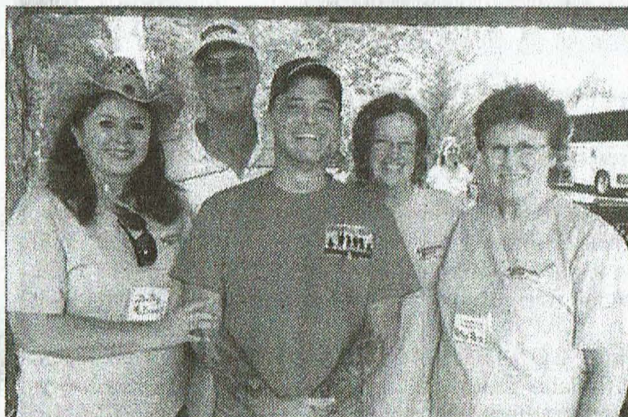


Residents donate time and talent to veterans



Brandermill residents Dorothy and Scott McDowell of Shadow Ridge, with Army Veteran David Buckley, Nancy Berger of Regatta Pointe and Patsy Reid of Turtle Hill all enjoy their time at Lonesome Dove.



Therapist Sherry Newark works with a veteran on exercising and balancing skills.

Patsy Reid of Turtle Hill, Nancy Berger of Regatta Pointe, and Dorothy and Scott McDowell of Shadow Ridge continue to donate their time and talent for veterans at Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center (LDEC) in Powhatan.

The center is dedicated to meeting the mental, physical and emotional needs of veterans in Central Virginia through equestrian activities.

Year-round, Brandermill residents attend the riding sessions for the veterans,

typically two to three times a month. The McDowells assist in preparing the horses by grooming, saddling, and cleaning hoofs.

Reid, Berger and the McDowells also assist with the riders as spotters and horse leaders. Once LDEC Founder Clint Arrington helps the veterans mount their horses, two volunteers are on either side of the horse spotting the rider and the other leads the horse through the arena as the veteran enjoys this therapeutic ride.

Instructor Sherry Newark

employs a variety of balance, muscle strength, flexibility, joint movement and posture exercises that benefit the riders with different physical disabilities.

Following the riding sessions, Reid and Berger are delighted to prepare fulfilling meals for veterans and volunteers to enjoy at the outdoor pavilion which overlooks the scenic ranch. Every veteran is then rewarded a trophy for their achievement in riding.

Reid, Berger and the McDowells all agree it is a joy

and privilege to give back to the veterans who have done so much for the country.

For information on how to volunteer, donate or attend the September 15 LDEC annual fundraiser, please contact Clint Arrington at 357-9524 or visit www.ldequestrian-center.com.

LDEC is a non-profit organization that relies completely on donations and is run by unpaid and dedicated volunteers. LDEC is located at Buckingham Road Stables, 6137 Old Buckingham Road in Powhatan.