

Hoofprints of Love

**BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER
FEBRUARY 2023**



MARK YOUR CALENDERS! - Tentative Dates

2023 Memorial Ride—May 13

2023 Rescue Ride—October 29

Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm



Hay everyone! It's me, Max, spokeshorse for Begin Again Farms, wishing you a hopeful eye to spring. Daffodils are blooming, flowering quince, and some of the camellias are still going strong. We've had some nice warm (but not too warm) days just right for gallops around the paddocks and fields, and everyone is feeling fine. It won't be long until you readers are showing up with your grooming tools to remove our winter coats.

The big news is that I am moving! I am not sure exactly when or where, possibly near our gates or the Big Field. Whatever, I will still be able to keep an eye on the Farm. So keep a lookout for me while you are walking, bicycling or driving past, to or from the Farm.

The biggest upcoming event is our annual **Memorial Ride on May 13, 2023** (see flyer page 4). It looks like it will be a good one. We haven't had many walkers recently, so be sure to tell all your hiking, bird watching and plant watching friends, as well as your horsey friends. There'll be all sorts of wildflowers there, and we horses don't bother the birds, so you should see a bunch! We'll still have our seven plus miles of trails, obstacle course, lunch, t-shirts, raffles, silent auction and all the many features you love about our rides. Bring your minis, too. The back trail will accommodate carts, and minis have a lot of fun on the obstacle course. Have something to donate to raffle or silent auction? Call Rhonda 706-315-6945.

For those of you on our mailing list, we will also be sending the flyer separately. Please, please, please post wherever community bulletin boards are—your favorite barn, grocery store, post office, gas station, etc. This would really help us get the word out. Believe it or not, there are still people who do not know we exist. If you are not on our mailing list and want a copy of the flyer, contact my secretary at reusmannl@bellsouth.net.

For our current or wanna be volunteers, we will be busy busy busy all May and could use your help. Trails need to be groomed and checked for safety, obstacle course needs to be set up, barn needs to be super cleaned, there's mowing, dragging, poop-picking up and just about anything you

(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 Column *(continued from previous page)*

can imagine. Actually, we LOVE volunteers, and there is always something that needs to be done throughout the year. There's talk about needing a newer, smaller gate on one of the paddocks, and a new walk-in shed for the mini horses and donkeys. Look at Lisa's Focus on the Farm (page 9) to see what we have been doing since our November newsletter. Volunteers are the reason this Farm has been going for 20+ years, and the reason it will keep going into the future.

Another thing: you may know by now that Amazon has dumped their Smile donations, which have been a great help to the Farm. Please take a look at iGive at <https://www.igive.com/isearch/search.cfm>. This is a similar way to volunteer. Check out their stores. There may be ones where you shop on line and you can continue to donate without Amazon.

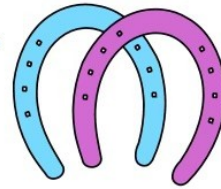


Is your school, 4-H or other youth group interested in learning about horses and horse care? Or want to assist with a project to help the horses? If so, please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945. We'd love to have you!





**Begin Again Farms, Inc.
Equine Shelter
Presents:**



15th Annual Memorial Ride/Walk Fundraiser

When: Saturday, May 13, 2023 9AM-4PM

Where: 2035 Harris Road Ellerslie, GA 31807

Cost: \$40 for Riders (Bring Your Horse)

\$30 for Walkers (Bring Your Sneakers)

Includes: Lunch, T-Shirt,

Raffles, Silent Auction,

Walking/Riding Trails,

& Obstacle Course for Riders

Lunch for Non-Participants: \$10

Visit our website to pre-register:

beginagainfarms.com



For More Info:

Rhonda Jackson

(706) 315 - 6945

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Cowboy (pictured top right)

Bingo (one month)

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Tiny Tim (pictured bottom right)

Gypsy II aka Skippin' With Grace

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ON THE TRAIL

By Alice Stagg



In my own journey - especially the part with horses - it's the people whose words have left me feeling most BUTTHURT who Have opened my eyes to the most-needed changes. I had not been riding for the man who became my dressage mentor, J. Ashton "Jeff" Moore, for very long when this happened. Maybe it was the 2nd clinic I had attended, and that was over 35 years ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday. The clinic was in Atlanta at a boarding/teaching facility which had an indoor arena surrounded on three sides by stalls, and thus there was a high level of noise and activity going on in the background. I had brought my new horse, an Appendix QH of such hot breeding (Jet Deck & Bold Ruler) that he was in constant motion and I was, therefore, constantly in reactive mode trying to cope with his inconsistencies and inattentiveness. In fact, at that point I had become oblivious to what a co-dependency we had developed, and frankly at that point in my journey I wouldn't have had a clue about the correct way to handle the situation.

Then, Jeff laid eyes on him. Oh Lordy did he give me a case of the Butthurts with one cheerful sentence on the first day of a three day clinic. "That horse isn't broke." I was furious. After all my hard work, how dare he? At the time he spoke those words, our lesson was at an end, so I dismounted and slunk back to the stall, pouting and mumbling under my breath. As the day progressed, I found myself taking a step back and really thinking about this situation, and realized that this man was absolutely right. Everything I had been doing to cope with the horse's quirks had just been placing bandaids, and not very sticky bandaids, on the boo-boos. So, the next day I went back with a new attitude, ready to learn what he had to offer me, and it was the beginning of a learning journey that has been so rewarding, even when I've hit some bumps along the way. That horse was a challenge in many ways, but learning from Jeff how to approach his issues and teach him to become a more willing partner ended up with him becoming a pretty decent 3rd Level horse. Embrace the Butthurts and grow from them.

(Continued on following page)



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ON THE TRAIL *(continued from previous page)*

Posted by AMY SKINNER HORSEMANSHIP on 12/20/2022

When you have a Wicked Case of the Butthurts

They say expectation is the mother of resentment. I'd be lying if I said I hadn't at some points gone into a learning situation expecting a tip or validation, only to be met with constructive criticism, or hearing that my basics needed renovating. It hurts. It sucks. But, what are you gonna do about it?

There's quite a bit of discussion around the delivery of criticism. Some folks are of the mind that it must be delivered perfectly, by the right person, in the right tone, with the wind coming only from the north and certainly not when mercury is in retrograde...

Some folks believe anything non validating is "hating," and refuse to hear it. They share inspirational quotes about empowerment and straightening your crown and such.

Personally, I believe empowerment is the ability to take anything offered and make it work for you. This means I don't believe the tone has to be perfect, or that the motivation of the criticism has to even be good. I don't believe the teacher has to say it nicely, and I don't believe it has to be perfectly timed. I'm here for one thing and one thing only: to grow. And that means I am going to take anything thrown at me and use it to build.

That's not to say I don't get butthurt. I certainly do. And as a teacher myself, I won't be hurling criticism at my students, and I will do my best to give the Ole Compliment Sandwich. I try to have good intentions for my students when delivering the not so fun input.

And this is certainly not to say you have to be around people who only criticize, or don't do you any good. Everyone gets to decide who to let into their weird little world, and who doesn't get to play with their toys. It's good for the soul sometimes to fire people.

But I, perhaps arrogantly, believe the world is mine and nothing so silly as poorly worded criticism can stop me. And that's how I see empowerment: learning from every situation, regardless of how rough the edges are. I don't have time to wait for the perfect teacher to say the perfect words of encouragement on a perfect day: I can't be stopped because I don't want to be. And I wish this for you too.

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www.BeginAgainFarms.com

Sponsorship:

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Sara
Burrito
Jenny
King Tutt
Max
Matilda
Malady
Chief
Tanner
Izzy
Mocha

MAX (pictured right) and his friend MATILDA are mini donkeys that love people, but Max can be a bit pushy. Matilda has pulled a cart before, but needs more lessons. They would like to be sponsored by someone who can spend time with them.



Adoption:

Katie
Chantilly
Scout
Terramon
Arrowlena
Bingo
Chiquita
Blaze
Princess
Paris
Luna
Ben




Blaze (pictured left) is a gaited McCurdy Plantation Horse mare.

15 hands, 900 pounds

She is broke to ride, but for an experienced rider only.

She is not fond of men.

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FOCUS ON THE FARM

By Lisa Palmer



Our annual tack sale last November had a good turn-out and we appreciate all the donations of materials to sell. Often when folks sell or fine homes for their horses or donate their horses to us, they also donate all the gear that comes along with those horses. As any horse (or pet) owner knows, all the gear greatly outweighs the animal itself! Some of the materials are gladly used and appreciated by us at BAFI, but the surplus is sold once a year and the proceeds help us purchase the hay to overwinter our horses. We also enjoy seeing our regular buyers who turn up every year to dig through the piles of blankets, rope halters, bridles and reins, saddles and all the other stuff we have to offer. All these materials need to be cleaned, sorted and set out in the days before the sale, so we need lots of volunteers to accomplish this.

Tree of Life had an activity for some of their families: a group of children and parents came out to BAFI before Christmas for a horse experience. The children were taught how to groom and tack up a horse and all children large and small got to ride a horse (as well as a couple of the moms) with assistance from BAFI volunteers. After everyone had lots of turns, the kids opened gifts before heading home for lunch.



Kids, parents and volunteers all had a good time. Tree of Life Healthcare is a local organization that serves families without funds or medical insurance and works in partnership with Troy University and Mercer University.

We are sure all you horse owners remember Christmas weekend not just for the holiday festivities but also for the sudden cold snap. We had temperatures in the teens for the first time in several years. At BAFI, volunteers still showed up to feed, break the four-inch thick ice in water troughs and to repair four different water line breaks over about ten days. Luckily, that cold weather didn't last long! Even in our typical winter cold weather of rain, wind and endless mud, new volunteers keep showing up to help. And some of them keep coming back week after week!

(Continued on following page)

FOCUS ON THE FARM (continued from previous page)

A big thank you to Sandman Sand and Gravel for donating a truck load of gravel to help fill in massive potholes in our parking area and another load of sand for the round pen in our largest pasture so we can safely train horses. Phillip Authement has been a friend to BAFI for many years and we appreciate his generosity. Sandman took care of spreading and packing down the material for the parking area, and volunteers helped spread the sand in the round pen. We also installed some solar lighting in the round pen so that in the winter with sunset coming so early, horses can be trained even in late afternoon.

It was a happy/sad day for us at BAFI when one of our long-time residents was adopted. We are thrilled that Tiny Tim is going to a great home. But we have had him almost eleven years, when he was brought to us four days before Christmas, tiny and scrawny. Tim grew up to be a handsome, people-loving horse much loved by all of us. His new owner loves him too, and is thrilled to welcome him to his new home.

(Continued on following page)



A Special Thank You To

**ALICE & JOHN
SANDS**

For their Support

FOCUS ON THE FARM (continued from previous page)

BAFI is partnering with Savage Hart (a local wildlife group) to gather data and provide welcoming habitat to a small bird of prey called American kestrel. Team leader is John Taylor. We are providing a place for kestrel nest boxes at the edge of our pastures (as well as Jim Fuller Farms across Harris Road) in hopes of helping kestrels establish a home, and expand their numbers, which have been declining in recent years. American kestrels are colorful birds of prey about the size of a dove and are actually the smallest North American species of falcon. They are little but fierce! The nest boxes will be monitored for activity and we are hoping some kestrels will move in soon.

And last but not least, a big thank you to new and “old” volunteers who continue to show up even in cold, rainy and muddy conditions this time of year to help feed, clean the barn, scoop poop and do general clean-up and maintenance. On days when the farrier and vet show up, it’s all hands on deck! (Just this week, we did Coggin’s tests on thirty horses.) The job isn’t glamorous, but we can’t do it without you!



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Our wonderful volunteers preparing for tack sale, breaking ice in water tanks, cleaning barn and paddocks, grooming horses and waiting for the veterinarian!



Wish List

Horse Supplies:

Feed: Senior Feed
Tasty 10
Shredded Beet Pulp
Probiotics
Buteless Pellets
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray

Tools and Equipment:

Any kind of yard tools
Steel T-Posts—6'
Any Size Gates
Hog or Horse Wire
Treated Lumber any size
Power tools
Wooden fence posts

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Table Umbrellas

Volunteer Help:

Plumber for minor repairs
Electrician for minor repairs
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair
Carpenter for repairs
A.m. or p.m. feeding one or more days per
week
Drag pastures weekly
Misc. maintenance of property and fences
Knowledgeable horse people who want to get
their horse fix brushing horses and
giving them attention

The mission of Begin Again Farms, In. 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.
Equine Shelter
PO Box 242
Hamilton, GA 31811



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Begin Again Farms?**

**Print this newsletter and hang a copy
in the break room of your office of
workplace (or any waiting room)!**

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