

Initial Board Meeting Held

June 27, 2007

Susan Day

The Board of Governance held its first meeting on June 27th, 2007. The location was DP Lowther's farm. The board reviewed a set of by laws for the newly formed Carolina Marsh Tacky Association. Persons in attendance were:

DP Lowther

Ed Ravenel

David Grant

Lee McKenzie

Jenifer Ravenel

Phil Hayes

Troy Smoak

Jeannette Beranger

Susan Day

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Interesting Photos

If you have any photos, new or old, of *Marsh Tackies* and you are willing to make copies please send them to:

Jeannette Beranger

ALBC

P.O. Box 477

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Please include any information you have on the Marsh Tacky including horse's name, lineage (if absolutely known), current and previous owners of the horse and any other information that may be useful. ALBC and the Marsh Tacky Horse Association will use the information to establish the first ever *Marsh Tacky* studbook for use in conservation efforts with the breed. Here are some photos we already have:



Figure 1, Official Logo of the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association

Logo created by Fine Art Reproductions
<http://www.robertwilsonfineart.com>

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Outcome from Initial Meeting

The Board voted on the official name of the association and it was decided to call it Carolina Marsh Tacky Association. An official logo was also voted on and accepted and is Figure 1 in this newsletter. Proposed Agenda:

1. Discuss and finish the By Laws for the association.

The Board would like to thank The Florida Cracker Horse Association, Inc. for sharing their By Laws as a start for our association. The Board would also like to thank Janson L. Cox for drafting a copy of the By Laws which was also used in the formation of our By Laws.

The Board would also like to thank Jeannette Beranger and the ALBC for their continued support and guidance.

The Board voted on membership fees and they are:

Lifetime Membership \$250.00/life
Family Membership \$50.00/year
Single Membership \$40.00/year

The Association will let everyone on the mailing list know when memberships are available. If you received this newsletter you are on the mailing list.

The Board also discussed a web site for the association. David Grant and Phil Hayes volunteered to assist with this.

Jenifer Ravenel was appointed interim Treasurer and Susan Day interim Secretary.

Contact Information

The following organizations are available to assist individuals interested in preserving the *Marsh Tacky* breed:

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
P.O. Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312
www.albc-usa.org
Email: jberanger@albc-usa.org
(919) 542-5704

Victoria Tollman
Executive Director
Equus Survival Trust (336) 352-5520
7273 West Pine Street
LowGap, NC 27024
www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org
EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com

Second Board Meeting

The second Board meeting was held August 1st at 3:00 p.m. at Eddie Ravenel's farm. Persons in attendance were:

DP Lowther	Ed Ravenel
David Grant	Lee McKenzie
Jenifer Ravenel	Phil Hayes
Troy Smoak	Jeannette Beranger
Victoria Tollman	Susan Day
D. Phillip Sponenberg, DMV, PhD	

The proposed agenda was:

1. Review the comments made at the first meeting on the By Laws. **Complete.**
2. Develop breed characteristics for the Marsh Tacky for acceptance in the breed registration. – **Still in progress.**
3. Develop Mission Statement – **Still in progress.**
4. Develop Membership Application and membership cards – **Still in progress.**



This mare and foal are owned by Marion Gohagan

Photo credits ALBC (919)542-5704 www.albc-usa.org

Contact jberanger@albc-usa.org

CONTRIBUTIONS

ALBC is coordinating with Dr. Molly Nicodemus of Mississippi State University who will be conducting a study of the gait of the Marsh Tacky horse. Dr. Nicodemus is part of the Gaited Locomotive Research Program of the university and is interested in trying to understand how Marsh Tackies move and why they have the reputation for providing a comfortable ride for their owners. Video footage of Tackies in action will be collected over the summer for submission to the study. Owners interested in participating in this study please contact Jeannette Beranger at the ALBC office for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19-20, 2007: 5th Francis Marion Symposium, Manning, SC. There will be a lecture on Marsh Tacky horses and their involvement in the American Revolution as well as horses on display. For more information contact Francis Marion Symposium, PO Box 667, Manning, SC 29102, George Summers, 803-478-2645, or gcsommers@ftc-i.net, <http://web.ftc-i.net/~gcsommers/fmarionsymposium.html>

November 2-4, 2007: American Livestock Breeds Conservancy National Conference, Pittsboro, NC. There will be lectures and live demonstrations involving endangered poultry and livestock breeds including Marsh Tacky horses. For more information contact ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312, 919-542-5704, albc@albc-usa.org, www.albc-usa.org

The next board meeting is Tuesday November 13th, 3:00 p.m. at DP Lowther's.

October 20th, *Mid-Atlantic Spanish Horse Gathering*, Suffolk, VA. This event will highlight and bring attention to the Colonial Spanish horse breeds found along the Atlantic coast including Banker ponies, Marsh Tackies, and Florida Cracker horses. Owners are invited to bring horses and join in the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts that are working to conserve these rare horses. For more information, please contact Sharon Sluss 757-870-7329 or 757-986-2124 rbefarm@mac.com.



Photo credit Jenifer Ravenel: Biff (far right) owner Jenifer Ravenel and Beach Music owner Susan Day



This trio of Tacky youngsters is owned by DP Lowther

Photo credits ALBC (919)542-5704 www.albc-usa.org

Contact jberanger@albc-usa.org

Beginnings of a Lowcountry Legacy By Jeannette Beranger

The origin of the Marsh Tacky horse reaches back nearly 500 years in the Carolinas. Aside from the Tacky physically reflecting many of the traits associated with Colonial Spanish horses in America, historical research also closely links them to the horses that arrived with some of the first Spanish settlers in the Americas.

In Carolina, one of the earliest Spanish arrivals was Lucas Vasquez de Ayllón who in 1526 left Santo Domingo (today known as Haiti) and arrived on the coast near Myrtle Beach with 600 colonists and 89 horses. The colony ultimately failed and the surviving 150 colonists returned to Santo Domingo, leaving their horses behind. Following the loss of that colony, in 1566 Pedro Menendez de Aviles came to the Carolina coast bringing horses and troops to build a fort at Port Royal near present day Beaufort.

There is evidence that abandoned Spanish horses survived and thrived in the region and it is interesting to note that by the 1600's, English explorers making their way from the north into the Carolinas found the local Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians riding fine Spanish horses.

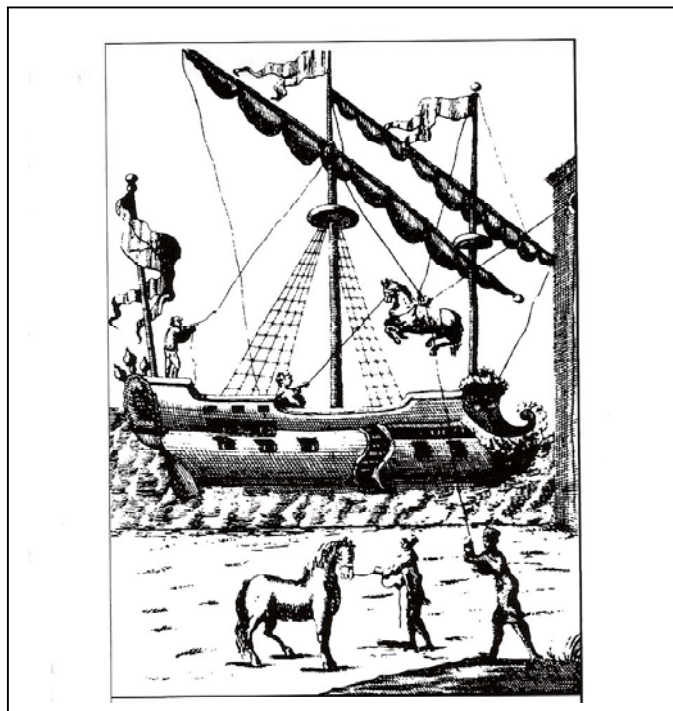
Spanish horses were once again brought to the Lowcountry in later years through the campaign of Colonel Thomas Moore in 1704. Moore came to Beaufort with captured Spanish cattle and horses upon returning from his exploits to remove the last Spanish settlements from Florida.

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The first horses arriving in America with the Spanish were historically described as “nags of little value” but were no doubt remarkably hardy and sound animals that could survive the rigorous and challenging voyage to the new colonies. According to Spanish ship logs, there is no mention of specific breeds or types of horses other than descriptions such as “nasty gray mare” or “small black filly” to give a clue as to what types of horses came with them. History suggests it is unlikely the conquistadors would have initially risked bringing valuable war horses to newly established colonies in the Americas. It is also unlikely they would have brought large draft type horses that were unable to thrive on the meager forage available in a new colony. It was only after the development of more stable and large colonies towards the late sixteenth and into the seventeenth century that colonists would risk the expense of the importation and maintenance of war or draft horses.

By all accounts of their owners, it seems that the Marsh Tacky has little changed since the colonial period of the Lowcountry. Their hardiness and soundness made them perfectly adapted to the challenging environment that would see the demise of countless other horse breeds. Today Marsh Tackies are still noted for their endurance and inherent “woods sense” that many hunters value in the field. It is only through the recognized appreciation of the breed’s qualities and the dedication of devoted owners that the Tacky persisted these hundreds of years and survives to modern times.

To learn more about the Spanish horse’s arrival in the Americas, a recommended book to read is *Conquerors: The Roots of New World Horsemanship* by Deb Bennett, Ph.D., published by Amigo Publications (1998).



Why a Marsh Tacky?

By: David Grant

The chance to get involved in a noble cause and for the effort to be recorded in history rarely occurs for most people. That Marsh Tackies have endured for over 400 years with very little outside breeding influence is quite amazing.

I am passionate about the Marsh Tacky for many reasons. First is the fascinating documented history that surrounds these horses. Ask DP Lowther, Ed Ravenel, or Lee Mckenzie about these horses and they will take you back 50 years or more and tell you some intriguing stories of people and horses. We simply cannot allow these great memories of horses and people to pass from our generation undocumented. I offer a challenge to each person that reads this to find out why there is a movement going on to preserve not only the horse but also the priceless heritage surrounding them, and get involved.

I cannot speak as an authority on the history of these amazing horses but I can speak first hand about their many attributes. You can have the prettiest horse in the world but if it doesn't have enough sense or hardiness to survive what do you have? The Tacky has an innate sense of self-preservation. I have ridden my grulla stud, DP, for one year now and he has pulled me out of some pretty tough situations and he is only 3 years old. On one hunt we fell in a hole large enough for him to roll down into. He just rolled out from under me and literally crawled out. The most amazing thing is that he came back to get me. He has already developed an ear for the dogs baying and will pick his own way to them. Tackies are very easy keepers. I have 15 and have had very few problems. They stay fat on grass and hay, their feet require very little if any trimming. Their resistance to insects is astounding, and the list goes on and on.

We are at a crossroads in the effort to save these horses. We need newcomers to get involved in our effort. Even if a person cannot own a horse, there are numerous ways to help preserve the breed. All of us have been given different strengths by the good Lord and if we blend those strengths into grassroots conservation effort we can look back on our life and tell people, “I helped save the Marsh Tacky from extinction.”

At times I get discouraged in our effort. Then I stop and think about what our forefathers did on the backs of some of these same types of horses to ensure our freedom. We cannot let the breed disappear. Won't you join us in the effort?

The best thing for the inside of a person is the backside of a horse! More so if that horse is a living legend, a Marsh Tacky!

Carolina *Marsh Tacky* Association
6685 Quarter Hoss Lane
Hollywood, SC 29449

