

ACCESS ADVENTURE December Delights 2009

“If your horse says no, you either asked the wrong question, or asked the question wrong.” –Pat Parelli-

Mobility determines every aspect of our lives. Imagine what your day would be like if you had to depend on a wheelchair, walker or cane for that mobility. What if you had once been able to walk without assistance, then your life was tragically changed and now your mobility is challenged. You can no longer depend on your body. You must have the aid of equipment. Perhaps you were born with a disability and have never known the simple freedom of taking a walk.

Did you know that more than 15 % of our population is considered disabled? Think what it would mean to live with the boundaries of your life defined by a wheelchair. Imagine the challenges faced by parents raising a child with special needs. Consider the loneliness of a life lived indoors, shut off from the power of nature.

These underserved members of our community need and deserve outdoor recreation, open space access, as well as therapeutic and educational opportunities relating to nature. Access Adventure is a unique program meeting these needs through an extraordinary partnership with horses. A program of the Solano Land Trust, our headquarters is the historic 2,070-acre Rush Ranch on Grizzly Island Road , near Fairfield/Suisun.

Please help to support our mission, enriching the lives of people with disabilities and other worthy members of our community. Consider William, who has been with Access Adventure since our beginning. Living with a life-threatening illness, he was not expected to see his fifteenth birthday. Now twenty-one, William assists in training and driving our horses, and helps others to enjoy and benefit from our life-changing work. Access Adventure has been a powerful and positive influence in William's life. His example serves to inspire all of us. For photos of William click on http://challenginglimits.smugmug.com/Youth-Events/2008/William/10433086_Np3Ki#723324420_GkcPb

Access Adventure has grown since 2006 to reach and serve thousands of people throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. We continue to offer our services with an all volunteer staff, depending on donations to fund our work. We are now providing therapeutic driving classes at the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy. Supporting us now will help us

provide services to more people in 2010, despite the challenges of today's economy.

Your sponsorship, donation, membership or participation as a volunteer will enable Access Adventure to sustain and expand the needed services that we provide in our community. We cannot exist without your support. With your help, we can continue our exciting and inspirational work. On behalf of the volunteers of Access Adventure, I am sending warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Michael Muir, Director

Here's how you can help

- Donate by sending your check to:
Access Adventure
P.O. Box 2852
Fairfield , CA 94533
- Include Access Adventure in your Planned Giving, Will or Trust
- Become an Access Adventure Member (see attached Membership Brochure)
- Sponsor a horse (see attached Horse Sponsorship Brochure)
- Participate in our annual fundraising events
- Support Access Adventure by booking us for your special event
- Donate your time – become a Volunteer

Extraordinary Donor Opportunity !

By special arrangement with Florentine Films, *ACCESS ADVENTURE* offers the DVD of "Our National Parks, America's Best Idea", personally autographed by producer Ken Burns.

The influence John Muir had on the world is portrayed in this epic film. His vision and determination to make the natural world accessible to everyone, is carried on by his great-grandson, Michael, Founder and Director of *ACCESS ADVENTURE*. We are offering this autographed copy of the series DVD to the donor of the next \$1,000 received.

Volunteer Spotlight

In any organization there are always some who stand out and carry more than their share of responsibilities. In the Fall/Winter 2006 Newsletter we saluted Robert Boardman. This time the Spotlight is on his wife, Randie

Boardman. Randie stated in her biography that she is “very excited to be a part of this growing program in its early stages to see it grow – like watching a child grow up.” Not only has Randie watched the program grow, she has been instrumental in making Access Adventure an organization that is fulfilling its mission. She assumed ranch management responsibilities and all that is entailed in caring for our horses and the facilities. It is Randie who makes certain our events are staffed by qualified volunteers. Both she and Robert have been eager students, and are now Qualified Drivers for the program. Randie loves to train the horses and teams up with Susan Hassett in Combined Driving competitions. She welcomes every opportunity to ride and has honed her skills on the backs of many of our horses. All this she does in her “spare time” while continuing to work as a local realtor, wife and mother. Our hats are off to you, Randie Boardman. We couldn’t do this work without you!

COMING IN JANUARY

The year 2010 will see a change in the way we communicate with you. Access Adventure has signed on with “Vertical Response”, what they term a email delivery service. We have been frustrated by using regular email, the need to attach documents and ask you to view our album in order to see photos. It will be an entirely new look and we are excited about the possibilities it offers. If you no longer wish to receive our monthly Email Updates, please let us know via this email address. You are important to Access Adventure, we hope we are important to you!

SAVE THE ACCESS ADVENTURE DATES!

Our official season ended in October, but we will be busy until our 2010 season begins in April. New volunteers will be welcomed and trained, horses will be worked according to a regular schedule and ranch maintenance and building projects will continue.

- 12/1 Monday 6:30PM: Christmas Tree Lighting, Vacaville
- 12/2 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group, Rush Ranch
- 12/2 Wednesday: NCEFT Therapeutic Driving Classes, Woodside
- 12/3 Thursday, 4:00PM: Christmas Tree Lighting, Dixon
- 12/3 Thursday, 6:00PM: Christmas Tree Lighting, Davis
- 12/4 Friday, 5:30 PM: Christmas Tree Lightings, Woodland ; 6PM Fairfield

- 12/5 Saturday, 9:00AM: Staff Meeting - review the year/ plan for future, Rush Ranch
- 12/5 Saturday, Get Dirty Work Day, Rush Ranch
- 12/5 Saturday, 1:00PM and 5:00 PM: Christmas Tree Lighting, Suisun
- 12/9 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group, Rush Ranch
- 12/9 Wednesday: NCEFT Therapeutic Driving Classes, Woodside
- 12/12 Saturday, 9:00AM: Staff Meeting–review the year/ plan for future, Rush Ranch
- 12/16 Wednesday, 9:30AM: Golden Hills Youth Group, Rush Ranch
- 12/19 Saturday, 9AM: Staff Meeting, Carriage Rides, Blacksmithing, Rush Ranch
- 12/19 Saturday, 6-10PM Holiday Party, Walnut Creek
- 12/20 Sunday, Holiday Carriage Parade, Woodside
- 12/28 Saturday, 9AM: Staff Meeting – review the year/plan for future, Rush Ranch

For a more detailed Special Events Calendar see

www.access-adventure.org/calendar.html

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of ACCESS ADVENTURE

P. O. Box 2852

Fairfield, CA 94533

info@access-adventure.org

707-432-0152

www.access-adventure.org

Attachments: Membership, Donation, Horse Sponsorship brochures