

Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse Association, LLC



www.marshtacky.org

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2008

Board Meeting Updates

Susan Day

Jenifer Ravenel conducted roll call. The following persons were present: DP Lowther, Edward Ravenel, David Grant, Lee McKenzie, Jenifer Ravenel, Troy Smoak and Susan Day. There was an additional attendee, Jeannette Beranger from American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

Open Issues:

The meeting was very productive. The board agreed to the characteristics of a Marsh Tacky and we are developing a matrix to grade future horses that want to be registered as a Marsh Tacky.

The board elected an interim President – DP Lowther and Vice President – Ed Ravenel.

Our web site is up and running. Please be patient the page is under construction and will have more information soon. Go to www.marshtacky.org to check it out.

The board agreed to have a general meeting for all interested individuals in the Marsh Tacky – please see page 3 for additional information.

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Board meeting Updates
- 1 Interesting Photos
- 2 Contact Information
- 3 Contributions
- 3 Calendar of Events and Contributions
- 3 General Articles

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.



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

Contact jberanger@albc-usa.org

Contact Information

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

The *Carolina Marsh Tacky Association*
6685 Quarter Hoss Lane
Hollywood, SC 29449
www.marsh tacky.org
Email: general@marsh tacky.org
(843) 906-2274 or (843) 860-5736

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
Email: EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com

Out and About With Marsh Tackies

By Jeannette Beranger

2007 has been a busy year for promoting Marsh Tackies with the public. There is no better way to promote the breed than to have the public get close and personal with these genial horses. As more people learn of the breed, there have been an increasing number of requests for horses and their owners to be present in horse or historically related events and re-enactments. Some of the events that have had Tackies include the Francis Marion Symposium in Manning, SC, the "Olde Time Christmas" event in Abbeyville, SC, "A Day to Remember" event at the Living History Museum in North Augusta, SC, ALBC Equine Form and Function Workshop in Pittsboro, NC, and the Mid-Atlantic Colonial Spanish Horse Gathering in Suffolk, VA. Upcoming events already lined up for 2008 will include a visit to the Cowpens National Monument, the Horse of the Americas national conference in Suffolk, VA.

During the events, the Marsh Tackies seemed to have thrived on the attention they brought at the events and their proud owners had great fun educating people about the history and attributes of the breed. Anyone

interested in becoming involved and participating in upcoming events with your horses can contact CMTA or ALBC for more information.



Olde Time Christmas taken by Sandy Cochoran



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

Come join us for the

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CMTA!

Date: April 5th

Where: Mullet Hall Equestrian Center, Johns Island, SC

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Program will include:

Marsh Tacky Horses on exhibit, Information on what the CMTA has accomplished, A Membership Drive and Riding Demonstrations

Door Prizes to be given and to cap off a wonderful day we will be auctioning off a Marsh Tacky Horse!

If you would like to bring a horse, stalls will be available at the following costs:

\$5.00 if you bring your own shavings or

\$5.00 plus \$6.00 the cost of shavings

A NEGATIVE COGGINS Certificate is required.

Call Jenifer Ravenel 843-906-2274 or

Susan Day 843-860-5736 for more information.

**Visit our web page at
www.marsh tacky.org**



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

Contact jberanger@albc-usa.org

GENERAL ARTICLES

The Marsh Tacky and The Yankee
A story by Andy Soltis

My wife and I moved to South Carolina about three and a half years ago. Soon after moving here, I met Arnold and Beth Postell. Shortly after meeting them, I met their horses. Their racking mare, Baby, and their three Paso Finos lived on their property, but there was another small herd that Arnold introduced me to – his Marsh Tackies that were pastured across the road. There I met Dapper Dan and his harem of 7 mares. To me, they were all big, scary animals, having grown up as a small town boy in New Jersey. However, my wife, who grew up as a small town girl in New Jersey, loved horses. And so, we started spending a lot of time with Arnold and Beth and the horses.

Arnold decided to move some of the Tackies and Abby arrived on property. I don't know who was more scared, this six month old filly who had never had hands on her before, or me, who had never set hands on a horse. I think I was. But there was a connection between us (probably just that we were both afraid of each other) and so I hung out with her. Arnold and Beth were good teachers, and I gained a wealth of knowledge from them both about gentling young horses. Occasionally my wife threw in her two cents, too.

Continued on page 4

Place your ad here!

The CMTA will place your business card size advertisement in our newsletter. Please call 843-906-2274 or 843-860-5736 for more information.



Continued from page 3

By the time Abby was about a year and a half, I decided I might want to ride her someday. So I took some lessons and began riding a couple of the Paso Finos. Arnold told me that having ridden the Paso's, I would probably never want to ride any other kind of horse. But Abby was always my favorite, and she and I worked together on the ground, until she began following me around the field and resting her head on my shoulder to see what I was doing. Nothing that I did phased her, so we began the real work of turning her into a riding horse. I hear that the worst thing is a new rider and an untrained horse, but off we went, Abby and I, with a lot of help from my wife, Wendy.

Abby only tossed me once and one other time I found out that with a loose cinch you slide off the side of your horse. But since these times, Abby and I have been riding and learning together and have become quite a pair. I think she taught me more than I have taught her, but that's a Marsh Tacky for you. So on we go - the Marsh Tacky and the Yankee.



Francis Marion "The Swamp Fox"
Original Oil Painting by Robert W. Wilson

Marion and the Marsh Tacky

By Jeannette Beranger

As historical research continues, it has become clearer that the Marsh Tacky has played a significant role in South Carolina's history, in particular during the American Revolution. At this time locals in the Lowcountry were called upon to serve with Colonel Francis Marion, most famously known as the "Swamp Fox", against the British. Marion, who later in the war became an American general, locally sourced troops in the Lowcountry for his missions. These "irregular" troops were out of necessity required to use their own mounts, the common horses of the area, during their campaigns against the British. The most common horse in the Lowcountry region at that time is known to have been the Marsh Tacky.

Known as the "Father of American Guerrilla Warfare", Marion not only was a great tactician but his troops inadvertently had the additional technical advantage of being mounted on horses that were superbly adapted, over a period of a more than a hundred years in the region, to the rough and swampy terrain of the Lowcountry. The horses were used primarily for dragoon forces comprised of men that were trained to fight on foot but transported on horseback. Unlike Marion's men, British troops mounted on larger European breeds may have been at a disadvantage in trying to maneuver in the dense and wild swamps of the lowlands.

Marion himself was known to have ridden two horses during the war. For most of the first half of the war he rode his small hunting horse named "Roger". Described as a "pet horse", his mount was smaller than the blooded horses the British used but he none the less successfully carried Marion through many battles. Later in the war Marion chose to ride a captured British sorrel gelding that he named "Ball" after the Tory Colonel John Coming Ball, whom Marion defeated at the battle of Black Mingo Creek in 1780.

In an odd twist of events, British troops utilized Marsh Tackies against the Americans during the campaign to take Charleston. Horses to be used by the British troops of Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton at the time were lost at sea on their way to Charleston and needed to be replaced. Tarleton was forced to locally source horses. In a letter by British Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton he writes *the dismounted troops landed in Port Royal and by great exertion and good luck collected a number of horses, some Marsh Tackies, in time to join Brigadier General Paterson as he passed by that route in his march to the army before Charleston.*

Later in the war as the southern occupation became more precarious for the British, Marsh Tackies contributed once again on the side of the American troops through the constant guerilla harassment by Marion's troops and others in the Lowcountry. These tactics pushed British General Cornwallis into moving north and getting bottled up in at Yorktown, Virginia, which leads to a decisive victory for the Americans.

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



Look Inside for the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association 1st Annual Meeting Information. Meeting to be held April 5, 2008!