

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! April Showers 2009

Dear Friends,

Okay, so what's with "April Showers"? Yes, we need more rain, but the Access Adventure showers are to celebrate the birth of two new Stonewall Sporthorse foals due in the next few weeks. Their mothers are Fanny (Stonewall Fantasia), with foal sired by Apollo and Barclay's Dark Eyes. If you would like to join in the celebration please email info@access-adventure.org and we will send you the details.

Volunteers

Access Adventure is staffed entirely by volunteers and depends on them for every facet of our program, whether it is horse care or program administration. This month we welcome new volunteers, James Clark, Steve Neal, Steve Patterson and Jamie Ramirez. They are already hard at work at the ranch and with the horses. At the last volunteer meeting New Volunteer packets were passed out to familiarize volunteers with the organization and the services we provide. As volunteer training proceeds new volunteers will be provided with a mentor to guide them. Protocols for the various responsibilities have been developed and volunteers are being "certified" so they can work as drivers, harness and head the horses and assist riders onto the carriages at our events.

The people of Access Adventure are a very diverse group. We are united by a love of nature, affection for horses and a commitment to enrich the lives of people with disabilities and underserved youth. Our services are provided to people of all ages living with mobility challenges. We only have one requirement: a spirit of adventure and a desire to have fun! We need you! If you are interested in volunteering we have attached volunteer forms and the April-May Volunteer Calendar.

Dallas Boardman Memorial

The volunteers and supporters of Access Adventure were deeply saddened by news of the death of Dallas Boardman, father of volunteer Robert Boardman. We remember Mr. Boardman fondly. The family has been instilled with the importance of community service, which are reflected in his son Robert, and daughter-in-law Randie, highly valued volunteers. The Boardman family requested that in lieu of flowers his friends send a donation to Access Adventure. The response has been significant and to the Boardman family and donors we send our heartfelt thanks. The donations will be used to continue our work of providing access to nature to enrich the lives of everyone.

We have not properly recognized two other benefactors, Deena Kirby of All Seasons Carriage Company in Lodi and Ruth Benton, Fairfield. Both Deena and Ruth have included the land trust and our program in their wills. To know that they value the Solano Land Trust and Access Adventure enough to name us as beneficiaries is an appreciated endorsement for our program.

Here's how you can help

The program relies solely on the voluntary support of private individuals, businesses, community associations and foundations. A program of the Solano Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization located in Fairfield, CA, we do not receive funding from the Land Trust. Their support is given as in-kind services and facilities.

- Send a donation to Solano Land Trust, Access Adventure PO Box 2852, Fairfield, CA 94533
- Make a Monthly or Annual Pledge of support to Access Adventure. Email info@access-adventure for more information.
- Become a Sponsor for our annual “Celebrate Adventure” fundraising event October 10, 2009
- Participate in the “Celebrate Adventure!” Walk with Rock fundraiser
- Support Access Adventure by booking an event for special occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, weddings (donations accepted)
- Include Access Adventure in your Will or other Estate Planning Tool
- Donate your time – be a Volunteer

Wildflower Wingding

“March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb” according to folklore, and following March comes April showers. Apparently March decided to stay on for the first few days of April. No showers at the Wingding, but for a couple of days the volunteers and guests shivered as a cold front brought strong winds and cold nights. Tents tried to escape their moorings but none were lost. The solution was to circle the vehicles as was done in pioneer days to provide a wind break and keep our campfire burning. It worked!

Nothing deterred our stalwart group and we explored the beautiful countryside by carriage and on foot. Ruby, Reba and Stuart Schroeder’s Betsy were tireless workers always eager to hit the trail each morning. We were amazed to find that the fires in the Los Padres Forest last year had come over the mountains to the area where we celebrate the arrival of the wildflowers each spring. In some sections the fire had reached the road that meanders through the beautiful meadows and oak woodlands near our favorite spot below the massive rock outcroppings.

The morning of April 4 brought warm temperatures and a perfect day for the Mission Days event. We loaded the carriage in front of the Mission and toured the historic relics and displays which delighted our riders, especially those who could not have walked the route. The horses and trolley carried 177 Mission Days guests. Quite a day for all! At the end of the event the team was still fresh and eager to roll, so the volunteers and our guests climbed aboard and continued exploring.

“Celebrate Adventure!” the Walk with Rock

On Saturday, October 10th, our second annual fundraising walkathon event will be held at the Rush Ranch, led by the gentle giant Rock, the largest Percheron draft horse in North America. Access Adventure is seeking corporate sponsorship to underwrite this annual event, as well as teams of participants to join the 2.5 mile walk. Your support will establish your company’s reputation as committed to caring for the needs of the disabled and our many youth programs.

Please consider a generous contribution to help fund the important work of Access Adventure. Give wings to the dreams of people living with the challenges of disability. Enrich the lives of children with Nature’s gifts. Call today to schedule an appointment with Access Adventure to find out how you can help. For more information please contact us (info@access-adventure.org) 707-432-0152.

Montezuma Hills Ranch

A horse loves freedom, and the weariest old work horse will roll on the ground or break into a lumbering gallop when he is turned loose into the open. ~Gerald Rafferty

Al Medvitz and Jeanne McCormack have provided pasture “heaven” for our horses this winter and spring. The horses have thrived on the abundant grass and the opportunity to roam the hills of the ranch. All of the horses who are staying in Rio Vista have benefitted, especially the two mares due to foal soon. Those of us who have watched Fanny grow up are amazed at what a beautiful mare she has become and are looking forward to meeting her first foal.

In addition to thanking Al and Jeanne, we are grateful to our volunteers who check the herd daily, have sloshed through mud, hiked and climbed the hills making sure all is well and giving the horses the special attention they deserve. These hardy volunteers, Brenda, Cathy, Dennis, Jim, Michael and Randie are making it possible for the horses to have a well-earned holiday at Montezuma Hills Ranch.

On the Move

All of the horses under our care will be temporarily relocated either to Rio Vista or Vacaville. We are fortunate to have the use of another property during the breeding season. The Vacaville stable owned by Bill and Roxie Calderwood was available and is a perfect honeymoon hotel for Apollo and his brides. John Eisenbart of Royal Knight Friesians has arrived from Kansas to assist in the breeding, bringing with him Stonewall Starlight, his Friesian stallion Torben and pony Snickers. The pastures and paddocks at Rush Ranch will be made ready to welcome guests at the Open House on April 25. Some of the horses will return to the ranch for the Open House, and we will be driving the carriages for guests.

Barn is Lookin' Good!

Ray Joe and his crew (Madden Construction) have been hard at work to get the stallion barn ready for the Rush Ranch Open House on April 25. It is taking shape and we can see progress every day. Volunteers Pam Seifert and her husband Steve Harvey are finalizing the plans and construction details for the wheelchair accessible ramp and hitch rail so all will be in place once the barn has been completed.

Equine Facilitated Therapy Update

The EFT committee has been busy making contacts with the military, the VA and local equestrian groups. The response to Access Adventure providing the various therapies has been very positive. We are working to determine where patients needing the therapies are located and how we can serve them. Various facilities, in addition to Rush Ranch, have been visited, especially those with covered arenas so we can operate year round. Training is underway for volunteers and horses, under the direction of our Physical Therapist, Tineke Jacobsen. We are excited about offering these services to the community. If you are interested in volunteering for the program, or know someone who could benefit from Equine Facilitated Therapy, please contact our office, 707-432-0152 or email info@access-adventure.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! Events

John Muir Earthday/Birthday, Martinez, April 18
Dixon May Fair, Program for Special Needs Kids, May 8
4-H Club Event, May 22
Riding the Rails, Lassen County, June 17-21
Redwood Rendezvous, Humboldt County, July 22-26
Memories of Muir, September 13-19
“Celebrate Adventure!” the Walk with Rock, & Horse Fair, Rush Ranch, October 10

Rush Ranch

Rush Ranch Open House, April 25
Golden Hills Youth Group, Thursday, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28
Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program (BORP), Thursday, April 23 and May 14
Rush Ranch "Get Dirty" Work Day, Saturday, May 2
RREC School Group, Access Adventure providing rides, April 14
4-H, Carriage Rides, Blacksmithing Demonstrations April 18, May 16

Lynch Canyon

Lynch Canyon Anniversary Weekend, driving May 9

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of Access Adventure

PO Box 2852

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Attachments: Volunteer Sign-up forms and calendar; Apollo, Stonewall Sport Horse and AA brochures, introducing our Drivers