



# Equine-Assisted Therapy News



## EAT 2005 - A Year In Review !!

Even before classes officially started, plans for the 2005 EAT sessions were well underway with meetings, volunteer training, fund raiser planning, not to mention the massive amounts of paperwork, communications, planning and contractual agreements for taking on a second location at Longview Farm Park in Town and Country.



Renovations at the Town & Country (T&C) facility were all-consuming this year as anyone who saw the "before and after" can attest. All the trash, excess wood, old furniture and bags of manure were thrown into a

huge dumpster. Then stain, paint, power washing, sweeping, dusting, and organizing got us to a point where we could at last move in. Stalls were re-floored and stocked for hay and water. A trip to the feed mill to purchase grain, shavings, hay and supplements for our geriatric therapy horses paved the way for Smokey, Rudy, Warrior and Ebony to move in.

The fields at T&C were cleared and reseeded, millings were added to the chute that leads from the paddock to the pasture eliminating a huge mud problem and new gates were bought and installed. Many hands have since painted, hammered, shoveled, raked, cleaned, mucked, scrubbed, restocked and you name it. Volunteers worked our T&C Community Days Event, inviting everyone to come see the results of all the hard work. Recently, pavers donated to EAT were installed by the Local Bricklayers Union School (donated labor) for a dramatically beautiful facelift to our barns' upper room. I can't tell you how many wonderful comments we've gotten from those visiting the park. Every time the doors open, the barn is full of our new neighbors! We still have two major projects we'd like to accomplish... more lighting throughout the barn and a hedgerow around our arena....along with lots of smaller projects!

Volunteers worked at three of the St. Louis



Cardinal's Games as a fund raiser for the Equine Assisted Therapy program. The money was OK but the work was absolutely grueling!!! It was one of those things where it's so bad it gets to be funny! The money we made helped finance much of the T&C renovations.

Plans for the first annual EAT Golf Tournament started early in the Spring and remained a constant work in progress until the actual day of the tournament. This was our greatest fund raiser of the year and will be repeated next year, Lord willing. Now that we've stumbled through the process once, it should be a lot easier next time.



In August the Equine Assisted Therapy program hosted a NARHA Workshop for those interested in becoming certified as NARHA instructors around the country. This was a very last-minute decision, made because our volunteers interested in becoming certified couldn't get into any of the other workshops

offered at that time and I REALLY needed help! Quickly! ☺ Such a wonderful group came to help that weekend and we couldn't have been more grateful as it was a very stressful weekend of testing and qualifying and hosting. We got rave reviews from the NARHA judges that came from out of town that weekend to evaluate each participant and I have received calls from all over the country asking how to get a program like ours started.

Jefferson Bank of Eureka sponsored the EAT program to be their entry in this years' Eureka Days Parade. This was a fun little event and allowed us the chance to introduce our program to the Eureka community. Two of our participants rode in the parade and Gunsmoke, the mini, joined us as the icing on the cake! Volunteers handed out donated candy and beads to the large crowd of onlookers and EAT won first prize for our equine entry.



Among and between all these exciting events we also participated in an elementary school and Humane Society presentation, birthday parties, church picnics, and even a BBQ fund raiser for missionaries to Muldova! (We do get around!)

*All-in-all it has been a very interesting year. We've learned so much and have more than doubled in size. Every experience, good or bad, has been important in who we'll be next year and the year after. And, as always, it's because of all of you.... our precious volunteers and the loved ones who put up with them, participants and their families, instructors, Board Members and Donors. You are loved and appreciated by Equine Assisted Therapy program!*

♥ Ginni



## Participant Spotlight

### Spotlight on "Alana Shea Curth"

Meet 8 year old Alana Shea Curth. Alana is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Truman Elementary school. Her favorite class at school is Science. Alana's sister is Addison & her brother is Cullen. She also has a big dog named Austin.

#### Alana's Likes:

☺ brownies, drawing & horseback riding

#### Alana's Dis-Likes:

☹ vegetables, homework & homemade cheeseburgers.

#### Alana's Favorites:

Color - hot pink  
Food - vanilla cake  
Animals - Horses, puppies & rabbits  
Pastime - playing pac-man & listening to music



#### Alana's Quote:

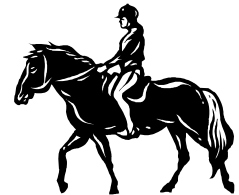
Alana's favorite thing about horseback riding is, "riding, playing games, trotting & everything".



## Happy Birthday ...

### Volunteers:

Judy Leventhal - October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Kristen Downey - October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Patricia Fleming - October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Mike Roberts - October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Lauren Mizel - October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Teresa Richards - October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Hilary Mason - October 21<sup>st</sup>  
Kathy Schamel - October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Meghann Mollerus - October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Robin Vogt - October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Jill Lange - October 27<sup>th</sup>



Elizabeth Wood - November 5<sup>th</sup>  
Lorna Kelly - November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Mallory Layton - November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Bridget Kelly - November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Kathy Welsh - November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Nicholas Flavin - November 29<sup>th</sup>  
Jeannie Jacobs - November 30<sup>th</sup>



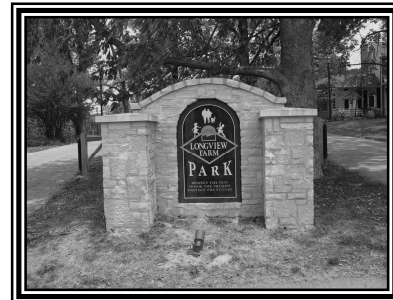
### Participants:

Elly Schueppert - October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Jenny Piccirilli - October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ana Cataldo - October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Marky Kohler - October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Annie Epstein - November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Jason Pamer - November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Victoria Berry - November 15<sup>th</sup>  
Peter McClellan - November 19<sup>th</sup>  
Louis Epstein - November 30



## Thank You's...

- **Bi-State Farms** - for donating hauling charges for delivering stall flooring to our T&C facility
- **Fortel's Pizza Den** - gift certificates for future silent auction
- **Joella Kodelya** - donation to EAT
- **Sybergs** - gift certificates for future silent auction
- **Kris Curth** - for writing all the thank you notes to our donors
- **Dan & Ann Brown** - donation to EAT
- **Randy & Tamara Nelson** - donation to EAT
- **Sparrow Capital Management** - donation to EAT
- **Linda & Tom Nuetzel** - just presented us with the great news that Tom's company, **Sunnen**, has agreed to grant us a significant donation Gary had applied for over the summer. This money will go towards a mower/tractor for T&C.
- **Girls Saddle Club** - Moms of the Girls Saddle Club for folding, stapling, addressing, stamping, sealing & sending anything put in front of them! ☺



- **Town & Country Community Days** - Thank you to all that helped during the Town & Country Community Day. It was greatly appreciated and it wouldn't have been a success without each of you!
- **Town & Country Horse Cartakers** - Steve Akre, Jeff & Danielle Brantley, Barb Benecke, Diana & Anna Dunbar, Steve Gable, Lauren Mizel, Caryn Mundell and Lori Rood
- **The National Charity League** - voted to take EAT on as one of 3 charities they will help in 2006. We look forward to working with them in the upcoming year



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Spotlight on "Judee Hewitt"

Judee had this to say when asked to be the Volunteer for our newsletter this month, " *The Volunteer of the Month gets to wear a tiara, right? I don't usually pass up opportunities to wear a tiara, so I'll do it!*"

Judee heard a program on the radio about a ranch out in Montana that takes in abused horses and abused kids in an effort to heal and protect both. They told real stories of the transformations that took place and the healing that changed the lives of both the kids and horses. She was truly inspired and wanted to get involved. Her husband wasn't too thrilled with the idea of her moving to Montana so she searched on the internet for a similar, yet local, program. That's how she found the EAT Program!



Since she didn't move to Montana, she is still married to her husband Dave. He is a car nut and recently purchased a 1970 GTO that he is fixing up. This gives Judee more free time to volunteer at EAT. Although they have no human children, they do have the furball type - a Ragdoll Kitty named

Gracie. She is just a baby now, but will grow to be about 15 pounds. She likes to do tricks and sleep. Judee comes from a large family and often nieces and nephews come to her house to clean, *oops... I mean to play* 😊.

Judee has owned her own website design company for the last six years, so she spends way too much time in front of the computer. Before that, she was a teacher for 12 years and has always had a soft spot for kids dealing with physical, emotional, social or intellectual challenges. Although she doesn't have any formal equine training, she has been fascinated with horses her whole life.

One of Judee's favorite EAT experiences is seeing Anna's smiling face every week. She has seen Anna in so much pain at times that her mom has to carry her, yet her attitude is always upbeat and easy going. She has a beautiful smile that lights up her entire face and a laugh that warms your heart. Her sweet personality is truly an inspiration.

## Saddle-Up with an EAT Horse Meet # 32 - "Magic"

Magic is a 19 year old quarter horse donated by volunteers, Bob and Mary Griner. He is a beautiful sorrel with 4 white socks and a big, white face. He was simply called, "Red", however with the number 32 branded on his right shoulder he was renamed to "Magic" after NBA-Star Magic Johnson. Magic went



to St James, MO from a South Dakota stockyard 2 years ago, trained as a heeler, he would round up the cattle and direct them to a designated area. Bob bought Magic from St James and brought him home to Fenton where he enjoyed roping and team penning for fun. Then, lucky for us, *Bob got old* 😊 He decided he wanted a smooth, cushy kind of ride rather than the rough, action-packed moves of a reining horse and he switched to the gaited Paso Fino breed that moves along like a glider on his big front porch! Bob and Mary gave pony-rides on Magic and knew he was a good candidate for our kind of work so they very kindly donated him to the EAT program. We have really enjoyed Magic, he's a wonderful addition to the EAT program and so are Bob and Mary!

## In Need Of Your Help...

*Your Generous Contributions are Greatly Appreciated, Below are some of our current needs :*



- Mailboxes
- Christmas tree stands
- Fun CD's ( kids, dance, exercise)
- Scholarship Money for some of our Kids



# Equine-Assisted Therapy News



## EAT - Contact Info

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### EAT Program Addresses:

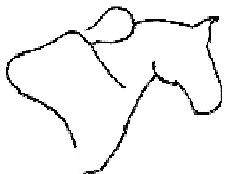
Crescent Farms  
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## EAT - Calendar of Events



### EAT - Interim Session Schedule

Weeks of: Oct 24, Oct 31, Nov 14,  
Nov 28, Dec 5 and Dec 12

### EAT - 2006 Sessions

- Session 1 - Feb 27<sup>th</sup> thru March 30<sup>th</sup> (Crescent Farms Only)
- Session 2 - April 10<sup>th</sup> thru May 27<sup>th</sup> (First Session at T&C)
- Session 3 - June 5<sup>th</sup> thru July 22<sup>nd</sup> - 2 weeks off!!!  
(plan your vacations! ☺)
- Session 4 - Aug 7<sup>th</sup> thru Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> (Last Session at T&C)
- Session 5 - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Nov 18<sup>th</sup> (Crescent Farms Only)