

Hoofprints of Love

MAY 2017

BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER



Gail and Handsome—See story page 5

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.

HAY FOLKS!

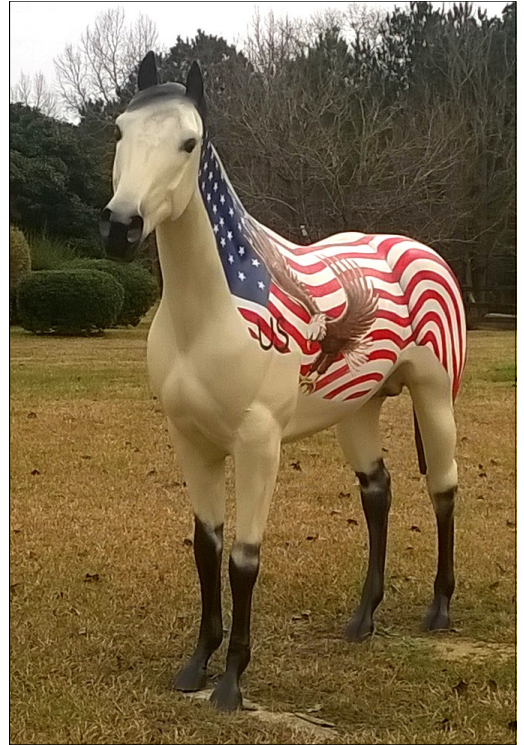
Have you seen all that wonderful rain? Here is hoping lots and lots of hay will grow so that we don't have to stress over the cost and location of hay like last year! Whew, we had to get hay delivered from south Georgia last winter when there wasn't enough locally. So let's all keep our hooves crossed!

We had a great Memorial Ride the end of April. People came from all over to ride our beautiful spring trails and play on the obstacle course, take a ride in the mule-drawn wagon, eat a wonderful lunch catered by the famous Luke's Pub in Ellerslie, and just hang out and visit with friends. Next time you eat at Luke's, be sure to thank them for taking care of their friends at the Farm.

So, let's see, Rhonda is recovered from her first knee surgery and ready for the second knee, Linna is still dealing with her hip surgery, but everybody else is doing well. Two of our volunteers who had been with us for years and years, Alex and Evan, are now Marines. Erica and Jasmine have graduated high school and are off to college in the fall. It is wonderful to watch these people grow into great adults, but we will miss them.

If you missed our last newsletter, you should know that we are no longer putting the horses for adoption in our newsletter in the interest of cutting costs. Our newsletters were just getting longer and longer as new and exciting things happened at the Farm. Be sure to go to Petfinders.com and see our pages. We have lots of great horses available.

And please see page 12 about our fall fundraiser Hoe-Down at Butts Mill Farm. We will be having this instead of our fall Rescue Ride.



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

MEMORIAL RIDE 2017



Volunteers working Registration,
Sales of T-shirts, socks, hats
And information about the Farm



A terrific lunch catered by LUKE'S PUB
(The umbrellas are new this year.)



The Memorial Balloon Send-Off with biodegradable balloons



Mule Rides—New This Year

A Special Thank You To

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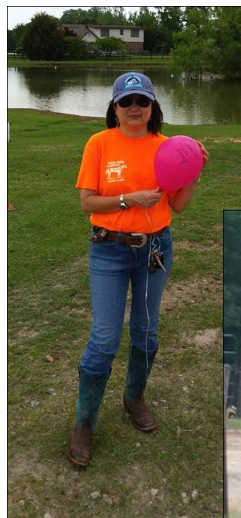
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MORE MEMORIAL RIDE 2017



NEVER GIVE UP

by Gail Gallahan Trumble

Trust has not been in Handsome's vocabulary. He has been with us for some years now, and always is the hardest to catch and suspicion has always been in his eye.

A few weeks ago, Rhonda asked me if we could worm the last few horses we could not catch when doing the Big Field. I got the two horses done and only had the donkey left to do and Handsome. I really had no plan of trying to get him. He stayed pretty far away from the herd, so he knew something was going on. My husband decided he was going to give it a try. He followed Handsome around for two hours and got nothing for it except a sunburn.

The next morning Bobby was back at it and Handsome was ready for him. Handsome decided it would be more exciting for the both of them if he spent more time running through the woods. Rhonda came to the rescue. She chased him all over the pasture and we finally got him to run out into the driveway where it was easier for Bobby to catch and halter him. Rhonda gave him a nice little spa treatment ... the horse, not Bobby.

The funniest part of the story: the next day after he was put in the paddock, my husband went out to work with him. I told Bobby there was no way that Handsome would let him get close. I was wrong. He followed Bobby all around the paddock.

Handsome is coming along better each day. He is easy enough for me to catch. He stands well for bath, grooming and fly spray. Bobby has been doing his front feet and he is doing better with his back feet. He has been a lot of fun for both of us.

Some horses just need some time before they are ready to begin to trust. Never give up.



Cooper's General Store

9170 Ga. Hwy. 85
Waverly Hall, GA 31831
706-582-2011

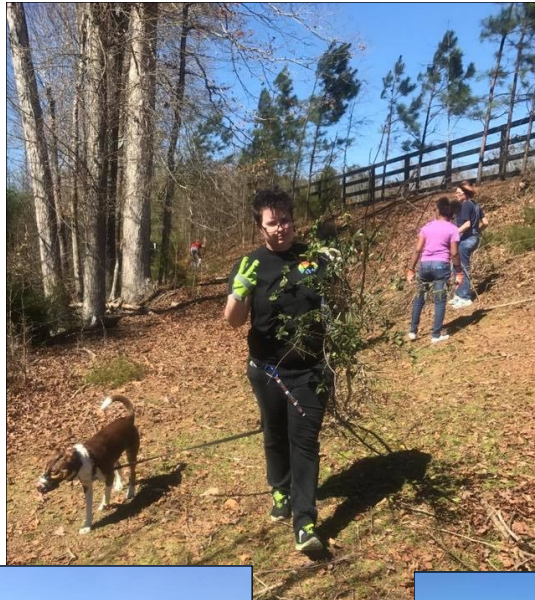
**Lowest Livestock Feed Prices in
the Area!!**

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A business card for Shirley's Accounting. The card has a blue background with a yellow lightning bolt graphic. The text on the card includes the logo "irs e file", the company name "Shirley's Accounting", the address "3716 U.S. Hwy. 80 W. Phenix City, Alabama 36870", the website "www.shirleysacct.com", and the contact information "Shirley Bolt, EA Accountant", "Office (334) 297-3209", and "Fax (334) 297-3207". The services "Accounting" and "Tax Preparation" are listed at the top right.

CSU Students Help Clean Up Farm

We were delighted when students from Columbus State University came for a clean up day. They worked hard and got lots done, and then they were ready to meet the smallest and biggest horses and groom some of them. We hope they will come back and spend more time with us!



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On the Trail....

By Alice Stagg

Your Horse Is Never Wrong

Have you ever watched or ridden your friend's horse and thought: "I wish my horse was like that?"

Have you ever known the husband or wife of one of your friends and thought "Gee, they're terrific. I wish my spouse was more like them?"

When you were growing up did you ever hear a parent say to their kid: "Why can't you be more like you friend, 'Stephanie' or 'Dave'?"

Not only are you not alone, you are part of a large majority of people who wish they could get their partner (human or horse) to change. Have you ever tried to get another person to change or behave differently? If you're like me, you've tried it more than once and it hasn't worked yet.

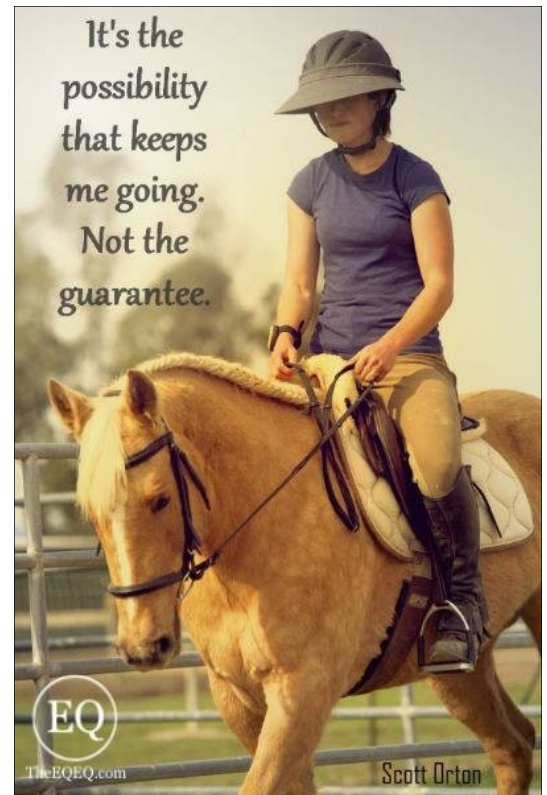
It's taken me a lifetime to learn the only person in my life I can change or get to behave differently is me. Changing things about myself for the better can be difficult and requires a lot of effort. However, the outcome is usually a double win.

Not only do I improve and feel better about myself but others seem to miraculously change for the better as well. This axiom not only works with humans, it works identically with horses. Ironically, most horse owners rarely practice it.

The horse is never wrong. This principle is paramount in the horse training of any discipline and unequivocally essential in my Natural Horsemanship program. The moment one understands why this is true and relates to their horse with this knowledge, his or her riding and horsemanship dramatically begins to improve.

The vast majority of all horse behavior is motivated by self-preservation. Horses know they're prey animals and, therefore, food for predator animals. Every decision they make is preceded with a thought: "Does what I'm about to do or not do put my survival in jeopardy?" If there is even a .001% chance that their action could put them in a vulnerable position, they will not do it.

When our horse resists our request, (read: doesn't do what we want, does what we don't want, disobeys, acts up, shuts down, ignores us, etc.), it is usually for one of four reasons all of which are originally motivated by his need for self preservation: Fear, Disrespect, Pain, Misunderstanding.



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The following are some examples:

Fear—“I’m not going in there! My human calls it a horse trailer. It looks to me like a dark metal cave with only one way out. Predators live in caves. Going in there doesn’t seem like a good idea. I need time and help to be confident and sure that if I go inside I will be safe. I know my human loves me, why on earth would he force me to go in there?”

Disrespect—“For my survival, I will always decide what’s best for me unless I have found a leader I love, trust, and respect (read: mother or alpha herd member). I always know who my leader is. They have earned their leadership by the way they treat me. They understand I’m a horse, always look out for my safety, and have proven they will never compromise my self-preservation in any of their requests. They will never force me to do anything. I will not completely trust or respect any horse or human who doesn’t demonstrate these qualities.”

Pain—“When I am hurt, injured, or in pain I am more vulnerable to predators. To survive, it is in my best interest to curtail any physical activity, rest, and heal and not make the situation worse.”

Misunderstanding—“If I’m not 100% clear on what is being asked of me, it is safer to not act. I will wait until I’m certain rather than do something that could cause me to become vulnerable.”

If you don’t know all this and don’t learn to read horses in order to respond appropriately to these four very different behaviors, when you horse doesn’t do what you want, you will most likely continue to blame him or her and make them wrong. And if you keep doing the same thing...you will keep getting the same results.

Natural Horsemanship teaches us to see our relationship from the horse’s point of view. When we do, we discover not only do his actions make perfect sense, but given the same circumstances we would probably behave exactly the same way.

When we consider that horses don’t speak English but communicate with body language and physical actions, it instantly becomes apparent that every time they resist our request, they are telling us in the only way they know how why they are resisting. (e.g. “If I do what you’re asking of me, I don’t feel it will be in the best interest of my self-preservation. If you will change how and what you’re doing in a way that allows me to understand that what you are asking of me is safe, I will be able to trust and respect you. Then I will be happy to respond to your request with confidence and enthusiasm.”)

(continued on following page)

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Natural Horsemanship provides us with this equine knowledge. We learn to recognize our horse's questions and then how to offer them the right answers. It also teaches us how to communicate (speak and listen) with our horse in their language—first on the ground, which is always safer if they resist, and then on their back.

We know if they resist our request, they are telling us they're either afraid, don't respect our judgement, they're hurting, or they don't understand. We realize these are all reasonable, logical, and understandable situations that require us to communicate differently. It requires us to change.

It tells us our horse has not accepted us as their leader and, therefore, we need to learn more and do more to earn their trust and respect and to become their leader. We become a better human in the process and they become a better horse. Not only is our horse never wrong, but if we listen to them, we discover they're our greatest teachers.

About the Author

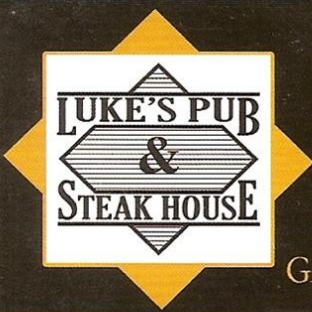
Tim Hayes is a Natural Horsemanship Clinician and the author RIDING HOME: The Power of Horses to Heal. Learn more at ridinghome.com. For Tim's clinics and more go to Hayesisforhorses.com.



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HELP THE GEEZER GIRLS AND GUYS

Horses too old or with other issues are often not available for adoption. We give these horses the best retirement they can ask for. Please consider sponsoring these

Sponsorships are also available for adoptable horses. This would be a wonderful investment for corporations or other businesses that like to work with the community. For more information about sponsorship, please contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945.

Here are some of our horses that need sponsorship:

***NEW* MONTY—**

COCOA—Young black mare, very sweet.. Co-coa is blind in one eye and cannot see well out of the other.

GINGER—Ginger is a lovely chestnut mare, full of energy in pep. She is in her 20s, and has some back or hip issues. She is a bit too much “in your face” and needs some work on being respectful, but she likes people, and she would make a good project for someone experienced with horses. (*Pictured left below*)



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

LENA—Beautiful bay Quarter Horse/Paint with lots of color. Not very trusting. Has COPD.

PRINCESS— Pinto miniature horse mare. She is a very sweet but somewhat shy little mare. Loves to be groomed. Not broke to ride. Leads well.

(continued on following page)

SPONSORSHIP

(continued from previous page)

MISTY—Sweet black small pony. She is easy to catch and lead and groom. She's carried a small child on her back with a lead line. ***(Pictured right with her best buddy Boo)***

PEANUT—Anyone who has spent time at the Farm knows Peanut the million dollar pony. He is our primary Education animal, and goes out to schools, parades and other functions, gives children their first riding experience.



POGO—A darling older miniature horse. Loves grooming and treats. ***(Pictured left, with Spotless the cat)***

SAVANNAH—She is like some of our volunteers in that she is getting older, but refuses to believe it. She is an intelligent white mare.



WILDFIRE—Gentle chestnut mare, blind in one eye (it had to be removed). Has ulcers, but under control since removed from stressful situation. Prefers ponies and/or minis as her pasture mates. ***(Pictured left)***

HOEDOWN

Waiting for flyer from Kevin

GOODBYE OLD FRIENDS



KITTY

REVEL

Adopted

Braygorn—pending
Heavy Metal—pending
Ricky (Enrique) - pictured left



Sponsored

Stanley (pictured right)
Handsome (partial)

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Mobile: (706) 984-1191
Fax: (706) 317-5536

Wish List

Horse Supplies:

Nutrena Stock & Stable 12%
Tucker Feed 12/12
Beet Pulp
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray
Fly Spray for Piranha Spray Master

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

Help:

Electrician to do minor repair work

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets
Easy entry miniature horse cart

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Picnic Tables or Banquet Tables

Also:

Large Flatbed Trailer, minimum of 24 feet,
dual axle. Can be gooseneck.

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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!**