

Help Preserve a Living Piece
of Equine History

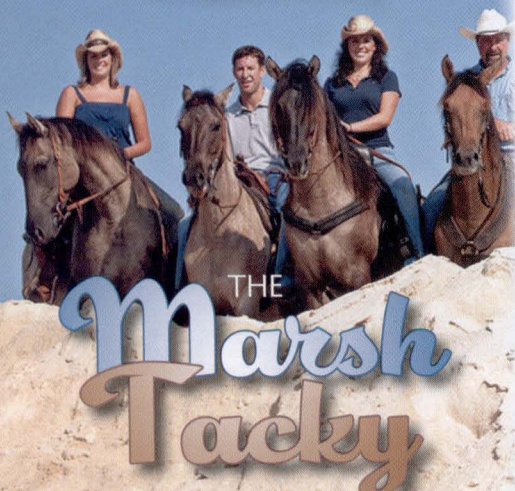


photo by Daniela Snyder www.equestrianimages.com

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association believes that the Marsh Tacky should be the State Heritage Horse because the breed played an important role in the history of South Carolina, is unique to the state, and state horse recognition would help to maintain the historical and preservation efforts of this endangered breed.

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Association needs your help with a very important bill. S.1030, a bill to designate the Marsh Tacky as the State Heritage Horse of South Carolina, has been introduced and is currently residing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Having the Marsh Tacky as the state horse would be beneficial to the state's tourism industry. Thousands of tourists travel to North Carolina each year to see the Banker Ponies, and the Florida Cracker Horse receives similar attention. Marsh Tackies are currently featured in Brookgreen Gardens' Domestic Animals of the Plantation exhibit, and Marsh Tackies will be included in Penn Center's upcoming Natural History Farm on Saint Helena Island. Other historic South Carolina sites could benefit from having rare, local equines as part of their collections.

Marsh Tackies were the first true horses in South Carolina. They managed to survive on their own after being abandoned by Spanish explorers in the 1500s. This distinctive strain of Colonial Spanish Horse developed on our Sea Islands and is unique to the state of South Carolina. Very few states can boast such a claim. This hearty little horse was crucial to the survival of the early settlers by offering a reliable means of labor and transportation. The Marsh Tacky assisted local troops in two wars and was essential to the agricultural and transportation needs of the Lowcountry.

The Marsh Tacky remains a living piece of history in the Palmetto state. You can help heighten awareness of this historic breed by supporting S. 1030, a bill designating the Marsh Tacky as the State Heritage Horse of South Carolina, by calling, e-mailing or writing to your state senators and representatives and asking them to support the Marsh Tacky as the state heritage horse. Showing statewide support for the Marsh Tacky is critical to the success of the bill. Please contact committee members as well as your local representatives, so that the Marsh Tacky can have a chance to claim its position as the state heritage horse.

You can find a list of representatives on the South Carolina legislature website:

www.scstatehouse.gov/cgi-bin/zipcodesearch.exe

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