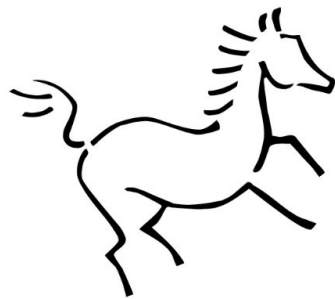


Fall/Winter Newsletter 2019

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Little Creek Farm CONSERVANCY



**It has been an wonderful and busy year at Little Creek.
Here are the some highlights from recent months.
Watch for a full Annual Report early next year!**

HorseFest 2019: Best Yet!

HorseFest 2019 was a record-breaking event! Over 1500 adults and children attended the annual festival on September 21. Here are a few photos that capture the joy!

With the generous support of our sponsors, the Conservancy was able to add new activities for younger children included a petting zoo and a live small pony carousel. Equestrian demonstrations included perennial favorites the Diamond D Cowgirls and for the first-time a demo of Spanish horsemanship by PRE Horses with Martin Perez and team. Atlanta Riding Academy put on an exhilarating jumping demonstration and the up tempo dressage demonstration proved horses can dance!



The event raised over \$7500 which will be used to expand public programming and fund capital improvements at DeKalb County's Little Creek Horse Farm & Park. A big thank you to everyone, attendees, sponsors, and our many volunteers for making HorseFest 2019 a fun, safe and successful event.

Audubon Grant Awarded for Habitat Restoration

The Conservancy's Mixed Use Trail and Creek Committee got some wonderful news this month! Atlanta Audubon has awarded the 2020





Habitat Restoration Fund Grant to the Little Creek Farm Conservancy for the restoration of a creek bank and creation of a bird- and wildlife-friendly habitat in an under-utilized meadow area along the South Fork of Peachtree Creek in the north-central portion of the park.

Trail and Creek Committee members, Atlanta Audubon staff and their restoration contractor recently walked the area together and began discussions about the scope and phasing of the project which will begin in earnest in the spring. Everyone is excited by the possibilities.

The Committee has recently had to put new initiatives in the woodland area of the park on hold until DeKalb county finishes a major utilities project there. Meanwhile, landscaping by the kiosk and entrance to the trailhead will be maintained.

Hands on Horses: *Bringing Horses and Humans Together*

One of Little Creek Farm Conservancy's longest standing programs, Hands on Horses (HOH) gives an up close and behind the scenes look at our horses, the farm, and the history of Little Creek Horse Farm & Park. The program serves a broad range of groups from senior living centers to elementary school classes.

Since March of this year, close to 200 people have visited Little Creek through HOH. For many people this is their first encounter with a horse and one of their favorite activities seems to be serving up carrots on a frisbee. It always brings a smile.

This year, several groups including Cub Scouts 577, Intown Community School and UPS employee volunteers paired a volunteer activity at the park with this program. What a great way to learn about how a horse farm works and how much work a horse farm is!

In November, HOH experienced another first. The program (with the invaluable help of long time Stride Ahead volunteer, *Margaret Paschal*) hosted a group of Girl Scouts who earned their Animal Helpers badge.

A very special thanks to all at the Barn Community who give their time, share their horses, arena space, and knowledge with our program attendees.



Meet Jamie Hodges, Barn Supervisor

Please welcome Jamie Hodges, the new Barn Supervisor, to Little Creek. She started in the position in July, bringing lots of experience with both equine and farm management.



This past month Jamie and her husband celebrated their daughter's first birthday and bought a new home near Stone Mountain. Jamie recently took time from her non-stop schedule to share a bit about her background and plans for the barn. [Read more.](#)

Recycling is Now Official at Little Creek!

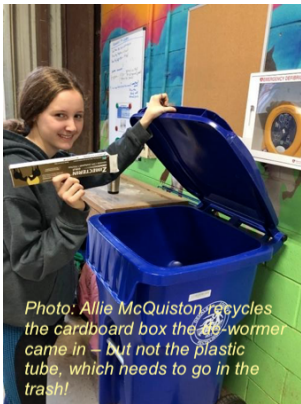


Photo: Allie McQuiston recycles the cardboard box the wormer came in – but not the plastic tube, which heads to go in the trash!

You may have noticed the [two new blue bins](#) near the front of the barn. The barn community excited to be now officially recycling with DeKalb County, thanks to the LCFC Recycling Committee led by the McQuiston family (Little Beaux's owners.) Thank you to Jennifer, Allie, and Jessie for leading the charge!

How can you help?

DeKalb County is a single stream recycler, which means everything goes into the blue bins. But doing it right is critical: throwing in trash or items that can't be recycled can mess up the whole system. Check the signs above the bins and the bin lids for guidance on what can be recycled. When in doubt, throw it in the trash to be safe!

- **Plastics # 1-7 can go in**, but they should be clean and rinsed. For fly spray bottles, the spray nozzle must go in the trash, but the bottle can be recycled.
- **Clean paper can go in, as can cardboard.** Paper that has touched food cannot be recycled -- this means that for a Starbucks coffee cup, rinse the lid and recycle it, but throw the paper cup in the trash.
- **Plastic bags cannot be recycled** by the County, and really mess up the system, so are a big no-no.
- **And no glass, please!** DeKalb County does not currently recycle glass, and glass can be dangerous around the barn.

Recycling bins are picked up every Thursday morning at the top of the hill, near the old farmhouse. The McQuiston family will be taking the bins up most Wednesday nights. You can help by bringing any empty bins back down on Thursday. If you'd like to help out or join the recycling committee, contact the McQuistons at jenmcq@live.com.

Together we can help Little Creek Horse Farm be a little bit greener!

How One Young Girl's Love of Horses Became a Fundraiser for Little Creek

The Conservancy truly was wowed when they recently received a \$500 donation from Nandini Grandhige, a young student in Mark's Riding School and a member of Donna's Barn Squad. It turns out that Nandini decided to turn her birthday into a

fundraiser by asking family and friends to make a donation to Little Creek instead of giving a personal gift. She clearly inspired folks with her act of generosity.

Thank you, Nandini.



From the 100+ volunteers that make HorseFest possible, to the visiting groups that tackle special projects, to friends and family who drop in to help when needed, we are grateful to all of you. Some special thanks go out to:

- Captain Shane and DeKalb County Fire Rescue Station 9 for watering the new garden on Orion Drive this summer and delivering emergency water for the horses when the water main broke
- Emory Student groups who helped with major landscaping
- Community Bucket who bring joy while they do heavy lifting
- Cub Scouts Troop 577
- UPS employees
- Intown Community School

News from Our Friends at Little Creek

Atlanta Riding Academy by Dana McDaniel

In June, Atlanta Riding welcomed Paisley, a 10-year-old bay Arabian mare, as a lesson horse at Little Creek.

In October Vic got a 3rd place in the TIP Hunter Derby with adult rider Emily Cox at the HJ Fox Horse Show in Conyers. Vic also won high jumping at Horse Fest this September with long time Little Creek rider Carly Mashman. At age 20, Vic is having a good year.

In October, Ketch, a favorite horse of many students was in the hospital for two weeks. Thankfully, he is recovering and will go back to work. We all look forward to it!

Mark's Riding School by Valerie Morvan

We are happy to report that Silverado is back at work following recovery from a bowed tendon. He is doing walk trot work and helping students learn the ropes like the pro schooling horse he is.

Mark acquired a new horse this fall. Norman is a 5 year old thoroughbred with some very special talents. Originally Western there are videos of Norman sitting on a sofa and pulling a cart through a line of fire. Mark and Hannah are bringing Norman around to the English style of riding and working on jumps.

Mark and Donna's younger students continue to be a force for good deeds with thier Saturday Barn Squad activities.

Stride Ahead by Anne Preston

Stride Ahead is proud and excited to welcome two more horses into our therapy herd! The Atlanta Mounted Patrol honored us by letting us adopt their sweet retired Percheron, Jake. If you haven't met Jake, he's the one that looks rather mythological, or like a big black bear! He loves his new job and new friends, already acting like an old pro.

We are also very grateful for the new part-time volunteer therapy mare, the gorgeous Ms. Believe. Thanks to the all the humans who let us borrow their fabulous horses for our therapeutic riding program.

Meanwhile, this fall we had 8 weeks of Equine Assisted psychotherapy sessions with folks from Breakthru House. The group worked hard on their journey recovering from addiction, helped by the non- judgmental partnership the horses offered. There's nothing like a thousand-pound sensitive prey animal to lead you to a deeper self-awareness.



Keep the niegh in the nieghborhood. Make a Year End Donation Here.



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