

MILL CREEK FARM G A Z E T T E

VOLUME III ISSUE IX

SEPTEMBER 2016

This month we re-introduce our Percherons (a.k.a. The Gentle Giants), feature our wildlife picture of the month, continue on with our tree trimming and vine removal, welcomed the Alachua Audubon Society and had our 3 farriers out to give all the horses hooves a trim.

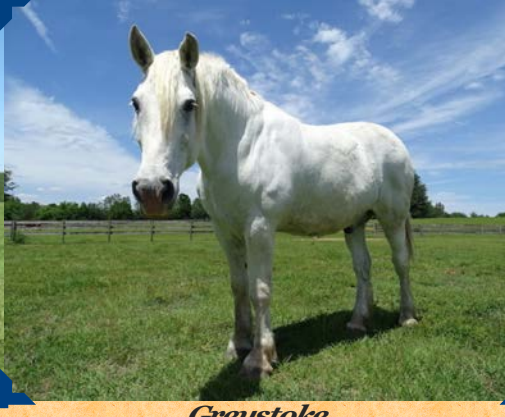
— Mary and Paul Gregory, Shane, Justin, Cole, The Volunteers and all the Horses
Retirement Home for Horses, Inc. at Mill Creek Farm

MEET OUR PERCHERONS



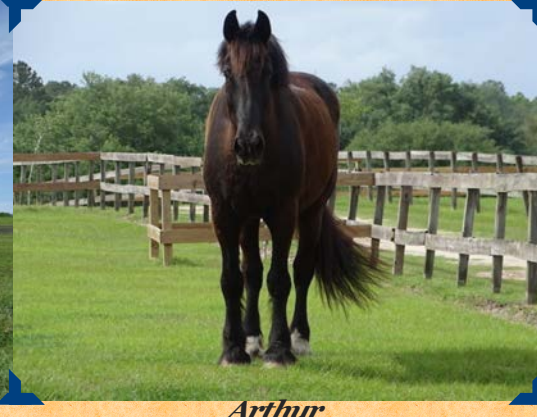
Sir Lancelot

Retired from the West Palm Beach Sheriff's Office after 8 years of service he is now 21 years of age.



Greystoke

Retired from the Broward County Sheriff's Office in 2012 after 14 years of service. He is now 24 years old.



Arthur

Served the West Palm Beach Sheriff's Office for 8 years and is now 21 years of age.

Percherons are well muscled and known for their intelligence and willingness to work. They are a breed of draft horse that originated in the Huisne River Valley in western France which is part of the former "Perche" province from which their name originated.

Our Wildlife Picture of the Month: Cottontail Rabbit



The Cotton Tail Rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) is grayish-brown with a distinctive white "powder puff" tail and measures 14 to 17 inches in length and weighs two to four pounds.

They are found throughout Florida and prefer heavy brush, strips of forest, weed and briar patches, abandoned fields, and fringe areas of cultivated fields.

Cottontails are most active in the early morning and at night. Rabbits are herbivores and during the warmer months their main food is green plant parts but when green vegetation is not available, rabbits will eat young woody shoots and bark.

The breeding season is nearly year-round, but mainly February through September. The young are born after a gestation period of 26 to 30 days and females may have three to four litters with four to seven young in a single year.

Tree Trimming Continues in the Horses' Pastures

SIGMA ALPHA, University of Florida's Agricultural Sorority did a massive clearing out of vines and dead branches from "Major's Meadow" and we are extremely grateful for their hard work. A huge thanks to STEVEN, our group volunteer coordinator, and JUSTIN, our great team member, for all their hard, hard work on a hot Saturday morning. Thank you CHRISTINE BOETTCHER, Sigma Alpha's Service Chair for coordinating this wonderful volunteer day.

If your group would like to set up a volunteer day please send us an **email** as we can always use your help!

Alachua Audubon Society



Ron Robinson, Mary Gregory,
Mike Manetz and Craig Bateman (L to R)

FALL MIGRATION!

Mill Creek Farm once again welcomed the ALACHUA AUDUBON SOCIETY who came out for their annual North American Fall Migration Bird Count.

Among birds spotted this year:

2 Hooded Warblers • 1 Indigo Bunting • 2 Red-shouldered Hawks • 2 Summer Tanagers • 1 Yellow Billed Cuckoo • 4 Downy Woodpeckers • 1 Yellow-throated Warbler • 1 American Redstart • 1 Worm-eating Warbler • 17 Northern Cardinal • 2 Common Grackle • 2 White Ibis • 5 Black Vulture • 7 Turkey Vulture • 1 Eurasian Collared Dove • 7 Mourning Dove • 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird • 5 Red-bellied Woodpecker • 1 Northern Flicker • 1 Pileated Woodpecker • 4 Acadian Flycatcher • 1 Loggerhead Shrike • 18 White-eyed Vireo • 7 Red-eyed Vireo • 10 Blue Jay • 12 American Crow • 6 Carolina Chickadee • 9 Tufted Titmouse • 14 Carolina Wren • 12 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher • 3 Eastern Bluebird • 2 Veery • 2 Northern Mockingbird • 6 Northern Parula • 1 Black-and-White Warbler

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