

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

NEWSLETTER



*Barrier Island Nightlight, HOA-1934; MT-288
The first Carolina Marsh Tacky registered by HOA.*

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our contributors for taking the time to share their stories, experiences and knowledge with our membership. This kind of sharing is one of the great things that the HOA organization inspires among lovers of Colonial Spanish Horses across the country. Individually, we are horse people who recognize, appreciate and love these incredible horses, but together, we are a force that can actively save them from extinction. To truly preserve the unique traits and genetic

makeup of this breed and share its diversity and wide range of capabilities with the world, we can only succeed by working together, sharing experience and helping one another. I am thankful that the HOA organization recognizes the importance of these collaborative efforts and that its members are eager and actively working to do just that. Questions? Ideas for future news-letter articles? I would love to hear from you. glpatterson@gmail.com

President's Message

Andrea Mulnix

As we head into 2026, I want to take a minute to introduce myself. I first found out about HOA in the early 2000's when I was looking to buy a horse. I went to the Rare Breeds Horse Expo in Iowa and ended up meeting some people representing HOA at that time (including Tom Norush and Brett Peckosh) along with their horses. I ended up eventually purchasing an SMR weanling filly bred by Mike and Melanie Pittman that I double registered with HOA.

MP Gypsy Queen who will be 23 in the spring, carried me through shows, trails, ranch sorting, and numerous MN Horse Expo's. She won numerous awards with HOA. Later on, I acquired more CS horses, and started breeding them. I currently live in Montana with my family raising Colonial Spanish Horses. Through the years I have remained active in HOA and was formerly the secretary. As we look to the future hoping you will join us in our efforts to strengthen HOA and offer support to our membership. Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns/ideas you may have.

Vice-President's Message

Amy Dalton Speissegger

Horses have always been central to my life, guiding my passions for farming and art. After earning degrees in art education and special education, I taught and volunteered in schools from 1996–2025. In 2011, I discovered the Carolina Marsh Tacky and felt a deep connection to the breed's resilience, inspiring years of study, photography, and award-winning artwork focused on these horses.



Andrea & *MP Gypsy Queen*
HOA-1654

In 2020, my life shifted as my family welcomed our first Marsh Tacky foal and I purchased my first horse of the breed. With my husband, John, I founded Hardihood Acres in Salley, South Carolina, where we run a Carolina Marsh Tacky preservation program rooted in genetic diversity and Colonial Spanish standards. Our farm maintains a small, carefully managed herd and produces about one foal per year.

Hardihood Acres also serves as an educational space, welcoming small groups to learn about Marsh Tackies, horsemanship, and confidence building, and participating in community and cultural events. Since 2020, I have served on the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association board, worked with The Livestock Conservancy, and now serve as Vice-President of the Horse of the Americas, continuing efforts to preserve Colonial Spanish horses for future generations.

I look forward to working with a great group of people with honesty, unity, grace, and respect for the common cause of preserving The Colonial Spanish Horses. Working along with people that have the same passion, the future of the Horse of the Americas is unstoppable. It is my honor and privilege to be the Vice President of Horse of the Americas.

The Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse

Amy Dalton-Speissegger

Spanish Horses in America and Their Legacy in the Southeast



Marsh Tacky mares at Hardihood Acres, SC

The Carolina Marsh Tacky horse embodies a living legacy of early Spanish colonization, Native American adaptation, and centuries of cultural exchange in the southeastern United States. Descended from Iberian horses, it became integral to Indigenous communities, colonial economies, and regional survival, reflecting its origins, spread, and preservation over time.

Spanish Horses in the Americas

Spanish horses arrived in the Americas in 1493, when Christopher Columbus brought them to the Caribbean and established a breeding stud on Hispaniola. From there, Iberian horses spread through colonial breeding centers, supporting Spanish exploration and forming the foundation of the Colonial Spanish Horse.

Spanish Exploration in the Southeastern United States

Spanish explorers introduced horses to the southeastern United States in the early 1500s through expeditions led by figures such as Ponce de León, de Ayllón, Menéndez de Avilés, and de Soto. These journeys carried livestock and other European animals, accelerating their spread across Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas.



Impact on Southeastern Native American Societies

Spanish exploration devastated Native American populations in the Southeast, bringing disease, violence, and social disruption. By the mid-1500s, Spanish focus shifted to Catholic missions, contributing to the collapse of chiefdoms and the emergence of less centralized Native societies.

The Spread and Adoption of Horses

Despite Spanish control efforts, horses quickly spread through the Southeast, reaching tribes like the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. Indigenous peoples used them for hunting, travel, warfare, and status, with trade and exchange spreading horses widely before European settlement, transforming mobility, subsistence, and military practices.

Indigenous Horse Cultures in South Carolina and Beyond

Before European arrival, the Cusabo inhabited South Carolina. Southeastern tribes captured and bred Spanish horses, using them for ranching, hunting, trade, warfare, and cultural practices. As the deerskin trade declined, horses gained economic importance and held spiritual significance in art, ceremonies, and stories. By the 1600s, English explorers noted Southeastern Native Americans riding "fine, Spanish horses," including Chickasaw ponies—ancestors of the Marsh Tacky—descended from Spanish horses that escaped into the wild. Linguistic evidence shows horses' role in trade: the Caddo adopted the Spanish term *cavali*, while the Choctaw created *isuba* ("deer-resembler"), reflecting integration into Indigenous cultural frameworks.

Economic Shifts and Forced Removal

After the American Revolution, the decline of the deerskin trade led Native communities to raise horses and engage in slave trading, with horse theft becoming common. The 1830 Indian Removal Act forced Southeastern tribes westward, dispersing Colonial Spanish Horses across the U.S., though Native equestrian traditions persisted in new lands.

Horses, Native Nations, and the American Revolutionary War in the Southeast

Southeastern Native nations played key but varied roles in the Revolutionary War. The Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, and Choctaw at the *Battle of Black Mingo Creek* mostly sided with the British to resist colonial expansion, while the Catawba supported the Patriots as scouts and warriors. Driven by land defense and survival, Native involvement ultimately led to severe losses, including land cessions, population decline, and displacement.

Horses and Military Logistics

Horses were vital to the Revolutionary War, enabling cavalry, pulling artillery and supply wagons, transporting officers and messages, and supporting agriculture. They were essential for sustaining military operations in the southern colonies.

Spanish Horses and the Southern Colonies

Until the mid-eighteenth century, Spanish-derived horses dominated the southern colonies. By the 1750s, Charleston planters and wealthy landowners began importing English Thoroughbreds. As Thoroughbreds became status symbols among elites, Spanish horses increasingly became associated with poorer whites, Native Americans, enslaved Africans, and children. Nevertheless, these smaller, hardy horses—often referred to as “tackies”—remained essential for labor, travel, and military service. Many Revolutionary soldiers supplied their own horses, relied on local mounts, or used captured enemy horses for remounts.

Horse Capture and Use in the War

The capture of horses during battle was common practice. A well-known example occurred at the Battle of Black Mingo Creek in September 1780, when Patriot commander Francis Marion captured the horse of Colonel John Coming Ball, a Loyalist militia leader. Ball fled the field, leaving behind a “large and superior” sorrel gelding. Marion named the horse “Ball” and rode it for the remainder of the war and for several years afterward.

Horses were also voluntarily donated or loaned by colonists and plantation owners. Contemporary accounts emphasize the importance of mounting officers on the best horses available. One source noted:

“During the war it was, of course, of the highest importance that the officers and men of



Battle of Black Mingo Creek, 1780

Painting by Dale Watson

the Revolutionary army should be mounted on as good of horses as the country could supply. Many gentlemen possessing fine horses willingly lent them to their friends.” *Ravenel Records* pg. 38

The Ravenel family of South Carolina donated several horses to the Patriot cause, including a mare named Lucy. According to an account from the period, Mr. Ravenel presented himself for service mounted on a “common plantation tackey”. Mr. Ravenel states, “I have come to serve my country, but as it is indispensable I should be well mounted, I desire you to let me have the use of my own horses.’ He named Lucy.” *Ravenel Records*, pg 38. General Francis Marion granted the request, allowing Ravenel to ride Lucy.

British and Loyalist Horse Procurement

British and Hessian forces faced significant challenges in supplying horses, as transporting them across the Atlantic was costly and risky. Losses at sea were common. As a result, British commanders often relied on capturing or purchasing horses locally. Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, commanding the British Legion, obtained horses through seizure and purchase in areas ranging from Beaufort to Moncks Corner after earlier shipments were lost.

Although the quality of locally acquired horses was often inferior to those shipped from New York, British cavalry units adapted quickly and sought opportunities to improve their mounts through further engagements.

Horses were central to the Revolutionary War, supporting cavalry, transport, communication, and agriculture, while Southeastern Native nations navigated complex alliances that led to devastating losses. Understanding the Southern war requires recognizing both horses' role and the impact on Indigenous peoples.

Carolina Marsh Tackies: Relics of South Carolina

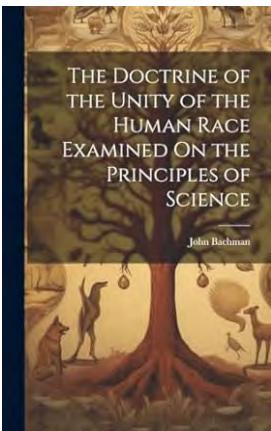
The Carolina Marsh Tacky, descended from Colonial Spanish horses, adapted to South Carolina's environment and became vital to the region's agriculture, culture, and society. This section explores its role and unique traits.

Early descriptions underscore Marsh Tacky's uniqueness. In *Doctrine of the Unity of the Human Race, Examined on the Principles of Science*, the breed is described as markedly different in form and size from other horses in common use:

“Different both in form and size from the other breeds in common use. They are hardy and sure-footed. We have seen many of these with shaggy coats and two kinds of hair, the outer coat long and rigid, and the inner soft and woolly, like that of the buffalo.”

By the late eighteenth century, the term

“Chickasaw” had spread northward from Carolina to describe, if not a distinct breed, then a valued type of saddle horse derived from Spanish American stock. These horses were prized for endurance, tractability, and



resilience—traits that became synonymous with the Marsh Tacky.

Naturalist James John Audubon, writing in 1846, famously described Marsh Tackies as “tough as a pine knot,” a testament to their calm disposition, adaptability, and steady nature in unfamiliar or demanding situations.

Following the Civil War, Marsh Tackies became fixtures in the Lowcountry, particularly within the Gullah Geechee community. They served essential agricultural and transportation roles on barrier islands and plantations, contributing directly to daily survival and economic life. Well into the twentieth century, the breed remained woven into regional culture, including recreational uses such as beach racing on Hilton Head Island during the 1960s and 1970s.

The Marsh Tacky's history is tied to Auldbrass Plantation on the Combahee River, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright from 1939 for C. Leigh Stevens, including a barn specifically for Marsh Tacky horses. Though only half the project was completed, Hollywood producer Joel Silver and architect Eric Lloyd Wright restored and



expanded it in 1987, preserving both Wright's vision and the site's equine heritage.

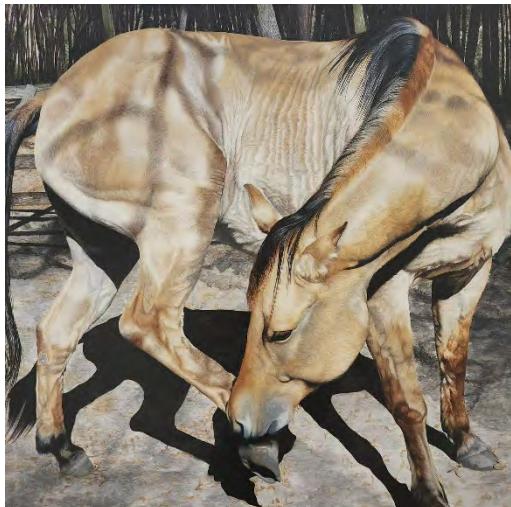
Start of Preservation

The survival of the Carolina Marsh Tacky into the modern era is the result of dedicated stewardship. Families and individuals who maintained these horses across generations—such as the Ravenel family, D. P. Lowther, Ricky Warren, A. L. MacKenzie, Charles Hill, William

Platt and Marion Gohagan, among others—played a critical role in preservation. Equally important were Jeanette Berenger, Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, and The Livestock Conservancy, who established a closed registry and led efforts to recognize the Marsh Tacky as South Carolina's State Heritage Horse. Without these combined efforts, the breed would likely have become extinct.

Breeding programs exist in South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and Virginia. Information on breeders can be found through The Livestock Conservancy Breeders Directory, Horse of the Americas listings, and established networks within the Marsh Tacky community.

Native American horse preservation focuses on protecting rare ancestral horse lineages, such as Colonial Spanish types, that are vital to tribal culture and heritage. Efforts emphasize genetic conservation and the continuation of traditional knowledge, supported by organizations like the American Indian Horse Registry, Mill Swamp Indian Horse, Hardihood Acres, and Sacred Way Sanctuary. These initiatives highlight the enduring relationship between Native peoples



and the horse as a living cultural legacy.

Out and About

Today, Marsh Tackies continue to serve as ambassadors of South Carolina history. They have been featured in artworks exhibited in shows such as *Marsh Tacky: Then and Now* at

the Discovery Museum in Hilton Head, Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, and the Society of Animal Artists exhibition at the Arts Center in Aiken.

The breed is also represented at public venues including Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, the Discovery Museum in Hilton Head, the Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society on Daufuskie Island, and the Kentucky Horse Park.

Marsh Tackies actively support education and community programs, from homeschool



curricula and equine-assisted therapy to heritage and horsemanship programs. They appear at events like powwows, expos, reenactments, and parades, and compete in modern equestrian disciplines, showcasing their versatility while connecting history, culture, and education.

Conclusion

Physically, the Carolina Marsh Tacky is a sturdy, small horse known for intelligence, sound temperament, and remarkable self-sufficiency. Their minimal maintenance needs, combined with athletic ability and adaptability, have made them invaluable for centuries—serving roles in farming, hunting, travel, endurance, and even combat. As a living link to South Carolina's past, the Marsh Tacky remains both a cultural treasure and a testament to survival through adaptation.

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Nightlight's Blackjack, HOA-2410, MT-00574
By Barrier Island Nightlight and out of LL Sasha Southern Beauty

Uncle Harley; HOA-1445

By Jacob Anderson



The world is full of “great” horses. People spend millions of dollars buying these “great” horses. Well, I’m happy to say that I have a great horse. Not a horse with famous show ancestors, but a horse that’s a pure Spanish Mustang. I think that’s one of the best things you can have. I have had this honor bestowed on me by the kind and wonderful people of the HOA, who awarded me this horse in an essay contest.

I went with Steve Edwards to the HOA meeting to see if I could help out. I had no idea I had won the essay at this time. While I was there, there was a good looking horse in the round pen. I stepped in and he seemed a little nervous, but in a little while I was able to pet him. I was doing this for a while when I realized Steve was watching me. Usually he would not want me in a round pen with a wild horse without his permission, but today he was silent so I knew something was fishy. An hour or so later the winner of the essay was about to be announced. I didn’t think I had won, so I was going to help out a fellow rider with a horse. As I walked by Steve, he grabbed my arm and told me to wait. At this point I started to realize I had won. When they called my name I was overwhelmed with joy.

(Continued on page 9)

Grumblings from the Grumpy Old Man

By Tom Norush – Attica, IN
Reprinted from 2021 (Posthumous)

I started writing this in late 2020, just after the election. We weren’t able to publish a newsletter at the time, so I’ve been holding on to it.

We have just finished an election for the leadership of our country. Half of the people are happy, the other half very unhappy. I don’t remember the country ever being this divided before. While I was out feeding my horses this evening, the thought came to me that the Colonial Spanish Horse world is in a similar situation.

Most of you know that I have pushed for unity among the different registries for ever. I firmly believe that until we can come together in our common interest we are not helping to save our horses. We are mimicking our elected officials and choosing self-interest over the good of the horses.

A very close friend last summer told me (in my words, not hers) that I am talking the talk, but not walking the walk. I was not always being positive about the other registries, etc. I was pushing unity, but looking for things with which to discount the other registries. And, yes, I was doing that very thing. Sometimes I need a 2x4 to the back of my head.

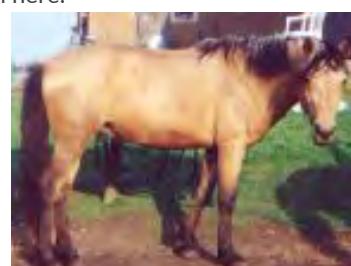
Our country is in turmoil and, sad to say, so is our Colonial Spanish Horse community. I don’t have any idea of how to solve the problems with our society, nor of the problems within the world of Colonial Spanish Horses. I do feel that we all need to come together for our horses. That’s not to say that your favorite bloodlines or strains are not good, but that we all need to be able to look at these horses with open and inclusive eyes and minds.

We have lost a number of the older breeders and those that are still around aren’t breeding many horses these days. I haven’t bred a horse in a few years now; I can’t afford to and don’t want the extra work ... getting a bit old to be fooling with foals. And I know I am not alone in that situation.

Can we have an open, honest discussion and exchange of ideas on what we can do for these horses as one united force, or are we looking at the end of the Spanish Mustangs/Colonial Spanish Horses? How many different registries are there for our horses? And how many registries are just sitting there for a few horses? How many registries are gone, and where are all the horses that they had registered?

We, in my humble opinion, need to have a national conversation about the future of our horses. I think it would be great if we could call a convention (a congress?) of Colonial Spanish/ Spanish Mustangers together to talk, combine ideas, strategize and work to help save our horses together. (By the way, I read somewhere that a group of baboons is also called a congress. Fitting????)

In 2015, I wrote about what we wanted for the HOA and our Spanish Horses. It’s been more than six years, but we (HOA) are still here and active. And our wonderful Spanish Horses are still here.



*Yellow Thunder, HOA-1020;
Tom Norush & Crooked Fence Acres
Horse of the Americas - Winter 2025*

Uncle Harley, continued

When we got him home, we calmed him down and desensitized him. I was petting him when Steve thought I should get on him. We saddled him up and I got on him. He was calm and I decided not to stress him out to much so I got off after a minute. (That was the picture of me with the green helmet on him).

I did not ride him much for a few weeks after that because of school and the early dark hours of winter. But right after it warmed up a little, I started riding him more and more. Soon, I took him on his first ride in the woods. I am proud to say that in the time I have had him, he has never bucked once.

When I first rode him he was not in the best shape and couldn't go 5 miles without acting like he was going to die. Now he is muscular and never tires. He has ridden at midnight on several occasions and we have taken each other to new places. He has even saved me on several occasions when I wasn't sure what to do (like in a 90 degree ditch with briars so thick you couldn't see past them).

In addition to this on September 26-27, Harley and I did 75 miles without breaking a sweat, 50 miles on Saturday and 25 on Sunday. I don't know about y'all, but to me, that's impressive.

Harley is perfect for me and I couldn't have a better horse. I thank again all the folks of the HOA that gave me this wonderful horse. I will continue to ride him over the hills and fields of this beautiful country.

"Nothing impresses me more then the bond between a horse and its rider."

--Jacob Anderson

THE AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE REGISTRY, INC.

Since 1961, AIHR has been dedicated to honoring the Horses of Native American tribes & nations.

For more information contact:



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The American Indian Horse ~~~ an Original

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Photo: Wild Mustang in Little Book Cliffs; Credit: Traildog Artisans, Adobe Stock



Timothy Shoemaker; *Windrider's Hatak Hullo (Manny)*; HOA-1909

A
Day
at
The
James
River Hunt
Virginia
Tidewater
Horse Trails
&
Bacon's
Castle



Samantha Shoemaker on *Cannelle d'Or*; HOA pending



Saddling up for the hunt--Timothy Shoemaker; Cannelle & "Manny"



Samantha Shoemaker, Gwendolyn & Cannelle

(l-r) Timothy Shoemaker;
Windrider's Hatak Hullo
Samantha Shoemaker;
High Gloss (TB)

Kait Troutner,
Morgan Burton,
Michael Lovejoy on
modern bred mounts



Photos courtesy of the
James River Hunt

The Hunt

By Tree of Life Hollow – A short fictional narrative which captures the thrill of the hunt while highlighting the quiet significance of these rare Colonial Spanish and Choctaw horses, their endurance, and their heritage. The understatement and restraint let the action and brief exchanges convey the emotion and weight of preserving something ancient and valuable.

The morning was cold and the grass was wet. We stood in the field with the horses and waited for the hounds to be brought out. My Colonial Spanish mare was small and dark and she stood very still. She was one of the old breed. There were not many left. "They're rare now," Tim said. He sat his own Choctaw gelding, a handsome medicine hat. "Not many people know about them." "They were here before any of the others," I said. "That's right."

The hounds came out and they were eager. Their voices carried across the field. The mare's ears went forward. She knew what was coming. The huntsman cast the hounds and we waited. It was very quiet except for the hounds working. Then one gave tongue and another and then they were all speaking at once. The fox had been found. We went after them.

The mare was fast and she was steady. The ground was soft from rain but she never stumbled. We jumped a fallen tree and then a trench and the hounds were running hard ahead of us. The mare's hooves struck the ground in rhythm.

She had done this for hundreds of years, her kind. Long before the Thoroughbreds came. Long before any of this was written down. Tim was beside me and we galloped across an open field.

The hounds were a half mile ahead now, their voices faint. The mare wanted to run faster. I let her.

We rode for an hour. The hounds checked twice and cast again and found the line. The mare never tired. She was small but she had the heart of something much larger. The Spanish had bred them that way, long ago. The Choctaw had kept them that way.

When the fox went to ground we stopped on a hilltop. The horses were breathing hard but not badly. Tim looked at his gelding and then at my mare. "They're something," he said. "Yes." "It would be a shame to lose them." "Yes," I said. "It would be a shame."

We rode back slowly. The sun was higher now and the grass was drying. The mare walked with her head low, relaxed. She had done her work and she had done it well. In the spring she would have a foal, if things went right.

One more of the old line. That was the important thing. That was what mattered. The hunt was good but the horses were better. They had been here longer than any of us. They would be here after, if we did it right.

We put them away in their field and gave them hay. The mare ate quietly. I stood and watched her for a while.

Then I went inside where it was warm.

HOA AWARDS

It's Awards Season Again!

The Horse of the Americas Awards Program is designed to promote and acknowledge the accomplishments of HOA members and their HOA-registered Colonial Spanish Horses through shows, trail competitions, parades, farm and ranch work and various other horse activities.

An overview of the HOA Awards is provided here. Award submission forms and a complete list of rules and instructions can be found on the HOA website at: <https://horseoftheamericas.com>.

Submissions for this year should be mailed or emailed to Gretchen Patterson no later than January 31, 2026. Award recipients will be announced February 28, 2026.

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Burn The Ships, HOA-2376 & Samantha Shoemaker



Horse of the Americas Awards

CAROL STONE AMBASSADOR AWARD

Awarded to the HOA MEMBER who accumulates the most points in the Promotion category from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

This is an annual award given in loving memory of Carol Stone, a long time friend and lover of Colonial Spanish Horses and their owners.

Points are awarded for:

- Promotion to the Public (local) – 5 points/day (schools, library, youth groups, parades, etc.)
- Promotion to the Public (national) – 10 points/day (expos, fairs, festivals, local or national)
- News Article (local) – 10 points
- News Article (national) – 15 points
- Media Advertising Promoting HOA – 1 point (ads, flyers, brochures for exposure)
- Each photo in an article – 1 point

BUCKAROO AWARD

Awarded to HOA MEMBERS who are 18 years of age or younger for accumulating 50 points in any of the accepted categories. Points may be earned on different horses, but horse(s) must be HOA-registered.

SUNDANCE AWARD

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES who have accumulated 300 points in any of the accepted categories.

LEGEND AWARDS

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 500 points in any of the following individual categories:

CABALLOS DE CORAZÓN

Awarded to HOA-registered HORSES for accumulating 1,000 points in any of the accepted categories.



ANNUAL AWARDS

Awarded each year, for the MOST points accumulated by an HOA-registered HORSE during the CALENDAR YEAR from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

- **INDIVIDUAL TRAIL RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for the most points earned while being ridden on the trail during pleasure or organized rides.
- **GROUP TRAIL RIDING HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for the most points earned while being ridden on the trail during pleasure or organized rides. Group must consist of two or more horses and riders.
- **DRIVING HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for the most points earned while being driven on the trail during pleasure or organized competitive drives.

- **ENGLISH PERFORMANCE**
Awarded for the most points earned during Horse Shows in all English disciplines, including jumping, dressage, hunt seat, driving, eventing and cross-country.
- **WESTERN PERFORMANCE**
Awarded for the most points earned during Horse Shows for halter, pleasure and western classes (does not include Sport Horse or Speed events)
- **SPEED EVENTS HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for the most points earned during timed events during Horse Shows/Trail Courses.
- **FARM & RANCH WORK HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for the most points earned for work on a Farm or Ranch.
- **FARM AND RANCH WORK HORSE OF THE YEAR IN COMPETITION;**
Awarded for the most points earned in Competition Ranchwork such as team penning, team sorting, cutting, mounted shooting, etc.
- **COMPETITIVE TRAIL HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for points earned during Competitive Trail Rides.
- **ENDURANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR:** Awarded for points earned during Endurance Trail Rides.



Miss Emery County, HOA-2347, Ridden by Laura Geissler, Minnesota.

2024 Endurance Horse of the Year



Award Sponsors Needed

*contact Gretchen Patterson at
glpatterson62@gmail.com for more info*

FULL SPONSORSHIP (1 BUCKLE) IS \$150;
+ \$30 FOR THE SPONSOR'S NAME
ENGRAVED ON THE BACK OF THE
BUCKLE (OPTIONAL)



Mission Imperative: Are you a member of the HOA?

By Courtney Hudson – Norfolk, VA

The HOA currently provides so many great services to the Colonial Spanish Horse community, from maintaining an extensive registry to cataloguing the history of our horses and conservation efforts, from providing competitive opportunities for our horses and members to share their successes to providing educational opportunities, from maintaining an active website and Facebook page to help share our horses with the world and facilitating multiple ways for Colonial Spanish Horse enthusiasts — breeders, owners and riders, alike — to communicate with each other across great distances.

Of course, while all of these benefits are coordinated by a team of hard-working volunteers, maintaining the organization is not without operating expenses, many of which are currently coming straight out of the pockets of our dedicated board members.

I was shocked the other day to learn that the HOA currently has fewer than 75 paying members! Our Facebook group alone has more than 1,100 followers! That means that roughly 90% of our Facebook followers alone are not paying members of the HOA.

All it takes is a small investment in the HOA to make a real difference in our coordinated efforts. Beyond supporting the basic operating expenses of maintaining a registry, website and communications, just imagine the additional services the HOA could provide to its membership and horses and conservation efforts if more enthusiasts invested in an HOA membership — from helping to support critical herds in times of need, to providing more exposure opportunities through coordinated show efforts and media attention, to providing online access to information in the HOA registry, to arranging conference and educational opportunities to build a stronger community, to coordinating additional fundraising efforts, to facilitating DNA sequencing in order to better understand how to preserve our horses' unique genetic traits, to assisting with transporting horses across long distances for breeding, to helping with costly semen-banking and AI services to enable breeders across the country to make the best decisions in their conservation efforts, and so much more.

We have come such a long way since Bob Brislawn's conservation efforts began in the '40s, but now, more than 70 years later, there is still so much to do to make sure these horses don't disappear.

Visit the HOA website to complete the membership form and choose your membership level.

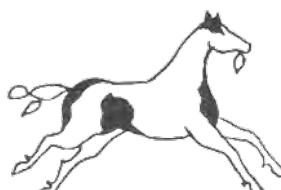
<https://horseoftheamericas.com>

- Junior Membership (for individuals aged 17 or younger): \$15 – includes horse registration
- Individual Membership: \$20 – includes 1 vote and horse registration
- Family Membership: \$25 – includes 2 votes and horse registration
- Farm/Ranch Membership: \$30 – includes 2 votes, horse registration and listing on HOA's Breeder Page, Annual 1 page advertisement in the newsletter

Annual membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. We accept membership payments via PayPal or by check made out to **Horse of the Americas** and mailed to:

Heather Buss
698 Moonlight Road
Smithfield, VA 23430

Email:
heather.buss1@outlook.com





Horse of the Americas, Inc.

Annual Membership Form

All Membership fees are due on January 31st of each year.

Name: (please list all members) _____

Farm & Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email Address: _____ Website: _____

All Membership fees to be paid in U. S. Dollars only, International members please add \$5.00 (postage).

Membership fees are as follows:

Jr. Member Only: \$ 15.00 (Ages 17 & Under)

Individual: \$ 25.00 (1 vote)

Family: \$ 30.00 (2 votes)

Farm & Ranch: \$ 35.00 (2 votes)

Family includes all family members: horses may be registered in any family name.

Farm & Ranch includes: 1) owners, horses registered by Farm/Ranch or owner's name.

- 2) qualify for listing on the HOA website: Breeders Page & Stallion Directory.
- 3) receive a free, one-page advertisement in the HOA Newsletter.

Horses must be registered with HOA. All award points follow the horse.

See our web site at <https://horseoftheamericas.com>

Look us up on Facebook at: Horse of the Americas, Groups

Print out this form and return to: HOA Treasurer, Heather Buss
698 Moonlight Rd
Smithfield, VA 23430

Payment available through PayPal to muddybird20@gmail.com or glpatterson62@gmail.com or check (payable to HOA), or with a money order. The web site has a PayPal link for membership fees.

Timeline for the Spanish Horse in the Americas, Part IV

This is 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.

1775: The Yamparika Comanche are in the Black Hills fighting the Lakota and Cheyenne. Choctaws help colonials against the British; some act as scouts for General Washington. *History of the New World Called America* published in Dublin, Ireland and mentions the Narragansett Pacer. Census in Natchitoches, Louisiana included 1, 258 horses, most of them from Texas.

1776: Escalante Dominguez exploration party encountered Paiute women gathering seeds. This is the first contact between Paiutes and Europeans. The city of San Francisco founded.

1780-81: Small pox decimated the Comanche and Wichita who pass the disease to the Shoshoni and Blackfeet. Research has shown how trading slaves and horses spread the disease. **The Swamp Fox**, Francis Marion began his guerilla attacks on the British out of the swamps of South Carolina. The Marsh Tacky horses were ideal for the hardships the men and horses faced.



1782: Lipan Apaches met the Tonkawas, Atakapas, and Caddo tribes on the Guadalupe River to trade. 1,000 Spanish horses were exchanged for 270 guns. The rendezvous continued for four more years despite Spanish objections.

1785: Governor Domingo Cabello of Texas signs peace treaty with Comanche.

1786: Governor Joseph Martin wrote that Spanish influence among the Choctaw is increasing.

1791: Philip Nolan visits Texas to hunt mustangs. His goods are confiscated by the Spanish.

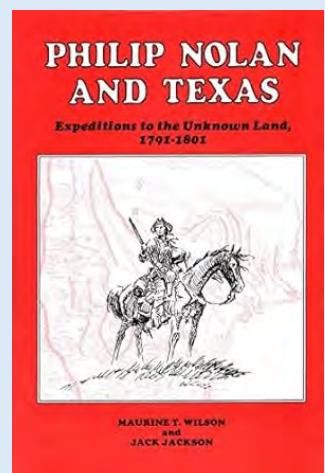
1793: After living two years with a Texas Indian tribe, Philip Nolan returned to New Orleans with fifty mustangs. Spanish influence at its peak among Choctaws, Cherokees, Creeks, and Chickasaw.

1795: Philip Nolan arrived in Nachez, Mississippi with 250 head of fine Texas horses.

1798: Thomas Jefferson wrote Philip Nolan asking for information on his Spanish horses. American Congress created the Mississippi Territory in an attempt to replace the French and Spanish as traders with the Mississippi Indians.

1803-14: Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain. His conquest and removal of so many Andalusian, Alter Real, and Lusitano horses almost resulted in the extinction of these breeds.

1804-05: During the winter, Lewis and Clark are aided by the Mandan Indians who keep their horses inside their lodges. Captain Lewis encountered the Lemhi Shoshoni (relatives of the Comanche) to negotiate for horses. He estimated the herd at 700 animals. Captain Clark encountered the first Neza Perce Indians.



1807: General Tobias of Brazil liberated Buenos Aires from the English. Many of his men are mounted on pinto horses that were given his name, the tobiano.

1808: Portuguese king, Dom Joao VI fled to Brazil to escape Napoleon. He brought a few treasured Alter Reals with him. These horses play in the creation of the Manga Larga trotting horse and the more famous paso gaited Manga Larga Marchador. The Manga Larga does come in minimum white overo.



1810: Comanche chief, El Sordo, led a combined Comanche and Wichita raid into Texas and Mexico for horses.

1812-13: American traders along the Red and Arkansas Rivers traded guns to the Comanche for horses.



Chief Pushmataha

1814: Chief Pushmataha and Choctaw scouts help Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson's horse was supposedly gaited.

1817: American Indian agent, Dr. John Sibley from Louisiana met with Comanches in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He licensed American agents who sold firearms to the Comanches while buying stolen Spanish horses.

1821: Stephen F. Austin arrived in Texas to expand his father's colonizing work. In 1825, he brought 300 Anglo-American families into the territory.

1828: *Copper Bottom* foaled in Pennsylvania; In 1839, Sam Houston brought the stallion to Texas. Crosses with Spanish horses led to the development of the Quarter Horse.

1830: Choctaws move into Indian Territory (Oklahoma); they trade with the Comanche for horses including appaloosa spotted horses. Opening of Old Spanish Trail through New Mexico and Utah.

1833: The US Congress created the United States Regiment of Dragoons—the US cavalry is born.

1836: Cynthia Ann Parker, future mother of Chief Quanah Parker, captured by Comanche in Texas raid.

On March 2, the Texas revolutionary government formally declared independence from Mexico.



1838: Forced removal of the Choctaw, Cherokee, and Creek Indians to Indian Territory; it was noted that the Cherokee have many good horses. This removal, ordered by President Andrew Jackson and Congress, came to be known as the *Trail of Tears*.

1839: The Arkansas Gazette wrote an article praising the incredible beauty of the Texas mustang.

1840: Texas Ranger, John C. Duval reported seeing "a drove of mustangs so large that it took us fully an hour to pass it, although they were traveling at a rapid rate in a direction nearly opposite to ours." William Heath Davis, Jr. in California has 1,045 holdings stocked with 1,500 head of horses per rancho obtained from Spanish Missions.

1845: Lt. Ulysses S. Grant was stationed on the Nueces River near Corpus Christi and wrote about the number of mustangs he saw. As Quartermaster, one of his jobs was to supply trained horses to the troops.

In Memoriam: Mr. Chuck Graham

With great regret we would like to honor the life of long time Colonial Spanish Horse enthusiast and ambassador Chuck Graham. Chuck ran a successful business in Columbia, SC who kept a herd of Carolina Marsh Tacky Horses including his beloved *CooSaw* on his ranch in Aiken, SC.

Chuck was a longtime supporter of The Livestock Conservancy and the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association. He served on the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association board from 2014 to 2020.

One of Chuck's passions was riding and talking about his horses. He enjoyed riding at Hitchcock Woods in Aiken and was a supporter of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation.

Chuck really enjoyed Polo in Aiken and would often attend events with his beloved wife Carolyn and friends.

We would like to send condolences to his wife, Carolyn Bass Graham and daughter, Paddi Frick.



Horse of the Americas Associates

My horse is swift in flight
Even like a bird;
My horse be swift in flight;
Bear me now in safety
And you shall be rewarded
With streamers and ribbons red.

~Lakota Warrior's Song~





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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

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