



# RENEWS

Vol. XIV No. 2

Fall 2002

*News from the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation • Offering Renewed Hope to All Involved*

## TRF Exceller Farm Adoptions Hit 100

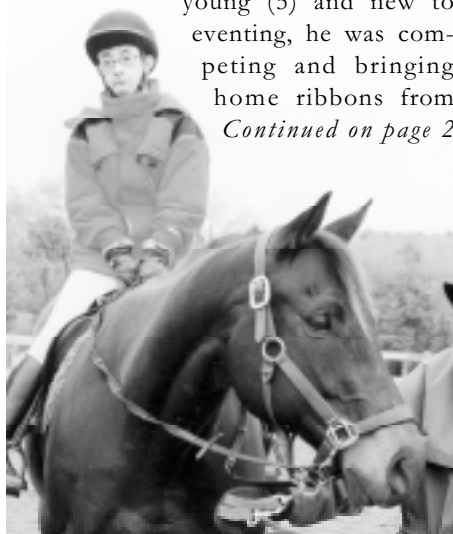
**W**HEN Gilded Hondo headed for his new home with Jennifer Preuss in LaGrange, N.Y., he became the 100th horse to be adopted from the TRF Exceller Farm for Rehabilitation and Retraining.

Since the spring of 2000, farm manager Michele Oren has been retraining former racehorses for new careers. "Michele's success rate in placing them with private owners and therapeutic riding programs reflects her horsemanship, and her insight into both the horses and their adopters. And it proves the intelligence and the versatility of the Thoroughbred," said TRF executive director Diana Pikulski.

Oren calls Halo Summer "our first real success story. He came to us in April 2000 with a condylar fracture and needed six months stall rest before being turned out to pasture." By January 2001, he was ready for adoption by Heather Carlson, a professional show-horse trainer. Although Halo is young (5) and new to eventing, he was competing and bringing home ribbons from

*Continued on page 2*

PHOTO: HIGH HORSES THERAPEUTIC RIDING STABLES



*E.J. Bab rides Beau (Be Calm) at High Horse Therapeutic Riding Stables, a Vermont-based program.*

## Gemini Survives Summer Camp

**T**HE SUMMER CAMP season in the rural Connecticut town had come to a close, and more than 20 horses were standing listlessly in stalls nowhere near roomy enough for them. In one stall, a Thoroughbred cribbed steadily in order to deaden awareness of his painful existence.

The mid-August temperature was a scorching 90-plus degrees, but the horses had been left tacked up in western saddles. Too long ungroomed, they suffered from severe rain rot, and the saddles had been put on over open sores. The horses' protruding ribs cast shadows on their unkempt coats. Signs on stall doors showed they'd been worked up to eight hours a day.

That the horses came to be rescued was happenstance. Lynn Cross had stopped by the camp on a tip that she might find a pleasure horse there for a friend. Cross, who operates B.I.T.S. (Balanced Innovative Teaching Strategies), a nonprofit educational-therapeutic riding program, was appalled by the condition of the horses at the camp. She immediately made arrangements to return with money and transport to rescue the pathetic animals from the dealer, who had made it clear that he intended to sell them for slaughter.

Calling "everyone I knew!" Cross managed in just a few days to raise \$13,000—\$400 of it the entire penny bank savings of two preteen students—and hightailed it back to the camp. Making three trips, Cross hauled 23 horses to B.I.T.S. at her Little Brook Farm in Old Chatham, N.Y.

According to Cross, it was the opinion of the veterinarian who examined the horses at B.I.T.S. that the dealer who leased them



PHOTO: LESLIE CARLSON/BOWEN

*Inhumane treatment at a girls' summer camp was very nearly the death of Gemini. He's now sleek and well-fed at a TRF satellite farm in Vermont.*

to the camp bears the greater responsibility for their miserable state. He did not think the horses could have deteriorated so badly over a single summer, even under the camp's deplorable conditions.

Three of the rescued horses were Thoroughbreds. One died; the mare recuperated well and is still at B.I.T.S. The third was the unhappy cribber, Gemini (Gem).

During seven months at B.I.T.S., no amount of care and pampering could reach the heart of this badly abused horse. Gem was not ready to forgive and forget what people had done to him. With students from toddler to teen, Cross worried about their safety while Gem was at the school. She had gone to extreme lengths to rescue him. Now she was afraid that if she couldn't find a retirement organization that would accept the unpredictable horse she might have to euthanize him.

Research into horse rescue operations led her to the TRF, founded on the conviction that all racing Thoroughbreds are entitled to live out their natural lives in peace and security. Gem would find a haven at the TRF's flagship farm at New York's

*Continued on page 4*

## News from Wallkill

In our last issue we reported additional acres made available by the NY State Corrections Department to our flagship farm at Wallkill State Correctional Facility. Farm manager Jim Tremper tells us that a road into the new property has been started. Also, the state has announced plans to re-shingle the barn, and sheds and fencing are being spruced up with state-donated paint.

"As space becomes available at other TRF farms, more recently arrived horses are moving on. This allows some of the men to get to know the older horses and others to become 'rehab' specialists," Tremper said. "We're able to rest horses that might otherwise have been euthanized and slowly bring them back to pasture soundness. We're saving a lot of horses."

## Phantom On Tour Takes Time Off

While Phantom On Tour enjoyed a rest from his duties as TRF spokesperson at the Kentucky Derby Museum, Logan's Blush stood in for him. The 15-year-old Great Prospector mare, who raced till she was five and won \$83,478, is available for adoption from the TRF. Blush is charming visitors to her paddock, and it looks like she will have her pick of new owners.

## Old Friends

TRF retirees Bowl Game and Cast Party are featured in Eclipse Award-winning photographer Barbara D. Livingston's beautiful new book of photos and essays, *Old Friends: Visits With My Favorite Thoroughbreds* (Eclipse Press, 2002).

Bowl Game, now 28, eluded Barbara and her camera for hours. A son of Tom Rolfe, the Champion Grass Horse of

*Continued on page 4*

## Exceller Farm Adoptions Top 100

*Continued from page 1*

U.S. Combined Training Association horse trials six months later. This year he has advanced from novice to training level and will try preliminary in the fall. Carlson is thrilled with his progress.

Exceller horses travel near and far to their new homes. Just up the road from Exceller, Chieftain and Greycloud happily share their new paddock on Alan Ripin's property with three goats, a flock of geese, and some wild turkeys.

Brick Town Dancer is at home with Melissa Lee, a schoolteacher and an Exceller volunteer. Now lovingly known as Casey, he has two new "brothers"—Jack, a standard donkey, and Otis, a mini mule. "Casey made the transition from shy racehorse to comedian well," Lee says. "At times I think he thinks *he* is a donkey! He fills our lives with joy."

Almost April was vanned thousands of miles to her new home. Erin Butler, a student at Colorado State University, adopted the six-year-old mare, sight unseen. April, rescued from certain slaughter at the New Holland sales, was skeletal when she came to Exceller. "Almost ugly," Oren said. "But as she filled out, she became quite beautiful."

Butler is delighted with her, calling April "a

sweetheart, very even-tempered and eager to please as a hunter-jumper. She knew nothing when she arrived, but she was a really fast learner. In her second show, competing with 45 other horses, she got three third-place, one fourth place, and a sixth place." Not bad for a newbie.

In what may be TRF's happiest stories, well-bred former racehorses are lifting hearts and spirits in therapeutic riding programs.

Affirmeds Ace, a grandson of Triple Crown winner Affirmed, won 21 of his 65 starts. On the track, you could have called his attitude "assertive." TRF waived adoption fees to Dream Catcher Stables (Texas), co-founded by Sanna Roling. There, Eric Peterson has been riding the former racehorse to the gold in Special Olympics competition—and silver and bronze, too. The gold was for a relay race in which the duo started five lengths behind the other team and finished five lengths ahead. "He has a beautiful stride," Roling says.

Eric rides Ace with confidence, and Ace is a quick study as well as a sensitive mount for Eric. In their second outing, the pair took a fourth place ribbon in the Working Trail Horse class, where Ace met his first step-up bridge with aplomb. Eric's silver medals with Ace were for Western Equitation—a new experience for the horse—and Showmanship at Halter.

Dream Catcher's other TRF retiree, Dewcheatemandhow, is a grandson of Native Dance. Nicknamed Dewey, the horse has already demonstrated superior skill as a trail horse.

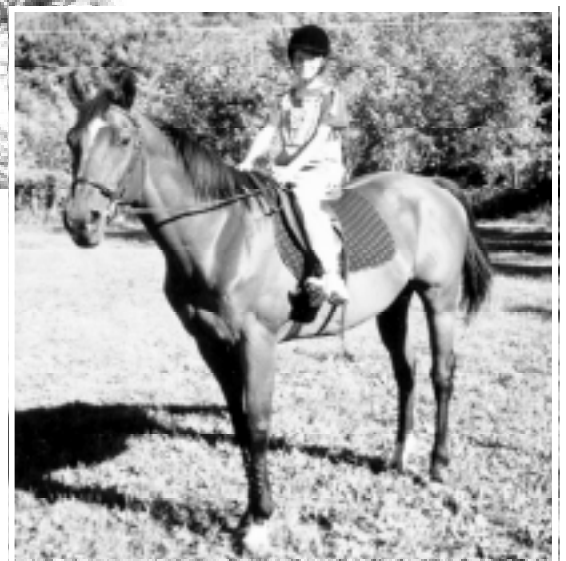
At Susan Goodell's High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program in Wilder, Vt., E. J. Blah rides Be Calm (Beau). The nine-year-old Florida-bred grandson of Seattle Slew raced from 1995 to 2000. Today, Goodell characterizes him as



PHOTO: REFLECTIONS OF KILLINGTON

*Halo Summer takes a jump in the Stoneleigh Burnham Horse Trials in 2001. Heather Carlson is well pleased with his progress in competitive eventing.*

*Jenna Barton wrote to us: "I am twelve years old. I have always wanted a horse. Then one day I got a very gentle and pretty one from Exceller Farm. His registered name is Nostrum's Key, but I call him Key, for he is the key to my heart. I love him and I hope he loves me. He is the most wonderful horse in the whole world!"*



**YES, I want to help.**

FA02

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to receive E-mail news from the TRF. [We will not share or sell any contact information you choose to provide.]

Contributors of \$50 or more may check here to receive our wonderful new computer mousepad featuring a beautiful full-color photograph of TRF poster boys Ebonizer and Thank You Dinky.

Here is my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment method:

Check to: Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, PMB 351, 450 Shrewsbury Pl., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4332

Charge my VISA/MASTERCARD Acct. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All contributors receive *RENEWS*, the TRF newsletter.

The TRF is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your gift is tax deductible.  
A copy of the foundation's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

## Wish List

- ♥ Sponsors for TRF horses
- ♥ Sponsors for TRF Web site
- ♥ Sponsors for *Renews*
- For the farms:**
- ♥ 4x4 pressure treated fence posts
- ♥ 1x6 oak fence boards.
- ♥ Four-wheel drive tractor with front end loader
- ♥ Four-wheel drive, roadworthy pick-up truck
- ♥ Supplies [body clippers, a must for horses with Cushing's disease, leather halters, fly masks and spray, water buckets, lead ropes, body sponges, sweat scrapers, leg wraps (6" and 14"), winter blankets, standing bandages, and quilts]
- ♥ Tack (bridles, cold-weather turn-out blankets)
- ♥ First aid supplies [sheet cotton, daily wormer, joint & respiratory (COPD) supplements]
- ♥ Two run-in sheds
- ♥ Metal barn roofing
- ♥ Four automatic waterers
- ♥ Bush-hog
- ♥ Paddock gates
- ♥ Tractor to take a 10' mowing deck, a 3-point hitch.
- ♥ A round pen
- ♥ Diesel-engined tractor with hydraulics
- ♥ Chain harrow
- ♥ Nonfiction books about horses

## About the TRF

Founded in 1982, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides lifetime retirement for Thoroughbreds at satellite and TRF-operated farms in states that include Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin, and through private adoptions. The principal retirement programs are located at state correctional facilities, where the horses' caretakers are prison inmates and juvenile offenders who derive both emotional and educational benefits from pioneering TRF vocational programs in horse care.

The work of the TRF is wholly dependent on public support.

### Renews

Elinor Penna *Executive Editor*  
Mary Ratcliffe *Editor*

E-mail us at [trfinc@msn.com](mailto:trfinc@msn.com) — we love to hear from you.  
Visit us on the Web ([www.trfinc.org](http://www.trfinc.org)) for more photos and news of the TRF's retired racehorses.

## Churchill Downs Volunteers Visit Horses They Helped to Sponsor

On June 17, the Churchill Downs, Inc. (CDI) Green Pasture Program™ hosted its first Out To Pasture party at the Kentucky Derby Museum. The goal: to raise money to sponsor retired TRF racehorses. Live and silent auctions were a highlight of the benefit dinner and offered VIP trip packages to major racing and sporting events that included the 2003 Kentucky Derby and 2002 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships, horse racing and sports memorabilia, and other premium items and services. A surprise last-minute live auction item was Sarava's halter, donated by Gary and Kitty Drake, owners of the Belmont Stakes winner. Tom Meeker, president and CEO of CDI, made the winning bid of \$2,000, but celebrity auctioneer and Hall of Fame trainer Jack van Berg coaxed both the Drakes and the McPeeks (trainer of Sarava) to match that. The \$6,000 total fetched by the halter will sponsor six

*Continued on page 4*

## Send a TRF Christmas Card

Help the TRF by sending this beautiful holiday card. A portion of the proceeds from the card, created by JettSport, Inc. (licensee for Churchill Downs' Art Collection), will be given to the TRF. You can order it online at [kyderbyart.com](http://kyderbyart.com) or call (502) 228-9427. The cards, in packages of 10 for \$15, will also be available in the Kentucky Derby Museum gift shop. ♦



PHOTO: J. STEPHEN HOCKENS SMITH



PHOTO: PAUL ROLING

*In their second Special Olympics competition, Eric Peterson and Affirmed's Ace, a grandson of Triple Crown winner Affirmed, brought home two silver medals and a fourth-place ribbon.*

“our quietest, slowest horse!” The five-year-old Mighty Mott (Moxie) and Handsome are the other Exceller graduates now at High Horses. “They have their own special personalities and the big, kind hearts needed for therapeutic riding,” Goodell says. “Everyone has fallen in love with them.” Riders at High Horses range in age from 3 to 93.

Some say Thoroughbreds are too “hot” for therapeutic riding, but TRF retirees are proving otherwise at High Horses and Dream Catcher. Both programs are accredited by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association.

Whenever we place a horse in a new home, the gate swings open for us to rescue another. With nearly 650 horses now in our care, and countless numbers depending on us for salvation, we need your support more than ever. ♦

More photos and stories at [www.trfinc.org/excellerfarm.htm](http://www.trfinc.org/excellerfarm.htm)



THOROUGHBRED  
RETIREMENT  
FOUNDATION  
PMB 351, 450 Shrewsbury Plaza  
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702-4332

## Inside

- ▶ TRF Exceller Farm Adoptions Hit 100
- ▶ Gemini Survives Summer Camp
- ▶ News from Wallkill
- ▶ Phantom On Tour Takes Time Off
- ▶ Old Friends
- ▶ Churchill Downs Volunteers Visit Horses They Helped to Sponsor
- ▶ Send a TRF Christmas Card

4

## Old Friends

*Continued from page 2*

1979 won 11 of his 23 starts, including the Man o' War, the Turf Classic, and the Arlington Handicap; he earned \$907,738. Cast Party (by Caro out of Casting Call) is 22 and carries himself like a star. His four wins included the Grade I Laurel Futurity.

"When I saw them at the TRF farm at Historic Long Branch in Virginia," Livingston said, "they were with more than twenty geldings of all ages, grazing comfortably in an expansive field. They were such a well-tended gang, their lives now safe from unkind fates. They strutted like teenage boys [and] stretched out their heads to be petted, checking our hands for treats.

"I hope with all my heart that my respect for the TRF shows through in the story's last lines: '...they seem happy here, wandering virtually unnoticed among other Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation geldings: former claimers and allowance horses, horses with bad ankles and knees, and scars quite visible to the eye. Here, they are all equal.'"



*Saratoga Character obviously liked meeting Lexie Perret and her grandmother, Jan Perret, an Out to Pasture party volunteer.*

## Churchill Downs Volunteers Visit Horses

*Continued from page 3*

TRF horses for a year. Mr. Meeker donated the halter to the Museum

The Out to Pasture party was organized by 27 hard-working volunteers, all CDI employees, headed by Julie Koenig Loignon, director of internal communications at CDI, and Patricia Lenihan, a TRF volunteer. On August 9, 15 of them visited TRF's farms in Lexington to meet the horses they'd helped to sponsor. Some of the employees, Koenig said, had never been near a

racehorse, and they had a wonderful time getting "up close and personal." They look forward to volunteering for the TRF again.

An outgrowth of TRF's continual effort to extend our Safety Net program to tracks nationwide, Green Pastures is a formal partnership between TRF, CDI, and its six tracks (Arlington Park, Calder Race Course, Churchill Downs, Ellis Park, Hollywood Park, Hoosier Park). Designed to educate horsemen, racing fans, and the general public about the benefits of retiring racehorses while they are still sound and suitable for second careers, the program also seeks to raise awareness of the TRF's racehorse donation, adoption, and sponsorship programs through CDI-sponsored publicity and marketing efforts.

Learn how *you* can sponsor a TRF Thoroughbred at [www.trfinc.org/sponsor.htm](http://www.trfinc.org/sponsor.htm). ❖

## Gemini Survives Summer Camp

*Continued from page 1*

Wallkill State Correctional Facility.

"He came in sour," said farm manager Jim Tremper. "He didn't want to be bothered with anyone and seemed to be avoiding pain." Treated with the kindness that Wallkill's caregivers show to all of the horses, Gemini began to mellow out. Not once during his four months at Wallkill did he display the tendency to aggression that had worried Lynn Cross. Gemini was ready to move to Cobble Hill Stable, a TRF satellite farm in Vermont, to be retrained for adoption.

Because the TRF was here for him, Gemini is alive, well, and learning to trust people. Help us to go on saying "yes" to horses like Gemini. ❖