

# MILL CREEK FARM GAZETTE

VOLUME II ISSUE I



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## *Frostbitten*

Winter. Even here in North Central Florida, where – other than the occasional flurry – snow is only something we see on TV and in photographs, we have a love-hate relationship with the season. It brings a welcome end to the intense heat and humidity that often lingers into the fall, but the first frost of the season brings with it the most expensive time of the year. As the lush, green pastures fade to brown, the horses' diets must be supplemented with extra buckets of grain, flakes of perennial peanut hay and rolls of coastal hay. During this time we spend \$4,000 per week on hay and our grain bill for December was just under \$11,000. We also depend more on our volunteers this time of year as feeding the extra grain and hay is a time-consuming task. The old saying, 'It takes a village,' is actually quite appropriate, so whether you send a contribution or donate supplies or your time, please know we are so grateful and we could not do it without you.



## *Getting Spiffy for the New Year*

The horses of Mill Creek Farm may be a little long in the tooth, but they started 2015 out on the right hoof with the help of our equine dentist and farriers.

Dr. Raymond Hyde, founder of The American School of Equine Dentistry in Purcellville, Va., visited this month with his students who come from all over the world to study under him. After the classroom portion of their coursework is complete, the group travels around the United States – and sometimes internationally – to obtain hands-on experience. Given the age of our horses, the students benefit from seeing a variety of dental issues.

Our farriers, Cheryl Rhoden (right), Tom Becker (middle left) and his brother, John (middle right), were out this month to trim the horses' hooves. The majority of our horses arrive with feet problems, either from neglect or the type of work they performed. A knowledgeable farrier is instrumental in ensuring their hooves are trimmed correctly to fix these issues and then to maintain them properly to keep discomfort at bay. The horses were also due to be wormed this month, so this was done as they were taken out for the farriers. It has been quite a busy month!



Retirement Home for Horses | PO Box 2100; Alachua, Fla. 32616 | [MillCreekFarm.org](http://MillCreekFarm.org) | [rhh@millcreekfarm.org](mailto:rhh@millcreekfarm.org)

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