

Hoofprints of Love

**BEGIN AGAIN FARMS, INC. EQUINE SHELTER
SUMMER 2020**



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, everyone!

I know, I know, you were pawing through your emails and the May issue of Hoofprints of Love never arrived. Almost like missing a bucket of breakfast, right? I have not fired my secretary yet. She has been blaming 2020 for everything that goes wrong.



MAX—BAFI'S SPOKESHORSE

Times have been busy since we last whinnied at each other. We had a **GRAND Memorial Ride** this year, with the improved trails, new obstacles on the course, lunch from Trevioli's Italian Restaurant. Everyone maintained appropriate social distancing, and even still enjoyed themselves. Please be sure to support our sponsors.

Because of covid-19, **volunteers** were a bit thin during March. Our regular volunteers received Essential Employee letters to carry with them should it be necessary (it wasn't), and indeed without them we would have been in knee-deep manure. Aside from the most important thing (food), our volunteers cut down trees, moved horses as necessary, trained horses to be ready for adoption, dragged the fields weekly, brought horses up for the farrier, repaired the new flatbed trailer, and too many other chores to name. Are you interested in volunteering? If so, please call Rhonda at 706-315-6945. You would get to work with some great horses and humans and be a boon for all of us.

(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)*

2020 **Rescue Ride** has a new date and face! It'll be **SUNDAY, October 25**. The trails should be glorious, the weather cool and comfortable. New obstacles are being designed. AND since it is so close to Halloween there'll be a **COSTUME CLASS**. Actually two, one for adults, and one for 16 and under, with **Cash Prizes**. Please see our flyer on page 10 for more information. Loads of fun and laughs. There'll be a 50/50 raffle, and all of our volunteers have raffle tickets at \$1 each, or you can get them the day of the ride.

We will once again be having a **TACK SALE** in November, and it will be held at the Farm. Date to be announced. Also, please join us in December for the Waverly Hall **Christmas Parade**. Kids come early to decorate the horses and the wagon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Rescue Ride!

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Featured Horse for Adoption ARROWLENA

Arrowlena is a sweet-natured mare who loves people. She's got great ground manners, loads, bathes and stands for the farrier.

She is 14 years old.



She's a registered chestnut Quarter Horse mare, Freckles Playboy and Doc O'Lena bloodlines, standing 14.1 or 14.2 hands.

One of our volunteers has been working to increase Arrowlena's skills under saddle, and she is doing beautifully. She will be ready for adoption very soon.

She will make someone a very nice little horse.

Featured Horse for Sponsorship - MILADY

Milady is a 24-year-old registered Quarter Horse mare (registered name Supreme Malady) from racing bloodlines who came to us due to the death of her owner. As the heir knew nothing about her, we are not sure what training she has had, but believe she may have been a broodmare in her younger years. She has put on a lot of weight since coming to us (picture taken Sept. 1) which had been our first goal. She eats, well, like a horse, and we wonder if her thinness may have been caused by pushier horses in her pasture.

We suspect she has never had her own personal human to give her attention and training in the basics, and we have been starting with respecting the human's personal space.

She would be a lovely subject for someone who has the time and patience to teach her these important skills. Otherwise, we would be delighted if someone would offer to sponsor her financially while we work with her to become a candidate for adoption.



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On the Trail

by Alice Stagg



Following is a Facebook post from 5/24/20 by Denny Emerson on his Tamarack Hill Farm page.

It reminded me of how important it is for those who work with horses to keep in mind “horse think” and “empathy”. For this issue, I asked the editor to insert two pictures of



me on the same horse. These were taken about two years apart. The one in Western attire and tack (right) was the first year I had Stoney, taken at our first parade event at the Plains Peanut Festival. When I bought this sweet guy, he didn't steer very well, and though willing enough, was pretty clunky and unbalanced. He also had no experience being around weird things one might encounter in a parade environment. So...I set out to familiarize and desensitize him to as many surprises as I could think up. The one thing I didn't anticipate encountering was a llama pulling a cart in front of him! When he first saw that, he went on high alert, but instead of wheeling and running, he just stood there and stared until he figured out it wasn't so bad. He trusted me and I stayed calm and centered while he took it all in.

The second picture (above left) was taken about two years later at a dressage clinic. Here he is in English tack performing a shoulder-in exercise, balanced, light (for his breed) and energetic. Again, I took the time to patiently train him to understand what was being asked of him and condition him to be able to perform this and even more difficult movements later. Reading Denny Emerson's post reminded me again of the journey I've taken with this wonderfully kind horse from unbalanced and untrained field pet to one who is open to new adventures and seems to enjoy his work. That is all I can ask of any horse.

Here is Denny's post:

There aren't many riders who haven't been guilty of what I am going to describe—

I/you/me/they/we grab a horse who has just been doing what a horse does and being what a horse is, and we put tack on that horse, get on its back, and go make it do what humans want it to do.

(Continued on following page)



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On The Trail—*continued from previous page*

The horse has zero interest or desire to be tacked up and ridden. The humans who think that are either 8-year-old dreamers, or older people who still are 8-year-old dreamers.

So, if we want the horse to actually do human “stuff” rather than horse “stuff”, and do it in a manner that is at least somewhat cooperative, we have to somehow make that transition in ways that we don’t trigger anxiety and discomfort.

Think — as in actually ponder — those two words: anxiety and discomfort.

Because if the things we want the horse to do, and the ways in which we try to get the horse to do them cause anxiety or discomfort, the horse is going to act out of self-preservation, and God help the poor horse who RESISTS, because now the horse is being BAD, and now we have some sort of cosmic permission to correct that incorrect behavior.

All over the world, today, May 24th, and yesterday, May 23rd, and tomorrow, May 25th, and every day, past, present and future, riders are going to get into this confrontational mind set with horses, and once it starts, it almost always snowballs into more struggle, more force, more coercion.

Simply put, horses and humans do not have the same goals. They don't, and it doesn't matter how many nice little stories we read as children about how Pony Petunia loved little Sally, and tried to please her.

So what can be done? Well, a number of things. Make sure that the horse knows what we want, by teaching rather than forcing. This means the rider must know how to teach. If you don't, learn.

Make sure the tack fits.

Make sure the horse is healthy, teeth, hooves, worming, feed, turnout, so many facets of horse management.

Make sure the horse is fit enough. Fatigue causes both anxiety and discomfort.

Use a long, slow warm-up, as a transitional stage between standing around and being schooled, rather than just starting to demand.

School to educate, not to coerce, Take all the time it takes. Build a tiny layer, then build upon that, and then upon that, and then upon that. This might take years. It sure as heck won't take days or weeks.

Bad riding and bad horsemanship lead to bad situations.

Good riding and good horsemanship lead to successful conclusions. So it is our fault when it goes poorly, and not the fault of the horse. If you can't handle that truth, you are not ready to be a horse trainer.

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Tools and Equipment:

Manure Spreader
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

Tack:

Any new or used saddles & miscellaneous tack
Horse Blankets

Event Needs:

Awnings (Free Standing)
Picnic Tables or Banquet Tables
Table Umbrellas

Help:

Plumber for minor repairs
Electrician for minor repairs
Mechanic for maintenance & minor repair
Grantwriter



BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THE 2020 RESCUE RIDE!

For more info: Rhonda Jackson
(706) 315- 6945

Proceeds Donated to Begin Again Farms

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Begin Again Farms, Inc. Presents...
The 13th Annual Rescue Ride

"Neighs and Nightmares"

- ★ **When:** October 25, 2020 9AM-4PM
- ★ **Where:** 2035 Harris Road Ellerslie, Ga 31807
- ★ **Cost:** \$45 for riders (Lunch Included)

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-11-
ADOPTED



SHELDON (Above)

LARRY (Right)

ANGEL (Not pictured)



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Memorial Ride 2020



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