Inspectors Jeanette Smith and Adriane Cook and GERL Volunteer & Cook, Clifford Herrington, man the GERL T-shirt booth at the GDA Mansfield horse auction.

What a great sale! I just want to take a minute to personally thank everyone involved in the Equine Health program. I can't mention everybody, but you know who you are.

We had a really rewarding impound sale Saturday at Mansfield. It was a rainy day, but no one seemed to care. The GDA staff and volunteers worked together like a fine Swiss watch. We sold all 8 of the horses offered in 30 minutes. This was riding 6 of them with Lisa Wald being the only rider. So you can see from this everything went very smoothly. All the horses were well behaved and hopefully they have gone on to great homes.

The horses brought good prices for today's economy. 5 of them went between \$400 and \$500 dollars. The low selling horse brought \$100 dollars. The sale total was \$2,695.00. We are already planning the next sale which will be at LASP, Lee Arrendale State Prison, on September 22nd. They will have 8 horses to sell with many of them under saddle.

I want to thank all the inspectors for all their hard work out in the field. This success starts with you and all that you do. This is totally a team effort to get these horses to their new homes. Even though you are not there in the end, you certainly are in the beginning. The many months of rehabbing and care is essential for saving these horses. The impound staffs and inmates are crucial in this phase of their recovery. Next the horse's preparation and riding prior to the sale makes it all come together. These people put in extra hours and sweat to offer the horses at their very best. The Mansfield Farm was in its best shape ever.

A thanks must be given to Patty and GERL who are always there to support us. Without their help we would not be here.

Finally, what can I say about Mickey Farmer, our ever willing auctioneer. He unselfishly puts his time, talent and personality into every sale we have. He has a way of squeezing every penny out of the bidders.

Thanks for a job well done!
MAT

Farewell from Becky Gregory!

I have worked as the Foster Coordinator for the last three years and what a wonderful feeling it gave me. Now I am handing it over to a great lady, Cindy Farris. I know it will give her the same satisfaction it gave me. I got to meet so many great people and horses along the way. I want to give a big thanks to all the wonderful foster families that have jumped in there to help out. The Area Coordinators that are out there working, they have been wonderful to me. I have made some really good friends on my three year journey with GERL. I have to say to you people, every one of you are THE BOMB! What makes it work is all the love and care that goes into GERL. Once again thank you all for giving me the last three years!

Becky, we are certainly going to miss you! You have done a fabulous job coordinating the intake of horses coming in to the GERL program. It is no easy job finding folks to pick up and deliver horses, foster homes and keeping up with all that is going on with the foster horses!

You have been a cheerful and entertaining part of our lives! THANK YOU!

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK MANN, BELOVED GDA VOLUNTEER

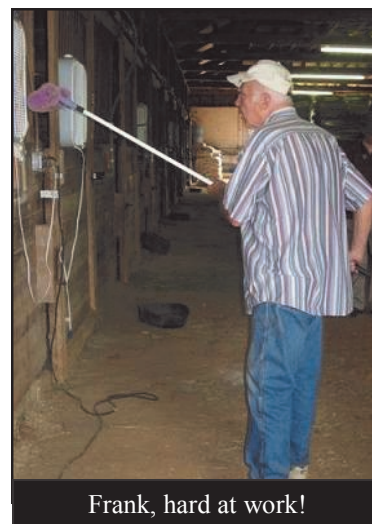
By Nancy Bogardts

Frank and I knew each other for a number of years prior to him volunteering at the horse barn. He was very involved with an outreach of Rockdale Baptist Church in the Lakeview Trailer Park Community in Conyers and as a school social worker for Rockdale Schools we worked with many of the same students and families. He also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for youth who were involved with the Rockdale County Juvenile Court.

In 2006 we were holding an auction at Mansfield and while taking bids and buyer information I saw Frank in the crowd. He asked me if we needed volunteers at the impound and I told him that we always did. Frank applied to become a volunteer but due to his recent serious health issues the department asked for a medical release prior to his approval. When the approval was granted he was so tickled and he immediately became a regular fixture at the barn. He dearly loved the horses and would often dream about buying this one or that one to take home with him.

Willie Moore and Frank worked alongside each other nearly every Friday for the past five years or so. Frank would bring Willie a biscuit on Friday mornings and after they fed the horses they would eat their biscuits and drink a cup of coffee and chat for a bit before getting back to their work. At the funeral service I spoke to Frank's son, Kenny, and he told me that Frank had recently asked him to go to the store and buy some coffee so that he could take it out to the barn. Although Frank didn't have the chance to go to the barn on Friday morning after all, Kenny brought the coffee to Willie because he said Frank said that "he and Willie had to have their coffee".

Frank found a puppy two years ago and named her "Girlie". Girlie and Frank were as close as two peas in a pod. Kenny said that the family had often joked that Frank should have named the dog, "GERLie" to reflect his dedication to the care of the horses. He mentioned that the family would love to have donations made to GERL to honor Frank's love for the horses who are cared for at the barn.



Frank, hard at work!

A side note from GERL: We all enjoyed working with Frank on workdays and at auctions! He will truly be missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

Angel

By Cindy Farris

Angel is a beautiful registered Palomino Quarter Horse mare. She is owned by a lovely woman, Sharon, who suffers from advanced Parkinson's disease. Sharon will soon undergo brain surgery with the hope and expectation that she will become virtually symptom free. Knowing that she will be unable to care for her mare over several months of rehabilitation, Sharon asked if GERL would care for Angel. This is not a thing that we usually do but the circumstances were such that we felt an exception should be made. Angel is now a guest on my farm and will receive the best possible care until the day that Sharon can take her home.

The mare suffers from Navicular Disease, known to be very painful. Sharon recently elected to have her veterinarian perform a neurectomy on Angel, as a way to make her more comfortable. Now, after the surgery and two weeks of stall rest, Angel is back in the pasture with her pasture mates. It made my heart very happy to watch her beautiful floating movement as she trotted from the barn out to the pasture. I couldn't wait to call Sharon and describe how well her mare was doing after the surgery and with no



Angel & Cindy

apparent sign of pain! I told Sharon that we should think of it as a wonderful prediction of how well her own surgery will probably go. She laughed and agreed that yes, it is hopefully a good sign.

I am honored to partner with GERL to take care of Sharon's mare during this difficult time in her life. It has made me a better person to have the opportunity to meet Sharon and her family. I sincerely hope it gives all of them great comfort to know that Angel is in a good place for as long as necessary.

Good luck to Sharon and her family from your GERL family!



Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jack and Ronnie Pessirilo for the loss of their beloved dog, Dee Dee Doodle. Dee Dee was part of the GERL family, she attended all of our rides, normally with Jack on the golf cart. She was a rambunctious little girl and even had her own Facebook page! She will be missed by all of us, but always in our hearts!



The “IT” Factor

By Ruth Wilson

Britain has a TV show named after it. Celebrities have it. If you got it, you got it; if you don't, you don't. You can't buy it. It just comes naturally. What is it??

The “IT” factor is a pop culture term used to describe the indescribable. It's that intangible element that makes some people stand out from the rest. It's that special little somethin'-somethin' that makes folks take notice. Well, horse people know that certain horses have the “IT” factor too!

“I T” in our case stands for Intensive Training. Brannon Reeves of Phoenix Horse Training is helping GERL with a project this month. We wanted to take one of the foster horses that we felt had lots of potential, and put thirty days professional training on him. As you can well imagine, most of our potential adopters are not horse trainers; they are generally pleasure riders who want a horse that has at least been started under saddle. A rideable horse has a much better chance of being adopted. So we decided to take one of our young horses to the next level and get him ready for his forever home!

This month's “IT” horse is Gable. Formerly known as Sable, he is a three year old bay Thoroughbred cross, 14 hh with beautiful floating movement and a naturally curious disposition. Gable has been subjected in his short training time to plastic bags, tarps, jolly balls, bicycles, dogs, cowbells, pool noodles, blankets, and a host of other scary things that go “flap.” He has had extensive round pen work and has already been saddled several times as of this writing. If the weather cooperates he will begin riding in the next few days. We think that Gable has tons of HUS or hunter/jumper potential. He is a real eye-catcher!

Be sure and check out these pictures of Gable in training. We are accepting applications on this handsome boy, but he will not be adopted out until he has completed at least 30 days under saddle. If you are looking for a nice entry-level English show horse, or just a fun project, consider adding Gable to your wish list! Only the perfect home for this guy!



YOUR HORSE HAS AN EYE INJURY- SO NOW WHAT?

Rocky's Story

By: Heatherlee Hammonds

The first words that any horse person or vet would tell you is that an injury to the eye is not to be taken lightly; that you should not try to be a hero. This was the case with our GERL foster, Rocky. He was safely tucked in his stall for the night waiting for his dinner when we turned around and there was a bunch of red on white with his lid hanging and half torn off. Needless to say, an immediate call was made to our vet and quite a few sutures followed. The recovery time for an eye injury can vary from horse to horse and case to case. In our case, it took Rocky five weeks to fully recover from his injury. There is a lot of care, time and attention involved.

Right after Rocky received his stitches; we had to apply an ointment twice a day, give medication twice a day, make certain that he wore a fly mask all the time, and we had to pay close attention to dirt getting in his eye so we would wash his face and around his eye twice a day. Let me tell you, he loves to scratch his face so trying to keep dirt away was a challenge! Even with all that time and attention, he had to undergo surgery on his lid and stayed in the "horse hospital" for three days with an eye patch that contained Furason to help it heal better, which was also followed by another two weeks of recovery. This included the same steps we had been doing for the previous two weeks. After two weeks of recovery from surgery, his stitches were removed and now it looks like nothing happened.

The most important thing you can do is contact your vet immediately if your horse punctures, tears or scratches any part of his eye. Some recoveries are not as simple as others but if caught and cared for properly and if the injury allows, it will heal beautifully.

GERL would like to thank everyone who sent in donations for Rocky's injury. It made a difference!

Heatherlee Hammonds
Foster Mom to Rocky



"Happily Ever After....."

By Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator

This issue's *Happily Ever After* feature horse is Abner! Our little Haflinger gelding was not a typical GERL horse. He was NOT a rescue – he and his friends Ariska, Britta, and Stewie came to us because their owner had a dire situation and knew that she did not have the time to carefully screen potential buyers for these wonderful purebred horses. She asked for our help, and GERL was happy to find good homes in exchange for being able to collect a bit higher adoption fee for them. Abner and Ariska went to stay with our friends Leslie and Ernie Gassmann. Leslie and Ernie like to take foster horses in pairs, since they no longer have horses of their own. Placing the Haflingers was not as easy as we first thought. Although they are small, they are a bit high spirited, especially Abner! Everyone who saw them immediately thought "Kid's pony!" We wanted to be sure that whoever adopted these Haflingers understood that it had been a while since they were ridden, and that they would need experienced handling and some tuning up before they were suitable for children.

That's where Jessica and her husband Chris came into the picture! Owners of Silvercrown Farms in Buford, they have ten horses and give riding lessons and have summer camps. Jessica just knew that Abner would be a great match for her program,

and she is small enough to be able to ride him and give him that much-needed refresher course in working under saddle. On September 1, Jessica and Chris went to Leslie and Ernie's, and they liked Abner as much as they thought they would! He is going to be a great addition to their equine family.

As Adoption Coordinator, I do the majority of my work via e-mail and telephone, and often I don't get to see the big moment. But I don't live very far from the Gassmanns, so I went to personally deliver the contract and take some photos of Abner with his new "mom." I was so glad for the opportunity!



“My Story”

By Lynne Yates, Area Coordinator



My name is Lynne Robinson Yates and I am the Area Coordinator for Cobb and surrounding counties. I joined GERL in October of 2011 and immediately applied to become an Area Coordinator. This is my story

about my first year with GERL.

It might seem strange that I am involved with GERL because I don't currently own a horse and have not owned one for about 40 years. My parents sold my horse when I went off to college, but even then I hoped that horses would someday be a part of my life again.

After college, I embarked on a successful career, got married and had a child. Over the next two decades, I concentrated on family, home and work. I raised my son and watched him go off to college. At that time, in 2004, it became obvious that my parents needed some assistance so I spent quite a bit of time with them. By that time I was no longer married and I concentrated my efforts on being there for my parents and seeing my son through some challenges of his own.

Unfortunately, my father passed away in 2007 and my mother in 2011. After a period of grieving, I realized that I needed to find a new focus for my life. For the first time in a long time, I had the freedom to choose to bring horses back into my life. I thought long and hard about buying a horse but, somehow, that didn't seem to be the right decision. I still had a full time job and I wasn't sure that I could devote the time needed. I decided that volunteering for a horse rescue group might be a better choice and I began researching rescue groups online. I found the GERL website and read about the wonderful work that they do. I also read about the duties of an Area Coordinator and it sounded like just the volunteer opportunity I was seeking. I sent in my application for membership and sent an email about becoming an Area Coordinator. Shortly after, my name and contact information was posted on the website and I was officially an Area Coordinator for GERL. With a GERL patch on my car and business cards in my purse, I was ready to get started.

The first event I participated in was a horse show in

Athens. GERL had a booth there where they sold GERL merchandise and handed our information about GERL. I met other individuals in the organization and they welcomed me with open arms. I left the event thinking that I had found some wonderful new friends.

Sometime in March, my phone rang and it was a lady from Michigan who was here in Georgia trying to help her elderly father who was in the hospital. She told me that when her father was well enough to leave the hospital, he would be going to a nursing home and would never be able to come home again. Her father owned a 23 year old Tennessee Walker gelding named Beau. She found my number on the GERL website and called me to see if we could assist her with finding Beau a new home.

This was my first call as an Area Coordinator and I surely wanted to handle it correctly. I knew that the GERL Board would have to approve any decision regarding Beau, so I did not make any promises. I gathered some preliminary information about Beau and sent an email to the Board of Directors. I also reached out to two other Area Coordinators in my area and they both offered to help me should the decision be made to take Beau into our foster program. It made me feel so much better knowing that Ray and Annette were there to help me.

Annette, Ray and I went to see Beau. We all fell in love with him at first sight. He had certainly been given plenty to eat because he was actually overweight. We learned that his pasture mate had died a few years previous, and he had been alone ever since. His owner's daughter told us how much Beau was loved by his owner. In the last several years, the owner had not been well enough to ride, but visited with Beau every day and gave him treats....which may be why he was overweight. We gathered all the information and sent a full report to the Board and they approved Beau being brought into our program. Thanks to the assistance of Ray, Annette and her husband, and the Foster Care Coordinator, Beau was moved to his foster home. He is still here being loved and cared for by his foster family and he has fallen in love with one of his pasture mates. I am so happy that he isn't all alone anymore and I hope that he will find a wonderful forever home very soon.

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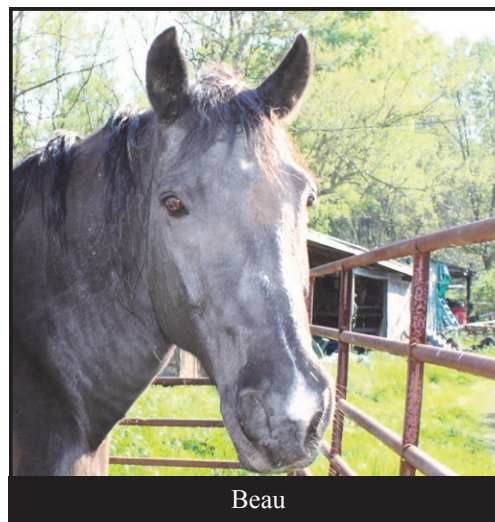
Over the next few months I volunteered at several GERL events and made even more new friends. I was asked to inspect the facilities for several people who had applied to adopt one of the GERL horses. I was happy when one of our horses, Smokey, went to live at one of the homes that I had inspected. He has since been renamed Hershey and his job now is to help his owner give riding lessons to children. I see the pictures of him on Facebook. He has a smiling child on his back and I know he is happy in his new home.

Sometime in June, I received a call about a skinny horse in Cherokee County. It was a neighbor calling to tell me about two horses that were getting skinnier every day. She told me that she was so worried about the horses that she had taken hay over to them. While I understood her desperation to help these horses, I explained to her that taking hay to the horses might actually delay getting them the help that they needed.

The next afternoon, I was ready to be a detective. I decided to do a drive-by and try to get some pictures. I took my dog with me so that I would look like someone out walking the dog. I knew that it was illegal for me to go on the property, so I walked by the house several times, but was only able to see the horses from a distance. If I had been smart, I would have called the GDA first because later, when I did call, I found that they already had an open case and an inspector would be going out to check on the horses. Unfortunately, when the inspector went out, the hay was still there which greatly reduced the chances that the GDA would be able to take the horses.

A week later, the neighbor called me again saying the hay was gone and she didn't know what to do. I advised her to not take over any hay, but to call the GDA instead and try to get the inspector to come back out. She did call and by the evening of the next day, the GDA had taken the horses to their equine facility. They are still there being rehabilitated, getting plenty of hay and feed.

In less than a year, I have been a part of improving the lives of four horses and I have helped spread the word about GERL in order to help even more. If you have ever considered volunteering for GERL, I hope my article has shown you what a blessing it is to get involved and see the good work that is being done. You don't have to make a big commitment of time; even volunteering at one event is such a big help. Check out our website at <http://www.gerlltd.org> or our Facebook page to see the upcoming events. I hope to see you soon at a GERL event.



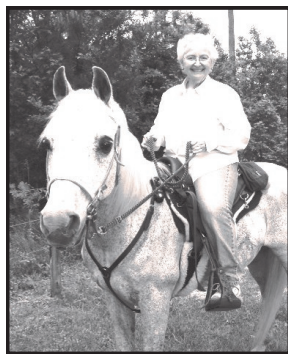
Beau

GERL ANNOUNCES NEW FOSTER COORDINATOR!

Cindy Farris will be joining the GERL team as Foster Coordinator. Cindy is not only an advocate for horses, but people, too! She has worked with adults in drug rehabilitation, with children as a therapeutic crisis counselor and with intelligently disabled adults.

Cindy hales from Sterling, Mass. She has been in Georgia for two years. Her good friends, GERL members Jacki Moore and Leslie Lambert, "turned her on" to GERL and we are excited to have her enthusiasm and sense of humor in our group! She is a mover and a shaker!

Cindy will be getting acquainted with all of the foster homes and A.C. Coordinators as she learns our system, so be sure and give her a big Georgia welcome when she calls!



A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

A sure sign that a very welcome fall is actually approaching, arrived in the mail yesterday. I received the first registration form for the GERL annual Fright Fest to be held the weekend of October 19,

20, and 21 at Dawson Forest near Dawsonville. It came from Betty and Duane Evenson. You get the prize, Betty and Duane (!).....that means that you get.....uh, to be first to volunteer! Just kidding, Betty. Everyone knows that you are the founder and first president of this organization and that we want you to just relax, ride the trails on your beautiful Morgan gelding, and enjoy being surrounded by hoards of old friends.

We at GERL have traditionally felt that winter was the hardest time for horses to survive being owned by people who cannot, or will not feed and care for them properly. While grass is more abundant in summer, that makes little difference to a horse that is confined to a small pen full of mud, manure and miscellaneous dangerous objects, has no shelter, is surrounded by barbed wire or falling down hog wire, and in which every piece of edible vegetation has long since been consumed. The long hot summer, soon to be behind us, has shown that there is no seasonal difference when it comes to the business of equine rescue.

Sad to say, we have noticed no decrease in the number of horses needing our help as the warmer weather brought a small amount of poor quality vegetation into their lives. In Georgia, summer also brings scorching sun which burns sensitive skin, unbearable humidity, biting/stinging insects, not to mention the green algae and mosquitoes which flourish in water buckets and tanks that are never cleaned. While things like this cannot be imagined by those of us who love our horses and enjoy caring for them, believe me, it is reality for many horses.

Then there are the "hoarders". These are people who collect animals and end up with WAY more than they can manage. These horses (and other animals) are in the very same situation as any horse suffering from neglect for any other reason.

Thankfully, there are other rescue groups and individuals besides GERL who also step up on behalf of these animals. We enthusiastically seek a relationship with them. If they are legitimate and have realistic guidelines, GERL is always willing to help. Sometimes,

however, we find that these well meaning folks take in more horses (and other animals) than they can financially afford or have the energy for which to care. Where does that leave these "rescued" horses?

We hope that our members and supporters will appreciate the fact that GERL has definite guidelines which govern our decisions concerning the intake of horses into our care. The horses in our Foster Care Program are all housed on private properties all over Georgia. They receive care from individuals who are GERL members agreeing to provide needed care until a permanent home can be found. These properties and individuals must pass a thorough inspection to determine both safety of the facility and knowledge of horse care by those providing the care. All expenses for these animals are paid by GERL unless the caretakers elect to donate their out-of-pocket expenditures and take that amount off on their taxes. Many do just that. We will never accept more horses than the number of foster homes available and for which we have the financial ability to provide the very best care. We know from long experience that to "over-extend" only leads to more suffering for the horses.

The above paragraph describes where the "rub" comes in for some who feel that we are not responsive enough to situations in which they are currently interested and in which they may be involved. Again, long experience dictates that we take time to evaluate each situation. We don't just jump in our trucks and head out to pick up a horse or horses when we have no idea concerning the legality of such actions. We seek and evaluate the facts. We determine if we can find places to keep these animals. We determine if we have the funds to care for them. Are these horses safe to handle? Does the horse have the legally required for transport, current Coggins report? Oh yes, that can easily be taken care of but it IS a factor to be considered. Is the horse injured or sick? Are the abusive owners likely to face prosecution or are they just being totally relieved of their responsibility for this animal or animals? Is local law enforcement or Georgia Department of Agriculture involved? Is there an open case on this situation? While we are in the business of helping horses, and we have helped MANY of them over the past twenty years, we also want to make certain that we do it correctly. Even if emotions are running very high, a sound plan must be made. An old friend once told me that "If you fail to plan, then you might as well plan to fail". How true in all aspects of our lives.

GERL will continue to help horses, perhaps not in the way that some would direct, but we are here to stay the course. We are not able to save all of them but we will save as many as we can realistically stuff into our, sometimes stretchable, very sensible guidelines.

Itty Bitty, A Success Story

By: Brenda Vostreys

My husband Spence and I went and met Itty Bitty at her foster mom's home with Michelle Rabold. She was very laid back, sweet, but a bit protective of her hay. But who could blame her, the poor girl was in terrible shape when she came into the GERL program. I had to change her name because we call our mini horses Itty Bitties. I picked Lucy from the Non-Sequitur comic strip. Lucy is the talking pygmy Clydesdale from the comic, and Dr. Barrow told me that our Lucy would be small due to the starvation. Dr. Barrow came to see Lucy in January to check her out and to float her teeth. She agreed Lucy was in the 3 to 4 year range.

It was even more important to me to find a companion horse that would be hard to place due to limitations. So what did I find but a beautiful 4 year old 12.2 hh pony that can't be ridden to due poor nutrition during her growing years! Perfect! Her name was Itty Bitty. I contacted Ruth Wilson to see if she was still available and she was

We I believe in adoption and saving a critter's life. We adopt from a variety of sources. Our animals are our children. Spence and I had adopted from GERL in 2000, so I decided to check their website to see if they had a horse that fit our needs. It was very important to me NOT to take a horse/pony that had potential to be a riding companion to someone.

The best part of all is how careful these two horses are around me. They seem to understand that I can't move quickly, but that I am lead mare. They follow me or Spence or anyone around the barn yard. They love people. The girls are so good, one walks on each side and behind me. With Lucy here, Cricket can now enjoy pasture time with a buddy.

I appreciate and thank Michelle Rabold for fostering Itty Bitty and giving her the time and love she needed when she needed it the most! Thanks to everyone in GERL that helped bring this wonderful horse into the program, bring her back to good health, and allowing me to bring her home to be a part of our family. We adore and love our Lucy!



Itty Bitty when GERL rescued her



Spencer Vostreys with Itty Bitty "Lucy" now

**Thank You For Donating To Our
Feed A Horse Program June 2012**

**Erik Wittenzellner
Kit Duncan
Carol Royer
John Lynn**



Equine Day Event at Tractor Supply in Madison, GA September 15, 2012

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

Tractor Supply in Madison, GA hosted an Equine Day on Saturday, September 15, 2012. I was there manning the GERL booth while Ruth Wilson and her husband Tommy set up a booth to showcase her Silver Creek Farm. Southern Cross Guest Ranch brought out Cookie, one of their trail horses.



Both Silver Creek Farm and Southern Cross Guest Ranch are located in Madison, GA. Silver Creek Farm is owned by Ruth Wilson who is also the Adoption Coordinator for GERL. Silver Creek Farm provides riding lessons, day camps and also hosts parties. Southern Cross Guest Ranch is a bed and breakfast as well as a horse farm and a guest ranch. They offer horseback riding as well as excellent cuisine and accommodations. The children first stopped by Ruth's booth to decorate horseshoes. Tractor Supply donated the horseshoes and Ruth brought letters, stars and lots of decorations so the kids could decorate their own lucky horseshoe. The next stop was to go see Cookie who seemed to enjoy the attention from the children. While the young ones were busy, I spent time with the

adults to spread the word about the great work that GERL is doing. I was excited to showcase my new display board as well as a photo slideshow on my iPad.

Around noon, the grill came out. Tractor Supply donated the hot dogs and supplies and I grilled the dogs. All proceeds from the hot dog sales were donated to GERL.

I would like to thank Denise Smith of Tractor Supply, for supporting GERL and for sponsoring a great equine day event.



Happy Thanksgiving!



The Georgia Equine Rescue League

Trail Safety/Bomb Proof Clinic

By Jacquelin Twiss / Saturday August 4, 2012

Across the Way Stables, 1036 Hancock Bridge Rd, Winder Ga.

In the morning session, Ga-SafeTrails provided a hands-on, five step program to build a "Shield" against an assault. This clinic helped build our confidence on the trail as well as prepare our horses for spur of the moment maneuvers that will place the would-be predator on the defensive. We left the clinic, confident, knowing what both rider and horse are able to accomplish together.

We had a Bomb Proof clinic in the afternoon, to prepare for any incident we may encounter on the trail. Our horses learned to trust the rider as we should, in turn, trust our horse. This part of the clinic challenged the partners, sometimes pushing horse and rider to the brink and back. Repeat exposure to frightening obstacles taught the horses that there was not a goblin hiding in every stump! We (horse and rider) came away from the clinic better for the experience.

We learned what to do, when we can legally do it, and most of all, had a lot of fun...riding around, through and over some very scary things... We all had a good time. Personally, I can say it really helped out my race trained Thoroughbred (Trevor) and his rider (Philip Twiss) with those things you just would not ever think about until it after it happened to you on the trail.



Kel-Mac Saddle Club Invites GERL to Sept. Meeting

By Patty Livingston

The Kel-Mac Saddle Club is probably one of the oldest saddle clubs around. They've been promoting equestrian activities in a family atmosphere for over thirty-five years. They are located in Northeast Georgia and organize trail rides all over the South East. They also sponsor an open, all-breed show series to help novice riders and novice horses prepare for breed shows. It is their custom to work hard all year to raise money from these trail rides and horse shows, and then to give the money away to deserving equine related groups at the end of each year! Their members vote to decide who the recipients will be. They invite representatives of the recipient groups to attend their Christmas Banquet, which is traditionally held at Bonner's Restaurant in Buckhead. GERL is very appreciative to have been invited to that event to accept checks for \$2000 for each of the past two years. A.H. Stephens Park is also a regular recipient. Kel-Mac requested that someone from GERL come to their September meeting and do a presentation for their members to educate them about our cause. So, Miss Anne and I drove over to Athens and presented a new slide show that demonstrates what GERL does and how we support horses in Georgia. We're hoping that GERL will be selected again this year to receive funding from Kel-Mac. Anne and I are familiar with many of their members and officers and love being a part of their horse family. Kudos to Kel-Mac Saddle Club and its members for what they do for GERL and for the horse community!



Kel-Mac Secretary, Barbara Cumming, Patty Livingston, Kel-Mac Trail Boss, Linda Kundell and Kel-Mac President, Susan Powell-Walton

Ride Like An Animal

September 8th, 2012

By Linda Kundell

I'm getting ready to go riding today at Watson Mill Bridge State Park. It's 6:00A.M. and cooler than yesterday. Speaking of yesterday..... Well, what a day that was! I picked up a new volunteer. She's a college student and her name is Corrine. She is a delight. We were representing GERL at the Ride like the Animals fund raiser. It was a Pet Festival, Motorcycle Ride, and Concert to benefit the Humane Society of Jackson County and the Raise the Woof Campaign. The event took place at Crow's Lake near Jefferson, Georgia. Valarie Puryear and Linda Tucker were also there to volunteer.

When the GERL trailer arrived, we got it positioned in the right spot and then opened it up and spent some time deciding what should be taken out. We got the table set up with the information stuff on it. We put up a canopy so that we would have SHADE. Where, oh, where is that sun? We had shirts hanging up ready to sell, sell, and sell. We had our chairs. We were ready!! And then the rains came. It poured. We dragged the shirts under cover and got a tarp out and covered them because there wasn't enough room for everything under the canopy.

The rain stopped and the sun kept trying to come out. We had a few people stop by so we enjoyed chatting with them. We sold a few shirts. We bought some food and drinks so we could have lunch. We were enjoying visiting and talking with anyone who stopped by.

About three o'clock we were just relaxing and enjoying ourselves when suddenly a gust of wind hit our display. There went the canopy! I mean, THERE IT WENT! I never saw anything happen so fast. It hit a tree and that was the end of the canopy. The cover was torn to shreds. The frame was more than just a little bent out of shape. It was bad. A gentleman came over and helped us get the cover off and then he tried to straighten the frame. It was hopeless. He had to bend it in order for me to get it in my truck so that I could take it to the recycling center.

By that time, people were beginning to leave so we really didn't need all four volunteers any longer. Corrine and I offered to stay and send the others home but Valarie and Linda decided they would stay. I took Corrine back to her dorm at the University and headed home. My son and his family were coming over to watch the football game at my house and that meant that I could play with my grandson. The day turned out to be a real adventure but I had a great time. I got to volunteer for GERL and see some of my family all in the same day!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!

GERL has created a beautiful brochure to be distributed to vets, tack and feed stores, grocery stores, etc.

Please call or email Anne Ensminger
@ 770-464-4438;
missanne612@bellsouth.net and she
will be happy to send some to you!

Please help us spread the
word about GERL!

We Need Your Help! Auction Items are Needed.

We have upcoming events that will
include auctions.

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.

Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate or
have additional questions please contact:
Sue Wrensen / (770) 331-6947
swrensen@comcast.net

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

The GoodSearch Challenge

I'd like to challenge each and every one of our readers to register on GoodSearch.com and list GERL as your charity. Once you have registered, GoodSearch displays the top five supporters every time you open your browser and bring up the GoodSearch page. This would be every single time you open a browser if you also make it your home page. And, quite frankly, I just don't see how you're going to beat Miss. Anne, who is leading the pack with over \$5.11 earned. I can remember when she was at the bottom with zero! How did she jump up there in first place? Easy. All she did was make GoodSearch.com her home page and she uses their search engine to search the web. She earns money for GERL every time she searches. I made a challenge to her to see who could earn the most money and within one week she had passed me! Now, I'd like to challenge you! It's easy and you don't have to register your credit card to earn money if you don't want to.



Amount Raised:
\$116.64
[details](#)
[take action](#)

Supporters:
95
[details](#)
[support us](#)

Georgia Equine Rescue League - GERL
Charity ID 859475

Top Supporters

	Earnings
Anne Ensminger	\$5.72
Kristy DeLung	\$4.83
Shawn Liburdi	\$4.59
Patty Livingston	\$4.24
Susie Bond	\$3.18
CeCe Calli	\$1.53

* Total number of supporters reflects both registered and un-registered users that are currently supporting this cause.

GERL Volunteer of the Quarter – Elaine Bishoff

By Anne Ensminger

GERL has a great number of members and friends who help in many ways. Each one deserves recognition but we can only choose one per quarter as our honoree. We look forward to featuring each one and we greatly enjoy the process of choosing them as it helps to remind us of how many do so much for GERL.

Our “Volunteer of the Quarter” this time is a special person who could have been featured in any number of our newsletters in the past. She is one of those volunteers who keeps a low profile but can very often be found with her sleeves rolled up and sweat dripping from her nose as she earnestly work to gets the job at hand, done. Often found at GERL events and GDA auctions, always willing to tend a GERL Information Booth, and one of our outstanding foster caregivers, Elaine Bishoff is definitely near the top of our list of greatly appreciated, regular volunteers!

Just as a side note: We have become aware that Elaine Bishoff puts on a heck of a Halloween Party every year. Last year the party was complete with a yard tour featuring Freddy Krueger and the Texas Chain Saw Massacre. It is our understanding that there were no casualties.

We treasure each of our foster caregivers and appreciate their loving care of our horses, but Elaine truly went the extra mile for her foster horse, Smokey. When Smokey came into our program, he was a frightened youngster with a basically good nature. Elaine gave hours of her time to work with Smokey to teach ground manners and help him gain confidence in humans.

This is the kind of foundation that so many horses never receive. Elaine's work with Smokey provided a firm basis that insured that he will become a wonderful partner for his new owners. Thank you, Elaine Bishoff, for being you and for continuously giving of yourself to this organization and to the horses.



WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS



New Member	Referred By	From
Cleon & Mildred Akins	GERL	Sugar Hill, GA
Felicia Brown — Southeast Land & Farm	GERL	McDonough, GA
John & Lori Brown	Susie Bond	Greensboro, GA
Adria D'Alesio	Facebook	West Point, GA
Jenna Florence	GERL	Statesboro, GA
Erica Gilmer	GERL	Perry, GA
Laura Hedelson	GERL	Newnan, GA
Tori Joyce	GERL Website	Griffin, GA
Mike Morris	GERL	Jackson, GA
Lori Robertson & Family	GERL	Hampton, GA
Wylie Stokes & Family	Ruth Wilson	Good Hope, GA
Mary Turner	GERL	Covington, GA
Carol Upshaw & Family	GERL	Blue Ridge, GA
Jessica Wheeler	GERL	Nashville, GA
Travis & Jackie Wright	Julia Williams	Brooklet, GA

“Renewals Due” is BACK! If you have any questions about when you need to renew contact: Diana Kelsey; diana@gerlltd.org or 770-267-0867.

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

RENEWALS DUE FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2012

OCTOBER

Samantha Ball
Jeanne Barsanti
Barbara Decker
Jacqueline Derrick
David & Terri Elsberry
Elaine Hargadon
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foster horse, Rocky!



Glory Glory

By Joanne Medlock

I don't ride horses; I know how to ride, but choose not to. So after Mike died I sold his beloved horse, Spud. That left our barn with only one occupant – an old white donkey we named Dude, a nickname Mike's grandfather was often called. (You can make any comparisons you want with that bit of information.) Well, Dude would stand at the pasture fence and bray several times a day. He was lonely. So I put out the word that I was looking for a companion for Dude. Someone brought a mule by and left her with me for about 10 days. There is a whole new story about her that I will talk about some other time. I wrote an e-mail to G.E.R.L. and sent it to Patty. She came right back with news that there were two donkeys that might fill the bill.

We are Foster Grandparents to children that are being taken care of by our son and his wife, and they are often over here a lot. So, a gentle nature was one of the requirements. Patty wrote a couple of e-mails to me keeping me informed as to what was happening. I kept trying to explain all of this to Dude, but he was getting very impatient. He was not doing "Lonely", or "Soon" very well at all!

Well, finally, I got notice that Patty was heading my way with a little, young donkey. Dude and I were very excited about this new member of our family. Patty off-loaded the cutest little Jerusalem Donkey with a wonderful cross down his back and across his shoulders. We introduced this darling creature to Dude, took a few pictures, and put him into a paddock to spend the night.

Patty told me his name was Glory. I told the foster children about this name, and they stated that Glory was not a very good name for a boy. SO, I told them to think of a name for him. That night at supper, one of the boys said he had a really good name for the new donkey: Max. I nearly cried – Mike's horse's full name was Max Spud!! This new donkey would be in memory of Mike and his wonderful Spud.

Well, both donkeys are so happy. I hear them bray only when I am a bit late serving supper. They both get along with the chickens, dog and the cats - and with each other. We are a big happy family now. I am so glad that I had G.E.R.L. to help me out.



Joanne and Glory (Max)

More About the PAY or Not to Pay Question

By Anne Ensminger

Here I sit with “egg on my face”. In the last issue of the GERL Newsletter, I wrote a short commentary entitled “Question: To Pay or NOT to Pay!” in which I expressed my feeling that, since GERL is a fund raising organization, that EVERYONE attending our fund raisers should expect to pay the full amount for registration. After all, each member of your Board of Directors, our Area Coordinators, our Program Executive Leads, our Foster Care providers, as well as our long time friend and INDISPENSABLE auctioneer (who works for FREE!) for all GDA and GERL auctions, Mickey Farmer, has always paid the full price of admission to GERL events. We all pay our yearly dues just like every other member of GERL. How can those who volunteer to help with GERL events expect to have it any different?

GERL President, Patty Livingston was aware of the content of the article and reluctantly gave her blessing for me to proceed. I felt very righteous and smug as I hit the “send” button on my computer to deliver my article to Steve DeMoss, Newsletter Editor.

Well, I didn’t get to enjoy my righteousness and smugness for very long. I am certain that my Gene is in heaven chuckling about this. I got EMAILS! I got phone calls!

To avoid sighting all of the embarrassing details which led me to HUGELY soften on the subject, I will just say that it was accurately pointed out to me that many GOOD people are struggling financially in these times. These people maintain the same desire to help Georgia’s horses in need as they had when times were better for them. While they may not have money to use to support our events, they feel that they want to give their time and provide the muscle power which is always required for the success of these events. They just want to help. Now THAT is the good ole American spirit that I sometimes think is disappearing. How wonderful to be smacked in the face with the reality that I am wrong. I apologize to anyone I may have offended with my snooty article. GERL loves our volunteers.....heck, we’re ALL volunteers! My new attitude dictates that anyone who wants to put their muscle where their heart is will be very welcome at any GERL function. We NEED you and we want you to be there with us!

Goodbye to Chester

By Anne Ensminger

Deepest sympathy and our most sincere appreciation go to Patti and Phil Henry for the outstanding and loving care they provided for “Chester” since June of 2010. This aged Quarter Horse gelding was an own grandson of King P234. He passed away quietly on June 20th. Born with such coveted lineage, coupled with the fact that he had the sweetest disposition in the world, we are left to wonder how such a horse ever ended up in the care of a rescue organization.

Andee Rogers was responsible for bringing Chester into the GERL Foster Care Program after she discovered him with a very low body score, living in less than desirable conditions.

She made arrangements to have Chester brought to her farm until a proper foster home could be found. Becky Gregory, Foster Home Coordinator at the time, could not have found a better place for Chester to live out his last years. Patti and Phil Henry saw that Chester received the kind of care that a horse of such royal breeding (or ANY horse for that matter!) SHOULD enjoy. Rest in peace, Chester. You were a GRAND old man!



Phil, Chester, Patti

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