

The *Healing* Power of Horses

Julie White: White Horse Farm

Last year, Newnan artist Cindy Shaw visited Julie White's homeplace on Wilkerson Mill Rd in Chatt Hills to capture the essence of her White Horse Farm.

Cindy set her easel in front of the old cattle barn in Julie's pasture. Built in the 1940s on the Trotters' property in Fairburn, the barn was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new subdivision when Julie learned of its fate. Seeing potential in the old barn, Julie offered to rescue, re-home and restore the barn on her property. The builder said she could have the barn if she could remove it within 10 days. To hold her to her word, he required she put up \$1,500 in earnest money. Working like a woman possessed, Julie enlisted the help of many good friends and completed the task on-time, with \$1,500 still in her bank account.



Julie White proudly displays the fine art paintings of White Horse Farm by Newnan artist Cindy Shaw.

As it turned out, the story of Julie's barn would also become the story – and the essence – of her White Horse Farm. Each of the eight horses she has owned over the years have come her way by being rescued, fostered, or acquired free for the taking. Each needed a little Tender Loving Care to recover from their former circumstances. And through Julie's determination, each horse was successfully rehomed – five horses to new homes; two horses remain on her farm. To get a better idea of what her horses went through along their journey, we asked her to share a few of her horse tales.

Horse Tale – Mya's Story



Meet Mya, a severely neglected and starved horse.

Julie says the circumstances that lead to a horse's condition are not always known. Sometimes an owner moves or can no longer care for a horse. Often the horse is scheduled to be destroyed.

Mya was rescued last year by Bent Tree Stables & Equestrian Center in Jasper GA, and underwent months of rehabilitation, gaining strength, confidence, and the trust of humans again.



Here is Mya after her four-month rehabilitation. She was brought to White Horse Farm for her retirement, where she now enjoys lush green pastures and a companion horse named Slim – the only brown horse in White Horse Farm.

Julie affectionally calls Mya her "Flea Bitten Grey."

Horse Tale – Shadow’s Story

Shadow came to White Horse Farm from a couple who was no longer able to care for him. The horse didn’t have any problems except he didn’t like men. Luckily, a husband contacted Julie who wanted a horse for his wife. The couple came to pick up Shadow, intending to ride him the five miles back to their home. But the horse went crazy and wouldn’t come out of the driveway, most likely because the man was there. Julie saved the day by riding the horse the five miles to the couple’s house.

Horse Tale – Sweetie Pie Story

Confined to a barn stall for breeding, this broodmare had no name other than “Mama.” She came to White Horse Farm before the old cattle barn was set in place and before the pastures were fenced. She was a horse that loved to be loved, so Julie called her Sweetie Pie. The owners thought that Julie was buying her, which wasn’t what she had in mind since the horse had cancer. When the owner came to take her back, Sweetie Pie didn’t want to go. She reared up and took off running. The owner threw his hands up in the air and told Julie she could have the horse.

Horse Tale – Julie’s Story



Julie’s horse tale began during the 1950s-1960s while growing up in Union City, Georgia, back when the area was still more country than city.

Her family lived in a large old farmhouse on a small lot, surrounded by farmland that had been sold years before. They had received permission to fence in an acre of land, which made their city life seem even more country. All of Julie’s friends had horses and she wanted one too, so she was given Jubilee, a Welsh pony. The horse was a little small for Julie, so she sold it, (but kept it on their property) and bought a larger horse named Rebel. She eventually sold it, (but kept it on their property) and bought Red. She kept that horse until she wrecked the family car and her dad made her sell the horse to pay for the car. She couldn’t find anyone who could ride Red, until a six-year-old girl saddled up Red one day and rode her. That little girl had just bought herself a horse.

When Julie met her future husband Ron, he was a city boy with a hankering to move to the country for a little more space. Once they became engaged, he bought 13 acres of land on Wilkerson Mill Rd. After they married, they built their home there in 1984.

Over the next 18 years, the couple sold off three acres of their land and made a few improvements to their homeplace while they both worked full time. They built a modern outhouse, which they still enjoy today, and in 2001 they relocated and rebuilt the old cattle barn. When the couple retired from their full-time jobs, they spent their leisure time enjoying their farm.

Last year, a friend recommended to Julie that she create a non-profit for her White Horse Farm, which she did. Since then, Julie has been working on improving her pastures and gravel roads in preparation for additional horses.



Julie’s Boot Tree is decorated with all the boots she’s worn over the years. In the back left, the farm’s functioning outhouse, in the back right, her beloved barn.