

Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse Association, LLC



www.marshtacky.org

Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2008

Board Meeting Updates

Susan Day

The CMTA interim board has a meeting 30 April 2008. Jenifer Ravenel conducted roll call. The following persons were present: DP Lowther, Edward Ravenel, David Grant, Lee McKenzie, Jenifer Ravenel, Marion Gohagen, Troy Smoak and Susan Day. There was an additional attendee, Jeannette Beranger from American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. The board discussed the State Horse Bill and setup a committee to facilitate the passing of the bill. The board voted to let Jackie McFadden with Winthrop University to head the committee. Any member interested in helping Jackie, her email is: mcfaddenj@winthrop.edu Jackie will be the Point of Contact for all State Horse Bill questions.

The board also discussed the upcoming events that Hilton Head wants CMTA to be part of. One is a race with Tackies on the beach. There will be more information on these events when they are firmed up.

See Page 4 for an update of the stud book that the ALBC is working on.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Breeders:

DP Lowther - Breeder

742 Glover Road

Ridgeland SC 29936

Carolina Marsh Tacky Outfitters – David Grant

<http://www.carolinamarshhtacky.com>

Lee and Peggy McKenzie

7763 Old Jacksonboro Rd

Adams Run SC 29426

email: pmckenzie55@yahoo.com

Marion Gohagan

P.O. Box 57-B

Scotia, SC 29939

877-625-2987

gohagansguideservice@yahoo.com

Jenifer Ravenel

6685 Quarter Hoss Lane

Hollywood, SC 29449

Crablady61@aol.com

2nd ANNUAL CMTA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR

Date: April 4th, 2009

Where: Colleton Saddle Club

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Plan now to attend!

**Rainbows End Colonial Spanish Mustang Farm
Suffolk, VA October 10-12 Contact: Sharon Sluss
757-870-7329, 757-986-2124 rbefarm@mac.com
Owners and horses welcome! Limited stabling available so reserve space early.)**

**American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
31st Annual Conference and Members Meeting
Tillers International Farm
Scotts, MI September 18-21st Contact: Angelique Wilson ALBC 919-542-5704, albc@albc-usa.org
This year's theme is Multi-Tasking Livestock: Adapted Breeds for Productive Farms.**

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.marstacky.org

Email: general@marstacky.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

Equus Survival Trust

Victoria Tollman

Executive Director

(336) 352-5520

775 Flippin Road

Lowgap, NC 20724

www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org

Email: EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

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. You can also access registration for the Marsh Tackies at our web site www.marstacky.org.



Lowthers Two Socks and owner Kailah Tollman

Photo credit: VTollman/Equus Survival Trust

Thought of the Month:

Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.

John Wayne



Photo credit: VTollman/Equus Survival Trust

Daniel Lowther and one of DP Lowther's Tackies

This picture was taken at the first CMTA annual meeting that was held at Mullet Hall, Johns Island, SC on April 5th, 2008

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS POSTED IN THE CHARLESTON NEWS AND COURIER 28 April 2008

Group works to save fading Marsh Tackies
By Bo Petersen (Contact)
The Post and Courier
Monday, April 28, 2008

YONGES ISLAND — A tin roof sheet bangs in a gust of wind. A lot of horses would have been startled. Star just looks up from grazing, calm as a cat, turning her head with a comely tilt so she can see with her one eye. "She's a quiet, people mare. I've gotten right in there and touched her baby as she foaled. I can get in there and rub all over that baby," said Jenifer Ravenel, whose family owns Star.

The gentle Star is a Marsh Tacky, the Lowcountry's own feral swamp horse, right down to her dorsal stripe and zebra-striped legs. She is a descendant of hundreds of Spanish horses that ran in the sea island marshes for generations.

At 28 years old, a prodigious age for a horse, Star is about to produce her 19th foal. Since she lost an eye to a hanging branch on a hog hunt as a 2-year-old, she's become a prolific breeder.

She has to be. She's among the last of the do-it-all breed.

Fewer than 200 of the small, skinny-haunched Marsh Tackies remain. The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy considers the breed, which ran wild from Myrtle Beach down to the Georgia coast, to be critically endangered. The breed dissipated as their marshlands were developed.

Farm horses were set aside for more prestigious, "prettier" breeds once the tractor arrived to do the work.

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association is mounting a charge to save the tradition by attracting prospective owners with a registry, DNA authentication and touches like an effort to get it recognized as the state horse.

This is the plucky warrior that Francis Marion used to cut through the bogs to bedevil the British in the American Revolution. For farm families, it was a work-all-day and go-to-meeting horse, the mudder deer-hunting horse, intelligent and steady, unafraid to muck the bottoms where thoroughbreds would buck, living off marsh grasses other horses wouldn't touch.

"The swamps, that's where they excel, water chest deep they'll swim through. They'll cross bogs that other horses won't and they'll go smoothly, without bucking," said Ed Ravenel, Jenifer's father.

That life, like the horse, is about gone.

Feral and farm-bred tackies were native to the sea islands when Ed Ravenel, 68, was growing up. He remembers riding them with his brother, Charleston County School Board member Arthur Ravenel Jr., to tend the family's cattle on then-undeveloped Kiawah Island. On the remote barrier island, cattle became all but wild and ran from herders. But in the summer they waded into the surf to escape the flies and biting bugs.

The Ravenel brothers would hop on tackies, muck their way to the island and sneak through the dunes to surprise the cattle in the water, where they could get a rope on them, then herd them home.

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The horse simply doesn't quit.

"If you're going from here to Charleston," Ed Ravenel said, standing by the stable at his Yonge's Island farm, "I've got those strong quarter horses here and these skinny little Marsh Tackies, and I'd take a Marsh Tacky any time." At the Ravenel farm, after a visitor has worked one of the cutting horses and come away impressed, the family will ask, "You want to ride a real horse?" That's why Ravenel has joined the handful of other owners across the Carolinas to form the Marsh Tacky Association, which held its first meeting earlier this month. Among them are people like D.P. Lowther of Ridgeland, who owns more than half of the remaining breed and bought the horses from Hilton Head as the island developed into a resort.

When the 75-year-old farmer was growing up, "Everybody had them, black and white folk. They used them for plowing, pulling the wagon, going to the store, everything. Children rode them to school," he said. "It's what built the Lowcountry. That's what kept them going; that's what kept them alive. That was transportation."

Island by island, the Ravenels developed their land as the Lowcountry grew. But they hung onto their Tackies.

"You can take a tacky that was born in the wild and never seen a human being, and in a couple of days you can be riding it. They break out so quiet and smooth," Ravenel said. "People are losing land, losing interest in the horses. Jenifer is the only of my children interested. But I've got grandchildren coming along that have shown a lot of interest."

Reach Bo Petersen at 745-5852 or bpetersen@postandcourier.com.

GENERAL ARTICLES

Postell Comes of Age

By David Grant

This story is about "Postell", a three year old Marsh Tacky gelding owned by Carolina Marsh Tacky Outfitters of Florence S.C. Postell was one of the first horses bought by CMTO. Postell was bred by the late Arnold Postell of Ravenel S.C. from the sire Dapper Dan, a grulla Marsh Tacky stud and out of Sandy a dun Marsh Tacky mare, reportedly one of Mr. Postell's favorite mares. Arnold had passed away leaving a good sized herd behind. Through a family friend, Mr. Ed Ravenel, another Marsh Tacky breeder, we learned of the sale of the Postell herd. We went down and purchased 5 horses from both Beth and Ed's herds. Little did we know what that infamous trip to Ravenel in the fall of 2006 would begin!

Postell was always undersized but full of himself. If there was trouble to be got into, he would usually be at the root of it by opening gates, jumping fences, and anything a yearling can do to cause problems. He was curious about everything and loved people. We just let him grow up.

We had thoughts of keeping Postell a stud, as recommended by Jeanette Beranger of American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, because he represented a different line of Marsh Tackies from the rest of our herd. But ultimately Postell's "full of himself" nature as a yearling carried over to *more* than full himself" young stud. We had to make the very, very tough decision to geld him.

When we started training Postell as a 2 year old, he was different in a good sort of way. He was easy to start with no buck but his way of resisting moving forward was a "odd" move...a lift and spin in the opposite direction reminiscent of the behavior bred into his Spanish ancestors a war maneuver hundreds of years ago. In this move a horse would lift up and spin in an opposite direction without taking up any space. (This was very good when you were in hand to hand combat with the enemy.) It also served to help the rider throw a spear or lance with more velocity.

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Portraits
by
Bob Wilson, Jr.
843-766-4647
www.robertwilsonfineart.com

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As we rode Postell he was very gentle but it took a good rider to appreciate and get the most out of him. We were encouraged because each time out he taught us something about what makes a Marsh Tacky so special – namely heart. He could take anything we put him through and still after 6 hours of hard riding he could still keep going. On an average hog hunt we will ride 6 to 8 hours at a pretty steady walk with at times some breath taking all out runs to get the dogs when they bay up a hog. (which is most always in the biggest roughest place around!!!) Once we caught a nice boar in the river and jumped off the horse into the water onto the hog.... that will be another story...let's finish the Postell saga.

Postell has learned to run to the dogs almost all on his own. He will navigate rough terrain like an open highway and can drag half his weight along for the ride. He will follow his rider without leading and has learned to rise up and come down on briars to keep them out of his face. But to top it off just the other day he showed me the Marsh Tacky move of legend! We were crossing a creek we shouldn't have been, but the dogs were bayed up on the other side with a particularly bad hog. The water was deep and cold, but here we went. We got almost through and then oh man!...What all horses hate...Bog!

Postell went totally submerged and came up stuck. I had to come off him. He laid there a minute and then he did it. He lay back down pulled his feet up and rolled out of the bog! It was hell on the saddle but an awesome move. It goes to prove the old hog hunting proverb – it's not how you start, its how you finish.

Postel is coming of age.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE HUTNING WITH CAROLINA MARSH TACKY OUTFITTERS ANR OUR RARE COLONIAL SPANISH MARSH TACKIES.

LIVING LOWCOUNTRY LEGENDS!



Your Interim Board members from the April 5th meeting and Tacky Blue - Stallion below (Owner Ed Ravenel)



Studbook Update

By Jeannette Beranger (ALBC)

Great progress has been made by ALBC on the Marsh Tacky studbook and to date there are over 250 horses documented, both living and deceased. It has taken quite a bit of time to fill in gaps on the background of each horse but through the help of long time Marsh Tacky owners, much has been accomplished. It's been a frustratingly slow process but the end product has been worth it. Through continued field research and the recent promotion of the Marsh Tacky through the Associated Press article, horses have been brought to light that were previously unknown or "lost" Tackies. The recent addition of these horses has served to enhance the genetic breadth of the breed. A particularly big thanks goes to Lee McKenzie, D.P. Lowther, Jody Platt, Ed Ravenel, Marion Gohagan, and Beth Postelle. Without their help, their memories, and their patience for numerous phone calls and field visits, the database would be a shadow of what it is now and many of the ancestors of today's Tackies would be absent.

The database is now in the hands of our Technical Advisor from the International Species Identification System (ISIS), Laurie Bingham-Lackey. She is working on "translating" the data into a form that can be plugged directly into the studbook program SPARKS (short for Single Population Animal Records Keeping System). Once in SPARKS, the Marsh Tacky population can be analyzed and a population management strategy can be formulated and used to promote the long term genetic health of the breed. We are aiming for a summer release of the first Marsh Tacky studbook. For more information on ISIS and SPARKS visit www.isis.org.

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



2nd ANNUAL CMTA MEETING Date: April 4th, 2009

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, LLC
www.marshtacky.org

My Marsh Tacky

By Kailah Tollman (age 10)

Hi, my name is Kailah and I'm very happy to say that I own a Marsh Tacky. My Marsh Tacky's name is Lowthers Two Socks but I almost always call her Soxsee. Soxsee is chestnut and turned one year old sometime in late March.



I first saw Soxsee when she was roughly 2-3 weeks old at DP Lowther's place in 2007. I had gone down with my mom and the Equus Survival Trust to help DP pull DNA on his horses. I of course didn't have to help so I spent most of my time watching the foals. That's when I first met Soxsee. She was tiny and adorable in a group of foals that had been temporarily separated from their mothers while they were being wormed and giving DNA samples. Even though I hadn't looked at the large group of foals for very long I quickly decided that Soxsee was my favorite. Soxsee was of course too young to leave her mother but I hoped that when she was, I'd be able to get her.

This is what she looked like as a little foal.

Slightly over four months later we returned to DP's place. I was very excited. I couldn't wait too see how much Soxsee had grown. It wasn't long before I found her. Soxsee had changed loads even though only a few months had passed. Soxsee had gone from cute little foal to delicate filly. I was even more determined to find a way to get Soxsee after my second visit with her came to an end.



The third time we came to DP's place we brought a trailer. We hadn't yet confirmed to buy Soxsee but we decided to bring a trailer just in case. I **Soxsee at 4 months** went out to the pasture and looked for Soxsee but I couldn't find her. After a while I found her in a different pasture. She had grown even more, but she wasn't with her mother. When I went back to find DP, I found out the horrible news that Soxsee's mother had died of old age. I felt bad for poor Soxsee, but my spirits lifted when we finally confirmed a purchase. I was overjoyed to know that all of my hoping and waited had been worthwhile.



So after we had confirmed to buy Soxsee we drove down to her pasture with the horse trailer. First we had to separate her from the other horses then came the tricky part getting her into the trailer. Soxsee was wild and frightened but with some help we finally managed to get her into the trailer.

It wasn't long before Soxsee had settled in at her new home but she was still very wild and I couldn't even touch her. But with time, patience and the help of some of my mom & her friends, Soxsee soon started trusting me. I practiced every day with her, getting a little more done each day. Now I can walk right up to her in the pasture, pet her, put a halter on her and tie her up in a stall.

Soxsee is very smart. She's leads very well **Soxsee at 9 months** for me and is very calm around me but with people she doesn't know Soxsee gets very different. She freezes and gets scared. But she trusts me. We recently had to move her to a new pasture. Even though Soxsee had only been in a trailer once, when I asked her to she walked right up into the trailer for me.

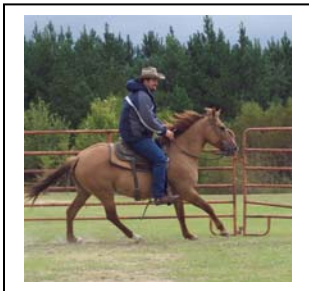
Of all the horses in my life Soxsee is one of my all time favorites. I know I have a very strong bond with her and that makes me feel very good. I think Marsh Tackys are my favorite breed of horse.



Soxsee and Kailah

Equus Survival Trust A Look Back

Trust & Grant Host 2006 Open House for Endangered Tackys



Red dun mare BeeBop and trainer Phil Hayes

In an effort to boost awareness of this Colonial Spanish treasure, the Equus Survival Trust hosted a very successful Marsh Tacky Open House last October 2006 in Florence, South Carolina. Trust Executive Director Victoria Tollman joined forces with breeder David Grant to coordinate & host the Open House at his South Carolina ranch.

Some 30 Marsh Tackys, representing nearly 1/3 of the known population, were on display with all of the major breeders on premise along with local and regional television media. The gathering began with an overview and introduction by Tollman and Grant and segued into utilitarian demonstrations in the round pen, including horses trained to stand with a rider cracking a whip and firing a rifle. An informative Question & Answer session followed and the remainder of the afternoon was spent in productive networking among breeders and supporters as they browsed the various pens displaying Tackys of all colors and ages.



Jenifer Ravenel & DP Lowther

The weekend successfully kick-started the networking process between Tacky breeders to formalize documenting horses and their first registry on this nearly 500 year-old breed.

2007 -Trust Collects nearly 60 DNA Tacky Samples

In April 2007, the Equus Survival Trust organized another vital step in the documentation process for the Marsh Tackys. Trust staff and volunteers traveled to Ridgeland, SC to the ranch of DP Lowther whose family has bred Tackys for three generations. Tracing his original family horses back to the Civil War, Lowther has the largest remaining herd, containing nearly 100 horses.



Trust Board Member Jeannie Cave and DP Lowther wrangle horses.

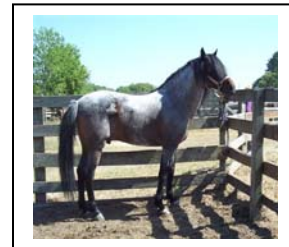
Our team consisted of two Trust members Victoria Tollman and Jeannie Cave, owner D.P. Lowther, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy member Jeannette Beranger, and 5 volunteers. As most of the horses were untrained and rarely handled, it was necessary to pen one section at a time. Once corralled, horses were run into the stocks by DP and crew where Jeannette documented for coloring & marks, age, and sex, before Jeannie wormed them and rarely handled, it was necessary to pen one section at a time. Once corralled, horses were run into the stocks by DP and crew where Jeannette documented for coloring & marks, age, and sex, before Jeannie wormed them and pulled 30 to 40 hair follicles from their manes for DNA analysis.

Victoria took photographs to further identify each individual which were later matched up to the Jeannette's paperwork. It was a grueling task on a typical hot, humid southern day but the rewards were satisfying. Working together, the team managed to document nearly 60 Marsh Tackys, the largest group on record.

The DNA samples were later sent to Dr. Gus Cothran at Texas A&M University. Cothran is an outside consultant for the Equus Survival Trust and has a particular affinity for the endangered breeds. He can now add a viable number of Carolina Marsh Tacky samples to his data banks.

In addition to identifying any markers for the Tackys themselves, it is anticipated that the DNA will confirm the breed's connection to Colonial Spanish grouping, as well as permanently identify each horse as foundation stock for the Marsh Tacky Stud Book currently being compiled by

multiple efforts. Foundation animals can then be referenced for parentage verification of progeny and help assure the purity of the future bloodstock.



DP's Tacky Stallion "Junior"

Lastly, the DNA will show the relatedness of the present Lowther "herd" and data can be compared to the remainder of the Tacky population. We will then know how diverse or closely related the entire population is. Based upon those findings, Dr. Cothran can make informed recommendations on breeding management, the goal being to keep the purebred gene pool genetically diverse and healthy.

For more information contact:
EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com
www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org

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