HALLECK CREEK RANCH

Breaking Barriers Since 1977

2023 Buckles and Bling

General Admission Tickets now available!

On September 22, 2023 we will be hosting our largest fundraiser of the year at Rancho Nicasio. This year's honoree will be **Larkin O'Leary,** Founder and CEO of the Common Ground Society. JOIN US for a delicious meal, great music, comradery and auction items. This event always sells out and is great fun for all.

Thank you to our sponsors! Sponsorships are available here.

General admission tickets are now available here!

Can't make it to the event? No problem! The online auction opens September 10, featuring unique experiences, gift certificates, and more! Stay tuned for more details and announcements!

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Horse Portrait Update
Painted by Margaret Conner

We've recently updated our Herd of Halleck Creek wall with gorgeous paintings of our newest horses, and the names of new horse sponsors! These wonderful portraits have been painted by long-time volunteer **Margaret Conner**, who initially started painting them in response to requests from riders who were trying to figure out which horses were tied up and waiting near the arena. Now, thanks to Margaret, our participants enjoy looking at the wall and identifying which horses they have ridden and which they have not. Under each painting is a plaque with the names of their sponsor, as well as the level at which they're being sponsored.

We recently had the chance to interview Margaret:

How long have you been involved at Halleck Creek Ranch?
"Since 2017. A friend of mine, the grandmother of one the participants in the program, was raving about the horse show over lunch one day. I really wanted horses back in my life so I checked out HCR online and applied for the volunteer training.
My favorite things at Halleck Creek Ranch are the kindness and respect always shown toward the horses, the participants, the volunteers and among the staff. The excellent way the programs and the ranch is organized. The amazing difference it makes in the lives of the participants. I really appreciate that the horses are allowed to live out their retirement, that HCR is their forever home. Really, everything about HCR is pretty amazing."
Do you have a favorite horse?
"I love them all and all their differences and eccentricities. That said, I do have some special fondness for Lily and for Finnegan. Seems like we are always very glad to see each other."

Do you have a favorite story about your time here?
"I have many, and I will share this one today: I was lunging Historia in the arena one day. She was going through the motions with gentle dignity as she always does. Suddenly it was as if she awoke from a dream, or fell into a memory. All in one motion she threw up her head and let loose a deep, wild whinney and began to gallop while she prancing and dancing around me tossing her head, tail held high. She was young again and full of fire! Beautiful and free in every way. Breathtaking. Powerful. After a couple of minutes she fell back into herself, slow and dignified and quite restrained and lady-like. I treasure having shared that moment with her. I feel she allowed me to glimpse her soul."

A few horses are currently available for sponsorship, including our newbies Apache and Brighton.

Apache is gorgeous American Paint Horse who has had lots of experience participating in Western Horse Shows, and trail riding. Apache is already a favorite of many of our riders, as he is easily distinguished by his beautiful markings and very long legs.

Brighton, a 16-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, has a strong background in western trail riding and has a wonderful temperament, especially around children. Brighton is very clever and can often be seen untying his lead rope so that he can roam around the ranch.

Sponsors are recognized on our wall and also on our website. You can help us feed and care for our horses with $2500 for a full annual sponsorship or $1250 for a silver-level (only $104/month)

Movie Night at RockRose Ranch

"Spirit," with pizza and snacks

On August 25, about 20 people gathered in the garage at RockRose Ranch to enjoy pizza, popcorn and snacks and to watch "Spirit." It was a lot of fun hanging out on a Friday night and family members also got to network and mingle. We hope to host another movie night or ice cream social soon. If you have ideas for a movie, please email Maya, mstessin@halleckcreekranch.org.

Vanguard Volunteer Day

Landscaping and Poison Oak Abatement

Thank you to a team of hardworking realtors from Vanguard Properties who spent a half-day on Aug. 25 working hard at RockRose Ranch. They trimmed and hauled willow, thinned apples and pears to prevent limb breakage and worked on clearing some trails of poison oak. They also gave us a donation. Thank you, Vanguard!

Marin Horse Council Luncheon

MHC Honors Long-Time Marin County Horsewomen

The Marin horse community recently lost two women who made enormous contributions to the eEquestrian community here in our county: **Joyce Lashbrook** and **Connie Berto**.

Joyce Lashbrook's twitter handle, dutchhorsewmn, only begins to describe her life, her equestrian knowledge and her joie de vivre. Teacher, owner of Marin Tack and Feed, artist, and mother. Joyce's riding at what is now Creekside Equestrian Center became infamous as she and Sophia Drum took on the most challenging trails and sometimes made new pathways with their steeds. They were frequent participants on the annual Ridge to Bridge Ride where they were often seen galloping in the lead. Later, Joyce partnered with neighbor Joanie Gash to purchase Marin Tack and Feed Store in Fairfax. She continued riding into her late 70s when health issues forced her to hang up her spurs.

Connie participated in the Bay Area Ridge Trail Committee, represented the equestrian community on Marin County Parks and Open Spaces Committees for 29 years, and was a mounted volunteer for Marin County Open Space for 40 years. Most recently, she was

President of the Board of Marin Stables and Trails. Connie spent hours riding her Morgan horses along the roads and trails of Sleepy Hollow and Marin. Between 1985 and 2015, she logged over 12,000 miles in organized Endurance Racing events throughout the Western US. She was the charter member of the American Endurance Conference's Century Club, where the combined age of horse and rider in a competitive event is over 100, and took pride that two of the horses she raised and trained were selected as National Champions by the American Morgan Association.

Those interested in attending the luncheon, held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 11:30am - 2:00pm, can purchase tickets by clicking here or by going to marinhorsecouncil.com.

Thank You, Sponsors!

Thank you to the companies and individuals sponsoring this year's Buckles and Bling!
Limited sponsorships still available

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