

# Little Creek Horse Farm 2018

a report from Little Creek Farm Conservancy



# A Message from the President

2018 was an eventful year at Little Creek Horse Farm & Park. From our many successful community events, to the worldwide notice we garnered when a group of our horses decided to take a ramble on the highway, Little Creek Farm never failed to remind us of why it is so beloved.

LCFC continues its mission of stewardship to the Farm in partnership with DeKalb County. Our combined efforts provided additional funding that resulted in improved quality of life for all who use the Park.

Little Creek Farm Conservancy would like to thank its members, donors, and volunteers; DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs; DeKalb County Board of Commissioners; Park Pride; Atlanta Riding; Mark's Riding School; Stride Ahead Therapeutic Riding; and all of those who came to the Farm, for their support. We hope to see you soon.

***Jane Donofrio, President***



# Little Creek Farm Conservancy Leadership

## BOARD

President - Jane Donofrio

Vice-President - Tamara Dillard

Treasurer - Peggy Berg

Secretary - Rene Iverson

At-Large - Bobbi Woolwine. Community  
Affairs Liaison

## COMMITTEES

Membership – Valerie Morvan &  
Julie Bakken

Hands on Horses Outreach -  
Christa Gogstad, Rene Iverson

Pony Rides – Rene Iverson

Communication – Valerie Morvan

Fly Predator Control Program –  
Nancy Scott

OATS Multi-Use Creek & Trail -  
Bobbi Woolwine

# Membership

Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc.  
members:

**52** Individual

**43** Family

**11** Patron

**24** Youth, Lifetime, Staff

**130** Total Members

Members include boarders, riding students, parents, community members, and staff.

LCFC quarterly meetings at the farm are open to members and the public. Please visit

[www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)  
for information on becoming a member.



# Financial Results

LCFC invested **\$24,714** in improvements to the barn, pastures and paddocks and farm supplies, in addition to volunteer contributions.

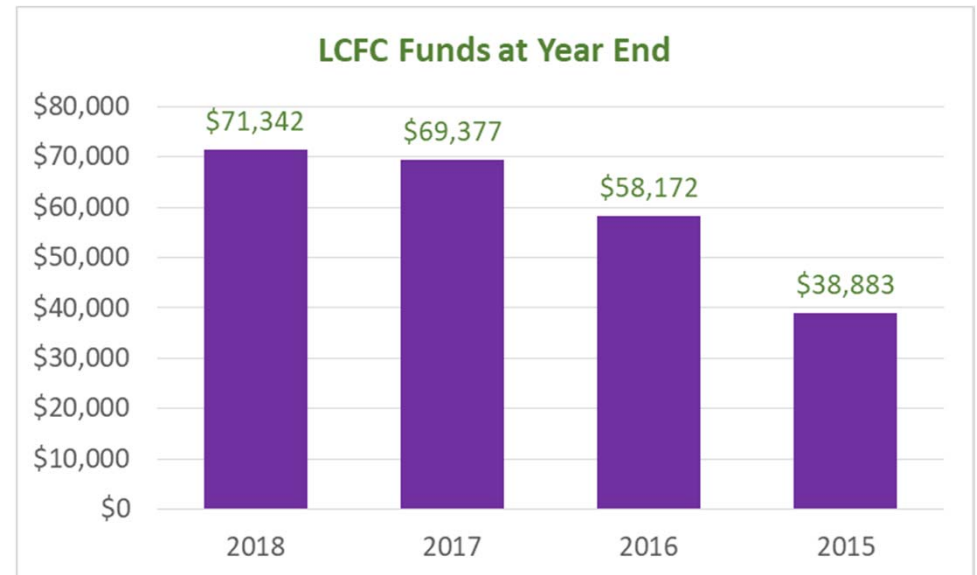
LCFC raised **\$43,154** to invest in DeKalb County's very special Little Creek Horse Farm park.

Income/Expense		
Revenue	2017	2018
Donations to LCFC	\$11,138	\$7,145
Horsefest	\$7,071	\$18,314
Hands on Horses	\$90	\$440
Other Events	\$0	\$4,185
Schooling Shows	\$2,094	\$515
Pony Rides	\$2,006	\$1,531
Interest Income	\$119	\$160
Membership Income	\$4,310	\$5,980
Merchandise Sales	\$78	\$129
Project Contribution	\$400	\$4,755
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$27,306</b>	<b>\$43,154</b>
Expenses		
Merchant Fees	\$212	\$404
Other Administration	\$2,692	\$2,656
Horsefest	\$2,118	\$7,352
Hands on Horses	\$0	\$50
Other Events	\$100	\$4,159
School Shows	\$130	\$159
Pony Rides	\$712	\$430
Barn Improvements	\$1,102	\$17,746
Pasture & Paddock Improvements	\$6,260	\$4,305
Supplies	\$2,594	\$280
Trail & Other Park Improvements	\$0	\$2,383
Merchandise Purchases	\$75	\$808
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,995</b>	<b>\$40,733</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,311</b>	<b>\$2,421</b>

# Financial Position

LCFC has **\$71,342** in funds for projects and matching grants to support Little Creek Horse Farm as of December 31, 2018.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and contributions of our volunteer's time, we are in a good position to apply for grants and to re-invest in Little Creek Horse Farm Park.



# THANK YOU! to LCFC Volunteers

“Clean-up” is all day every day at Little Creek – sweeping, shoveling, dusting, washing, scrubbing, brushing, bathing, mopping, and more. But for one week in the Spring and one week in the fall, volunteers do special cleaning projects.

This Fall alone, **23** volunteers put in **73.5** hours on various forms of barn scrubbing. And what a difference those two weeks make!

Volunteers make the Farm possible.



# LCFC Delivers Events & Programming for the Community





# Schooling Show

## Co-hosted by LCFC and Atlanta Riding Academy

Competitive riders need schooling shows for training and practice. At Little Creek, we have the benefit of skilled registered judges in the Farm community. Shows are judged and showcase riders practicing in proper attire to competitive standards. Little Creek hosts dressage and jumping events.

- 20+ riders
- 20+ volunteers
- Many observers

Fall Schooling Show was rained out, but 2 shows are planned in 2019.



# Spring Pony Rides

Pony Rides equal joy. Our horses patiently carry children around and around the ring, with an adult for safety. Children chatter about which horse will be their noble steed – faces alight, imaginations soar.

- **166** Pony rides
- **540** Visitors
- **\$1,531** Revenue

Pony rides are one way adult horse-lovers at Little Creek share their passion with the community.



# Keller Williams Red Day

The farm benefited from the remarkable generosity of Keller Williams and its employee volunteers on their **Red Day**.

- 1 incredible day
- 100+ Keller Williams volunteers
- 30+ Conservancy volunteers

Under the skilled guidance of Park Pride,, **Red Day** took LCFC to new levels. Fences were painted and repaired, pastures were cleared of fallen branches, and a new section of trail and picnic area was established – it was incredible. Talented labor and materials were donated by Keller Williams.

**THANK YOU!**



## Mark's Fun Day

In 2018, for the first time, Mark's Riding School and LCFC hosted a special event to raise money for cancer research. Several of Farm regulars have been fighting cancer this year and the value of research has never been more apparent.

At Mark's event, riders competed in mounted games - from musical chairs to trotting with a full glass of water (even harder than it sounds).

Riders and supporters donated **\$4,100** which was all donated to the Cancer Research Institute and Emory Winship Cancer Center.



# Horsefest 2017

By the numbers, Horsefest welcomed:

- **111** People volunteers
- **30** Horse volunteers
- **561** People volunteer hours
- **250 BIG** Pony rides/riders
- **102 LITTLE** Pony rides/riders
- **886** Visitors
- **\$18,314** Revenue



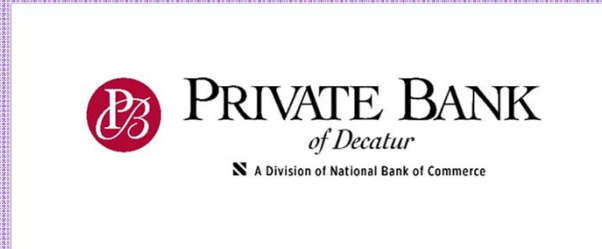
## Halloween Costume Parade & Neighborhood Appreciation Picnic

From capes to flowers, full-on sheik ensembles, a painted Indian pony, to Panda sporting a Hawaiian shirt, our horses and their humans got into the Halloween costume spirit.

After the parade, neighborhood residents and other Farm supporters shared a potluck in the Barn.



Thank  
You  
To  
Our  
Sponsors



# Programs & Committees





# OATS – Our Area to Share

The area surrounding our park including the track along the creek up to Valley Brook Road has great potential for a trail system. Our **Multi-Use Trail /Creek Clean Up Committee** was formed to gather information and provide ideas on best practices for multi-use trails. Due to the need and interest, the Committee also works on creek clean up. The group met several times in 2018 with 5-10 volunteers turning out each time. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Other activities include partnering with sister parks, development of a sensory trail, and creating an Audubon Society sanctuary.

Join us for upcoming creek clean up days:

- **May 4, 2019**
- **September 14, 2019**



## Hands on Horses

Hands on Horses tours are a wonderful outing for small groups from Girl Scouts to families, to retirement groups. Each tour includes a visit to the Barn and pastures, demonstration of natural horsemanship, and a craft project.

For 2019, LCFC is expanding Hands on Horses with regularly scheduled tours available to the community two days weekly, weather permitting.

Of course, regular riders at Little Creek introduce visitors to the horses daily.



## Safety Committee

In June, LCFC and Stride Ahead hired TLAER, Inc. to do a fire and general safety audit of the facility. The report recognized Little Creek's many strengths and provided recommendations for making the Farm safer.

As a result, Stride Ahead, LCFC and farm management formed a Safety Committee to oversee safety for both horses and humans.

The Safety Committee and farm management have already addressed key recommendations including the installation of larger fire extinguishers and an AED, removing flammables, and moving the hay storage from the barn. More underway.



# Little Creek Stable Squad

Meeting every Saturday at the barn, assistant trainer, Donna Coshatt, teaches kids from 8 to 16 about horse care, at no charge. There are currently **20** children in the program.

Students learn about grooming and tacking horses, sweep wash stalls and aisles, clean tack, and assist other students with what they have learned about horsemanship.

Working with each other and horses the youth learn confidence, leadership, teamwork, patience, kindness, and the importance of remaining calm, as horses are sensitive and mirror our feelings.



# Vendors & Merchandise

Artists, craftspeople and vendors from the local community add flavor to Horsefest.

This year Atlanta Animal Rescue and Wild Bird Rescue, sponsored by Wild Birds of Decatur, joined us.

LCFC also sells branded merchandise to promote the Farm to the public and raise money for capital projects. Products include t-shirts, mugs, fleece vests, horse figurines and saddle blankets.



## LCFC On-Line

LCFC shares information on-line. By the numbers for 2018 there were:

**42,063** Website visits

**1,604,504** Website hits

**1,973** Facebook fans

The new Conservancy website is under construction and will be up soon. Look for more information about the Farm, events, our horses, and more.



# LCFC Invests in the Farm



# Sunset Pavilion

On June 21, 2018 LCFC dedicated the new Sunset Pavilion. This 20' by 12' covered platform has the best sunset views in Atlanta. It's in constant use for picnics, viewing riders in the arena, and small gatherings of all kinds.

Built with funds raised by LCFC, including generous memorial donations from the families of Cheryl Watson and Nancy Elrod, as well as a Small Change Grant from Park Pride, the Pavilion is a wonderful addition to the Farm. The Conservancy added a sidewalk to make the pavillion fully accessible from the barn.

**Thank you to our donors and Park Pride!!!**





# Creek Cleaning & Park Pride Orientation

Little Creek's Friends of the Park (FOP) Group is a proud affiliate of Park Pride. Through the FOP, Park Pride shares wonderful resources with LCFC such as:

- Tools to share during major projects
- Expertise and advise on project design, native plants, creek, trails and managing volunteers
- Special educational sessions and Park Pride workshops and annual conference

We are proud to be affiliated with Park Pride.



## Mirror Mirror on the Wall

Dressage mirrors are a feature of barns where riders train with precision.

LCFC raised **\$2,735** in funds from **27** donations specifically for weightless mirrors. The mirrors will be installed in February 2019 at one end of the indoor arena. The Conservancy will provide matching funds for this project.



## It Rained and Rained and Rained

With over **70** inches of rain, 2018 was the second wettest year on record for Atlanta. Over 20 extra inches of rain meant flooded pastures at Little Creek Farm and the horses often had to stay inside.

When pastures flood, volunteers and owners and staff walk Little Creek's horses two to three times every day. Around and around the indoor arena they go.

Pasture clean up is scheduled for the next LCFC work day.



# Around the Farm

In addition to the Conservancy, there are many valuable contributors to Little Creek Horse Farm life. Their activities are highlighted on the following pages.



# Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Bradshaw & Capital Improvements

Commissioner Bradshaw, with the support of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, allocated **\$215,000** in District 4 Parks Bonds for Little Creek Horse Farm improvements in 2017. Those funds will be fully invested in 2018 and 2019.

The Commissioners, under the leadership of Commissioner Adams, also allocated **\$270,500** for capital improvements which will be in place by the end of 2019.

Commissioner Kathy Gannon committed **\$32,500** toward the master plan for Little Creek Farm Horse Park.

**THANK YOU** for investing in the quality of life in our DeKalb County community.



# Stride Ahead

Stride Ahead served over **55** clients in 2018 supported by **2,845** volunteer hours. Stride Ahead provides about **30** lessons per week for students with various physical or mental challenges, supported by approximately **75** volunteer hours each week.

Stride Ahead begins its tenth year of providing Equine Assisted Therapies at Little Creek Horse Park in 2019!

Stride Ahead partnered with Connections School of Atlanta to provide 4 weeks of 2 hour weekly sessions. The horses helped the kids learn life skills such as communication, body language, and leadership. We hope to continue this rewarding partnership with Connections School.



# Atlanta Riding Academy

Atlanta Riding Academy offers safe high-quality hunt seat riding lessons and promotes educational opportunities at Little Creek farm such as horsemanship classes, horse shows and other experiences essential to overall equestrian education.

In 2018 Atlanta Riding:

- Maintained an active client roster of **32** students.
- Launched the Atlanta Riding On-Line Guide to Horsemanship which includes two levels with video illustrations and quizzes.
- Volunteered both riding students and lesson horses in many Conservancy events.

Due to high demand for lessons and modest client turn-over there are 55 people on the wait list for lessons.



# Mark's Riding School

For more than 25 years, Mark Jaglarz has been teaching beginning riding, English pleasure, dressage, and jumping at Little Creek Horse Farm.

He and assistant trainer, Donna Coshatt, have shared their knowledge and love of horses with hundreds of new and experienced riders.

School horses include: Silverado, Cooper, Valor, and Sweetheart, as well as a shared horses owned by other boarders such as Big John, Max, Gracie, Dillon, and Panda.

Mark's Riding School provides over **30** classes weekly, including individual and group lessons, serving people from age 7 to 85.

Information about riding lessons is available on the LCFC website and at the Barn Visitor Center.





# DeKalb County's Little Creek Team

Little Creek Farm saw major staff changes this year. Long time supervisor, Joe Magnusson, moved to other roles in DeKalb County.

Chuck Ellis joined as Department Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs in February 2018. He immediately recognized the value of Little Creek Farm and has been a critical part of park improvements. David Flaherty came on as manager over Little Creek and other parks, and Joy Lambert became the new Barn Supervisor.

With change have come new expertise, new approaches, new insight, and new energy.

As part of the transition, we are seeing new uses of old spaces. The old feed room is now a tool room, the old tool room is now a feed room, and the office is becoming a viewing room. LCFC invested **\$2,240** in rat-proofing the new feed room.

**Welcome to Little Creek! We are excited to work with you at Little Creek Horse Farm Park.**



# Community Service Workers

Throughout the year, community service workers donate time to Little Creek Horse Farm. They sweep and water and clean stalls and do other labor around the Farm.

We appreciate the work community service workers do at the Farm. And the horses truly appreciate the occasional carrot these workers share.

**THANK YOU** to Little Creek's Community Service Workers!



# LCFC Calendar 2019

## Little Creek Farm Conservancy Event Calendar 2019

<b>Member Meeting #1</b>	Jan 19	Saturday
Love Your City Community Bucket Service Day with Park Pride	Feb 16th	Saturday
Spring Clean Up Week	Apr 8-15	
Spring Pony Rides	April 20	Saturday
Membership Renewal Month	April	
<b>Member Meeting #2 (&amp; Officer Election)</b>	May 4	Saturday
OATS MUTC Committee: Creek Clean Up Day	May 4	Saturday
Amelia S. Cook In House Schooling Show	May 18	Saturday
<b>Member Meeting #3</b>	August 10	Saturday
OATS MUTC Committee: Creek Clean Up Day	Sept 14	Saturday
Fall Clean Up Week	Sept 15-20	Saturday
Horsefest	Sept 21	Saturday
Horses in Halloween Costume / Picnic	Oct 26	Saturday
<b>Member Meeting #4</b>	Nov 2	Saturday
Fall Schooling Show	Nov 9	Saturday
Quadrille / Holiday Bazaar	Dec 7	Saturday



# Sign Me UP

LCFC welcomes volunteers.

Contact us to find out about volunteering at events and/or joining a committee. We'd love to have you.

[info@LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](mailto:info@LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)

[www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)

(678) 590-1530

[www.facebook.com/Little-Creek-Farm-523780917678473/](https://www.facebook.com/Little-Creek-Farm-523780917678473/)

Member meetings (and all events) are open to the public. You are invited to come meet us and find out about current projects at our meetings, posted on the website, and at the Barn.

