



Newsletter

Fall 2022

A place for animal shelter, history, conservation and recreation

Volume 22—Issue 2

“Life takes you unexpected places, love brings you home.”

When my husband and I first discovered Thornton Point Trail soon after moving to NY, it helped us feel more at home to know that we had walking trails so close to where we were living. We moved to this area from PA in 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic no less, and were delighted to get connected with Cracker Box Palace within the first month.

It took one look online at the website to begin to understand what this magical place is all about. The personal connection to the mission of Cracker Box Palace was immediate, and while we initially discovered the trails, there was so much more at Alasa Farms for us to explore and learn.

Moving to a new area is both scary and exciting. Even though my role with the farm is in the office and more behind the scenes as a volunteer, I easily commiserate with new animals when they move to the farm. Most are scared of their new surroundings, some are curious despite their fear, but all soon feel at home, relieved to land in a safe place.

Most of us know the story of Bessie, Double or Miss Flash, but it's Peanut Butter's story that captured my attention and became personally special to me. He was a victim of COVID and needed to be rehomed when his 4-H group disbanded. He lost all that was familiar to him before coming to the farm.

I could personally relate as I watched him go from being in isolation, to meeting new friends, to settling into his own routine and new habits. Peanut Butter is still the sweet, gentle boy he was when he first came in - loving all the pets and treats he can get! He has become a model goat as he helps teach children about farm animals and farm life.

It's been an honor to help process the generous donations that come in every month from donors who so willingly give to support the mission of Cracker Box Palace. Every donor has a part in helping Peanut Butter, and all of our animals, find their new home.

Without Cracker Box Palace at historic Alasa Farms as a place of sanctuary, or a place for people to enjoy walking on trails or get educated about farm life, there would be a huge gap in this community and in many lives. Alasa Farms certainly provided a connection for me as a new resident in the area, and it continues to provide a safe space for farm animals who need that loving forever home. ~ *Tammy Stauffer*



Tammy Stauffer is Community Relations Coordinator for Cracker Box Palace and serves as the chair person for the Volunteer Committee. You can find Tammy taking pictures at our events and is often seen at the farm feeding her favorite goat— Peanut Butter.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, please contact us:

volunteer@crackerboxpalace.org for information about volunteering

or email info@crackerboxpalace.org for more information about each committee

Volunteer Venue

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they simply have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

The sun was shining and the birds were singing as 30 volunteers arrived at Cracker Box Palace to tend our gardens, clean the barns and other building from long winter use during our **Volunteer Day** this spring. They showed up to help with gardening, but they also got to enjoy the beauty of the farm.

The volunteers worked hard to weed, mulch, water and plant flowers. They also enjoyed getting to know one another while they worked. The gardens looked beautiful when they finished, all thanks to the hard work of these wonderful volunteers.

Volunteers are the backbone of gardening and grounds maintenance here at Cracker Box Palace. They donate their time and effort to help keep everything looking nice for three seasons, and without them, our gardens would suffer.

Our dedicated gardening team is crucial for tasks like planting and tending the many flowers in our historic gardens. These jobs require careful coordination each week between raindrops and sunshine, and it's impossible to do it all without them. The team, led by Cherie Kline, includes: Jamie Abson, Amber Linson, Beth Robinson, Lindsay Guilfoil, and Janet Halasinski



Beth Robinson, (pictured here) is a vital part of our volunteer base. Her level of commitment, time and effort spent for volunteering on the gardening committee, historic committee and the annual golf tournament is instrumental to each efforts success.

The complements we have received for the beauty of the grounds is a testament to the dedication and hard work of this group. We are always grateful for the volunteers who show up on a regular basis to help at the Farm and especially this group. . It's amazing to see the difference the members of our gardening team have made, with only a few hours invested each week! We couldn't do this without them.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Spring and Summer are our busiest times around the farm. We have many opportunities for volunteers to engage with our organization including events and volunteer work days. **United Way Day of Caring** was a huge success this year. Seventy (70) people from twelve organizations came together to complete a variety of projects including: Trail improvements and installation of trail head posts, Clean and paint the Welcome Center, clean and paint interior rooms of the bunk house, clean/paint and carpentry improvements at (6) exterior run-ins for the horses, carpentry projects for the Bunny Emporium to repair and replace exterior trim and siding, cleaning and painting of the interior of the Feed Room, rebuild the front porch of one of our tenant houses, and major gardening work throughout the Farm to plant and mulch.

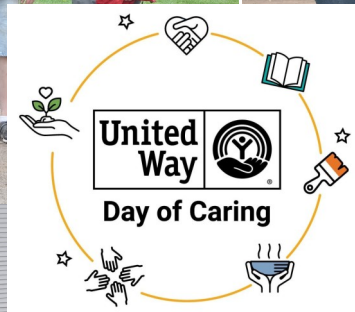
~It was an outstanding day! ~

Many thanks to the following companies for all the hard work completed in one day: **Advanced Automization Technologies LLC, Paychex– Animal Fans team, Kodak Momentum, Tech Ed Systems, Democrat & Chronicle, Bosh Security Systems, Excellus BCBS, Reliant Community Credit Union, Xerox and Catholic Charities.**

Thank you team leaders for your leadership in guiding the teams to successful completion: Sara Buys, Mike Cliffler, Cheri Kline, Angela VanDeWalle, Jamie Abson, Janet Halasinski, Randy Bond, Kathy Krieger, Barb DeRoo, Jack Pulsifer. We could not have done it without our amazing staff assistance: Lliisa Spencer, Brian Flynn, Pat Dowling and our grill masters for the day: Roger Campbell, Garry Smith, and Jeff Apfel.

Volunteers in Action

United Way Day of Caring



Welcome to Alasa Academy

We are a youth development program and 4-H group that focuses on horses and livestock. We offer educational programs and events for the community and youth about the importance of livestock husbandry, livestock education, hippology, and the prevention of cruelty to animals.

4-H is a national youth organization that provides hands-on learning opportunities for young people. 4-H clubs are located in every county across the United States. 4-H members learn citizenship, leadership, and life skills. 4-H programs are research-based and led by volunteers who are trained in positive youth development. 4-H has something for everyone! Our goal is to provide valuable knowledge and skills related to these topics so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from healthy horses and livestock.

Our 2022 initiative has been to get Alasa Academy rooted back into our Wayne County community. We participated at the Wayne County Fair, NYS State Fair, and hosted a 4-H open house to encourage new members to get involved.

We also hosted our 5th annual Summer Horse Camp, bringing in \$16,000 to assist us with the care of the animals and over 50 children participated this year!

In 2023, we are excited to announce that Farm Camp will be making a comeback here at Cracker Box Palace.

Visit our website or contact us to learn more about our programs and how you can get involved.

If you're interested in joining 4-H or finding out more about our program, please contact us today.

Thank you for your interest in Alasa Academy!

Sincerely,

The Alasa Academy Team



TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

Fall is a great time to experience our trails

Trails at Cracker Box Palace are the best kept secret of the Farm.

Each trail has their own unique characteristics that will beckon you return to discover the treasures that each one holds. With many natural features ; second creek, drumlin formations, Sodus Bay, orchards and meadows, from easy to challenging, we have something for any hiker. Our woods abound with song-birds and flora and fauna for the curious naturalist.



The trail committee has been working this summer improving conditions throughout the 10 mile system— improving drainage, installing wood chips, and performing regular maintenance. You will notice one big improvement as you enter each trail head— we have installed trail usage designations and directional way-finding to let you hike with assurance of not getting lost.



Come to the Farm and enjoy the trails, enjoy the fresh air and the natural beauty of the area.

Just a reminder that Purple trail is still closed to the public and we do not allow motorized vehicles on our trails.

THE HOOFBEAT

Animal Adoptions

Farm animals adopted from shelters have plenty of love to give and make great companions

There are many farm animals in need of homes, and this is why adopting from a farm animal shelter is a great way to help those in need. Farm animal shelters can easily become overcrowded because of a lack of placement, and that's when farm animals can begin to suffer from neglect and abuse.

When you adopt a farm animal, you give them a second chance at a happy life



Gemini was rescued from a cruelty case in April, alongside 19 other farm animals. She was an instant farm favorite and we knew that she would find her forever person without a hitch. That time came quickly for her as she found her forever home with a returning adoptive family.

The efforts made to rehabilitate and rehome Gemini led us to Smith and Wesson. Smith and Wesson found themselves homeless when an unknown condition arose with Wesson. Wesson needed diagnostics for a medical condition, which his family refused to do. They needed us to jump in!

Farm animals are intelligent and emotional creatures, just like dogs and cats. They form strong bonds with their caregivers, and they deserve to be treated with compassion and care.

When you adopt a farm animal, you make a lifelong commitment to provide them with a loving home

Apples had been unsuccessful at finding her forever home, until she met a little girl named Charlotte. They instantly bonded and have been a successful team so far this year! The bond between them has been extraordinary to see blossom throughout 2022. We follow this team closely because we are always so excited to see what new adventures they are up to!



Adopting a farm animal is also good for the environment



Farm animals play an important role in the agricultural system as they help to keep the ecosystem in balance. By adopting a farm animal, you're helping to reduce animal cruelty and promote sustainable farming practices.

Our potbelly pigs, Pua and Peppa found a loving home after being seized from a cruelty case in March. They were able to see and feel the grass between their toes and smell the fresh air. They bounced around excitedly and found themselves playfully running around their new home.

Their success at rehabilitation allowed us to provide a safe landing for Remington, the potbelly pig who was found without hoof care and an underbite. She is always wearing a smile!

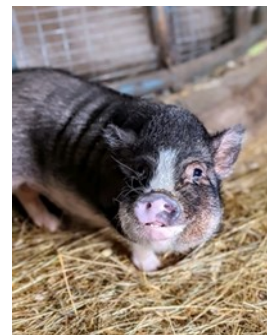
Not only can you give a farm animal a second chance at life, you can also help to combat animal cruelty



Ronin, a rabbit that came in from a cruelty case in April, quickly found a loving home with our Vet Tech, Abby Freeman. Ronin was found living in a cage attached to the side of a barn with no shelter. He was left completely out in the elements. Once cleared from quarantine and healthy enough to take the next step, he left for his new home with Abby. Ronin's adoption allowed us to continue to provide rescue efforts to Cadbury, who found herself homeless after her owner left for college.

Adopting a farm animal can be a fun and rewarding experience

If you are looking for a rewarding experience, consider adopting a farm animal from a shelter today. You'll be giving them a second chance at life, and you might just find a new best friend in the process.



ANIMAL CARE SPOTLIGHT

Rabbit Care

Three Main Reasons Why Proper Care Is Important for Rabbits



1. Provide a healthy/safe home/environment (don't release them into the wild if you can't take care of them) Domesticated rabbits are not equipped to survive in the wild on their own. They are prey animals, which means they are constantly at risk of becoming food for predators. Even if a rabbit could find enough food and water to survive in the wild, they would likely succumb to stress and disease.
2. Rabbits are social creatures. In the wild, rabbits live in groups called warrens. Without the companionship of other rabbits, pet rabbits can become isolated and depressed. This can lead to health problems and shortened life spans.
3. Rabbits need special care because they are fragile creatures. Their bones are very delicate, and their digestive systems can be easily upset. A diet that is not properly balanced can lead to fatal health problems.

Rabbits that are properly cared for will live happy and healthy lives.

RESTORE, RENOVATE AND REVAMP

From Bunny Barn to Rabbit Emporium



Thanks to a generous donation from Peter Browne, in honor of his wife Mibb and her friend Beryl DeLilla, the bunny barn got a much needed facelift and interior renovation. Mibb and Beryl loved the rabbits and wanted them to be comfortable until they found their forever homes. Renovation work included the face lift transformation you see in the pictures as well as a new concrete floor, a heating and cooling system, new cabinets, paint and lighting throughout. New exterior runs are being completed to allow the rabbits some outdoor time as weather permits. We are grateful to the Browne's for their generosity in making this project a reality.



Cracker Box Palace Remembers

Peter Browne who passed 28 July 2022

We make a living
By what we get,
but we make a life by
What we give.
~Winston Churchill

Peter and Mibb Browne made a life of giving back to others. Cracker Box Palace is so very grateful for being part of their generosity over the years.

HISTORIC

Celebrating almost 200 years of Alasa Farm History

Unveiling Ceremony of the Pomeroy Historical Marker Ceremony — May 21st



Historians, guests and friends of the farm gathered to celebrate the unveiling of the New York State Historical marker donated through the **William G. Pomeroy Foundation** to proudly display in front of the Shaker Main House. This marker explains the rich history of the farm from the Shakers to Alasa Farms incorporation.

Joan and Glenn Wallis from Trail Works, Inc. of Wayne County were instrumental in applying for this marker. Thank you for the time and effort to research and verify the historic timeline to receive the marker.

The program included the following speakers: **Joan Wallace**- Trail Works-Researching the History **Cheri Kline** - Shaker Historian- Shaker occupation and site importance **Rosa Fox** - Local Historian- Fourier's and other group occupation **Derek Poole**- Historic Committee CBP- Growing up on the farm – the importance of it's history **Matt Belanger**- Genesee Land Trust- Importance of this property from a natural perspective and preserving it **Sara Buys**- Cracker Box Palace- who we are and the role our organization plays in preserving, fostering and educating the community



To all of our donors:

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all our donors, supporters and friends of the farm for their generous love and support over the last quarter and throughout the year. We couldn't do this without you!

As a not-for-profit organization, we operate solely from donations of our generous supporters and we know it hasn't been easy for many of you to give due to the impacts of inflation on your budgets. We are feeling it too! If you are able to give a little more this year, we would sincerely appreciate the support during this time.

With sincere gratitude for the many donations we receive each month that allow us to support our mission:

To provide shelter and sanctuary to farm animals in need from within our region, promote the rich history of the area and utilize sound conservation and agricultural practices by engagement and education of the community.

To donate on line go to our website:

www.crackerboxpalace.org

Events in Review



9th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank *EWE* for your support!

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR PRICE, RAFFEL & BROWNE, LLC

GOLF CART SPONSOR GRIFF MANGAN

DINNER SPONSOR DEBORAH & ALAN LATTIME

LUNCH SPONSORS FORTÉ CAPITAL, LLC PARSONS/MCINTOSH FAMILY THE PIKE COMPANIES, LTD

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The Peachey Family
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
The Upstate Bank
Russ Hartranf
Charlie Hallagan
Franklin House Tavern

The **9th Annual Golf Tournament** was held June 27th and was very successful — netting over \$21,000 to benefit the animals at Cracker Box.

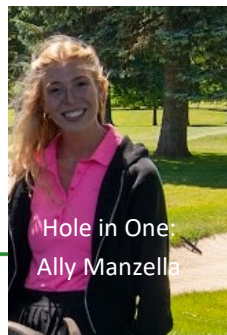
A big **Thank You** to our sponsors who make this event stand out as one of our best and to all the dedicated golfers who participate in our tournament to support us.

Our gratitude is endless!

These events take a lot of time to plan and execute. We could not operate without the many volunteers that assist in pulling everything together to run smoothly. Thank you for your time, effort and dedication to the success of this event. **Golf Committee Mem-**

bers: Beth Rohan, Amy Wildhack, Karen Ashnault, Janet Halasinski. Pictured here is our 'day of' volunteers.

[Not pictured is our photographer, Tammy Stauffer]



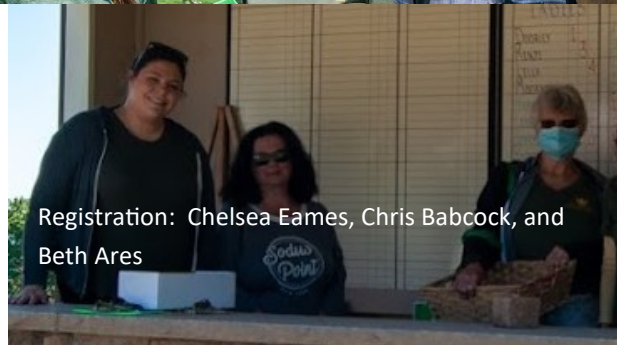
Hole in One:
Ally Manzella



Dice game: Connie Osborne, Linda Faulks, and Bob Miranda



Putting Contest: Elisa Robinson, Beth Robinson, and Roger Campbell



Registration: Chelsea Eames, Chris Babcock, and Beth Ares



Ambassadors: Peanut Butter, Mason Buys, Ryan Buys, Sara Buys, and Hershey



5th Annual EQWINE RIDE July 30, 2022

On Saturday, July 30th 60 riders took to the beautiful trails found at **Cracker Box Palace @ Historic Alasa Farms**. The **EqWine Ride** is an annual fundraising event that benefits all the critters living at the Farm! While on the trail, riders get to sample local wines, craft beers and hard ciders. Each station also has local non-alcoholic beverages to sample. Riders and their trusty mounts navigate fun obstacles along the way, while getting their 'Passport' stamped. At the final station, each rider receives a prize consisting of a wine glass and a bottle of wine! Treats are also provided for each horse!

Thanks to Silver Waters Winery, Joeys Northside in Newark, Old Goat Cidery and Imprint Coffee for their donations/sponsorships and to Donna Johnson, the event organizer, for her time and effort to make this event successful!



Upcoming Events — Please visit our website for details



9th Annual Farm Art Exhibit and Benefit...

♦ **9th Annual Art Exhibit and Benefit Auction** — Starts Oct 10— Nov 19th.- Register to bid on line. Go to our website to register.

♦ **Legends Ride-** Oct 22, 9:30 am learn the legends of Alasa Farms on your trail ride through the woods of our beautiful farm. All proceeds benefit the farm.

♦ **ROC the DAY-** On line giving extravaganza. Nov 29 from midnight to 11:59 pm. This is an opportunity to support Cracker Box Palace through United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes. Watch our social media site for details.



Legends of Alasa Farms Ride

♦ Christmas with the Animals

The entire month of December- give gifts to your favorite animals. A wish list will be circulating soon. Watch our social media site for details.



Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms
6420 Shaker Rd, North Rose, NY 14516
Mailing: P.O. Box 174 Alton, NY 14433

Non Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Mailed From Wolcott, NY 14590

Permit No. 8

Newsletter published quarterly by Cracker Box Palace, est. 2000.

NYS Tax ID#223956 EIN 16-1600471 NYS Charities Reg 40-91-90



Pictured Above: Double with a group of children from one of our many school tours this spring

Newsletter

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For more information visit our new web site at www.crackerboxpalace.org, Facebook and Instagram @Crackerboxpalace11, or Twitter @Crackerbpalace

Visit the farm– Daily 9am-3:30pm , Office hours– Tuesday through Saturday 10am-3pm

Grab a self-guided tour map at the barns and visit the farm at your leisure anytime during the week! To schedule a guided tour, please contact us 2 weeks in advance.

When visiting our trails, please stop by the farm first and let us know you'll be hiking, sign in at our kiosk or download Strava or All Trails App and connect with CBP.

Horse back riders, please do check for trailer parking areas too!

For adoptions or admissions, email for an appointment at info@crackerboxpalace.org or call

315-483-2493. Please leave a message., We'll get back to you as soon as we can!

If you have an animal emergency, call 911, LART or your Veterinarian.

Board Members:

Hank Stuart — Vice President

Jeff Apfel — Treasurer

Janet Halasinski — Secretary

Randy Bond

Barb DeRoo

Sonia Cliffl

Andrew Muldoon



Pictured: Kritter Kris, wildlife rehabilitator, with her rescued owl, teaching school kids about respecting animals in the wild.

