



Volume 19 Issue 2



February 2016

OVER HERD

The Sanctuary



Jan. 1991 –Old barn



Old barn repaired



Barn # 1 finished 2005



Barn #2 finished 2007

HPS has been blessed since we started as a nonprofit in January 1999. I delayed filing the paperwork for a year since I knew my life would never be the same once the sanctuary opened. Free time would disappear; long hours each day would be the 'new normal' and there would be no such thing as disposable income. I knew exactly what was ahead, but most importantly I knew the benefits for the horses that were so in need. I had been involved in equine rescue for 10 years and knew that things were not improving for the horses I so love. The abuse, starvation and unwanted horses treatment was going to continue! The horses needed a permanent sanctuary; with the goal being a safe place that would continue beyond my life expectancy.

Many of you don't know about our humble beginnings and the old buildings we started with. Any existing building had their roofs extended and stalls added; all constructed by the volunteers... mostly gals. Almost all of the materials were salvaged from other buildings that we heard about that were due to be demolished. Stall doors were constructed from old pallets. Metal roofing was salvaged anywhere it could be found, patched with roofing tar and in two cases painted with aluminum paint on buildings we were going to keep. It did not make any sense to put money into buildings that I knew would one day be demolished.

I could picture the property and all of the buildings that were needed for the horses. (Patience has never been my strong point.) Finally at the end of 2004 I announced at an officers' meeting that in the coming year we were going to build our first new barn. I had done all my homework and had a plan.

Some of you helped with the building of what we have today and are still contributors. There are still volunteers and donors who trudged through the mud to feed the horses when we only had the old buildings. The lights would go out in the old barn on cold nights, and dealing with a sick horse was very difficult. The floor was compacted dirt... really fun to clean! The horses did amazingly well even though their stables were not the best.

(Continued on Page 4)

Placing Horses

The average horse in the United States lives to be 25 years old. In the past we have had so many horses live over 40 years that we can't remember all of them. I think this is going to be more difficult in the future due to all of the GMO products in the horses feed now. This includes beet pulp, corn, soy beans, and now more and more alfalfa is GMO. The World Health Organization has warned of GMO's connection to cancer, and there are other health issues connected to GMO crops.

At the present time 11% of our horses are in their thirties. Once a horse reaches 30 years old, HPS does not place that horse in a new home. They will live out their life at the sanctuary. Approximately 18% of the horses are between 25 to 29 years old. It is a rare person that is interested in a horse in this age bracket, even though the horse may have many good years left. Then we have another 18% of the horses that are between 20 to 24 years old. Over half of our horses are under a year old to 19 years old and 45% of the total numbers of horses are either Pasture Pals, too old, have health issues that can't be cured, or need more training like Black Velvet, Chiclet and Chuckles.

During the cold winter months we receive almost no inquires for horses. Experienced horse owners are well aware of the additional cost of another horse over the winter months, so the rare inquiry is from first time horse owners. Talking with them it soon becomes apparent that they don't know anything about feeding or caring for horses. I always offer them the chance to come to the sanctuary and help with the horses until they have learned what they need to know to correctly care for horses, all the work, and the costs. Surprisingly, seldom do they take us up on the offer. Often these folks don't know how to ride and I suggest they take riding lessons first. The extreme hay shortage and high cost of hay has not helped the placement of horses either.

When horses have been starved during their growing ages or started under saddle too young, they will not develop to their full potential and the growth plates will close early. (For example, Chuckles is growing taller, but Chiclet is not. There is not much possibility that either one will reach their full height.) Horses can only carry weight based upon their age, leg size, conformation, and weight. How well the person rides also has to be considered. All of this has to be taken into consideration. As people grow taller and heavier, there are fewer and fewer horses that can carry their weight.

In the past good folks that think they would like to have horses but don't have the experience, will come to us and volunteer. After they have learned about horse care and gained experience, they are ready and will provide a good quality home.

ANGEL SPONSOR

By making a monthly donation, you can help to support one of the horses that live a peaceful life at the HPS sanctuary. As an equine Angel Sponsor you will receive a photo, our monthly newsletter and receive periodic updates about your horse. You can visit your special horse on Saturdays between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.! Go to our web site www.horseprotection.org to choose a horse, read their story and see their picture. For questions or to visit call: 704-855-2978.

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HPS is a federal approved 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization and your donations are deductible under the tax laws.

Honors and Memorials

In memory of my amazing friend and 'sister', Susan Hanson by Stephanie Mills
In honor of Steve and Mary Lou Kicinske. By Mary Trost
In honor of my mother, Betty Lentz. By Kim Clark
In honor of Joanie and the volunteers. By Alice Biscoff
In memory of Debbie Wilson. By Keith & Julie Wilson
In memory of gentle Snickers, beloved companion of Angel. By Roberta
Kim Clark has been honored by Betty Lentz.
Harry and Marilyn Swimmer have been honored by Diane and John Kibler
In memory of Robert H. Davis (Bob). By Linda K. Davis
Happy Birthday - Jan. 24th, to my wife Betty. By Floyd Lentz
In memory of Nugget and Smokey. By Missy Anderson
In honor of Floyd. By Betty Lentz



A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors

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Address Correction Requested

The Sanctuary (cont. from Page 1)

This is the third drought and hay shortage we have had, and we could not have dealt with this, without your help. Some of you started helping the rescues in 2007 when we had to bring hay here from upper New York State. This year we have 90 new contributors and we pray that each of you will continue to care about the rescues and contribute to their care.

Your investment in the Horse Protection Society has paid off! We are still here doing the best for the rescued horses after all these years.

One of my favorite things is when a past volunteer who was here with all the old buildings, is back in town for a visit. They get out of their car and their mouth opens in surprise at all the changes. Some have followed us via the newsletter and our website, but still did not realize how much things have changed and the impact it makes when you see everything in person. We invite you to come and see what you have helped to create for the rescues. Any Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm is open for visiting. (Wear boots, we are in the mud season.)

HPS can always use more volunteers to help. If you like to garden, the flower beds are a mess and need help. There are always jobs that need to be done that do not entail working directly with the horses. We can use office help and running errands. Any help is always appreciated!



Covered Hay Feeder 2007



4- 2 stall barns 2008



Training arena 2011