



# ATRC: OF THE MONTH

The monthly newsletter for our families, followers, and supporters of the Albany Therapeutic Riding Center.



## SPRING TIME

It seems like spring is finally here and with the warm weather comes bath time for the horses, lots of green grass to graze on, and the mud patches drying up! With all this fresh green grass, don't be surprised if you see Penny and Jane sporting their grazing muzzles. They can eat and drink through their muzzles, it just helps them eat slower so they can maintain their girlish figures.

As we look forward to warmer weather we also are looking forward to lessons opening back up. The horses miss all of their riders and can't wait to go back to work and see everyone!

### THIS MAY AT THE FARM:



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## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: THE FORD-ELLIS FAMILY



This month, we want to recognize the Ford-Ellis Family as our volunteers of the month. They have supported ATRC in countless ways since opening their home and their barn to us in February. Mary Frances and Colin have been incredibly generous with donations of lesson materials such as handmade brush boxes and brushes as well as all the beautiful signs with our logo around the property. To get to know them a little better, we asked them about why they chose to get involved with ATRC.



"Our family is originally from this area but we only recently moved back from Boston after six years away. We bought the property on Bullock Road with the intention of keeping a few horses for personal use, until a well timed and persuasive letter from ATRC board member Mindy Scott changed all of that! On Christmas Eve, board members Mindy and Paul Aloy along with the director of riding Taylor Huntley came to tour our property and meet our family. While the prospect of having a therapeutic riding center in "our backyard" was daunting we ultimately decided to get involved.

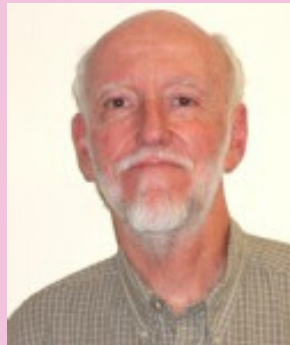
First and foremost we were very impressed with Taylor and all she had accomplished in the preceeding year with the program. Secondly Colin's younger brother Myles was profoundly handicapped for his entire life and would have thrived in such a welcoming and supportive program. Finally, supporting a great local organization was a small way for us to give back to a community that we love.



## Meet the Board: Joe Guy!

Joe and his wife, Patricia have been volunteers and supporters of the Riding Center since the 1980s. Awarded a PhD in Political Science by the State University of New York, Rockefeller Institute of Government in 1973, Joe was employed by the New York State Department of Health for 31 years and served as Director of the Department's Bureau of Medical Review and Payment, overseeing the targeted prepayment review of claims to the State's Medicaid Program. He also provided technical consultation and expert testimony on State Medicaid payment policy to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Subsequent to his retirement from State service, he served as Project Director for a federal audit contract of Medicaid services reimbursed by the New England states, New York and New Jersey.

**Thank you for what you do for ATRC, Joe!**



## COVID-19 Update

As we look ahead to plan our reopening, ATRC has made some important policy changes in order to keep all of our riders, staff, volunteers, and family happy and healthy. Please see the list below for changes and also see the e-mail sent out by Miss Taylor. Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

- During riding and ground lessons, no one will enter the barn/ main building with the exception of the outside porta-potty. All entrances will be property labeled with entry or no entry/staff only.
- Families should bring the minimum number of people needed to care for the rider to help limit the number of people on site.
- Riders will be required to have/ purchase their own helmet. This is a new rule for ATRC. In the past we have allowed riders to borrow a helmet, but there is no way our staff can properly sanitize a helmet between each rider to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please reach out to Miss Taylor or Miss Lauren if you need assistance finding the right helmet for your rider. Bike helmets are **NOT** allowed. All helmets must be ASTM-SEI approved horseback riding helmets to properly fit the rider for riding lessons and to meet PATH Intl. Standards for Safety.
- Riders can bring their own clean reins with input from instructors for rein selection if they do not feel comfortable using ATRC's reins.
- Families will bring their own chairs. They can bring a simple folding chair-without a bag.
- Riders will wait in cars until a volunteer/ instructor comes to get them at the start of a lesson. Do NOT enter the barn when you get to the farm for your lesson. The barn will be restricted to staff only during this time. Please do not keep cars running in the parking lot, the fumes and loud speakers cause problems for our horses and lessons.
- At the end of the lesson, riders will be dismounted and escorted directly back to their cars.
- Families will be asked to leave promptly after their lesson to allow for disinfecting and to limit the number of people on site.

# Learn from Home!

Use the clues below each picture to unscramble the name of the grooming tool!



RYRUCCMOB

Usually the first brush used.  
Loosens dirt, mud, and shedding hair

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OFOHCIKP

This tool is used to clear rocks, mud, snow, and other debris from the horse's hooves

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SHUBRHAD

This stiff-bristled brush is used to remove any dirt or debris loosened by the first brush used  
hard brush

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NAME&ALITSHRUB

This brush is used on the horse's mane and tail

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FOSTRBUSH

This brush removes finer dirt and dust particles and adds a shine to the coat

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# Thank You

ATRC would like to send a HUGE thank you to Stewart's Shops and the Dake Family Foundation for sending us a donation of \$2,000 for COVID-19 relief efforts to help support our organization during this shut down. Thank you for helping us keep our horses healthy and happy until lessons start, and helping so many small businesses and non-profits in our area!



## Session 3 Registration

Make sure you get all of your Session 3 paperwork and payment in to Miss Taylor by June 1st!

If you are interested in registering for lessons, our 2020 Participant Application is located on the Programs and Services Page of our website:  
[albanytherapeuticridingcenter.com](http://albanytherapeuticridingcenter.com)

Volunteer Applications and Paperwork can be found on the "Forms" page of the website under the "Volunteer" tab!