

# LITTLE CREEK TIMES

August 2010



## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL Saturday, October 16, 12 pm - 4 pm

It's time for the 4th annual Little Creek Farm Fall Festival! The first back in our new barn and really something to celebrate since we didn't have a grand re-opening.

Sponsored by the Little Creek Farm Conservancy, the event is an annual fund raiser. This year we are fundraising to redo the outdoor arena. Plans are to increase the width by 25 feet, raise and improve the footing, and enclose the arena with new fencing.

The afternoon scented with the smells of chili cooking away, bluegrass music in the air, riding demonstrations to watch, tickles your senses with a feeling that all is well and right in the world. On Fall Festival days we invite family, friends and DeKalb counties' family and friends to share our magic if for only an afternoon.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

**STAFFING BOOTHS:** Kid's crafts, silent auction, Little Creek Merchandise, membership, food, beverage, dessert, pony rides. To sign up, please respond to Christy Rosenblatt, the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:volunteer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org).

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS:** We need a mix of equestrian/ non-equestrian items like facials, massages, tickets to concerts, sporting events, plays, etc.; used tack; new tack, saddle pads, turn-out boots; pottery, art, designer handbags, wine!

Forms for donations to the silent auction are in the plastic rubbermaid lidded box by the bathrooms, aisle C. They are in triplicate — pink copy to the donor, yellow copy stays with item in your home until week of festival, white copy goes to Leslie Davis, silent auction chair, back in rubbermaid box.

**For more information contact:**  
[wendybowen@comcast.net](mailto:wendybowen@comcast.net)

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS' CORNER

We have been busy in the last few months getting the kinks ironed out at our new facility. Since May, Leslie and I have poked, pushed and followed up with the county on the lingering issue of flooding in the wash stall aisles. Leslie was instrumental in getting the county to address the issue, first by installing a "surrogate" gutter which was not effective, then instigating a thorough gutter cleaning via Revonda Moody which did significantly improve the situation, particularly on the right side of the barn. The drains in the wash stalls collect hair and dirt readily and need to be hand cleaned after each horse and sometimes several times while rinsing one horse. This takes care of any backup that may occur. We are still "on the list" to have our hot and cold water separated in the wash stall area. Water temperature is fine for rinsing and bathing horses.

As we move forward our next big event will be the annual **Fall Festival fund raiser**. Our planning has already started and we need all hands on deck for this PR event which will take place on Saturday, October 16 from noon to 4 pm. **Wendy Bowen** is our most excellent fundraising chair. Please get in touch with her about signing up for a committee. This will be our first real showing of the new facility to the general public, and we want to make a good impression. We can certainly do that with everyone's help. So please set aside the date.

We will have live music, kids crafts, silent auction, pony rides, merchandise and lots of good food. **Johnny Hibbert's** chili cauldron will be on the simmer as in years past.

The bluegrass band **Peachtree Station** will be our musical guests this year. Leslie and I look forward to seeing you there!

That's all for now. May the horse be with you!

Selene McCarthy and Leslie Davis  
*Copresident, Little Creek Farm Conservancy*

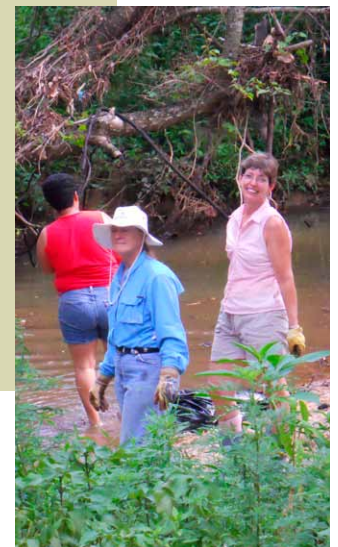
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**NEXT CONSERVANCY MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11**





The Conservancy had a creek clean up day on July 10 in lieu of our monthly meeting. We had a nice turnout and got so much accomplished in two hours. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who got down and dirty! The right side creek bed now looks like it should and will be a lot safer for the mares.



## ARE YOU A MEMBER YET?

Little Creek Farm Conservancy is a non-profit membership organization. Our mission is to promote the stewardship of Little Creek Farm for equine activities, including educational, environmental and recreational outreach programs for the general public. To become a member, please complete and return the form in this newsletter or on the "Get Involved" page at [littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](http://littlecreekfarmconservancy.org).

## VOLUNTEER AWARD

Congratulations to **Richard Davis** on having the most volunteer hours as of the June meeting. **Judy Sophianopolous** was a very close 2nd. Richard received a \$25 gift card to Home Depot as our thanks for his contributions, which he donated for barn landscaping. Thanks, Richard!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Greeters Program**

Saturday and Sunday afternoons

### **Hands on Horses Tours**

1st Saturday, 3rd Wednesday

### **Stream and Path Cleanup**

Ongoing

### **Fall Festival Staff**

October 16

### **Fall Festival Silent Auction Items**

Now thru October 16

Contact: [volunteer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:volunteer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)



## HANDS ON HORSES TOURS

The Hands on Horses program was created at Little Creek by **Anne Preston**. The informal barn tour gives visitors a behind the scenes look at the barn and the pasture and includes information about basic horse grooming, barn and horse safety rules, and ends with a "horsey" craft.



Anne has trained **Sherree Wallace** to take over the Hands on Horses program, while Anne continues to run Stride Ahead. "Our tours have been a hit," says Sherree Wallace. "We've had several neighborhood parents and kids remark that they are so happy to

have a chance to get a closer look at Little Creek. We've also had parents recommend the tour to their neighbors and friends. Each session has been filled to capacity."

### TOUR INFO

Tours are offered to the general public on the **first Saturday of each month at 10 am** and a session is also available for special needs and elderly groups on the third Wednesday of each month.

Participants must sign up at the barn on the Hands on Horses sign-up sheet or at [LCHFbarntours@gmail.com](mailto:LCHFbarntours@gmail.com). The homepage of the Little Creek Farm Conservancy web site lists the dates and times of upcoming tours. The tours last about an hour and all participants must wear hard toed shoes that you don't mind getting dirty or muddy and must sign a DeKalb County release form.

### THANKS

Thanks to these volunteer workers: **Anne Preston, Sherree Wallace, Brooke Wallace, Jane Donofrio, Adriana Ridings, Dave Lucas, Chris Hunnicut, and Judy Sophianopolous** for making this program a success and an extra thanks to Judy for the long and tedious job of prepping horseshoes for our craft. Also, special thanks to **Cody, Zan, Brubeck, Panda, and Sunshine** for being our volunteer demo horses!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need more volunteers trained to lead these sessions — especially after school starts when we will need more adult volunteers available during the week for special needs groups.

## Greeters Welcome Visitors to Little Creek

The Conservancy has launched a new program for visitors to the barn. Volunteers act as Greeters for 2 hours most Saturdays and Sundays. From 2 to 4 pm visitors receive a welcome and introduction to the facility. Questions are answered and guests receive information on riding, the farm's history, safety instructions, and its residents – the horses.

Most guests are families with children who want to see the new barn and the horses close up. Frequently there are 1 to 2 families, usually no more than a dozen people. Greeters initially chaperone the visitors then they are allowed to explore by themselves. Little Creek Farm Merchandise is offered for sale as well.

Greeters have a lot of fun meeting the public and talking about Little Creek. Boarders are saying the Greeters are doing a great job of making our guests feel welcome, as well as providing basic structure to visits. All are invited to volunteer as Greeter through the Conservancy web site or by contacting **Cynthia DeCamp** at [cynthiadecamp@comcast.net](mailto:cynthiadecamp@comcast.net).

## Coming to a Brochure Rack Near You

The New Barn Brochure is here – check it out! Soon to appear, the Little Creek Farm Conservancy's **new Self-Guided Tour!**

## Fly Predator Program

The Conservancy's annual sponsorship of the fly predator program has continued to make the barn and pastures more pleasant for horses and humans. Thanks to Wendy Bowen for spearheading this effort!

# THANKS

### To all the members who contributed to this newsletter:

Wendy Bowen, Leslie Davis, Cynthia DeCamp, Alicia Gelfond-Holtz, Diana Getz, Elizabeth Gleim, Janice Knight, Louise Leviton, Olivia Leviton, Selene McCarthy, Anne Preston, Christy Rosenblatt and Sherree Wallace.

### To all the folks who keep the barn up and running:

Joe Magnusson, Little Creek Barn Manager  
The Zavala Family, who keep stalls clean and safe

We're already looking for articles and photos for the next newsletter, so please send your ideas to:

Kathy Cahill: [klcahill@bellsouth.net](mailto:klcahill@bellsouth.net)



# STRIDE AHEAD: THE GIFTS OF QUIET SUCCESS

by Anne Preston, Director of Stride Ahead, Inc.



Stride Ahead is excited and proud to let everyone know that our therapeutic riding program is a great success! The success shows up in the ways we planned for and hoped for but we also see success in quiet, serendipitous gifts.

The successes that have come about include having enough students to sustain our operations. We not only have enough students now, but also have a waiting list of six more! We worried early on whether we would have enough volunteers. We now have 48 trained and fantastically generous hearted volunteers. They are, without a doubt the heart core of why Stride Ahead is thriving now. We have a great online calendar that shows when all the lessons and events are so Little Creek people can plan their time. Dekalb County is fully supportive of Stride Ahead doing this work at Little Creek.

Then there are the simple gifts that come from doing this work with these very special people who are our students. There's the gift of seeing a joyful sparkle appear on a young girl's face as she mounts and settles into Zan's saddle. She says, "I'm sitting on top of the world!" and laughs out loud. Then there's the tiny boy who, at his first lesson would barely touch the horse, hated the helmet, and cried pretty much the whole time. Now he has an impish grin beneath his helmet, urging his horse with his seat as he says 'On On' (which will soon become 'walk on' as he continues to gain verbal skills). He looks for all the world like a miniature Roy Rogers, confidently riding the open range.

We have another little girl who, when she rides, loves to sing. It's hard to calculate the amount of joy she brings to everyone who is in the barn during her lesson!

For myself, there have been too many gifts to count, doing this work, but the one that comes to mind is something each of these students have taught me: the fact that celebrating success matters. They have taught me that some successes show up big and flashy, like a successful first-time canter. But sometimes successes tiptoe in quietly and it takes some awareness to notice and honor those. Like the gift of a child's sentence spoken where there was only one word before, or a simple movement mastered that was 'impossible' before, or a child stroking a horse with tender compassion where earlier there was no connection, or eye contact where there once was none, or a tear on a mother's cheek, seeing her child succeed.

So I'm trying to bring this gift into my own life, this practice of noticing and celebrating all successes, whether big and obvious or quiet and simple. It's making a difference.



## A POEM

*To the fearless leaders of stride ahead,  
here's a message I wish to send.  
My days here with you have gone by fast,  
and soon they will become my favorite past.*

*I don't want to let go of the memories I've had,  
for if I do it will surely be sad.  
If only you knew if only you could see,  
how much you guys have meant to me.*

*There's a place in my heart for all of you here,  
a place in my heart so very very dear.  
What you do is you spark lights,  
you cross out wrongs and make then rights.*

*So thank you stride ahead for all you've done,  
You've made my summer super fun!*

Jordan Schramm Tibbit  
Stride Ahead Volunteer



# Lessons from Little Creek: Tales from a Girl Who Grew Up at the Barn

By Elizabeth Gleim



## LESSON 1: FAMILY

*Family.* A group of people brought together by a common thread. Sometimes that thread is blood, but sometimes it's something different — a friendship, shared experiences... a shared passion. I recently listened to a commentary on a group of actors that had worked together on a show for a number of years. One of the actors said about the cast and crew, "...we are family, and that will never go away. If I see a fellow cast-mate 20 years from now at an awards show, even if we haven't spoken since the show, I know we'll look across the room, lock eyes and for a moment, there will be a complete sense of comfort." I smiled when I heard that. I smiled because I understood...I understood completely. I think I smiled even more because I felt so lucky to be able to understand, because you see, Little Creek is that family for me.

You often hear the saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it took a barn to raise me. That is certainly not due to a lack of love from my parents and family (blood that is) who are all wonderful. But LCF and the people and horses within it will always be with me and are a part of me. I have made some of the closest friendships and learned some of the most important lessons of my life at LCF. While I have now moved away and am only able to visit LCF on occasion, I know that it has not left me, because every time I walk into the barn, I still feel that overwhelming sense of comfort... that feeling of family.

The first time I stepped foot in Little Creek, I was nine years old. In some ways things were very different, yet in some, they were exactly the same. I sat on the viewing stand — a now extant, hand-made rickety platform by the indoor ring made of plywood on which 2 beat up swivel stools were perched. Mark, my new trainer, had a young girl on a lunge line working on her canter. I watched nervously, hoping that I could soon ride as well as this girl did. Seventeen years later, Mark is still here teaching a new generation and I can confidently say that I know how to canter now...I might have even learned a few more things along the way. Over the next few newsletters, I hope to share some of these lessons with you. A lot of history has been written in this place — the type of history that cannot be read about in a history book or a brochure — but rather personal history... family history. In the end, I hope that this column will be a way to remind the old generation of the magical quality of LCF and share the history of this wonderful place with the newest generation in the family.

# HORSE HIGHLIGHT: FROM THE BIGGEST TO THE SMALLEST



## BUTCH 17.2 h

by Diana Getz

Butch is Maddie Getz Mitchell's mule. Maddie is a rising Junior at The Paideia School and a long time horse (now mule) lover. Butch is a cross between a Belgian Draft Horse and a donkey. He is 12 years old.

A year ago, Maddie's 28 year old horse, Sugar, died as a result of colic. After grieving Sugar's loss, Maddie began the search for a new best friend. She found a picture of Butch (17.2 hands tall) on the internet. He lived on a farm in New Jersey. It was love at first sight!

At first, Maddie's parents, Diana Getz and Carl Mitchell, were uncertain about owning a mule. "We researched the internet and read stories about how some people are prejudiced against mules. We were concerned because we were going to be new boarders at Little Creek and we were going to be bringing this huge mule. What if other boarders or other horses didn't like him?" We discussed our concerns with Joe Magnusson, the barn manager. He was very welcoming and reassuring.

The day Butch arrived at Little Creek Farm he was welcomed like a rock star! Riley, an Arabian gelding, who has a "thing" for mules became his bodyguard! Butch and Riley spent some initial time in the Parelli ring while all the equines got to meet him over the fence. He is a gentle giant who seems to get along with everybody. He is so interested in interacting with people that it's hard not to love him.

Butch and Maddie are doing Parelli training with Caroline Jaffee, who also works with Stride Ahead at Little Creek. Stride Ahead works with disadvantaged people to learn to be powerful in the world by using the impartial, unbiased response of a horse. Stride Ahead is working on developing a program for returning war veterans. Hopefully, Butch will be able to participate in this new program after he completes his Parelli training.

Butch is very happy to be part of the Little Creek Community!!!



## Thumbelina 13.2 h

by Olivia Leviton

What a cute name for a cute fairy. What a cute name for a cute pony. Thumbelina is a 13.2 hand high Quarter Horse/Paint crossed with a Haflinger. She is

a 9 year old mare. Thumb is built like a Halflinger, but has Quarter horse muscling and Paint markings. She has unique and special markings thanks to her Paint influence. Thumby has a paw print on her barrel, a heart on her chin/jaw and a blaze shaped like a duck.

She may be small and adorable but she will hold her own, even with the bigger horses like Butch. Thumbelina likes cats and small dogs; she is very curious and aware of things around her. She has done lots of equestrian sports. They range from natural horsemanship to western pleasure and hunter to eventing and pony club. Thumb plays equestrian soccer and doesn't mind taking a nap while we play volleyball, and she is the net. Her best companion was a rescued Canada goose. She has a full brother, but they are not twins. Thumbelina is fairly bombproof and can be ridden by people of levels beginner through advanced.



## Cody 12.3 h

by Christy Rosenblatt

Cody came to Little Creek Farm in March when he was purchased by the Rosenblatt Family. Cody is 7 years old and 12.3 hands tall. He came to Little Creek from a private home in Snellville where he gave

lots of lessons, pony rides and was a "pony party" pony. His new family loves to ride and groom him. Cody also volunteers as a therapy pony for Stride Ahead and the "Hands On Horses" program with the Conservancy. He is very gentle and friendly. And he's available for a partial lease.

# Little Creek Farm Conservancy Membership Form

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would consider volunteering a specific amount of time for a special event.

I would consider volunteering to help with a long term project.

## Membership Classification (please check one):

Student (full time student, 18 yrs or younger) \$ 10.00

Individual \$ 25.00

Family \$ 50.00

Patron \$ 100.00

Business \$ 500.00

Lifetime \$ 1000.00

Other Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by cash or check, made payable to *Little Creek Farm Conservancy*.

Mail checks to: Little Creek Farm Conservancy  
P.O. Box 33862  
Decatur, GA 30033-0862

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Cash

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_