

Riverwood Rider

November 2008 Volume No. 32

6825 Rollingview Drive Tobaccoville, North Carolina 27050 www.riverwoodtrc.org (336) 922-6426

IN MEMORY OF SNAPPER

Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center encompasses so many lives, both animal and human, and we are all touched on a daily basis by the spirit that envelops this farm. The programs at the farm allow freedom and independence for so many people. Our farm environment provides our horses a place to call home for the rest of their lives. We like to think of this place as a retirement home for older horses who have led other lives and then come here to live like kings for the remainder of their time. As you well know, we've experienced the loss of so many horses that have been a part of our program. Most of these horses have arrived at our farm as they've approached their late twenties. The phrase "oldies but goodies" comes to mind when I think of each of them. The best vet care, diet and exercise they receive at Riverwood enables them to stay healthy for many more years. Just like human seniors, these horses have their health issues but still have so many years of joy left to share.

It is with this knowledge that we want to pass along the news that our horse, Snapper, passed away late in September. He endured a series of small strokes, remained lucid for a few hours and then it became obvious that he was having complications and was not going to recover. Throughout Snapper's final hours his best friend, Buddy, remained by his side nickered and giving off a calm energy as only the dearest of friends can do. We all said that we hoped when we are in our final years, we have a friend who is as equally as devoted. As Snapper passed away, he was surrounded by his herd, both horse and human.

Even after going through this with so many of our elderly animals, it never is easy to say goodbye. Their final moments rest in our hands if they are sick or distressed and we choose for them to leave this world with dignity, grace and love. Since Snapper has been gone, it has been amazing to hear of all the people in the community who had learned to ride from him. Snapper was over 30 years old and lived in the Winston area his entire life; he taught people how to ride almost that entire time. He even helped one of our instructors gain her certification for therapeutic riding. He was a "superstar" in the horse community and at Riverwood. Thanks to everyone who loved him as much as we did.



Welcome Angel and Gator!

Many of you have visited our farm and seen our beloved herd of horses but you may not have thought about how those horses come to live on our farm. Riverwood gets calls on a weekly basis from good people who want to find homes for their horse friends and look into donating them to our center. Some years we have to turn all horses away because our herd is full. Some years we can start a waiting list - we may need slow and steady ponies or we may need horses who can teach our advanced riders how to canter. This year, we had to fill some spots in our herds that required horses who were young, full of energy and ready to get going! It is always exciting to have new horses come to live at Riverwood, so it is doubly exciting to have 2 arrive in a week! Our newest horses are Angel and Gator. Both are around 10 years old and came from loving homes. Angel was donated by a family just outside of Boone, NC. Gator came to us from a local family in Winston Salem. Both of these horses have wonderful dispositions and are already familiar with the routine at the farm. The next time you are here to visit, please stop by and say hello to our newest family members!



Calendar of Events:

Please go to www.riverwoodtrc.org to see our full calendar.

Frostbite 2008

When: Tuesdays 10AM-12PM January 6 through February 24, 2009

Cost: \$300 for Riverwood Volunteers
\$350 for Non-Riverwood Volunteers

*The classes will take place over an eight week session

*This class is open to any rider interested in learning more about natural horsemanship techniques and riding.

*Riders should be already knowledgeable in grooming and tacking up horses, as well as comfortable with basic riding skills.

*The classes will include riding and ground work, as well as insight into horse psychology. Classes will take place in the arena, trails and pastures. We will investigate how horses bring us balance – both in and out of the saddle. Classes will be led by nationally certified Instructors who have had years of experience teaching horses and riders. For more information, please email rtrc@windstream.net or call 336-922-6426.

Send your deposit of \$150 by December 22 to reserve your spot! The balance is due before or on the first day of class. Gift Certificates are available if this is being given as a Christmas gift!

(Cancellations other than medical are non-refundable unless spot is filled by another participant.)

Souper Bowl MMIX (2009)

It's time for our annual chili sale in partnership with Salem Kitchen! From January 5 – 26th, order your quart of vegetarian or meat chili to support Riverwood. Order forms will be available on the Riverwood website www.riverwoodtrc.org or you can call us to place your order (922-6426). All chili must be pre-ordered and picked up on January 31st between 9 and 4 at Salem Kitchen. We are so grateful to Ann and Jack Geis for their support of Riverwood in this tasty way!

King Christmas Parade

Riverwood will have a float in the King Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6. We would like to invite our riders, parents and volunteers to ride with us. The parade starts at 2:00 p.m. and lasts about two hours. We give out candy and flyers along the route and have lots of fun. If you are interested in joining us, please email Cindy at [rwcindy@windstream.net](mailto:rw Cindy@windstream.net) for all the details about location and arrival times.

TRAV 2008 Winners!!

We would like to congratulate: Liz Baldwin, Ariel Frye, Austin Holloway, Patrick McGrath, Madeleine McGuire, and Jillian Rogers in their successful showing at the 2008 Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia Horse Show on October 11 & 12 in Lexington, VA.

Liz Baldwin, of Winston Salem, won Grand Champion of the Advanced Trot Division. She placed 1st in Equitation, Musical Freestyle and Pole Bending and placed 2nd in USDF Intro B Dressage. She participated in the Costume Class.

Austin Holloway, of Lewisville, moved up to the Advanced Trot Division this year and placed 5th in her Dressage, Equitation, Trail and Pole Bending classes. She participated in the Costume Class.

Jillian Rogers, of Pfafftown, moved up to the Intermediate Trot Division this year and placed 4th in Equitation, 6th in Trail and 4th in Pole Bending. She participated in the Costume Class.

First time participants in the Minimal Trot Division were:

Ariel Frye, of Mt. Airy, who placed 4th in Equitation, 2nd in Trail and participated in Pole Bending and Costume Class.

Madeleine McGuire of Winston Salem placed 6th in Equitation and participated in Pole Bending, Trail and Costume Classes.

Patrick McGrath, of Yadkinville, showed in the Walk Only Division. He placed 3rd in Equitation, 4th in Trail and 2nd in Pole Bending. He participated in Costume Class.

All six riders spent many weeks raising funds so they could participate in this two-day show at the Virginia Horse Park in Lexington, Va. Their families were in attendance as well as their coaches Susan Hubbard and Laura Pallavicini and volunteer Kyle Petty.

Henny Penny

It is with heavy hearts that we had to say goodbye to our white chicken, Henny Penny.

For those who do not know her story, it is one of true grit and survival. This chicken, destined for the grocery store, fell (or jumped!) off the transport truck and was brought to Riverwood to be nursed back to health. Her broken leg was cast and her asphalt burned belly was treated and she became our champion around the farm.

Each morning she would be carried to her outdoor cage (we called it her "arena condo"). Her food and water would be placed nearby and she would watch the proceeding day from her spot. Occasionally, she would lay an egg but would peck it apart if you didn't get it out of her cage fast enough! In the evenings, she would waddle back to her "indoor condo" (a stall) and sleep peacefully through the night. When she was inclined, she would



sit in the arena and watch a class. She would happily eat anything that anyone offered her and then huff and walk away when there was none left. Her favorite foods were tomatoes and apples!

She brought a smile to our faces everyday and her presence is still felt and missed.

Riverwood Holds Memorial Service for Horses

On a perfect Fall Sunday, the Riverwood staff, students, volunteers and supporters gathered in the garden next to the barn to remember the animals who have touched so many lives in their time at Riverwood. The Rev. Hal Hayek led this event with a touching and graceful message that included the opportunity for anyone in attendance to speak about how the deceased horses had touched their lives. Many of the students and their parents talked about the ways the horses had changed their lives and taught them to love. One child stated that his horse had been his "best friend and had taught him how to have courage and learn to make friends." The ceremony was completed by the placement of memory stones, hand painted with the horses' names. Flowers were also available and were planted by everyone in attendance.



We'd like to extend a special thank you to all those who attended, as well as Rev. Hayek, Anne Epting for creating the memory stones and Barbara Vickland for helping design and fill our memory garden.

Artist Laurie Russell Remembers Rocky and Beau

Well-known local artist Laurie Russell has again commemorated our Riverwood horses in support of our Annual Campaign. When you donate \$100 or more, you will receive a limited edition Giclee print of either Rocky or Beau. Measuring 8" x 10" and printed on rag paper, your full-color print will be matted and suitable for framing. Get your donation in today and your print will be ready for giving this Christmas season!

Art House Soiree

Dr. Amy Bronson opened her home to host an Art House Soiree to benefit Riverwood. Artists from East Square ArtWorks displayed their work in Amy's home and were available to share with guests their inspirations as well as techniques. Michael Andrews played the piano for guests as they visited with friends and admired the fascinating and beautiful work of the artists. Ten percent of the artwork sold, as well as commissions, was donated to Riverwood. Thank you to Dr. Amy Bronson, Michael Backer, Connie Baker, Whitney Peckman and Syed Ahma for their generous gift to benefit our riders.

Raffle

In memory of Rocky, Beau and Snapper, Riverwood is having a raffle. The prizes are six horse hair pottery Christmas ornaments and one framed photograph with a braid of hair for each horse. Photos of the ornaments are posted with the tickets in the classroom and tack room at the farm. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held December 12 so get you tickets soon. If you have questions, ask a staff member.

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

Riverwood Contributors

Since August 2008

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

Peter and Joan Robie
Barbara Rich
Cheryl Cochran
Ashlie and Frank Martin
Jane Smith
Patricia Baker
Liz Baldwin
Becky and Kevin Beeson
Donna Blackwelder
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Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kinken
Kyle Petty
Beth and Sandy Baldwin
Randy and Wanda Hillman

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
Flash - Kerri Crater
Angel -
Gator -

In Honor Of

Ann Geis and Mrs. Todd Jackson
by Alanson Hinman
Faye Hobson, Nancy Huber, Bill Graban
by Mindy Engstrom
Nell Barksdale
by Bob and Nancy Wilson
Kyle and Marie Petty
by Martha Gribble
Susan Peatross and Rose Davis
by Deena and Andy Dreyfuss
Adrienne Davis and Erica Jones
by Good Samaritan Sunday School,
Antioch Baptist Church
Rose Davis
by Randy and Deborah Casstevens
Austin Barnhill
by Steve and Dianne Varner
Rose Davis
by Shirley Clark and Scott and
Elaine Bauer
Hans, Christy and Oscar Visser
by Bill, Ceci and Madeleine McGuire

In Memory Of

Bench placed in the garden in memory of Sheila Hedrick-Looper from Jane Marvin and Janet Hano

Bench placed in the garden in memory of Beau from Noah Hall

In Memory of Isa Dollyhigh and Jorge Alberto Guerrero-Santos by Good Samaritan Sunday School, Antioch Baptist Church

Memorial Gifts for Deborah Marshall

Danny and Chris Herko
Riverwood staff

Memorial Gifts for Sheila Hedrick-Looper

Ann and Charlie Williams
Kim and Chris Henson
Danny and Chris Herko
Riverwood staff
Ed and Joan Athay
Virgil and Tamara Davis
Gail Arnette
Amanda Howell

Riverwood Rider

Memorial Gifts for

Katie Fitzgerald

Emily Parker and Margaret Taylor
Danny and Chris Herko
Julia Lynn Thompson
Kay Speas Brown
Wildfire
Lee, Robin and Christina Woodard
Brooks and Colleen Bryant Sills
Susan and Craig Peatross
Friends in the HBL Casualwear Team
Duncan and Dana Hite
Cathy and Glenn Baldwin
Dr. Chermak and Hanson & Staff
Riverwood staff
Curtis and Ellen Montgomery
Virginia Freeze

David and Susan McBride,
Megan and Sean
Winston Salem Lady Twins White
soccer team
Maria Lawlor Family
Christopher and Sandra Stewart
Eva Wu
Pamela Guillot
James and Judith Dobbins
Julie Wright
Jimmy and Katie Lippard
Sunrise Yoga Studio Book Club
Patrick and Jane Farrell
Kathryn Jacobs
Janet Dailey
Frank and Ashlie Martin

“96 Twins White” – McDowells,
Beasons, Glovers, Killebrews,
Youngs, Wiermans
Animal Hospital of Clemmons
Anita Henderson
Jennifer AuBuchon
LeAnne Kennedy
Cathy Frantz
Jan Trantham
Mark Dopson
Sandy Ericson
Rob DiBella
Marilyn Metcalf
Jeanene Edwards
Dianne Wiegel
Carla Mota

Thank You

Gary Overfelt with the UPS Store
Anne Epting for memorial garden stones
Chris Pallavicini for managing Riverwood's website
Cindy Martin, Cooper and Alex Padgett for organizing tack room
and tagging halters and saddles
Erin Wilson for the dressage saddle
Cindy Martin for office supplies
Martha Key for paper products and organizing Shop for a Cause
Margaret Poovey, GM of Macy's, for inviting us to Shop for a Cause
Pants, saddle pad and fleece covered girth from Katie Manning
Riverwood t-shirts for students from Rose Davis
Saddle, bridle, stirrups and stirrup leathers from Robin Tower
Barbara Vickland, Ann Williams and Janet Hano for memorial garden
Eagle Scout Jordan Marsh for benches
Kim, Sam and Noah Hall for benches
Devon Adams and Barry Crissman for 100 bales of fescue hay



Board of Directors

Thank you to Rose Davis and Susan Peatross, both dedicated board members, who will be rotating off the board of directors in 2009. Rose and Susan have both been with Riverwood for many years as leaders and sidewalkers. They extended their service by holding positions on the Riverwood Board of Directors. While they will be missed on the board this year, we will continue to see them working with our students from the Childrens Center.

Christmas Wish List

Dear Riverwood Santas,

We have been very good this year and all we want for Christmas is some Legends feed, beet pulp, mineral blocks and of course, horse treats. The nice folks at LTD Southern States in King, NC are willing to store all of our supplies for us until we need them. If you would please stop by and choose an item or items off our Christmas Wish Wreath, they will make a list so we can get things we need throughout the year. If you have any questions, you can all the office at 922-6426 and talk to one of the staff. We really have been very, very good this year!

Thank you and Merry Christmas from our herd—
Angel, Boomer, Buddy, Flash, Fits, Gator, Ibby, King, Pet, Sassy and Tony

Riverwood welcomes our newest volunteers!

Linda Battle
Reno Beamer
Avery Belton
Carly Bloomfield
Anne Booth
Justine Bouzon
Elizabeth Brumbaugh
Kevin Cooper
Emily Cotran
Kaitlin Dunn

Patricia Elster
Lee Anne Gregory
Melissa Haithcock
Laura and Emma Hebard
JD Hoots
Ana Jerman
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Meghan Kearns
Caroline Kent

Lauren Kinney
Desai Kroopa
Karen and Elizabeth Levstek
Sara Katherine Mabe
Hannah Maxey
Dawn Miles
Rebecca Sachs
Kayla Vickland
Ashley Williams
Cynthia Williams



Riverwood's annual Ponies, Pigs & Pickin' fundraiser was a great success! Perfectly beautiful weather and a demonstration ride from Karly Bertram, Courtney Booze, Sydney Ward, Jillian Rogers and their volunteers set the stage for a fun event. Delicious barbecue, fixins' and dessert with musical entertainment by String Fever and a moving Riverwood tribute by Susan and Laura revved everyone up for our bidding-frenzied Silent Auction. With the band, Reel Shady, and a cleared-off dance floor, two-legged and two-wheeled dancers alike took Contra Dancing well into the night. We raised over \$37,000, which helps offset the cost of riding! Thank you to the following sponsors and silent auction contributors.

Trophy Sponsor:

Rick and Nancy Hancock
Modern Automotive Network
Southern Community Bank & Trust

Blue Ribbon Sponsors:

Piedmont Natural Gas
Summer Industries
4th Grade Class at Old Richmond Elementary
Riverwood TRC Board

Red Ribbon Sponsors:

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Plyler Building Supplies
Merrill Lynch
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Newbridge Bank
Reynolda Veterinary Hospital

Silent Auction Contributors on following page

Ponies, Pigs and Pickin' Silent Auction Contributors

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Andi Underdal
Andrea Mewhinney
Angie Swaim
Ann Radford
Meredith Boylan
Susan Peatross
Liz Baldwin
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Callie Stanley
Matt Masten, Foothills Brewery
Ginny Pfrimmer
Kyle and Marie Petty
Barbara Bowman
Angie Swaim
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Donated by Nancy Hancock
Painted by Jack Herman, Amy Kosloske
and Rachel Smith

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Ann Geis, Salem Kitchen
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String Fever
Reel Shady
UMW Circle 9, Mt. Tabor UMC
Benita Vanwinkle, photographer



Thanks to all our FRIENDS

From the Director

Dear Friends,

As we approach 2009, many of us feel a great deal of uncertainty. There is a lot of change occurring in the world as well as in our community on a daily basis. The New Year will be challenging for Riverwood in several ways. We now have more than 30 students on our waiting list, the most we have ever had. Our need for additional volunteers continues in order to support our current programs and to support any additional students that we enroll. The downward turn in the economy is cause for organizations like Riverwood, who are dependent on the generous support of donors, to be somewhat anxious. With that being said, I can't help but feel hopeful and excited about the coming year. Somehow when life gets a little tough we see great strength in people and a sense of support and community that is often not felt when life is easy.

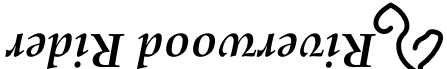
We have felt the warmth and support from all of you especially during the losses we have experienced this year. Your endless financial support, words of condolence and encouragement, your service, your care of the horses, the miles you have put in driving to the farm have made Riverwood what it is today. We appreciate all that you do to support our mission and believe in the dream of so many of our students with special needs.

As we all feel the pressure of changing times, pitch in and help where you can. Write a check, volunteer in a class, help groom trails or talk to friends about all that Riverwood means to our community. There is no gift too small to make a difference in the lives of others.

Happy Holidays!

- Susan

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