



## Letter to Readers from Cheri

### Saddling up for the ride of our life

Thank EWE to everyone who has ever helped support our endeavors of growing a Large Animal Shelter. The farm has been through so many changes, challenges, spurts and stutters and even with adversity, the animals here at the farm continue to live and be loved. I've been asked a lot this past winter, "Did you ever think when you opened Cracker Box that it would ever grow to be this big?" And I always get a shiver to think back to the first days of the farm with 30 animals the first year and a budget of under \$1300! I always knew, though, that Wayne County was the perfect place for this farm because the people of Wayne County care. There are some awesome people out here in 315-ville! And I still remember the day Griff and I sat down and discussed Cracker Box Palace moving to Alasa Farms and some of the topics we went over that day.... Are there really aliens from outer space at Alasa Farms? (that's a long story, but a funny one!), Alasa Farms reserved the right to approve all farm animals coming in, no elephants. And a little more on the serious side, the one thing Griff said to me that I now say to our Board of Directors was, "Do you have a plan to be successful?" That was just something I never considered when we first opened. But realistic, measurable plans for success and on-going monitoring mechanisms are something everyone has to include in a robust business plan, a business plan that will guarantee success.

So, as we continue toward the dream to be a successful farm and shelter, now we face our biggest challenge to date. We hope to start our much needed endowment fund to secure finances for the future; we are exploring all of our options to buy Alasa Farms or another farm of our own. We have had many kind and generous offers from many professional people including realtors, bankers, advertising people, grant experts, successful retirees, and business people to help us come up with a plan to raise the funds to both put an endowment fund in place and secure money to purchase Alasa Farms.

We do want to keep the original barns and preserve them and keep Alasa Farms green and as a forever-farm. We hope to preserve the historic buildings and possibly rebuild some of them. We do hope to add more to the farm and improve the nature of the farm for the future with hiking, skiing, and horse back riding trails, and picnic and camping sites. Some of our plans include opening new pastures and adding new barns along with an indoor arena where we could expand our services to the community and offer riding opportunities to children or the developmentally disabled. We still want to make CBP more handicapped accessible so everyone can enjoy the farm. And we will keep it as a working farm with fruit trees, crops such as corn and soybeans, as well as adding hay fields, additional produce and herb gardens. And most of all we want to keep it open to the public so anyone who wishes can come and visit. This farm holds too many memories for so many people. To lose the farm or to have someone keep it as a private entity, or worse yet, have it developed, would be a travesty as we found out how dear the house alone was to so many after the fire.

To lose any more history or open space right here in our own back yards would be criminal, and a unconscionable loss to future generations.

So we, as this little farm animal haven, again, will set out on a new journey to try and keep Alasa Farms. Ready for the spurts and stutters, but definitely willing to go the extra mile to keep the history and preserve some "forever green" for future generations: to always be able to offer a quiet place by a babbling creek filled with salmon and walleye that you can almost touch when they come up to the waterfall in their seasons; to keep our animals in wide open, green pastures; to continue to offer anyone the opportunity to work on a farm, learn compassion from farm animals in need and to teach community servitude; and to preserve pristine, unspoiled green space in a world that truly has gone mad with unchecked development.

If anyone is willing to help us on our quest we gladly welcome you to saddle up, pack your saddle bags with your most creative, innovative ideas and expertise, and join us for the ride of your life. We know this will be an adventure for sure! And we could definitely use the help!

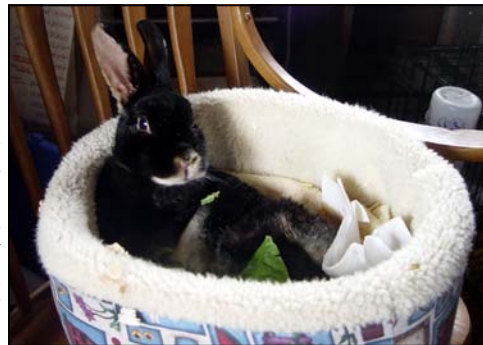
Thank EWE once again from all of us here at Cracker Box Palace!



*Cheri Calasore*

Founder & Farm Manager

Hi! My name is Medusa. I live in the farm's office because I'm paralyzed from about the middle of my back down. Other than that, I'm quite healthy and happy! My friend,



Volunteer Sue Fox, picks me up every morning out of my overnight cage and puts me in this snug fleecy bed with my water bottle, fresh veggies, and crunchy food. I get to visit with people all day and everyone loves to bring me treats! Each evening, Sue puts me back in my cage where I'm able to reach my water and crunchy treats. I guess it's pretty safe to say that I won't be adopted, though. Won't you please consider sponsoring me? Sponsorships make great gifts...just think, you could sponsor me or one of my buddies and have your own personal Easter Bunny here at the farm. For sponsorship info, check out our website or call Alice at 315-904-4005 / e-mail [irwins@rochester.rr.com](mailto:irwins@rochester.rr.com).

It's time to reserve booth space for Animal Faire! Forms are available on our website. Don't miss out...showcase your organization! Free booth space for Not For Profits!



## From the Editor's "Pen"

by Alice Irwin

### Reverence for Life

One of the most profound influences in my childhood that became a cornerstone of my life was the work and teachings of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Even though he passed away when I was only 12, it seems like that almost every day my mother found a way to incorporate his philosophies into the lives of my brother and me. One of the essential tenets of Dr. Schweitzer's very being was that of "Reverence for Life" and I can remember hearing Mom voice those words so many times. James Brabazon, author of the "Biography of Albert Schweitzer," reflected on that statement, saying "Reverence for Life says that the only thing we are really sure of is that we live and want to go on living. This is something that we share with everything else that lives, from elephants to blades of grass – and, of course, every human being. So we are brothers and sisters to all living things, and owe to all of them the same care and respect, that we wish for ourselves."

Dr. Schweitzer's teachings came thundering back into my mind like a freight train as I recently did a photo shoot with some of the horses rescued from the State Street cruelty case in September, 2008. He once spoke, "Whenever I injure any kind of life, I must be quite certain that it is necessary. I must never go beyond the unavoidable, not even in apparently insignificant things. The man who is truly ethical shatters no ice crystal as it sparkles in the sun, tears no leaf from a tree ..."

The vision in my memory's eye of the condition of those helpless, starved, crippled and degraded creatures of God when we took them in, and some of the other cruelty case victims CBP has rescued in the past brought stinging tears. Indeed...tear no leaf from a tree? Starve no animal or confine it in inadequate quarters, or pasture it where its feet will rot to almost the point of no return? Allow no open sores to fester? I find it difficult to find any plausible justification for this gross disregard of responsibility toward another living being, and total and complete lack of ethics. Sure, the economy is abysmal, times are tough for animal owners, but good God, there is no excuse for a total disregard for Reverence for Life.

As Cheri and I went from pasture to pasture for photo-ops



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of our rescued charges, my heart soared with every horse we visited. Their will to live, unbelievable; their trust in their keepers, unwavering; their physical condition, amazing (see Lizzy on Page 17). The selfless devotion of everyone at CBP to save both the bodies and psyches of these animals, to nurture their will to live, was, in a word, stunning, and a tribute to everything good, kind, moral and ethical. In the words of Dr. Schweitzer, "The man who has become a thinking being feels a compulsion to give to every will to live the same reverence for life that he gives to his own. This is the absolute, fundamental principle of ethics. A man is ethical only when life, as such, is sacred to him, that of plants and animals as well as that of his fellowman, and when he devotes himself helpfully to all life that is in need of help."

It's impossible to enumerate the hours that the CBP staff and volunteers have worked in some of the worst winter conditions we've experienced in a long time to save the lives and restore the dignity and trust of these rescued "will-to-lives." It's even more impossible to fathom the depth of their commitment, their compassion, and their willingness to put the needs of the animals above their own needs...to heal their wounds, to ease their pain, to make their bodies and souls whole again. Dr. Schweitzer used to become impatient when anyone mentioned the sacrifices he made, saying "We must all die but when I can save a life from days of torture - that is what I feel as my great and ever new privilege... The greatest reward I know is when a patient takes my hand after awakening from an operation and says: 'I feel no pain.'"

Here at the Palace, our patients can't tell us in words that their pain is gone, but they do nuzzle us with their soft, moist faces; they look us in the eye and we can see the physical pain is abating and that they are slowly learning to trust again, learning that they can be touched, loved and safe. They can feel how much they are treasured and we know they all understand that everyone at the farm truly has a Reverence for Life.

"Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace." Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Theologian, Musician, Philosopher, and Physician ~ January 14, 1875 - September 4, 1965.

Thank you, Dr. Schweitzer, for providing guiding principles for my life. We can only hope that more and more people will pick up your torch of Reverence for Life.

With blessings and baaahhs,

Alice & Ethan

and our beloved cats, bunny, and sheep



## Cracker Box Palace News

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## Thank Ewes To:

- ♥ Everyone for your wonderful Christmas cards, kind, supportive words of encouragement, and special holiday donations. Your kindness and generosity during these horrible economic times is truly overwhelming.
- ♥ Janet Buchanan Smith and "Aunt Sally" Clapp for their wonderful grants through RACF.
- ♥ Mary Lou Weisenreder, who helped us catch the runaway pot belly.
- ♥ Dr. Wolfer of Lyons Vet Clinic for his help with wormers and rabies vaccines for all of the cats.
- ♥ Kelli Bushnell for her special donation in her aunt Sheila Harrington's name, in honor of all the animals Sheila has rescued and cared for.
- ♥ Brenda Irwin and Mike Sabo for their wonderful PayPal donation in honor of Brenda's Dad's birthday (Ethan Irwin).
- ♥ Kelly Friedel, the staff at the Victor Kwik Fill (the one next to Randall Chevrolet on Route 96), and the customers who filled the donation box and change jar (\$200.00 in only a month!). It was truly an amazing array of donations for our critters, office, and gift shop. Next time you're in Victor, please stop at Kelly's Kwik Fill!
- ♥ Duane and Bonnie DeHollander for helping us to stay warm with their donation of an electric heater and Rinnai LP gas heater.
- ♥ Everyone who supported our Gala Ball, either by attending, sending us a special donation, or donating auction items. See page 16 for a list of our wonderful donors.
- ♥ Marlene Ferguson for her incredible on-going support of our website.
- ♥ To our anonymous donor who takes care of getting our newsletter printed!
- ♥ Last but by far, not least, to Burt Madison. Burt's kind of the unsung hero at the farm, the strong silent one behind the scenes who after working a full time job every day (and nites too) he unwaveringly builds, hauls, repairs barns and machinery, and keeps Cheri on an even keel. We love you Burt!

911 ~ 911 ~ 911 ~ 911 ~ 911 ~ 911 ~ 911

Remember that number! **If you are concerned about the possible neglect or abuse of an animal, please call 911.** The appropriate town/county agency will investigate and contact us if an animal needs rescue/shelter. We do not perform investigations; we're there to provide shelter for animals in need. **For all other inquiries about the farm, call 315-483-2493** but please be patient with us...you'll usually receive the answering machine because we're out in the barns and pastures working with the animals. We promise to get back to you as soon as we possibly can. Thank ewe

## New Arrivals

- ♥ Irish, Clover, and Ricki - our 3 new sheep-kins are safely housed in the office. They came to us when they were only 3 weeks old. We are bottle feeding them with milk replacer and they're eating



- some soft hay and pellet feed. Come visit our sweet, spoiled babies...they love to cuddle!
- ♥ Orlando, our Dutch Warm Blood horse was returned to the farm and he's acting like he never left home!
- ♥ Miley, our very cute lop ear bun is home again, sadly to say. Apparently she didn't want to leave the farm. We'd love to find a loving home for her.
- ♥ Bunnies Brookly and Lizzy have joined our rabbit gang. Very cute, very friendly. Brookly has moved in with Phantom; Lizzy is livin' large with the girls in the big run.
- ♥ Snuffles, Marky, Shorty, and Karma are four rabbits that came to the farm due to a foreclosure on a home this past Christmas Eve. The owners have not been back for them, nor do they return our calls. We may be looking for homes for the rabbits very soon. They are all House buns.
- ♥ Six hens from Wolcott arrived in January. They were found in downtown Wolcott wandering Main Street during a snow storm and sub-zero wind chills. All the girls are doing well, and every day is become like an Easter Egg Hunt!



- ♥ Five banty roosters came in from Newark. We are **seriously out of room for roosters** here at the farm. If anyone is interested in these guys, please let us know ASAP. They are all very healthy, very pretty boys and have a great cock-a-doodle-doo on them!

# Adoptions

♥ Gabe, our two year old recently-gelded red roan has found a new forever home with Jen Spring of Alton.

♥ Great news on the cat front! Our sweet little mom-cat Trigger has been adopted by the Englert family of Sodus. Now known as "Ophelia," she seems to be adjusting to her new loving family very well, including her cat-brother, Diomedes...the word is that they wash each others faces. Janet wrote us, "We will send a picture one of these days of Ophelia and her hidden talent - piano playing! Not only does she hop up onto the piano, but she walks up and down the keys and sometimes it sounds pretty good! She's been known to "strike a pose" on the piano, but never long enough for us to grab the camera! We encourage her to be as musical as she wants! Ophelia is a sweet loving cat and has been a wonderful addition to our family. She even tolerates the 8-month baby that I babysit for!"



Kitten Bagera was adopted by Laura Wesche and her daughter Kathleen, who are new volunteers at the farm. Laura wrote that they just love him to pieces; he sleeps with them and follows them all around the house. They also rescued 2 lambs and have provided a wonderful home for all.

All of the other kittens have also found loving new homes. Thank ewe all who helped with the overpopulation of cats and drop offs!

♥ The Siragusa Family from Henrietta adopted 4 of our buns for Christmas, including 10 Carrot (right). Thank you for giving them a great home.



Want to see all of our beautiful newsletter photos in color? Go to our website and click on Newsletters!

## Paton's MARKET PLACE

Thank ewe for your daily donations of fruit, breads, and vegetables for our critters, and your donations in support of our events!

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♥ Joey, our stunning tobiano patterned paint horse who was part of the Sodus rescue, has been adopted by the Priest family of Walworth for their grandchildren, and it looks like Joey is the perfect match for them!

Kathy Priest wrote, "Happy New Year, everyone! Attached is a letter from Bailey Welker regarding her Christmas gift and pictures with Joey. Bailey's sister - Sierra, brother - Dustin, cousins - Devonne & Desirae also ride Joey, just not as much as Bailey. When the twins were showed Joey Christmas Eve, they just went "Ah-h-h-h-h!" and rushed right up to pet him. They're 9 years old. THANKS for everyone's part in getting Joey back to health! He's loved here!"

Bailey Welker is pictured below with Joey; she also sent us a letter:

"Hi! My name is Bailey Welker. For Christmas I got a Christmas pony. The first time I saw him was Christmas Eve. We adopted a paint gelding. A person at the stables named him Joey. On Christmas day I got supplies from Santa Claus. I got a halter, bridle, a pink saddle pad, a bucket full of brushes, a hoof pick and pink polo wraps.

Joey is a very good trotter. I ride him mostly every day if it's not snowing hard. Joey rides English and Western. Joey loves people and peppermints! Joey only gets one peppermint if he is good. Joey also loves to get brushed. Every time we feed Joey we put the bucket on his stall door. When Joey is finished he moves his bucket and it falls on the floor!

Joey is a very good horse. Joey is still learning to take the bit from the bridle and other commands, but he still is a very nice horse. I am very glad we adopted Joey so he would have a good home!

We love you Joey!"





# Memorials

## Our treasured people friends...

† We extend our deepest sympathy to Diane Cundra and her family on the loss of her mother, Olimpia Gilyardi, who passed away on February 13. Diane wrote to us, *"She was an animal lover and just enjoyed your farm immensely. We loved picking apples and last fall gave a couple horses some carrots and apples. Please put this donation toward their hay."* Thank you, Diane. Our prayers are with you.

† We extend our thanks to the children of Rose David - Kenny, Lois, Mary, Gail, and Karen - for their Christmas donation to the farm in memory of their mother. Rose was a faithful friend of the farm.

## Our dear animal friends...

† Timmy, our dear little white rabbit friend of Phantom, passed away in February. Gentle, huggable Timmy was everyone's favorite. We will miss you and your pretty chocolate eyes and pink nose. We extend our sincere condolences to Sam VanAcker, who has loved and sponsored Timmy for several years.



Timmy

† Nancy, one of our older big run rabbits left us in December. We know you'll enjoy the forever sweet green pastures of clover with Timmy.

† Holly, another one of our poor goats that came to us with CAE crossed over in January.



† Tina Louise, our dear old turkey, was an inspiration to us all and taught so many people about turkey life. She was the star at Music Fest when Marty Nott and

the Gang performed The Ballad of Big Tom.

† Gerome and Missy, our proud Muscovy ducks - Gerome was kicked by a horse as he was trying to steal the horse's grain. Missy passed away shortly afterward; she just missed her partner so. You're back together forever now.

† We received donations in memory of Judy DeLorm's treasured horse, Zarjur, from Karen and David Shuttleworth, and also from Nancy Curme.

† Bonnie Bitetti and Dan Pospula have made a donation to honor the memory of their sweet cat-friends, Phoebus, age 18, and Molly, age 16.

† Molly O'Connor provided CBP with a donation in memory of Dustin, the beloved Maine Coon cat of Susan Wade, and also in memory of Fella, beloved horse of Marcia and William DeCamp.

Bless you all for your loving kindness toward your friends in their time of loss and sorrow, and for helping keep the happy memories of their friends alive through assisting us here at The Palace.



## I'm Still Here

Please don't mourn for me,  
 I'm still here, though you don't see.  
 I'm right by your side each night and day,  
 and within your heart I long to stay.  
 My body is gone, but I'm always near.  
 I'm everything you feel, see or hear,  
 My spirit is free, but I'll never depart,  
 as long as you keep me alive in your heart.  
 I'll never wander out of your sight,  
 I'm the brightest star on a summer night.  
 I'll never be beyond your reach,  
 I'm the warm moist sand when you're at the beach.  
 I'm the colorful leaves, when fall comes around,  
 and the pure white snow that blankets the ground.  
 I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond,  
 the clear cool water in a quiet pond.  
 I'm the first bright blossom you'll see in the spring,  
 the first warm raindrop that April will bring.  
 I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine,  
 and you'll see that the face in the moon is mine.  
 When you start thinking there's no one to love you,  
 you can talk to me through the Lord above you.  
 I'll whisper my answer through the leaves on the trees,  
 and you'll feel my presence in the soft summer breeze.  
 I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep  
 and the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep.  
 I'm the smile you see on a baby's  
 face. Just look for me,  
 I'm everywhere!



*Making a donation to Cracker Box Palace in a loved one's name, a human or animal friend who has passed on to the other side, is a wonderful way to honor their life by helping to save a life. Be an angel...*

**Contact CBP for information.**



# The Baby Update

Feona, the palomino mare that was admitted this past fall, along with Chessa, a small thoroughbred cross mare - both came from the Sodus cruelty case - are both pregnant. Although we have had Oxford gelded since he came in, Ox, Feona, and Chessa were all in the same pasture when they were picked up...apparently Oxford wasn't gelded in time for Chessa!



Feona's baby is having complications due to a uterine infection. We are doing everything in our power with the assistance of Ledgewood Equine Clinic's vet. Dr. Liz Bush, to save Feona firstly, and do what we can for the foal at this time. Both mom and baby are all right for now. Feona is due in April and we ask that everyone say their prayers for Fee and her foal.

Chessa came in from the rescue case with a foal, Delta, who has been adopted and left the farm this winter. But upon examination of Chessa, we found out that she was pregnant again. We have decided that Chessa's baby should be named "Oxford's Revenge" or "Geld-Me-Not" as we were really hoping that she wasn't pregnant again. All is going well with Chessa and her future foal.

Our baby update wouldn't be complete without extending congratulations to Friends of the Farm Steve and Erin Buchwald on the birth of their daughter, Lia Kathleen!

Lia was born on December 22, and was 5 pounds 12 ounces, 19-1/2" long. She's growing by leaps and bounds and is being doted upon by grandparents Don and Jude Buchwald and Bob and Kathy Blied, and her many, many Fairy Godmothers! Welcome Lia!



It's almost spring and babies are out there now, so don't get nervous if you see a fox out during the day. That's probably mom trying to get something to eat while

the kids are asleep. She's not sick, unless she's missing some fur off her tail; call me because we can take care of that. The condition is Mange, which is caused by a parasite that can get on your animals or you. It's like a very, very small flea that sucks the life out of the animal. It's a horrible way to die, but is easily treated.

Also, critters are looking for a place to raise their families, so if you don't want to share your home with them, you gotta get moving! Fix broken windows, cap your chimney, close garage or barns at night. Pick up the pet food until morning. If you need any other ideas call me.

If you find wildlife that might need help, first watch for a little while before reacting...mom might be right there. When the area is safe she will grab her baby. Please wait, watch through the window, put pets in the house, keep kids out of the yard. Give the parents a chance to take care of the situation first. If mom doesn't return, call a rehabber. If you have to handle the animal or bird always USE GLOVES! You don't know why mom isn't there or where she is. She could have been taken by a predator or hit by a car or worse, she was sick and died.

Now on a happier note, if you find wildlife that needs help, call a licensed rehabilitator. We have the food, facilities, and medical supplies on hand to help. Sometimes people want to raise animals or birds on their own and then the animals die or they are made into pets. Both situations are bad; wildlife are supposed to be free. A lot of people run right out and buy all the supplies they "think" they need to take care of this little one, until something goes horribly wrong. Then it's a very sad thing and almost impossible to reverse.

So call first; we'll tell you what to do or what not to do. If you're not in the area, we'll connect you with a rehabber near you...we're everywhere and we work together for the benefit of the wild critters.

Have a great spring!  
KrittrKris and all the critters  
315-374-4542

If you have to leave a message, please know that I WILL get back to you shortly...I may just be out tending to critters in need.

**HELP WANTED** - Highly motivated person(s) needed to volunteer to assist in researching grant opportunities. High level of computer, phone, documentation, and interpersonal skills a must. Great volunteer opportunity for a retiree! Contact the farm at 315-483-2493; please...serious inquiries only. Help us find the resources to purchase our farm and continue to grow CBP.



**THANK EWE TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS DEC-FEB**

**Renewing Members**

- Jane Allen ~ Margaret Anderson
- Bob & Cathy Baldwin ~ Lois Brackett
- Catherine & Victor Cavaliere ~ Christopher Clark
- Michael & Dawn Cocchiarella
- Duane & Bonnie DeHollander
- Pat & Wayne Delperdange ~ John & Ann Hayslip
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- Arthur & Marueen Holtzman
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- Amy & Patty Lear ~ Victoria Leggitt
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- Sean & Melissa Mascaro ~ Roger & Mary Miller
- Lorraine Mason/Mason Farms of Williamson
- Steven Mindy ~ Rev. William & Sabra Mognolo
- Mia, Zoe, & Skylar Norton ~ Jennifer Passeck
- Michelle Patterson ~ Katherine & Carl Priest
- Jim & Peg Ross ~ Tom Ross
- Karen & David Shuttleworth ~ Mike Siragusa
- Michele Smith ~ Dave & Joan Stark
- Howard & Nancy Stark ~ Janet & Charles Steehler
- Dorre Tubbs & Jeff Black/Verant ID Systems
- Robin Tunley ~ Wendy & Paul Tuttobene, Sr.
- Austin VerValin ~ Susan Wade
- Mary Lou Weisenreder ~ Douglas Wiggins
- Flash & Elle Belle Womack

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....or Can Two Outcast Birds Find True Love?

This story revolves around Billy, a very smart, Road Runner looking banty hen that has lived at the farm and raised a family. All of her children have grown up, been adopted and moved on to begin their lives, except for Jelly Bean. Jelly is a rooster that was the result of a sordid affair with a big golden rooster named Moby some years ago. He left Billy to raise the family herself, with some assistance from Cracker Box Palace, of course. Jelly never left his mother.



Jelly Bean - CBP's Casanova

The Wolcott girls moved in this past winter. Found half frozen wandering down town Wolcott at 3 a.m., a kind man picked them all up and brought them to his house and let them thaw out in front of a wood stove. They called CBP to pick up these six beauties and they moved in next door to the rabbits in the Cow barn and just down from Edgar, Julie and Tiny. One hen had a fancy "do" atop her head, the others were Plymouth rock style, black with speckled spots all over and golds. All very personable, they moved right in and picked their nesting boxes right away. All was good at the farm for now. Billy and Jelly were fine out in the horse's area, the girls were in by the rabbits, goats and the tiny little pig.



One of the Wolcott hen-house wreckers.

A couple weeks later, five banty roosters arrived from Newark, very dapper and fancy with their feathered feet. All were very colorful, except the smallest one. He had shiny black feathers, silky and long. He was a

looker for sure. But the other guys bullied him and we found him hiding out in the hay bales and looking quite sad all by himself. We thought it might be a cool idea to try speed dating with the new hens with our new found friend, which we named Chilly, because he was so cool. Chilly moved in with the new hens fine.

Life was good until one night, we found Jelly perched atop the gate with the new hen with the fancy "do." We started to have our suspicions that she might be a little loose in the feathers, and poor Billy, despite her crowing and cackling, all the noise she made fell on deaf ears with her son.

Days passed and the volunteers of the farm saw the heart ache and misery of not only poor Billy, but of Chilly too. Talking to a pig just didn't seem to fulfill his life, but the pig had a nice heat lamp and she always tossed a few extra pieces of grain his way when she ate. They had to do something to bring the joy of the farm back to these poor chickens!

Valentine's Day, the farm was a bustling frenzy, with Gala Ball that night. Farm Volunteers were running around feeding everyone, cleaning stalls, setting up for the next day while trying to plan in their own heads how they were going to go from Carharts to ball room dresses and tuxes and still get all the chores done. There sat Chilly, hanging on the pig's pen, watching all the commotion and sighing.

One volunteer stopped and looked at this sorrowful bird, and suddenly, an idea popped into her head. Why not introduce Chilly to Billy. They were both lookers, they were the same size and both of them needed companionship. Sure, why not? The volunteer picked up Chilly and took him out past the horse stalls to the back side of the barn. He wasn't sure what was to become of him. Climbing over the manure pile, there was Billy, pecking the ground and trying her best to ignore any company this volunteer thinks she might be bringing to her. The volunteer said to Chilly, "Check out that hot hen. She's by herself, you're by yourself. She has been ousted. You have been ousted. Now Chilly, put on your best face and go meet her." He slowly climbed out of her hands and tentatively walked down the manure pile where Billy turned away from him and tried to ignore all his advances. Chilly turned away. He was sure she wasn't interested in him. He turned to walk away. Billy looked pensive. She turned her head almost all the way around



Chilly - left out in the cold until he found his true love.

like an owl would do! *He's leaving? Well, he didn't even try to speak to me.* She turned the rest of her body around and snuck up from behind. Why won't he look at me? Suddenly, Chilly turned around. It was love at first (or second) sight. They wandered in to the back side of the barn and went flying from gate to gate in a game of tag. Love was in the air on Valentine's Day!

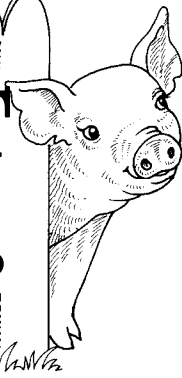
Chilly and Billy set up a nest at one of the paddock pot belly houses where they still reside to this day. Jelly is dealing with his six paramours from Wolcott, who wander off in all directions and leave him crowing for their affections. And Tiny Little Pig.... Well, she's expecting company this spring from a spotted pig from N. Rose named Roger! Spring is in the air and happiness has been restored to the little farm animal shelter after all.

Moral of the story: Life CAN be greener on the other side of the manure pile. Never give up hope.

Or...

Never count your chickens before they hatch! That goes for roosters too!

# LART News



CBP's Large Animal Rescue Team (LART) was called out January 17 during yet another snow storm with a pig and a goat loose in the Rose area, and the owners weren't home. Responding at the scene were Burt Madison,

Cheri Roloson, Derek Poole and Matt Gasper. The goat had already gone back in the barn, but young "Roger" the pig, was having a ball running around in the snow! Containment fence in hand and feed right handy, the LART had everyone grab some fence and surround Roger. Burt went in with feed and Roger gladly followed along into the barn! Roger's owner called us the following week to thank us and also ask if Roger could move to the farm. At present, we aren't taking any new animals unless referred to us by animal cruelty, vets or farriers, or people truly in a tough situation. But if plans go well this spring, Roger may be coming to the farm then. If anyone has an interest in taking in a farm pig, please call the farm and the information will be given to you at the time.

The LART will be working with the new volunteers and staff of Cracker Box Palace this spring also. We will be offering classes to our staff and volunteers on many different subjects on the farm so that we may serve the animals and the visitors of the farm more effectively in the future. We will also be announcing classes to the public on animal care, first aid and barn safety, large animal rescue and many other topics this summer. We hope to have the schedule in place and advertised in our newsletter and on our web site by June of 2009.



Sponsor a bunny for Easter! Call Alice at 315-904-4005 or e-mail [irwins@rochester.rr.com](mailto:irwins@rochester.rr.com) for information on CBP animal sponsorships. Sponsorships make great gifts too!



**Stephen's Harborside is Back in Sodus Point!**  
Homemade Pizza, Subs, Soups, Chili, Fish Fry...& More!  
Open 7 days  
Try our White Garlic Veggie Pizza!

Thank ewe for your kindness to us in the past...we're glad you're back Steve!

**Greig Street  
Next to Oscar  
Fuerst Field  
315-483-4885**

## Homes Needed

In addition to trying to find homes for our Palace residents, we try to help members of the community place animals that for whatever reason they can no longer care for.

- ♥ 15 year old blind thoroughbred mare needs a new home. Completely blind in one eye and losing sight in the other. Call Denise at 315-597-5932.
- ♥ "Roger" a farm pig from North Rose, needs a new home. At this time we're unable to take him in at the Palace due to space constraints. Call Colleen @ 315-587-2316.

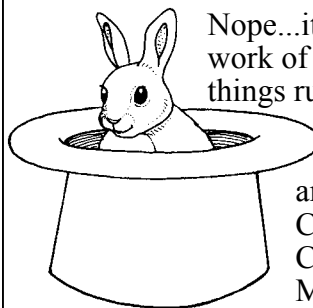
## Sponsorships

♥ Long time Friend of the Farm, Sharon Eastley, has been busy sponsoring bunnies for her friends. For Christmas, she sponsored Helen for Jean Hyatt and Ezmerelda for Judy Hino. She also sponsored Yang for Jean's birthday! Thank



Helen is one of our older bunnies; she just can't seem to get a permanent adoptive home. Thank you, Sharon, for sponsoring her!

- ♥ ewe Sharon, Jean, and Judy...you all are wonderful friends and bunny sponsors!
- ♥ Darlene and Steve Erhardt sponsored everyone's favorite goat, Barry, as a gift to their nieces and new members of the farm, Sophie and Olivia Erhardt.
- ♥ Patty Lear has sponsored Lizzy as a gift to her daughter Amy who is an animal-loving student at the University of Findlay in Ohio.
- ♥ Thank you, Sam VanAcker for your sponsorship of Timmy, our beautiful bunny. We will all miss him. Your donation for Timmy will help us care for his buddy Phantom, and all of his other bun friends.



Nope...it's not magic...it's just the work of our volunteers that makes things run here at the farm. Please consider becoming a volunteer at CBP. There are all kinds of things to do. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Mahoney at 585-615-4915.



**THE EASTER BUNNY Consider Foster Care!**

It's time again for our annual reminder about our Foster Care the Easter Bunny Program. You imagine your kids coming down the stairs on Easter morning to find an Easter basket full of goodies and a cute, fluffy bunny as their gifts from the magical Easter Bunny. Two weeks later you're arguing with your children to clean the pen! Feed the rabbit! Give him water! Or worse yet, you find out the hard way your child is allergic to the Easter Bunny. It is never a good idea to get a pet for any holiday gift and rabbits, chicks and ducklings are no exception. But if your heart is set on giving the kids an Easter Bunny, here's the perfect win-win way to go.

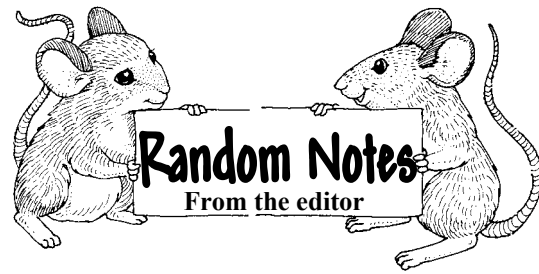
Cracker Box Palace Farm Animal Haven has a great alternative to investing all that money in a rabbit, cage, bedding, feed, water bottle, and everything else from a pet shop or farm store that can easily cost over a hundred dollars. Foster caring an animal from the Palace is a free and easy way to "try it before you buy it."



Hi! I'm Phantom and I'd love to be your bunny. Won't you please tell your friends about me and my bun-buddies? All we want is to be part of a family that will love, hug, and care for us!

With the filling out of a form and some instructions from a helpful Palace volunteer we can provide you with a bunny that you can foster care for up to three months for only the cost of love and devotion to your new friend while it's in your care. We'll provide a cage and water bottle for bunny if you don't have one. If at the end of the three months you decide you would like to keep your new family member, you can adopt it at that time, or return it to the farm with no questions asked if things don't work out with bunny. We have nearly three dozen sweet, loving bunnies in all colors and sizes; there's one waiting for you! Our adoption fees for bunnies are \$5.00 for bunny-only; \$20.00 includes a cage with shavings, water bottle, and starter bag of feed. Our Foster Care the Bunny program isn't just at Easter-time; it's all year long.

Call 315-483-2493 or e-mail CrackerBPalace@netzero.net to schedule an adoption appointment.



**VOLUNTEERS** - I can't stress enough our need for volunteers. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Mahoney, is ready to fit you into any job that would be a match for you. If you have physical limitations it's not a problem; we need people for all sorts of things, like just sitting and grooming our bunnies and restoring their trust in people. A HUGE area of need is for a person/people to be willing to take our "Road Show" to events around the area. This involves setting up a booth with our TV/DVD player (we have 100's of photos of the farm in our slideshow), informational brochures, donation jar, occasionally items for sale and be willing to talk with people about what we're all about and hopefully recruit new members/volunteers.

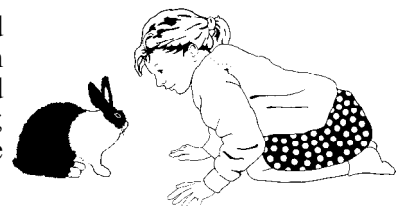
We also need volunteers to run / work at fundraising events. As with any organization, the same few people always end up doing the majority of the work, and we could really use some fresh ideas and willing new hands to help out. If you would like to chair a fundraising event we'd love to have you. It doesn't have to be huge, every donation helps.

PLEASE call Shannon at 585-615-4915 for volunteer info. It's a wonderful, rewarding experience...and besides that we need the help!!!!

**E-MAIL** - I send out periodic E-News announcements; it's a great way to stay in touch between newsletters. Please let me know if your e-mail address changes; I always receive a lot of bounced-back e-mails due to incorrect addresses. If you would like to be added to the E-News distribution list let me know at [irwins@rochester.rr.com](mailto:irwins@rochester.rr.com)

**CATS & DOGS** - If you or know someone who needs to find a home for their cat or dog, please contact our friends & partners at the Wayne County Humane Society. We are a farm animal shelter and have been bombarded with throw out cats; we just can't take care of them. Call the Society at 315-946-3389; they can help or refer you to the appropriate agency.

If you've adopted a new friend from CBP, please send us updated photos; we'd love to share them!



# Cracker Box Palace – Farm Animal Haven 2008 Annual Report

Address: PO Box 174 – Alasa Farms 6450 Shaker Rd. Alton, NY 14413

Phone: 315-483-2493 Web: [www.crackerboxpalace.org](http://www.crackerboxpalace.org)

**A not for profit organization**

NYS Tax #: 225956 EIN: 16-1600471 NYS Charities Reg #: 40-91-09

## 2008 Board of Directors:

**Robert Madison, President**  
**Griff Mangan, Vice President**  
**Cheri Roloson, Farm Manager**  
**Derek Poole, Chair**

**Ethan Irwin/Debra Spring Treasurer**  
**Laurie Gasper, Secretary**  
**Shannon Mahoney, Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Kris Forsythe, Chair**

## Financial Information 2008

Revenue		Expenses	
Adoptions	\$4,030.00	Animal Care Contractors	\$4,634.00
Animal Admissions	\$1,147.00	Animal Feed	\$25,454.00
Donations	\$12,679.00	Animal Medical	\$8,258.00
Events & Fundraisers	\$26,640.00	Barn & Equipment Cost	\$7,724.00
Grants	\$25,700.00	Events & Fundraisers	\$9,165.00
In-Kind Items Donation	\$4,342.00	General Operations **	\$11,362.00
Memberships	\$6,870.00	In-kind Goods	\$4,342.00
Services Other	<u>\$4,643.00</u>	Office & Newsletter	<u>\$3,306.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$86,051.00</u>	Total Expenses	<u>\$74,245.00</u>

\*\* Includes utilities, phone, farm supplies, gas  
auto repairs, insurance, snowplowing, misc.

## 2008 Highlights

**Cracker Box Palace provided shelter for 86 new animals in 2008**, and 67 animals found new loving homes through adoptions and foster care opportunities. We attribute our increase in finding loving forever homes for our animals to the generosity of many of the area newspapers who donated their time and effort to publish stories and to our new membership with Petfinder.com. In total, 240 animals received care and shelter at CBP in 2008.

**Thank you New York State Senator Nozzolio for a \$10,000 grant!** Our 2008 Gala Snowflake Ball was visited by our own Senator Mike Nozzolio who surprised the crowd with a grant through the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for \$10,000. Tears and cheers filled the room as members of the Board of Directors of Cracker Box were presented with the check. This money was dedicated to the direct care of the animals for 2008 including hay, feed, farrier services and veterinary care.

**Additional grants - The Gosenhauser Foundation** and the **Rochester Area Community Foundation** awarded CBP a grant for \$2650 for the purchase of the Legacy Lift. The lift is used to safely pick up large animals using a tripod and winching system. It was designed by our LART team and custom built by G.D. Youngs, LLC. of Sodus. **PetSmart Charities** - \$2500 grant for immunizations for the 40 horses we handled this year. **Janet Buchanan Smith Charitable Checking Account (through RACF)** – a total of \$10,000 across three grants to be applied to our proposed land purchase, feed and supplies for the horses, and on-going care of her horse Puff who is retired at CBP. **Sarah S. Clapp through the RACF Rainbow Fund** - \$500 for General Support.

**CBP's Large Animal Response Team (LART)** continues to train and seek out necessary equipment to be able to respond to animal rescue and emergency situations. The LART was called five times in 2008 by veterinary clinics, private individuals with animal emergencies, and assisted Wayne County Animal Cruelty investigators, law enforcement personnel, and the Wayne County District Attorney in the last two abuse/neglect rescue calls. Four horses were rescued from town of Arcadia. The Sodus case brought in two stallions, eight mares and geldings, one donkey, one goat, three rabbits and three chinchillas. Both cases involved animals that were dehydrated, undernourished and extremely sickly. One horse was by far in the worst condition of any horse we've ever seen, suffering with infections and abscesses in all four feet; she was thin and could barely walk. We are proud to say that thanks to the skilled rescue efforts of CBP's LART, all are now doing wonderfully and several have found new, loving adoptive homes.

**Membership:** 146 new members joined in 2008; 99 members chose not to renew; we thank them for their support. Current membership is at 430 across the US.

**Community Partnerships** – CBP networks with many local agencies in 2008 to provide opportunities for program participants in addition to assisting the farm.

**Youth and Community Service Agencies include:** Wayne ARC, Youth Advocacy of Wayne County, Workforce Development, Wayne County Dept. of Probation and Corrections, Wayne County Dept. of Social Services, scouts, youth clubs, after school programs and summer programs.

**Animal-related agencies include:** Wayne County Animal Response Team (CART), Wayne County Humane Society, Wayne County Animal Cruelty Investigations, Kritter Kris and Feathered Friends Wildlife Rehabilitation, Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program, Days End Horse Farm, MD, Humane Society at Lollipop Farm, Farm Sanctuary, Petfinder.com.

## Plans for 2009 -----

Our vision is vast, our ideas are endless...our resources are not. CBP has compiled a list of projects that are being taken under consideration as priorities to improve our operations at the farm and reinforce our responsibility and commitment to the community. Task lists, costs, overall viability and return on investment for each project will be reviewed to enable us to prioritize wisely with the resources available to CBP. Our residents' welfare and care is always our first priority.

### **Our biggest goal yet: Purchase of our own facility**

Discussions have been held between Cracker Box Palace's Board of Directors and Alasa Farms trustees regarding CBP's purchase of Alasa Farms. CBP's ownership of Alasa Farms would reinforce our dedication and commitment to serve the large animals of the county and surrounding areas. It would also keep Alasa Farms intact as the beautiful, historic farm it has always been; should Alasa Farms be purchased by a real estate developer, the historic character of the farm would be lost forever.

CBP's current status as a tenant of Alasa Farms has also severely limited our access to many grants. Ownership would provide access to a wider variety of grants and other funding sources. It would also provide us with the opportunity to move forward with further development of the farm, such as expanding pastures, enlarging/renovating barns, building an indoor arena, opening a Bed and Breakfast, and more.

Research and negotiations with Alasa Farms are in process and we hope to have an agreeable decision between both corporations no later than fall of 2009. Additionally, we are researching the feasibility of the purchase of other properties in the Sodus area should our acquisition of Alasa Farms prove not to be a viable alternative.

CBP will also be creating two committees to develop an endowment fund, essential to Cracker Box Palace owning its own facility and its future existence along with the research and legalities involved with a not for profit owning its own facility. In order for Cracker Box Palace to even consider owning such a historic and beautiful farm as Alasa, we have to have the fortitude, know-how and finances to keep the farm intact and preserve it for future generations.

### **Expand community programs**

Establish a 'food pantry for farm animals' program to assist farm animal owners in the struggling economy.  
Develop and implement new program for At-Risk Children; volunteers to lead the program have already committed to the task!  
Reinstate CBP's Children's Farm Camp, a favorite from CBP's early years that has been requested by the community.  
Conduct animal-specific care and Large Animal Response seminars for our LART members, community emergency responders and any individuals interested.

### **Remodeling our facility at Alasa Farms** (extent of renovations is dependent upon facility purchase decisions)

Complete West Barn renovations including (but not limited to) year-round stalls and pens, Gift Shop, Visitor's Center, Information Resource Center, U-Pick Apple and other farm produce sales booth.  
Provide housing facilities for full time CBP workers through renovation of existing buildings.  
Plant and harvest our own hay fields.  
Develop the West Pasture for the goats, sheep, llamas, ducks and geese. Revisit resurrecting the pond for our waterfowl. The West Pasture will require several new structures to provide not only shelter for residents but also storage for hay.  
Expand our eastside pastures to accommodate our growing large animal population.  
Complete restrooms at the Cow Barn (also to be handicapped-accessible).  
Complete renovations to the Horse Barn Annex that once housed a machine shop; it now serves as CBP's classroom, kitchen, warm up/cool down area for volunteers.  
Secure funding to engineer and install handicapped accessible pathways connecting all of CBP's attractions: the Cow Barn, Horse Barn, Goat, Sheep and Llama Pasture, U-Pick Apple Orchard, and our proposed West Barn complex.  
Partner with local community organizations to continue to clear/upgrade equestrian and hiking trails, and camping and picnic areas throughout the woods, orchards, and creek side locations.  
Revitalize the Alasa Farms Museum:  
Rehabilitate the Museum building's structure; engineering and architectural studies will be required  
Develop an animal cruelty/abuse/neglect awareness exhibit  
Develop an exhibit to highlight Alasa Farms History/Partnership with CBP

**Thank you** to all of CBP's supporters, our friends old and new. For more information about Cracker Box Palace, details about our rescue efforts, making tax-deductible donations, memberships, and events visit [www.crackerboxpalace.org](http://www.crackerboxpalace.org) or call 315-483-2493.

Respectfully submitted February 1, 2009 by  
Cracker Box Palace Farm Animal Haven Board of Directors

# Historic Home Burns; Shelter Animals Safe

by Alice Irwin

(reprinted with permission from The Sun & Record)

Alton, February 5 – Alasa Farms was the site of both a tragedy and a miracle as firefighters from Alton, Wallington, Sodus, Sodus Point, Lyons, Clyde, Wolcott, Sodus Center, Rose, and North Rose roared to the scene of a house fire in the frigid pre-dawn darkness.

Shaker Road was a sea of fire trucks as far as you could see and a tanker after tanker made runs to retrieve



water to fill the portable ponds from which the firefighters pumped thousands of gallons to try to contain the blaze...the only sources of water on the 700 acre property are Second Creek and a well.

Thankfully, the occupants of the home escaped before the flames engulfed the second and third floors; they did, however, lose everything they owned to the flames. In what can only be called a miracle, the icy morning air was still. It was one of the only days this winter where winds on that hill overlooking Sodus Bay haven't been raging, some days to over 50 mph. Had the winds been up, it most likely would have been impossible to confine the fire to a single structure; it surely would have spread to the adjacent goat and sheep barn, office, and horse barn.

Dozens of phone calls began to roll in regarding the status of the barns and safety of the animals at Cracker Box Palace Farm Animal Haven, the large animal rescue shelter which leases Alasa Farms' barns and pastures. The outpouring of concern from the community was, and continues to be, stunning; people offered to take animals into their homes and barns if need be. Thanks to the skill and perseverance of the firefighters the barns were spared and all of the animals are safe.

The burning of the historic home is truly a tragic loss to the community. Alasa Farms was the site of a nearly 150 person Shaker community; the house was built by the Shakers in 1834 from wood that was harvested on the property. Known as the Church Family Dwelling House, the magnificent building was the home of 60 people and its three floors featured nine bedrooms and an interior meeting room for prayer services during the week or if the weather was too bad to convene at the church on Sundays. Beautiful woodwork could be found throughout the house; the banister was original Shaker construction made from cherry and ash.

The farm changed hands several times, finally ending up with the Strong family. Alvah Griffin Strong, grandson of the first president of Eastman Kodak, purchased the property in 1924 and it has remained in the Strong / Mangan families ever since. In its heyday, the 1600 acre farm had more than

five miles of Sodus Bay Shoreline, and extended from the current Shaker Heights to Alton. Together with business partner Asa McBride, Alvah Strong developed the farm into a remarkable cornerstone of the community and their products were shipped by rail to locations all over the world.

The farm had a herd of champion Milking Shorthorn cattle, one of the oldest recognized breeds in the world; they raised Hackney ponies which earned prize ribbons at shows from Madison Square Garden to Chicago, poultry, and purebred dogs including Whippets, Newfoundlands, Terriers, Hunting dogs, and Alaskan Huskies. Eight hundred acres of timber were processed at two sawmills and the harvests from over 1,000 acres of fruit trees made their way through the packing and drying houses. The farm also included a gristmill, ice house, and creamery.

Fire is no stranger at Alasa Farms. The original Shaker horse barn was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt in 1925 and included automatic waterers, a hay moving system, and state of the art ventilation system. The interiors of both the cow and horse barns are clad in magnificent wooden wainscoting. It's with great sadness that we say goodbye to the home that had such a long and rich history. Many of the family's photo albums were saved, however, and will continue to provide the community with a view into the past of this truly special and unique place.



## Savings Make Cents!

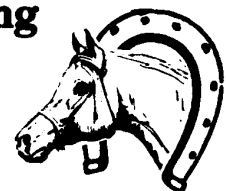


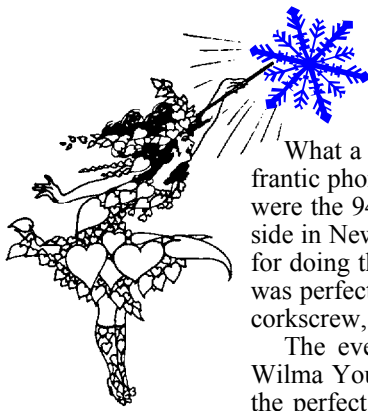
We're pleased to report that with our Bulk Mail permit, we saved \$745.50 from December 2007 through December 2008! First Class mailing costs would have been \$1257.88; Bulk costs were \$337.38; our permit was \$175.00. Not bad! Let's see...\$745.50 could buy almost 250 bales of hay!!!

## BRAD WHITTAKER

### Horseshoeing

(315) 331-5210  
875 Route 88 S  
Newark, NY 14513





# 2009 Gala Snowflake Sweetheart Ball

by Alice Irwin

What a night! After months of preparation, making lists and checking them 100 times, countless frantic phone calls and e-mails between Shelene, Ethan, and I, we were finally ready to rock...and so were the 94 people who attended our largest and best Ball yet. The ballroom at Burnham's Canal-side in Newark was gorgeous; we spent the day on Friday decorating (thank ewe Shannon Mahoney for doing the ladder work!) and finished up late Saturday afternoon, and the Valentine's Day theme was perfect. Fifteen couples booked rooms at the hotel, to which we delivered a bottle of wine and corkscrew, chocolates, and a bud vase with carnations and greens.

The evening began with a wine tasting donated by Lynne Montgomery and also Herm and Wilma Young of Young Sommer Winery in Williamson, NY. Music by Scott & Roland provided the perfect background as everyone enjoyed the great selection of wines and chatted with friends

old and new. Dozens of silent auction baskets were scrutinized and people hovered around protecting their bids. Burnham's provided an elegant selection of dinner choices and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. I provided a short welcome to the crowd and gave an overview of the "state of the farm." As you read the annual report in this newsletter, we know you'll be as proud as all of us are for as far as we've come over the past nine years, and our vision for the future.

After dinner, Shelene spoke eloquently and passionately about CBP's triumphs and sorrows, and the dedication of everyone who is involved with the farm. This year, two volunteers were honored for "Most Improved." Laurie Gasper and Sue Fox were presented with flowers and certificates for the amazing road they have traveled in learning to care for animals that in

the past they never thought they could, particularly the horses. It was a very emotional moment for everyone as Shelene lauded Susie and Laurie's tenacity, willingness to learn and get down and dirty, their accomplishments, and how proud we all are of them.

The surprise on the face of Animal Cruelty Investigator Bob Howard was priceless as Shelene called him to the front of the room to be recognized. Bob's a low-key guy who is dedicated to protecting the animals who don't have a voice. We understand that he even hung his plaque in his office! Next on the docket for recognition was Mark Plyter, Executive Director of the Wayne County Humane Society. Mark's huge heart and commitment to the welfare of the animals of Wayne County are second to none. He also heads up the County Animal Rescue Team, with which CBP's Large Animal Team is a partner.



Dr. David Scoville was taken by surprise as Shelene called him to the podium to be honored as our special Veterinarian of the Year.



WC Humane Society Executive Director Mark Plyter couldn't believe his ears when Gala Chair Shelene Lochner summoned him to the front of the room.



Marty Nott's talents as an auctioneer were put to good use! Great job again this year, Marty!

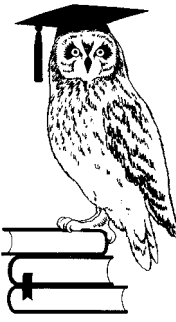


Investigator Bob Howard was surprised but pleased to be honored for his work.

Please turn to Page 16

## Whoooo's Ready for Schoooooo ?

by Cheri Roloson



Discussions have been underway for some time regarding how we at CBP can assist the community through sharing knowledge of animal care, emergency procedures, etc. Our goal is to proactively try and prevent any more horses coming in from cruelty cases looking like the ones we took in this fall. Our thought is to promote a preventative program to assist horse and farm animal owners, mostly, that are struggling to make it through the tough economic times and to make them more aware that there is help out there for these people and there are many things as an animal owner, they can do without letting these animals fall into such a bad situation that animal cruelty has to be called in.

To that end, we are planning a series of training sessions targeting volunteers, CBP staff, and the general public. If by offering these training sessions with some direction for the average animal owner, for free, at the farm, we could inform even a few people on what to do when there's an emergency or even with preventative care for their animals they can save so much money and avoid falling into problems that will end up costing them in the end, we will be satisfied in knowing that we have made an effort to preventing even a few animals from suffering in a cruelty case or worse yet, not being taken care of and suffering from neglect.

We are also proceeding with opening a "Feed Bank" for people struggling in this economic crunch, have a crisis or other emergency that has put a financial burden on them, that may just need some hay over a specified period of time, or a few bags of feed to get them by until they can get back on their feet. These people will need to prove a financial need to us, will only be allowed assistance for a specified period of time and will be given preference if referred by a vet, farrier or animal cruelty investigator.

We are hoping with the availability of information and the Feed Bank assistance program, we might be able to at the very least, prevent some neglect cases or enable some people to responsibly care for their animals during a crisis situation. This is why we are turning to our vets, farriers and animal cruelty investigators to assist us in developing some good programs with viable information to pass along during our classes. Some cost saving tips, some health care management information and first aid tips animal owners can do themselves, and some "think before you start a breeding program" information would be great, we think, to pass along during these programs. And of course, any information you might want to add to the program would be greatly welcomed.

We invite animal care professionals, experienced domestic and farm animal rescue personnel, and specific subject matter experts to share their knowledge.

We are hoping to offer at least one class every month on a Saturday afternoon from 1 - 3 p.m. Classes will be offered at no charge. If you have any ideas on content for our classes, please feel free to contact the farm. Proposed sessions are open to the public unless otherwise noted, and include, but are not limited to:

Animal Cruelty (**APRIL 25**)- How does this happen and what does it take to correct the problem. How we at the farm handle cruelty cases that are referred to us. Base vs. On Scene. Body scoring. Farm Animals and horses vs. cats and dogs. There's a difference!

Know your Animals - the first line of defense. Gaining their trust and training; how to safely work around a 1,000 to 2,000 animal. Discussions will include Ruminants, Equine, Bovine, Pigs and Hogs, Poultry and Birds, Rabbits, Ferrets, Cats. What to do when a stray appears.

Feed, Water, & a Clean Barn, Barn Safety. *CBP volunteers & staff only.*

Immunizations, worming schedules, what to do when the vet comes. Inspiring future large animal vets and farriers. Medical, first aid, and preventative measures for animal owners. Feeds, hay, and bedding.

Hooves & Nails! What to do when the farrier comes.

How you can maintain your animal's feet and save on emergency farrier calls.

Emergency medical, first aid, and Large Animal Response Team - CART and LART. How to join, demos.

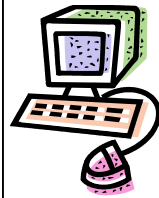
First aid for people - working on the farm around large animals, the weather, the dangers.

Pasture care, upkeep, pasture management. Dangers in the pastures: wildlife, people, weather, hunters, and the animals themselves.

Dealing with people who visit the farm. Events, fundraisers, tours - how we make our money to do this, publicity for the farm. *For CBP volunteers/staff only.*

All about farm equipment: transporting animals - how to check the trailer, how to back up! Using farm equipment safely; equipment maintenance. What to do when the electric goes out. Situations that come up at a farm and how to deal with them.

Knowledge is power! Please share this information with your friends and invite them to come to our workshops.



**HELP WANTED - Computer Geek** needed to check out farm animal rescue Blogs (i.e., Farm Sanctuary's new Making Hay Farm Animal Advocacy Blog), validate legitimacy, summarize content, and report to

Board on applicability of CBP participation / value-add to CBP. Salary - \$0, Hours - as long as you want them to be, Benefit to CBP - Priceless. Contact Alice at [irwins@rochester.rr.com](mailto:irwins@rochester.rr.com).



## Paint Me A Dream Horse Farm

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## ❄️ 2009 Gala Thank Ewe's ❄️

So many businesses and individuals reached out to help us with donations to make our Gala a memorable, successful event. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone. We'll be back next year!! (If you made a Gala donation and were accidentally omitted, please contact Alice ASAP at 314-904-4005 / irwins@rochester.rr.com. We do our best to keep track of everything but things became kind of crazy at the end)

- ♥ Brad Burnham and all at the Quality Inn Newark / Burnham's Canalside for providing a lovely venue for our Gala.
- ♥ Marty Nott, our outstanding auctioneer and the lovely Nancy Somerville as his assistant.
- ♥ Jim Alsina, Marketing Manager at Hunt Country Vineyards on Keuka Lake for the great price he provided on our souvenir bottles of wine for the Gala.
- ♥ Lynne Montgomery, for donating wine for our Gala wine tasting, dinner tables, and bottles of wine for the hotel rooms reserved by our Gala-goers.
- ♥ Herm and Wilma Young / Young Sommer Winery for their donation of wine for our Gala wine tasting and dinner tables.
- ♥ Linda Linkner of Mastercraft Decorators for providing us with an excellent price on our imprinted souvenir Gala wine glasses.
- ♥ Lagoner Farms and Floral Shoppe for providing beautiful floral arrangements for our Gala goers staying at the hotel.
- ♥ The Original Candy Kitchen for the little boxes of chocolates that adorned our overnight guests' wine bottles.
- ♥ Scott Law and Roland Pray for providing the evening's music and offering their services as an auction item.

### Auction Item Donors Included:

Ken and Marlene Ferguson ~ Sandy DeBadts Tupperware  
 Deb and Mick Viniski ~ Burnap's Farm Market  
 Captain Greg Switzer / Prime Time Charters, Sodus Point  
 Marlene Caroselli ~ Mason Farms ~ Sodus Curves  
 Patty Paprocki / A Gentle Breeze Massage Therapy  
 Ethan and Alice Irwin ~ Marylyn Ianiri ~ Papa Joe's  
 Pop's House of Country Collectibles  
 Michele Martell / Mary Kay Cosmetics  
 Cam's New York Pizzeria of Williamson  
 Jeff Kells / JA Koncrete ~ Lisa Wheeler / Teazer's Salon  
 Trina Harradine & The Pieceful Quilters  
 Tantalo Photography ~ Jane Allen ~ Sharon Morrell  
 Sue Dziedzic / Sue's Creature Comforts Pet Grooming  
 Kay McCune ~ Kelly and Harold Friedel  
 Sodus Point Trading Company & Gifts  
 Marty Nott and Nancy Somerville  
 Jean and Paul Norton ~ Shelly McBurney

### Special Gala Contributors Not Attending Included:

Michael & Dawn Cocchiarella ~ Gail Young  
 Bill & Bonnie Bolling ~ Patricia Ann Davis ~ Gordon Wise  
 Gale Kordzikowski ~ Joe & Diane DiGravio  
 David & Patricia Johns ~ Narda Hellwig ~ Donya LeFever  
 Lorraine Bartlett ~ Bunny Hebing ~ Polly Hoffend  
 Joyce Terwilliger

## Gala Ball

From Page 14

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the evening was when Dr. David Scoville was summoned to the microphone. Both David and Mark's wives were in on the surprise; they were totally un-



aware that they were to be honored. Dr. Scoville's services as a large animal vet are truly a treasure; it is difficult to find words to thank him.

The festivities continued with an open bar and Marty Nott once again captivated the audience as auctioneer for our Live Auction. The combination of Marty's career in advertising and his hobby in theater are the perfect blend for a first class auctioneer!

Donations are still arriving in support of the Gala, but as of March 1, CBP profited over \$7,000. Thank ewe to everyone for your wonderful support! Our 2010 Gala is tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday in February. Mark your calendars; this is going to be a huge celebration marking the 10th anniversary of Cracker Box Palace!



We owe an enormous THANK EWE to the news media for their donation of publicity for our Gala Ball. They truly made a difference!

The Sun & Record, Wayne County Star, Sodus Williamson Penny-saver, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, Finger Lakes Times, Messenger-Post Newspapers, R-News (who did a live broadcast at the farm!), WHAM-1180, Courier Gazette, Syracuse Post Standard, and all of the newspapers that may have published press releases that we didn't see!

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# OVER THE PASTURE FENCE



Farmy musings by Barry

Barry here, with news from the center of the farm! What a wild winter this one has been. Santa came and left presents at every barn. The weather has been CRAZY!!! A goat doesn't know to grow in a thick coat or shear itself and think it's spring! Either way, our goat barn has kept cozy warm and we're all

doing well, except for cabin fever, which my brother, Bugsy tries to entertain us by trying to jump on top of the round bale, but falls off once in awhile. That's kind of fun to watch! Even Stormy hasn't been out as much this winter, so I'm not getting all the feedback from the office crowd! Stormy did say that they're planning a birthday party for him this April 11 complete with party hats, balloons and an Easter Egg Hunt! I love hunting for Easter Eggs! Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Stormy! The ducks told me that there was a new 'love connection' in the Cow Barn too. Congratulations! Chilly and Willy! The other big piece of news came via Sophie and Ernie, the sheep of our pasture. Rumor has it that three new little lambs came in to the farm this past month and are doing well. Soph and Ernie are going to have a herd again! They're so excited! From over the horse's fence we heard that two of the Sodus rescue mares, Feona and Chessa are with foal. Feona is due in April and Chess in August. We're looking forward to the little ones but wish Oxford's former owners had the common sense to geld him to prevent this kind of family-thing.

The other big news here at the farm is that the main house burned this past February. Our barn is right next door to the house and we slept through the whole thing! Red (the llama) got up around 8 a.m., wondering what was taking those volunteers so long to get his feed to him, and when he peeked around the barn, there were fire trucks, smoke and people running all around the farm! We were so grateful to the firemen that parked their fire trucks between the burning house and our barn. Everyone was so kind and they kept everyone safe that day. Poor Deliah had a hard time with the fire. Deliah is a cow that came to the farm because her barn burned down a couple years ago. She was very afraid. But the volunteers went down to her barn and consoled her during the day and let her know she would be alright. It was a very hard week on everyone here at the farm and especially for Griff's family.

On the brighter side.... Spring is right around the corner. The grass will be green again, the air will be warm again, the visitors will be back at the farm, hopefully with goat treats again! And everyone will feel better. We heard from Bailey, (the dog/dingo) that the farm people have been working on the West Pasture and all of us goats will be moving to the west side of the farm this summer! They're installing an 8' foot coyote proof fence and re-digging the pond! The geese should be moving this summer too! Mint (the horse) said they're planning on expanding the east pasture too! Pastures will be good this summer! I can't wait!

That's the news for now. Hope to see you all this summer around the Goat Pasture!

# Happy Endings are Real at CBP!



Lizzy in October

Remember Lizzy who was one of our State Street rescue horses? (see our Dec. 2008 newsletter on-line) Her chances of surviving her neglect were grim; she was so malnourished and all of her hooves were

rotted; her body score was a 1, and if there had been a lower score possible, the vets would have rated her at that. No one would give up on her, though. The dried manure that covered her body was gently washed away. Her feet were medicated and wrapped daily, her open sores bathed with salve, and she



Lizzy today

was put on a balanced diet with supplements to put her on the road to recovery. Five months later, Lizzy has put on over 200 pounds, and is a beauty! She's the frisky 7 year old that God meant her to be. She plays with her pasture-mate and fellow rescue horse, Mona Lisa, and only recently they both jumped the fence out of their pasture! Through the unceasing love and care of Cheri, our staff, and volunteers, and with God answering all of the prayers that came in for Lizzy, her body is almost totally healed and her spirit is well on its way.

Visit [www.equineaid.net/health.html](http://www.equineaid.net/health.html) for information on equine body scoring.

**Compost for sale!** Assorted animal manure, pine wood shavings and seaweed compost! Aged 1 - 2 years. By the tractor bucket (8') \$25.00 per load. Call the farm for an appointment 315-483-2493.

**CBP T-Shirts Back by Popular Demand** - Get on our backs for 2009 - become a T-Shirt Sponsor! Forms are on our web site at [www.crackerboxpalace.org](http://www.crackerboxpalace.org). As a sponsor, you will get your business info printed on the back of the shirt (individuals can be a sponsor too!), a year's membership to the farm, and an advertisement in our newsletter and web site. Your donation is tax-deductible. Don't miss out...sign up today!

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Alton, NY 14413  
[www.crackerboxpalace.org](http://www.crackerboxpalace.org) 315-483-2493



**Happy Easter!**

Winter Hours Sat. 10-3  
or by appointment (we'll be  
expanding hours in May)  
Visit our web site for info  
Call or e-mail us if you would like  
to volunteer or have a  
donation. **We always need hay!!!**

Mail to our Valued Member:

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 - Number 1 March 2008

## *Coming Events*

\*CBP is a registered 501(c)3 not for profit corporation; your contribution is tax-deductible

**Sat, April 11: Stormy's Birthday Party & Easter Egg Hunt**

Bring the kids & join us at the farm from 1:00 - 3:00 to celebrate our famous stallion's birthday and hunt for Easter Eggs ~ Food ~ Fun ~ Prizes~ Call **585-615-4915**

**Sat, July 25: Celebration of Spirit - Holistic / Psychic Fair**

Reiki, Massage Therapy, Energy Workers, Psychics, Medium, Animal Communicator, Tarot Readings, Vendors of the Arts, Crafts, Jewelry, Stones ~ Community Dinner & Evening Circle of Drums

**Sat, Aug 15: Music Fest - Jammin' with the Animals!**

Bands from noon - 8 p.m. ~ vendors, food, door prizes, drawings. Picnics welcome! Bring your lawn chairs & coolers and spend the day with some great blues, jazz, R&B, rock, acoustic, and more! Pre-sale \$10 / \$15 at the gate.

**Sat, Sept 12: Animal Faire and U-Pick Apple Kick-Off**

Dozens of booths with animal rescue and care providers, seminars, info about animal services and training, vendors, crafts, kids' games and projects, hay rides, great food, and more! Meet our 150+ farm animals and learn about our adoption programs and volunteer opportunities. Bring the family and tour this historic Shaker farm, including our "fossil walk" along beautiful Second Creek.

**visit [www.crackerboxpalace.org](http://www.crackerboxpalace.org) for complete listing of events & info!**

**We welcome tours large & small! Call 315-483-2493!**