



## October 2021 Lake 2 Lake Miata Club Newsletter Mill Creek Horse farm & Conestoga's Restaurant 10.23.21 By Nancy Ball

Fresh from an ice cream festival in suburban Ocala, Lake-2-Lake Miata Club members turned their sights north, to a retirement home for HORSES!

It was a day in the country at Mill Creek Farm, a not-for-profit 501 c3, near Alachua, Florida. There, 130 or so horses have retired in style, many sponsored for lazy days ahead in the Florida sunshine by charitable donors.

Armed with Apples, bananas, carrots and the like, we were a small Army of spectators once joined by 20+ fellow Miata Club members from Jacksonville. Chris and Steve Janas, (our Webmaster), came up with the meeting location and introduced the members to the actual horse they sponsor through a thoughtful family member's gift last Christmas.

The drill was to prepare your feast at a station for coring apples, peeling bananas and the like. We were alerted to the fact that horses with yellow ribbons around necks are not to eat carrots. (Dietary restrictions face aging horses too). Acres of paths and nature trails gave us plenty to see and lengthy hikes to enjoy in the warm weather. A welcome option was the fleet of Volunteer-driven golf carts that came by every five minutes or so to expedite the journey. Most tried both modes of transportation and a special "retiree" to be seen was "Tiger", a 20-year-old "Zorse" - offspring of a zebra stallion and a horse mare. Like most animal hybrids, the Zorse is sterile. In fact, he is the only one in the country!

Wending our way back to the beginning, there were crafts and horse-related treasures to purchase and thanks to be offered to a host of worker bees who maintain an exceptional enterprise.

Next? FOOD! The Conestoga Restaurant in Alachua was - if possible - under-rated for "a quick bite". Heaping plates of home-cooked fare left us barely able to move and deeply satisfied. A destination spot on its' own, but perfectly coupled with an interesting day at a retirement home for horses - ([www.MillCreekFarm.org](http://www.MillCreekFarm.org)) - the Conestoga was a memorable finale...

