

Riverwood Rider

August 2008

Volume No. 31

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A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Twice this spring, in the season of life's renewal, we at Riverwood were reminded of just how precious and fleeting life is. In a short amount of time we lost two of our dearest therapy horses, Rocky and Beau.

Writing about them now still makes my heart ache as their presence continues to hover around the farm through the spirit of those who remember them. Just today, a student and I spent some time talking about both of them and how much he misses seeing them in the barn. It is never easy telling the story of how they died or why it happened, as there are so many questions that seem to go unanswered. However, we can rest easy knowing that they received the best care possible. Rocky's illness came on suddenly, without warning, and took him from us in a matter of hours. He was surrounded by those who loved him as he slipped peacefully away in the night. Beau was able to travel to VA Tech Vet School where he had incredible care and treatment. After a positive turnaround he, too, declined rapidly and we knew it was not fair to ask him to hang on any longer. He and Rocky are both buried on the farm under a row of dogwood trees. They have been missed deeply by the entire Riverwood family: staff, students and volunteers.

As we went through these sad events, many of our supporters wrote to let us know how these horses touched their lives. Some of these heartfelt thoughts are quoted below; I hope you will see through their words and emotions how much horses do for humans. Thank you all for your words of encouragement and love through this ordeal.

Laura Pallavicini
Program Director

I am so sorry for the very difficult spring you and the staff have had with Rocky and Beau's passing. Glad to know that you all care so much for the horses and that you are so very humane in the way that you deal with this aspect of their lives as well.

Thinking of you all.

- Mary and Esther Sloyer

I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Rocky. I will truly miss him. He was a very special horse in our Tuesday 4:30 class. I know how difficult this must be for all of you that worked with him every day for so long. I'm filled with sadness and my heart goes out to you all.

- Andrea Lynch



I must say we all shed tears when we lose our special horse family members... having worked with Beau and all the boys who rode him, and then riding him myself in February-March, I am sorry he left us so soon.... especially so soon after Rocky. We should hope that Beau is following Rocky's lead in open fields and the greenest of pastures beyond!

I'm so glad he got lots of love and attention at the horse show Saturday when he was still in good spirits and back home! I will long remember 'little Eric' calling him 'Beau-Beau' each week that he rode him!

- Darla Johnson



Noah has been carrying a prayer rock since last week's news. He looked at me tonight and said "I guess that praying to God really works." Leave it to Beau to give

Noah another epiphany of life. On Beau's back he said his first ABC's when no one else could do it, and now seven years at church and Beau helps him believe. Beau was a wonderful horse. He changed Noah's life; I know that for sure.

- Kim Hall

So sorry about Rocky. We feel like your horses are members of our family too, so we hated to hear the news. It sure is nice to love them, but giving them up is hard. Thanks for creating such a positive, warm, loving place in a world that is so tough at times.

- Leeann Gallimore

Calendar of Events:

September 1: Fall classes begin. Fall volunteering begins
September 12: No Friday Classes
September 12: Ponies, Pigs & Pickin' Fundraiser at the farm 6 PM
October 11& 12: TRAV Horse Show, Lexington, VA
October 29-Nov. 1: NARHA National Conference, Hartford CT
November 24-28: No Classes for Thanksgiving week

2008 Summer Session

As this article is being written, we are in the final week of our seven week summer session. This summer event has hosted more students than we have ever had before! This year we had over sixty therapeutic riding, able bodied, hippotherapy, and intern students. Our students have learned many skills in their group or private lessons, as well as learning about different types of riding opportunities that you can have with horses. Some of our riders have trotted or cantered for the first time, some have just begun to use the reins and steer left and right. Our group of six interning students have mucked stalls, scrubbed buckets, bathed horses, volunteered in class, set up the arena for classes and tons more! Overall, we would have to say that this has been the most successful, and busiest, summer session to date! It isn't too soon to sign up for next summer! If you are interested, please send your name and information to us at rtrc@windstream.net and ask us to add you to the summer 2009 waiting list!

Riverwood's Spring Horse Show 2008

The Spring Horse Show in May was a great success with many new riders and families participating. The riders entered classes that tested their skills in equitation and obstacles, as well as timed classes like pole bending and egg and spoon races. We had a large amount of help from the Brookstown UMC Youth Group, led by Benita VanWinkle. Our honorable judges were a brother sister team, Aubrey and MaeLena Apperson, who are members of Brookstown's youth and also involved in the State 4H livestock and judging sections. We had eighteen competitors who really demonstrated great sportsmanship and camaraderie; in fact all of the riders were so supportive of each other, none of them truly seemed to care who won what place or what color ribbon. Thanks to all of our staff, volunteers, horses and riders who made the day such a success! We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Benita who took wonderful pictures of this great event!



Rock On!

Many of you may have had the opportunity to visit the farm and walk along our trails. For those of you who have not, you might be surprised to see some of the items we have along the paths. We like to challenge our riders with sensory and hands-on games and icons as they walk through the woods on their horses. This spring, a local home school girls' club contacted us about doing a service project and we thought up the idea of painting animals on rocks that could be placed along one of our trails. What they gave us was nothing short of pure art! They gathered the rocks from a river in West Virginia and proceeded to paint each one with detailed and colorful animals. The 'rock animal' search has become a favorite among our students. Our deepest thanks go out to the entire group for their ingenuity and creativity! This is a project that will continue to "rock" for years to come!

Board Members

Jennifer Barksdale - Rose Davis
Nancy Hancock - Deanna Hines
Susan Hubbard - Hilary Kosloske
Elizabeth Lenn - Ceci McGuire
Victoria E. Newell, DVM
Susan Peatross - Keith Tart
Charlie Williams

Welcome Flash!

This recent spring brought so many changes to the farm, some sad and challenging, but others that were full of light and possibility! One of the positive changes was the addition of "Flash" to our horse family. He is a twenty two year old quarter horse who has spent much of his life as a competitive cutting horse, as well as a great trail partner.

Flash has fit into the Riverwood program from the moment we laid eyes on him, over two years ago! We first met him in a vibrant green field on the outskirts of Wilkes County. His long time owner was trying to decide whether she wanted to donate him to us or let a friend of hers have him to trail ride. At that time, she figured he still had some great trail riding years left and he went to live near Mocksville. Late this past fall, we received a call from Flash's newest owner who was ready for him to come help out at Riverwood. She felt like he needed a job where he could work consistently

and let others learn from his talents. Talent is one thing that is not lacking in this horse! He walked off the trailer on the day of his arrival, looked around satisfactorily and proceeded to eat grass. Two weeks after he arrived, he was a winning mount with several of our riders in the horse show. Four weeks later he stood, half asleep, for an hour while five of our students surrounded him, in wheelchairs and walkers, and gave him a complete "spa makeover" including shampoo, rinse and tons of love! Now, three months into his new job, he has yet to do anything but impress everyone who meets him. He has already taught two of our advanced riders how to canter, and he reminds us every so often of how well he can stop and



spin like he did in his cutting horse days! We are so grateful to Kerri Crater for her loving gift of Flash. He has been a wonderful addition to our center!

Congratulations to our Graduates

Amelia Hubbard has volunteered with Riverwood since it began and has served in almost every capacity. She has lead, side-walked, worked as barn staff, cut grass, put up fencing and has spent many hours with all of the Riverwood horses. Amelia will be attending Warren-Wilson College and will be in the Pre-Vet program.

Adrienne Davis was one of Riverwood's first students and has become an accomplished rider. She has also volunteered as a leader and a side-walker. Adrienne will be attending Surry Community College and plans to complete their OTA program.

Stacy McGinnis had been a Riverwood volunteer for many years and has been a barn staff member the past two years. She will be attending Clemson University and studying Equine Management.

Cooper Padgett has been a Riverwood volunteer for six years and has given her time to support many horse shows and special events. Cooper will be attending University of South Carolina.

Austin Holloway has been a student for ten years and has become an accomplished rider. She has been a volunteer leader for two summer sessions and was an intern with us this summer. Austin will continue with her riding and hopes to work as a vet assistant.

Kellner Pruett has been a Riverwood volunteer leader and side-walker for the last year and plans to attend Sweetbriar College.

Troi Keith-Troi has been a member of the Riverwood barn staff for nearly a year. She will be attending St. Andrews College and studying Therapeutic Riding.

Ashley McNeely graduated from Mt. Tabor High School and plans on attending Appalachian State University in Boone. She is interested in majoring in Accounting and also looking forward to being able to mountain bike and snowboard as much as she can! Ashley has been volunteering at Riverwood for the past year in the Wednesday afternoon classes.

We wish all of our graduates the best of luck and thank them for all they have contributed to Riverwood.

Riverwood Contributors

Since April 2008

Thank you all....We hope we haven't missed anyone. Your continued support is appreciated.

David and Mary Ann Rogers
Janet Hano
Sharon and Donald Smith
Pat Baker
Sharon Wingo
Courtney Czarnecki
Lynn Goodman
Robert Rustad
Peggy Holyfield
Drs. Rick and Megan Erickson
Mrs. and Mrs. Max Brady
Perry Ann Sheridan
Ferrell Cook with Cook's Heating
and Cooling, Inc.
Highland Presbyterian Church

Henry and Kathryn Ebert
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Eva Fain
Judy Roffo
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Joann Deutch
John and Joyce Jones
Marie Brown
James and Judy Chittick
Randall Hyack
Nancy and Donald Boles
Dan Straka
Denise Brown
Jo Ann Mintz
Dianne Blount

Dennis Long
Rhonda Darnall
Charles and Beth Baldwin
Stephen and Judy Pallavicini
Jeff Harrison
Glenn and Dorothy Pennington
Greg and Kathryn Fariss
The staff and students at
Old Richmond Elementary School
Lynn Frank's Forbush High School
"Family and Consumer Science" class
Leonard and Roberta Black
Judith Matthews
Gail Lybrook and David Hobbs

In Memory Of

Samuel L. Sanders
by Barbara Mowrey
Luck and Sneakers Shoaf
by Louise Monroe
Jim Bruce by Martha Key



In Honor Of

Chris Herko
by Dial-A-Dish/Ollie Cherry
Sally and Bob Kenny's anniversary
by William and Constance Mueller,
Arthur and Nancy Zande
Erica Jones
by Jimmy and Margaret Rakes

Student Sponsors

Student sponsorships are \$1000 a year and supplement costs that are not covered by tuition, including scholarships.

Teresa Dampier
Chris and Danny Herko
Susan and Craig Peatross

Horse Sponsors

Horse sponsorships are \$1000 a year and help with cost of care and keeping of our loyal partners.

Fits - Jane Marvin
Fits - Caryl Cullom & Nell Barksdale
King - The Barksdale Family
King - Linda and Ray Collins
Ibby - The Hines Family
Boomer - Vulcan Materials
Buddy - Mr. and Mrs. R.N. Key
Pet - Lovell's Little Bits
Tony - Mr. and Mrs. Alan Kirby
Tony - Courtney Czarnecki
in Honor of: Beb McIntyre
Snapper -
Flash - Kerri Crater

Contributions are always appreciated.

***Please make your check to Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center
or contact us at (336) 922-6426 for more details on our needs.***

Thank You

Mt. Tabor UMC-On their Great Day of Service, members of the church spent the morning clearing trails, weeding and taking out the old metal fence.

King Moravian Church Youth Group-Twelve energetic youth spent the morning cleaning up the second floor in the Riverwood barn, washing windows and clearing trails.

Scott Warhover-Scott keeps the computers running smoothly for the technically challenged Riverwood staff.

Helen and Joe King-Helen and Joe sprayed the poison ivy on the trails.

Dianne and Larry Varner, Terry Duggins, Kyle and David Petty, Laura and Chris Pallavicini, Kathylyn Barnhill, Steve, Amelia and Sawyer Hubbard -These folks where the first responders after the tornado. They helped get the road clear, the outdoor arena fence up, the pasture fences up, and trails to the back pasture cleared.

Terry and Toby Gordon - inkjet paper

Becky Forrest - paper products

Carolina Wedding and Ashley Maldonado - paper products

Callie Stanley - Breyer horses, books, trophies, handmade stable

Don and Sharon Smith - saddle and helmet

Leroy Speer - paper products

Rick and Ann Abernathy - paper products

Martha Key - paper products

Pat Baker - paper products

Mary Lee Rippey and Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church in Stuart, VA - 330 bales hay

Steve Kenney with QC Engraving - stall plaque

Beth Lamphear - ringing clothespins for Hippotherapy students

Thoroughbred Training Center - 164 bales of hay

Benita VanWinkle and Brookstown UMC Youth Group - helped with the spring horseshow

Preakness Party:

On May 17th, Denise Brown hosted a Preakness Party in memory of her husband, Barry, and on behalf of Riverwood. Denise's friends decorated derby hats, placed wagers on the horse race and auctioned off the artwork of the male partygoers. We are grateful that Denise and her friends selected Riverwood to be the recipient of their generosity and fun!

Horse Prints for 2008

Last year, we enjoyed huge success with our first print of "The Horses of Riverwood." As you may remember, Buddy was our first subject.

This year Laurie Russell has once again agreed to provide Riverwood with the original art to continue the series. She plans to paint pictures of Beau and Rocky. We hope to have the originals on view during our Ponies, Pigs and Pickin' homecoming.

Equestrian Exchange

We'd like to thank those volunteers and the supporters who helped us get together tack to sell on consignment at this year's Equestrian Exchange in Greensboro. We had several folks who donated items from their own tack collections to be sold for Riverwood's benefit. We'd especially like to thank Jane Marvin, Trudy Winstead, Janet Hano, Gail Arnette, Gabriella Lee, Marilu Jason and Nancy Devenney for all their time spent cleaning, organizing and tagging all of our items. We made close to \$800 from the sale of tack this year! Thanks to the folks at the Equestrian Exchange who put this event on yearly. It's a huge job! If you are interested in donating tack for next year's spring sale, please contact us at rtrc@windstream.net.



Get your tickets now for Ponies, Pigs and Pickin' (formerly Bluegrass Bash)! This annual homecoming is not something you'll want to miss! We'll kick off with a special performance by some of our students followed with Big Boy barbecue, silent auction items you'll want to keep bidding on, and music by String Fever. And don't forget your dancing shoes - contra dancing will start promptly at 8:30! Never contra danced before, or even heard of contra dancing? No experience required! The band, Reel Shady, will make this an event to remember!

From the Director

Our spring at Riverwood has been nothing like I could have imagined.

First, the world seemed to stop when we lost Rocky to a terrible colic. Then, just when we thought we could make it through the day without tears, we rushed Beau to VA Tech for emergency surgery. He was doing well, then had to return for a second surgery. He made it home but had another episode of colic two days later that took his life.

As I made my way back home the day we buried Beau I heard an unfamiliar “cheep” coming out of the chicken house. Two chicks had just hatched with two more on the way! I was reminded that the circle of life is not predictable and that the “to do” list is often tossed aside when circumstances or events come along. There are always things that need to be done but when we look back on what we did do, I have to say, it was time well spent and those times will not be here tomorrow; the time spent at Rocky’s side, the hours spent with Beau in the middle of the night, the extra hugs given and received. The tears still come very easily these days but the resilience of our students and the kind remembrances many of you have sent have helped us through one of the most difficult times in Riverwood’s history.

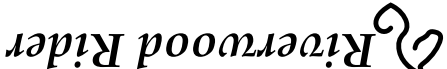
In May, our life rollercoaster went up when we welcomed Flash to the farm. He seems to have come to us knowing what to do. And in July, Cheeze Nip hatched twelve chicks! She had some trouble keeping up with all of those babies so we sent several home with Brooks. There are now three generations of chickens here on the farm.

Just when we thought things were going to quiet down, a tornado blew through in mid-July. Thankfully no one was injured and the barns narrowly escaped damage but there is extensive tree damage. The front pastures and all of the trails became inaccessible. Many offered and I want to thank all who came forward to clear trails and help with clean up. Because of the danger of hanging limbs, I sought the advice of a professional who has identified many areas that are not safe. At this time I would ask that contributions to the clean-up be made as a financial contribution to help cover the cost of the tree service. There will be many opportunities to clear debris but, in order to keep everyone safe, I feel we should leave the cutting to the professionals.

Thank you again for your kindness and prayers during a difficult spring and summer. Thanks to all who have continued to contribute to Riverwood’s mission with your many gifts. We are looking forward to an exciting fall with classes beginning on September 1st and a great homecoming at our Ponies, Pigs and Pickin’ event on September 12th.

- Susan

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