Region 8 Outreach News from Arkansas

This is Malinda Smith reporting from Arkansas. Arkansas is planning their 2nd Annual Winter State Meeting for a Saturday from 9A – 4P in early March on the campus of ASU Beebe in the Ag Barn. We plan to offer DE’s as well as CE’s and we are accepting topic and speaker suggestions as well as abstracts now. We will be sending out more details very soon!

For our news this month we thought we would just take a look around Facebook and see what is going on at our PATH INTL., Intl Centers in AR. This is what we found:

Hearts and Hooves
“Hearts & Hooves is growing, not just with the number or riders, horses or staff, but also with the number of programs that are offered…. Hearts & Hooves is excited to announce its first session curriculum based entirely on ground lessons for those individuals who wish to experience the horse but for medical, weight or other reasons cannot ride.” Hearts and Hooves also offers: Therapeutic Riding, Hippotherapy, and Operation Equine for Veterans, Project Endeavor for youth at risk.

Horses For Healing
Horses for Healing recently had a fun show, August 26th, Under the lights called “Starlight Jumper Night” to help raise scholarship funding for their therapeutic riding program. “WOW! We had so much fun last night at our Starlight show! A huge thank you to all the riders who came out to participate with us, all of the volunteers who helped pull it together, and the generous sponsors who made it possible!

Bonjour Tack donated gorgeous saddle pads featuring their logo as well as the Horses for Healing logo, that we hope our class winners will be able to enjoy for years to come! Congrats, and nice riding to all of our riders!

Hope Landing
“Yea, team HOPE Landing! Alexis came by to tell us that we raised the most “new” money in this year’s Business Blitz. Thank you El Dorado small businesses for supporting the United Way of Union County!” They also reported: “Fall clean up by the wonderful Master Gardeners at HOPE Landing this morning! We always love to see them coming. Thank you all for keeping our place looking beautiful!

Dutch Acres
Dutch Acres reports: “Here at Dutch Acres Farm we like to dream big. We were encouraged in this by Chip-Starter 2.0, started by Fixer Upper’s Chip Gaines. We have submitted our proposal video at www.chip-starter.com. Click the link to take a look at our video and hear more about the exciting vision that we have for Dutch Acres Farm. Thanks to Meghan Russell, Christina Miller, and Liz Marg for being a part of this dream as well!”
In conclusion, we offer our deepest condolences at this time to our dear friend PATH INTL., Intl. Co-State Chair, Becke Williams, at the unexpected loss of her husband Billy Williams. Becke and her late husband Billy are the founders of Arkansas Heart & Sole Therapeutic Equestrian Center. Becke wrote: “For 47 years Billy Williams shared my life, we made a family, worked side by side, loved one another as husband and wife and together were so much more. Billy’s sudden heart attack took him from my arms into the arms of the Lord. In remembrance of a loving husband and father. Love you Billy. Williams” Kimberly Haley and Malinda Smith attended the funeral representing the love, prayers and support of all of Region 8 PATH INTL. Intl. members and the LSTEN board. They reported that it was a wonderful celebration and tribute to a man the whole community loved and respected. It was so well attended that it had to be held in a school auditorium. Billy Williams had been a teacher, coach, school administrator and at the time of his passing was serving as the Drew Central School Superintendent. He left a huge legacy and mentored and guided a huge number of individuals throughout his life. He was an avid sports fan, was an Awana leader and taught his church adult Sunday school class. His favorite thing to do when he got off work was to drive 5 minutes away to his home and ranch and change into his work clothes to spend time with Becke working on the ranch and helping her with her therapeutic riding center. He will be greatly missed by so many. Our hearts go out to you Becke and may God bless and comfort you.