



VOL. 20 ISSUE 6 | SUMMER 2024

Official Newsletter of the

# HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

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MUDDY BIRD  
HOA #2317

## ***"The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians and the Legacy of Marsh Tacky Horses***

The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, known for their rich history and cultural heritage, have been a pivotal part of the Native American community in South Carolina. The SC State Recognized tribe's origins can be traced back to the early days of European colonization, when they formed as a collective of various Native American groups including the Edisto, Etiwan, Cherokee, and Catawba. Over the years, they have persevered through challenges, maintaining their traditions and identity.

A particularly intriguing element of the Wassamasaw Tribe's legacy is their bond with the Marsh Tacky horse. Renowned for their hardiness and adaptability, these horses have been integral to the tribe's narrative. The Marsh Tacky, a scarce breed indigenous to South Carolina, was traditionally utilized for transport, agriculture, and warfare. These horses have been a part of the tribe since contact with the Spanish, and tribal members continue to breed and train these horses today.

The 2023 Wassamasaw Tribe Powwow featured the Marsh Tacky horses from Hardihood Acres. The horses that were featured had been bred and trained by Wassamasaw Tribal Elder John Speissegger and his family. This event not only highlighted the Marsh Tacky's historical significance but also emphasized its enduring role in the tribe's cultural practices. Attendees were treated to a display of the breed's unique characteristics and its historical use in the tribe's traditions. The Marsh Tacky, known for its adaptability and resilience, played a crucial role in the daily lives of the community all the way through the 1970s. As one of the oldest and most adaptable horse breeds, it has been integral to agricultural work, transportation, and ceremonial practices. The breed's endurance and versatility make it a symbol of the tribe's enduring connection to their heritage.

Following the success of the 2023 event, the Wassamasaw Tribe is thrilled to announce that Marsh Tacky horses will again be a focal point of their 2024 powwow, scheduled for October 12th 2024 at the Old Santee Canal Park in Moncks Corner, SC. This year's event will build upon the previous year's highlights with an expanded program dedicated to the breed. Attendees will witness live demonstrations showcasing the Marsh Tacky's abilities. Educational sessions will delve into the Marsh Tacky's rich history, its significance in the tribe's cultural practices, and ongoing efforts to preserve and promote this historic breed. Visitors will have the opportunity to interact with these remarkable horses, gaining a deeper appreciation for their role in the tribe's history.

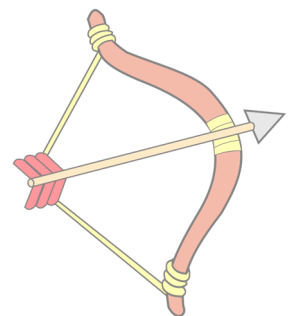
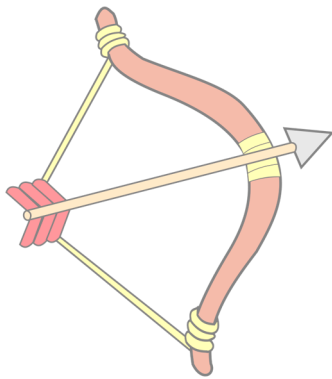
The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians remain steadfast in their commitment to preserving their cultural legacy. By featuring the Marsh Tacky horse in their powwow, they continue to honor and celebrate this vital aspect of their history. The 2024 powwow will serve as a vibrant testament to the tribe's dedication to cultural preservation and education, offering a day of community spirit, historical appreciation, and cultural enrichment."

Respectfully,  
Joshua Shumak, MBA



This is Mr. John Speissegger, Wassamasaw tribal elder, and his stallion, Barrier Island Nightlight aka Eddie (HOA 1934) and mare Lanie (HOA 2308) . These are the first 2 registered horses he added to his herd. He chose to add these 2 horses because of confirmation and temperament.

**Nightlight's Ace of Spades (HOA 2408) from Eddie and Lanie.**





Tim Shoemaker

# FOX HUNTING WITH CHOCTAWS

Tree of Life Hollow

Choctaw Indian Ponies and Horses are well-known in the Colonial Spanish Horse world for their endurance, intelligence, and the tight bonds they form with their people. These attributes, deliberately bred into them over hundreds of years – and shaped even further by the tragic anthropological circumstances of the Trail of Tears – make them excellent hunt horses in the field – especially when one considers their smooth gaits under saddle.



My personal horse, Windrider's Hatak Hullo "Sacred Man" HOA #1909 – a flashy red dun medicine hat – will start his third season with the James River Hunt this year. During previous seasons, he's left jaws on the ground from fellow members of the hunt and Hilltoppers alike for his long, extended trot, which I've clocked at 17 miles per hour while everyone around us was in a flat-gallop!



The trust we've built together from over 400 hours in the saddle and 1,500 miles on the trails allows me to hunt him bitless in an English Sidepull and his hard hooves allow him to remain barefoot in our region. If his trot and physical appearance (in an equestrian sport dominated by bays, chestnuts, and the occasional gray) doesn't get tongues wagging, turning out bitless and barefoot certainly does.

His keen intelligence, which he draws from his dam, Goblin's Prescription, truly shows out in the field where he's intently aware of the hounds working the woods, but allows him to remain unphased as they run alongside or just behind us.



This past season, I also had a unique opportunity to hunt with a friend's horse, Banjo Fox HOA #2383 – a gaited, high-percentage Cherokee. Banjo previously was used for field trials, so even though I hadn't ridden him often, I had a hunch it was worth taking him out for a spin – boy am I glad I did. His smooth, fast, gait was so comfortable I felt like I could ride him the whole day without tiring – even though the day was unseasonably warm and the pace was quick.

Fox Hunting is an equestrian sport steeped in tradition with roots going back to the early 1700s in America, particularly in Virginia and Maryland. While many of the landed gentry in America would've hunted with imported Thoroughbreds from England to display their wealth, many farmer packs existed throughout the south during that time.

Given the renowned livestock breeding skills of the Choctaw and Cherokee in the southeast during that period prior to their removal, it's more than likely some of these horses once hunted in this region hundreds of years ago – and those ties to the land and history of our nation make this sport an exciting one to participate in on a living piece of the past.





## **The Forgotten Nutrient**

### **By Becca Pizmoht**

Most of us spend countless hours thinking about the hay and feed our horses eat and the quality and content of our pastures but often forget about the most crucial nutrient of all- water.

Water is necessary for all animals and horses need two to three times more water than other feed. An average sized horse eating dry forage on a moderately warm day needs a minimum of 6-7 gallons ( 48-56 pounds ) of water and most will drink significantly more.

Most people realize that water consumption goes up during hotter weather to a minimum of 10 gallons per day but are surprised that a horse has equally high needs during cold weather. The combination of dry air and no fresh forage actually increases the need for water, often at a time where many sources are frozen solid.

There are three significant reasons to make sure your horse has access to clean, fresh water at all times:

1. Water helps maintain healthy digestion by helping with the breakdown and absorption of nutrients. It also helps reduce the incidence of colic as poor water consumption often causes impaction colic.
2. Water helps your horse maintain good health and body condition. Keeping well hydrated makes it easier to maintain proper weight and healthy coat and hoof quality. Water is necessary for all bodily functions; from pumping blood, to digestion, to properly working joints, lactation and filtering waste through the kidneys.
3. Water helps with feed utilization. If your horse is struggling to keep condition, poor water consumption may be a part of it. Proper hydration helps with nutrient absorption and reduces the need for excessive feeding.

While horses can survive up to a month without food they can only survive about 2 days without water. It is especially important to make sure they have access to clean sources during the hot and humid summer and the freezing winter months.

[www.BioStarUS.com](http://www.BioStarUS.com)

**Becca Pizmoht**

800-686-9544

**Equine Support Specialist**





## Timeline for the Spanish Horse in the Americas, Part I

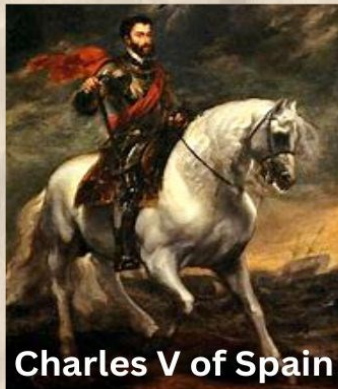
*This will be an ongoing educational piece provided by Beverley Davis,  
Irving, Texas. Mrs. Davis is an equine history researcher and writer.  
Additional editing/graphics by Gretchen Patterson, Historian*

**1492:** Complete liberation of Spain from the Moors and the European discovery of the Caribbean Islands and consequently the Americas by Christopher Columbus.

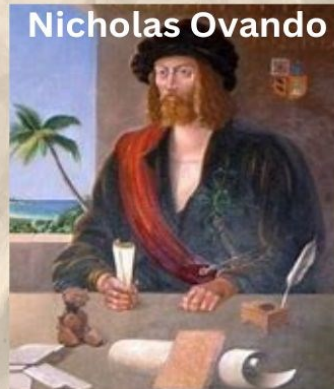
**1494:** Columbus brings 24 stallions and 10 mares to Hispaniola (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti).

**1495:** Fourteen mares arrive on Hispaniola. 106 more arrive from Seville, Spain and other places. Columbus notified the Spanish Crown that they ought to send mare with every ship to the New World.

**1498:** 40 horses and horsemen arrive on Columbus's third voyage.



Charles V of Spain



Nicholas Ovando

**1500:** The Spanish Crown has at least one brood ranch with 60 mares on it in the New World. Pedro Alvares Cabral discovers Brazil for Portugal.

**1501:** Don Nicholas de Ovando arrives with 18 of his best horses.

**1505:** The Portuguese build garrisons on the Moroccan coast to take it from the Muslims.

**1509:** Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Isabella and Ferdinand, marries Henry VIII and becomes Queen of England. Andalusian horses were part of her dowery. Henry also imported 6 Spanish racehorses for her personal stud. The Spanish captured the Algerian port of Oran. Future Spanish conquistador, Hernan Cortez was part of this raid to rid the Mediterranean of Muslim pirates.



**1511:** Diego Velasquez conquered Cuba and became the first governor of the island.

**1516:** Holy Roman Emperor Charles V becomes Carlos I of Spain.

**1519-1530:** Hernando de Soto explores much of Central America.

**1520:** On March 20, Charles V (King Carlos I) declared an embargo on the exportation of Spanish horses to the Americas; the embargo was lifted later that year.

**1521:** Hernán Cortéz arrived in Mexico with 19 horses. Among them was his black stallion, El Morzillo. He conquered the Aztec Empire. Ponce de León arrived in southern Florida with 200 men and 50 Puerto Rican bred horses.

**1526:** Spanish explorer, de Ayllon tried to settle a colony at Cape Lookout (Old name of Cape Feare) in the Carolinas. Many of the 89 horses with him were left behind when the colony was abandoned.

**1527:** Phillip II is born to Charles V and Isabella of Portugal. As an adult, Phillip became obsessed with breeding the perfect Spanish horse.

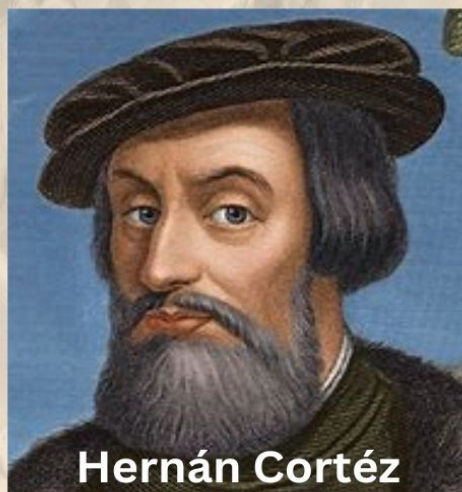
**1528:** Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca arrives with 42 horses in southern Florida. He lost almost as many during a storm (probably a hurricane)

**1529:** First livestock auction association formed in Mexico City for horses, cattle, and sheep. Mexico City was built on top of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan.

**1530:** Francisco Pizzaro conquered Peru and destroyed the Incan Empire. Hernando de Soto was with him.

**1534-1535:** Hernán Cortéz explored Lower (Baja) California.

**1535:** Pedro de Mendoza established Argentina. The Criollo Horse was descended from the horses brought to Argentina as this time



**Hernán Cortéz**



**1537: Charles V named Hernando de Soto as the governor of Cuba and Florida.**

**1539:** Hernando de Soto arrived in Florida with 600 men plus cattle, hogs, mules, and 350 Spanish horses near Tampa Bay.

**1540: Francisco Coronado arrived in New Mexico looking for the seven cities of gold. 1,500 horses and mules were included in the expedition.**

**1541:** Hernando de Soto is the first European to see the Mississippi River. During the winter of 1541-1542, de Soto and his men camp at the junction of the Canadian and Arkansas Rivers in Oklahoma. De Soto died on May 24, 1542. First Spanish horses arrive in Chile. Pedro de Valdivia brought them up from Peru; they were descended from Pizarro's horses.

**1544:** Father Rodrigo González Marmolejo is the first breeder of horses in Chile. Mapuche Indian aggressively defend their lands and eventually acquire Spanish horses.

**1547:** Hernán Cortéz died in Seville, Spain.

**1550:** Portuguese royalty finally gained control over Brazil.

**Part II of the Timeline will continue in the next HOA News.**





# Teaching A Horse to Cross Water

**Steve Edwards**

**Mill Swamp Indian Horses**



Recently I got an inquiry concerning how to teach a horse to go through water. There are many ways that this can be done. Different techniques work with different horses, but the same teaching principles apply to every horse.

Too often our quest for "how" causes us to forget the essential "why's." My first exposure to natural horsemanship confused me because I wanted a list of directions instead of being told to learn to see things as the horse sees them. My answer might frustrate the person who asked how to teach horses to cross water but it is the best answer that I can give.

1. Turn the noise down. If frustration causes you to view the experience as failure on the part of either you or your horse you will send out body language signals that teach the horse that water is a place of stress and tension. Let your body relax as you approach not only the water but the entire training session. Shoulders down, no eye contact---breath in synchronicity with the horse. When the horse fails to go in the water remain absolutely calm.

2. Apply pressure and release with 100% consistency. A horse that is lead to water, pulled towards it with a rope halter who then balks or rears, only to find that the pressure is released when he does so is quickly being taught that when one approaches water one is to balk and rear. Start out away from the water. Lead the horse with gentle pressure and release the pressure the millisecond the horse begins to consider thinking about the possibility of going forward. Escalate pressure until he does so. The amount of pressure used is not nearly as important as how quickly that pressure is released when compliance begins.

Reward the horse with instant affection for his effort to comply. Give him five or six black oil sunflower seeds along with that affection. In short, teach the horse which behavior is sought. Sounds simple but this is where most people fail in training. When pressure is released for bad behavior one teaches bad behavior. When pressure is not released for desired behavior one teaches the horse that he is helpless to control the pressure put on him and compliance is irrelevant because regardless of his actions the pressure remains.



3. Set aside an entire day to teach without any interruptions. I would lead the horse to the water and encourage him to follow me into it using only a rope halter and some sunflower seeds. Pressure and release. Approach the water as closely as possible. Encourage him to go 2 inches closer than he did on the last try--release and reward when he does.

4. We often use the horse's desire to be part of the herd to teach him to be comfortable in water by riding the balking horse in a line with ten or fifteen horses who enter the water without pause.

5. We have one huge advantage over others with water issues. We have a section of trail about .3 miles that is submerged most of the year. Water depth ranges from less than an inch to about 30 inches. When a horse begins to cross water, albeit reluctantly we ride through that trail with several other calm horses.

No gimmicks or tricks--simple 100% consistency with pressure and release and an understanding of herd dynamics, joined with absolute self control of emotions and a willingness to stand in a swamp for hours if that is what it takes to make your horse relax.

As I read over this I strongly suspect that others will think that this is too hard and that if one tried this technique or that technique the horse would hop right in. Maybe most horses would. That is not how we teach. I am not critical of others who have found success using other methods but if a technique does not lead me to better understand the mind of the horse than I have no use for it.

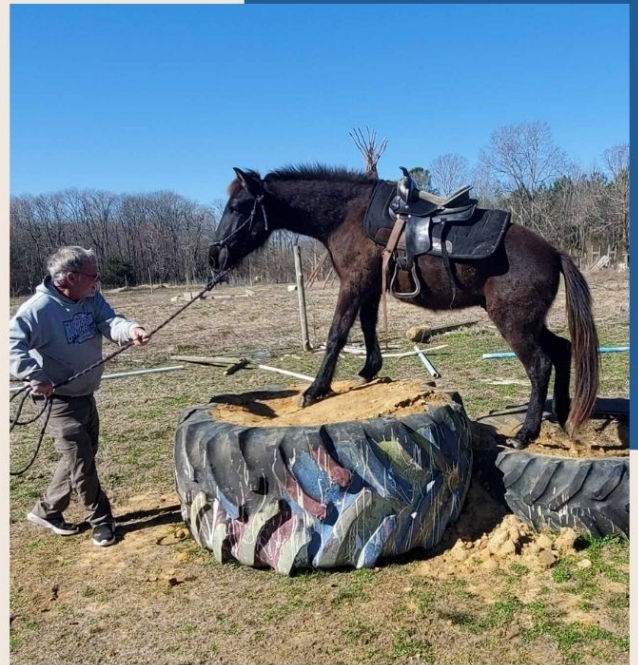
Here is the most difficult thing for most people to accept. When I teach a horse having the horse achieve the goal is only half of the mission. If the experience has not made me a better person--more kind, more gentle, more of a leader, more patient and more in control of my emotions than I have little use for the technique.





# Insulin Resistance

I am not a veterinarian. I am simply a curious person who sees a need for serious research on developing a comprehensive protocol to prevent and treat insulin resistance and its offshoots, metabolic disorder, laminitis, and founder. I am not urging anyone to follow this protocol. I simply offer it to urge more study. Some of these steps are controversial, particularly using an occasional fasting component. As always follow the advice of your veterinarian.



We should not call metabolic disorder a "silent killer". It is obvious. It is open. It is there for any but the blindest to see. We are trapped into thinking that horse's are like people and therefore should be given the pleasure of having their bodies abused the same way that people love to abuse their own bodies--namely though keeping them obese, restricting their movement, keeping them out of sunlight, seeking to eliminate their exposure to varying degrees of heat and cold, reducing their fiber intake to a level much lower than they evolved to digest, and, of course, flooding them with high sugar feeds.

Ironically, horses are becoming as sick and unhealthy as are their owners, perhaps because they are treated like 21st Century people. It might very well be that the same enlightened health strategies that some health-conscious people use to care for themselves can provide the key to making horses healthier.

I have been pleased with using some of these strategies to reduce chronic inflammation and to increase insulin sensitivity. Some of these steps would be considered heretical by the established horse, world but innovation has always found few friends in hat world. That means a health protocol that looks something like this:





1. Allow horses to get hot in the summer and cold in the winter.
2. Minimize, with an eye towards eliminating, all added sugars in the horse's diet.
3. Build a solid baseline of slow trotting exercise and after several months include lengthy intervals of elevated heart rate work.
4. Rely on a diet of relatively low calorie, high fiber, hay during the lengthy period in which the horse's fat accumulation will be reduced.
5. Use probiotics.
6. Reduce emotional stress by having the horse become part of a small band of horses who eventually become compatible in a large paddock.
7. Use techniques of natural horsemanship to increase the horse's confidence and reduce chronic stress during the metabolic rebuilding period.
8. Use powdered 2-1 mineral on their hay or at least have it there free choice.
9. For a very few times over a multi week period allow the horse to go up to 18 hours without eating.

And ride, and ride and ride.

*Steve Edwards*

*Mill Swamp Indian Horses*







**MILL SWAMP  
INDIAN HORSES**

## **Win a Weekend Getaway And Support the Programs of Mill Swamp Indian Horses at Gwaltney Frontier Farm!**

Enter Here: <https://gffef.betterworld.org/giveaways/weekend-getaway-at-timberline-ra>



Escape to nature and indulge in a long weekend retreat at Timberline Ranch and Mill Swamp Indian Horses– your ticket to relaxation!

Enter our drawing for a chance to win an unforgettable stay in the heart of scenic beauty. Experience the rustic charm of Timberline Ranch and Mill Swamp Indian Horses with:

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Serene hiking trails and a creek to explore nature's wonders at Timberline Ranch and Mill Swamp Indian Horses.

Outdoor activities like horseback riding, tour Gwaltney Frontier Farm, a Virginia Century Farm and meet endangered heritage breed livestock, and Colonial Spanish horses.

● Campfire evenings under the starlit sky, roasting marshmallows and sharing stories. We often gather to play music too. If you play, bring your instrument!

### **More prizes!**

Throw size quilt in lovely horse print fabric.

Goat milking lesson

Cinch weaving or rein braiding lesson.

Booking dates for Timberline Ranch Cottage are subject to availability at the time of prize award. At this time, 2025 has a lot of available dates to choose from.

Cottage accommodation portion of the prize package to be awarded as a \$600 Airbnb Gift Card. Winner may opt to book their stay at an alternate Airbnb location of their choosing. Booking at Timberline Ranch is subject to availability. Guests may book the cottage up to 12 months in advance. Winner must have, or create a valid Airbnb account to use prize.

Most programs at Mill Swamp Indian Horses are from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon. Scheduling of activities at Mill Swamp Indian Horses to be done by guest with Mr. Edwards. Timberline Ranch hosts will assist in activity planning as needed. Fridays are farm school days. Saturday mornings are riding lessons and trail rides. Sundays are trail rides. Horseback riding and lessons require boots or hard shoes with a heel. We provide helmets for those that do not own one. The Trail riding portion of the prize is contingent upon guest completion of lesson and safety briefing, and proficiency level determined by the instructor. For those that do not wish to ride, other activities with the horses will be offered.





# CopperHeadRanch



## **Color Me America (Merica)**

**Red Roan Stallion**

**Sire Rigoletto's Something Special**

**Dam Washita River**

HOA and AIHR registered. Two foals born this year. Located near Chandler , TX



Misty Blue Moon Rising with colt CHR Coope Head Road foaled 3/29/24

Sombre Del Sol with filly Pocket Full of Sunshine foaled May 1, 2024



**CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com Copper Head Ranch on Facebook**

**copperheadcsh.com**





## **A Princess Appears (Leia)**

Bay Filly Foaled 5-4-2022

Dam: My Wonder Woman

Sire: Northern Song



## **Come Along Willy**

Champagne Gelding foaled 2015

Dam My Wonder Woman

Sire Torchwood

Green broke but needs the miles

## **Blue's Heather Breeze**

Blue corn roan mare foaled 2017

Dam Misty Blue Moon Rising

Sire Rigoletto's Something Special

Started under saddle but will need miles



## **Gringo Pistolero**

Red dun gelding Foaled 2020

Dam Honci

Has been saddled but not ridden

**Contact Curtis George or Patricia Leopold @ [Copperheadcsh.com](mailto:Copperheadcsh.com)  
[CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com](mailto:CopperHeadCSM@yahoo.com) or Copper Head Ranch on Facebook**





# FOR SALE

*Rhythm of My Heart*

RED DUN | GELDING | 18YRS OLD | HOA # 1546  
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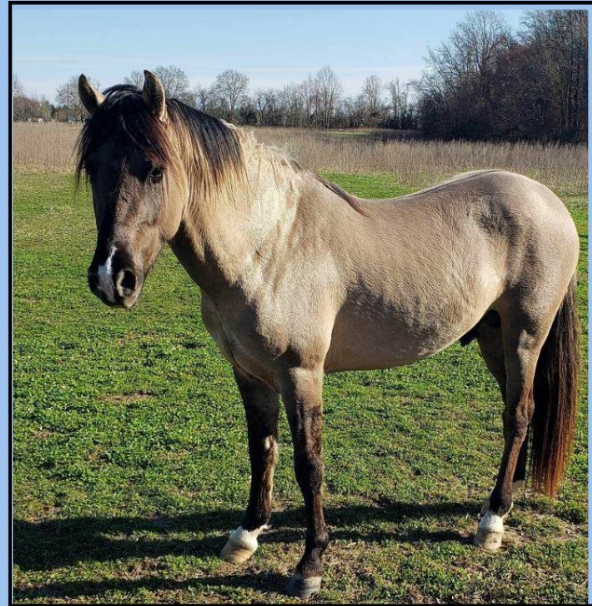
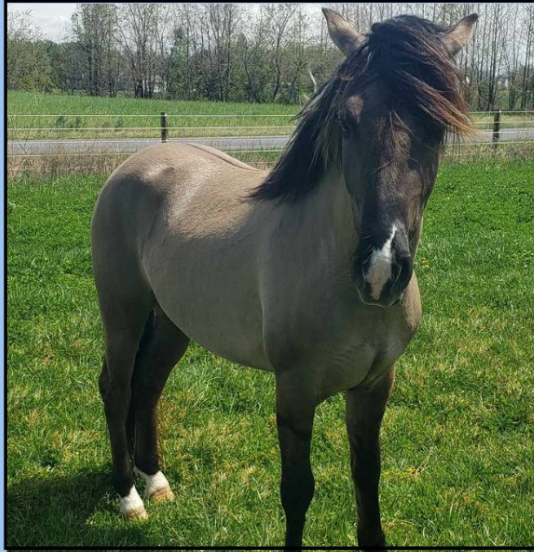


KARMA FARMS  
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MARSHALL, TX  
903-407-0298



# **MARSH TACKY STALLION FOR LEASE**

**Care Lease (Located in Greensboro, Maryland)**



## **Pluff Mud's Storm Tide**



**2020 MT Stallion, TLC-602; HOA-Pending**

**Contact: Pamela Landskroener**

**pamholland87@gmail.com**

**or text 540-257-3011**



# REGISTRATION & TRANSFER FEES

WEANLINGS REGISTRATION: \$15.00

YEARLINGS REGISTRATION: \$20.00

OVER 2YRS REGISTRATION: \$30.00

TRANSFER: \$10.00

TRANSFER WITH NEW CERTIFICATE: \$20.00

## INTERNATIONAL FEES

WEANLINGS REGISTRATION: \$20.00

YEARLINGS REGISTRATION: \$25.00

OVER 2YRS REGISTRATION: \$35.00





# HOA HORSES FOR SALE?

Do you have an HOA horse up  
for sale?

Contact [mickeypliakos@hotmail.com](mailto:mickeypliakos@hotmail.com) about  
posting them on our website!



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