

Happy Spring!!!

Well, it is spring to many & for those who still anxiously await, we'll see you again next month... or the next... may March come in like a *gentle* lion, for us all!

In the meantime, we will share our Floridian spring with you!



60 years ago, I began what I call my Fairie Gardens. Over the years & in many places, those gardens have taken on a myriad of forms. Sometimes they honor our location, or various residents. Other times they are set as a memory garden to peacefully find a moment for grieving.... or remembrance.



Beauty is found naturally as well as 'manmade'. With each new day we try to make the most of our natural & ...'not-so-natural' worlds. Our next project is to honor those who cause light to enter our darkness & to finish setting up BoB's Garden as he requested last summer. We'll see what a cat has in mind!



Babyman Charley 2017



Snackin' with the herd 2018



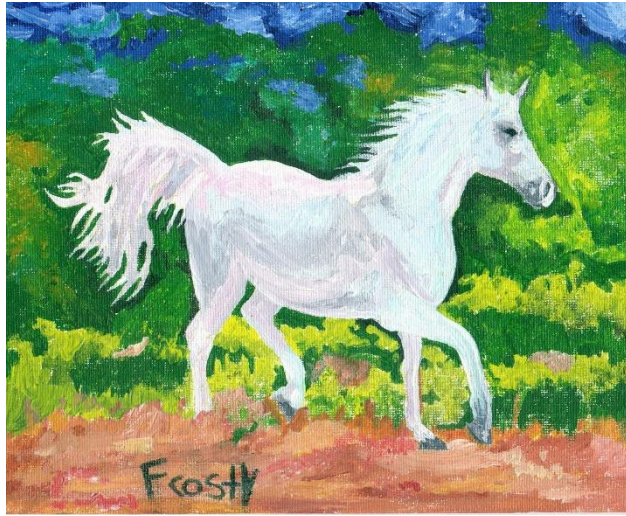
Full-grown Charleyman 2019

Early summer 2017, I got a call from our volunteers Mike & Marla. “You have a pig” says Mike. “No I don’t” says I. “Yes you do...” Mike was right. His next call to me stated assuredly, “he is chubby, has a curly tail & a snout, so if he’s not a pig, he sure does look like one!” Marla laughing in the background saying “what are we supposed to *do* about him?” M&M (as Marla called the couple) were feeding a herd where the wayward animal was discovered. I was out of town on my way home from teaching several hours away. My drive would take another 3 hours & it would be dark by then. The horses & ‘pig-looking creature’ were happily sharing hay in a big pasture we call the Far Field. So, I told M&M to feed as usual & set out a small tub to offer a pint-sized amount of food to the newbie.



That day began a long, loving & wonderful relationship between a porcine & a bunch of equines! As it turned out, a kindly neighbor rescued the piglet who she found trapped outside her pasture. She never located his owners but he was certainly not wild, nor feral. Not impressed with their ‘guest’, her horses were relieved to find we agreed to keep him. Charley had his own feed tub but preferred to meander horse (or donkey) to horse, sharing from *their* tubs. Noting he was not welcomed by his rescuer’s horses, he had escaped her property, crossed the street, cut through a 10-acre woodland to saunter under our electric fence to be adopted by every animal in our sanctuary. Wary of humans, he was friendly enough to eat from our hand or to let us walk among him & his hooved pals. The immediate bond between pig & dozens of horses was a joy to all. It was always a laugh to watch the herd come galloping up for food or a visit, while this chubby fellow lumbered along – behind. Charley obviously knew where his heart belonged!

As a Non-profit Animal Rescue Holistic-Based Forever-Home Sanctuary founded in 2010, we have shared our lives with many-a-species. On 60 breathtaking acres outside of Ocala Florida, our animals remain for life. We also help various organizations & individuals with adoptions or behavioral issues. Life on a farm is often unusual ... In our case, more so when residents adopt others, all on their own!



Frosty's effect on children was nothing short of miraculous! For just over 3 decades she inspired smiles, piled up the ribbons & awards & charmed them into bringing out their kindest sides. Her magic was just as powerful on adults too! Her nearly lifelong caregiver (we don't call ourselves 'owners') survived a degenerative disease with joy still remaining in her heart, thanks to her sweet white wonder.



Frosty in 2017, age 31, with her 32-year-old stablemate, together since Frosty was 6 except for a separation in which negligence nearly killed them both. The duo was reunited to live out their days together, once more.

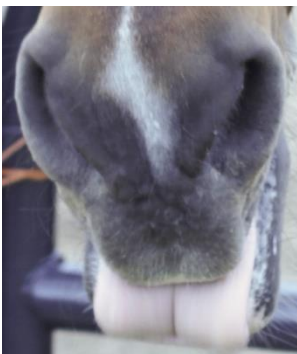
In the 1950s, Wild Horse Annie tried to make Americans aware of the terror & torture our Mustangs were facing. Decades later, her voice remains partially obscured by the greedy, selfish world of bureaucracy. Meeting my dear friend Cornelia while we attended Lake Erie College's Equestrian Program in 1970, was a highlight. A friend for life, she also befriended animals. Having saved an overworked camp horse, she later embarked on 'kill-pen' BLM captives; the awe-inspiring wild horses of our American West.



Beautiful Azul was 1 of 3 whose lives were able to continue due to a kind heart & equine knowledge. Trauma after trauma faced these 3, with Cornelia's undaunted spirit meeting each trial head-on. Azul spent the first part of her life with her herd-family, in freedom. The abuse began when the filly watched many loved ones meet their demise, forever losing her herd-mates. In & out of hospitals, her lifelong zest for freedom remained undaunted. Tho befriending humans, the open plains held her heart.



Started in 1966, this 'hieroglyphic' looking code is a Freeze Brand, used for a variety of identifications as well as to mark wild Mustangs. Rounded up, those who survive hope to be re-homed. Too many are not as lucky as Azul & her 2 pals. The plight of the American Mustang remains a tragedy.



sign language?... what does April mean to us - visit next month for some answers!



Downtown Dawgs, Williston Florida, is our Maremma dog's new groomer! Alice has been great! Our wonderful mobile groomer Amy, is having a baby & at least for a while, cannot lift a 110-pound animal & must curtail (funny word here – lol) her grooming practices. We miss her very much & wish the very best on the expansion of her family, but Tonkah continues to require proper grooming. Alice gets along with her new charge very well. Tonkah looks quite handsome preparing for his 3rd visit to Downtown Dawgs. If you are in the area, check her out & tell Alice 'Tonkah sent you'! (352) 239-8206



Cluck, cluck, cluck... we love our chicks! Boys or girls, coo or crow, they come to roost. Sometimes, kind people must cull their flock due to age, deformity, or going out of business, so they 'retire' their charges with us. Others realize too many roosters can cause dissention in the ranks, or too many hens are just too difficult to manage. These well cared for birds simply need a change of life & that change becomes the safety of our sanctuary.... but then again.... there is that 'other side'. Certain times of year the farm day sales, feed store promos, or seasonal advertising flood the market with what becomes – unwanted 'pets'.



Thousands & thousands of holiday 'pets' nationwide find themselves in need of new homes. If they are lucky, they make it to our door or some other personal or organizational haven. However, many, many are 'set free' in the forest, dropped at the ends of dirt roads or just set loose in a neighborhood to struggle on their own. Having been home raised, these birds often wander without 'wildlife skills'. They are friendly to farm dogs, not afraid of feline pals, & have been kept safe from the world of raptors. Those who are not destroyed may stagger into another unfriendly environment & lose their lives even within the hope of finding a new place to stay. That's where we come in. Although Equestrian Spirits will take in well cared for, loving birds who simply need an alternative living situation, too many others are emaciated, found without feathers, maybe sickly, injured, or terrified. One by one they become part of our flock & with good food & kindness, are able to live out their days in peace... & safety.



Great thought & knowledge must go into what goes into a body! Whether our 4th of July egg collection, a beautiful donation of raw foods, or a wild guest visiting our medicine cabinet, say 'think before you feed!'

To donate to Frosty's Rescue Food Fund please visit: www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG

All proceeds go only to the animals, as our board is unpaid.



'the path less taken... may make all the difference'....

Very sincerely, and in the spirit of all who have gone on before me... many thanks for your interest -
Laurie L. Wolf

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www.EquestrianSpirits.ORG P.O. Box 237 - Morriston, Florida 32668

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