



VOL. 2 ISSUE 1- JANUARY -MARCH 2025

# THE ROUND PEN

Official Newsletter of BondFire Ranch

## A Season of Growth and Connection

**Hey there, BondFire Ranch Family!**

As winter fades and gives way to spring, BondFire Ranch has been hard at work fostering community, resilience, and personal growth. From preparing for harsh weather to expanding partnerships, offering Riding Lessons, and strengthening our facilities, we've been making big strides. We also wrapped up March with a fantastic Work Day at the farm, where volunteers came together to install new fencing for our horses, ensuring their safety and comfort. Here's a look at what's been happening at the ranch!

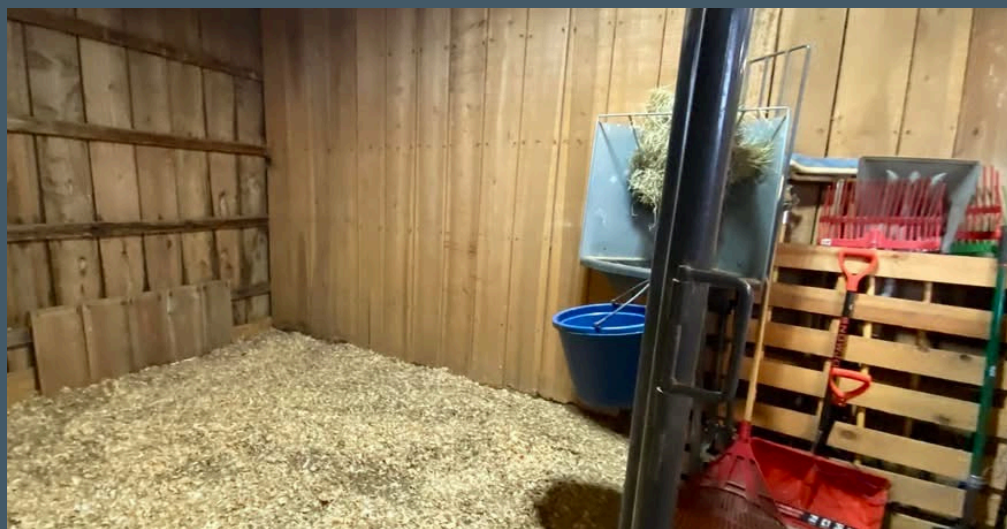
**Happy reading, y'all!**



## This issue:

- Weather Preparedness**  
**PAGE 1**
- Winter Scout Campout Program**  
**PAGE 2**
- S.A.F.E.R Working Group**  
**PAGE 3**
- Dovetail Landing Events**  
**PAGE 4**
- Building Connections & Community**  
**PAGE 5**
- New Partnerships**  
**PAGE 6**
- Exploring New Paths and Celebrating Milestones**  
**PAGE 7**
- Welcomed New Bondfire Family**  
**PAGE 8**
- Program Spotlight**  
**PAGE 9**

# Weather Preparedness & Execution



Winter brought two rounds of cold weather preparations for the BondFire Ranch herd, highlighting the unpredictability of winter.

Despite chilly rain and gusty winds in Alabama, the horses stayed warm and well-fed, thanks to the dedication of our team and supporters. Each morning, after turnout, stalls were mucked and feeders refilled to keep their hay-powered furnaces burning.

While we stayed busy ensuring their comfort, we also took a moment to lift up our northern neighbors facing even harsher conditions.

Through it all, the resilience of both our herd and the BondFire Ranch family shone brightly—proving once again that with teamwork and care, we can weather any storm.



# Winter Scout Campout & Merit Badge Program

BondFire Ranch hosted an exciting Scout Campout which developed leadership skills, and deepened their horsemanship knowledge. Throughout their Campout, participants worked hard to earn their merit badges, learning essential skills such as horse safety, care, and riding techniques. They built resilience, and personal growth—core to both scouting and the mission of BondFire Ranch!



# *S.A.F.E.R Working Group*

# S.A.F.E.R



# TOGETHER

**Storing Ammunition &  
Firearms to Enhance  
Resilience - Together**

**BondFire Ranch was honored to be part of the S.A.F.E.R. working group**, an initiative dedicated to addressing veteran suicide and firearm safety. This initiative is closely tied to the Houston-Hunter Act, also known as HB 216, sponsored by Rep. Russell Bedsole. Named in memory of Houston Lee Tumlin and Hunter Chase Whitley—two veterans who tragically died by suicide after returning from active duty—the bill aims to provide a safe and voluntary option for individuals to surrender firearms. With over 6,000 veteran suicides occurring annually nationwide and 85% of veteran suicides in Alabama involving firearms, this legislation seeks to create a proactive solution to reduce these heartbreaking losses.

Through the Safer Together Program, the Houston-Hunter Act offers liability protection to participating gun dealers who accept voluntary firearm surrenders, ensuring a responsible and secure process. BondFire Ranch's involvement in the S.A.F.E.R. working group reflects our commitment to supporting veterans, first responders, and their families through mental health advocacy, suicide prevention, and community-based solutions. By working alongside other organizations and policymakers, we strive to create real change and provide meaningful support for those who have served.

# Dovetail Partnership Weekends

THANKS TO DOVETAIL LANDING & NORFOLK SOUTHERN FOR COWBOY BOOT CAMP!

The first Dovetail Partnership Weekend at BondFire Ranch kicked off with our inaugural Cowboy Boot Camp Orientation, thanks to the support of Norfolk Southern Railroad. Participants from Dovetail Landing learned the fundamentals of ranch life, including horse safety, feeding, health, tack, and communication. A farrier demonstration by Jodi Scott and hands-on grooming and round penning gave them a true taste of working with horses. Each participant received a BondFire Ranch challenge coin, marking the start of their journey in experiencing the healing power of horses.



The second Dovetail Partnership Weekend was at Dovetail Landing which was another incredible step in our mission to support veterans and their families through equine-assisted learning. Over those two days, the BondFire Ranch team and our three of our herd experienced the warmth and hospitality of Dovetail Team, reinforcing the strength of this partnership and the opportunities it creates.



# Building Connections & Community

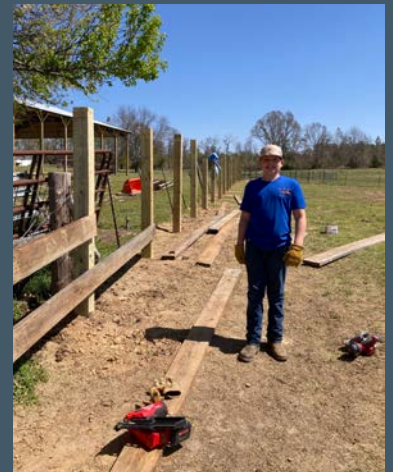
## Coffee, Conversation, and Horses

**These sessions continue to be a cornerstone of connection at the ranch, offering veterans and first responders a welcoming space to relax, share, and bond with our horses.**



## Ranch Work Day

**Volunteers came together to help maintain and improve the ranch, ensuring it remains a sanctuary for healing and growth.**





**BondFire Ranch fostered valuable connections with the Alabama National Guard, Combat Veteran Motorcycle Club (Birmingham & Montgomery Chapters), Central Alabama Marines-Council, and Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative.**



**These partnerships enhance our ability to support service members, veterans, and first responders, reinforcing our mission to provide healing and community through equine therapy and outdoor activities. Building strong networks strengthens our ability to serve those who serve!**



# Exploring New Paths & Celebrating Milestones

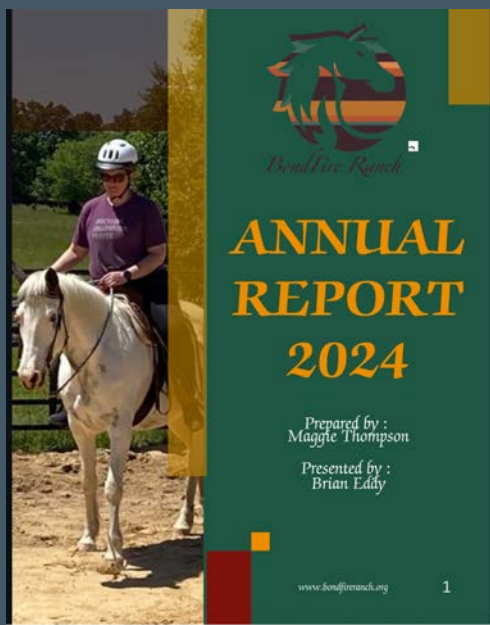
## Minooka Park

### Embracing New Opportunities

Bondfire Ranch got the pleasure to meet with local commissioners and park officials to explore ways to make Minooka Park more equestrian-friendly. While primarily an ATV park, the trails already welcome horses, and with a few improvements—like trailer parking, water sources, and hitching posts—it could be even better for riders. The commissioners were eager to learn and even plan to visit BondFire Ranch to see our work firsthand. Exciting changes are on the horizon—stay tuned!



## Annual Report: Reflecting on Our Impact



We're excited to share our 2024 Annual Report, highlighting a year filled with growth, connection, and community impact. From new partnerships and expanded programs to the construction of our much-needed pole barn, this year has been nothing short of remarkable.



# Welcomed New Bondfire Family



We were thrilled to welcome new faces to the BondFire Ranch family! Whether you were a homeschooler, veteran, or part of a family seeking connection and adventure, we were honored to have you join our growing community. Every new member brought fresh energy, stories, and shared experiences that made our ranch even more special. We couldn't wait to create unforgettable memories together!



# Program Spotlight

*Horse Back Riding  
Lessons*

**COME RIDE WITH US AT  
BONDFIRE!**

**English & Western  
Lessons**

**We teach both disciplines for beginners!**



## **Ground Work**

**Learn how to connect with the horse on the ground before riding!**



## **Where?**

**BondFire Ranch, Clanton AL**

## **GIVING BACK**

**Each lesson will also help us support our Veteran & First Responder programs! Want to know more about what we do visit our Facebook page, BondFire Ranch!**

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