

## **ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! Fabulous February 2009**

Dear Friends,

The scene is surreal, a misty morning at Rush Ranch, in the hours before the sun has burned off the fog. Rushing out of the mist are three magnificent forms, dark with serpentine necks. First impression is that these are the mythical creatures of the Lochs arising from the marsh. As they approach, the vision is not of sea creatures, but of the new arrivals at the ranch, Apollo, Mercury and Joaquim, Friesian horses of great beauty, style and presence. The stallion, Apollo, is returning home after training with the renowned Olympic dressage rider and trainer, Willy Arts, and will begin his breeding career in California, while continuing his driving training. Our ultimate goal is to reach the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010. Apollo's companions are two imported Dutch Friesian geldings donated by Pietje van Exel. Pietje's late husband, Adam, was the force behind the famous van Exel Belgian hitch of the 1990's.

### **ANYWHERE WILD!**

Anywhere Wild!, makes wild places accessible to people with disabilities in a new way by inviting campers with mobility issues to join us. The Wildflower Wingding at Ft. Hunter Liggett/Los Padres Forest will be held April 1-5<sup>th</sup>. Horses and carriages will arrive late afternoon on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and our first meal will be served that evening. Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> we will be providing rides at the San Antonio de Padua Mission for the local visitors. After breakfast on Sunday we will head home. This venue offers both camping, and lodging at the historic Hacienda designed by Julia Morgan.

We invite you to join us and experience the beauty of the wildflowers as we drive through Fort Hunter Liggett and the Los Padres Forest, once the vast estate of William Randolph Hearst. We will explore the beautiful oak woodlands beneath towering rock formations and enjoy seeing Old California at its best. To defray our costs, we will be asking campers to pay a reasonable fee, with "scholarships" available. All meals will be provided, electricity is readily available and the facilities are wheelchair accessible. In the meantime, photos of our previous trips are available on SmugMug – follow the Photos link from the website for a preview of this adventure. Please contact us at [info@access-adventure.org](mailto:info@access-adventure.org) and we will provide you with the pertinent information.

### **HIPPOTHERAPY**

A committee has been formed to investigate and develop a program of Hippotherapy to be offered to veterans who have returned from the wars suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and others with neurological problems who can benefit from this unique therapy.

Hippotherapy sessions are provided by a licensed Physical Therapist, and utilize the movement of the horse to achieve functional outcomes. The three dimensional movement of the horse affects normalization of muscle tone, postural strength and head control, overall strength of the upper and lower extremities, range of motion, balance, coordination, motor skills, sensory integration, etc. Riding skills are not a focus. Functional outcomes that are applicable to the improvement of a patient's life are the focus.

Access Adventure is uniquely suited for this program, as we are already committed to serving the needs of people with disabilities, of all types. If you are interested in volunteering for the program, or know of someone who could benefit from hippotherapy, please contact our office, 707-432-0152 or email [info@access-adventure.org](mailto:info@access-adventure.org).

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Access Adventure's Articles of Incorporation have been approved by the Secretary of State and our own independent 501(c)(3) status as a public service charitable educational organization is in process. An Advisory Board is being formed to guide us as our organization grows. We are targeting fifteen people to assume this responsibility in the fields of medicine, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, disabled rights, outdoor recreation for people with disabilities, outreach to underserved youth, law, therapeutic driving and riding, special education, environmental education, volunteer management, grant writing and philanthropy.

### SAVE THE DATES!

Join us! Book an event or presentation with your group. We look forward to seeing you at Rush Ranch, at our events, or Anywhere Wild! trips. If you know of people who would benefit from our services, please refer them to our website, email [info@access-adventure.org](mailto:info@access-adventure.org), or call 707-432-0152.

#### Anywhere Wild! Events

Updated information \*

\* Corning Wagontrain, March 14-15 (rain date March 28-29)

Wildflower Wingding, Monterey County, April 1-5

John Muir Earthday/Birthday, Martinez, April 18

\* Rush Ranch Days and Open House, April 25

Riding the Rails, Lassen County, June 17-21

\* Redwood Rendezvous, Humboldt County, July 22-26

\* "Celebrate Adventure!", Walk with Rock, and the Horse Fair, October 10

#### Rush Ranch Events

Golden Hills Youth Group, Thursday, February 5, 12, 19, 26

Youth Work Day/Volunteer Training, Saturday, February 9

Access Adventure Staff Meeting, Volunteer Training, February 14, 21, 28

Carriage Rides, 4-H, Blacksmithing Demonstrations February 21

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Golden Hills Youth Group, Thursday, March 5, 12, 19, 27

Youth Work Day/Volunteer Training, Saturday, March 7

Access Adventure Staff Meeting, Volunteer Training, March 7, 14, 21, 28

Carriage Rides, 4-H, Blacksmithing Demonstrations, March 21

#### *Michael Muir and the Volunteers of Access Adventure*

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Attached: 2009 Calendar  
Access Adventure Brochure  
Apollo Brochure  
Stonewall Sporthorse Brochure