

Hoofprints of Love

BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER

MAY 2019



**MEMORIAL RIDE—
Pages 2-6**

**UPCOMING
RESCUE RIDE—
September 21
(mark your calendars)**

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.

Max's Corner: An Eye on the Farm

Hay there!

It's me again, Robos Max, Spokeshorse for Begin Again Farms Equine Shelter.

Before I forget, I hope y'all will hoof it down to our **Annual Rescue Ride on September 21**. It will be a great one. We'll send you more info on this as our plans start coming together.

Thank you to **Rick Turner** (see his ad page 10) for the brand-new **12' x 21' shelter** for the one paddock that desperately needed one. The one that had been there no longer was in the condition it once had been, and too small for the horses we had living there.

And thank you to **Judy Beringer** for the donation of the **20' flatbed trailer**.

Riders and walkers had a blast at our **Memorial Ride** this year. I think we didn't have as many riders as expected because people listened to the weatherman instead of our assurance that it would not rain on us. It rained lightly for about two minutes at noon. New trails had been added, although not yet groomed as well as the other ones; we anticipate it being much better for the Rescue Ride. This year we added an Easter Egg Hunt, with numbers in the eggs for claiming prizes from a brand new saddle to bags of candy. **Cheryl Allen Hirselt** from Troup Saddle Club won the brand new saddle. Congratulations, Cheryl! We (the humans that is) gobbled down a terrific BBQ (chicken and/or beef) from Whistling Pig in Pine Mountain, plus homemade cole slaw and potato salad.

I think maybe my editor went a little hog-wild with pictures from the ride. The Easter Bunny visited. Lots of kids got pictures with Bunny. And she insisted on putting in photos of our first-time obstacles on the obstacle course. Interestingly, we thought the covered ride would stump some of the horses, but they just seemed to take it all in stride. I think maybe the horses have learned to totally trust their pet people.

Swings arrived at the Farm, and now we need to hang them from something. See page 8. Those that donate some wood or quickrite or hardware or one more swing will find their names on the swingset.



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







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RIP, OLD FRIENDS

FANCY



WILDFIRE



TONY

ADOPTIONS

- Princess
- Snickers (right—Happy Birthday, Nancy!)
- Cheech (pending)
- Bingo (pending)
- Maggie (pending)

NEW SPONSORSHIPS

- Moxie (bottom right)
- Lucy
- Scout
- Dainty
- Don's Blessing
- Ginger
- Max
- Kiwi
- Figi



RENEWED SPONSORSHIPS

- Ice
- Snowflake
- Juniper
- Goldie
- Prince
- Navajo
- Cloud
- Rubin
- Scooby
- Peppy
- Rob
- Dude
- Tutt
- Metal
- Rocky
- Gus
- Chief



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JOIN US TO BUILD A NEW SWINGSET

Donate any of these items, and your name will be placed on the swingset:

4—6x6x12 wooden pieces at \$30 each

4— 6x6x10 wooden pieces at \$37 each

8—80 lb. bags of Quickrite at \$5 each

Hardware and Chains

One more swing

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!

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FEATURED HORSE FOR ADOPTION

LARRY

Larry is an incredibly beautiful Tennessee Walking Horse who has just turned eight years old and is ready for a grown-up life.

His registered name is Remington Gold and is from good bloodlines (see pedigree page 15).

Larry came to us after the death of his previous owner. We have no idea what training he has had, and have not yet saddled him, but he leads very well, stands beautifully for the farrier, loads and unloads well off a trailer.

He stands about 14.3 to 15 hands.

He has a lovely temperament, and has good social skills with humans and other horses. He is in good health.

Do you think you are the right person? Contact Rhonda at 706-315-6945.

(Pedigree and picture page 15)



FEATURED HORSE FOR SPONSORSHIP

BIG BEN

Ben is a new arrival at the Farm. Someone went out to their pasture and there he stood. Repeated attempts to find his owner have failed, no one has reported a missing horse, and there were no matches at Net Posse's pictures of stolen or lost horses.

He has an interesting curly coat and wavy mane and tail and appears to be a draft cross.

He is offered right now for sponsorship rather than adoption because he needs some work. He does not load well on trailers, and he is a little pushy about being led. He does stand well for grooming and picks up his feet nicely.

We believe he is around the age of 18 or 19.

More information will be available as we get to know Ben.



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On the Trail...

By Alice Stagg

The Value of Empathy and Horse Think

Recently I read a very insightful post from the great Denny Emerson on his Facebook Page, Tamarack Hill Farm. I commend this page to everyone because Denny is one who I consider to be the voice of reason when it comes to interactions with horses. This is Denny's post:

[Tamarack Hill Farm](#)

"Nervous horses are hard to ride horses. Hard to ride in that they are too reactive. They may not stand quietly to be mounted. They may not walk calmly. They may escalate the speed at all gaits. They may not handle downward transitions very readily. They may dance sideways in anxiety. They may leap into the canter. They may spook and wheel from all sorts of perceived threats.

It is difficult and frustrating to ride nervous horses. Many riders "fight fire with fire" by getting tense and rigid and abrupt and strong. They will try to force the nervous horse to obey, maybe by lunging and lunging and lunging, or by using stronger bits, or draw reins, or leverage rigs, or by spinning the horse in tight circles, or by withholding food and water, or by tying the horse for hours so that "he can think about what he did wrong."

The reason the horse is nervous is usually either because he is "high" and has pent up energy, or because he is scared from past experiences, or because he is green, and is afraid of new situations, or is in discomfort, or some combination of these. And, I think, some horses are born more nervous than others, and that isn't ever easy.

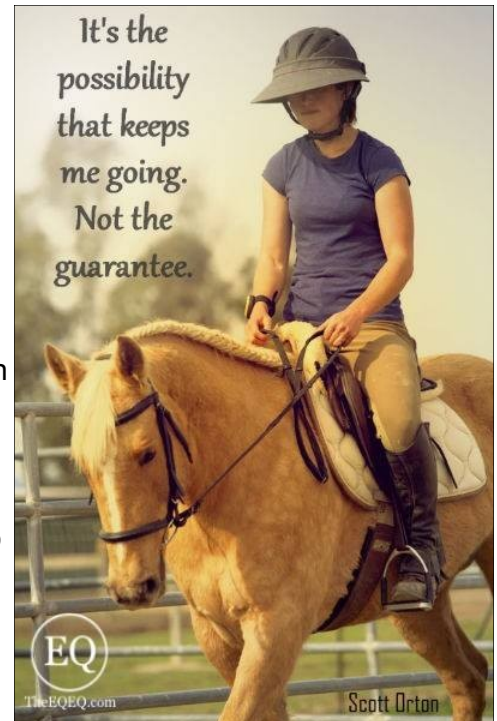
To try to force a horse to be calm, short of drugging him, is futile, because it is impossible. You can force him to be tired, you can force him to "give in" to draw reins or long shanked bits, but those are not cures, only temporary fixes based on force, and force may well be why he is nervous in the first place.

Most riders are not equipped with either the skills or the patience to deal with highly nervous horses. And some highly nervous horses have been so emotionally damaged that they never recover even when correctly handled.

It seems that the first thing to do, if you are in the situation of having to deal with a highly nervous horse, is to try to determine the source of the nervousness. Is he simply too high, maybe too much confined, fed too much grain, ridden too little? Is he afraid? If so, afraid of what? Is he green?

Only when you can figure out the source or sources of the nervousness can you begin to effect some possible cures. One thing NOT to do is fall back on that anthropomorphic "He is being bad." cop out. Horses are not people. I repeat: Horses are not people. One more time---Horses are not people. Until you can fully understand that truth, you are not yet ready to train horses."

After reading Denny's insightful post, I again reflected on how close that is to what I've learned from some others I respect in the field of equine relationships.



(continued on following page)

On the Trail (continued from previous page)

Famed rider and trainer George Morris has said, "Each time you ride your horse, you are either training him or un-training him. There is no in between." That is pure gold folks. I believe it should be broadened further, to: "Each time you interact with your horse, you are either training him or un-training him."

If everyone would approach their interactions with horses keeping this precept in mind, the philosophy I have learned from my long-time mentor, J. Ashton (Jeff) Moore of Empathy or Horse Think would follow naturally. Jeff says "No matter what we do, or how oblivious we are, horses are learning - about their relationship with us and about what behaviors work for them. They learn as much by our 'errors of omission' as by our 'errors of commission'. The horses are learning all the time, whether we like it or not, whether we are aware of it or not."

Jeff goes on further to quote Victoria Stilwell ("It's Me or the Dog" on Animal Planet), who has a good expression, "Harnessing the inner instinct." Riders are usually guilty of manage, control, hold instead. The approach Jeff encourages is for the rider/trainer to 1. Set up a situation and encourage the horse to experiment within reason, 2. Pre-plan 'escape routes', being obvious about what they are and being forgiving of wrong experiments, and 3. When the horse does experiment, reward its efforts in the right direction, even if only glimmers. Horses learn retrospectively and by repetition. They need time (breaks in the action) to reflect and regroup. If you have no clear plan and no ability to provide consistent, repetitive, fair requests along with reasonable escape routes; if you are quick to go to a harsher bit, sharper spurs, interminable wild "lunging" which is nothing more than just running the horse crazily around you, etc., you have little hope of succeeding in developing a good working partnership with your horse where there is mutual trust. The determination of what is the best way to react to the horse's reactions can't be taught in print. It requires help from an expert, quiet experimentation and understanding of the personality of the individual horse.

Back to #2 on Jeff's list above. What are "Escape Routes"? They are things the horse tries in order to take the pressure off physically, emotionally or psychologically. Often to the unfamiliar they are misinterpreted as bad responses, but may be best treated as experiments that can be positively directed. These could be reactions such as head up, flight forward or sideways, stop, step backward. Usually if a horse shuts down, rears, bucks, bolts, etc, those responses are considered "bad". The rider/trainer must consider, is it because a horse may be driven to one of those "bad" escape behaviors by unreasonable treatment (being beaten at a jump or trying to force him through a puddle (which he likely conceives as a bottomless sinkhole) for example? This is poor Horse Think on our part that pushes horses to more extreme/desperate Escape Routes. Our task as rider/trainer is to cultivate in ourselves enough good Horse Think to know how to harness and direct the horses' natural escape routes to our advantage, and if possible, to offer more than one escape route to overcome such things as anxieties or shut-down, and thus guide the horse to our own ends.



On the Trail *(continued from previous page)*

The unsavory alternatives? "Push and Resist", "Hold and Drive", "Spank and Crank", "Use Force/Gadgets". We want to set the horse up in a way that will lead him to figure out positive responses by experimenting.

Jeff tries to teach his students to always have two thoughts in mind as they interact with their horses. "What does he make of that?" and "How can I help him experiment in the right direction?"

Nobody knows everything and everyone should always be open to learning and growing in their journey with their horses. Watch some instructors or trainers at work and determine if their style appeals to you. Ask questions. If they tell you your horse is "no good" for a particular purpose, find out why they think so. Maybe the real reason is that the particular trainer/instructor really doesn't have a clue how to work with a horse that isn't up to their opinion of a "good" one. Every horse can benefit from a thoughtful and well-reasoned approach to training, and will improve over time. Every rider needs to be in a continual search for knowledge and personal improvement. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Horse Supplies:

Feed: Tucker Mill 10-10-10
All Grain feed
Beet Pulp
Mineral Blocks
Shavings or Pellets for Stalls
Wormer
Fly Spray
Fly Spray for Piranha Spray Master

Tools and Equipment:

Standing Closed Cabinets
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

NEW (or used in good condition):

3/4 to 1 ton diesel truck suitable for hauling horse trailers and other hard work

Help:

Electrician to do minor repair wor
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair

Tack:

Any new or used saddles &
miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Picnic Tables or Banquet Tables

Wish List

ADOPTION, SPONSORSHIP, VOLUNTEERING?

Adoption—Looking for your new special horse? Please take a look at our pages on Petfinder. And keep watching it, as it will be underway with wonderful new pictures of our horses shortly. We have some great horses available. We are no longer listing them all in the newsletter due to spatial limitations.

Sponsorship—Not enough time for a horse of your own? Not enough space? Not sure you have enough knowledge at this time to own a horse? Or you just want to support Begin Again Farms? Does your child want a horse but you are not sure if she will stick to it, especially in bad weather? Consider a sponsorship or partial sponsorship of one of the Farm's residents. We have a number of horses that cannot be adopted due to age or handicap, or we have horses waiting to be adopted. You can spend as much or as little time as you want or need with your horse, and if you need it, all the free training for yourself and how to work with your horse.

Corporate sponsorships are also available.

Volunteering—You have the desire to help and/or learn, but you are not financially ready to own or sponsor your own horse. That's fine! Come join a people who will welcome you with open arms and lead you to the adventure of a lifetime. Meet new friends, both two- and four-legged, learn new skills, have FUN. Volunteers do a variety of things around the Farm—feeding, grooming, assisting with vaccinations, worming and with the farrier; machine repair, fencing repair, painting, etc.; and if you prefer working from home, keeping up with the paperwork and/or grantsmanship are possibilities as well.

**For more information on adoption, sponsorship or volunteering,
please talk to Rhonda at 706-315-6945.**



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LARRY

(continued from page 9)



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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

This is to Certify that the **STALLION** _____ which has been named **REMINGTON GOLD** _____ with Registration Number **21100453** is duly registered on the Stud Book of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association.

Owned by: Mack or Gloria Ellis
Phenix City AL

Bred by: Mack or Gloria Ellis
Phenix City AL

State in Which Foal Was Born: AL

Sex: **STALLION** Color: **BLACK**

Markings: **NONE**

Foal Date: **May 25, 2011** Positive LDz

Given under my hand and seal at Lewisburg, Tennessee
August 31, 2011

Shirley Bolt
Registrar

REMINGTON GOLD 21100453/BL

UC I'M ULTRA GOLD
Stud Reg. No. 970100/BL

ULTRA COPY
Grand Sire 881121/BL

GENIUS'S OLD GOLD
Sire's Date 855232/CH

GENEROUSLY
Stud Reg. No. 887122/CH

PRIDE'S ULTRA THREAT 800396/BL

COPY'S ANGEL 706582/BL

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TRIPLE SERENADE 692979/CH

MAGIC BUM 754069/BL

MAGIC WITCH HAF 820327/BL

DELITE SUNDAY GOSSIP 775558/BL

PRIDE OF MIDNIGHT I.F. 661459/BL

TRIPLE THREAT'S ROSE 702610/BA

GLL'S CARBON COPY (WGC) 620913/BL

GO BOYS MIDNIGHT MAID 601855/LR

PRIDE OF MIDNIGHT I.F. 661459/BL

DELIGHT'S JOANNA 69434/CH

TRIPLE THREAT (WGC) 612233/BA

GLORY'S SERENADE 561182/CH

MIDNIGHT SUN (WGC) 410753/BL

PRIDE OF MIDNIGHT I.F. 661459/BL

PRIDE OF STANLEY 472897/RN

SPIRIT OF MIDNIGHT 571152/BL

NELL'S LAST LADY 538552/CH

DELIGHT BUMEN AROUND (WGC) 681087/BL

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SUN'S DELIGHT D. (WGC) 592134/CH

MACK K'S CHANCE 662069/BL

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**Looking for an easy way to help
Begin Again Farms?**

**Print this newsletter and hang a copy
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**Spreading the word about Begin
Again Farms is a huge help to us!**