

# Wild Horse Sanctuary

Shingletown, California

June | 2023

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## 2023 Calendar of Events

### Year Round: Wild Horse Tours

By appointment – call 530-474-5770

### Year Round: Internship Applications Accepted

Visit [wildhorsesanctuary.org/be-an-intern/](http://wildhorsesanctuary.org/be-an-intern/)

### August 14 – 20: Anna Twinney

Reach Out to the Untouched Horse Clinic

### August 19: Wild Horse Adoption Day

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### September 23: Wild Horse Sanctuary Open House

Visit [wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://wildhorsesanctuary.org)

### October 7: Manton Apple Festival

Visit our booth at the festival between 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. at the Manton School on Forward Road. Then stop by the WHS at 5796 Wilson Hill Road to visit our domestic horses and share an apple with them! Gates and gift shop open from noon to 3 p.m.



Welcome Spring!

One of the wettest winters in California's history presented numerous challenges for the Sanctuary, but left us with the proverbial silver lining: lush grass and plenty of water. We are so grateful for the unfailing commitment of our volunteers and donors, who keep the horses safe and fed regardless of the weather.

Some of you have inquired about our 2023 trail ride season. We are disappointed to share that we will not be offering trail rides this year. For over 20 years, the weekend trail rides introduced guests to the majesty of wild horses living in their natural state, and the Sanctuary's breath-taking scenery. We can't estimate how many friends, supporters and volunteers became enamored with the Sanctuary through a trail ride. Sadly, our insurance carrier no longer covers trail riding activities. Despite diligent effort, we have not been able to replace this coverage. We continue our efforts to obtain insurance and hope to resume the trail rides at some point in the future.

On a more uplifting note, we are ecstatic to announce THE RETURN OF THE SANCTUARY'S OPEN HOUSE! Mark your calendar for September 23rd, 2023. Check out the details in this newsletter. Can't wait to see you and your friends here!

This newsletter also includes Sanctuary founder Dianne Nelson's lovely tribute to a very special mustang, the Sanctuary's own "Pathfinder."

During a recent strategic planning weekend, the Sanctuary's Board of Directors revisited the non-profit's mission statement, making minor modifications to reflect the powerful connections between horses, guests and nature we witness regularly in this special place. The revised statement, which guides our every decision, reads:

*The mission of the Wild Horse and Burro Sanctuary is to protect and preserve America's wild horses as a living national treasure by providing range sanctuary in an ecologically balanced environment where visitors are offered a unique opportunity for healing, and are inspired to connect with nature, self and others.*

Thank you for your interest in the wild ones!

*Elizabeth Palmer*

President, Wild Horse Sanctuary

*From Dianne*

## A Tribute to Pathfinder

Do you remember Pathfinder? Was he ever your mount on an overnight trail ride? Pathfinder was very special to me for many reasons....

Though it was my constant plea I was never able to have a horse as a child, so instead, I read the Black Stallion series, and drew pictures of horses. It wasn't until I was married and had my first baby that I finally had a horse, then, many horses, until horses became our life.

Being able to live among the wild horses, here at the sanctuary has far surpassed anything I had ever dreamed of as a child but there was one more dream yet to be fulfilled. One day, my daughter, Tara, called me with both sad and happy news. She had found a mare with a three-day old colt – sadly the mare's delivery complications took her life. However, finding the colt when Tara did, gave him a good chance for survival. I had always wanted to raise a young one for my very own and now the timing was perfect. You guessed it, we named the colt Pathfinder. It was 1992 and I carried him home in my lap.

He grew up in my yard, if you've been to the Sanctuary, you'll know that's sizable. But how would I find him for his bottle feeding during the wee hours? To solve that dilemma and make my middle of the night feedings easier we parked a 30-foot stock trailer outside my back door. That became his cozy bedroom for the night and kept him safe from predators. During the day, all I had to do was whinny (I never learned to whistle) Pathfinder would come running! When it was time to saddle train him, another good friend took over, but I was the first to ride him. Eventually he became one of our trusted trail horses, and true to his heritage he was steady and dependable on our steep rocky trails.

I don't know which was the greater blessing – the pleasure that I and others received from Pathfinder's willing trust and service to all who knew him; or the wonderful life that Pathfinder was able to enjoy, because Tara found him when she did.

He's gone from us now and buried on the sanctuary, but he left many of us with so many wonderful memories to treasure and dreams fulfilled.



Jenean (right) with friend volunteering at an open house event.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Jenean LaRoche

Jenean came to love horses later in life. She was first exposed to Mustangs at age 50 and was hooked. She doesn't ride but chooses to be near horses as often as possible as she is awed by their beauty, power and spiritual nature. Because of her desire to be in the company of horses as well as offer "something" to them, Jenean studied Reiki for Horses with Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses.

Jenean lives in San Rafael, CA with her husband, Glenn and pup Brinja, where she manages a day spa. Ten years ago, she made the four-hour drive to volunteer at the Wild Horse Sanctuary for the first time. Over the years she's invited friends to cowgirl-up and help at the sanctuary. Jenean says, "We've sweated shoveling poop and feeding horses, we've sorted t-shirts and cleaned cobwebs but mostly we've laughed heartily and connected deeply with nature."

Jenean's favorite "job" as a volunteer is introducing visitors to the wild ones through guided walking tours. Jenean comes to Shingletown as often as possible to work on-property but is also able to help from home by building and sending our eNewsletter and special announcements via email. She contributes in a variety of ways that make a big difference in the lives of the horses, visitors and other volunteers. Jenean shared, "Volunteering at the WHS for the last 10 years has been the highlight of my life and I encourage others to get involved." In addition to her work for the WHS, Jenean volunteers at WildCare, in San Rafael, where she works in the bird hospital to help injured and recovering songbirds.

Thank you for your contributions to the Sanctuary, Jenean!

Would you like to help, too? Email us:  
[info@wildhorsesanctuary.org](mailto:info@wildhorsesanctuary.org)



### *How you can help*

Visit our website for more information:  
[wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://wildhorsesanctuary.org)

### *Make a donation*

No amount too small! Use the donation form on the back page or donate online.

### *Planned Giving*

A gift through your will, trust, or retirement plan will help the Wild Horse Sanctuary continue to provide a safe haven for these iconic symbols of the American West.



Elizabeth learns to operate the backhoe.

## Director Spotlight: Elizabeth Palmer, President

Elizabeth was born and raised in Warren, Ohio and moved to California in college. She is married to Michael, who is also a Wild Horse Sanctuary volunteer and together, they wrangle a rambunctious 10-month-old Weimaraner named Clark. Elizabeth enjoys going back to Ohio to visit her sister and brother and their families, along with her mom who is in her mid-90s.

The horse-crazy little girl grew up to be the horse-crazy adult she is now. She appreciates all aspects of horsemanship and is a long-time dressage enthusiast. She also enjoys swimming, cooking and running the occasional half-marathon. *Fun fact:* Elizabeth used to be an open water swimmer, competing in events in the San Francisco Bay, Lake Tahoe and Donner Lake.

A Santa Rosa based business and taxation attorney, Elizabeth helps businesses and non-profits navigate growth, change and transitions. She has been involved with the WHS since her first weekend trail ride in 1997 and joined the Board of directors in 2000. Whenever at the Sanctuary, Elizabeth is awed by the grace and serenity of the wild horses and intrigued by the dynamics between them. She said she always leaves feeling grounded, with a renewed commitment to their well-being and to the magical connection between horses and humans.

Elizabeth also serves on the Board of the Sonoma County Horse Council and was President from 2015-2020. Between 2000 and 2015, she served on the Board of the American Red Cross, covering six counties, and was Board Chair from 2004-2006.

Elizabeth's experience and dedication to the WHS is greatly appreciated!

## Annual Meeting and Strategic Planning

Each month, the WHS Board of directors meets via Zoom to plan and implement policies and activities to address the non-profit's current and future operational needs and long-term sustainability. Ensuring the WHS has sufficient resources to advance its mission is our highest priority. So far, this year, we've had the pleasure of meeting in person at the Sanctuary twice! Once for our Annual Meeting and Board Retreat and another for a strategic planning session. We accomplished a lot as a board, enjoyed time with Dianne, and even had an opportunity to help with ranch chores!



Carolyn feeds the saddle horses.

## On the Road Again... Anna Twinney Returns to the WHS

Anna Twinney, renown horse trainer and founder of Reach Out to Horses (ROTH), is returning to the Wild Horse Sanctuary for the 7th year in a row from August 14 to August 20, 2023. Don't miss the opportunity of a lifetime to work with an untouched wild mustang under Anna's guidance. Anna's training methods focus on relaxed, natural communication with horses at a pace that is best for each horse. The young mustangs greatly benefit from this first training interaction with humans and your participation helps prepare them for adoption.

Visit [www.reachouttohorses.com](http://www.reachouttohorses.com) and look for Reach Out to the Untouched Horse on the "Clinics" page.

### *Donate your unused gift cards*

Do you have unused gift cards? Donate the balance to the Wild Horse Sanctuary! Visit the *How You can Help* page on our website for details.

### *Shop our online store*

Logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, water bottles, tote bags, ball caps and visors available in a wide array of colors and sizes.

### *Volunteer*

Whether you are a horse person, love outdoor projects, or like working on ranch projects, we would love to hear from you.

# Wild Horse Sanctuary Open House – Back and Better Than Ever

**SAVE THE DATE** – Please join us on Saturday, September 23, 2023, for the return of our annual open house. This year we celebrate 45 years of providing range sanctuary for wild horses and burros who live “wild and free” as nature intended on the 5,000 acre preserve.

**Activities for all ages:**

- Docent led wild horse walks – learn about wild horses, how they peacefully coexist with other species and our history as the first wild horse sanctuary in the U.S.
- Music.
- Arts and crafts for kids.
- Paint a horse. Yes, a real horse!
- Book Signing with Terri Farley, Author of *The Phantom Stallion* and *The Phantom Stallion Returns* series of books for young readers.
- Tack sale.
- Q & A with our large and small animal vet.
- Craft vendors and artisans.
- Fabulous food trucks!
- A special tribute to co-founder Dianne Nelson.

More details to come. Check [www.wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://www.wildhorsesanctuary.org)



### Supporter Highlight


Thank you, Leaping Horse Vineyards for donating a portion of your sales to the Wild Horse Sanctuary. We truly appreciate your support!


Friends, visit [www.leapinghorsevineyards.com](http://www.leapinghorsevineyards.com)





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 [www.wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://www.wildhorsesanctuary.org)

 530-474-5770

501(c)(3) Tax ID 95-3611770

## Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution and Order Form

**Yes, I want to help!**

Enclosed is a check for:

- \$50 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month
- \$150 to feed one unsponsored horse for three months
- \$600 to feed one unsponsored horse for a full year
- \$110 for one mineral supplement tub
- \$55 to one dewormer block
- \$18 for each calendar (includes S&H)

Contributions are tax deductible #95-3611770

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 **Please make checks payable to the Wild Horse Sanctuary**  
Mail to: P.O. Box 30, Shingletown, CA 96088

 **Online:** Donate or purchase merchandise at [www.wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://www.wildhorsesanctuary.org)

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*Protecting and Preserving Freedom for America's Wild Horses*