

Hoofprints of Love

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



MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

RESCUE RIDE—Sunday, October 29

TACK SALE—November, day TBA

Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm



Hay, everyone. It's Max, your spokeshorse for Begin Again Farms. I have to say I'd rather be standing out there than here in storage, waiting for my new mini-paddock on the hill, where I can see everything going on and greet people coming from the ride, but oh, well, everyone has been really busy and the summer has been so hot that people are just now feeling a little bit better. Our horses, too, have been having issues with the heat, but now they are all more cheerful and bouncing about in their paddocks and the big field.

Our big news, of course, is the upcoming Rescue Ride. We're out there now, grooming the trails and preparing the obstacles for the obstacle course. Since it will be Halloween weekend, we will once again have costume classes, so everybody make sure your costumes are in order. There will be cash prizes! Our classes are: Adult Rider and Horse, Youth Rider and Horse (16 years old and under) and a new one Youth Non-Rider (12 and under). We'll also have the Kiss An Ass booth, Silent Auction, BAFI swag and the 50/50 raffle. Please come support our ride. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and necessary to keep Begin Again Farms going. Y'all know how expensive we horses can be.

We don't have a date yet for our Tack Sale, but it should be in November, and will be at the Farm. This Tack Sale is huge, with all sorts of paraphernalia, and a large yard sale with both horsey items and non-horsey items. If you are interested in a table, please contact Rhonda 706-315-6945.

Begin Again wants to especially thank our volunteers, who feed the horses twice a day (sometimes a third for debilitated horses), clean the barn, drag our fields weekly, mow as needed, keep our equipment working, groom horses, bring horses up on Coggins' pulling day and vaccinations and other veterinary issues, bringing them up for the farrier and for grooming and handling and exercise, for doing all the preparation needed for the rides (building obstacles, grooming trails, moving horses into their temporary situations). And for all the other things which come up randomly.

(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)*

We'd also like to thank the folks who spend time playing with our very-deserving barn cats.

One really special work done by our volunteers is to help with the draining issue by the barn. The rain pours down off the roof to create a trench along the side of the barn. This makes it really difficult to get into the barn's lean-to for tools and other items needed to do our work as well as the refrigerator which is stocked with water (so necessary in the summer months). Thank you!



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ON THE TRAIL

By Alice Stagg

My article this time contains some thoughts gleaned from posts on Facebook shared by other horse enthusiasts who understand the importance of empathy and horse think. If I can do nothing else in the forum granted me by this newsletter, my hope is that by sharing thought provoking messages, they can make the reader either nod in agreement and feel validated that they too subscribe to this process or awake in them a new way of viewing their interactions with horses and make them eager to begin to learn how to truly communicate.

First is a 9/2/23 Facebook post by Amy Skinner Horsemanship:



“You are the steward of your horse. You are responsible for their health, happiness and wellbeing. And you are responsible for their behavior. People everywhere complain about their horse’s behavior—or smirk at their troubles.

“That dummy’s gonna be tired if he keeps pacing the fence line like that!”

“He’s being ornery!”

“He’s lazy and doesn’t want to work!”

“This mare is such a witch!”

Descriptions of the horse’s behavior in this light paint a picture of a rider who perceives themselves as the victim of the horse, instead of the steward. There is nothing that takes your power away faster than being a victim.

(continued on following page)



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ON THE TRAIL *(continued from previous page)*

The horse did not choose to come into our world. It's us who put ourselves into them—and so it is our responsibility to learn about them and to become better humans for them. It is up to us to become better riders, better handlers, better caretakers. It is up to us to learn about their behavior, physical needs, anatomy and care.

Being a steward is so much more than making a horse do what we want—it is about guiding, preparing and caring for the horse's needs.”

My second offering is an 8/30/23 post by Scott Imus shared on the Facebook page, Ray Hunt, Horseman and Teacher”

“Every time you are around a horse you have an opportunity to bond with them. Pet them where they can't reach, the eyes, the withers, under the chin, the ears, the nose and the mouth. Pet them like a cat. Build a relationship so they want to be in your presence. Some people don't pat horses which I will never understand. All of this is even more true with mules. Like Parelli said, “Put your heart in your hand and rub them with it.” Train with kindness.”

Finally, shared by Will LeRoy on Facebook Page of Ray Hunt, Horseman and Teacher:

Excerpts from Mike Thomas and thoughts about the Ray Hunt Horsemanship Clinic hosted by Lee and Mark Smith in 2009:

In the end, Horsemanship is a never ending journey.

*Ray Hunt: “A horse thinks all the time. Humans only think once in a while.”

**Albert Schweitzer: “Man is a clever animal who behaves like an imbecile.”*

*Ray Hunt: “My horse isn't my slave. He's a living, feeling, decision-making animal.”

**Albert Schweitzer: “Ethics, too, are nothing but reverence for life.”*

*Ray Hunt: “If you get unsure, the horse will get unsure. You need to be sure so the horse can be sure.”

(continued on following page)



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ON THE TRAIL (continued from previous page)

**Albert Schweitzer: "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."*

*Ray Hunt: "There's a difference between forcing and encouraging. There's a difference that the horse feels—you make him want to (do what you ask)."

**Albert Schweitzer: "The thinking (person) must oppose all cruel customs, no matter how deeply rooted in tradition and surrounded by a halo."*

*Ray Hunt: "Think."

**Albert Schweitzer: "As soon as man does not take his existence for granted, but beholds it as something unfathomably mysterious, thought begins."*



Volunteer duties can include helping out other volunteers.

"Can I have a little help here?"

I can't quite reach the brake and accelerator"



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RIP, STEVE THILLEN

VOLUNTEER, FRIEND, RESCUER -

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HORSES AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP

Please visit our website for more information about the horses available—
www.BeginAgainFarms.com

A few of the newer horses and ponies may be moved to adoption after they have regained weight and/or been evaluated.



Pickleena
Jenny
King Tutt
Max
Matilda
Chief
Tanner
Izzy
Sirocco
Lulu
Tahoe
Heavy Metal (pictured left)
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Mocha
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FOCUS ON THE FARM

By Lisa Palmer



Well, it was a hot one! We typically scale back the projects over the summer because by the time we get the morning feeding and basic chores done, it's just too hot to do much of anything else. Of course, the farrier comes about every three weeks (we have so many horses to attend to, we alternate the horses to be done so that every horse gets their feet trimmed at least every six weeks if necessary). We had to reschedule one farrier session since the temperature that day was to be over 100 degrees. Then the day we rescheduled for, it poured rain on us, so some days you can't win! We are sure that all the rest of you horsie folks dealt with the same struggles this summer.

Thankfully, we got plenty of rain all summer so that keeping enough grass in the pastures wasn't an issue. In years past when there were drought-like conditions, we had to start feeding hay as early as July, which made getting enough hay to last through the winter difficult since everyone else in the area was in the same boat. We really need to bush-hog some of the pastures that have become overgrown, but that's a better problem to have than not enough grass. Unfortunately, we need to have the clutch in our John Deere Tractor replaced (we are on the wait list!) so we are being careful with the tractor in the meantime,

Thankfully, too, we have finally had a break in the heat, with cool morning temperatures and lower humidity, which I'm sure everyone else is enjoying also. With the next trail ride coming up in a few short weeks (Sunday, October 29th, mark your calendars), it will be full steam ahead to get the trails ready, build our obstacle course and get the other events ready to roll. New event T-shirts, BAFI swag, Kiss an Ass photo booth, Costume Contest and a Silent Auction, and our fan favorite, a 50/50 raffle for cash! We will have a gourmet Hot Dog Bar with all the fixings.

(Continued on following page)

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FOCUS ON THE FARM (continued from previous page)

We will be having a costume contest so get those ideas cooking! Prizes will be given for: Adult horse and rider, Youth horse and rider (16 and under). And Youth non-riders (12 and under, no horse needed). This was a big hit last year with creative costumes and we hope to see more. Photos will be taken of all the participants, and everyone gets to vote for their favorite in each category at lunch. Winners get a cash prize and will be featured in the next newsletter.

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

After the trail ride, we will be starting some construction projects: we need to build a shelter for our miniature horses and donkeys and a new floor in the barn for our general storage room. We can use help on Saturday mornings as always, so come on out between 9-12/ Extra help is always needed and very much appreciated. Bring the kids: ages 10 and up (with parent supervision, please). If you don't already have horses and want your kids to learn the basics of horse care as well as a good work ethic, this is a great opportunity for them. Dress for the weather, because the horses always need care: rain or shine, cold or hot.

Don't forget our annual Tack Sale in November, right around Veteran's Day. Get some fantastic bargains!

**Our Saturday Volunteers
have a variety of options,
including grooming.
No experience necessary!**



**A Special Thank You To
ALICE & JOHN
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VOLUNTEERS DON'T NEED TO GO TO A GYM.

Our volunteers round up horses for the farrier every three weeks. This month we also had Coggins' pulled, and of course there are certain horses who shall remain nameless who decide they need to play "keep away" for a while before the give up and come sauntering in.

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Maggie

Annabelle

Chantilly

Scout

Terramon (pictured below)

Arrowlena

Bingo

Sirocco

Chiquita

Blaze

Princess

Paris

Luna

Ben



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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**Looking for an easy way to help
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!**