



Hoof and Hearts News Quarterly

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THIRD QUARTER, 2012

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

FETC Riders Bring Home Gold

Over 200 Special Olympic athletes, 25 unified partners, and 90 coaches from around the state were in Perry, GA at the Georgia National Fairgrounds & AgriCenter on August 24th through the 26th for the Special Olympics Horse Show.

Faith Equestrian took five riders and everyone came home with a medal (or more). Overall, FETC came home with 10 Gold medals; 2 Silver medals and 3 Bronze medals!!

Michael Holton Jr. competed in four different events and medaled in each of them. He received a gold medal in Equitation; a gold medal in Showmanship, a gold medal in Dressage and a bronze medal in Trail. Michael has been competing the longest of any of our riders and each and every year he delivers!

Kristy Tilton, another competitor competed in three categories: Trail—she received a gold medal; Horsemanship—another gold medal and Western Riding, in which she received a bronze medal.



Also competing this year were the Rickard twins, John and James. John won a gold in Western Horsemanship; a gold in Showmanship and a Silver in Trail;

His brother James also came home with a Gold in Western Horsemanship, he earned a Silver in Trail and another Silver in Showmanship.

Competing for the first time this year was Erin Pevey and she did not disappoint! She brought home two Gold medals—one in Trail and the other in Showmanship.



They couldn't have done it without the help, support and encouragement offered by the volunteers and staff who travelled with them to the event. They are Mary & Taylor Close, Eddie Stelljis, Jackie & Renee Garman, Michael & Amy Holton, Kirk Meals, Alex Partain, Ansley Rewis, Jessica Meyer and Bonnie Rachael Gentry.



We'd also like to thank our sponsors: Counter Fitters; Ferguson Enterprises; Savage, Turner Pinckney & Madison of Savannah, GA; Hogan's Marina; The Savannah Bank; Weimar Construction Co., Inc.; J. T. Turner Construction Co., Inc.; Serv-Pro LLC and Suzanna's Kitchen, Inc.

Many, many thanks to all who helped in making this year's trip possible. A special thank you to Scott Garman, who tended to FETC grounds and animals during competition!

The Trainers' Corner -An Apple a Day? NOT



Bonnie Gentry pictured above.

Everyone has heard, or will hear at one time or another, that horses like apples and carrots - and so they do! You will even see these fruits and veggies depicted on Christmas cards hanging on stall doors but did you know these "treats" can be unhealthy or downright deadly to a horse?

Apples and other fruits like pears can cause stomach upsets like colic due to the bloating from gas produced by the fruit in the digestive system. Horses, when suffering colic, usually roll to relieve the pain. This can cause a twisted gut, more pain, need for surgery or even death can occur. If the horse is given a whole apple or carrot they can choke on them and even if they are cut into pieces they can become lodged

in the horses throat and do not dissolve. A Vet call will then be needed to help your horse.

What? one little apple, one little carrot, one little pear, can cause all this? Do you want to take that chance with your horse or someone else's horse? It does happen!

There are many great horse treats on the market that are made so they will break apart very easily and dissolve quickly too. You can even get recipes for making treats yourself that are healthy and fun for the horse to eat.

A comment was made one time when I gave a talk about this subject. The comment made was "people have been feeding apples and pears for centuries". My answer is "Yes

they have, but educating the public about these and other hazards to horses has helped more horses live longer, happier lives and have saved many an owner thousands of dollars in veterinarian expenses afterwards".

Play it safe, always ask before feeding anyone's horse a treat and offer good wholesome "safe" treats.

One last thing, give um one at a time! Not a handful at a time.

Happy trails and Many Blessings for the upcoming holidays!!

Bonnie Gentry

Horses for Heroes

Horses for Heroes is designed and dedicated for our wounded service men and women. Many coming out of the hospital need a way to continue rehabilitation outside the arena of doctors and therapy sessions. Whether the wounds are physical or psychological, our desire in the Horses for Heroes program is to help these brave men and women to receive the help they need in a recreational riding program designed to meet their specific needs.

Randy LeBoeuf is a veteran who began coming to Faith Equestrian in August of this year.

Randy served in the Army for a total of eight years; 5 of those years on

active duty and the other 3 years in the National Guard. He was a paratrooper and a member of the Long Range Reconnaissance Surveillance (LRRS) team.



He and his wife Kelli have two sons: Casden, 10 comes out occasionally

to help groom the horses and Brady, 6 comes with his Dad on Wednesdays to ride.

When asked how he benefits from the program, he said, "My interaction with the horses helps me tremendously. Heck any time at FETC helps tremendously— even if I weren't riding! The feeling I get helping out for a great cause and the stress free environment really works wonders for my stress levels."

Ya'll have probably noticed the new beautiful flowers and holiday décor at our entrance—we can thank Randy and Kelli for doing that for us!

A Special Thanks for our Saturday Lunch !

With FETC being a wholly volunteer based organization, the noon time break, fellowship and food on Saturdays provides a welcome time to talk about what's happening and to plan for the future.

The typical cost is \$35 to \$40 to feed 15 people. If you'd like to provide a gift card its best to get one from a grocery store and we'd need it in hand at least one week prior of the date you choose to provide the lunch.

An additional need of late has been bottled water. It seems people

think of the need during the dog days of summer but as the cooler temperatures arrive—so has the need for water.

Everyone involved with FETC wants to express our sincere thanks to the following parents who have provided either the food or the funds to provide lunch to us during the Fall Session, which runs from September through November 2012.

R. J. Vinson, Jennifer Clark, Judy Wolfe, Samaria Escorcia, Kristen Nyce, Akyva Wilson, Pam Hussey and Kirk Meals have either provided

the food, a gift card to purchase the meal or have signed up to do so within this session.

If anyone would like to participate who hasn't yet signed up please know that one item that is especially enjoyed by all the volunteers are Oreo cookies!



Let's Meet

Hi, my name is Shadow. I'm an 16 year old Morgan who has been with Faith Equestrian since April 2010. I am 14.2 hands high and absolutely beautiful!

Before coming here, I was someone's family pet .

I absolutely love to have my belly scratched and getting treats. Ms. Bonnie will tell you that I can be

rather sneaky when reaching for those treats. I can stretch my lips way out and curl them around a treat before you ever know what happened.

And my favorite thing in the world are the mares . . . Please don't keep me away from them. And you know what else—I know they miss me when I'm not near too!



Important Dates / Things to Remember

We need additional volunteers. If you or someone you know are looking for a worthwhile organization to support either monetarily or by giving of your time, please come see what FETC has to offer!

We can always use bleach, clothes

detergent, hand soap and antibacterial soap, paper towels, toilet paper and Lexmark printer cartridges #28 & #29.

FETC's Annual Christmas Party is Saturday, December 15, at Ebenezer Retreat Center.



Our Mission

Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed to:



United Way Agency of the Coastal Empire

We are an agency of the United Way, listed in health and wellness !!

Please make Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center YOUR designated charity when the United Way comes to your workplace during the United Way campaign. Support local community services through the United Way!

- Offer equine assisted riding and educational activities for children and adults with all types of mental, physical and emotional challenges.
- Help build life skills, confidence, and self esteem in a family friendly social environment.
- Offer these activities without regard to race, color, creed or financial need.

Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center, Inc.
 243 Appaloosa Way
 Guyton, GA 31312
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 Email: equiskepr243@yahoo.com



Under Bonnie Rachael group or Faith Equestrian Page

Volunteer Spotlight

Kirk Meals began volunteering with us back in 2008 and has played a significant role in our success.

He started like most, as a side walker and has since become knowledgeable in all that happens here at FETC.

In addition to being a very dependable volunteer on Saturdays, being there to lend a helping hand at fundraisers throughout the year, and being on our Advisory Board, he has accompanied our participants to the Georgia Special Olympics for several years.

Thank you Kirk for ALL YOU DO!

Without each and every one of our precious volunteers our facility could not exist.



If you have a story suggestion, or request please email yours ideas to jwolfefetc@yahoo.com