



www.marshtacky.org

Volume 2, Issue 3

January 2010

Board Meeting Update

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association (CMTA) Board held a meeting on 14 Oct 09 to discuss several upcoming events. Minutes from all previous meetings were reviewed and approved and the Revised By-Laws were approved.

The CMTA Board agreed that the ALBC stud book should be closed. Any future requests for registration must include pictures and a listing of all known lineage of the horse. If the horse passes the photo inspection, the owner will be contacted by the CMTA and a committee will evaluate the horse. The next step is a DNA Test (around \$50.00/horse) to be sent off by the person requesting registration. Ed Ravenel was appointed chairman of the Marsh Tacky inspection committee.

Beach Race Committee – Troy Smoak and Marion Gohagan reported on the 2nd annual beach race. Please see further information on the race in this newsletter.

State Horse Committee – Jackie McFadden presented a handout on the progress of the bill. Jackie suggested that we go for State Heritage Horse vs. State Horse as there may be more statewide support for that.

The CMTA would like to thank Jimmy Maner, Patty Stafford and Karen Exley. These three individuals have volunteered their own time and money to promote the Marsh Tacky. A motion was made to make Jimmy Maner a spokesperson for CMTA at future events. Motion passed.

A motion was made that all board members remain as is and CMTA's first, members voting elections, would be held April 2011. The reasoning was that the CMTA is a new association and the current board is still working on the foundation of the association. The motion to hold elections in 2011 passed.

The CMTA would like to thank everyone that has supported our sponsored events and hope you continue. Please attend our annual meeting in April 2010 and renew your membership or become a new member. -- Susan Day, CMTA Secretary

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Name that Gait!

We know that our horse is one of a kind. Now we know that our Marsh Tackies have a unique gait!



Dr. Molly Nicodemus of the Gaited Locomotive Research Program at Mississippi State University has given us the rare opportunity to select a name for the Marsh Tacky's gait! So...the CMTA Board challenges our members to enter the **Marsh Tacky Gait Naming Contest!** The winning name will be announced at our annual spring meeting. The winner will receive a free CMTA annual membership for 2010 and a front row seat at the 2011 Marsh Tacky races.

Become a part of Marsh Tacky history and Name that Gait! Go to www.marshtacky.org and submit your entry through the "Contact Us" page or mail your entry to Jackie McFadden, 1434 Alexander Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29732. Deadline for entries is March 15th.

SOUTH CAROLINA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL FALL TRAIL RIDE



The CMTA was delighted to have the Commissioner of Agriculture, Hugh Weathers, and his wife Blanche, along with several South Carolina Horsemen's Council (SCHC) officers, riding our wonderful Marsh Tackies on the SCHC Fall Trail Ride at Lakeview Plantation in Fairfax, SC on November 21. Several CMTA members and supporters attended the event. The weather was beautiful on Saturday allowing our Marsh Tackies to take part in two trail rides.

CMTA President, DP Lowther, thanked Commissioner Weathers and his wife for their participation in the event. To further show our appreciation for the Commissioner's interest in the Marsh Tacky, the Commissioner was given an Honorary CMTA Membership and a handsome Stetson hat. Commissioner Weathers is supportive of the South Carolina State Heritage Horse bill.

EXCITING RESEARCH ON THE GAIT OF MARSH TACKY HORSES

By Dr. Molly Nicodemus, PhD., Gaited Locomotive Research Program,
Mississippi State University and Jeannette Beranger, ALBC Research &
Technical Programs Manager

Due to the breed's Colonial Spanish heritage the Marsh Tacky was thought by some to be gaited, but there had never been any research conducted concerning the gaits. One long time breeder once described it as a "rocking chair gait." One thing for certain is that some of the horses were found to be particularly comfortable under saddle. This thinking was the start of a project to try and understand why the Marsh Tacky was often different from the feel of other horses when ridden. A study was undertaken by Dr. Molly Nicodemus of Mississippi State University (MSU) and American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) to explore and define the gait of the Marsh Tacky using video of the horses analyzed with temporal variable measurements on the horses. Ten horses from various bloodlines were selected and filmed by ALBC staff while the horses performed their intermediate gait. Using frame-by-frame analysis, ten strides that were consistent with clearly visible hoof contact and lift-off were evaluated for the study by MSU. An interesting development occurred as every one of the horses Dr. Nicodemus viewed had periods of "gaiting." This meant that they demonstrated a symmetrical, 4-beat stepping (no suspension) gait with a lateral footfall sequence (meaning the footfall was left hind, left fore, right hind, right fore) in which all of these variables are similar to the walk and other gaited horse gaits (running walk, rack, fox trot, etc.).

What Dr. Nicodemus found is that the Marsh Tackies perform a "broken trot" (similar to the fox trot of the Missouri Fox Trotter horse.) Instead of diagonal pairs, the two diagonal limbs disassociate creating instead of a 2-beat gait, a 4-beat gait, with diagonal couplets. In place of the suspension, the horse has created a quadrupedal support phase where all four limbs are on the ground. The durations, timing, and limb support are more similar to the marcha batida of the Mangalarga Marchador, the National horse of Brazil. The fox trot does not demonstrate quadrupedal support, instead shows more tripedal support, but the marcha batida does show quadrupedal support along with the diagonal couplets. Both the Mangalarga Marchador and Marsh Tacky breeds share similar Spanish ancestries which may explain the similarities in their gaits.

At faster speeds than what was measured in the research study, the Tackies can produce a true trot, which is similar to other gaited breeds which can produce either a pace or trot at faster speeds (depending on the breed.) Some horses in the study could not hold the gait as well at the speeds

observed, which can make the gaits feel and look rough as they switch in and out of the trot and broken trot. Conformationally, some horses may be suited better for this gait than others, but the study has not yet gotten that far into the research to understand this point. The lack of suspension, periods of quadrupedal support, and the longer periods of stance (where the hoof is more on the ground) assist the horse in traveling through such terrain as marshy land.

The next step for MSU in research will be to look at joint angles, head displacements, back and croup movements to determine further what they are doing with the body to assist in producing the gait. With the current findings, the Marsh Tacky can be considered gaited. The findings were published in the Journal of Animal Science in 2009. The gait variables found in the study will assist in identifying characteristics that are unique to the Marsh Tacky in comparison to other gaited horse breeds.

Dr. Nicodemus writes "While the gait looks like the marcha batida, it is not exactly the same so it truly needs its own name" and has invited the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association to coin a name for their breed's gait.

Interestingly because the gait of the Marsh Tacky is definitely unlike anything Dr. Nicodemus has ever seen in other gaited horses, it has encouraged further research on other Spanish Colonial breeds. Work is currently under way to collect of video footage of the other Colonial Spanish horse breeds listed on the ALBC Conservation Priority List.

A big "thanks" goes out to all of the owners who helped us to collect video footage of their horses.



Blueberry - owner Lee McKenzie

Photos by Jeannette Beranger

State Heritage Horse Bill Introduced in the Senate



Carolina Marsh Tacky Association The 2nd regular session of the 118th South Carolina General Assembly reconvened on January 12th. **H. 3044**, a bill to designate the Marsh Tacky as the state heritage horse of South Carolina, did not make it out of the **House Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee** during the first session. So, we are going to try again during the 2nd session. A Senate bill similar to the House bill has been introduced by Senator Wes Hayes. **S. 1030** is currently in the **Senate Judiciary Committee**. Please contact the committee members along with your local senators and representatives and ask for their support of **H. 3044** and **S. 1030**.

The CMTA is honored to have the support of the South Carolina Horsemen's Council and the Catawba Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Catawba Chapter recently featured a Marsh Tacky in an ad that appeared in a globally distributed DAR magazine.

The Marsh Tacky is uniquely South Carolinian, a claim no other breed can make. Please help us in our efforts to formally recognize the significance of this living piece of South Carolina's history.

Contact information for your district representatives can be found at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>. For a list of committee members, information about the bill, or to find out how you can help with the State Horse Initiative, contact Jackie McFadden at 803-323-2322, or at marshtacky@gmail.com. Watch for updates on the website.

Contact Your State Representatives Today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Check the Website for updates and additions)

February 27, 2010

Lowcountry Heritage Breeds Festival at the Coastal Discovery Museum, Hilton Head Island, SC will feature live animal displays and educational sessions about Southern heritage breeds. Animals will include: Marsh Tacky Horses, Mammoth Jackstock Mule, Guinea Hogs, Pineywoods cattle, and Leghorn chickens. The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy will present two programs: 11 AM - Breeds of the Southeast and 1 PM - Marsh Tacky Talk. For more information, contact Natalie Hefter, (843) 689-3033, nhefter@coastaldiscovery.org. Event is free to the public.



February 28, 2010

The Second Annual Gullah Celebration Marsh Tacky Beach Run is scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, February 28, 2010** at Hilton Head Island's Coligny Beach Park, just past the second traffic circle. Join us for a fun filled day with Marsh Tackies!

Come at 11:00 am and meet the Marsh Tackies. Races will be held from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Only registered Marsh Tackies will be allowed to compete and entries are on a first come first serve basis. Horse Owners Call: Troy Smoak 843-562-7774 or Marion Gohagan 877-625-2987. For event information: Gullah Celebration Hotline: 877-650-0676.

Marsh Tackies Return to Hobcaw Barony



March 20, 2010

Marsh Tacky History Day and Trail Ride

Bring your horse and ride with Marsh Tackies on a three-hour guided trail ride through 17,500 acres of breathtaking, untamed wilderness and learn about the historic significance of Hobcaw Barony and the endangered Marsh Tacky. A van tour will be available for those not riding horses.

The event will take place on March 20th from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Hobcaw Barony located at 22 Hobcaw Rd. Georgetown, SC. The registration fee is \$30.00 for horse and van riders, and \$10.00 for non-riders. A hotdog lunch with a vegetarian alternative is included. **Register now – Space is limited to 40 riders!** The registration deadline is March 10, 2010.

Hobcaw Barony is one of the few undeveloped tracts on the Waccamaw Neck. The property, composed of 11 former plantations, was bought in 1905 by Barnard Barauch, Wall Street financier and presidential advisor, to use as a winter hunting retreat. It is now used as a research facility for South Carolina universities.

Trailside views include abandoned rice fields, pine and hardwood forests, salt marsh, the Hobcaw House built in 1930, Bellefield House and stables, built in 1936, and Friendfield, a 19th century slave village that was in use through 1952. Bernard Barauch and his daughter, Belle, hunted almost exclusively on Marsh Tackies. For registration forms and more information, go to www.marshtacky.org or contact Jimmy Maner at 803-730-0735, jkmaner@hotmail.com.

STUDBOOK UPDATE



The Marsh Tacky Studbook Update

By Jeannette Beranger

After three years, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) is happy to announce that the first studbook for the Marsh Tacky horse has been completed as of July 2009.

The Breeders Assistant pedigree program used by ALBC to compile the studbook will produce registration certificates, allow the user to instantly evaluate a population's current status and calculate inbreeding coefficients and help Breeders decide the most appropriate breeding strategies that will ensure the long-term genetic diversity of the Marsh Tacky. In the future, the program will allow owners to access the studbook through the ALBC website.

One of the most common questions is how does a horse become registered?

There are several points needed to answer to this:

- First - the studbook is officially closed but there may be exceptions if there is strong supporting evidence that the horse is a Tacky and that it being accepted to the registry would benefit the population by adding vital genetics to the breed. To begin the process a registration application must be completed.
- Second - before a horse can be considered, the registry requires a detailed history of the origin and breeding of the horse. Where did it come from? Are the sire and dam known? Who was the breeder?

- Third - the horse needs to be visually inspected for breed type and conformation. Good photos of the front and side of the horse must be submitted to the registry. If the horse is visually consistent for the breed standard, the horse will then be inspected by a member of the CMTA Inspection Team (For more information see the Marsh Tacky Breed Standards page.)
- Lastly - if there is still question about the horse being a Tacky, a hair sample may be submitted to Texas A&M for analysis to determine if the horse's genotype conforms to that of the Marsh Tacky breed. This is done at cost to the owner of the horse.

Acceptance into the registry does not imply an evaluation of animal soundness. A registration may be cancelled or amended by the ALBC Pedigree Registry at any time based on new information. All new foals from registered parent stock must have a registration form filled out by their owners including photos so that they may be entered properly into the studbook and registry.

Presently there is no cost for a horse to be registered as this is the first studbook for the breed and it is vital that all Marsh Tackies be included in order for it to accurately document the population as well as to serve effective management tool for the breed. Pedigree certificates are signed and embossed and are mailed out to owners upon acceptance of their horse into the registry. If there are any questions regarding the studbook or registry contact Jeannette Beranger at ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919) 542-5704, jberanger@albc-usa.org

We would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Thorne Foundation for their generosity that helped to make the first Marsh Tacky studbook a reality.

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.



RECENT EVENTS

FOOTHILLS INDIAN HORSE CLUB

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2009



The Foothills Indian Horse Club hosted the 8th Annual AIHR Southeastern Regional Show and Games on September 5 & 6 at the Double J Arena in Pendleton, SC. Vickie Ives, Horse of the Americas VP and noted breeder and authority on Colonial Spanish horses judged Saturday's show events. The 70+ participants who hailed from five states ranged in age from 4 to over 60. Sunday's show was timed events with competition for teens through senior citizens. The American Indian Horse Registry exists to showcase the beauty, calmness, and versatility of the various strains of Colonial Spanish horses used by Native Americans. The event was attended by David Grant, Jimmy Maner, and Jackie McFadden.

DAR CATAWBA CHAPTER MEETING

September 15, 2009



The Catawba Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) has taken on our state heritage horse initiative as a chapter project. Janson Cox spoke at their September 15th meeting. His Marsh Tacky, Molly, and her foal Mariah were introduced to chapter members. Senator Mick Mulvaney attended the meeting with his wife, and his mother. The DAR also had a photo shoot for their international ad with Janson and Molly at the old Ebenezer Academy.

LIVESTOCK AND EQUINE RARE BREED FESTIVAL

October 17, 2009



Photo by Wylie Bell

Southern States in Florence hosted a Livestock & Equine Rare Breed Festival. David Grant had several Marsh Tackies on display. Other groups participating were the South Carolina Horseman Council and the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

LANCASTER VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

November 7, 2009



The Catawba Chapter of the DAR invited the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association to participate in the Lancaster Veteran's Day Parade. Sandy and Baker Cochran, dressed in Revolutionary Era clothing, brought their two Marsh Tackies, Dunlap and Geechee-girl. They followed the Marsh Tacky float filled with Patti Stafford's children and their friends. Jimmy Maner set up an informational table at the end of the parade with a display area for the horses. The Mayor of Lancaster, Joe M. Shaw, stopped by to see the Marsh Tackies. It was a wonderful chance to honor our veterans and the Marsh Tacky horses that served our country. Sandy and Baker also participated in events in Abbeville, and North August Living History Park, and spoke to school groups about the history of Marsh Tackies.

WELCOME 2009 NEW ARRIVALS

A few of our colts and foals born during 2009...



Photo by Janson Cox

Molly with foal Mariah
breeder Janson Cox



Photo by Patti Stafford

Lowcountry Geechee - colt
breeder Lee McKenzie

New Arrivals Continued...



Carolina with foal Savannah
breeder Dennis Benbow



Cypress - foal
breeder David Grant



Barrier Island Night Light
breeder Ed Ravenel



Barrier Island Day Light
breeder Ed Ravenel

Some of D. P. Lowther's 2009 babies -



Photos by Dennis Benbow, Jeannette Beranger, Susan Day, Jenifer Ravenel, Jackie McFadden



Thought of the Month: A dog may be man's best friend, but the horse wrote history.

MARSH TACKY ISLAND

In her upcoming book A. L. Newman, long-time Hilton Head Island resident, reminisces about life in simpler times growing up on "Marsh Tacky Island." The following are excerpts from her manuscript.

My eyes were as big as chinaware saucers as my daddy told us stories of marsh tacky horses running wild on Hilton Head Island. My daddy was a River man, (not by trade but by passion) with reddish skin weathered by years of salt water sting. His history lessons usually came while the "young uns" were bent over a picnic table heading shrimp or picking blue crab caught earlier that day. ...

We lived on the north end of the island where the working folks and many of the island natives lived. ... Down the river a bit lived a man with a Marsh Tacky horse named "Champ." He was very gentle and friendly. The owner didn't have much time for him, so Champ was lonely most days. When the gang got to ride after school at Mr. Marston's stables, sometimes we would travel the couple of country miles down Marshland Road to pick up Champ and let him have some fun with the rest of the horses, Champ was my friend, we had discovered a very special bond and it remained that way for many years. I have many heartfelt memories about this horse and our time in Marsh Tacky Island. ...

When you think of an island, naturally you think of palm trees and blue water, right? Back in the days of the "river rats" it was farm country. All along Hwy 278 there were beautiful rows of garden vegetables. It seemed like the corn was growing right up to the sky. Every day you could see a cow tied out behind old man Dreissen's place and a horse tied out in the pasture on the other side. The island was a Mecca of home grown bounty. ...

Time and people never cease to amaze me. Each day I travel these roads of Marsh Tacky Island fighting the never ending traffic on Hwy. 278. Once upon a time, you could ride a horse across on any given day. The license tags from other states increase each year right along with the congestion. The folks traveling and sharing these beautiful roads of South Carolina seem to have a need to get somewhere awfully fast. I believe they probably miss out on some of the most beautiful and desirable scenery there is in our land. But the tourists are in a big hurry to arrive in the paradise they are searching for and they are missing much of it as they pass by. ...

Whatever you do – stay out of the left hand lane, the view is much better on the right!

To read more about *Marsh Tacky Island*, visit A. L. Newman's website at: <http://www.marsh tacky island.vpweb.com/>

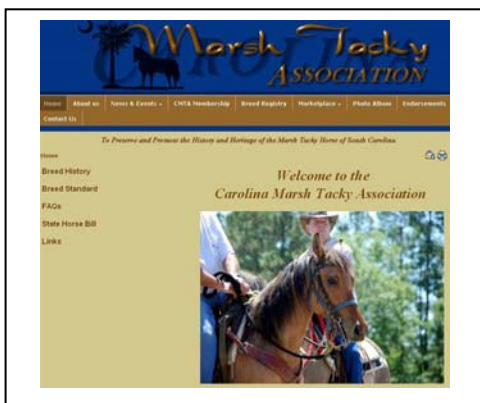
CMTA Spokesperson Elected



Congratulations to **Jimmy Maner**! He is CMTA's first elected spokesperson to organize and handle events, promotions and materials. If you have a Marsh Tacky event in mind, or need a speaker for a meeting, Jimmy is the person to call. The CMTA gives a big heartfelt thanks to Jimmy Maner for his time and talent in the betterment of the CMTA.

Jimmy Maner
130 Jimmy Love Lane, Apt. 102
Columbia, SC 29212
803-730-0735
jkmaner@hotmail.com

Contact Information



**** Visit our new website: www.marsh tacky.org ****
(Webmaster: Jackie McFadden)

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association (CMTA)

P.O. Box 1447, Hollywood, SC 29449
Email: marsh tacky@gmail.com
(843) 906-2274 or (843) 860-5736

Your CMTA board members are working hard to promote, preserve and educate the public on this wonderful breed. Please let any of us know if there is something you think the CMTA should do or if you would like to volunteer.

Information and Requests

Marsh Tacky Registry:

Owners, remember to send Jeannette Beranger updates on new births, sales, or deaths of your horses.

CMTA Membership:

Don't forget to renew your annual membership. The membership year begins at the time of the Annual Meeting in the Spring. Watch the website for the date.

Newsletter items:

We need descriptions of events, activities, stories of Marsh Tackies, research, reflections, observations, remembrance, etc. for upcoming newsletters.

Send to: Jackie McFadden, 1434 Alexander Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732, marsh tacky@gmail.com.

Breeder Information

DP Lowther
742 Glover Road
Ridgeland SC 29936
843-726-1274

David Grant - Carolina Marsh Tacky Outdoors
2637 Anderson Farm Road
Florence, SC 29501
843-858-0181
<http://www.carolinamarsh tacky.com>

Lee and Peggy McKenzie – Lowcountry Marsh Tackys
7763 Old Jacksonboro Rd
Adams Run SC 29426
843-889-3755
lowcountrymarsh tackys@gmail.com

Marion Gohagan – Gohagan's Guide Service
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

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association is a non-profit organization established in 2007 to preserve and promote the Marsh Tacky horse of South Carolina.

The *Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association.

Editor: Jackie McFadden
1434 Alexander Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29732 * Ph: 803-323-2322

Photographer: Jackie McFadden

Carolina *Marsh Tacky* Association
P.O. Box 1447
Hollywood, SC 29449



Save a Piece of Living History! Become a member of the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association!

Visit us at: www.marshacky.org