

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Under the Oaks

Summer 2022

In this Issue

- From our Chair
- Program News
- Volunteer Updates
- Our Summer T-Shirt Fundraiser
- Upcoming Events
- View from the Paddock
- Hoof Prints

From our Chair

*Mary Baer Fiorentino,
Chair, Grace Under the Oaks
Board of Directors*

Welcome to the first edition of **Grace Notes**, our quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on the Grace we find, Under the Oaks, here in St. Johns, Florida.



The smiles in the saddle and at the end of the lead rope are contagious! From our devoted volunteers to the clients who thrive on the chance to sit tall on their mounts, there's so much JOY I see when I watch what's happening in the arena.

And then there are the instructors who share their wisdom of all things horse, along with the cognitive and/or physical challenges of our clients.

I'm overwhelmed, taking it all in!

People ask me all the time, "How do you read the news each day? How do you surround yourself with such negativity?" That's when I tell them about this outlet in my life. Grace Under the Oaks is the gift God has given me and my husband, and ALL of the riders, volunteers, and trainers involved in our program.

What would we do without Grace in our lives?

Let's keep finding it, Under the Oaks.



- Mary

Program News

GUTO's (Grace Under the Oaks, for short!!) summer semester is underway! We have shifted to Monday mornings for lessons over the summer. Our clients are learning about horsemanship skills, halter, and trail in-hand classes as well as other fun activities designed to beat the heat!

At our first session, we had a special visit from [Dr. Jennifer Miller](#), a holistic veterinarian certified in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy (commonly known as animal chiropractic) and acupuncture. Both clients and volunteers watched her treat our very own Radical, who is continuing to heal from his keratoma removal surgery.



He now gets to go on short walks and work on training in-hand. He's been an absolute champion during the last 6 weeks of post-surgical stall rest and we hope to have him cleared for light riding next month.

Volunteers also get to have fun this summer! Our horse care team was recently given the opportunity to participate in a horsemanship clinic led by Ariana Sakaris (www.arianasakaris.com), who introduced new training techniques to help build equine-human team communication. Dominick, who officially became a GUTO team

member in May, was a happy equine participant!



The entire volunteer team will also be participating in GUTO-hosted clinics for continuing education and team building.

Our Summer T-Shirt Fundraiser

Grace Under the Oaks has tips for how to stay “cool” this summer:

... *“be kind, have patience, give grace”* ...



... and don't forget to buy a GUTO Dri Fit shirt to beat the heat! Click [here](#) and get some cool GUTO swag for the summer. The shirt is available in both long and short sleeves!

Our fundraiser runs from **July 1 - 15**.

Help support Grace Under the Oaks, our clients, and our horses, with your [donation](#)!

Upcoming Events

- June 20 - July 25 - Summer semester
 - July 1 - 15 - Tee shirt Fundraiser - see above!
 - September 6 - Fall semester begins
-

View from the Paddock

Not too many realize this, but *I* was the first one here.

I might not look like the “founding member” of the Grace Under the Oaks herd, but it's true! I was the first to step off the trailer and begin the dream, long ears and all...

Ya know, I may not do much; in fact, I think I annoy the volunteers here a bit. I get grumpy when they try to make me do anything ... But I *AM* watching.



Between the fence rails, I see the smiles and hear the giggles from the young humans – even from those who cried when they first climbed into the saddle...

I witness the “*aha!*” moments – the lightbulbs switching on when a volunteer or client gets a “message” from one of us: maybe a “lick and a chew” of acceptance by one of our 4-legged team members. I also know when my girlfriend, Dolly, starts to miss me; she gives me THAT LOOK ... ha-haa *heeee-haw!*

But seriously ... I am the watchdog of the farm.

And, as we head into the heat of the summer, I'll keep cheering on the sidelines, as my fellow stablemates continue their mission, as equine “therapists.”

My big brother Dominick tells me he's totally stoked about his new job! He says after months of saying “Pick me! Pick me!” he finally got picked, and he's so proud.

Always available for carrots and hugs,
Jackson the Donk.

Hoof Prints

... inspirational quotes to guide your heart and hooves

“The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and freedom.”

-Sharon Ralls Lemon



*Copyright © 2022 Grace Under the Oaks,
All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**