

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

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NEWSLETTER



Photo: Tommi Grey with (left to right) Meet Virginia (HOA-1117, Rowdy Yates/Buck's Girl), Fernando (HOA-1092, Choctaw Sun Dance/Margerita) and CWH The Sea King (HOA-1834, Wild Corolla Stallion/Mare). Credit: Optical Harmonics

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It Is Not Our Differences That Separate Us

By Steve Edwards – Mill Swamp Indian Horses, Smithfield, VA

Look closely at this great photo of Tommi Grey down in Texas with three Colonial Spanish Horses. They each come from different backgrounds.

Two are of the lines that most people think of when they say “mustang” – western stock – cowboys and vaqueros, Native Americans and ranchers. The sorrel at the far right is a Corolla from the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He is a Colonial Spanish Horse with a less-familiar history – small farmers, fishermen, hurricanes and crashing ocean waves.

There are subtle differences in these horses' builds, and I suspect in their gaits, but what holds them together is much

stronger than their differences. All three of these horses trace their lineage back to the early Spanish explorers. All of them are smaller in stature than modern horses, exceedingly sturdy and have astounding endurance. All of them are dangerously close to extinction.

Reliable information on the conformation and history of all strains of Colonial Spanish Horses can be found on the Horse of the Americas' website. The HOA leadership is made up of people who not only are dedicated to the preservation of these horses, but also are extremely knowledgeable of the history and conservation efforts for all strains of Colonial Spanish Horses.

There are many different organizations out there that have an interest in Colonial

Spanish Horses. The HOA is one of the few organizations that takes an active role in the preservation of the few isolated herds of Colonial Spanish Horses that remain in the wild, including those located on America's East Coast. The American Indian Horse Registry has a broader mission, but also is supportive of efforts to preserve the Corollas, Shacklefords and other Banker Horses.

Let me hear from you if you would like to own a horse of the historic type shown in this picture, or to learn how you can be a keystone in preventing the extinction of the first horse of America.

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Originally published on the Mill Swamp Horse Views blog.

History Made as Spanish Mustangs Return to Spain

By Rachel Windchaser – Windchaser Ranch, Arens De Lledó, Aragon, Spain

In May 2021, history was made at Windchaser Ranch in Spain with the birth of WR Chinook Caminando con Sueños (aka Parker), a colt by Champagne High out of Chinook Silverwind.



Parker is one of the first Spanish Mustangs to be bred and born in the breed's country of origin.

Windchaser Ranch began its mission by bringing Lakota Windchaser (HOA-1948, Wanbli Iyan/Adena) to a small piece of northeastern Spain. He was joined by two beautiful mares: Cheyenne Promise (HOA-1879, Wanbli Iyan/Adena) and Chinook Silverwind (HOA-2091, Silver Sage/Cayuse Wind Song). We were then given the unique opportunity to import Champagne High (HOA-1982, Tambourine Man/Xena) – an incredibly rare amber champagne stallion – from the U.S. We will be forever grateful to Vickie Ives at Karma Farms for entrusting him to us.

Parker is a strong, handsome, cheeky boy and is a testament to both the breed and his bloodlines. He will remain part of the Windchaser Ranch herd, and we hope to add to his family in the coming years to make a long-standing home for these horses in Spain.

Returning the Colonial Spanish Horse to its homeland has been a five-year project and a dream that we have lived, but would have been made much more difficult without the support of the HOA community.

TRAINING INSIGHTS

The Three Fs

By Kelly Anders – Blue Raven Farms, Tyner, NC

All too often we expect instant gratification when working with our horses, when really we should be gratified by the gift of every individual moment.

When your horse chooses to give an honest effort, it should be rewarded. If the result isn't as big/good/perfect as you want – that's not because the horse didn't try hard enough. It's because they need more practice.

It is our job as trainers always to follow the Three Fs: being FIRM, FAIR and FUN.

If I asked you what you liked most about your favorite teachers and mentors, it likely wasn't that they were easy on you. They were challenging and invested in developing you. Horses aren't much different in that regard. They need *firm* boundaries that are logical and well defined. Being lackadaisical is as much an error as playing dictator. Firm doesn't mean harsh; it means you have set reasonable and enforceable expectations, and that you are consistent with them.

As a teacher, your asks should not exceed the horse's level of comprehension and demonstration. Demanding that a horse do more beyond the skill level you've taught them isn't *fair*. If your horse isn't giving you the result you want, identify if it's a skill or a will issue. The vast majority of training issues are skill-based, although many are mislabeled as a horse choosing to misbehave.

It's easy to fall into the habit of drilling a horse rather than developing them. Very



Photo: Kelly Anders riding RE Kitty Hawk (HOA-1972, Wayward Wind/Cheyenne Dog Soldier).

few sentient beings thrive on mindless repetition, so it is important to maintain a *fun* learning environment.

Having a hard time with an exercise? Do something else for five minutes and come back. Change it up. You're not going to reward them by stopping work. Think of it as coming back to an argument when the conversation is favorable. Timing is everything, and always be sure to praise your horse with more energy than you correct them, even if it wasn't a perfect attempt.

Lastly, learn to quit while you're ahead. You always want to end on a positive note. This can be harder than it sounds, but it is important to conclude a training or riding session on your terms with a job well done. This practice builds confidence for both the horse and handler.

Practice these core values of good horsemanship, and you'll find that common-sense principles will make happy horses who want to work for you.

Have a question? Want advice? Let me know what you'd like to read next.

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[#commonsensehorsemanship](https://www.instagram.com/blueravenfarmswrites)

Spotlight on the Grand Canyon Strain of Colonial Spanish Horses

By Vickie Ives, Gretchen Patterson et al.

The Grand Canyon Strain is a recreation of the horses of the Havasupai Indians of the Grand Canyon. Using the blood of a little Colonial Spanish mare recorded as Grand Canyon I (HOA-1650) and stallions of recorded Colonial Spanish ancestry, the Grand Canyon Strain breeders wish to preserve a smaller Colonial Spanish Horse.

Strain members are still researching the history of this rare group of smaller Colonial Spanish Horses. The Havasupai Indians who live in the Grand Canyon have used these horses for generations, and many pictures of the small horses and members of the tribe still exist today.

Classifications: Classic and Standard

The Grand Canyon Strain horses generally stand 13.2 hands or shorter, which is called the "Classic" size. Horses



Above: Jack Jones, a Havasupai horse catcher and trainer, and the little stallion Great Thumb that he caught near the monument of the same name.

Below: Havasupai Chief Watahomagie watching a native rodeo, 1941.

Images from the University of Colorado Archives.



Photo: Scoundrel Days (HOA-1313, Rowdy Yates/Lucinda), Classic-size Grand Canyon Strain stallion, in 2017. Credit: Every Equine Photography



Photo: Cordy, a Grand Canyon mare Bob Brislawn acquired in Rapid City, SD. Cordy is thought to be the dam of Grand Canyon I by Ka-Maw-I. Credit: Bob Brislawn

Historical Reference

"Bob Brislawn got a Grand Canyon mare in Rapid City, South Dakota, and he stated, 'that the horse was a perfect Barb in all of her features, but she was small.' Bob tried to trace the background but found that the horses were given away with [the purchase of a trailer home]. He returned to Rapid City with the hope of buying another horse, however the salesman was then giving away Shetland ponies. The seller [later moved] to California and neither Bob nor I were able to locate him to acquire more information about the Grand Canyon horses.

We will be using this little Grand Canyon mare as a genetic experiment to see if she will produce offspring that will grow to a genetic height of 13.2. If she does, we may have some of the best Barbs of all. At the present time, we have thirty horses on the Research Farm as we have the bloodlines that Bob Brislawn felt were best. The major stud lines are: Buckshot [(SMR-1)], Four Lane [(SMR-175)], [Ka-Maw-I] [(HOA-115)], Tiger Eye [(SMR-393)] and a little [stallion] out of the wild called Snipper [(SMR-394)]. In the mares, we have Little Thing [(HOA-B-184)], Shoshoni [(SMR-75)], Blue Monday [(SMR-157)] and Ysabella [(SMR-383)]."

Jeff Edwards, HOA Newsletter, June 1974



Photo: The Standard-sized Grand Canyon Strain mare Fewie (HOA-1041, Little Chief/Babe), and Donna Anita (HOA-1227), her Classic-sized daughter by Barbwire (HOA-B-041, Snipper/GCI).

standing taller than 13.2 hands are called "Standard" size. Even Standard Grand Canyon Strain horses rarely stand taller than 14 hands.

1. Classic size includes Grand Canyon Strain registered horses 13.2 hands (54 inches) and shorter when measured at four years of age or older.
2. Standard size includes Grand Canyon Strain registered horses taller than 13.2 hands. Standard shall also include all eligible foals until Classic classification can be determined at maturity.

Goals for Preservation of the Grand Canyon Strain

1. To preserve the blood and genetic size of the mare Grand Canyon I in a Colonial Spanish Horse, which will utilize the flexion, endurance and trainability of the Colonial Spanish Horse for those who have use for a smaller mount of Barb type.
2. To preserve and promote the naturally sound and amicable temperament that makes the Grand Canyon Strain so well suited as mounts for children.
3. To develop a gene pool of Classic-sized Grand Canyon Strain horses and to better understand the genetic inheritance of Classic vs. Standard sizes.

Qualifications for Strain Inclusion

1. Applicants for inclusion as Grand Canyon Strain horses shall either trace their genetic ancestry to the mare Grand Canyon I or be a descendent of other Grand Canyon Strain horses, as

determined and approved by the HOA Inspectors. All Grand Canyon Strain horses will be included the Horse of the Americas Registry.

2. Applicants for inclusion who do not have evidence of being a direct descendent of the mare Grand Canyon I must show excellent Colonial Spanish Horse type and have produced at least two HOA registered foals of sound quality, never having been stunted during development, that mature to no larger than the Grand Canyon Strain Classic size.



Photo: Annette Baca riding Sin Nombre, "[who] was pulled out of the Grand Canyon when they flooded the canyon. Not a pony — a real horse." Joty Baca, 1961. From the Joty and Virginia Baca Family Archives.

Colonial Dream Charms Students at Local Educational Farm in New Mexico

By Kendra Chavez – GKChavez Ranch, Manzano, NM

In May 2021, Colonial Dream (HOA-2002, Fly Like an Eagle/Lindita, aka Dream) was invited to be part of an educational farm in Manzano, NM, called Ms. Romero's Mi Chante.

Since Dream's roots are from the area, the organizer thought it was appropriate that she be included in the farm, and that she would be an important exhibit for students from the local Mountainair Elementary School to visit on their field trip.

Dream represented all three of her registries at the farm ... HOA, AIHA and SBHA. I worked up a little display board featuring all three organizations and told her "story" to go along with it.

When the 100 or so students who participated in the field trip would arrive, I would introduce them to Dream and tell them her story. Then the kids would have a chance to paint on her.

They loved every minute with her and she loved them just as much. One particular student with special needs overcame his



REGISTRAR'S REPORT



fear and painted her, then gave her a kiss on the nose. Dream was so careful with him, never moved a foot and softly called to him when he left.

Every time a group would leave to another exhibit she would call to them, sometimes getting lots of laughs and waves from the children. At other times the entire group would come running back to say goodbye again.



During her time at the farm, Dream not only provided a wonderful example of our horses' temperaments to the public, but also erased negative horse experiences and fears from the minds of many children and adults, alike.

Colonial Spanish Horses win again!!!



This is our 21st year as a registry! In 2000, HOA started our numbering system with #1000 and today we are at #2275. Registration of horses in 2021 continues on a steady upward-slope with 32 registrations to date.

The Colonial Spanish Horse is an antique breed in the 21st century, and every Mustanger must realize the importance of recording the names and bloodlines of each of our horses for future generations. I encourage breeders to keep good records of their foals and offer all buyers a completed HOA Registry application when a sale occurs. When selling a registered horse, please fill out a transfer form to go with the registration certificate.

We request that all breeders submit a Stallion Report no later than December 31, 2021. Stallion Report forms may be requested either in print or online format.

To make registration of your horses easier, the online application can be emailed along with all necessary registration photos. Payment can be sent using PayPal, the link for which is available on the HOA website: www.horseoftheamericas.com.

All registration photos should be taken in open space, preferably in the morning or early afternoon. Pictures with lots of shadows do not scan well, and the horse's true color is difficult to reproduce. Trees or other busy landscapes should be out of the background whenever possible. I require pictures of both sides, as well as a front, rear, and a good facial. If a horse has unusual white patterns on the head, a close-up photo is also needed.

Please submit pictures in one of three formats: regular photographs, digital scans printed on glossy photographic paper or via email. I would like to stress that digital pictures must be printed on glossy paper; I cannot use pictures that are printed on regular copy paper.

Pictures sent via email should be formatted as JPG, PNG or TIF files, and should not exceed 1 MB in size. Note that picture files saved in GIF format have been compressed and do not reproduce well.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has upended everyone's plans for the foreseeable future, but we've made tentative plans to hold an upcoming registry meeting in Virginia, hosted by Mill Swamp Indian Horses in Smithfield. Maybe 2022 will allow us to finally hold the meeting. I know I will be ready for a vacation by then.

For more information or assistance, please contact me directly. You can also leave me a message on the HOA Facebook page.

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Photo: Gretchen Patterson riding One Dance Left (HOA-1081), Locomotion/Queen of the Silver Dollar

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DROUGHT SALE!



2021 filly (HOA pending) by Remember My Spots out of My Darlyn Sadie – Very flashy! \$2,500



2020 colt (HOA-2208), registered as Remember the Storm, by Remember My Spots out of MP Gypsy Queen – Very sweet and will be a taller Spanish Mustang. \$1,200

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In light of severe drought across the country, Loran and Andrea Mulnix of Dry Creek Ranch in Montana would like to extend a big THANK YOU for the support they've received from community members who've bought horses, provided hay and donated money to help their farm during this very difficult time.

Letter from the Editor

I'd like to introduce myself to the Horse of the Americas' membership as the newest editor for our esteemed quarterly newsletter, and I am delighted to take on this task!



Courtney Hudson
Newsletter Editor

While living the last 25 years of my life in downtown Chicago, I had few opportunities to actualize the passion for horses

I'd developed as a young child. When I married, I gave my ex-husband the choice: we would either stay in the city to raise our kids, or we were getting a truck, moving out West and rescuing horses from the BLM roundups. We chose to stay in the city, and I reluctantly had to put my horse dreams on hold.

Three years ago, fate brought me to Virginia where I had the good fortune of discovering and becoming involved with Mill Swamp Indian Horses. Without question, my life forever had been changed and my focus had turned to learning about and working to preserve the endangered Spanish Mustang.

Two years ago, I brought my very first Spanish Mustang home, an 18-year-old grulla mare named Midnight Storm (HOA-2206, Native Winds Palouse Thunder/Native Winds Midnight Festival). Shortly thereafter, my family grew to include Prairie Snow Dance



Photo: (left to right) Midnight Storm and Midnight Rain Dancer. Credit: Every Equine Photography

(HOA-1786, Wayward Wind/Danzanta de la Sueño), a 15-year-old max-white sabino mare.

This Spring, I was also incredibly fortunate to bring my very first foal into the world, a filly named Midnight Rain Dancer, by Scoundrel Days (HOA-1313, Rowdy Yates/Lucinda) out of my very own Midnight Storm.

I'm a late-bloomer, and my journey has really only just begun with these incredible horses. I'm learning training skills from some wonderful teachers here on the East Coast, and my riding skills are sloooowly coming back after all of these years. Most importantly, my passion for these great animals has never waned.

As a writer and professional in the marketing, publishing, web and graphic design fields, I am hopeful that my "day-job" skills can be put to good use in helping the Horse of the Americas organization in its efforts to insure the conservation of Colonial Spanish Horses well into the future.

Questions? Ideas for future newsletter articles? I would love to hear from you.

I can be reached by email at courtneyhudson@gmail.com.



Photo: Prairie Snow Dance