

ACCESS ADVENTURE/Anywhere Wild! October Update

Dear Friends,

The **Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Program Family Picnic** was held at the Rush Ranch this year. It was one of those warm gusty wind days that are so familiar to people who live in the area. That didn't deter the Xenophon chefs from barbecuing, nor the families and Access Adventure volunteers from enjoying a hearty meal. Virgil was on hand to provide blacksmithing demonstrations, a treat for parents and children alike. Last year's picnic was held at the San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda, and was the first time Reba and Ruby worked away from the ranch, so many of the families had met them and were anxious to see them again. The team seemed to enjoy showing the ranch to our visitors, and Michael served as docent during the tour.

Abigail Stockinger and her horse Rebel were on hand to demonstrate their unique partnership. Abigail had owned Rebel for just a short time when a horrible vehicle accident resulted in her need to use a wheelchair to get around. In 2005 she joined others at Muir Heritage Land Trust's Dutra Ranch for the first event of the organization that would become Access Adventure. Determined not to be limited by her disability, she instead met the challenges and when she had sufficiently healed she and Rebel began their training together. Their close relationship and the communication between them show the love and respect they have for each other. Rebel's responses to what Abigail asks of him are remarkable and we hope inspired the Xenophon parents and students to think not in terms of disabilities but rather how they too can look forward to experiencing all that life has to offer. We are fortunate to have Abigail and Rebel as active and enthusiastic volunteers for Access Adventure!

Abigail, Randie and Michael traveled with the trolley to the **Disability Tech Fair** in Santa Rosa. The event featured over 70 exhibitors who displayed assistive technology devices and education materials along with service information for seniors, people with disabilities, health professionals, educators and the public at large. In addition to a very busy day of providing carriage rides to many of the five hundred participants, Michael was the keynote speaker. Stuart Schroeder (www.stonehorsecharters.com) and his new team of Percheron mares, Betsy and Bonnie, did the honors on the trolley. We are launching our first satellite program in 2009 with Access Adventure Sonoma, hosted by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. Donna LaGrafte of the Sonoma County Regional Park District and Vaughn Held of Community Resources for Independence have been key players in launching this new program supported by an enthusiastic group of new volunteers.

Introducing Apollo, the Friesian stallion imported from the Netherlands by John and Janna Eisenbart of Royal Knight Friesians (www.royalknightfriesians.com). Apollo has entered training with Access Adventure Director Michael Muir, an international champion horseman and will stand at stud to benefit our program. This spectacular stallion earned the coveted STER (star) rating at the Dutch National Stallion Show in 2005. Apollo is a breathtaking mover and an imposing, handsome individual. A proven sire of quality offspring, Apollo will breed mares for the Access Adventure program and stand at stud to the public for the very reasonable fee of \$650, guaranteed live foal. During his stay in California Apollo will be campaigned in ridden

dressage and combined driving, pointing to the ultimate goal of participation in the World Equestrian Games in 2010.

Please pass the word that Access Adventure is seeking the services of a uniquely qualified volunteer. We need a teaser pony! (A “teaser” is a stallion used to determine when mares are in season and ready to be bred.) We are also seeking the loan or donation of a breeding mount for artificial insemination. Please let us know if you have any leads.

This year is winding down, but we are now concentrating on plans for next year and the future of Access Adventure. One priority is to secure funding through grants and fundraisers. We also ask you to please consider a generous donation to fund this unique program with a check made payable to the Solano Land Trust/Access Adventure and sent to 1001 Texas St., Ste. C, Fairfield, CA 94533. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, IRS #94-3015363, your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. In addition to the breeding program with Apollo we are investigating several other programs that will generate income - exciting announcements in future Updates.

Attached are photographs from the Xenophon picnic and of Apollo.

Michael Muir and the Volunteers of Access Adventure