



Earth Day

Earth Day celebrations should be every day not just Sunday April 22nd. If we don't respect the earth and the living creatures that give us life then how do we expect to live on this earth? Most of us that are Baby Boomers were raised by what was known as the Greatest Generation. They survived the depression and World War II. Anything thrown out of a car window was followed by screeching brakes and it was expected that the offending person go find what they threw out and find a way to dispose of it properly.

Folks grew beautiful vegetable gardens, did canning, and freezing, hung clothes outside, bought bushels of potatoes, peaches, apples and other farm products directly from the farmers. We would go and pick out a free ranging turkey and then come pick it up the next day for a coming holiday dinner. We were taught to not be wasteful, be conservative and have a work ethic. We were taught to identify different trees, flowers, other plants, and from bugs to animals in the wild. If people can't identify things in nature, how are they going to care about them?

We would all be wise to grow as much food as possible since so much is now GMO (**genetically modified organisms**) and sprayed with horrible toxic chemicals that get taken up into what we eat. Gardening has so changed from my father's garden. Today permaculture makes so much more sense, with no till, natural fertilizer, like composting, composted animal manure and mulching. (We did have a compost pile and so did other people in the neighborhood.) Heirloom seeds will grow the same year after year if you collect the seeds.

There are things today that have changed for the better. We can recycle many items like paper and plastic items. Food Lion has collection bins for so many other things out in front of their store. Our volunteers add the plastic items to their recycling bins at their homes since we don't have a collection for the items here. The collected paper can be recycled in China Grove.

Who are these people that throw out trash along the front of the sanctuary? It is disgusting! God has got to be upset about people trashing and poisoning His beautiful land and not loving it and all that live on it. Each of us can do something to help our world every day. What a wonderful way to honor Easter than by starting a recycling plan and start planning your garden. Get rid of any toxic chemicals you may have been using that hurts the earth and the things that are killing off the bees. The Internet is great for teaching how to use harmless things to solve any issue you may have.



Chicopee , Rain and Chuckles playing in the pond.. We are looking for cattails to help keep the pond cleaner.

What Upsets Your Horse?

It is so important to have good barn help, and we are so thankful for the wonderful help we have at the sanctuary. That has not always been the case. The wrong person can upset the horses and have them stressed most of the time. Gentle, soft-spoken, caring folks who understand what affects the horses is what keeps the stress down in the herd.

Lately the wind has been gale force here and it upsets the horses. They lose their sense of smell when there is wind; the dust hurts their eyes and their nose and interferes with their hearing. We have had an excessive amount of hard driving rain along with the wind. The noise from the rain and wind also interferes with the horses hearing. Add thunder and lightning to the weather and it just makes it worse. Several days of this type of weather will make the horses cranky. It is not only the losing of the horses' senses; it is the lack of sleep.

Horses are like three year old children that have not had enough sleep. The sweet little people become monsters picking on each other. The lack of sleep will cause the horses to not have any patience, and be irritable over the tiniest little thing.

If this is a day you had planned to work with your horse, and there has been bad weather, you may want to rethink this and go for your horse's favorite things instead. (I hope you know what your horse's favorite things are.)

- One horse loved to be sprayed with the hose. She would grab it out of your hand and spray you if you weren't spraying her.
- There have been horses that loved to go for a walk off property on a long line.
- Play with them in the open field by running and playing chase or hide and seek in the woods.
- One horse loved to pull a towel out of my back pocket when I was cleaning his hooves. Before this game the horse wanted to kick out or bite. I would chase the horse pretending to try and get the towel.
- One of our volunteers was seen standing in the stall with his favorite horse with both looking out the window. The person was leaning on the edge of the window softly talking to the horse.

These quiet moments with your horse are so important in building a relationship. One day when you are quiet, you may hear the horse talk to you.



Bandolero and
Chiclet



Prairie

Chiropractic Care and Dental Care

Chiropractic care is so important for each horse that is going to go under saddle. It doesn't take much for a horse to put their back out of place or dislocate their withers or neck. All horses that are underweight are dislocated somewhere on their body. Red Sky was in extreme pain and hurt all over. The first chiropractic visit helped, but she needs several more adjustments before she will be ready for a saddle fit. Her past owner taught her to buck by not paying attention when Red Sky was hurting. Frosty and Bandolero will also benefit from an adjustment.

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Dear Friends, Your kindness and caring is so appreciated and needed.

We pray you are blessed!



Sybil P. Athey
Kathy & Tony Bell
Amy Bernstein
Susanne & Rev. Harvey L. Blume
Joan S. Bowen
Susan G. Buzza
Barbara Campbell
Pam & Steve Carlton
Shannon E. & Scot Caviness
Kathryn V. Clancy
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John Vinal
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Sue Wortman
Lillian Wright
Linda M. Yarrington
Nancy J. Zuilkowski

*You see a horse with your eyes, but
you feel a horse with you soul.
(Sent to us by Spunky Dagenhart)*

*Happy Birthday and belated
Merry Christmas to Spunky
Dagenhart. Much love from
Shannon and Family*

***In Memory of my Sister, Loretta
Campbell. By Barbara Campbell***

***In loving memory of our
daughter, Kristen Hinds.
By Barbara & Mark Hinds***

*In loving memory of our niece,
Heather who left us all too soon.
Love You! Margaret Helfert*

News from the Herd

Sierra is fully recovered and is her tough old self again. She was so sick!

Nova had a tendon issue that was caused by an infection in the frog area. A mud poultice on her leg and the sole covered with sugardine (iodine mixed with sugar) on a pad, then cotton padding, vet wrap and then a heavy layer of duct tape does a great job in helping her to heal.. Antibiotics twice a day may help ward off the infection.

Shasta's hoof had to be wrapped for a few days. It looked like she may have cut a bit of the ball of the frog. Sometimes people who had old farms just throw trash all over the property. Sometimes it was a shallow hole that the trash would work up to the top again. Even after 27 years of picking up trash it seems like it will never end.

The Herd has been healthy and happy other than a couple of days when they had not gotten enough sleep.

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Dental care is so important for the health of the horses. They can eat and digest their feed so much better if their teeth are taken care off. Sugar Daddy has some dental issues and has lost a tooth that looks like it was diseased. Many of the older horses' teeth had no care for years and years and will never be right. But it does help to an extent.

Gentle Training



Jared and Pecos

All of the horses that can be ridden are gently worked with. It takes time to get them ready to go back under saddle. The trust and bonding has to be rebuilt so the horse and person can have a partnership. It is not about dominating over the horse. It is about letting the horse know you will protect them and the will also protect you.



Lillian and Red Sky