

THE LITTLE CREEK TIMES: AUTUMN 2022

Official publication of the Little Creek Farm Conservancy, a 501c3,
on behalf of DeKalb County's Little Creek Horse Farm & Park

Coming soon from LCFC

- **October/November:** multiple days: Covenant House, Atlanta
 - **October 9: Pony Ride Day, 11-1p** ([pre-sale tickets HERE](#) thru Oct 8th)
 - **October 29:** Halloween Open House for barn community and Orion/Concord neighbors!
 - **November 5:** Atlanta Photography Club visit
 - **November 6:** Pony Ride Day, 11-1 (pre-sale tickets only)
 - **November 13**:** (Tentative) Art in the Barn! Fundraiser & Online Auction (waiting final approvals)
 - **December TBD:** "Holidays in the Barn" Open House
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Golden Girls of Little Creek!

Pictured here is Abbey Luke, celebrating her 1-year anniversary as a therapeutic riding instructor with [Stride Ahead](#), the not-for-profit equine assisted therapy program that operates here inside the Park. A skilled and empathetic professional, Abbey is a multi-talented rider who has done everything from hunter/jumper to barrel racing. With Abbey is the irrepressible Sprinkles, the newest member of Stride's equine team. Owner Jamie Hodges says the nine-year old mini loves people and by all indications, her handlers can't get enough of her! (Sprinkles also participates in the Conservancy's Hands on Horses and birthday party programs held at the barn - along with her mini buddy, Boone.) Thank you, Abbey and Sprinkles, for all you bring to life at Little Creek Horse Farm & Park!

Pictured on the right is pretty Palomino, Goldie, the newest addition to the equine faculty of Mark's Riding School. Goldie is a 15-year-old quarter horse who may also have some Tennessee Walker in her blood based on her prance-like gait. Like Sprinkles, she already has many fans, including Ellie Dooyema, a ten-year old member of Pony Crew. Welcome Goldie!



...from www.britannica.com

Is palomino a breed or just a color? "Palomino, colour type of horse distinguished by its cream, yellow or gold coat and white or silver mane and tail. The colour does not breed true. Horses of proper colour, of proper saddle-horse type, and from at least one registered parent of several light breeds can be registered as Palominos." (translation: it's a color!)

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Once A Panda Time...Dictated by Panda to Leslie Hunter

This is the story of a very lucky horse named Panda. I'd even go so far as to call it a fairy tale – except for the fact that every bit of it is true. I know, because it is about me.



Judy Sophianopoulos (my fairy godmother) found me at the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture's Horse Impound in Mansfield, GA, where she and a friend were faithful volunteers. This was in 2009, when I was just 7 years old.

Most people think I'm called Panda because of my eyes. But--and I do mean *butt*--check out the photo of me below. What I do wonder is, are there any giant pandas named Horse? Or Pony? If you hear of any, please let me know.

I'm a gaited-cross quarter horse, but the really cool thing is that I'm also part Medicine Hat. I don't have an official medical degree, but Native American legend says that Medicine Hats have the magical ability to protect their riders from injury and death in battle. That sounds like a lot of responsibility, but also a great honor.

My years of making friends at Little Creek have been the perfect life for me. Unfortunately, my fairy tale had other plans. One day in February 2021, I was gamboling around with the other mares when something happened. I can't explain what it was, but when I was brought in from the pasture, it was clear that I wasn't in my best form. Turns out a superficial flexor tendon in my left front leg was affected and really hurt. The all-knowing Google tells me that this "energy-storing tendon is highly susceptible to injury during activities such as galloping and jumping." It is also the most commonly reported cause of lameness in me and my four-legged friends. Mystery solved. But what to do to fix it was another thing entirely.

My loving caretakers, Judy S. and Bobbi Woolwine, and my veterinarian, Dr. Edward Wright, tried everything, but not even stall rest worked—which brings me to my own Panda lockdown. Every day when my neighbors Riley and Rula went out to their pastures for exercise, I had to stay in. Imagine if during your lockdown you were confined to one room where you had to eat, sleep and do everything nature intended a horse to do! I did have limited time out with my main mares Rhapsody and Erin. Judy also came often to visit, and Bobbi took me on short walks so I could get some safe exercise and chew real grass! But that was about it. It sure wasn't easy.

A lot of you may wonder how I was able to stay cooped up for so long. In fact, a very wise woman named Heidi Potter (no relation to Harry) who I hear has a lot of horse sense, said that I was absolutely amazing for being able to tolerate my lengthy confinement. She speaks horse, so she knows what she's nickering about. But for me, it's really simple. Since I came to Little Creek, I have been surrounded by people who love me. Even my adorable Pony Crew

pals—some of whom used to ride me for their lessons-- stopped by to say hello and sneak me carrots on Saturday mornings. They all become my herd, and I wouldn't have made it without them. But by this August, Judy and Bobbi decided it was time to try something new.

So it was that on July 18, 2022, I made my pilgrimage to visit Dr. Robin Barrow in Social Circle. My chauffeur, Peggy Berg, drove me in her trailer set up for my comfort and with some treats for the road. Judy and Bobbi, who met us there, were worried that I wouldn't want to go, but let me tell you, after what seemed like forever on stall rest, I loved the idea of getting out and seeing the world again. I was ripe for adventure!



The Burchett Equine Center is a truly special place: verdant green grass as far as my eyes could see and comfy stalls. Dr. Barrow and her team expertly cared for my beleaguered body. I was treated to daily exercise in the safe pastures and accepted the healing tonics that would make me feel so much better than I had in ever so long.

There's a saying that all good things must come to an end, but I don't favor looking at the dark side of life. What about one good thing following another? Judy wondered if I'd ever want to leave the Burchett Center where I was so happy. But we all know there is no place like home. So, on Friday, September 2, when Judy, Peggy and Bobbi returned to bring me back home to my family of friends at Little Creek, I happily boarded the trailer and never looked back.

You could say I'm now living my best life. But I'd have to say that really started when I came to Little Creek. Sure, we had a major bump on the trail. And yes, Dr. Barrow says my days of carrying humans are probably over. But these days I'm only in my stall when my friends are. And to make sure I don't get injured again, I have my pasture pals--the sweet and gentle Erin and Rhapsody. In fact, Rhapsody, a certified therapy horse, constantly escorts me around the pasture to make sure I'm okay. I still have contributions to make to show my love and appreciation to my friends- I may eventually return to being a program horse for Conservancy events like barn tours and something called "meet and greets." I can hardly wait!



Barrows....

At Dr.



So, you see, I am living the equine version of a fairy tale. I was rescued more than once. First by Judy, then by Dr. Barrow. And all my friends –horse and human -- were with me every trot of the way. You all were my guardian angels. And if I have anything to neigh about it, we'll all live happily ever after!

(not) *The End!*

Behind the Barn....Notes from the Conservancy Admin Team

Contributor: Rene Iverson



Photo credits in this article go to [Atlanta School of Photography](#). - Our moving targets help them practice shutter speeds; their dollars and photos help the Park. Truly win-win, and thank you to the school and their students! Here, three residents of LCHF&P model what the most recent LCFC board meeting looked like.

Welcome to the second of LCFC's 2022 newsletters!

Conservancy volunteers have been working on welcoming, entertaining and educating as many folks as we can...and we ended the summer on a high note with two fantastic group workdays. And a visit from the Friends' School!

Special thanks to [Community Bucket](#) & [Emory University](#) students for their help with cleaning, building ditch crossings, general repairs, and spreading gravel on pedestrian walkways. Of course, we returned the favor with horse love. This amazing community shared Riley, Boone, Sprinkles, Goldie and Believe, and the volunteers left filled up and happy. *We hope to see you all again soon - in fact, we will welcome Emory again on November 12th!*

Other LCFC volunteers have been working behind the scenes to refine current programming, and still others are getting creative with fundraising ideas for this fall. As always, LCFC is thankful for the partnership with Dekalb County Parks and the daily operations staff here at LCHF&P. Together we really do accomplish so much!

Current busy-ness:

- Finishing the 2020 Community Access Grant signage - still!
- Construction started on improvements to the 2020 Community Access Grant Visitor Center & outside beautification in early September.
- Received updated electrical requirements for Big A** Fans Dream Project for the Barn and shared with Dekalb County.
- Continuously booking and coordinating birthday parties (2x/ month), Hands on Horses and other special tours.
- **Looking for sponsors** for two pony ride days (see above) AND auction and art events.
- Analyzing maintenance needs for the Audubon area behind the barn, and **looking for a sponsor to help offset costs** - it's looking good in there! Paths and seating are being planned with the help of [Park Pride Dekalb](#) and [Audubon](#).
- Administration for monthly Advisory Group meetings that help keep barn stakeholders on the same page.
- Working on new fundraising ideas
- Coordinating volunteer work days.
- Ongoing database maintenance, social media and website.
- Friends' School barn tour and educational visit.
- Planning future clinics & workshops.

Ongoing programs and their Coordinators (Chairs):

Celebrations: Peggy Berg, with Valerie Morvan

Hands on Horses: Lynn Leonard, with Christy Rosenblatt

Volunteer Days: varies, but Karen Maloney is usually instrumental!

Audubon Area: Bobbi Woolwine

Special Events: varies by event - can YOU help? Let us know!

Recycling: Jennifer McQuiston

Pony Crew Leader: (September-May) Nancy Cornish; Board liaison: Bobbi Woolwine

Membership: Jane Donofrio & Deborah Slatten

Social Media: Laura Neely Lanio, with the tiniest help from Rene Iverson

Fly Predator Program: Nancy Scott

Newsletter: Leslie Hunter

“Hey, humans - thanks to all of the volunteers & donors that run & support these programs!”



BRING ON THE PONY CREW EXPRESS!

Contributor: Leslie Hunter

On any given Saturday, the residents of Little Creek Horse Farm & Park are escorted from their stalls to graze and frolic in their pastures. The barn, however, is far from quiet. From 10:00 a.m. until noon, the busy bees of Pony Crew, a program of the Conservancy, are doing everything from grooming lesson horses to picking out (cleaning) the stalls of horses who are part of Mark's Riding School. There's also time to ride Wally, the training horse ([Equicizer](#)) who neither neighs nor bucks.

Led by Conservancy volunteer Nancy Cornish, Pony Crew is Little Creek's scaled down version of the US Pony Club. What differentiates the "club" from the "crew" is that while many of our Pony Crew members take riding lessons, it isn't required to ride in order to participate. In fact, there is no riding during Pony Crew. An interest in horses and their welfare is all that is needed. Not to mention a willingness to work together and get your boots dirty!

The Fall 22 curriculum includes safety rules, horse nutrition and health care. Participants will also learn how horses communicate with each other and how we communicate with them. We'll also play horse bingo, pin the body part on the horse (using Wally) and celebrate Halloween and National Horse Day.

This season's Pony Crew officially began on September 17, runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and sends us off on our winter holidays on December 17. Participants must be at least seven years of age. **There is still time to attend as spaces allow.** If you have questions, please contact info@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org. The 2023 session will begin on January 7, 2023. In the meantime, happy trails!

School horse Cooper and his new "do," courtesy of Pony Crew!



FEATURED EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

ATLANTA RIDING ACADEMY JUMPS INTO THE FUTURE

Contributor: Leslie Hunter



(Dana in her logo.)

Hunter/jumper enthusiasts of DeKalb County are very fortunate that Atlanta Riding Academy founder, Dana McDaniel, decided to do a “flying change” after earning her degree in economics from the University of Houston. Turns out working in mortgages just didn’t suit the young woman who rode her first horse at the age of six, courtesy of an aunt who owned off-track thoroughbreds. Dana’s first pony was named Lickety Split, leading her to win lots of ribbons and eventually making her passion, her profession.

Dana and her first training horses, Ink and Vic, have been integral parts of Little Creek ever since DeKalb County took over the property in 2005. A member of the Certified Horsemanship Association, Dana also studied equine administration at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri.

Dana’s greatest challenge is that her program has had a waiting list for many years, which is no surprise. Her curriculum is solid and her students don’t leave—a testament to her skill as an instructor, but a frustration to those anxious to train with her. The pandemic lockdown was an added challenge, but it turns out it came with that all-important silver lining. Time away from the barn gave Dana the opportunity to evaluate her offerings. This summer, in addition to her regular hunt/seat classes, Dana added Mounted Games, a four-week introductory program for public school children. Participating in Mounted Games doesn’t guarantee a place as a riding student, but it does give junior equestrians-in-training a fun place to start.



Ink and Vic

A long-time goal of Dana’s has been to offer a scholarship to a DeKalb County student willing to prioritize riding over other activities for a coveted spot in her program. *The Little Creek News* will feature an announcement about the scholarship when details have been finalized. You can also check out www.AtlantaRiding.com for additional information about Dana’s training program and email her at dana@atlantariding.com.

Heidi Potter Clinic 2022

Contributors: Nancy Scott & Bobbi Woolwine

In April of this year, LCFC sponsored the four-day Heidi Potter Clinic Series.

Heidi Potter is an internationally known and respected trainer, clinician, instructor, and author, sharing over 50 years of horse experience. She is a Centered Riding© clinician and protege of Sally Swift, a senior Horse Speak® instructor, a Holistic Horsemanship trainer, and a Certified Horsemanship Association master instructor/certifier.

Clinic Recap:

Clinic days 1-3 were attended by six-eight human participants and horses, plus 20-25 auditors. Each day started with “classroom” instruction blended with hands-on, interactive lessons. Day 4 was reserved for private Centered Riding lessons. That afternoon, Heidi donated several hours working with Stride Ahead volunteers to improve their horse-handling skills.

Clinic Topics:

Day 1: An Introduction to Horse Speak®: how to listen to what horses are saying and how to respond in a way that they can understand.

Day 2: Obstacle Play: A means to deepen our understanding of horses, their behaviors, and how humans affect them.

Day 3: Centered Riding Lessons: A method developed by Sally Swift to help riders become more comfortable, confident, effective, and better balanced in the saddle.



Scout and Heidi

Feedback:

According to feedback via the Post Clinic Survey, the attendees found the clinic informative and enjoyable. Below are a few comments from attendees:

- “I loved getting new tools to help improve my communication and riding skills.”
- “Skillful, clear, and organized presentation of material. Heidi is generous in sharing her knowledge and experience.”
- “Heidi was clear, articulate, and caring as she taught us the nuances of Horse speak and Centered Riding. What I like most, now, is the after-effect on me and my horse... Both of us are more relaxed, happy, and willing to listen to each other.”
- "Even as an auditor without a horse to work with, I learned so much that will enhance my equine experiences. The horses I work with through Stride Ahead and the one I ride are indebted to her -- as am I!"

A Heidi Potter Clinic is in the planning process for April 2023. Stay tuned for more details!

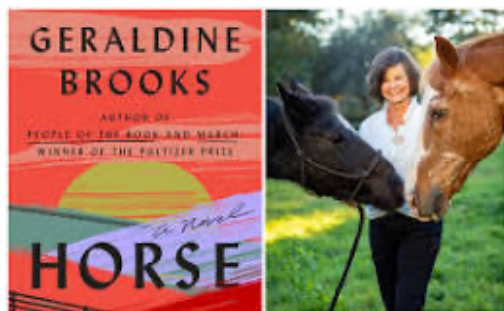
BOOK STALL

Contributor: Leslie Hunter

For anyone who loves to read or be read to, each issue of *The Little Creek Times* will feature recommendations on books of note, both classic and hot off the press – and everywhere in between. Full reviews can be found online – these are just my musings as someone new to the world of horses. Enjoy!

Horse

By Geraldine Brooks (2022)



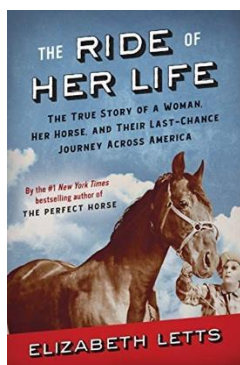
First there are the locations and time periods: Antebellum plantations in Lexington, Kentucky and New Orleans, Louisiana; a mid-20th century art gallery in New York City; and present-day Washington, DC. Then we have the cast of characters: an osteologist employed by the Smithsonian; an art history graduate student working on his thesis at Georgetown; an artist who painted the same horse twice; and the very heart of the story, a groom devoted to one very special horse. That horse was Lexington. All of these places and players make up the historical novel *Horse*, written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks.

Like beloved horse storyteller Marguerite Henry, Ms. Brooks tells the tale of an actual horse, but uses her imagination to make it more of a story than a list of statistics. Not that Lexington's life was dull. Spoilers are no fun for the reader, so I won't give too much away. Let's just say that for his era, Lexington was probably as talented and famous as Secretariat.

This was an exciting book to read as the story volleyed back and forth in time and changed point of view to the different characters. It truly moves like a great race. You won't want to take your eyes away until you reach the finish!

The Ride of Her Life

By Elizabeth Letts (2021)



Who doesn't love a road trip? Whether captured in a book or movie or lived in real life, road trips may be one of the few times in life when the participants direct the action, yet face surprises and adventures that often change their lives. So was the experience of Annie Wilkins, the subject of *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts. With the same heart and sense of history she deftly provided in *The Perfect Horse* and

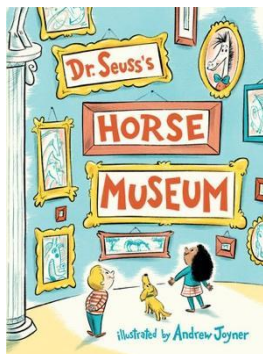
The Eighty Dollar Champion, Ms. Letts tells the very unlikely true story of Annie, the self-proclaimed “last of the saddle tramps,” and her courageous trip from Maine to California.

It was 1954 and Annie’s life at age 63 was going nowhere very quickly. Lacking funds, in poor health, and with no job and no prospects, Annie threw caution to the wind and with pretty much nothing to lose, decided to fulfill her dream of seeing the Pacific Ocean before it was too late. But without access to an automobile, her only possible transportation had four legs rather than four-wheel drive: a horse she knew little about other than his name – Tarzan – and that she could afford him because nobody else wanted him.

Annie was also accompanied by her faithful canine companion, Depeche Toi, and the trio was eventually joined by Tennessee Walking Horse, Rex. Much like ***The Eighty Dollar Champion***, ***The Ride of Her Life*** is full of ups and downs, (including a spill or two off a horse), happy surprises and tragic partings, a trip through our country’s history and one woman’s soulful journey. Emotional, exciting and truly inspiring, I feel like I took it with Annie. Now it’s your turn!

Dr. Seuss’s Horse Museum

Illustrated by Andrew Joyner (2019)

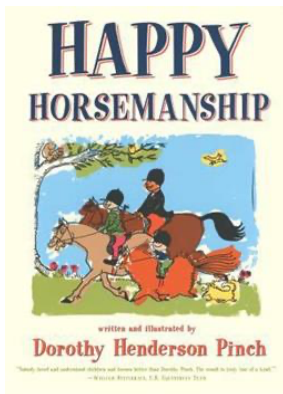


You’re probably wondering how a book by Dr. Seuss could have been published in 2019 when this genius of childhood literature went to the last place he would go in 1991. The answer is that through the persistence of his widow, Audrey Geisel, an incomplete manuscript was found in her husband’s studio. But there’s even more to the story, which you will learn if you explore this very *Seussical* book.

Illustrated by children’s book author and illustrator Andrew Joyner, this tour of a museum is devoted exclusively to horses! And the best news for the museum fancier is that all of the featured art comes from the hearts and hands of real artists: painters, photographers and sculptors. From Georges Seurat and Edouard Manet to Edvard Munch and Pablo Picasso, the art is rich in history and style. For a sample, check out our [Culture Corral](#). Andrew Joyner doesn’t make any attempt to copy the beloved drawings of Dr. Seuss, but his whimsical style instead pays homage to the master. All in all, this book not only gives us an unexpected offering from the creative mind of Ted Geisel, it provides an enjoyable tour through the combined worlds of art and equines.

Happy Horsemanship

Written and illustrated by Dorothy Henderson Pinch (1966)



Is there someone you know thinking about taking riding lessons? If the answer is *giddy-yes*, then there's a book that's perfect for anyone new to the equine experience. Recommended by our very own instructor, Mark Jaglarz, ***Happy Horsemanship*** is both educational and entertaining. Chock full of detailed information on tack, trotting, grooming and galloping – and everything in between--this classic guide to responsible horsemanship is told from the point of view of the horse so it encourages empathy on the part of riders. (We are sitting on the horse's back after all!) Also included are whimsical drawings by the late author, Dorothy Henderson Punch. Though written for children, ***Happy Horsemanship*** will make happy riders of people of all ages!

CULTURE CORRAL

Courtesy of Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum (2019)



***The Derby at Epsom, Théodore Géricault
Olivares,***



***Gaspar de Guzmán, Count-Duke of
Diego Velázquez***



***At the Races,
Edouard Manet***



The Harnessed Horse Georges Seurat



*Blue Horse I,
Franz Marc*



Untitled, Deborah Butterfield

The Fine Print



Little Creek Farm Conservancy is a 501c3 non-profit, 100% volunteer-run organization which supports the Park with programming to bring the public in safely, and fundraising for special projects. Please visit our website: www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org for complete information. We have special ways to visit and volunteer opportunities available, as well as memberships that support our mission to be stewards of this special place.

The Little Creek Times is a publication of Little Creek Farm Conservancy.

Please send submissions, corrections and questions to:

leslieruthhunter@gmail.com or president@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

The Last Words

“No one can teach riding so well as a horse.” C.S. Lewis



Happy holidays from The Little Creek Times.

See you in 2023!