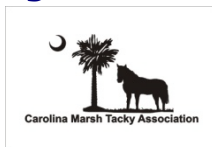


# Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse Association, LLC



[www.marsh tacky.org](http://www.marsh tacky.org)

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2009

## Board Meeting Updates

### Susan Day

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association (CMTA) interim board has been working hard, continuing to promote, preserve and educate the public about Marsh Tackies. Your interim board members are:

DP Lowther – *President*, Ed Ravenel – *Vice President*, Susan Day – *Secretary*, Jenifer Ravenel – *Treasurer*, Lee McKenzie, Troy Smoak, David Grant, Marion Gohagan, Jackie McFadden.

### News Flash –

Winners at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Marsh Tacky Races:

**First Place Stallion - Marion Gohagan on Sebata**  
**First Place Mare - David Grant on Holly**  
**First Place Gelding - William Green on Blue Duck**  
**First Place Overall - David Grant on Holly**

*1<sup>st</sup> Annual Marsh Tacky Races – The CMTA Board would like to thank and congratulate Troy Smoak and Marion Gohagan for all their hard work in organizing and pulling off such an event. Both Troy and Marion are interim board members and did a great job on the races – so good in fact the Gullah Festival wants it to be an annual event.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CMTA MEETING

Date: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Where: Colleton Saddle Club  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Plan now to attend!*

**IMPORTANT** – At the Annual Meeting the CMTA Interim Board will update the members on the current status of the association and future plans.

Directions to Saddle Club from I-95: Take Exit 53 toward Walterboro, go approx 2 miles; turn right onto Highway 17A; go 1.6 miles; Saddle Club gates on the right.

Call or email Susan Day 843.860.5736  
[webmaster@marsh tacky.org](mailto:webmaster@marsh tacky.org) for directions or go to [www.marsh tacky.org](http://www.marsh tacky.org) – directions are posted there too.

*Look forward to seeing everyone!*

### Carolina Fresh Farms of York County Customer Appreciation Days

April 24-25, 2009

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: 4372 Old York Road, Rock Hill, SC

There will be vendor and organization booths and activities for the children. CMTA will have an information booth on Friday and Saturday manned by Jackie McFadden and Patricia Stafford and a Marsh Tacky will be present on Friday to meet the public. For more information call 803-327-8686.

### Palmetto Bluff Demonstration

May 23, 2009

Noon – 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Longfield Stables Equestrian Center  
19 Village Park Square, Bluffton SC

Enjoy lunch at the Main Barn Club Room (\$15/Adults and \$10/Children) and a 1:00 p.m. presentation by the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association at the Covered Arena (Complimentary).

For registration and additional information, please contact Melissa Vanacore at 843.706.6559 or [mvanacore@palmettobluffclub.com](mailto:mvanacore@palmettobluffclub.com)

## Contact Information

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

### **The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association (CMTA)**

6685 Quarter Hoss Lane, Hollywood, SC 29449

[www.marsh tacky.org](http://www.marsh tacky.org)

Email: [general@marsh tacky.org](mailto:general@marsh tacky.org)

(843) 906-2274 or (843) 860-5736

### **The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC)**

P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312

[www.albc-usa.org](http://www.albc-usa.org)

Email: [jberanger@albc-usa.org](mailto:jberanger@albc-usa.org)

(919) 542-5704

### **Equus Survival Trust**

Victoria Tollman, Executive Director

775 Flippin Road, Lowgap, NC 20724

[www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org](http://www.Equus-Survival-Trust.org)

Email: [EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com](mailto:EquusSurvivalTrust@yahoo.com)

(336) 352-5520

## 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.marsh tacky.org](http://www.marsh tacky.org).



Ashley Lowther and Strawberry on race day  
Photo credit Elizabeth "Ann" Sosbe

## State Horse Bill H.3044

H. 3044, a bill to designate the Marsh Tacky as the state horse of South Carolina, is currently residing in the *House Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee*. The bill must be supported by a majority of the committee before it can progress through the legislative system. The full-text of the bill can be found on the SC Legislature Web site:

[http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118\\_2009-2010/bills/3044.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/bills/3044.htm)

You can help the progression of the bill by contacting the committee members and your district representatives asking for their support of H. 3044. Committee members are Representatives Herb Kirsh, Liston Barfield, Don Bowen, Marion Frye, and Vida Miller. You can find a listing of committee members and your district representatives along with contact information at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>.

In support of the Marsh Tacky, Jeannette Beranger of ALBC states, "There is no other horse that can claim as much influence on a state as the Marsh Tacky in South Carolina ... These beautiful and intelligent horses are part of your state heritage and one that all should be proud of."

Look for updates on the CMTA Web site. For more information contact Jackie McFadden, 803-323-2322 or [mcfaddenj@winthrop.edu](mailto:mcfaddenj@winthrop.edu)

Contact Your State Representatives Today!

Thought of the Month:

*Live every day as if it is your LAST chance to make someone happy!*



David Grant aboard Holly and overall winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Marsh Tacky Races  
Photo credit Elizabeth "Ann" Sosbe

## GENERAL ARTICLES

### Stocky horses make triumphant return in island's first Marsh Tacky Races in 40 years

By JOSH LANIER

jlanier@islandpacket.com

• 843-706-8137

Published Monday, February 23, 2009

A fall from his horse didn't keep David Grant from winning the first Marsh Tacky Race on Hilton Head Island on Sunday. "I feel a little like a rubber ball. I was bounced around so much," he joked, holding his trophy and petting his winning mare, Holly. "But this was so much fun; it was totally worth it." Fifteen marsh tacky horses raced on the brown, wet sand of low tide at Mitchelville Beach as part of the island's Gullah Celebration. It has been more than 40 years since the short, stocky breed has galloped beside Port Royal Sound, the revival of a longtime Gullah and native islander tradition. The races were similar to barrel racing, in which the horses were ridden to a set of poles; they circled the poles and then returned to the starting line. They raced in heats two at a time in a process of elimination.

Grant was able to get back on his horse after the fall, but the rider who also fell from his horse in the race with Grant wasn't as fortunate. Ashley Lowther bruised his leg and was taken to Hilton Head Hospital where he was treated and released. The horses collided when making the turn around the poles, but neither horse was harmed. The island's Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association, which helped organize the event, estimated 3,000 spectators came out. It had expected about 1,000. "This was much more successful than we could have imagined," said James Mitchell, the association's president. "We were expecting a big turnout, but this was so phenomenal that it's going to propel us when we do it again next year." The crowd cheered as the marsh tackies raced across the wind-swept beach. Spectators ate seafood gumbo and other traditional island fare and spoke to horse owners about the breed that was once a staple of the island before Hilton Head was developed as a resort. The point of the event, organizers have said, was to have fun and teach the historical importance of the horses to try to preserve them. Marsh Tackies were a mainstay of Gullah culture for more than 100 years. Each winter after the harvest, native islanders raced the horses on Mitchelville Beach. The horses are descendants of those brought over by Spanish explorers in the 1500s. They were able to work in humid conditions without tiring, making them well-suited to the Lowcountry. (Continued)

#### 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.



Portraits  
by  
Bob Wilson, Jr.  
843-766-4647

www.robertwilsonfineart.com

#### Pictures from Race Day

Photos by Jackie McFadden



Susan Day on Red Rocket and Jenifer Ravenel on Carolina



William Green on Blue Duck and Ed Lowndes on Laboka



Troy Smoak on Noley and Kimberly Carter on Red Man

Sid Hawkins, a board member of the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, said the impact of the horses on the Lowcountry should not be forgotten. "These horses are what built this area," he said. "They're one of the reasons this area grew so quickly, and it's a shame there are only about 150 left in the country." Events like the island's revived races and efforts to make the marsh tacky South Carolina's state horse will help raise awareness, Hawkins said. "It's also a lot of fun." As enthusiastic as the crowd was, the riders and owners were even more excited. Riders cheered and yelled as other horses raced, and the riders ribbed one another about which horse would win it all. "That's just all part of it," said Charles Hills, rider and owner of Bo. "You pick at one another and just have some fun with it." One of the most popular horses at the race never left the starting block. Starbright, a red-haired 14-year-old marsh tacky, was a crowd favorite. His owner, Michael Cohen, sheepishly stood for photos as spectators gathered around to see the last marsh tacky living on Hilton Head. Cohen's father and grandfather rode in the races in the 1960s, and he remembers when the horses were more prevalent on the island. "I haven't seen this many tackies together in one place since I was a teenager," Cohen said. "This means a whole lot to a guy like me."

## Charleston County Public Library

Jackie McFadden

On March 15, 2009, the Charleston County Public Library hosted a Marsh Tacky presentation as part of their Friends of the Library Lecture Series. Jackie McFadden, CMTA Board Member, and Patti Stafford, Winthrop University Library Specialist, spoke about the history of the horse and the status of the state horse bill. Afterwards, participants were invited to go outside to meet real Marsh Tackies!

Lee and Peggy McKenzie were there with Blueberry, Susan Day had Beach Music (aka Red Rocket!), and little Scarlett, who will have her first birthday on Mother's Day, made her public debut with Jenifer Ravenel. The attendees were enthusiastic and very interested in our preservation efforts. This was the first time that horses were invited to the main library and we have been invited to come back to the library next Spring.

### Charleston County Library

Photos by Jackie McFadden



From left to right Charles Hill (Beauregard), Marion Gohagan (Sebata), DP Lowther (race starter) and David Grant (DP) in the stud heat. Photo credit Elizabeth "Ann" Sosbe



Jon Strickland on Sage and Wylie Bell on Postelle  
Photo credit Elizabeth "Ann" Sosbe



Pete Simons on Salt Creek Annie. Photo by Jackie McFadden

#### Breeders:

*DP Lowther*  
742 Glover Road  
Ridgeland SC 29936

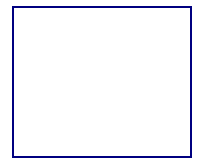
David Grant - Carolina Marsh Tacky Outfitters  
<http://www.carolinamarshhtacky.com>

*Lee and Peggy McKenzie*  
7763 Old Jacksonboro Rd  
Adams Run SC 29426  
[pmckenzie55@yahoo.com](mailto:pmckenzie55@yahoo.com)

*Marion Gohagan*  
P.O. Box 57-B  
Scotia, SC 29939  
877-625-2987  
[gohagansguideservice@yahoo.com](mailto:gohagansguideservice@yahoo.com)

*Jenifer Ravenel*  
6685 Quarter Hoss Lane  
Hollywood, SC 29449  
[Crablady61@aol.com](mailto:Crablady61@aol.com)

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



**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CMTA MEETING Date: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND**

***This will be the last newsletter you receive unless you are an active CMTA Member***

***Become a member at the annual meeting!***

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**Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, LLC**  
**[www.marshacky.org](http://www.marshacky.org)**