



VOL. 3 ISSUE 1 JANUARY – MARCH 2026

THE ROUND PEN

Official Newsletter of BondFire Ranch

Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends,

As we step into 2026, the first quarter has already reminded us that growth is often found in steady, faithful work. From the quiet moments spent training our horses to the powerful connections formed through our programs, this season has been one of preparation, partnership, and purpose.

We have welcomed new participants, expanded opportunities for Veterans and First Responders, strengthened statewide collaborations, and continued caring for both the land and the herd entrusted to us. Each lesson, each workday, and each conversation builds toward something greater—a place where individuals and families can reconnect, heal, and grow.

This quarter has shown us that momentum doesn't always come in big moments alone, but in the consistency of showing up—for the horses, for one another, and for the mission.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us as we work to Warm the Heart of Families through connection, community, and the outdoors.
With Gratitude,

Brian

G. Brian Eddy, Col (Ret), USAF
Founder & President, BondFire Ranch

This issue:

**Horse Care, Training &
Program Impact**

PAGE 01

**Homeschool Fridays & Wrangler
Program Grow Stronger**

PAGE 02

Partnerships & Outreach

PAGE 03

Community & Events

PAGE 04

Major Projects & Milestones

PAGE 05

**Looking Ahead /Sponsors &
Donors**

PAGE 06



Horse Care, Training & Program Impact

Much of the work this quarter happened in the quiet, consistent care of the herd and the individuals they serve.

Throughout January and February, our team remained focused on intentional training with Walker, Lightning, Mojito, Beautiful, Hannah, and Brave—ensuring each horse remains responsive, healthy, and ready for program participants.

This quarter marked meaningful milestones:

Lightning completed her first bareback ride, demonstrating trust and calm readiness

Our herd received routine care including full deworming to maintain health and longevity

Continued groundwork and conditioning supported safe, confident program experiences

Within our Heroes in the Saddle program, participants experienced powerful moments of growth:

A First Responder joined the program for the first time

John progressed from groundwork to tacking, mounting, and riding independently

Multiple participants built confidence, communication, and trust through consistent lessons

These moments reflect what makes BondFire Ranch unique—healing that happens not through words alone, but through the quiet partnership between horse and human.



Homeschool Fridays & Wrangler Program Grow Stronger

Friday workdays continued to build leadership, responsibility, and teamwork among our Homeschool Wranglers.

Throughout the quarter, youth participated in hands-on ranch stewardship, including:

- Tack room organization and saddle care
- Grooming and handling horses
- Stall cleaning and barn preparation
- Arena adjustments and pasture improvements
- Habitat projects supporting the ranch ecosystem

One standout project included sinking 25 recycled Christmas trees into the pond, creating a thriving habitat for fish and strengthening our Fishing for Connection programming.

These experiences go far beyond chores—they are shaping young leaders through service, consistency, and meaningful responsibility.



Partnerships & Outreach

Connecting Across Alabama and Beyond

This quarter was marked by strong and growing partnerships across the state and beyond.

Highlights include:

Briefing the State Board of Veterans Affairs on BondFire's Veteran-focused programming
Collaboration with Samson's Strength Sustainable Veterans Project for upcoming presentations

New connection with Pine Pastures and other emerging Veteran-focused equine programs
Engagement with Vets to Cowboys and C4 Cattle Company to share best practices and impact

Participation in the Brain Forward Collective, contributing to Alabama's strategic planning for traumatic brain injury support

We also continued building the HORSE Alliance, a growing network of organizations committed to supporting Veterans through equine-assisted programs.

Each partnership strengthens our ability to serve and expands the reach of connection and care across communities.



Community & Events



This quarter reflected steady engagement and meaningful moments of connection.

Key highlights:

Welcomed Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officers for a day of service and horsemanship

Hosted continued Fireside Chat gatherings (with more planned ahead)

Launched and grew our Healing Through God's Word Bible Study, creating space for fellowship and reflection

Introduced new participants and community members to the Ranch through tours and visits

Looking ahead, excitement continues to build for our upcoming:

Ruck & Ride – April 11, 2026

A collaborative event bringing together military, Veterans, first responders, and community organizations for a day of movement, connection, and shared purpose.

Major Projects & Milestones

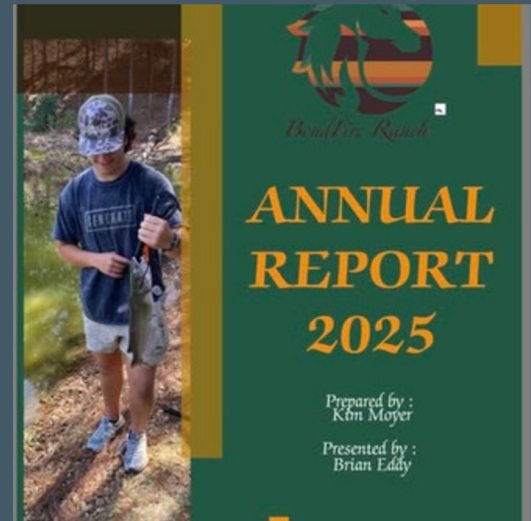
Progress this quarter reflects both stewardship and vision for the future.

Key milestones include:

- Completion of the first Quarterly Ranch Clean-Up of 2026
- Development of a conservation and land-use plan in partnership with USDA, including:
 - Longleaf pine restoration
 - Hardwood planting
 - Pollinator habitats
 - Future trail expansion
- Final submission of the Lowe's Community Impact Grant for a new, more functional barn
- Continued infrastructure improvements supporting both horses and participants

Additionally, the Ranch saw exciting growth through:

- Expansion of accessible trails
- Preparation for larger-scale programming
- Strengthening of facilities for long-term sustainability

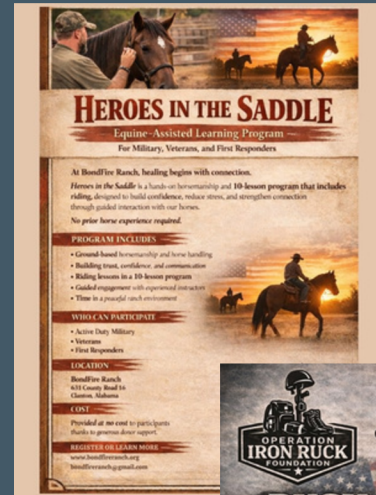


Looking Ahead

As we move deeper into 2026, the fire continues to grow.

In the months ahead, we are focused on:

- Expanding Heroes in the Saddle participation
- Hosting Ruck & Ride and future community events
- Growing the HORSE Alliance network
- Advancing infrastructure through the proposed new barn project
- Continuing to build spaces for connection through faith, fellowship, and the outdoors



At BondFire Ranch, growth happens one relationship, one lesson, and one moment at a time.

Sponsors and Donors

This quarter brought meaningful financial and partnership support that continues to fuel the mission.

We are grateful for:

- A \$5000 donation supporting horse care and operations
- Sponsorship of Vet Center Cowboy Boot Camps through Alabama Veteran & Norfolk Southern
- A \$1,000 sponsorship from the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Wright Flyers

These contributions directly impact:

- Horse care and wellness
- Free and low-cost programming
- Expanded opportunities for Veterans, First Responders, and families

Your support removes barriers and keeps the mission moving forward.



Montgomery Chamber

Thank you to all our Sponsors & Donors

Stay Connected

BondFire Ranch

631 County Road 16, Clanton, AL 35045

bondfireranch@gmail.com | BondFireRanch.org

Facebook: @BondFireRanch | Instagram: @BondFire_Ranch