

# Equine Spirit Sanctuary News

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Issue 1

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## ESS News

By Ruth Bourgeois

Contrary to my normal way of doing things, I decided to just do it – that is, publish this newsletter as you see it, rather than waiting until we have an official logo, until I designed a template for future issues, before I came up with a “plan.” Generally speaking, there are not many things that would make me deviate from my normal operating mode – that is, carefully planning out all the details before un-



dertaking a task such as this newsletter. But I, along with other members of the board, have spent several months and endless hours planning and working out details related to the formation of the Equine Spirit Sanctuary. The purpose of the newsletter is to update everyone on what we have done and what's happening now.

The directors of ESS share a dream, a vision and a goal - to establish a horse rescue and sanctuary in northern New Mexico that will serve Taos and surrounding areas. We've made great progress since June of this year, and we have just begun!

The concept of a horse rescue/sanctuary is wonderful. It is a noble cause that any horse lover readily understands and appreciates. The reality is that there is a tremendous amount of work involved with building a facility such as this. It's not easy. Sometimes it's not much fun. But it is important and it is rewarding in many ways. It is needed here. Our core group of directors all share this belief and we are willing to work hard to make it happen.

I wanted to get a newsletter out to

*Continued on Page 2*

## Work Day at the ranch



*Above, working on the fenceline, Beth Farrow and Jerry Padilla.*



*Mark Eden works on clearing sagebrush.*

Several volunteers joined ESS directors Debbie Williams, Ruth Bourgeois, Mark Eden and Beth Farrow at the first ESS work day held at the ranch on Oct. 22. The day was spent preparing the land for the new shelter



*Ruth pounds in a steel fencepost.*

and fences, pulling out sagebrush with chains and a jeep. Fenceposts were put in for the electric fence for the turnout area that will be used with the shelter.

## Silent Auction

Our first fundraising event was a silent auction, held Sept. 24 and 25 at the Caffe Renato. We got a lot of terrific donations and the auction went very well, thanks to a little help from our friends. It was a busy weekend in Taos, the start of the Fall Arts Festival, with many activities going on in town. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event a success.



*Buddy and Winston*

# ESS Horse Handling Clinic



*Dr. Babits working with Kristi Benson's Norwegian Fjord horse.*

A clinic on basic horse handling and ground work was held Oct. 30 at the Taos Equestrian Center. Dr. Bessie Babits taught the clinic, the first in a series of horsemanship clinics that ESS will be offering as a part of our educational program.

The clinic was well attended, with 22 adults and 3 students. Four of the participants brought two horses each, so we had eight horses that Dr. Babits worked with. The clinic started with a lecture on basic horsemanship, followed by a demonstration of the basic principals of safe horse handling. Then Dr. Babits worked with the owners of the horses, and then everyone who wanted to work with a horse was able



to spend time doing that. Ruth, Debbie and Rose Straebel assisted with the horse handling lessons.

A big thanks to Katherine Pettus for hosting the clinic at her lovely facility, the Taos Equestrian Center.

## Bark in the Park

ESS had a booth at Bark in the Park, held Oct. 23 at Kit Carson Park in Taos.

Jackson, Debbie's bullmastiff, and Max, Ruth's black lab, also attended the festival of pets and other companion animals. The dogs enjoyed all the attention from people who visited the ESS booth.

Deb made some tasty dog treats and Buddy Balls (horse treats) to sell at the event.



*Deb at the booth with Max and Jackson*

Watch our web site and *The Taos News* for upcoming ESS events.

### ESS Directors

Debbie Williams  
Ruth Bourgeois  
Maggie Hall  
Mark Eden  
Beth Farrow

### Advisory Board

Doug Thal, DVM  
Bessie Babits, DVM



*Winston, Ruthie and Floyd*

### About ESS, cont. from Page 1

all the persons who have helped us reach this point in the development of the ESS and to those persons interested in learning more about it. It's past the point where I can explain in a few sentences all the things that we are doing with the sanctuary.

We are very excited about the progress that we are making with ESS, which would not have been possible without the support and encouragement from many people in the community. A very sincere thanks to all of you!

If you have any questions or ideas for the sanctuary, please contact us. We will be able to take in rescue horses very soon, so let us know if you know of a horse in need of help.



*Deb with Ruthie; back, Stuart Walker and Lucky*

# Help the Horses this Holiday Season!

## ESS Wish List



Hay – good quality timothy grass or grass/alfalfa mix

Grain – Equine Senior or Complete

Salt and mineral blocks

Water tubs and tank heaters; Black rubber feed buckets

Halters; Grooming supplies

Fencing materials – steel fence posts, wood posts, gates, woven horse wire or other suitable fencing

Solar electric fence charger; Plastic caps for steel fence posts

Shelters materials for building

Portable pens and stalls/panels for pens

Gift certificates to Taos Tack and Chamisa Feed;

or any mail order store that carries horse or veterinary supplies

Gift certificates to lumber stores for building materials; Ace Hardware or other similar stores

Gift certificates to Thal Equine for veterinary services

Gift certificates to Office Depot, Wal-mart or any other store to purchase office supplies

New Mexico liability signs

Postage Stamps

Equine Spirit Sanctuary sign to put at entrance to the ranch

Equine Spirit Sanctuary banner to use at events

## Festival of Wreaths and Trees

The annual Festival of Wreaths and Trees will take place on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Fechin Inn. This is a benefit for local not-for-profit organizations, organized by the Taos Community Foundation, the Taos Chamber of Commerce, the Fechin Inn, *The Taos News*, and Wal-Mart. Local businesses sponsor a tree or wreath by purchasing an ad in the special program for the festival. The business then designates a local not-for-profit group to benefit from the silent auction of their tree.



This year, ESS will have two trees at the festival, a small- and a medium-sized tree. The small tree was sponsored by Taos Rose. The medium-sized tree was sponsored by *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.

ESS is responsible for decorating these trees. The more attractive the tree is, the more it will sell for at the silent auction.

Tree decorating will be done on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 8 a.m. till noon. After that, the trees will be on display at the Fechin Inn for the next week, until the party on Dec. 2, and the public will be able to view and bid on the trees.

The festival party is open to the public, with a \$5 admission fee. There will be live entertainment, a cash bar and holiday tamales. Generous door prizes are also awarded throughout the evening. Last year's event had a standing room only crowd.

We are looking for donations of decorations for these two trees, with southwestern theme and the focus on horses. Decorations can be store-bought or handmade.

We also need volunteers to come help decorate. Please join us for this fun event. Call or email for more information.



*Lucky*

## ESS in the news

A special thanks to the publications that have printed articles about the sanctuary. *The Taos News* printed an article on the Valle Vista page of the issue about the work day at the ranch, written by Jerry Padilla.

*The Horsemen's Voice* and *Today's Horse Trader* and the Sangre de Cristo Horseman's Association newsletter printed articles about ESS.

An article written by Ruth will be printed in the *PETroglyphs* Winter issue about the Unwanted Horse Problem.

# THANK YOUs

We have been fortunate to have so much interest in the sanctuary and support as we embark on this exciting, wonderful project. A big thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their greatly appreciated contributions:

Nite Owl Printing, Ames, Iowa  
Kimberley Casara, Caffe Renato  
Doug Thal, DVM, Thal Equine  
Bessie Babits, DVM, Thal Equine  
Diana Salon Boutique  
Taos Tack, Amanda Bailey  
Chamisa Feeds  
Taos Herb, Rob  
Platinum Equine Supplements  
Casa Europa  
Valerie Graves  
JD Challenger  
John Farnsworth  
Virginia Dooley, for the late R.C. Gorman  
Vestini's Fine Italian Restaurant  
The Stakeout  
TTEAM Training & Tellington TTouch  
Taos Country Inn  
Horsefeathers  
Dean Cheek  
Kristi Benson  
Anna Mae Patterson  
Hilary & Melissa, Box Canyon TSV Post Office  
Gary Williams  
Maggie Rankin

Colleen Tretter  
Janet Elder, Cactus Patch Quarter Horses  
Cook's Lumber  
Rose Straebel  
Sandy Miller  
Jamie Greaver  
Liz Chimente  
Megan Bowers  
Four Corners Animal Rescue  
Sarah Reeb  
Marilyn Olsen  
Mimi Meriwether  
Darcy White  
Katherine Pettus  
Jim Cope  
Stuart Walker  
Jerry Padilla  
Holly Burgess  
Jane Gerard  
Cindy Medina  
*The Taos News*  
*The Santa Fe New Mexican*  
*The Horsemen's Voice*  
*Today's Horse Trader*  
*PETroglyphs*

*And all the persons who  
have supported ESS  
through purchases at the  
silent auction or other  
donations!*

## How You Can Help

See our wish list on Page 3 for details on supplies that are needed. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Donation to ESS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor a rescue horse at ESS.** Horses that are in need of sponsorships at this time are Lucky, a retired thoroughbred, and Bindy, a miniature donkey. Lucky's expenses for hay, grain and medications comes to about \$200/month. Bindy's expenses are minimal - hay and a little grain, about \$50/month. Call or email ESS for more information. You can do a full or partial sponsorship.

**VOLUNTEER** - our next work day at the ranch is **Saturday, Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Dress warm! We will be cleaning and clearing more land for turnout areas, putting in steel fenceposts, etc. **Nov. 26** - bring ornaments to help decorate the Christmas trees. **Fechin Inn, 8 a.m. till noon.**

