

WolfStone Ranch Newsletter

Issue #5

October - December 2015

October 2015...

- ✓ I was finally able to check up on **Pistachio & Cappuccino** (*sister kitties rescued in 2012 and placed locally in 2014*), who are doing fine but are moving to Tennessee, and I'm fervently hoping their Mama will periodically send me photos and anecdotes throughout the coming years...
- ✓ Former Volunteer Extraordinaire Bill Splitter (*now living in Kanab UT in order to volunteer full-time at Best Friends*) put in a hard day's work at **WolfStone Ranch** (WSR) while back in the area for a Best Friends event in St. Louis...
- ✓ I rescued **Toby**, a stray my new neighbor found and wanted to keep around (*although her husband adamantly did not*), but she did want to allow him to run free, and she did not want to neuter or vaccinate him! Heavy sigh, I get so tired of this "broken record"! To her credit, she did, albeit reluctantly, allow me to do the right thing...

November 2015...

- ✓ **Toby** was transferred to Five Acres Animal Shelter in St. Louis, after WolfStone Ranch totally "vetted" him (*neutered, vaccinated, heartworm-tested, de-flead and dewormed*) and was adopted a week later...
- ✓ Two days after **Toby** left here, I rescued **Minerva**, a declawed kitty whose owner was planning to dump her in an abandoned barn... another "broken record"!
- ✓ **Shayla** required more dental surgery and post-op care...
- ✓ **Angel** required more veterinary care and consultation regarding treatment for her multiple, serious and chronic issues...

December 2015...

- ✓ **Cricket** required more veterinary care regarding his multiple, serious and chronic issues...
- ✓ **Shadoe** also required dental surgery and post-op care...
- ✓ **Paprika** required more veterinary care for her chronic eye problem...
- ✓ I posted an ad with Mineral Area College (MAC) for an intern or volunteers... and then spent many hours interviewing, giving tours and orientation, and beginning training with several potential volunteers... Now we'll see if Emily, Bryli & Libby, or Hannah & Laura end up sticking around to help out throughout this semester?!

2015 Summary...

- ✓ I rescued 5 dogs (**Chloe Harley Abby Lexie* Toby**), all of whom are in now in their Forever Homes! However, I rescued 4 cats (**Savannah Felicia Maverick Minerva**), and all of them are still here. Moreover, the 2 dogs I rescued in 2014 (**Duke Annabelle**) are also now in their Forever Homes, but the 2 cats I rescued in 2014 (**Shadoe Jada**) are still here.
- ✓ I dealt with one seriously ill dog, and major veterinary issues with 4 cats. The dog is fine, as are 3 of the cats... Poor little **Angel**, who is only 5 years old, is struggling with chronic upper respiratory problems and advancing heart disease. For weeks, she has required a great deal of time and effort... and will continue to require tons of tender, loving care for the rest of her precious little life!
- ✓ I lost one dog in 2015... I had rescued an old Boxer (*with a permanently broken leg*) back in 2010, when he was about 8 years old. My sweet **Phoenix** died of cancer in February... he had a tumor the size of a football filling the entire cavity of his body... Rest in Peace, my son!
- ✓ In my position at the Presbyterian Children's Home (PCH), I successfully launched a Drum Circle Program as well as a Yoga Program, thereby cultivating the skills and experience I will need to develop the spiritual retreat for pets (and their people) that is an integral part of my vision for **WolfStone Ranch**.

* I forgot to mention **Lexie** in the Summer 2015 Newsletter... she was here for a week over the July 4th weekend... but being microchipped, I was able to return her to her owner... However, this woman allows

her to run free, so I wasn't thrilled about returning a small dog who loves to attack big dogs... more "broken records"... and a broken heart! ☹

Current Head Count

3 adoptable dogs (**Juli Sundance Lady**), 3 dogs needing rehab (**Skylar Denver Durango**), 5 sanctuary cats (**Joey Angel Shayla Cricket Loki**), 7 highly adoptable cats (**Clover Jada Shadoe Savannah Felicia Maverick Minerva**), 2 difficult-to-place cats (**Paprika Koala**), and 1 sanctuary parakeet (**LyLy**)

There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle.

~ [some say] Albert Einstein

Yes, the above "miracles" quote is simplistic, but I include it here because you hear me so often say that events in the life of **WolfStone Ranch** are "miraculous". But does this mean that God deliberately made them happen to aid me in the Mission I felt He gave me back in 2009? Or does it mean that, even if some Mysterious and Powerful Being did not deliberately cause it to happen, it's still an inexplicable and marvelous event that occurred in harmony with my dreams and prayers... and something that I could not myself, even had I tried, have made to happen?

Either/or questions aside, the passionate and dedicated Love that propelled me to found **WolfStone Ranch** is exactly such a mysterious and powerful Force... and by its definition and nature, Love is something that can only be experienced personally... that is, by a Living Being (*whether physical, spiritual, or both*). Besides, is there really a difference in these two perspectives? I mean, perhaps the Force we call "God" is within each of us... and yet also outside of us... So isn't it possibly just a question of semantics? Does God have to be Someone separate from us? Can't our collective spirit of Love be called "God"? Don't we have ample proof that a certain kind of "Love" (*that could be called "sacred"*) is transcendentally and mystifyingly omnipotent? Can anyone argue that Life itself isn't miraculous? And isn't the Love that is within us just as miraculous?

You see, this is why I consider myself "spiritual" as opposed to "religious". I have faith in some things, but I don't begin to understand it all. And I realize that doubt and ignorance are not my enemies, but instead valuable companions on my spiritual

journey. And my ardent hope is that my kindred spirits in the **WolfStone Ranch** Community will include not only the faithful of all the world's true religions, but also those who call themselves "merely" spiritual... as well as those who consider themselves agnostics or atheists (*who often have as much integrity as the religious*)!

The point, here, is that... if nothing else... seeing things as miraculous is a way of looking at the world, just like always being grateful for the blessings in one's life. For me, having an Attitude of Gratitude... or a Mindset of Miracles... is a way of relating to the world that produces positive and powerful, marvelous and magical results. To me, it's a healthy habit to get into! And isn't that what New Year's Resolutions are all about?

2015 "Learn To Adapt"

Speaking of, I have a New Year's Eve tradition... Just before midnight I pray to know what my Big Lesson will be for the coming year... what Wisdom can best prepare me to succeed with my Mission during the coming year? A year ago, my Message was "Learn To Adapt" and, naturally, Life gave me plenty of opportunities to apply this wise counsel! But of course, Life gives us all plenty of trials! Having such a "mantra", however, helped me to transform a bad habit (*feeling inadequate and overwhelmed when "thrown curves balls"*) into a good habit (*focusing on applying myself to finding the solution to the problem, either within myself or from the appropriate others*)... it changed my attitude, which positively influenced my ability to handle my tribulations. For example...

Here I sit, on the first Sunday of this brand-new year... it's cold but sunny outside, so the "kids" are in their outdoor kennels, enjoying some precious hours not cooped up in their basement crates. Don't get me wrong, they love their cozy "dens", all soft and warm and dry! But not surprisingly they get "cabin fever", especially since I've had virtually no help since Brittany and Bill left in May... so they've not gotten "juggled" into the yard for breaks much this past Fall.*

* *The volunteers I mentioned in the Summer 2015 Newsletter fizzled out immediately!*

I'm supposed to be in church right now (*at Unity*) with the PCH kids eligible for off-campus activities, being inspired by a message of joy and hope... and also enjoying a cathartic Burning Bowl Ceremony.* But instead, I'm home because my truck's alternator died yesterday and I have access to no other "wheels". Fortunately, PCH was able to find someone to cover for me, and while I was disappointed to miss the Burning Bowl Ceremony, I was relieved by the unexpected opportunity to start this Newsletter... finally!

** Burning Bowl Ceremony... on one piece of paper, write down all of your “wounds” from 2015... frustrations, disappointments, anxieties and fears. You will throw this note into the burning bowl to be transformed by the power of Fire... that is, the Spirit of God within you! On another piece of paper, write down all of your hopes, dreams and goals for 2016... You will keep this note in a special place, to be reviewed whenever you so choose.*

Frankly, I've been trying for over a month to find the time to compose my end-of-the-year wrap-up and beginning-of-the-year statement of goals... but every time I've had a few free hours in my planned schedule, something urgent has popped up to “steal” that time from me! This past week alone has been a good example... problems with my central air system (*quickly resolved*), problems with my cell phone (*on the verge of losing all my photos, contacts, notes and calendars*), problems with my internet service (*they're sending me a new modem*) and finally my truck breaking down (*repair scheduled for Thursday*)! Sometimes when it rains, it pours... but unlike others in Missouri and surrounding states, I'm not dealing with the ravages of floods or tornadoes... just “ants at a picnic”! So I count my blessings, including the blessing-in-disguise of my truck's breaking down, giving me the opportunity to begin this missive... which, come to think of it, is something like a “Burning Bowl Ceremony”!

2016 Goals (Hopes & Dreams)...

- ✓ I hope no one dumps any more animals on me, so that instead of on rescues, I can **CONCENTRATE ON PLACING THE 6 HIGHLY ADOPTABLE CATS I CURRENTLY HAVE**. As a matter of fact, **Shadoe** may have a Forever Home... but more on this exciting possibility in my next newsletter?!
- ✓ I hope to **GET SOME WORTHWHILE VOLUNTEER HELP**... either from this batch of college students, or future MAC ads... or other sources, as I build my local network through my association with PCH.
- ✓ I hope to **START A COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE**... This time last year, I had hoped to start a drum circle with the PCH kids that would eventually evolve into a community drum circle... but I have since learned that was an unrealistic goal. Instead, I need to finish studying “**Drum Circle: Facilitating Human Potential Through Rhythm**”, the recognized “Bible” on the subject, written by the “father” of the drum-circle phenomenon in the US, Arthur Hull... and then I need to practice his proven techniques with the kids at PCH... and then I need to start a drum circle of interested people in the Farmington area... to which I can ultimately bring the PCH

kids. Because at this time not many of the kids are terribly interested in participating... you know kids, if an adult suggests something (*and worse, participating in "rec" activities is mandatory*), then the kids pretty much don't want to do it, right? But bringing the eligible kids to real drum circles in the community, where people (*of all ages, races, cultures and religions*) are having a great time making some magical music... well, I think they'll be way more excited about getting involved... and thereby receiving the wonderful benefits from it!

- ✓ I hope to **PRODUCE A WEEKEND COMMUNITY-BUILDING EXPERIENCE (CBE)** this year (*probably in September or October*). This time last year, I started working on getting my bosses' permission to start a drum-circle program at PCH... And this year I've already got their permission to produce a CBE! I'll need to find at least one other person in the Farmington area to help me, just because of the amount of time it takes to produce one of these miraculous events (*which is more time than I alone have to devote to this project, even though I believe it is crucial to WolfStone Ranch's future success*).

- ✓ I hope to **INSPIRE ALL OF YOU TO ATTEND THIS COMMUNITY-BUILDING EXPERIENCE**, which I firmly believe will be a life-changing event for each and every one of us who participate. I'm inviting friends/supporters as far away as Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania to come!

I'm told by people who have attended CBE's that it has dramatically improved their relationships in every area of their lives. I want that for myself... for **WolfStone**

Ranch... and for all of you, as well. I want our CBE to improve our personal lives, our professional lives, and rippling out from each of us, I want it to improve our larger society... including our neighborhoods, our towns, our churches, and our social and political networks. What a way to Make A Difference in the world!

For my Christian friends and supporters, let me put it like this... I believe that participating in this CBE has the potential to change us like Saul/Paul was changed on the road to Damascus. And I believe that when we leave this CBE and return to our lives... the ripples will be akin to "planting new churches"!

For my spiritual friends and supporters, let me put it like this... I believe that participating in this CBE is a perfect way to answer Mahatma Gandhi's call-to-action, "Be the change you wish to see in the world!"

- ✓ I hope to **CONNECT WITH AT LEAST ONE PERSON**, through the CBE and the Community Drum Circle, **WHO WILL BECOME A REAL PARTNER IN GROWING WOLFSTONE RANCH**. Actually, I have high hopes of finding lots of people

through these avenues, but I'd be happy to start with just one! Anyone of **YOU** interested and available??? 😊

- ✓ I dream of **BUILDING A “REAL” BOARD OF DIRECTORS** that will help me move **WolfStone Ranch** forward with our Mission. In order to apply to the IRS for my 501(c)(3) (*tax-exempt status*), back in 2013, I had had to list the names of a board... and I had found 3 friends who, in theory, really support my vision of **WolfStone Ranch**. Unfortunately, though, none of them had been in a position to get involved due to previous commitments.
- ✓ I dream of **MANIFESTING WITHIN MY LIFETIME THE WHOLE, BEAUTIFUL VISION OF WOLFSTONE RANCH'S 3-PRONGED MISSION STATEMENT...** Canine & Feline Rescue, Rehabilitation & Placement... Creating an Environment that Supports Healing for All Living Beings... Building a Community around the Shared Ethos of Compassionate Treatment of All Animals.

Perhaps this goes without saying, but I'm going to now... and then never again, OK?

I spend at least 8 hours, 365 days a year, “playing” Kennel Manager. I work outside WSR about 24 hours a week. On top of that, I regularly rescue animals, nurse sick animals and deal with the maintenance or repair of “stuff”. This leaves me precious little time to make progress in developing WSR and moving forward with our mission. I often feel like the proverbial gerbil in a wheel... I work as hard and as fast as I can, only to stay in place. Often, the only thing I feel I've accomplished is not losing ground! However, because the Universe was kind enough to put me in a job in which I am doing things that apply to WSR's goals, I feel I am actually making some progress... but I fear it is perhaps difficult to discern from the outside.

Therefore, my last bullet-point hope for the year is that you will remain patient with me! Progress may appear to be as slow as a tortoise, but if I'm able to accomplish my goals for 2016... then things should take off like a hare after that! Think of it this way... 2016 is the year of pulling back on the bow... 2017 should be, God willing, the year we release the arrow... to fly true to the bull's eye of success for launching **WolfStone Ranch** as an actual “organization”! Don't get me wrong, I have no illusions of doing this alone... I could not have gotten to this point without **YOUR** financial and moral support! But having a Board of Directors and at least one other person working with me on a weekly, if not daily basis, to build a community of

kindred spirits actively and enthusiastically pursuing our Mission Statement... now that is my idea of heaven on earth! Not just for me, but much more importantly for all the animals whose lives we will save!!

2016 “Trust Your Process”

This year, my New Year’s Eve Message was “Trust Your Process”... Sounds like a delightful habit to get into, don’t you agree? Already in this young year, I’ve learned that doesn’t just mean trusting the process within myself, but somehow also in cooperation with the Universe. Again, I had struggled all December to find the time to write you all... but instead, my priority was perforce taking care of my sick babies... plus shouldering the extra hours I was asked to take on at PCH due to the holidays... I was feeling stressed and discouraged, and then my truck broke down, and voila... Mission Newsletter accomplished! It’s one thing, however, to have things break your way. But what is the trick to remaining centered and at peace when they don’t? The Native Americans call it... “Walking In Beauty”... when heaven and earth are in harmony. How to do that when you or someone you love is in crisis? I hope to learn more about this kind of grace throughout this coming year!

Thank You So Very Very Very Very Much!!

Finally, no **WolfStone Ranch** newsletter is complete without my at least attempting to find adequate words to express the depth and breadth of my profound gratitude for your generous support. What more need I say but this... My 21 babies are alive and well* because of **YOU**... and over the past 5 years we have saved the lives of over 200 other dogs and cats. We have so very much to be proud of!

* Including **Angel**, who, when I get her meds just right, is like you with a mild cold... still able to enjoy life!

May you Trust Your Process this year... and may you, and all your loved ones, be blessed with health and happiness... the wealth of wisdom... and the joy of inner peace throughout the coming year!

Namaste

P.S. I haven’t forgotten my promise to share the account of **Chloe’s** amazing (and yes, miraculous) rescue... I just haven’t yet found the time! I assure you, it’s a story worth waiting for...