



December | 2023

In this issue

- Message From Board President, Elizabeth Palmer
- 2023 Accomplishments
- A Note from Dianne
- Katey Barrett
- Fun for all at Open House
- The Dynamic Duo – Director and Volunteer Spotlight
- 2024 Calendars available



Left to right: Chikota, Lil Miss and Sweet Pea

Dear Friend of the Sanctuary,

Here we are again, wrapping up a busy and productive year. As always, we could not have done it without the generosity of our donors and the tireless efforts of our volunteers.

Thanks to you, we were able to welcome 19 new mustangs to the Sanctuary in 2023. They range in age and come from various locations, but they had one thing in common: nowhere else to go. These beautiful horses are settling into their forever home on the Sanctuary's roughly 5,000 acres.

On September 23rd, the Sanctuary hosted its first Open House since 2019. Approximately 400 people enjoyed wild horse walks, educational demonstrations, live music, local crafts, and exceptional children's activities at our free, family friendly event. The dozens of mustangs and burros peacefully munching and playing in the background were the highlight of the day. Read more about the 2023 Open House inside.

We are pleased to share our major accomplishments for 2023, including the purchase of 34 acres the Sanctuary had leased for 43 years. This parcel contains the barns, corrals and other ranch infrastructure that are necessary to our operations. This purchase gives the Sanctuary a new level of autonomy, allowing us to better plan for the future. It is an exciting development.

We are so fortunate to have dedicated volunteers at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, many of whom have been helping for over 10 years. This issue's Volunteer and Board Spotlight focuses on Liz and Doug Juenke, two extraordinary volunteers. Their daily presence on the property ensures that the horses are cared for and the property maintained. Read about Liz and Doug on page 3.

Thank you again for your part in keeping our herd happy and healthy. We are grateful every day that others share our commitment to the well-being of wild horses and burros.

Elizabeth Palmer
President, Wild Horse Sanctuary



Foreground: Elliot Background: Tyler

2023 Accomplishments

Your donations, sponsorships and volunteer efforts allowed us to accomplish SO MUCH in 2023! We are forever grateful! Below are the highlights.

- Received 19 horses in need of sanctuary. Welcome Beauty, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Cheyenne, and Cheyenne, Chikota, Comanche, Elliott, Haylee, Jasper, Lil Miss, Midnight, Modoc, Montana Red, Robert, Rose, Sweet Pea, The Whistler, and Tyler.
- Castrated the very last stallion living on the Sanctuary.
- Purchased 34 additional acres essential to Sanctuary operations.
- Purchased 400 tons of hay, 240 tons of rice straw, and 72 mineral supplement tubs.
- Repaired equipment vital to Sanctuary operations including: "Camo" our feeding tractor; "Squeeze" used for moving and loading hay and rice straw; the bulldozer used to clear brush for both fire abatement and preparing areas for seeding; and three ranch trucks.
- Maintained 17 miles of fencing and repaired as necessary.

A note from Dianne

Every wild horse that the Sanctuary is privileged to provide refuge for is beautiful in our eyes—and every one of our horses has a unique history.

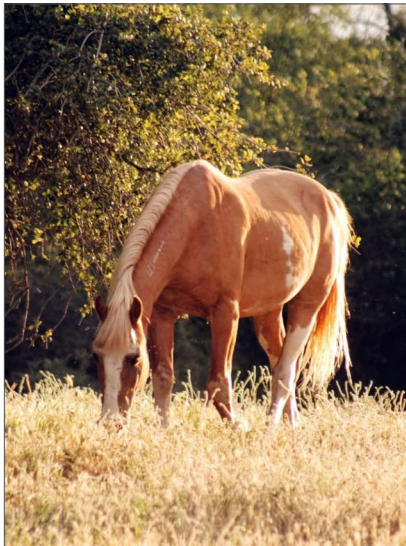
I'd like to share a story with you about one of our horses—a magnificent palomino with distinctive lightning zigzags on his left flank, appropriately named Lightning. A BLM round up in the Calico Mountain Herd Management Area of Nevada took Lightning from his rightful home. Once in captivity, Lightning was adopted by wildlife biologist Craig Downer in September of 2010. Thanks to Craig's tireless efforts to advocate for the rights of wild horses, we know more of Lightning's history and have photographs of Lightning when he was running wild and free, an active stallion always protecting his band of mares.

Craig had observed Lightning for many years, always marveling at his semi-nomadic life. Once he was ripped from that freedom and his family, Craig was determined not to leave Lightning to the uncertainties of BLM confinement or adoption that could eventually lead to slaughter after one year.

Craig adopted Lightning and eventually, when all other options failed in Craig's attempts to give Lightning back a measure of the freedom he had lost, Lightning came to us at the Wild Horse Sanctuary.

We're so grateful and honored that we could give a home to Lightning and all the wild ones like him who have nowhere else to go. Thank you so much for helping us.

– Dianne



Photographer: Chloe Buchan



Photographer: Katey Barrett

Katey Barrett

It is with heavy hearts we share that photographer Katey Barrett, longtime friend of the Wild Horse Sanctuary and wild horse advocate, passed away on October 22, 2023, at the age of 91.

Katey became a treasured friend of the Sanctuary when she began photographing wild horses here in 1984. Her ability to capture the majesty and magnificence of horses was a unique and award-winning phenomenon. She generously donated her work to the Sanctuary and produced our beautiful Wild Horse Sanctuary calendars for three decades. For the past several years, Katey has been working alongside photographer Erin Crossman, to help prepare her for the role of producing the Wild Horse Sanctuary calendar independently, when Katey could no longer.

Erin recently shared the following tribute to Katey, "Rest in Peace Katey. Thank you for your mentorship and entrusting me with photographing the horses at The Wild Horse Sanctuary."

"I was 13 years old when I bought the Equus magazine 10th anniversary issue which celebrated the best photos of those years. One of your photos made the cut. I still have that issue. When I was 19, I moved to the sanctuary and there was your photo on one of their posters, and then every year your calendar. I will continue the work of photographing the wild horses and do you proud."



Fun for all at Open House

We were thrilled to bring back our annual open house this year on September 23, the first since the COVID-19 pandemic. What a perfect way to celebrate our 45th year of providing range sanctuary to wild horses and burros! The 400+ guests enjoyed wild horse viewing and learning more about the Sanctuary, live music, kids' activities and crafts, vendors with a variety of goods to sell and delicious grilled burgers and hotdogs.

The board of directors, volunteers and friends paid tribute to Dianne Nelson for her 45-year commitment to the Wild Horse Sanctuary by presenting her with flowers, a gift certificate for a spa treatment of her choice, and establishing a vista point on the Sanctuary in her honor. Dianne will pick the exact location and the viewing area will be developed in early 2024.

We'd like to offer a special shout out to all who attended, the volunteers who made the event possible, and our special guests: author, Terri Farley, and musicians Ray Mitchum & On the Fly Band, The Mountain Messengers and Patti Anglin.

Oh, and don't wait to get your 45th Anniversary Limited Edition T-shirt in our online store. Wildhorsesanctuary.org/store.



How you can help

Visit our website for more information:
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.

The Dynamic Duo: Director and Volunteer Spotlight



Photographer: Terri Moltzner

We are excited to spotlight a very special couple in this edition of the Wild Horse Sanctuary newsletter—board treasurer, Liz Juenke and husband, Doug Juenke, volunteers extraordinaire!

Liz Juenke: Liz began volunteering at the Sanctuary in 2010. She did anything and everything that needed to be accomplished for the good of the horses and the nonprofit. Liz has always been ready to roll up her sleeves and often takes unglamorous jobs such as recycling, hauling trash to the dump and cleaning water troughs. Where she really shines is as hostess to our guests who come for overnight trail rides or multi-day clinics and gentling the young wild ones to prepare them for adoption. Liz describes the Wild Horse Sanctuary as “a place for animals and humans to be themselves and feel safe.”

Liz and her husband Doug moved onsite in July of 2019, and she now oversees the day-to-day operations of the Sanctuary and serves as treasurer of the board. Days are long and each brings something different. The biggest challenge for Liz and the volunteers she oversees is maintaining safe fencing and ensuring the horses have water. Winter can be especially hard as rain, wind and fallen trees can take down fencing, and water lines break. Working with and being near the horses and burros, especially feeding in the rain, snow or shine and then sitting in her ATV listening to them eat, and watching them interact with each other, is the best part of Liz’s day. When asked if she has a favorite horse on the Sanctuary, Liz responded, “Of course, Dutch! I adopted him and tried to bring him into domestic life, but he had a different plan, so he is living beautifully with the wild ones. It warms my heart that he still likes to come to me for belly scratches.”

Liz loves that Dianne is nearby to consult and mentor her. “I learn so much from Dianne, and she’s become like family. She is amazing at many things but is especially knowledgeable about wound care and knowing when to call the vet.”

Liz doesn’t spend a lot of time away from the Sanctuary but when she does, she enjoys snow skiing and cruising. She shared, “I enjoy a cocktail, nice meal and relaxing by the pool. It’s great not to do anything too strenuous and not to be muddy or dusty!”



Liz refers to herself as the “Jack of all trades” and a “forever volunteer.” She follows her own advice each day, which is, “Enjoy your cup of coffee and eat a good breakfast before heading outside to do chores, because there’s no telling when you’ll be back to the house.” Liz Juenke, we appreciate you!

Doug Juenke: In support of his wife’s passion, Doug also began volunteering in 2010. At first it was a little bit here and there... Today, it’s a whole different story. Doug is responsible for maintaining our equipment, buildings, tools, etc. We rely on old equipment so maintenance is a must. According to Doug, “Like anything old, you gotta show ‘em love.” When asked if there is a project he is particularly proud of, Doug responded, “I cannot think of any spot on the Sanctuary where I haven’t hammered, welded, dug, buried, built, or tore something down. I have built some cool things over the years, and I hope my work stands the test of time. I enjoy working with the volunteers who help with projects at the Sanctuary. I have made friends and had lots of laughs with them.”

Living on the property is both wonderful and challenging according to Doug. “It’s so quiet here. Watching satellites from our backyard at night and waking up with coffee to 250+ wild horses just outside our back door is truly magical. My favorite burro, Stix (who was adopted last year) used to greet me every morning. Seeing my wife live her dream is rewarding and special.”

Doug is a full-time realtor and broker with a business office in Redding, which is 40 minutes away from the Sanctuary. His day job keeps him busy and the project list at Sanctuary is long. Fun fact: Doug has been in the top 1% of all real estate agents in the U.S. for 25 years in a row. Balancing his day job and his volunteerism can be tough. Doug says, “I wouldn’t change anything about my life. Seeing my family, friends, ‘guests’ and volunteers’ reactions to the Sanctuary is uniquely special. I think this is the most magical place on the planet for many, especially horse people. If I were a horse, I’d want to live at the Wild Horse Sanctuary.”

In his ‘free time’ Doug enjoys high performance auto racing (he drives and coaches), woodworking, snow skiing, and an occasional cruise with Liz. Thank you for your dedication to the Wild Horse Sanctuary, Doug!

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.

2024 calendars are here!

Beauty and majesty through her eyes and camera lens... Erin Crossman shares her artistry, which beautifully captures the essence of the wild horses and burros living at the Wild Horse Sanctuary. Only \$18 and free shipping. Order today!

Calendars are available online at:
wildhorsesanctuary.org/store

All proceeds from this calendar go directly to the Wild Horse Sanctuary.





Our 2024 calendar features 12 stunning color photos.





Learn more about Erin Crossman at ErinCrossmanphotography.com



 P.O. Box 30, Shingletown, CA 96088

 info@wildhorsesanctuary.org

 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 for one dewormer block
- \$18 for each calendar (includes S&H)

Contributions are tax deductible #95-3611770

Name _____

Address _____


City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

 **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

1223

Protecting and Preserving Freedom for America's Wild Horses