

SPRING 2024

# GROUNDING IN HOPE

Newsletter from Memory Lane Farm, Inc.

## ROBIN EGG BLUE

Beth Zarnke, Executive Director

Recently I took a stroll around the farm - with the April breeze pressing on my shoulder and the sun's warmth, it felt glorious to finally breathe in the essence of spring and it's many surprises. I realized that I find gratitude in both the expected & unexpected.

Life at the farm this winter/spring has been a journey of twists and turns, filled with its unique surprises. Thankfully, the twists have been merely unexpected changes, and the turns - always seem to work out in the end, reminding me of the mysterious ways in which God orchestrates our lives.

The past few months have been brimming with excitement! As you'll discover below, we've welcomed additions to the MLF family, both in terms of staff and animals. We've forged connections with strangers who have now become cherished friends. Our doors have been open wide to offer solace to the weary, providing encouragement, guidance, and a listening ear while mentoring. We've embraced creativity by introducing new programs, welcoming new volunteers each month, and witnessing seasoned volunteers organize remarkable events.

Back to my spring stroll, I stumbled upon one of my favorite springtime moments - discovering a delicate blue robin egg. I was gently reminded that with each season comes new life, new experiences, and new opportunities, and to embrace the beauty of change and the promise of renewal.

## *This issue:*

Bouquet of Experiences  
PAGE 2

Have You Herd?  
PAGE 3

Homestead Heroes  
PAGE 4

Mudd'n For MLF  
PAGE 5

Crazy For Camps!  
PAGE 6

Support Spotlight  
PAGE 7

Upcoming Events  
PAGE 8





## NEW STAFF - A BOUQUET OF EXPERIENCES

### PATRICIA (PAT) SCHLEI

Pat became a valued member of our team in February. Her expertise extends across horses of all sizes, but she has a special affinity for miniature horses. Pat's love for children is evident in her role as Horse Powered Reading Facilitator and Mentor. As a mother of two sons and grandmother of four, her experience with youth is evident, along with her past involvement as a 4-H Leader, mentor, and teacher. In her professional life, Pat balanced farming responsibilities with a career in Information Management until her retirement.



### BILL SWIRKOWSKI

Bill joined our team in March, stepping into the impactful role of mentor and program facilitator for the Homestead Heroes Veterans Program. Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, a Master's Degree in Counseling, and post-graduate work in Health and Human Services, Bill is dedicated to assisting veterans in integrating their life experiences with newfound coping strategies. Bill is an outdoor enthusiast and sports fan. Whether he's carving wood, cruising on his motorcycle, spending time with friends, or simply relaxing around a fire, Bill finds joy in life's simple pleasures.



### APRIL DICKSON

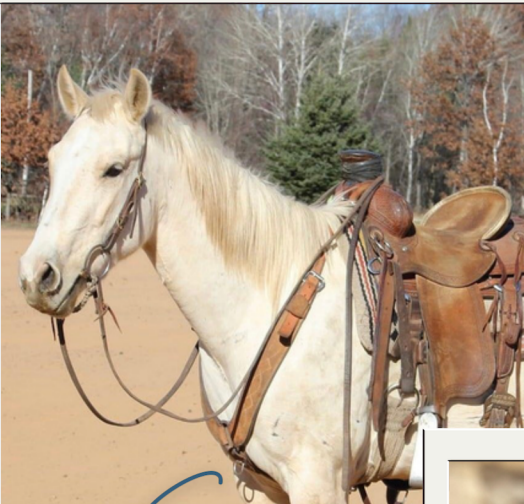
April joined the team in April, as an energetic Program Assistant, (mentoring, camps, and marketing). She is working to complete a Bachelor's degree in Leadership and Development. April has been working within the veterinary community for over twenty years. Her love of animals has led her to her current part-time position at Clark County Humane Society as Outreach Director. In this role, she is able to make an impact not just in the lives of animals but people as well. In her spare time, April enjoys spending time with family and friends on outdoor adventures such as hiking and paddle boarding.





## HAVE YOU HERD?

Our equine family has grown! We are thrilled to introduce you to the newest members of our equine partners here at Memory Lane Farm! Each of our new horses brings their own unique charm and story to our community. **Sugar** joined us in late November. True to her name, Sugar is as sweet as can be, with a calm and collected demeanor that instantly wins over hearts. **Annie Oakley**, found her new home with us in January. She is the Boss Mare in the herd, and is a dream under saddle and a joy to handle. Last but certainly not least, we have **Peabody**. This little guy has quite the story of resilience. Despite a rough start marked by neglect, Peabody was rescued from a kill pen and has since thrived with love and care. We are honored to provide him with a safe and loving home here at Memory Lane Farm. We are excited for you to meet Sugar, Annie Oakley, and Peabody, and we look forward to the positive impact they will undoubtedly have on our community.



Sugar



Annie



Peabody





## HONORING HOMESTEAD HEROES

Memory Lane Farm is proud to announce the launch of our new mentoring program, "Homestead Heroes," aimed at supporting military veterans who have experienced PTSD and other mental health concerns.

In recent years, we have witnessed a troubling increase in suicide rates among military veterans, with many struggling to cope with haunting memories, feelings of disconnection, and a sense of purposelessness.

Recognizing the profound healing power of nature and animals, MLF is dedicated to providing therapeutic opportunities for hope and healing. Through the "Homestead Heroes" program, veterans will have access to mentoring sessions designed to promote emotional well-being and personal growth. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with our farm animals, experience the tranquility of nature, and connect with a supportive community of fellow veterans.

We are now accepting applications for the "Homestead Heroes" program through our website at [memorylanefarm.org/veterans](http://memorylanefarm.org/veterans). All sessions are offered free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and donors.

If you or someone you know struggles with anxiety, depression, isolation, PTSD, or other mental health concerns, we encourage you to spread the word about this exciting opportunity for support and healing. Together, we can provide a pathway to hope and renewal for our nation's heroes.

BRAVERY  
is not always  
on the  
battlefield.  
Sometimes,  
it's the  
courage to  
HEAL  
unseen  
wounds.



**HOMESTEAD  
HEROES**



## MUDD'N FOR MEMORY LANE FARM



Join us on Saturday, August 17, 2024, for an exhilarating fundraiser at Memory Lane Farm! The highly anticipated Udder Mudd'r and Lil' Piggy Plunge are back by popular demand, promising a day filled with fun and muddy adventures.

Originally launched in 2012 to support local non-profits, the Udder Mudd'r has become a beloved tradition at the farm, known for its muddy success. This year's event will stay true to its roots while adding a few extra splashes of excitement. The event's donations will stay right here at MLF, as we have dreams of building an indoor multi-purpose space in order to continue our services year-round. The fundraiser will help offset our lease of the new building at the farm.

The Udder Mudd'r is a 5k mud obstacle course that winds its way through fields and forests at Memory Lane Farm. With 17 different obstacles to conquer, participants can expect a thrilling and challenging experience, all while supporting our impactful programs such as Mentoring, Horse Powered Reading, Veterans Mentoring, and Camps.

Open to youth ages 8 to adults, the Udder Mudd'r offers an opportunity for individuals of all ages to join in on the muddy fun. For our younger participants, the Lil' Piggy Plunge features pint-sized obstacles designed just for them. Don't forget to check out our website for promo codes offering discounts on registration.

Invite your friends, family, or co-workers to help support this great event! For registration details, FAQs, and volunteer opportunities, visit [memorylanefarm.org/mud](https://memorylanefarm.org/mud). Mark your calendars and get ready to get muddy for a good cause!







## CRAZY FOR CAMPS

Get ready for an exciting summer at Memory Lane Farm as we kick off our much-anticipated camp season with Agri-Venture Farm Camp, Blazing Boots Horse Camp and Acres of Fun Foster Care Camps.

It's hard to believe that our inaugural Agri-Venture summer camp was launched back in 2017, and since then, it has become the foundation of everything we do at MLF! As we gear up for another unforgettable summer, we're thrilled to welcome campers to experience the wonders of Memory Lane Farm.

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to attend a summer camp, and what better place than Memory Lane Farm! Our camps are designed to provide hands-on learning experiences, quality time with our beloved farm animals (including fan favorites like horses and Daisy the Donkey), engaging crafts and projects, and of course, plenty of adventures in the woods!

Whether it's gathering eggs from the chicken coop, exploring nature trails, or getting creative with arts and crafts, there's something for everyone to enjoy at our camps. Plus, our staff is dedicated to ensuring a safe, inclusive, and unforgettable experience for all campers.

Don't miss out on the excitement of summer camp at Memory Lane Farm! Registration is now open, so sign up today and let the summer adventures begin!

Agri-Venture Farm Camp and Blazing Boots Horse Camp registration and details can be found at [www.memorylanefarm.org/camp](http://www.memorylanefarm.org/camp)

Acres of Fun Foster Care Camp registration is coordinated through Wood County Human Services.







## SUPPORT SPOTLIGHT

It was an honor to be invited to the Wisconsin Dermatological Society (WDS) Spring Meeting at SentryWorld, Stevens Point, WI, on April 20, where they chose to spotlight MLF as their local non-profit to support through their commitment to community outreach and generous donations of \$1,700.

During the event, the WDS provided Stress Kits and took the time to write personal, heartfelt notes of encouragement to our mentoring clients. The impact of their support goes beyond measure, touching the lives of individuals in our community who are navigating challenging times. Thank you, Wisconsin Dermatological Society, for your support, compassion, and generosity. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community!



In March, we had the pleasure of being invited to SMILES, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center. We were greeted with enthusiasm in true Shamrock style and given a grand tour of their remarkable facility, where we were impressed by the incredible work they do. We are so grateful to SMILES, Inc. Executive Director, Troy Moldenhauer, for his generous donation of new riding helmets and "Peggy the Pony," a horse simulator. These valuable additions will greatly enhance our Blazing Boots Horsemanship Camp and other opportunities at MLF. But the generosity of SMILES, Inc. doesn't stop there. They have become cherished non-profit friends, generously sharing tips and creative ideas. We are truly thankful for this new relationship and look forward to collaborating further in the future! To learn more about their amazing work, visit [www.smilestherapeuticriding.org](http://www.smilestherapeuticriding.org).



Special Methods In Learning Equine Skills







## Let's Make a Difference TOGETHER! Here is how you can help:

### Sign me up to volunteer:

- ☐ Horse Powered Reading
- ☐ Camp Volunteer
- ☐ Udder Mudd'r
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark above, then complete the name & address portion below or visit [www.memorylanefarm.org/volunteer](http://www.memorylanefarm.org/volunteer)

### I'm happy to donate - use my donation for:

- ☐ Use it where it is needed the most
- ☐ Scholarships for programs

### Payment Method:

- ☐ A check payable to Memory Lane Farm Inc. or MLF for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations may be sent to: Memory Lane Farm, Inc.,  
8640 Heritage Drive, Marshfield WI 54449

- ☐ Donations may also be made online at  
[www.memorylanefarm.org](http://www.memorylanefarm.org)

### Please make my donation a gift:

- ☐ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Cultivating Hope & Homestead Heroes Mentoring - Ongoing
- Horse Powered Reading Summer Session Begins 6/3/24
- Agri-Venture Farm Camp: Begins 6/4/24
- Blazing Boots I: Begins 6/25/24
- Blazing Boots II: Begins 7/9/24
- Stratford Library Horse Powered Reading Event: 7/16/24
- Acres of Fun Foster Care Camps: Begin 7/23 and 7/30
- Udder Mudd'r: 8/17/24
- Horse Powered Reading Fall Sessions Begin 8/26
- Christmas in the Barn 12/6 & 12/7



United  
Way



Partner Program

Email: [Memorylanefarm86@gmail.com](mailto:Memorylanefarm86@gmail.com)  
Phone: 715.897.7187