

The ETP Curry-er

Spring 2010

Equestrian Therapy Program at Fassett Farm

Issue 39

Our Mission :

The Equestrian Therapy Program is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation organized to improve the quality of life for the disabled by providing equine facilitated activities and therapies in Lima and the surrounding ten county area in Northwest Ohio.

Visit our web site:



www.etpfarm.org

Email: etpfarm@watchtv.net

Phone: 419-657-2700

Fax: 419-657-2887

Partnering with:

St. Rita's Medical Center
Lima Memorial Health System



Premier Center Member of
North American Riding for the
Handicapped Association.

From the Director

Not only are the horse flies buzzing here at the farm, but the saws are as well. After a lengthy rain delay, construction on our new building began and is moving along very well. July 1st, we witnessed the first beam going up and now the whole building is under roof and cover with drywall going up in a week or two. Please consider stopping out and seeing the progress; you can follow the daily updates on the Equestrian Therapy Program's Facebook page.

In June, I was able to attend a course on Equine Facilitated Experiential Learning that was directed at corporate team and leadership trainings. It was a very intense six days packed with valuable information. We are now able to provide this service to businesses and schools and we hope to be starting this in the fall.

On June 26, 2010, we held our second annual Poker Run. The Poker Run was hosted by the Village Café in Cridersville, Ohio. After the participants finished their routes, which included a stop at the farm, they came back to the Village to draw their poker hand and enjoy a chicken dinner. We raised \$1,936.00. We would like to thank *Lana Fuerst* for once again taking the reins and handling all of the fundraising and preparations for the day.

Thank You to all the volunteers who helped us get ready for the big day and manned the stops. We truly appreciate your help.

Classes have just ended for this session and we are filling up quickly for fall. Of course with fall comes our major fundraiser the Ride-A-Thon, which is on Saturday October 16, 2010. We will be selling ads and looking for sponsors very soon. We hope that you all can attend and enjoy the day. We will be holding our auctions, live and silent, so please come and bring a friend or two.

Once again, thank you to all of our volunteers, donors and friends. We truly could not do this without you. Our riders, staff and horses are so very thankful you are there for us. Please come and visit soon, we would love to see you.

Michele Andrews-Sabol
Executive Director



Work spares us from three evils:
boredom, vice, and need.

~Voltaire

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From the President's Pen

My name is Connie Graham. I have the privilege of being Vice President of the Equestrian Therapy Program Board. Believe me, the facility and Program are good hands with such qualified and dedicated people who serve with me on the Board. I started volunteering in 1998, as a horse pal. For 10 years I took care of four ponies. I have volunteered for 12 years on Monday mornings as a sidewalker, leader and groomer. I am actively working on the committee to help raise financial funds for the new building project. This is such a wonderful, worthwhile project. We need each and everyone's support and contributions to help realize our project goals. What a blessing it has been to work with disabled children and adults. To be able to help them to learn, advance from year to year and improve. They have taught me to understand and respect disabled people. Love them all. We are looking forward to the Ride-A-Thon on October 16, 2010. Grassby and I will be there with him doing his circus tricks. He loves to perform for everyone and knows when he is in the "spotlight"! Let's make this a great Ride-A-Thon and Grassby and I hope to see you there.

Connie Graham



Phoenix

In late July, Phoenix colicked twice in two weeks and was not doing well. I had the tough job of calling his owner and giving her the news. Colic is one of the most dangerous and costly equine medical problems and is the number one killer of horses. It is not a disease, but a combination of signs that alert us to abdominal pain in the horse. Colic is a general term indicating abdominal pain. There seem to be countless situations which can precipitate colic. Many conditions causing colic become life-threatening in a relatively short period of time.

We felt the need to investigate further the cause of Phoenix's two colics. Our vet, Dr. Kline, suggested we take Phoenix to the Ohio State Veterinary Clinic. During their examination the vets found a large mass in his abdomen. They decided Phoenix needed further observation, which warranted an overnight stay. Phoenix colicked again on Thursday morning and it was decided that surgery was needed. Phoenix went into surgery Friday morning and was back in his stall a few hours later, minus a huge fatty tumor that was the size of a brain. Phoenix made it back to the farm on Monday, August 2, and will be resting for the next six weeks. We want to thank Dr. Kline, the OSU vets and Phoenix's owner, Shazzmarie, for making it possible to have our boy back.



GOLDEN HORSESHOES

Tim Wolff and *John Kuck* for fixing the trim on the barn.
George Wolf for the donation of his scissor lift.
Lana Fuerst, Jeanne Ann Adams, Tim Wolff, Nancy Hoerner, Connie Graham, Erin Dohm, Sarah Potts, Kathy Hatcher, Matthew, Emma & Kim Moritz, Tommy and Sharon Mitchell, Stephny Fess, Bev Thompson, Jeannette Wood, Bernard Fisher and all the others for their help with the Poker Run.
Tim Wolff & Ralph Shaffer for putting welds on our tractor.
Tim Wolff for fixing our doors.
Steve Brown, Alex Schweiterman, Brad Potts, Cliff Collar, Tim Wolff for helping us with items from the auction.
Bob Evans on Cable Rd. for holding a community night for our Program.
All the wonderful businesses that donated door prizes for the Poker Run.
All of the wonderful people who donated the funds for Phoenix's surgery.
Ken Sims for making a new toy for class.
Justin Burnett for making stabilizers for our hay huts
Justin Burnette, Steve Brown, and Tim Wolff for helping tear down the old run-in shed.
Bobbi Sims for cleaning the Tack room and making new curtains
Justin and *Steve* for fixing the mounting block.
P&G for mulching trails and starting a run-in shed.



Our Donors

April 30th, 2010 - September 1st, 2010

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April 30th, 2010 - September 1st, 2010

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Bill Power for Father's Day
Trish Ellis
Jean Power's Birthday
F. W. Power
Gerry Neely's 90th Birthday
Lois Rubens
Bill Power's Birthday
Jean Power

In Memory of Our 4-Legged Friends



"Argos"
Bev Thompson
Ann Fassett
"Bandit"
Ann Fassett



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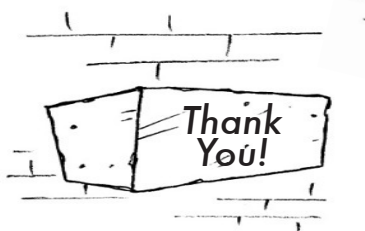
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What is Dressage?

The Equestrian Therapy Program hosted the second annual FDCTA Fun Show in August. Six of our riders and several volunteers competed in the discipline of Dressage. In order to fully appreciate the meaning of a dressage competition and what it requires of a rider and horse, I have given a brief overview leading up to the article about the second annual FDCTA/ETP Fun Show.

The word dressage means “training”. This form of riding dates back to the Greek, Xenophon, in the 4th century B.C. He laid down some fundamental guidelines for training the horse that are still used today. The Stable Master of King Louis XIV in Paris, de la Gueriniere, in 1730, was the first person to write down the fundamental training system for the horse which is still used by the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. The purpose of training a horse is, with gymnastic exercises, to make it calm, agile, and comfortable for the rider. Statement of de la Gueriniere.

Today's Dressage competition is divided into Tests starting with beginner level walk/trot and moving up the levels to Grand Prix. The tests are designed so that the horse and rider must demonstrate the ability to perform certain gymnastic exercises before continuing to the next level. The intention is to develop the horse's strength and confidence in a systematic way making the work more enjoyable and the horse more athletic and supple.

At our Fun Show, the riders are riding walk/trot through First Level tests. Every test begins and ends with riding down the centerline, halting and saluting the judge. The tests are broken down into various arena figures and each figure is given a score. Certain figures in each test have a coefficient which emphasizes the importance of that movement for that level of riding. For example, a rider riding Intro Level Test A (Most beginner level test) the coefficient of 2 is given on riding a round circle, imperative to riding at the next level and developing the horse's balance correctly. At the end of a test there are several collective marks where the judge gives a score on the overall impression of the horse and rider. The horse's gaits (the way he walks, trots and canters), impulsion (desire of the horse to move forward), submission (attention, confidence . . .), and rider's position are given a score. These collective marks are the same in all dressage tests.

An accurate, confident and harmonious ride receives the best score and is the result of training the horse using the dressage principles.

Hours of hard work and dedication to every small detail goes into preparing for and riding the dressage test. The rider is rewarded by developing him/herself and horse athletically and being able to successfully pursue Jumping, Eventing or higher levels of Dressage.



Fun Show 2010



What a day! The ETP/FDCTA Fun Show was a huge success for everyone. It was a special time for our riders to showcase what they have learned. We had a total of 15 participants. Five were ETP riders: *Pat White, Tina Barnard, B.J. Kline, Adam Bastian,* and *Nancy Strayer*; four were ETP volunteers: *Nancy Kuck, Errin Dohm, Kari Katterheinrich,* and *Bobbi Sims*; six were FDCTA members: *Reid Jarvis, Sydney Leyerle, Laura Sanford, Liza Mulholland, Sarah Deitsch,* and *Morgan Dougal*. The riders rode Intro Level test A through First Level test 2.

A lot of hard work went into preparing for and putting on this Fun Show. On Friday, we spent a good portion of the morning just setting up the dressage arena. What a geometry lesson that was! Volunteers arrived early Saturday morning and groomed the horses so they looked their best for the competition. A special thanks to *Lori Ball, Janie Wagner, Alex Schwieterman, Kaylee Shock,*

Angela Jones and *Tim Wolff* for all their help.

Tina and Pat rode a Para Olympic Walk-Trot Test and performed as they had practiced. Nancy, B.J. and Adam both rode Introductory Test A, as did the volunteers. All of the riders performed with such poise and confidence; this year they were seasoned pros. New to the world of dressage was our intern, *Errin Dohm*. She went into the ring as if she had been showing for years. Our former student, *Liza Mulholland* and her horse, *The Kat Burglar*, showed Training Level Test I and it was a special joy to see her doing so well.

We had a wonderful lunch that coincided with the rain delay before the afternoon classes began. Thank you *Jeannette Wood, Bobbi Sims* and *Kathy Hatcher* for the wonderful homemade lunch - It was excellent! Jan Schiffer recorded all of the day's excitement with many beautiful photographs. Thank you Jan. Thank you to our judge, *Shelly Cain*, and scribes, *Gael Bourquin* and *Carol Cain*.

This was a special day and we would like to thank everyone who attended, helped, participated and cheered for the riders.



THE EQUESTRIAN THERAPY PROGRAM
17th ANNUAL RIDE-A-THON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Equestrian Therapy Program is holding its major fundraiser of the year – the Ride-A-Thon. Please come and support our riders and The Program on this special day.

ACTIVITIES:

- 9:00 – 12:00 Riders’ Pledge Rides
- 9:00 – 12:00 Silent Auction
- All day 50/50 drawings
- 1:00 Benefit Auction

It’s fun for all, so please join us.

WHAT WE NEED:

Ride-A-Thon Program: To sponsor an ad in the program, send your information and a check to The Equestrian Therapy Program by **September 24th**, 2010. A full page ad (8-1/2 x 11”) is \$100; a half page ad is \$50, a quarter page ad is \$25, and a business card ad is \$15.

Items for the Benefit & Silent Auctions: If you can donate, or acquire a donation of, a gift basket, sports memorabilia, any “horsey” items, or other quality merchandise which we can auction at the Ride-A-Thon, please deliver those items to the farm by **September 28th**.

We feel it is important for you to know that ALL of the funds donated to The Equestrian Therapy Program stay here in our own area to help our own people with disabilities.

Other Ways To Help: If you’d like to help make this year’s Ride-A-Thon a great success, just fill out and mail this coupon to **The Equestrian Therapy Program, 22532 Bowsher Road, Cridersville, OH 45806**.

----- ✂
 Yes, I would like to sponsor a (please check) rider, class, horse, or other.

- RIDER: _____ \$30 Yearly Insurance Fee For One Rider
- HORSE: _____ \$50 For One Saddle Pad
- HORSE: _____ \$100 For Two Months of Hay For One Horse
- HORSE: _____ \$250 For One Month of Care For One Horse
- RIDER: _____ \$300 For A Nine Week Session For One Rider
- RIDER: _____ \$1500 For A Nine Week Session For Five Riders
- HORSE: _____ \$3000 For One Year of Care For One Horse
- OTHER: _____



For The Amount Of: _____ (Please make checks payable to The Equestrian Therapy Program for “Ride-A-Thon”) **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

BY: BEV THOMPSON



Lana Fuerst, our Volunteer Profile, was raised on a farm in Buckland and developed a love of all kinds of animals at a very early age. She was 11 years old when she got her first horse “Penny”, and “Penny” helped Lana through the challenging teen years. She’s loved horses ever since.

After graduating from high school, Lana began working for Dr. Bob Baker at the Baker Animal Clinic where she trained dogs and worked as a groomer. At twenty years of age she left there and started her own dog grooming business, *The Dog House*; she has been grooming dogs for 42 years.

“During recovery from an illness about seven years ago, my childhood friend, Joyce Pugh, encouraged me to volunteer for The Equestrian Therapy Program. Having known me since childhood, and knowing my love for animals, she knew it would be a perfect match for me. She was so right!”

“In 2003, I began volunteering as a side-walker and horse leader and I enjoyed this job immensely. I now volunteer in the capacity of raising funds for the Program.”

That Lana now volunteers in fund-raising for The Equestrian Therapy Program is an understatement. For our annual Ride-A-Thon, Lana sells 50/50 chances (lots of them!) and ads for our program booklet. From local businesses and individuals she rounds up wonderful items (lots of them!) for the silent auction and then helps oversee that auction on Ride-A-Thon day. Her organization and attention to detail are invaluable to us.

One of Lana’s other loves is riding motorcycles. That passion has led her to spearheading an annual Poker Run to benefit ETP. Lana takes care of all the logistics, again selling 50/50 chances, getting door prizes, selling tee shirts for the Run and attending to a myriad of other details. She also lends a hand with any other fundraisers that the Program may have.

Needless to say, all of us are so happy that Joyce pointed her in our direction seven years ago. Thank You, Lana, for helping the Program flourish through all of your hard work.



Dear ETP..

A letter from Anita Cromes, Tom Weigel’s Grandmother (December, 2008)

I would like to express my gratitude to the conception of equestrian therapy. My grandson has reaped the rewards of this idea in so many ways. In the beginning, he was stubborn, non-cooperative, argumentative, and had no audio interpretation whatsoever.

Today, after three years of riding, he is still autistic, but his behavior has done a 180 degree turn-around. He listens and follows instructions; he offers to help groom his horse; he smiles, laughs, and there is total cooperation. There are also positive differences in his make-up that stem from this therapy. He knows and anticipates the time and day he rides, the transition terror from home to stable is gone, and also gone from other activities..

A side effect that I didn’t think of that has happened is socialization and acceptance from his peers. I can’t say enough, and praise enough, the endeavors and dedication of the staff and the terrific volunteers.



Dear ETP..



Nancy Strayer was living by herself in Seattle, Washington in 2003 where she worked as an environmental consultant. She contracted a virus, probably from her field work, leading to a virulent brain infection. She was found near dead in her home, after being missed a few days, and rushed to the hospital where it was found the virus had damaged her right temporal lobe leading to almost complete short term memory loss and the memory loss of the last 25 to 30 years of her life.

After four years, when her brain had so very slowly recovered and she was physically and emotionally stable, equestrian therapy was suggested to us by our physician’s wife who knew of the benefits that could come from this class. Nancy knew a little how to ride, having had a childhood pony, so there was some long term memory she could call on.

Equestrian therapy has helped her regain bodily balance and confidence. She always has a mile wide grin on her face during the entire class. Although she says she does not remember being in any of the 1 1/2 years of classes, she immediately could remember the horse’s name and color and gets along very well in class. We have been told that this therapy probably would not help memory but there have been other benefits. Since she has been riding, she is more physically active, the emptiness in her eyes has been replaced by a sparkle, her old personality, her sense of humor and more maturity of actions and thought shows us we are getting our Nancy back.

Many years ago Animal Science Professor Kay at The Ohio State University would tell his students, “There is nothing as good for the insides of a man as the outside of a horse”. We have living proof this is so. Therefore, a big thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and the horse at Equestrian Therapy. ~Frances Strayer



Equestrian Therapy Program
22532 Bowsher Road
Cridersville, OH 45806

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Issue No. 39

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

Fall Schedule 2010

Fall Classes Start: Monday, September 13th through Saturday, November 13th



Monday	10:00, 11:00 5:00, 6:00	Children (Auglaize School) Starts Sept. 27th Children (LMH-CDC)
Tuesday	9:30, 10:30 2:30 - 4:30	Adults Hippo Children & Therapist (30 minute sessions)
Wednesday	2:00 – 4:00 6:00, 7:00	JDC (Steps to Success Program/Off Horse) Adults
Thursday	8:15 – 9:45 10:30 5:00, 6:00	Hippo Children & Therapist Children (Marimor) Children (SRMC Pedi-Rehab)
Saturday	9:30, 10:30 1:00, 2:00	Independent Referrals (Youth) Independent Referrals (Youth)

Volunteer Orientation/Training Saturday, September 11th, 9:00AM – 11:00AM
Volunteer Team Training Saturday, September 11th 12:00PM – 3:00 PM
Volunteer Steps to Success Training Wednesday, September 8th 2:00PM – 4:00PM

****Ride-a-thon - October 16th, 2010**

**8:00AM Set-up, 9:00 – 12:00 Riding, 9:00 – 1:00 Silent Auction,
1:00 – 2:00 Benefit Auction**

**This is our major fundraiser for the year. We will ride, eat and raise money for the Program.
Fun for everyone! **Riders please get your packets and sign-up to ride on the 16th.**

Please Sign-up or contact Sarah to help out with the above activities.

Phone Number: 419-657-2700

Website: www.etpfarm.org

sarahetpfarm@watchtv.net