



Hoof and Hearts News Quarterly

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FOURTH QUARTER, 2012

DECEMBER 31, 2012

FETC Holds Its Annual Christmas Party

Faith Equestrian held its Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center.

The Retreat Center was beautifully decorated for the holiday season and provided everyone with a delicious meal.

Bonnie Gentry took the opportunity to thank her many dedicated volunteers for their ongoing efforts in helping to make FETC a success and giving of their time and talents so freely to help others.

Some of those recognized for giving the most hours of their time were Alex Partain, Jackie Garman, Eddie Stelljes and Mary Close.

The members of the Special Olympic support team were also acknowledged for the training hours and travel to Perry to assist

our competitors. They were Mary and Taylor Close, Jackie and Renee Garman, Eddie Stelljes, Alex Partain, Jessica Meyer, Lisa Bowen, Kirk Meals and Ansley Rewis.

Additional thanks were given to Kristy Tilton for her volunteer work; Scott Garman for his electrical work on the new Education Center and Larry Fort for numerous projects around the property.

Top fundraiser again this year was Danielle Collins.

Bonnie also presented certificates to this year's Silver Spur recipients: Alex Partain, Jessica Meyer, Ansley Rewis and Renee Garman.

Some of our younger volunteers also surprised Bonnie Gentry and Jessica Meyer with hand made cards and words of thanks and appreciation for the time spent in teaching them all the ins and outs of horsemanship!

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Education Center Progress—Handicap Ramp in Place!

Many thanks to the GAP Ministry for their work on the handicap ramp for the Education Center. GAP of Effingham County was established in November, 2004. It is a network of Effingham County's Christian men that do numerous service projects. To date, GAP has constructed 27 wheelchair ramps.

The churches that worked on our handicap ramps were: Marantha Assembly of God on Wisenbaker Road in Rincon; Guyton Christian

Church on Pine Street in Guyton and Rincon First Baptist Church on East 6th Street in Rincon.



The Trainers' Corner - Horse Leaders: Being a Good Boss to Your Horse



Bonnie Gentry pictured above.

The purpose of a good horse leader is to guard and control the horse in a safe manner during a therapeutic riding class; to be aware of the horse's body language and how to interpret it; and becoming a comfort for the horse. Horses need a "leader" in their social life and at work. If you do not take charge then the horse can become nervous, bossy, unresponsive or all of these things. How to be a Leader? You must earn the respect and confidence of the animal you are working with, HOW do we do this?

You must have the skill for the job. GET THE TRAINING! You must show assertiveness, NOT aggressiveness. You will never win a fight with a horse. You will only cause a wreck, if something is happening beyond your skill level ask for help don't try to muscle it! If a horse shows aggressive behavior. i.e. biting or kicking, there is a right way and wrong way to handle it.

Why do otherwise calm and

sweet horses nip or attempt to nip sometimes during a therapeutic class? Put yourself in the horses place... one person is leading it, another is on top pulling reins left and right or bouncing on their back, the horse is typically crowded with side walkers bumping its sides or flank area, WOW—how would you feel? We must give our horses credit for how good they really are considering the job they do. You must never slap a horse on the mouth during a therapeutic riding class because you will cause the horse to swing its head or jump away from you which can cause the rider to be dislodged. As uncomfortable as a "nip" can be, an ounce of prevention by proper handling can help you avoid this problem. Keep your leading hand up above the horse's mouth area near the cheek with a loop in the lead line. This will help the horse to correct itself if it reaches for you. The horse will bump itself on your knuckles first and you can keep them out of your personal space. Take all the horse leading training you can

get. The horse you lead needs you to tell him/her that everything is ok when the rider is having a melt down or being overly stimulated.

Keep a quiet and calm nature. If the horse is nervous you must be very calm and DO NOT choke up on lead lines and haul on them by letting your hand pull down on the line. Horses will mirror your feelings. This is why they are good teachers for us. If you are nervous they will demonstrate the same behavior- if you are aggressive or mad about something the horse will know it and show it back to you. If you are sad they will comfort you. For their survival they were created with a sixth sense that is far more advanced than ours, listen to your horse, learn what their body language is telling you. Remember, you are an important part of the therapeutic riding team not walking a dog in the park. Your horse needs a good leader.

Happy Trails, and may the **horse** be with you!

Bonnie Gentry

Meet One of our Students—Erin Pevey

Erin is a 5th grader at Ebenezer Elementary and has been coming to FETC since May 2009.

Besides horses, her hobbies include sports of any kind, including basketball, softball and bowling.

When asked, her mother described Erin as a child with a heart



of gold. She sees the best in everybody and always wants to help others.

This was the first year Erin competed in the Special Olympics, coming home with two gold medals! She looks forward to competing again in 2013.

Way to go Erin!

Fort Stewart's 3-7 Calvary Squadron

Since October the 3-7 Calvary Squadron has been coming to Faith Equestrian and helping us in numerous ways.

One of the things they are doing is partnering with us on a continual basis with the goal in mind to help with our accreditation.

Since October, they have worked 235 hours to help us accomplish numerous things.

As you know the playground area near the parents' station was in need of repair. They came and

spent a considerable amount of time rebuilding the play area and making a safe and fun place for our students and their siblings and friends to play!

They also worked tirelessly to convert the old tack room into a stall for our little guy, Cody.

They have also done extensive cleanup in the pastures.

They are coming out twice a month and we are so grateful for everything they've done!

If you see any of them when you're here, please take a moment to thank them!

SSG Daniel C. Radabargh is the leader of this effort here at Faith and Capt. Joy Harry has been instrumental in making this happen.



Let's Meet - Miss Royal Boyd

I know—you are more familiar with my nickname, "Missy".

As you can see I am a beautiful chestnut quarter horse and I am officially the oldest horse here at FETC. In fact, I will turn 27 years old in April.

Bonnie Gentry donated me to the Center in 2005. Before coming here I was a police horse.

I am very sweet and laid back although I sometimes get a little fussy

when it's time to get saddled up, but once that's done I'm ready to go.



I love going for quiet walks in the woods and my favorite treat is apples! But please, don't automatically offer up the apples. Too much of a good thing can upset my stomach.

As for my dislikes . . . I don't like it at all when the horse in the stall next to me swings his head into my space. Especially at feeding time.

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 donations of

bottled water for our volunteers, bleach, clothes detergent, hand soap and anti-bacterial soap, paper towels, toilet paper and Lexmark printer cartridges #28 & #29.

Also, we're always looking for donations of gift cards or money to

help pay for the volunteer lunch served on Saturdays.





Our Mission

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



- 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.

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!

Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center, Inc.
243 Appaloosa Way
Guyton, GA 31312
Mobile: 912-655-1480 / Office: 912-728-3728
Email: equiskepr243@yahoo.com



Under Bonnie Rachael group or Faith Equestrian Page

Volunteer Spotlight

Eddie Stelljes started volunteering at FETC in February 2012 and in a short time has become a very important member of the FETC team.

He had minimal horse experience prior to joining us but possesses a willingness to learn and do whatever



is needed.

He started like most of us doing side walking and now is a horse leader.

He is our Volunteer Coordinator, and is responsible for a variety of activities related to FETC's adult and youth volunteer programs. As you know, he is the one that sends the weekly emails about the upcoming classes and keeps us aware of any other events or activities.

In addition to being a reliable volunteer on Saturdays, Eddie accompanied the Special Olympic athletes to competition this past August. We are so grateful he found FETC.

Thank you Eddie 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