

# Hoofprints of Love

**MAY 2015—BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC.**



## CONTENTS

Max's Column	2	Memorial Ride Photos	12
Why We Do It	5	Adopted & Sponsored	13
On The Trail	6	Horses for Adoption	14
Sponsorship	9	Wish List	19
Goodbye Old Friends	11	Volunteer Opportunities	21

## Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm

*Max is the spokeshorse for Begin Again Farms, Inc. You can always see him standing on the corner, watching everything that is going on.*

Have I said enough good things about our volunteers? NEVER! Some folks have made the Farm their second home, some come weekly, some sporadically, and some only when their special skills are needed. But we love them all! The Farm would not exist without the great community support it receives. And special



thanks to our President, Rhonda Jackson, who coordinates, makes everyone feel welcome, and has had the vision to make the Farm rise, grow and go!

And the volunteers have been really, really busy since last I wrote.

The perimeter fencing has finally been completed! That last stretch on the side is done.

The brand new watering system is well under way, and should be finished soon. Thank you for the financing to Illges Foundation, Ritch Electric for ditchwitching, Booth Plumbing for pipe and fittings, Lisa Henson for research and 12" pipes and concrete screws.

Please see our new terrific PSA, designed by six media students from Columbus State University. If you are on Facebook, please share. Unbelievable, but there are still folks in the area who don't know we exist! If you are not on Facebook, you can watch the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah857Jqe9xk>

*(continued on following page)*

*Hoofprints of Love* is the newsletter of Begin Again Farms, Inc., a 501c-3 equine rescue in Ellerslie, GA.

If you are not on our e-mail list for the newsletter and upcoming events, please contact:

reusmannl@bellsouth.net



## MAX'S CORNER *(continued from previous page)*

Twenty-one Troop 107 Boy Scouts came to the Farm to receive their Horsemanship Badges. While they were here, they also built new picnic benches for us!



In April we received a donation of over 200 square bales of hay from Mrs. Dasher (thank you!), which our volunteers, including Fort Benning soldiers loaded, hauled, and unloaded. They had to hurry to beat the rain. Our hay loft is full again!

The miniature horse/donkey pen has been revamped. Volunteers put in a new gate, and some fencing, including some new fencing in the emergency paddock behind it.



*(continued on following page)*

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## MAX'S CORNER *(continued from previous page)*



And of course there are always “other chores as needed”. This includes spring grooming, and there is probably enough hair on the ground from brushed horses to make a few more horses!

In other goings on, the Farm in conjunction with Ellerslie Fire Department hosted a four-day Emergency Preparedness Course from Nature's Way. Participants came from all over the state. This is the second year that we have done this.

And Stretch our Limousine steer starred in a commercial for Luke's Pub and Steakhouse!

Fort Benning soldiers also assisted our other volunteers in clearing trails and helping us get ready for the Memorial Ride.

The Memorial Ride was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who sent pictures.

\*\*\*\***NEW**\*\*\*\* Some out of state folks have requested that their mail be Newsletter Only, instead of getting all the volunteer and other mail. If you want to do this, please contact the editor at reusmannl@bellsouth.net

**DON'T FORGET:** If you have classes or trainings that you want Begin Again Farms to host, let Rhonda know!

More pictures from the Memorial Ride on Page 12-14.





## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO



When Cloud arrived at Begin Again Farms at the end of December, she was extremely underweight and shaky on her feet.

Brenda gave Jim a sponsorship of Cloud for Christmas. He comes every day to brush her, lead her around for exercise and generally give her lots and lots of tender loving care. The picture on the left was taken very early in January.

Progress was slow at first, as a debilitated horse cannot immediately be given a full ration of food. She was started on a smaller portion and gradually moved up to full feed.

Below is Cloud at 120 days. She is not quite up to her proper weight yet, but should be in a couple more months.



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# On the Trail....

*By Alice Stagg*

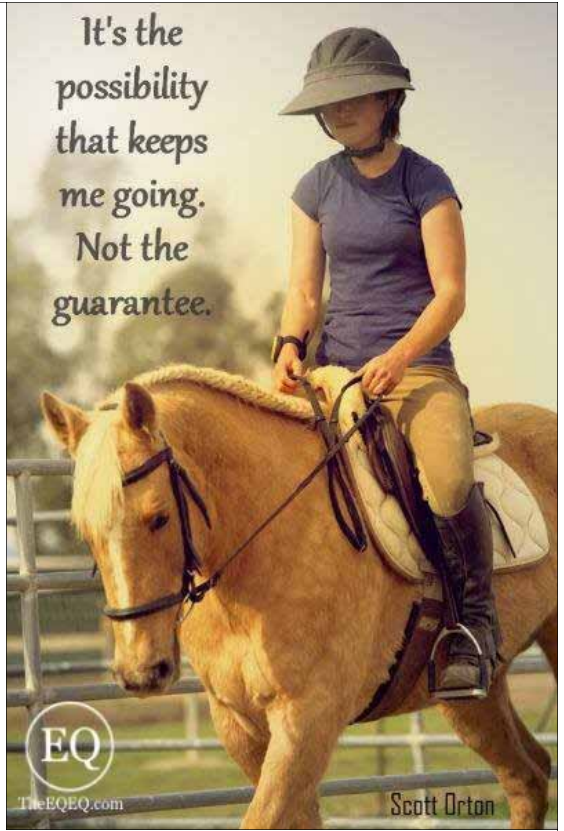
My last article in the September 2014 newsletter was pretty lengthy and introduced the concepts of Empathy and Horse Think. I included some quotes from Tom and Bill Dorrance, as well as from my mentor, Jeff Moore, on these concepts. I ended the article with a quote from Mr. Moore and, for continuity, make it the beginning of this article:

“When empathy is lacking, we tend to attribute to the horse all sorts of behaviors, intents and motives of which they are often not even capable, and therefore we treat for the wrong disease. An example of this would be treating a horse that becomes defensive as willfully trying to displease us. Without empathy, sympathy is usually misplaced and counter-productive. Similarly, without empathy, applying forceful methods due to loss of temper or becoming impatient will only destroy any trust that may have been built as of that moment. Laying the foundation for understanding the psychology of the horse and giving yourself over to empathy is the essential basis for developing trust between you and the horse.”

I often watch other people interact with their horses, sometimes at trail rides, or competitions, or even just riding where they board. Often my thoughts center around the impression that the rider sits like a sack of potatoes, or as if in a chair, lacking much, if any, tone and balance to help the horse carry the load. Sometimes I look at the type of bit or other gadgets they have on the horse and wonder why they don't realize the impact their “cement” arms and hands are having on the horse's tender parts. Sometimes I know the people are just unaware of the impact their choice of equipment, lack of balance and tone has on the horse, and how it affects the horse's confidence negatively. At other times I know people are actively taking lessons but are not receiving the kind of instruction they need to make positive progress and develop their horse's confidence or theirs.

Several months ago, I came across an article on the Xenophon Equus Centre's website that would have been funny if it hadn't so accurately described what I just stated above. It was entitled “Are you a RIDER or a PARASITE?”. I thought it was so good that I wanted to share it here to illustrate my continuing theme in this series that we must be thinking riders who make the effort to do the best we can to exist in harmony and

*(continued on next page)*



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## On The Trail *(continued from previous page)*

trust with our horses rather than treating them as mere beasts of burden and blaming them for behaviors that most likely were created by the riders themselves. I do not know who wrote the article, but it teaches the lesson far better than I could. The six types of “parasites” set forth in the first part of the article are not so unusual. I’ve seen every one of them. Fortunately, the remainder of the article is where the more important message is found.

“**ARE YOU A RIDER OR A PARASITE?**” Parasites come in many forms:

1. **Captain Cram and Jam** – holds the reins as tightly as possible while relentlessly kicking and spurring the horse in an effort to “get him in frame”, or unthinkingly hangs on the horse’s mouth while either standing still or wandering around and carrying on a conversation with someone.
2. **Inspector Gadget** – this person is always looking for the next great training gadget to force the horse to do what he or she hasn’t prepared it (or themselves) to do. Training gadgets include harsh bits or hackamores, a standing martingale, tie down or training fork, draw reins, side reins that do not slide, and the ever popular crank or flash noseband cinched down as tightly as possible.
3. **See-sawer/Airplane Flagger/Goat Milker** – these are the individuals whose hands never stop moving – jerking up, jerking down, to the side, etc. These are easy to recognize as they are the ones riding the horse with the gapping open mouth (unless tied shut), chin tucked in chest (usually preceded by nose pointing at the sky unless tied down), and/or head wagging from side-to-side. These parasites tend to flock to “magic bits” selecting increasingly harsh bits as their horse’s mouth becomes scarred and deadened.
4. **The Know-It-All** – usually this is the person who either has had a few lessons and won a couple of ribbons, and therefore is a self-proclaimed trainer, or can take the form of a person who has decades of experience with horses, but has yet to learn anything.
5. **The Blissfully Ignorant Weekender** – this person takes old Dobbin out of the pasture once or twice a summer and sits crookedly in the saddle for a four hour trailride on an out-of-shape horse. Afterwards, if this person even notices, they wonder why old Dobbin is lame and sore.

Conversely, a true rider is not afraid to do the work it takes to become a good rider. They put in the years of work it takes to develop an independent seat, they seek to understand the horse, and when a “behavioral issue” arises, they first look at themselves for a cause, then consider the possibility of a physical issue with the horse, or the tack fit, and lastly looks for an actual behavior that needs to be modified. A true rider wants to build a relationship with the horse; they work to ensure the horse is happy to do his work. They also work to understand the horse’s physical capabilities and conformational challenges, and to ensure the horse is physically able to do the work it is being asked to do. They do not rely on training gadgets, as they understand that 99% of the time such devices serve only 3 purposes:

1. Cover up bad riding
2. Cover up holes in training
3. Force a horse that is not mentally and/or physically prepared to do the work it is being asked to do.

*(continued on next page)*

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## On The Trail *(continued from previous page)*

So, ask yourself the tough question: are you a parasite or a rider? The next time you run into a “behavior problem” with a horse, consider the whole picture. Is it something you are doing (sitting off balance, giving a poor cue, bouncing hands, etc)? Is your horse in pain? Have you physically and mentally prepared your horse to do what you are asking him to do? Are you trying to ride above your level? Are you riding more horse than you can handle?”

(Alice) Nobody is perfect and I surely am not claiming to be. I've made, and continue to make, mistakes. I've blamed horses for my shortcomings, but in more than 55 years of interacting with horses, I've never stopped learning. I just wish I had had the benefit of my current mentor's knowledge when I was starting out instead of 20 years later. From him, I have learned to keep an open, experimental frame of mind and am always working to improve my techniques and tactics, looking for ways to teach the horse in a way they understand and rewarding even glimmers generously. I am not afraid to “recant” – to say, well maybe today is not the day, we'll try again tomorrow and maybe I'll approach it differently to see if the horse is more receptive. I'm always working to keep my horse comfortable, interested in experimenting, and happy to do the work asked of him.

(Back to the article) “Our horses are a gift, and most of them give of themselves until it hurts and even then, keep on giving. Learning to ride in a balanced, independent seat without relying on training gadgets to achieve artificial results is the least we can do for our horses. Pay attention to what your horse is telling you, and you both will benefit. You will connect with your horse on the deepest level and, by being a RIDER rather than a PARASITE, you can add many sound and happy years to your partnership with your horse.”

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You're not working on the horse, you're working on yourself. **Ray Hunt**

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—But there is one principle that should never be abandoned, namely, that the rider must learn to control himself before he can control his horse. This is the basic, most important principle to be preserved in equitation. **Alois Podhajsky of the Spanish Riding School**

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## ONLY 9 TO GO! THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Due to the great support from the community, there are only nine more horses that need sponsorship. Seven of these are horses who will never leave the Farm due to their age, physical or mental condition. Pickleena we hope will be able to go back on the adoption list next year. Peanut is an education ambassador.

Spend as much time or as little as you wish with your sponsored horse. All of our horses bloom when they have someone who regularly brushes them, gives them treats, and tells them they are beautiful. However, if you wish only to donate to their care in their name, you can do that too!

The following are still looking for their special someone:

**PEANUT**—*(Picture right)* The Farm's first education pony. Peanut visits schools, works the pony rides, participates in costume in the Waverly Hall Parade every year.



**HANDSOME**—Gorgeous white horse with major fear issues.

**IZZY**—Dun stallion, very good natured. Will never be able to be ridden due to foalhood injury. Izzy has a partial (financial only) sponsorship.

**PICKLEENA**—registered bay Quarter Horse mare, 21 years old and going strong. She's had tons of training, but can be cold-backed. This mare knows a lot. Experienced rider only. Pickleena needs to be sponsored this year while she recovers from allergic reactions to tick bites.

**POGO**—A darling older miniature horse. Loves grooming and treats. *(Pictured right.)*



*(continued on next page)*

## Sponsorship Campaign—(continued from previous page)

**PRETTY BOY**—(picture right) This tall, handsome palomino has pemphigus, an auto-immune disorder. While he has not had an outbreak in a long time, he still has some occasional lameness. Gentle disposition, loves to be groomed and petted—the more attention, the better he does.




**RANSOM**—(picture left) Older bay with the most gorgeous sweet eyes. Very gentle. He has Cushing's disease, which is most obvious because of his long coat.

**REP aka REPLICAS IMPRESSION**—Over twenty-year old quarter horse gelding, full of pep. Ex-roper. Very experienced rider only. Has saddling issues.

**RHETT**—Black 28-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse, very shy, but improving.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPONSORSHIP—**

Please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945



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# More Memorial Ride Photos:



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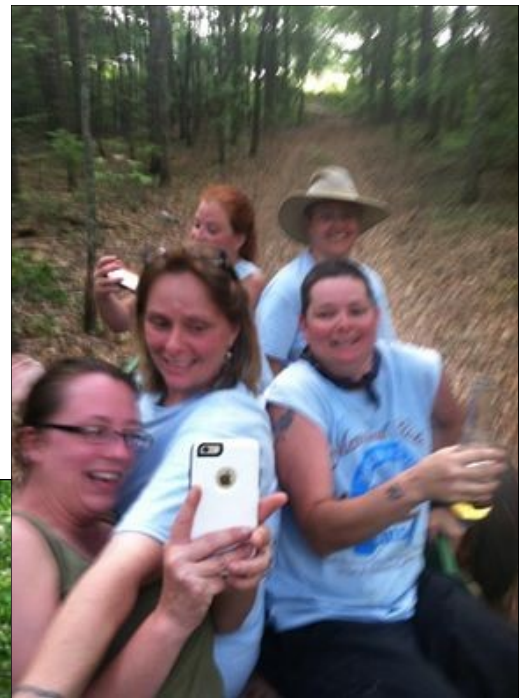
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Adopters send their pictures



**TY**



**DURANGO**

# Horses for Adoption

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HORSE:

### PEANUT II

Peanut II is a very sweet chestnut Tennessee Walking Horse gelding. He handles well on the ground. He loads beautifully and is great on the trails.

He can be mildly cold backed when first mounted. Not for a beginner right now.





## Horses for Adoption *(continued from previous page)*



**BBR BITSY CUTTER**—chestnut Paint (Tob-overo) mare, who despite her name is not small. Super nice, stands for farrier and fly spray, loads. Needs experienced rider. Pictured left.

**BEAUTY**— (Pictured right) Bay mare tall pony, has done barrel racing, likes children, is a bit of a pistol.



**BINGO**—handsome sorrel Quarter Horse gelding, 3-year-old. Leads well. Will mature into a small horse. From cutting stock, but no papers. Accepts deworming paste and behaves well in herd situations. The best deal for Bingo is a knowledgeable and confident horse person who will understand his rough start in life. He came to us very suspicious of people, but has made great progress.



**BRAYGORN**— (Pictured left) 8-year-old quiet bay Thoroughbred gelding. Off the track, used for trail riding. Has been Parelli trained. Only drawback is that he is a cribber.

**CHAMP**—bay 3 year old Quarter Horse gelding. Ready to start training and can go in any direction. Has basic ground manners, accepts deworming paste and fly spray. Behaves well in herd environment. Socialized.

**GOLDIE**—Palomino quarter horse mare, halter broken, leads well.

*(continued on page 12)*



## Horses for Adoption *(continued from previous page)*

**JUNIPER-** (pictured below) Juniper is a lovely bay pinto Welsh pony x Quarter Horse mare. She moves beautifully, has striking coloration and a sweet personality. Juniper has been a hunter/jumper pony, and has done some trails. This past summer she worked with the children at Good Shepherd Therapeutic Center. She is well mannered and loads well into a trailer. She is looking for the perfect home that will love and care for her.



**LADY**—Eye-catching bay Quarter Horse mare, one blue eye, 3 years old. Accepts deworming paste, fly spray. Behaves well in herd environment. Socialized.

**LENA**—Gorgeous paint mare with good pedigree and no training. She has been a brood mare.

**LUKE**—(pictured bottom right) bay Holsteiner gelding. Some English training, has done low-level eventing. Minor arthritis in hocks so he will not be able to jump. Needs experienced rider.

**LW CATALENA KATESBUCK**—registered buckskin dun breeding stock Paint mare.

**MOSES**—Handsome young mule. He has some trust issues. He does enjoy human company (especially if they are bearing treats). Takes treats very gently.

Moses needs a mule-savvy person who will work with him one-on-one until he regains his trust.



## Horses for Adoption *(continued from previous page)*

**PHOENIX**—Sorrel Quarter Horse gelding, halter broken, leads well, stands for farrier.

**PRINCESS**—(Pictured below, left side) Pinto miniature horse mare. Prefers children. Has some trust issues, but is doing much better. Will offer feet for cleaning easily.



**RW DUALLYS MAIA JANE**—(Pictured top right) really cute registered chestnut Quarter Horse mare. Small, wonderful personality. Has lots of potential for a knowledgeable person.

**RW FRECK'S FANCY LENA**—bay Quarter Horse mare, sound, unbroken. Freckles Playboy, One Gun, Doc O'Lena, Smart Peppy on papers. Spirited and beautiful.

**RW PLAYBOYS ARROWLENA**—(Pictured bottom right) registered chestnut Quarter Horse mare, 14 hands. Friendly, quiet and sound. Unbroken with lots of potential for a knowledgeable person.





## Horses for Adoption *(continued from previous page)*

**RAIN**—(Pictured top right) Chestnut Tennessee Walking Horse gelding.



**SIROCCO**—(Pictured bottom right) Handsome six-year-old registered Palomino Morgan gelding. Athletic, conformationally correct. He needs a firm but fair owner providing consistency in riding and ground work. He has been ridden both English and Western, and has the potential for advancing in any discipline.

**TINY TIM**—Small chestnut Quarter Horse/Paso Fino gelding. Three years old. Loves people.

**TIZZY**—This beautiful Quarter Horse mare has permanent lameness issues from being struck by a car. She's a nice horse, and would love to be adopted as a companion horse. %PDF-1.3



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**For more information about how you can help support these extraordinary equines, please contact:**

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are essential to Begin Again Farm's continued good work. Begin Again Farm LOVES volunteers. And volunteers have a lot of fun while doing worthwhile activities with the horses! Currently we need the following:

**Morning and evening horse care** volunteers: fill gaps in the schedule feeding, refilling water, cleaning stalls. No experience necessary; we will train.

Persons experienced in **training** and handling horses to help prepare them for adoption.

**Fundraisers:** Volunteers will help plan and carry out various fundraising events for BAFI. These events include benefit trail rides, silent auction, etc.

**VOLUNTEER WORK DAY—The Second Saturday of Every Month.** Help with special projects around the farm, including painting; fence construction or repair; cleaning the tack rooms, barn or trailers; trail clearing; or whatever needs to be done. We will send out e-mails in advance. *If you are not on our e-mail newsletter etc. list, please contact reusmannl@bellsouth.net*

If you wish to volunteer for any of the above, or just want to be on our list for odds and ends (fence building, painting, selling T-shirts), please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945.

## PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Volunteer photographer wanted to take pictures of new horses as they come in and after they have been returned to health. Pictures of adoptable equines should be suitable to be featured on Petfinder and A Home For Every Horse.

**THE MISSION OF BEGIN AGAIN FARMS is to rescue imperiled, retired or abandoned hooved animals; provide a safe refuge; promote rehabilitation and return to full physical ability; provide safe adoptions for rehabilitated animals; and expand the knowledge of equine science, training and horsemanship through association with community groups and leaders.**

**Begin Again Farms, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization**

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workplace (or any waiting room)!**

**Spreading the word about Begin  
Again Farms is a huge help to us!**