

March/April 2017 Volume III, Issue 2

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

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INSIDE...

Caney Mountain Horse Camp
Are There Horses in Zion
Stork Report
Sales Barn
& More!



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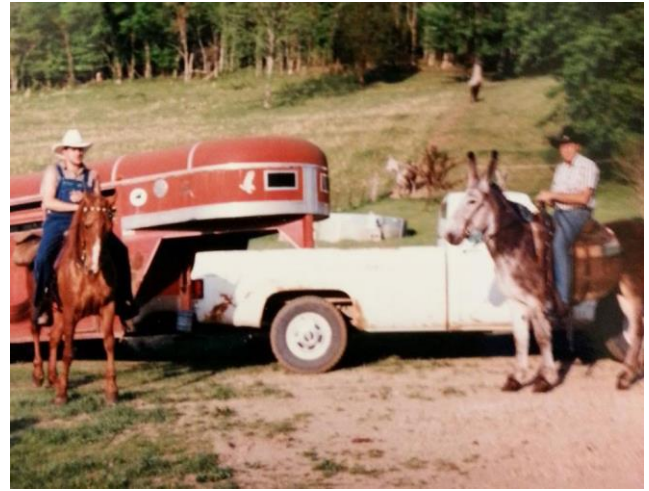
Preserving the Past to ensure the Future

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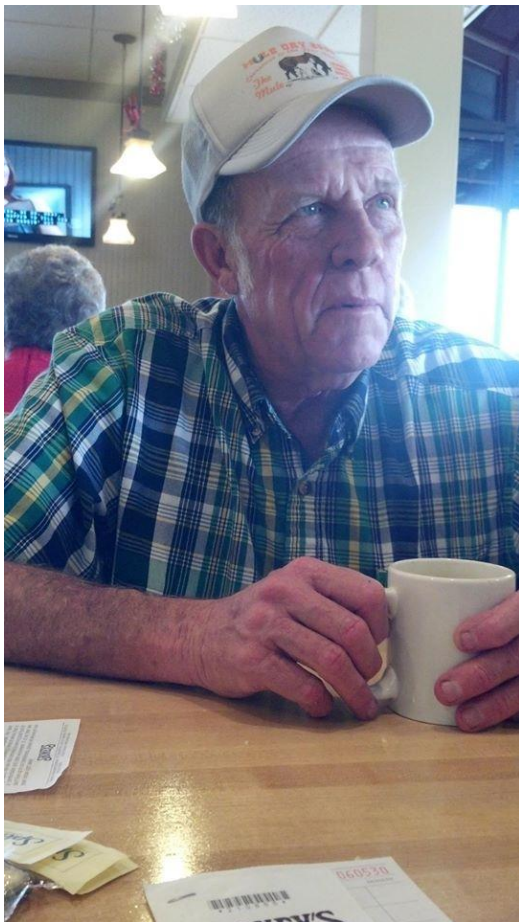
Cover design by Jennifer Klitzke | www.NaturallyGaited.com

On our cover – Carbonado Bay At The Moon, owned by Sandra Bullins, Misty Hollow Farm, Altavista, Virginia. “Lobo” was sired by NFF Echo’s Blue Moon, out of Society’s Myriah Lee.

The Walking Horse world recently lost a breeder and a good person. Stanley Nix, Lewisburg, Tennessee, was Mary Lou Oliver’s (Leon) son and father to Bill Nix, one of our breeders.



**Left: Bill Nix on Souvenir’s Rascal (Redman),
Right: Stanley Nix on Old River, his jack**



Stanley Nix

Stanley Nix

A quick 67 years have passed by,
 So many of you I know, and I said Hi!
 Thanks you for being with my family today,
 You are helping me to say good-bye.
 I have learned so much from people I knew
 And I bet, I learned something from you
 I met so many while working in the garage
 You trusted me with your car
 Being a mechanic is tough today
 but I hope some of you have learned from my trade
 Then I decided to live on a farm
 All of my animals had such a charm
 People would come from far and wide
 Just to see a horse or mule to ride
 Many of you I saw in parades
 I would be in a wagon or car, but I would
 Always wave
 As I got a little older you could find me
 in a camper or relaxing in a lounge chair
 But all around me, you would find family, friends,
 and people that cared
 Now it's time to say good-bye
 So please don't tell too many tails on me
 They will probably be so, but it is time for me to leave
 Thank you for your steadfast love
 and your friendShip, You gave to me!

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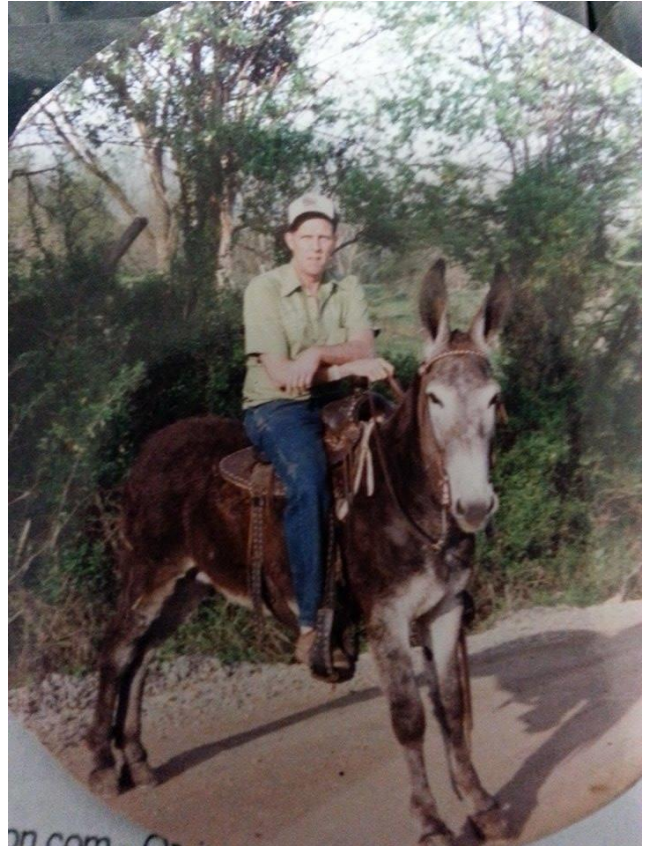
Poem by Fay Smith



**SVRN's Delight T.F.
Dam of Souvenir's Rascal, a direct son of Red
Bud's Rascal**



"Redman" & Stanley



Stanley & Old River



Stanley loved working on vehicles



Billy Taylor Remembers...Sun's Midnight Mark
As told to Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee



Sun's Midnight Mark

Midnight Sun was one of the last foals sired by Wilson's Allen, recognized at the end of his life as the premier sire of show walking horses. Midnight Sun, as a son of Wilson's Allen, was trained for show competition as well, and twice achieved the pinnacle of competition in the breed by being crowned World's Grand Champion at the new Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

After retiring to the stud at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin, Tennessee, Midnight Sun courted a large number of mares, many of which went on to become show horses, like the 1949 World Grand Champion Midnight Merry, the first offspring of Midnight Sun to wear the floral horseshoe. Other offspring of Midnight Sun, however, found other niches, and one of these was a tall, stout, dappled black stallion who lived and died the property of his breeder, Horton Elrod of Readyville, Tennessee. This horse was Sun's Midnight Mark 633977.

Sun's Midnight Mark was sired by Midnight Sun and out of Black Lady Nell, a daughter of Little Merry Boy. His second dam was by Wilson Allen Jim, a Wilson's Allen son, and the third dam was by Charlie Wall. Sun's Midnight Mark carried a wealth of older lines bred for the natural walking gait, and Mark himself was capable of performing a natural, fluid running

walk under saddle without resorting to the shoeing techniques that were being utilized when he was foaled in 1963.



Sun's Midnight Mark

Billy Taylor of Confederate Hills Farm in Franklin County, Tennessee, bred a number of mares to Sun's Midnight Mark. He recalls "I don't know much history about him; at one time I owned five fillies and two colts by him. I thought he was a good breeding horse, for natural going horses with a good mind. Harlin Hayes saw Horton Elrod riding him one time; Hayes said that he was the best saddle horse that he had ever seen."

Billy continues "Mr. Elrod was the one that told me about Harlin Hayes saying that about Mark. Leon Oliver knew that Mr. Elrod owned a Merry Go Boy stud, we went there to see him, and after looking at him, Mr. Elrod said that he had a stud by Midnight Sun. He really got my attention then, since I was very interested in owning some close-up Midnight Sun fillies. Ole Mark was in his late twenties then, but he had good conformation, good bone and good size, he was 15.3 hands. The first mare I bred to him was a mare by P.O. Harrison's Pride horse, out of Red Bug's Lady Bug. The next year, 1991, I bred Mark's June Girl (Dolly), the Jab Faulkner mare, Angel's Evening Star, and Mark's Merry Girl. In 1992, I bred Dolly and Angel's Evening Star. I got two fillies from that breeding, Myriah and Bonnie, that made real good mares. They both died young, Bonnie in 2007 and Myriah in 2008. 1992 was the last year that Mark was able to breed. I was interested in the old natural going bloodlines at that time, because I wanted to breed horses that could running walk without a lot of gait training. Mark produced that type of horse."



Sun's Midnight Myriah sired by Sun's Midnight Mark out of Angel's Evening Star



Sun's Midnight Allen

From the matings of Billy's mares and those of his brother Danny to Sun's Midnight Mark, most notable of Danny's being Sun's Smokey Midnight, the blood of old Mark became part of the ranks of the Heritage Tennessee Walking Horse.



Sun's Midnight Rena sired by Sun's Midnight Mark out of Mark's June Girl



**Sun's Smokey Midnight
Sun's Midnight Mark x Lucy Sue's Angel**



Sun's Midnight Bonnie

Mark's descendants are found over all the United States, in western Canada, and even in Europe. Sun's Midnight Mark was a close link to the older lines of walking horse that gaited as the foundation breeders intended, preserving that wonderful nodding gait for others to enjoy for generations, equine and human, to come.

Somewhere Warmer, Somewhere Greener

By Rachel Hill, Fort Frances, Ontario

On February 13th, I had my last radiation treatment. After 8 months of treatments, I was finally done! It was time to heal and get on with my life. It was my husband who suggested going on a horse vacation. I immediately thought of the Big South Fork trails in east TN that I had heard so much about. After a bit of scouting out the area and checking the weather, I decided that was going to be my destination. I was on a roll, and had JoDee Messina's song running in my head 'Heads Carolina, Tails California'. Yep, I wanted to go somewhere warmer and somewhere greener.

Not quite being 100% yet, I had to find someone who would join me on this adventure. The first person I thought of was my dear friend Rosemary who was newly enjoying retirement. However, she had family commitments and had to decline. A day later, I got a text from my friend Jen from work who had been following me through my cancer journey. Jen was checking up on me, like she had so many times. "Are you going to get some rest now and heal?" she asks. My response was "Heal yes, but rest..heck no. I'm trying to find someone who will come to TN with me. Want to come?". A week later, plans were in place and on March 10th we were off to Jamestown TN with 2 horses in tow.

The weather in Fort Frances the entire week before leaving had turned bitterly cold. We had an arctic blast of cold and high winds for a number of days. The cold weather made loading up the trailer more challenging than usual. I had to leave the trailer in its winterized state.

Liquids were freezing solid in no time. The day I loaded the horses the wind had died down but the morning temperature was still -10F (-24C). I have never loaded my horses in weather this cold.



NFF Society's Noble Traveler & Sunbeam ready to go!!!

I picked up Jen at 3:00 p.m. in Fort Frances, we crossed the border and made it to the Diane Sczepsanski's in Whitehall, WI late that evening. No trip south is complete without stopping at Diane's, seeing her wonderful grandchildren, beautiful horses and catching up with who is doing what in the Walker world. Always love my visits with Diane!



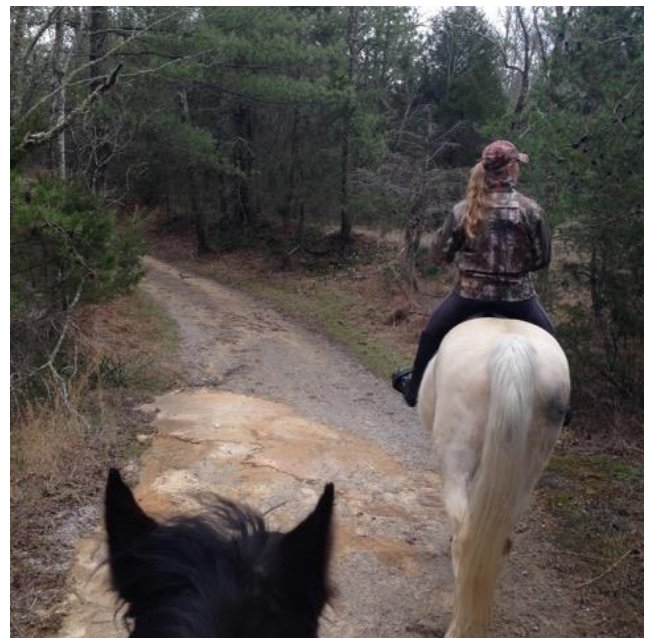
Rachel & Jen feeding the boys before leaving Wisconsin

After a delicious waffle breakfast, we got an early start and headed off to Effingham, IL for our next stop. The 5 gal jugs of water I brought along for the horses were frozen solid. This meant having to bring a bucket into the gas stations or rest stops. The horses were very popular wherever we stopped in Illinois. The people there were so friendly and loved getting a chance to pet the horses. Beamer and Traveler were the subject of many photos :)



Jen bringing water for the horses

knowing what we were in for, we hit the road. The horses loaded amazingly again into the trailer and we head off to our destination. We arrive in Jamestown late that night. Unlike the 60-70 degree weather they had had all month earlier, it had dropped to below freezing that first night. But no snow. We got the horses settled in their stalls, got the trailer hooked up to our campsite, cranked up the furnace and got to sleep very late. In the morning, the sun was up, there was green grass and it was a wonderful comfortable morning. We had our coffee and breakfast at the picnic table. Yep, we definitely had come to warmer and greener. We fed and turned the horses out in the round pen, packed a sandwich for lunch, saddled up and hit the trails. In a few minutes, it was evident the efforts to get here were worthwhile. The Cumberland Plateau is gorgeous. The Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area is wonderfully accommodating to horses and hikers, and there is so much to see! Three days was clearly not enough and just gave us a taste of what is there.



Jen & Beamer lead the way



A rest stop for the horses and us

Day 3 in Effingham, during breakfast in the hotel we see on the news Jackson TN was hit with a snow storm. Please say this isn't so!! We wanted to get away from that white stuff. Not



Jen & the boys



The boys take a break



Some of the gorgeous scenic vistas along the trail



Remnants of an old bridge



Gorgeous trails between rock outcroppings



On day 6 we loaded up the horses and said good bye to TN. Would I return? Absolutely. But I will plan a longer stay. Would I pick a different time of year? No. We had the campsite and the trails to ourselves. The temperature for our northern horses was perfect, given they still had so much of their winter coat. I was glad it was not 70 degrees, I think poor Traveler would have died. I also enjoyed the fact that the leaves were not out yet, we could see so much more of the topography on the trails, and on the

roads we could see on-coming traffic on the crazy switchbacks we had to navigate!

A couple of learning experiences for us, the town of Jamestown is dry. And county of Fentress is liquor-less (at least the official stuff). For a couple of Canadian girls, this was a bit different, we don't really call it a vacation if you can't have a drink :) We did find beer outside the city limits, so all was good.

Day 8 we got to visit Diane again (no shortage of alcohol there!). Another great visit and food and tour of the horses and then we loaded up for the last time and headed home.



Diane with her wonderful stallion, Walkien Jesse Skywalker



A photo I took last fall of Jesse in Canada

We crossed the international bridge that afternoon. I opened up the windows so the horses could stick their heads out and they were quite entertaining. With each car that passed us on the bridge, Traveler would stretch his neck as far as it would go and lean over to them. They sure brought some cheer as we rolled in, huge smiles from everyone. Even customs!



Almost home boys!!

A big thank you to Diane, her grandchildren Ciera and Seth and to my special friend Jen who was an amazing partner on this adventure.



Jen Wall & Sunbeam

Return to Tennessee

By Julie Scott, Warrens, Wisconsin

In April of 2013 I rode along with Diane Szczepanski, Sheila Franck, and Rachel Hill to Middle Tennessee. Diane was hauling a young horse named Hawkeye to his new owner, Neil Mc Paul. Because I had enjoyed that trip so much I wanted my husband, Bill, to be able to go and be able meet all the Heritage horse people I had met there and see all their nice Heritage horses. Last month we were finally able to take the trip and our daughter, Lori Kubista, who lives in Minnesota and owns one of the walkers we raised, happened to be on Spring break from her classes and came along too.

Our first stop was in Nashville to see our newly married granddaughter and her husband. He gave us a tour of the city including the old plantations with their log cabins and huge carriage house complete with several old carriages and sleighs. We were in awe of all the huge mansions in Belle Meade that we drove we past. We also got to see the Honkytonks that evening since their apartment in only a few blocks from the main strip. A fun experience seeing all the lights and listening to all the good live music coming from every doorway! We saw several horse-drawn carriages going by that evening.



A mural on the wall in one of Nashville's honky tonks



One of the many carriages in downtown Nashville

The next morning we drove to Baxter to see Larry Whitesell, Jennifer Bauer and Bonfire's Banjo Boy. Larry bought Banjo, a two year old gelding from us last Fall. Larry showed us what he has been doing with him so far. He said he is very pleased with him and we couldn't be happier that he has such a good home and will be trained by the best. He plans to take him to some of his clinics when he is further along in his training so we might get to see him again when he has his annual clinic in Wisconsin! I'm sure he will help promote the Heritage horse since Larry has often mentioned how he likes the gait and disposition of our horses when we have attended his clinics over the years.



Larry working with Banjo

We watched Jennifer work with a horse she had in for training awhile and then went on to visit our friends Neil & Jeanine Mc Paul. Neil showed us NFF Hawkeye Taylor who looks to have grown to a good 16 hands since we brought Hawkeye down here 3 years ago, and his new horse Duke's Society Echo. Diane hauled Duke (aka Blackjack) down to Tennessee along with Banjo last October. We enjoyed a delicious supper and conversation (mostly about horses, of course) with the Mc Pauls and they graciously invited us to spend the night in their beautiful home.



NFF Duke's Society Echo, aka, Blackjack



Neal with NFF Hawkeye Taylor

The following day we drove to Murfreesboro where we toured the Stones River battleground. I had taken this tour on my first trip with the girls and wanted Bill and Lori to see it. They both thought it was very interesting and worthwhile. We learned some things we didn't know about the Civil War. I had booked a hotel in Shelbyville for three nights to be near the places we wanted to go. On the way there we stopped for lunch at the Bell Buckle Café a place with real authentic Southern food and many antiques. Our next stop was Wartrace to see the TWH museum but when we arrived we were disappointed to find it was only open on weekends. I had seen it on my first visit and thought it a good place of interest with the history of the breed.



Bill & Lori at Wartrace



Lori at Stones River Battlefield

In the morning, we went to the Bedford Tack store in Shelbyville. We didn't really need to buy anything but I wanted them to see it because it is the biggest tack store I have ever been in. We picked up Franne Brandon, our tour guide for the

next two days and drove to Cornersville to the Old Delina Store to meet Leon and have lunch. The store is 125 years old and serves catfish, frog legs and gator but we opted for burgers with deep-fried pickles and fried green tomatoes with home-made ice cream for dessert. Excellent!



Lori at the Delina Store

After lunch, it was on to Brown Shop Farms to see Leon's horses and Buds Sterling Bullet, whom Bill has always admired in pictures. He showed us his handsome young stallion, Ostella's Bullet Trademark and all his fainting goats.



Leon and Buds Sterling Bullet



Ostella's Bullet Trademark and some of Leon's fainting goats

That evening we drove over to the Celebration and looked around and inside the arena. We were amazed at how immense it was! According to the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration website The show has grown into its own 100-plus-acre equestrian complex; a complex frequented by many breeds and including a 30,000 seat outdoor stadium, a 4,500 seat indoor arena, a covered outdoor practice arena, permanent stalls for more than 1,700 horses, and campgrounds featuring full hook-ups for more than 350 recreational vehicles. They were getting ready for a trainers show the following evening which we decided not to attend.

We picked Franne up again the next day and drove to Confederate Farms in Winchester to see Billy Taylor and his horses. We were impress with his two stallions Echo's Confederate Rebel and Gen Jeb Stuart CSA who are not only gorgeous but very gentle and friendly. Fell in love with Rebel who followed us around in the pasture wanting our attention. What a great disposition for a stallion! On the way back to Franne's we stopped for lunch at Marvin's Buffet in Fayetteville. Danny Taylor had taken us there last time and I wanted Bill and Lori to try some of the delicious Southern food.



A house owned by the Taylor Family during the Civil War that the Union soldiers used as a hospital



Gen Jeb Stuart CSA



Billy Taylor with one of his mares

Bill loved talking horses with everyone. We learned so much listening to Franne, Billy and Leon telling about the old lines of heritage horses and their pedigrees. They know the lineage of all the Heritage horses around. A perfectly enjoyable week and a nice break from our bleak March weather in Wisconsin to a beautiful week of Spring in beautiful Middle Tennessee.



Frane Brandon with Echo's Confederate Rebel

From Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota

“From last weekend (January 21 Along the Wolf River). We rode in the drizzle and the steam clouds coming off the horses were pretty wild!”



From Norman Hunley, Greenville, Tennessee

I'm planning the Annual Ride at East Fork Stables for the weekend of May 27-28, 2017. I plan to have a reservation for four(4) nights, May 25 thru 28, with my departure home on May 29. I have requested East Fork to hold campsites in D section and stalls in Barn D, until April 15th, to afford riders a chance to make reservations; however, I have not heard back from them. I know that yearly pass holders can start riding on March 1, and opening day is scheduled for April 1. I tried calling them today, but received a recording indicating the phone was not in service. If interested, you may want to email a request for reservations. I emailed my request for campsite D-28 and stall D-20. Last year I sent a deposit to hold my campsite and stall, and thereafter sent a copy my Coggins test, plus the balance due, to avoid checking in at the office. It was nice to be able to drive straight to my barn stall. Hope to see you there. Hope Leon Oliver will visit with us as he did last year.

Are there Horses in Zion? **By Doug West, St. George, Utah**

My truck and horse trailer look out of place as we pull into the Zion Lodge parking lot. I open the horse trailer doors, and see a parking lot full of rental cars and SUV's displaying California, Nevada, and Arizona license plates. Heads turn and cameras roll as I back "Gen," my 17-hand-tall, 1,200-pound Walking Horse mare out saddled, ready to go. While I can't identify all the languages spoken, I guess from the tone they are wondering how a short, 70-year-old man will mount and ride such a big horse.

Zion National Park is one of five national parks located within Utah. Found in the southwest corner of the state, the 229-square mile park is approximately 40 miles east of St. George, Utah. The park is an extremely popular tourist destination, since it is easily accessible from Las Vegas and only a few hours' drive from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. In 2016, it attracted over four million visitors, close to what Yellowstone National Park, a park 15 times larger than Zion, experienced.



Aerial View of Zion by Richard Cline

Perched on the western edge of the Colorado Plateau, hordes of visitors come to view the towering red, white, brown, and pink sandstone cliffs deposited by ancient inland seas and deep canyons carved by the Virgin River and eons of wind and weather. They crowd along Zion Canyon Scenic Drive gazing up at towering landmarks with exotic names like The Great White Throne, Angels Landing, and the Temple of Sinawava.

You probably wonder how horses fit among these towering sandstone cliffs and crowding tourists. Well, like most national parks where I ride, there are actually two parks – the park easily accessible to the Birkenstock-shod tourists and the backcountry where the backpackers, rock climbers and horsemen like me spend their time. In fact, eighty-four percent of Zion is designated and managed as a backcountry wilderness.



Canyon View from Wildcat Trail

Once a year, I haul my horses to the parking lot next to Zion Lodge across the highway from the private horse concession that offers rides to the tourists in Zion Canyon. Spring through fall, Zion Scenic Drive is closed to private vehicles. Visitors must ride the shuttle buses to visit the canyon. The concessionaire leaves with the shuttle buses, after which the Park Service opens the Sand Bench Trail to private stock use. The Sand Bench Trail, a short six-mile roundtrip, parallels the Virgin River from Zion Lodge to the junction with the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway. Riding above the river provides great down canyon views, and I always see mule deer and wild turkeys. While relatively easy to ride, there are some dangers. Your horse has to tolerate deer standing or lying in the trail. My "Gen" is gentle by nature, but gets agitated when walking around a large four-point buck or having a wild turkey flush over her head. The Sand Bench Trail is the only trail in the canyon open to horses, and then only late fall to early spring. By taking the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway, you can access the park's east side. Prior arrangements must be made to haul your horse

trailer through the mile-long tunnel on this scenic, narrow highway. Only one-way traffic is allowed through the tunnel for large vehicles like my Dodge pickup and 26-foot horse trailer. The Park Service charged me a \$15 round-trip-fee to stop traffic from the other direction while I drove through the tunnel to the East Rim Trail Head. Unfortunately, there is little room to park horse trailers at the trail head.

The East Rim Trail is wide, smooth, and well maintained. It gains 1,000 feet over three miles. At the top, a stream cascades over the rim. It wasn't much during the dry season when I rode there, but I would like to see the waterfall after a Zion thunderstorm. You're rewarded after reaching the top with magnificent views and miles of additional trail. Again, you have to return the way you came because the trails that drop into Zion Canyon are closed to horses. You can't linger on the East Rim because overnight horse camping is prohibited.

On the west side of the park, a number of trails – Hop Valley, Connector Trail, Wildcat, and West Rim – are open to horses. Before entering Zion Park from the west on Highway 9, watch for the junction of Highway 9 with the Kolob Terrace Road located in the small town of Virgin. Turn north and follow the two-lane, paved road. Each trail exhibits its own unique character as you will discover. Hop Valley, my favorite, is characteristic of these more remote and primitive trails on the west side of the park. You will find your favorite after exploring them on your own. Technicolor blue skies and red rocks surround you as you ride the Hop Valley Trail. Most of the trail is in the bottom of an open, sandy wash that has water year-round. You should exercise caution and care in the spring when water is highest in the wash. There are areas of quicksand that can trap your horse. It is approximately six miles one way to the only overnight horse camping site in the park – permit required. From the campground, you can ride further down canyon to Lee's Pass in the Kolob Canyon District. However, there is a very steep, rocky descent that I usually avoid. Horse trailer parking is limited at the trailhead.

The Kolob Canyons are located approximately 34 miles north of St. George, Utah, off Interstate

15. The visitor center is a short distance east of Exit 40. To ride the LaVerkin Creek Trail, you must check in at the visitor center before driving the Kolob Canyon Road to Lee's Pass. The trail is popular with day hikers and backpackers, so parking your truck and trailer sometimes is a problem. With some hikers, horses are a novelty. A while back, I encountered a tour group from Asia after splashing my horse through a stream crossing. This group had only seen horses in the movies or on TV. I had to repeat the crossing a number of times so they could capture the event on video. It is approximately 6.5 miles one way to where the LaVerkin Creek Trail meets the Hop Valley Trail.

From my narrative, I think you know I love Zion National Park. My horses don't stand idle. Since returning to St. George, I have ridden 30 of 63 days, making the 80-mile round-trip-drive to the park five times. I have spent my life riding and hiking all over the west, but the one place that always draws me back is Zion. With the freedom I have, you might think I would move on to a less crowded more horse friendly place. But for me, the deep canyons and towering cliffs are as the ancient Hebrews said of their Zion a "...spiritual point from which reality emerges..." As my Mormon ancestors, also, taught, Kolob is "... the nearest place where God dwells."

Are there horses in Zion? A few. At least for now.

Doug West winters in St. George, Utah, with his wife Trea, dog Maynard, and three Walking Horse mares. He is a member of the Southwest Chapter of BCHU. Contact him at parasite.ranch@gmail.com.

OZARK MOUNTAIN MAGIC!
Caney Mountain Horse Camp, Big
Flat, Arkansas
By Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota



Caney Mountain Horse Camp -
<https://www.caneymountain.com/>

Had I bothered to read the website's directions a little more carefully I might have noticed that it said "**DO NOT TAKE SPRING CREEK ROAD** from Big Flat, instead, follow the directions below." - We didn't, we let mother Google show us the way. As the road got narrower and the bends tighter and the hills steeper, Robin found himself and his living quarters trailer with 5 horses on board driving down the middle of Spring Creek! No way no how to turn around either. Spring Creek Road is actually in Spring Creek part of the way! But it wasn't real deep and with some attention and lock to lock steering around the bigger rocks, his big Ford dually got him through without leaving any of his trailer's plumbing behind! Such was our introduction to the Arkansas Ozark wilderness.

I was riding BuddyBob, a gelding born and raised here at my place in May of 2010. He is a full Heritage horse from my mare Ostella's Della Ann and Red Bud's Rambling Slim. Buddy has been to the Smokey Mountains on a week of riding and we've put on many trail miles in the hills along the Mississippi river in southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

For the next 5 days we rode many miles of challenging and ever changing trails taking in an array of breathtaking vistas. We were all glad we had shod our horses before coming, the trails are pretty rocky and steep and the horses needed the drill-tec shoes for traction on the rocks. We put on a lot of miles, about 6 hours each day.

We were accompanied by the Camp's two mountain cur dogs every day and they entertained us treeing squirrels and baying wild razorbacks. Once, while riding along Middle Creek, we heard the two dogs in a steady baying up the mountain side out of sight. Charles, our guide that day who founded Caney Mountain Horse Camp with his wife Teresa, said those of us that wanted to could bushwhack our way up the mountainside to see if can get to them, maybe shoot a pig for supper! About half of us took off at a gallop through the brush, vines, logs, rocks and ravines. Several hundred yards up the mountain we paused to listen – the dogs were moving again – all that crashing from 5 horses spooked the pig. "Got too close with too much noise" Charles told us, "We usually try to sneak up on them quietly" – duh, we're all hunters, guess we should have known that! We got some adrenaline flowing, but no pig for supper that night.

These mountain cur dogs are interesting, they're not tied or penned, never stray from home and only go hunting when someone leaves camp for the trail. Some days on our rides they disappeared for a couple of hours and then suddenly one or both would show up along the trail, always with their nose to the ground. Sometimes they were back at Camp waiting for us.

Breakfast and supper are available at the Camp if you sign up for them, we were treated to venison and wild pork for supper one night so in spite of flubbing our hog hunt we got to eat some anyhow, delicious.

In the evenings after supper, we sat around a nice bonfire sipping our favorite drinks and swapping stories. Robin seems to never run out of new stories to tell, and he isn't afraid to tell old ones either, sometimes they seem sort of different from before for some reason though... We

mostly talked about horses, horse trips, horse training - or the lack of it, and sometimes hunting and other stuff. There was a pond right next to where we had our fires and with the unseasonably warm temperatures (70+ every day) the frogs were calling hard, a serenade in the dark that blended in nice with the crackling fire and laughter. Troy and I strolled down to the pond and got a few pictures of the frogs and a spotted salamander. Spring peepers, wood frogs and spotted salamanders were all laying eggs like crazy, you could see them all over the pond next morning. That pond must be chock full of tadpoles by now!



Our riding from Caney Mountain ranged around through National Forest land, National Park Service land and along the Buffalo National Scenic Riverway. Had we been able to get across the river we would have ridden more trails in the Lower Buffalo and Leatherwood Wilderness Areas, about 500 miles of horse trails in all according to Charles. We may have to go back someday when the water level is lower in the Buffalo River!

Part of this area was homesteaded during the early 1900's and we saw the ruins of several old cabins, a cemetery, and an old school house near Big Creek that is still intact and used by hunters at times.

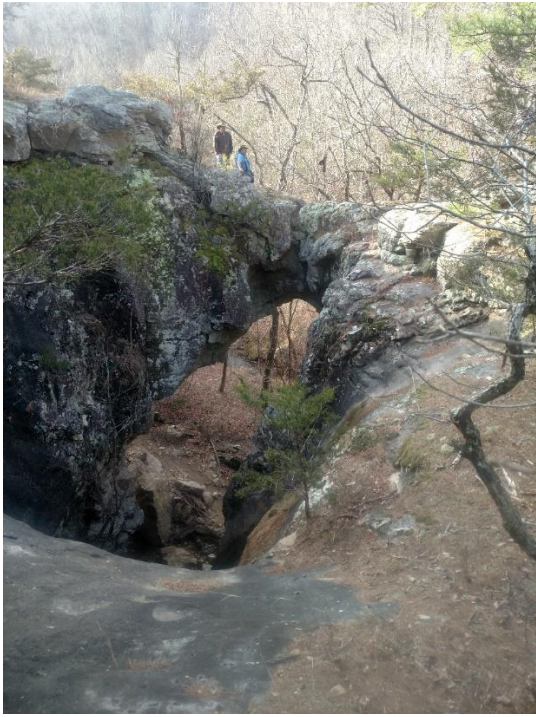


School House near Big Creek, Charles in foreground, Troy in middle and Sam at the back.

As we rode along Big Creek we passed through some old fields that are growing up into timber. The pictures show some of the great riding and scenery we enjoyed.

From Caney Mountain Horse Camp we headed to the Flying R Horse Ranch in the Missouri Ozarks for a couple of days riding to break up the trip home a bit. Trails at the Flying R are well marked making it easy to find your way back to camp. We rented a cabin right beside North Fork River and we could watch fish swimming in the crystal-clear water below the porch. Although the mountains are not as high here the trails were scenic, fun to ride and offered a range of riding from flat easy trails along the river to challenging ledge and hill riding through the private forest. Private ranch trails link to Mark Twain National Forest trails too.

All in all a great way to get away from our Wisconsin/Minnesota winter in February – temps for us were in the 70's most days in the Ozarks!



Natural bridge at the “funnel”



84-year-old Martin still enjoying an Ozark Mountain ride – why would I ever give up riding?



Buffalo National Scenic Riverway – Arkansas Ozark Mountains



Me and Buddy-Bob taking in the view



We crossed Middle Creek about lebenty-seben times that day!



Sam Scaffidi and Hershey strolling up stream – beautiful crystal clear mountain waters!



View into the Leatherwood Wilderness Area



Riding the rim trails made some folks a bit nervous...but oh the views!



Trail lunch on the ledge at Alligator Knob!



Typical rim trail.



The trail often led right along the edge of the high ledges, Robin Secrist takes a photo to prove it! My horse and I always get better after a trip with Robin and his 40 years of horse training experience.



Another lunch break in the wilderness along the Buffalo River.



We were told that there are over 500-miles of trails in these mountains!



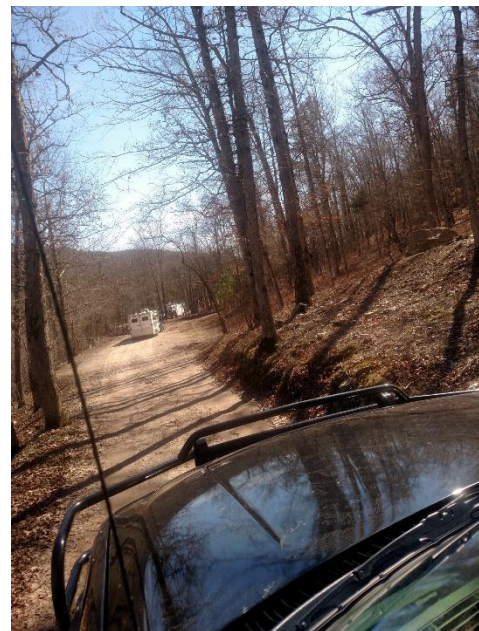
Caney Mountain area was once homesteaded and many cabins built, now all gone.



Another wilderness valley waiting to be explored.



Buffalo River was too high and fast to cross with the horses while we were there – another trip maybe?



Heading into our next horse camp in the Missouri Ozarks



Flying R Ranch, Missouri. Our last stop on the way home for a day and a half of riding.



Heading across the North Fork River in Missouri.



BuddyBob, a gelding, was born and raised here at my place in May of 2010. He is a full Heritage horse from my mare Ostella's Della Ann and Red Bud's Rambling Slim. Buddy has been to the Smokey Mountains on a week of riding and we've put on many trail miles in the hills along the Mississippi river in southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin. BuddyBob is for sale if anyone is looking for a sound, sure-footed trail horse that will go anywhere. He's done a lot for a young horse including riding on the Appalachian Trail. He's used to deer, turkeys and grouse, crosses water and wooden trail bridges without a problem. He is in the 14.2 -14.3 height range. His breeding is hard to beat and he has siblings out there riding trails really well too. I hate to see him leave the herd he grew up in but I need to cut back from the seven head I have now so I can spend time on the two youngsters coming along. BuddyBob was broke to ride at 2 years of age by Robin Secrist of Alma, Wisconsin. He specializes in getting riding horses used to rugged trails in the hills on his property. He has started 5 for me and all are reliable trail mounts.

\$4,000 OBO to a good home. Contact Mike Davis – ambigua@riverland.org – 507-251-411

READERS WRITE

“Nice job”, Nya Bates, Melba Idaho

“Thank you. Enjoyed the Jan/Feb Highlights – and what a beautiful cover photo.” Marjorie Lacy, Edson, Alberta, Canada

“As always loved it. Thanks so much for keeping me on the mailing list. Would love to own the mare Sandra was working. Don't think I could afford the transport costs.” Polly Aulton, Summertown, Tennessee

“I appreciate getting this magazine. You just keep making it bigger and better.” Duke Schultz, Winona, Minnesota

“Thanks for the newsletter. Even though we no longer have horses, I love to read about them!” Sue Quint, Star, Idaho

“Duke has some beautiful babies.” Geraldine Hairgrove, Fulshear, Texas

“The latest sterling effort safely received and filed. Thank You.

My usual lengthy peek revealed very interesting content, which same I intend to peruse asap.

This email via the trusty old laptop, which appears to have a strange adress for you. I have noted it before, but you received my previous emails OK, so here we go again.

There are a few surprise news items to digest, eg Limo moving on etc., but your King story has prepared me, and somewhat lessened the shock. More anon.” Henry Ferreira, Johannesburg, South Africa

“Thanks for yet another interesting newsletter full of horses and those who have wonderful adventures with them.

I especially enjoyed "That's Some Tree" by Doug West and his picture to give perspective as to the size of that giant (the tree, not Doug or his horse!) Fascinating history of the tree.

I always look forward to another Heritage Highlights Newsletter. Thank you.”

Natalie Speckmaier, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

“I really liked that story by Doug West about the sequoia tree. Sure would be fun to ride out and see that someday, it's a whole lot closer to Minnesota than California's sequoias! As always, Leon's amazing memory of horse lineage was as remarkable as it was interesting!”

Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota



THE STORK REPORT



Congratulations to Sandra Bullins of Misty Hollow Farm, Altavista, Virginia on the birth of this filly on March 23, 2017, sired by Carbonado Bay At The Moon, out Misty Hollow's Angel.



Congratulations to Dora Flament, LaPlume France, on the birth of this filly on April 1, 2017. Proud dam is SCW Penelope Candace. Sire is The Little Red Rascal, aka, Mikey.



**Congratulations to Moondance Farm, Katy & Scott McCall, Tallassee, Alabama on the birth of this nice filly. Chloe was born on March 26, 2017. Echo's Society Shocker x Echo's Royal Queen
(Note the horses in the background. Shocker is on the far right and lives with his mare herd)**

THE SALES BARN

Red Bud's Lola is a horse of a different color and stands at 15 hands. She has a willing disposition, smooth as silk gait, nice motor and color to be a stand out. She is extremely sensible and has a deep head nod. Comes right to you in a large pasture. She has had 60 days of professional training and been horse camping and in the woods. She needs more time under saddle to be considered a seasoned trail horse. She will make someone an excellent partner. Her sire is Red Bud's Rambling Slim. Foal date 4/30/13. Located in Lewisburg, TN. Call 931.993.8772 or e mail kgbrewer@hotmail.com. TWHBEA registration number 21303413. Price \$3,000.00



Roc Ridge Farm, Watsonstown, Pennsylvania offers for sale:

Bullet daughter, foaled March 2015. Gray, great disposition, gentle and friendly. Good gait with head nod. Stands for blanket thrown all over her, leads and ties, good for handling feet. Full sister to many proven good trail horses. \$1800 Contact Debbie Zaktansky at rocridge@windstream.net for more information.



Mike Davis, Wabasha, Minnesota is offering BuddyBob for sale:



BuddyBob, a gelding, was born and raised here at my place in May of 2010. He is a full Heritage horse from my mare Ostella's Della Ann and Red Bud's Rambling Slim. Buddy has been to the Smokey Mountains on a week of riding and we've put on many trail miles in the hills along the Mississippi river in southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin. BuddyBob is for sale if anyone is looking for a sound, sure-footed trail horse that will go anywhere. He's done a lot for a young horse including riding on the Appalachian Trail. He's used to deer, turkeys and grouse, crosses water and wooden trail bridges without a problem. He is in the 14.2-14.3 height range. His breeding is hard to beat and he has siblings out there riding trails really

well too. I hate to see him leave the herd he grew up in but I need to cut back from the seven head I have now so I can spend time on the two youngsters coming along. BuddyBob was broke to ride at 2 years of age by Robin Secrist of Alma, Wisconsin. He specializes in getting riding horses used to rugged trails in the hills on his property. He has started 5 for me and all are reliable trail mounts.

\$4,000 OBO to a good home. Contact Mike Davis – ambigua@riverland.org – 507-251-4116

Mike Davis also has Sonny for sale:



My son Dylan on Sonny, packed and ready to head into the Eagles Nest Wilderness, Colorado Rockies, October, 2014



Sonny on tie line at the hunting camp, 10,500 feet



Sonny and I at the peak of Elliot's Ridge near Vail, 12,400 feet above sea level



Sonny Spring of 2015 with baby colt Leon and her mom, he took a real shine to the little one, they still play together.



Sonny and me in my pasture, 2016



Cattle drive in Montana with Sonny, October 2016

Sonny will be 9 years old in May, about 15 hands I think. He is out of Dutchmans Golden Rule 978547/PA from Clarksville, TN. I bought him in 2014 from Robert Dalton over at Laurel Hill Wildlife Area in Lawrence County, TN. Robert rode him all over Laurel Hill his first 4 years under saddle. Sonny will go anywhere you ask and neck reins too.

I ride him with a plain snaffle, no levers or chain, Robert rode him with a more traditional bridle and bit so I think he'll go with whatever you prefer. He gaits naturally and transitions into a very comfortable canter if you ask. We cantered about 2-miles through the terrain in the picture keeping up with a runaway band of angus cows and their calves in Montana last fall. We finally

turned them north and drove them at an easy pace on another 2 miles to join the bigger herd. We put in 8 hours that day and he still had plenty of go left in him. He's a very durable gelding. Asking \$4,000 OBO

. Contact Mike Davis – ambigua@riverland.org
– 507-251-4116

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Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.
www.fosh.info

TRAIN THE TRAINER

The *Train the Trainer* program was designed to assist individuals from different disciplines who may not be familiar with the gaited breeds. The program will assist trainers, owners, and riders to recognize and/or achieve gait in both American and Spanish gaited breeds.

Our clinics, lessons, and horse training are tailored to each situation, location, and/or group. Individuals can bring horses to the ranch in Idaho, or plans can be made to travel to the local area.

For more information contact:
Nya Bates 208.559.2755
Website: www.batesgaitedhorses.com

Readers seem to be enjoying the stories of every day people and their horses so we thought we'd share a publication dedicated to Tennessee Walking Horses that are not show oriented:

Canadian Walking Horse News, is published bi-monthly by Marjorie Lacy of Alberta, Canada. The magazine is dedicated to the plain shod horse in Canada and features articles by the Heritage Society's Franne Brandon on the history of the Walking Horse breed.

Website: www.walkinghorsenews.ca

HOW TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO HIGHLIGHTS

By Franne Brandon, Petersburg, Tennessee

Do you enjoy reading the articles in Heritage Highlights and sometimes wish that you could share your own adventures, experiences, or knowledge with the readership?

You can! Heritage Highlights encourages all articles, long, short, or of moderate length, about all aspects of the Heritage Horse world.

Submissions can be sent via email messages or in Word format as email attachments. Grammar is not a major issue because we have a copy editor (C'est moi!) who reads each article before the layout editor works her magic touch. Highlights welcomes all photo submissions that accompany an article.

Photographs tell the story in many cases, and because we are a non-print publication, we do not have the photographic limits of a magazine.

It is best to send all photographs separately from the text, as downloadable email attachments, with each shot accompanied by a clear caption. This works out best from the layout perspective. The Heritage Highlights staff looks forward to hearing from more of the readership in future issues.

Advertising in Highlights:

If anyone would like to place a classified ad in Highlights, our set up fee is \$10 for photos and text.

Also, if you purchase a Heritage Horse from someone who already has a certificate for the horse and you would like the certificate in your name, we can print a new certificate and mail it for a \$5.00 fee to cover the certificate, mailer and postage.

The Heritage Highlights will now be available on our website, www.ihwha.com so you can download them any time!!

We also have a Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/heritagetennesseeewalkinghorse/>

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Diane Szczepanski, Whitehall, WI
(715) 538-2494
Email: northern_foundations@yahoo.com

The Heritage Society does not endorse any trainer, style of natural training, or tack and horse equipment, to the exclusion of others, as each horse is an individual and not all will respond positively to a particular trainer or training style. Articles published by the Society, which include such endorsements, reflect the view of the author, but not necessarily that of the Society.