



The Newsletter of Horse of the Americas is published quarterly to H.O.A. members and the Spanish Mustang Community.

Kelly Crockett, Editor
2 Indian Springs Drive,
Newport News, VA 23606
757-472-4722
kellycrockett@me.com

FROM THE EDITOR: PAYING IT FORWARD

My father, Tom Roland, was a journalist, and, as his daughter, I was exposed to a lot of things. As a young girl of 5 or 6, I went with him to the Beebe Ranch on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and was introduced to Misty of Chincoteague. I will never forget that day or that mare, as she stood in her darkened stall. No fancy anything, just a horse, but I remember it like it was yesterday. Later my father would take me to Back Bay, at the southeastern tip of Virginia to show me the wild horses – the ones I now know as Banker horses. It was about that time that he bought me Betsy Dowdy's Ride. I read it over and over until I knew it by heart. As I got older, he did a story on David Cashvan and the world renowned Cashvan Arabians, and I got to go with him. I had never seen or experienced such opulence. It never dawned on me that a scruffy wild Spanish Mustang was any better or worse than an Arabian, they were just different. Horses were my passion—all of them not just some of them.

During the past 4 years I have been fortunate enough to have worked at Mill Swamp Indian Horses and as director of the Equine Youth Challenge Program for at-risk youth. I was smart enough to keep my mouth closed (at least some of the time), my ears open, and my heart open even wider. I fell under the spell of the Colonial Spanish Mustang. I have ridden more breeds and strains of horses



than I can remember – everything from a Shetland pony to a Hanoverian. I still love them all, but these Spanish Mustangs are different. In the past 4 years I have learned a lot about these horses and I am smart enough to know that I haven't even scratched the surface. I owe a huge debt of gratitude for what I've learned to Steve

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Editor: *"Welcome to the New Horse of the Americas Newsletter"*1

Janice M. Ladendorf *"In His Own Words: Frank Hopkins on Horses and Horsemanship"*3-5

The Horse Shaman *"Tension and Release: Training Horses from an Energetic Perspective"*.....6-8

Recommended Reading: *"Riding Home: The Power of Horses to Heal"* by Tim Hayes.....8

Tom Norush: *An Invitation to the H.O.A. 2015 Meeting*.....9

Hailey Jones: *A Poem, "War Horse"*9

Stephanie Lockhart: *"News from the Center for America's First Horse"*.....10-11

Gretchen Patterson: *Book Review "Spanish Mustangs and Hard Time: I've Known Some"*..... 12-13

Recommended Reading: *"Spanish Horsemen and Horses in the New World"* by Janice M. Ladendorf..... 13

Tom Norush: *Grumbings From The Grumpy Old Man: "The Importance of Working Together"*.....14-15

Recommended Reading: *"The Wild Horse Dilemma: Conflicts and Controversies of the Atlantic Coast Herds"* by Bonnie Urquhart Gruenberg..... 15

It's Your Newsletter: *How can you make it better? Article submission, Ad rates, publication schedule*..... 16



Edwards, Vicki Ives, Tommi Grey, Stephanie Lockhart, Alicia Sims, and Gretchen Patterson, just to name a few.

And now is the time to begin to pay it forward. I have a vision for the HOA newsletter that I hope will honor my father the journalist who was unafraid to report the truth of what he saw. I intend to do my best to build bridges. I want to promote our Colonial Spanish Mustangs in as many diverse ways as I can think of: from trail riding to dressage; from showing to endurance and NATRAC events; from pleasure riding to barrel racing; and through the breeding and preservation efforts for all of our strains. Nothing should be off limits. I also intend to focus on our youth. I want their ideas and their visions for our Spanish Mustangs. I believe the rich ground that our Elders have laid before us for each strain of Spanish Mustang is ripe for growing this vision and it is our young people who will carry that vision forward.

I believe in the future of our horses. I believe that as adults and elders we have to lay down our old stories, prejudices, and fixed positions. It's time to stop acting like the poor relations or victims of some vast established horse-world conspiracy. It's time to find common ground and not continue to endorse separation or the nonsensical idea that somehow one group of people or horses is superior to another. There is way too much of this in the world already. I want to energize a new generation about what is possible with the breed or strain of horse that our country was founded on. These are the kinds of stories that will be in this newsletter.

So, in gratitude for this opportunity, I'd like to share this indigenous prayer:

*"Let us give thanks for our Elders,
For they have come a long way and have paved the way.
And let us give thanks for the Young Ones,
For they have a long way to go and much to do.
And let us give thanks for those in between,
For they are the Ones who are doing the work. "*

—Kelly Crockett

HORSE OF THE AMERICAS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS 2015-16

- Tom Norush**, President
- Vickie Ives**, Vice President
- Alicia Sims**, Secretary
- Dawn Norush**, Treasurer
- Kelly Crockett**, Newsletter Editor
- Gretchen Patterson**, Registrar & Webmaster
- Kathy Peacock**, National Awards Director
- Dr. Phil Sponenberg**, Special Consultant
- Sheila Brown**, Membership Director

www.horseoftheamericas.com



Janice M. Ladendorf



Hidalgo the movie. Sometimes you have to remember that with movies, getting the heart right is more important than getting the facts right.



“The way a man sits his horse has much to do with how the horse feels about life, too. Ride a horse properly and he will carry you with a minimum of discomfort to himself—also to you. Ride him improperly and neither of you will have much fun.”

Frank T. Hopkins

IN HIS OWN WORDS: LETTERS ON HORSEMANSHIP FROM FRANK T. HOPKINS

EDITED BY JANICE M. LADENDORF

In 2004, the movie “Hidalgo” was released and instantly became a horse film classic. It was the “National Velvet” or “Black Stallion” or “Spirit: The Stallion of Cimarron” for a new generation of horse lovers. It also introduced a new generation of young riders to the power and endurance and heart of the Colonial Spanish Mustang or American Indian Horse. The movie, “Hidalgo,” recounts, in typical Hollywood style, Frank T. Hopkins account of his epic 3000 mile race around the Arabian Peninsula in 1890.

I don’t think anyone would or should expect a Disney film to be historically and factually accurate, but even before the film was released, there was a controversy about whether the event actually occurred. Beyond that, the naysayers began suggesting that Frank T. Hopkins, himself was a fraud and a sham who knew little about horses and horsemanship and who had fabricated his whole wild west biography.

Janice M. Ladendorf has taken up the challenge of, if not defending, Frank T. Hopkins, at least ensuring that the “scholarship” his detractors claim is in fact honest and fair. In this edition of the H.O.A. Newsletter, she shares a selection or excerpts material from some of his letters in order to let Frank speak for himself.

Kelly Crockett

On “Sitting in the Saddle”

I explained that in a previous letter I never grip my saddle in any way—just keep my balance and go with the horse. When a man rides long hours in rough country, then beds down for the night and gets up in the morning to face another day for a whole week at a time, as I did, while a dispatch rider (for 8 years), he will learn the easiest way for himself and learn how to keep his horse under him. I can’t explain it any plainer—it just came to me thru many hours of riding.

I started riding when I was very young and I recall riding without stirrups a little squaw pony my grandfather brought to me for my birthday. My father would not allow me to use stirrups for a long time, until I had learned to keep balanced and “go with the horse,” as he called it. It’s true a rider can ride with his feet hanging but there is no way of bracing—that is if your horse turns short or if you wish to charge him short to stop suddenly*—it is best to have your feet in the stirrups. I always later rode with long stirrups—half of my weight in the seat and half in the stirrup—just so my feet got a grip. Many Mexicans ride in the old style today—they have more riding to do than the man in the States.

If I attempt to teach someone to ride, I expect him to ride without stirrups until he has learned to keep perfect balance and that cannot be done with short stirrups. It is my habit to ride with my feet braced out away from the horse. This is a help in rough country where a horse might swing off short in order to pass something in the dark—maybe

“My first rule of horsemanship is to become acquainted with your horse.”

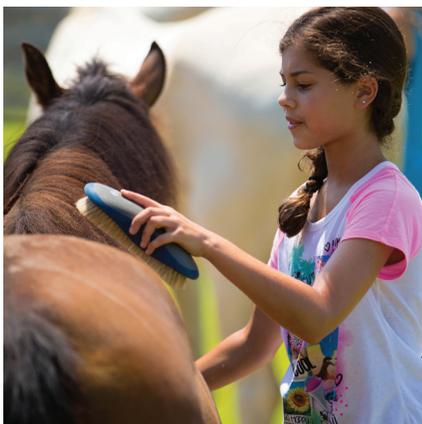
Frank T. Hopkins



Baca Stallion, El Rosio, practicing bucking.

“I don’t believe in over-coddling or over-grooming.”

Frank T. Hopkins



Hope, a Corolla mare, owned by Pam and Dan Yohn in Smithfield, VA, gets just the right amount of grooming.

a rattlesnake—it has saved me from hitting the ground many times. The longer stirrup will not tire the rider as quickly and the rider cannot bounce around on his horse with a straight leg.** If a man rides long enough with a long stirrup to master the art he will not change.

I’ve had many great horsemen and women come to me on the quiet after one of my performances and offer to pay a good price if I’d teach um how to sit tight in the leather. Being known as a “square shooter,” I tell them the truth—it can be done maybe in 10 years of hard riding in rough country with rough horses.

**Janice’s Comment 1: What this phrase would mean today is “setting the horse up for a sliding stop.”*

***Editor’s Comment 2: This phrase does not refer to posting, but to riding in a western saddle with a shorter stirrups.*

On “Staying with a Twisting Bronc”

First, the men in my day had to learn how to ride i.e.—to sit tight and have complete balance of themselves and horse. Once a man has mastered this he can ride any bucking horse until the jarring hurts him enough that the rider slides off of his own accord or someone picks him off the bronc. I’ve been unloaded often—anyone can get ‘throwed’ but if a man can ride in the old style it’s just a matter of getting out of balance if he’s thrown or if the hoss hurts him bad enough he will leave the leathers. It used to be a disgrace among horse breakers to leave the saddle before the horse quits. I’ll tell anyone who asked me how to ride a buck—step up on a good-mannered horse and let me see him ride—then I could tell him if it were possible for him to stay with a rough one. I always rode buckers in the same way I rode the well-mannered horse—got as close to the leather as I could and stayed there, placed my chin on my breast (the horse couldn’t snap my neck) then left the rest of the work to the bronc—to buck till he was tired; I never made a noise hooten’ and yellen’ cause it only helps spoil the hoss and his first lesson he never forgets.

On Grooming

I always cleaned my horses—brushed them to keep their hides clean—but not as some who bother a horse by rubbing and fussing over him when the horse should rest. If my horse has worked hard, I clean his hide of dust, wash out his mouth, sponge his back with a moist sponge—not too wet so the water runs down his sides—give him a good bed and let him REST. Too much fussing is no good.

I once heard a horseman say that to give a horse an hour’s cleaning was as good as two pounds of oats. I told him it was better to give the tired horse that hour to rest in and there would be no need to give the extra feed. If a horse is kept in good health his hide will look good without rubbing. Clean the dust from his hair—that’s about 15 minutes work—and he will look just as good as if 3 hours were spent on him everyday. My experience with Arab horsemen showed me that they firmly believe in caring for their horses as much as I do. They simply brush the dust from their hair and they never bandage or hood them.



Oscar, one of the five horses who played the role of Hidalgo in the movie. Oscar is now in happy retirement at The Center For America's First Horse in Vermont.



"I have discovered that the most important factor in horsemanship is the horse's mental attitude. ... I mean by this statement is that a good horseman is one who keeps his horse happy at all times."

Frank T. Hopkins

Sidebar quotes taken from Letter 4 and body of selected excerpts taken from letter 6 in the Hopkins papers from the Robert Easton Collection at the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

On "Horsemanship"

Speaking of gaits, a man must handle his horse to his gait—not try to change the horse from one gait to another. Any horseman can soon find out which gait suits his horse best. Some will trot if you start them up—others will swing into a rolling lope. Remember, there's a big difference between loping and running. If a horse runs he cannot stick to it long. Most big horses run. What I mean by running is a horse raises his feet high from the ground—too much work to cover the ground—the horse thus tires quickly no matter how tough he may be—for all 4 feet are off the ground at once—the hoss exerts himself too much to last very long. Any horse who tries to run will never make a long distance mount. It's better to trot such a horse—as for me, it's far better to get another horse and let one of those bouncing riders have the trotter.

My Joe could lope as slow as he could walk and he would swing into a lope just as soon as I picked up the rein. He didn't like to trot—it was same with him as any other horse I rode or owned—I let them travel the way they wished to—because trying to change their gait from their favorite way of traveling—it don't work out right. If I have a horse and don't like his way of traveling I change the horse, not his gait. I always rode a true loping horse—either he loped or walked. The true loping horse never has but two feet off the ground at one time, the same as where trotting. There's no use trying to teach a horse a gait you like best—he will go back to his own style just as soon as you let him alone—you've got to keep reminding him of it all the time. I like to have my horses happy all the time and let them travel as they wish—they stand up better. I found that a true loping horse will carry me more miles in a day than any other by letting him lope along for a while, then let him walk up grade and down. Never hurry your horse down grade if you want him to last.

Of course, the mustangs are natural lopers. Just try to change them and you have no horse left.

I never start off in a hurry when on a long ride. In morning I allow the horse to lope along for 5 or 6 miles, then I start him into a fore spread.*** If the roads are heavy, I allow for that; also for dry, dusty roads—they are bad for the wind of your horse. If the hoss does not feel good, don't scratch him with the spurs in order to get mileage out of him—the next day he may swing along and make up for what you lost. They seemed to know this as well as I do. If it very hot, rest your hoss in the middle of the day—it's better for both of you—then make it up after sunset or before the sun is too high. If in hilly country or mountainous, spare you horse —shorten the mileage, keep him feeling good, happy and don't speak a word to him while you are on his back unless you really have to for there is nothing that will weary him like talking to him while you're up there. I like to see my mount throw his ears forward and look at the road ahead and take in everything along the ride and not pay the least attention to me on his back—just as if I were not there—that's a 'happy' hoss—nothing worries him.

****Janice's Comment 1: Once the horse has been warmed up, "fore spread" means the rider has asked him to lengthen his stride.*



The Horse Shaman

What is a Horse Shaman?

Well, to begin with, shamanism isn't a religion. You might say it is the proto-religion—the transcendental sense that there is something greater than ourselves that animated our Stone Age ancestors.

Remember that for most of the time we've been evolving as humans on the planet, we've lived from a shamanic perspective. Our stone age ancestors saw the world around them (the stones and trees, the rivers and oceans, the sun and moon and wind, as well as the animals and people) as all being part of the same energetic family. I think that is still a useful way of seeing the world.

So shamanism is more a way of seeing and interacting with the world around you. It isn't the cultural property of Native Americans or Tibetans or Mongolians, or Africans, though they have specific traditional ways of expressing a shamanic worldview that is deserving of our respect, especially when it comes to appropriating symbols and rituals.

For me the most useful definition of a shaman is simply one

TENSION AND RELEASE: TRAINING HORSES FROM AN ENERGETIC PERSPECTIVE

First let's get the obvious out of the way. Horses don't need for us to train them. They are perfectly capable of and prepared for living in the wild. As rather large sources of protein, humans could and in some parts of the world do, eat horses. But somewhere along the way, in our co-evolution with horses, we realized that working together, in unison and alignment, a horse and a human were far more effective in partnership than alone. This made them generally more valuable for that potential relationship than as a food source. This is where training comes in.

Training a horse falls along a energetic spectrum that has a more masculine side, expressed as control, direction, and domination at one end and a more feminine side, expressed through slowly, patiently, and gently convincing a horse to behave in more manageable ways. We know what the extremes look like. At one end you have the "wild horse" that is restrained, saddled, and ridden repeatedly until "broken." This is the domination of a horse—the forced submission of a horse's spirit. It works, but not all the time and it brings with it a series of problems of its own, usually experienced as lingering reactive behaviors. The other extreme is characterized by the view that you must never make a horse do something it doesn't want to do. This is the feminine extreme of horse training. It too works sometimes, with some horses, but is just as likely to create a horse with lingering bad behaviors that make it unpredictable and risky to ride.

If you think of horse training like parenting, it's easy to see that raising a child with unwavering strictness—breaking that child's spirit to a parent's will—would be akin to child abuse. And, on the other hand raising a child with absolute freedom and no guidance or direction would be a different kind of child abuse—a massive failure to prepare a child for adult life. This should suggest that the best kind of horse training falls somewhere in the middle of this spectrum—applying very limited force at precisely the right moment to leverage the right action (and then releasing the pressure) mixed with slow and steady and regular exercise with consistent positive feedback.

You might label this natural horsemanship, but what it really is, is energetic horsemanship. The best horse trainers know how to be sensitive to the energy of the horse as well as their own energy—moment-by-moment—in perfect or near perfect presence. Good horse trainers slip in and out of this state, hopefully with more time in presence and sensitivity. Novice horse trainers often struggle with what martial artists in the Zen tradition call

who pays attention to that which is generally unseen and unheard and unacknowledged.

If you are alive today it is because one of your stone age ancestors was part of nomadic family group in which at least one person had a gift for knowing where game was going to show up, where food and healing medicines could be found, and how to moderate disputes and conflicts in non-violent ways. You could call this a supernatural gift or you could describe it as cultivating a deep sensitivity to the energetic patterns of the world.

All really good horse trainers probably have a little bit of the shamanic gift in them. Horses, after all, can't tell us what they are thinking and feeling. It takes a deep sensitivity to a horse and a deep self-awareness joined in the same person to make a great trainer or a horse shaman. A horse shaman is conscious of and works with the energy (the unseen template that manifests

"too much mind." They over-think the problem. They have not yet practiced enough to make the variety of complex actions required in the round pen come as a physical habit, so they are distracted by process from paying attention to the horse or to their own energetic state.

As a horse trainer it is useful to be aware of where you are on that spectrum of energy when you step into the round pen with a horse. Do you tend to live your life at the more masculine end of the spectrum—directing your own experience, managing and muscling your way past obstacles, controlling all the variables you can to shape reality the way you desire it to be? If so, you might need to bring some feminine sensitivity to the horse's energy, some patience, some gentle strength, some persistence over time, and the recognition that this training process is a dance and a partnership. Just recognize that your need to dominate the horse on your schedule is really more about your needs and your desire to be seen as strong and competent and successful. It doesn't have much to do with the horse or with effective horse training. The subtle expression of this is often seen in the desire to saddle or ride a wild or green horse too quickly in order to demonstrate one's own prowess as a horseman or horsewoman.

On the other hand, perhaps you live your life at the more feminine end of the spectrum, going with the flow of things, surrendering to stronger direction, highly sensitive to imposing your will, or overly afraid of hurting other people's feelings? If so, you might need to bring some quiet masculine strength and resolve to this dance with a horse. You might need to recognize that in this dance of training, your passivity and over-sensitivity to what the horse wants, while certainly sweet and admirable, does not

serve the horse well or the cause of training. Just recognize that your need to be liked by the horse and not impose any direction is really more about your needs and your desire to be seen as nice and gentle and lovable. It also doesn't have much to do with the horse or with effective horse training.

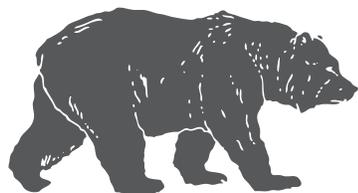
The ideal horse trainer is probably one who can energetically move freely and easily along that spectrum between the masculine end of control and direction and the feminine end of surren-



as behavior) of both humans and horses.

Native Americans in this country lived a shamanic world-view before the European colonists arrived. When they first encountered the Spanish Mustangs that we know and love, they formed a bond with them that to this day is something magical. I believe there is still value in living these principles and putting them into practice as we work with, train, and care for these special horses.

We may not all aspire to become horse shamans, but when we develop a shamanic understanding of and sensitivity to the life force, consciousness, and dynamic expression of energy that is our horses, it serves them and heals us.



der and flow. It's important to note here that when using the descriptors of masculine and feminine, I am just talking about polar opposite qualities traditionally associated with the masculine or feminine energy. I'm not talking about gender. Some men are naturally more comfortable expressing their energy in feminine ways and some women are naturally more comfortable expressing their energy in masculine ways. A conscious horse trainer just knows where he or she tends to rest along that spectrum and has the capacity to animate energy from the opposite end of the spectrum from where they are most comfortable as dictated by the needs of the horse in any given moment of training.

When you hear the simple admonition to guide a horse's behavior by providing tension (pulling on the rope) and then, once the horse has begun to move in the desired direction, releasing that tension (letting the rope fall slack), you are seeing masculine and feminine energetics in action. The masculine movement is to guide and direct by applying tension. The feminine movement is to respect the positive response by releasing the tension. All tension and pull will not work, just as all release and simply waiting and hoping the horse will decide to do the right thing won't work. It takes a balance of masculine and feminine energy to train a horse.

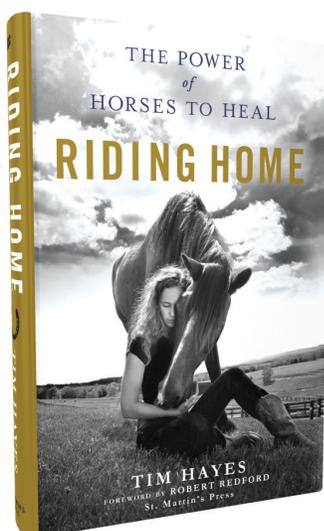
Note: If you are willing to allow the skill you develop in the round pen training a horse to spill over into the rest of your life, you might find it incredibly useful to bring this energetic awareness of masculine and feminine energy into your relationships with other people.

RECOMMENDED READING:

“RIDING HOME: THE POWER OF HORSES TO HEAL”

BY TIM HAYES

WWW.RIDINGHOME.COM



RIDING HOME – The Power of Horses to Heal is the first and only book to scientifically and experientially explain why horses have the extraordinary ability to emotionally transform the lives of thousands of men, women and children whether they are horse lovers, or those suffering from deep psychological wounds.

RIDING HOME is also a book for anyone who wants to experience the joy, wonder, self-awareness and peace of mind that comes from creating an interspecies horse/human relationship. And finally it puts forth and clarifies the principles of today's Natural Horsemanship or what was once referred to as “Horse Whispering.”

Everyone knows someone who needs help. RIDING HOME provides riveting examples of how “Equine Therapy” has become one of today's most effective cutting-edge methods of healing.

2015 HORSE OF THE AMERICAS ANNUAL MEETING

OCT 30/31, 2015 EAGLE RANCH RESORT
9040 STATE HWY J, COLLINS, MO 64738

Please join us for a weekend of talking, riding, sharing and discussing what we can do to help save the horses we love. A lot of indication are that our horses are in trouble from a number of different areas. For many of us, this has been going on for years, but it seems to be more intense now.

There are some definitely some new challenges facing us. Whichever Strain, whichever registry you support, it's time to come together, or we might be seeing the end of our horses. We have heard from a few that can't make it for different reasons and we respect their decision, but if you have an interest in helping preserve our horses, we would invite you to come to the H.O.A. meeting. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

We are planning on having an open discussion after the short business meeting and auction Saturday evening. We will even feed you Saturday evening, and for those that come on Friday, I will have a pot of vegetable soup to warm you up. Might even have a glass or 2 of vino to share.

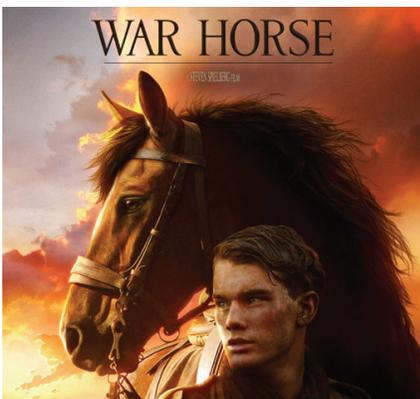
We had a good meeting at Eagle Ranch Resorts a few years ago with good riding and lovely trails, etc. As usual, the Registry will be paying for the Saturday evening meal. There are Cabins as well as camp sites with or without electric hook ups. Please let us know if you are planning on coming to the meeting and let the camp grounds know if you want a cabin. Spread the information to all that might be interested. Check out their website at: www.eagle-ranch.com

We look forward to seeing all that can make in October.

Tom Norush, H.O.A. President



Hailey Jones



WAR HORSE

I was taken away,
From the home I loved when I was young,
To the war I did not want to fight.
Others suffered with me,
Through those terrible days,
In the war we did not choose to fight.

They fell,
In the war man forced us to work in.
In the war they did not want to fight.
We were sold and stolen by man,
We went on and on through snow and rain,
Through the war man chose us to fight.

Why did man choose us to fight?
Fight this war that killed so many?
It is because we are noble and strong,
We will do whatever man tells us to do.

They protect us,
In the war that we *will* fight.

Hailey Jones



Stephanie Lockhart

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE JOHNSON, VERMONT

STEPHANIE LOCKHART

After a very successful summer of our Natural Horsemanship for Children programs at The Center, last month brought new successes to two young girls who are committed students of horsemanship.

Two of my junior riders, Barrett and Sophie, both age 10, are dedicated to their horsemanship journey. They took it to the next level by entering two schooling dressage shows in August. Sophie has been riding Maya, a 14-year-old mare originally from Caballo's de Destino, for most of the summer, and Barrett has recently taken over the reins of Wish, a 10 year old mare bred at Karma Farms.



Sophie riding Maya



Barrett riding Wish

Being able to combine rock solid, good horsemanship and competition is a little bit of an oxymoron in many show circles. So often egos are too involved and many competitors are riding for the ribbon and forgetting about the horse. Natural horsemanship is often viewed as a movement where practicing it not only changes how we work with horses, but how we interact with others and how our relationships with our four legged friends can help us in so many aspects of our own lives. Being able to combine these two things often leads to great success because it's not about the ribbon.

To see this unfold in a child can be a powerful example of how horses can work in our lives, whether we choose to just care for them, ride them, or participate in competition.

On the day of the show, and after a few weeks of daily riding practice sharpening up on the geometry of the tests, Sophie and Barrett put both the strong foundation they have in their horsemanship skills, as well as their strong riding skills into action "Calm, obedient, fluid, good impulsion, softness, effectiveness of the aids"- these were all comments from the judges that reflect the positive relationship they have with the mares. To me, as their coach, these comments and the scores are far more important than, "straight centerline, smooth transition, square halt at X,



On a personal note...

Tom and I had the opportunity to visit Stephanie and the Center for America's First Horse this summer and we were both really impressed with Stephanie's passion for horses, especially Spanish Mustangs, as well as her heart and skill as a teacher.

Elsewhere in this newsletter Tom Norush makes a compelling case for registering our horses and working together to preserve them. I agree with Tom and think this is critical, but I also think the real future of these horses is in the hands of our children. Stephanie is one of those caretakers, like many of you, who is building a love and respect for these horses into the next generation. She inspires me.

Kelly Crockett

nicely round circles." Both Sophie and Barrett earned scores from 6.5's to 8's on all their tests. (Scoring is from 1-10). These winning scores came from the solid foundation of the groundwork the girls do every time they prepare to ride, and from riding sessions which includes bareback, riding in a halter, riding on trails, riding with purpose and focus, riding with no purpose and focus. Just riding for the sake of riding.

Although this was Wish's first competition of any kind, Barrett confidently rode her through each test and allowed Wish to look but not stare at things she was uncertain of. By keeping her own focus and riding with intent, Barrett became the leader from the saddle that Wish needed her to be. I believe that along with their technical achievements it was the quality of their relationship that earned Barrett and Wish their blue ribbon.

Sophie had never competed in a show and Maya, one of our main ambassador horses, gave her rider the confidence she needed. Sophie is a magnificent dancer when she's not at the barn and rode with such poise, softness and precision that the judges awarded her with scores sending her home with two blue ribbons and reserve champion junior high score rider of the day. By the second show two weeks later, Sophie had confidence enough in herself to ride two more beautifully executed tests which earned her scores that most of the adult riders in the show did not reach. Barrett and Sophie were the two highest scoring junior riders at the show that day.

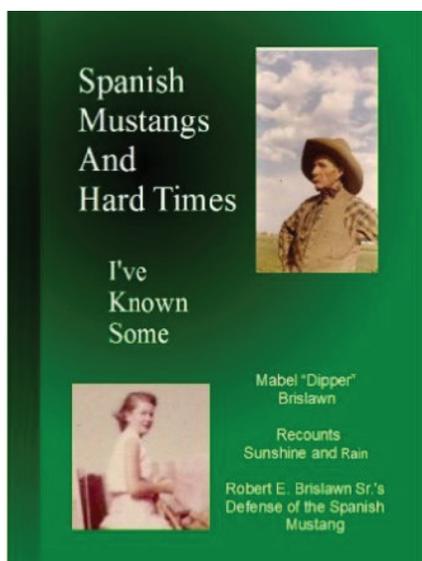
Blue ribbons can come and go, but good horsemanship and sportsmanship are something these wonderful girls will carry with them forever. The lessons learned go far beyond what goes on in the show arena.



CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE



Gretchen Patterson
Stephen F. Austin State University



"Spanish Mustangs And Hard Times: I've Known Some."
By Mabel "Dipper" Brislawn.
Lexington, KY: Bob Brislawn Memorial Society, 2014.

BOOK REVIEW: "SPANISH MUSTANGS AND HARD TIMES: I'VE KNOWN SOME" BY MABEL "DIPPER" BRISLAWN

GRETCHEN PATTERSON

Growing up with "Mr. Mustang"

Mabel Brislawn states in the beginning of this book, *"the first 32 years of my own life were spent on the Cayuse Ranch [Wyoming] working with Bob Brislawn...and the search for the pure horses for the Spanish Mustang Registry."*¹ This short biographical sketch contains the notes, memories, and oral histories of Robert E. Brislawn, Sr., and his family in their lifelong effort to save and preserve the Colonial Spanish horses of the American West.

Bob Brislawn's task was not easy. Not only did he and his project face ridicule and disbelief, he began this personal campaign as the American economy struggled through the Depression. Offers of financial aid from wealthier horsemen or government grants were non-existent. Throughout the book, Mabel details the family's various means of employment that allowed Bob to travel and search for Spanish-type horses. Both Bob and Mabel recorded their activities on paper, often using whatever was available, i.e., old envelopes, cardboard, letters, and scratch paper. From these writings and her own recollections Mabel assembled this book, providing readers with a personal look into the Brislawn family's efforts to rescue the Spanish mustang from extinction.

The Brislawn narrative begins with the early childhood of Bob and his brother, Ferdinand, in Sprague, Washington. After graduating from high school in 1912, Bob worked a variety of jobs until he was hired by the chief engineer of the U.S. Topographic Survey Unit in Montana. Bob was responsible for the mules, horses, supplies, and equipment as the survey team trekked across the western states mapping the mountain ranges and backcountry. He held this job for thirty years; the only exception was his Army service during World War I from 1916 to 1918. In 1931 Bob married Genevieve Irwin of Hulet, Wyoming. The couple built a small cabin on property not far from Oshoto, Wyoming and a succession of five children followed. Genevieve died in 1943, leaving eleven-year-old Mabel in charge of her siblings and the ranch.

After his long stint as a survey packer, Bob knew that the best horses for this work were the Spanish horses. He also realized that they were poised on the brink of extinction, and that



Bob Brislawn

someone needed to preserve these horses. Bob Brislawn decided that he was that person. Mabel recalls how they collected mares and stallions for Bob's breeding herd, bringing them home to the Cayuse Ranch, and concludes with the incorporation of the Spanish Mustang Registry (SMR), the founding members, and the first registered horses.

To understand the book, a reader should have some basic knowledge about the history of the Spanish Mustang Registry (SMR) and Bob Brislawn. Without previous knowledge, a casual reader would lose interest after the first few pages. A quick perusal reveals poor quality writing, misspellings, and grammatical errors. Other concerns are the frequent colloquialisms, the informal, conversational style, and insufficient citation when quoting from other sources.

The book is loosely organized in chronological order but makes frequent jumps in time, causing confusion. Although some attempt was made to keep the sections relevant to each chapter, the chapters do not flow smoothly from beginning to end, nor do all the chapters apply to the overall theme of Bob Brislawn's life. The photographs provided are small, poor quality reprints. Despite these drawbacks, *Spanish Mustangs And Hard Times* offers a unique perspective of the people who homesteaded the western states during the early to mid-twentieth century. For anyone interested in Spanish Mustangs, Bob Brislawn, or the founding of SMR, Mabel Brislawn's stories and life experiences provide a private look into a tiny slice of equine history.

¹ Mabel Brislawn, *Spanish Mustangs and Hard Times: I've Known Some* (Lexington, KY: Bob Brislawn Memorial Society, 2014), 17.

RECOMMENDED READING:

"SPANISH HORSEMEN AND HORSES IN THE NEW WORLD"

BY JANICE M. LADENDORF

Spanish Horsemen and Horses in the New World



Janice M. Ladendorf

When the Spanish came to the New World, they brought with them the knowledge and skills they had gained from centuries of handling and breeding aggressive cattle and fine horses. To thrive in the lands they conquered in the New World, they had to adapt their methods to meet new conditions. For hundreds of years, Iberia had been known as the home of horses who were exceptionally tough, agile, brave, and responsive to their riders. These were the ancestors of the horses the vaqueros rode.

Ladendorf's book explores the role that Mexican vaqueros played in the development of western horsemanship and the role they played in creating horses with exceptional endurance, so well suited to the challenges and conditions of the New World.



*Grumpy Old Man—Mounted
Tom Norush*



*The heart of Karma Farms, Vickie Ives,
keeping breeds vital and youth engaged in
Marshall, TX for more years than she wants
to count.*



*Steve Edwards at Mill Swamp Indian Horses
in Smithfield, VA. Working on that next
generation of riders.*

GRUMBLINGS FROM THE GRUMPY OLD MAN THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING TOGETHER

Are we living through the extinction of our horses? The numbers from the ALBC, excuse me, the Livestock Conservancy, are very worrisome. I realize that they are not as accurate as we would all like. Many are not breeding and haven't for the past couple years and still more are not registering new foals. The economy has kicked us all in the butt. But the horses are coming back in some parts of the country. Hopefully in yours.

The bottom line is that the Livestock Conservancy uses figures from the registries to come up with their figures. If new foals are not being registered, then they are not reported to the Livestock Conservancy. Which in turn gives us incorrect numbers for us to talk about. That's one problem, but, perhaps the bigger problem is, if we are not registering our horses, what are they and what's happening to our ability to trace ancestry? How, are we to keep track of them, to be able to document their heritage?

With this in mind the H.O.A. is giving free registrations to all current members, (1 for individual or Jr. membership and 2 for family/farm memberships). I know, paper work seems like a waste of time. After all, you can't ride the papers. But you can't trace the lines back without them. You can "tell" somebody they are Spanish Mustangs and that they trace back to San Domingo. You can claim they are Sulphurs, Bankers, or Cerbats. Of course when they don't think you will notice they will check under the mane to see if there is a B.L.M. brand there. They don't hear or care that the word "Spanish" is there. That's even with registrations papers, what is it going to be like if we don't have any.

Our Country, our Society has become splintered. Not working together and clinging to our own little bubble of opinions and people has become the norm. Instead of trying to come together and working for the common good, we're fracturing. Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." This is proving so very true with regards to our horses.

All the small groups, strains, or whatever term you want to use are getting very inbred. Problems are showing up in the foals. In the wild, nature took care of this. The herd stallion would drive the young colts off. They would form the bachelor bands where they would learn to survive and be ready to test the old stallion in the future. The old stallions only remained at the top of the herd for a few years before they were overthrown by a young



Our friends, Richard Blaney and Heidi Reinhardt, preserving and promoting Galicenos in Live Oak Florida.



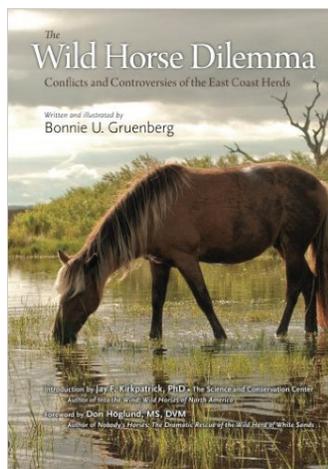
stallion. But the vast majority of Spanish Mustangs these days are bred by humans, so nature's fix isn't working.

Are we going to continue down the same path that we have been following—splintering off and creating factions over often minor differences between horses? Or can we look at making the types of changes in our own way of relating that will help insure the survival of our horses?

Can we be mature enough to overlook the minor differences in our horses and in ourselves to help insure that these wonderful horses will be here for our future generations? This isn't just an issue for us grumpy old Timers. This is an issue for our grandchildren and great grandchildren. Don't we want to be able to put our grandchildren on the back of one of these fantastic horses?



RECOMMENDED READING:
“THE WILD HORSE DILEMMA: CONFLICTS AND CONTROVERSIES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST HERDS”
BY BONNIE URQUHART GRUENBERG



The conflicts that rage around the wild horses of the Atlantic coast can be loud, confusing, and downright vicious. Wild horses have lived on these barrier islands for hundreds of years, and many people would like to see them remain. Horse advocates and horse detractors alike turn to research to support their claims, but often reach different conclusions from the same information.

Engaging the reader at every turn of the page, Bonnie Gruenberg frequently breaks new ground as she separates fact from myth and exposes the roots of issues for the reader to consider. She weaves a story of ancient origins and current events, hard science and fiery passion. The result is the most comprehensive and factual reference on the wild horses of the Atlantic coast.



El Corazone: *"Tommi, have you renewed your membership to H.O.A.? It's easy! Just visit the website at www.horseoftheamericas.com and click REGISTER. I'd be so much easier to ride if you did."*



IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER

How you can make it even better:

Share your wisdom. Write articles about horses, horse care, training, riding, healing and therapeutic work, preservation, history, what you're reading, your favorite Spanish Mustang movie, your travels and adventures, your successes and heartbreaks. If all you have is a great photo, send that along with a caption and we'll share it with your community.

Share upcoming events. If you're doing something we should know about, please share. Just pay attention to the calendar below to make sure you get it submitted on time.

Make an announcements. I want to highlight riding and horse breeding successes, especially among our younger riders. Please share

Sell us something—advertise. Please consider placing an ad in an upcoming newsletter:

- El Grande Ad (9.75 X 7 vertical) = \$50.00
- Ponderosa Ad (4.875 X 7 horizontal) = \$35.00
- Wide Open Spaces Ad (7 X 2.3 horizontal) = \$25.00
- Slim Pickens Ad (2.2 X 4.8 vertical) = \$15.00

You can find some sample ads and ad sizes on pages 17 and 18 or just let me know what you want. We can even help with your design. I sleep with my newsletter designer, so I can get you just about anything you need:-)

HOA Newsletter Publication Schedule. I'm still finalizing this but my preference would be to have each issue come out by the season (equinoxes and solstices).

Fall Issue Content deadline September 10

Fall Issue out by September 23

Winter Issue Content deadline December 10

Winter Issue out by December 21

Spring Issue Content deadline March 10

Spring Issue out my March 19

Summer Issue Content deadline June 10

Summer Issue out by June 20

Submit articles, events, announcements, or advertisements to Kelly Crockett at kellycrockett@me.com or kelly@windhorsepath.com. Include photos if you've got them. Is there something I haven't thought of? Email me or give me a call at 757-472-4722.

Kelly

CROOKED FENCE ACRES

TOM NORUSH & FAMILY ATTICA, IN 765-762-6628

FOR SALE

Angel of Fire, HOA #1958.

Foaled 5-2-12. Pretty strawberry roan



filly. Well started by Douglas II, gaited. Indian shuffle, likes to travel down the road.

Dancin Bird, HOA #1996.

Bright sorrel filly, ground work only so



far, looks like Dancin' Hawk, her grandsire.

Dancin' Wind HOA #1898.

Foaled 5-2-09. Red dun gelding.



Well started by Douglas Norush II, needs experienced rider but can move.

THE CENTER FOR AMERICA'S FIRST HORSE

Life Enrichment. Inspired by Native Horses. All Ages. All Abilities. Riding Optional.

Stephanie Lockhart PO Box 31 Johnson, VT 05656 (802) 730-5400



info@centerforamericasfirsthorse.org

www.centerforamericasfirsthorse.org



WINDHORSE PATH
NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

TRAINING AND RIDING
WITH KELLY CROCKETT

YOUTH & ADULTS
PRIVATE & SMALL GROUP LESSONS
NEW & RETURNING RIDERS



757-472-4722
KELLY@WINDHORSEPATH.COM
WWW.WINDHORSEPATH.COM
HAMPTON ROADS, VA



TOM CROCKETT PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITS EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY EVENTS

757-288-3231
TOM@TOMCROCKETTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM
WWW.TOMCROCKETTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

STEVE EDWARDS



SMITHFIELD VA



**MILL SWAMP
INDIAN HORSES**

.....
TRAIL RIDING
COLONIAL SETTLERS' VILLAGE
OFFSITE BREEDING FOR COROLLAS



WWW.MSINDIANHORSES.COM
MSINDIANHORSES@AOL.COM



Karma Farms

7925 U.S. Hwy. 59 N., Marshall TX 75670 903-407-0298 karmafarms@yahoo.com

When you know you want the best, buy from America's Number ONE breeder of winning Spanish Mustang/Colonial Spanish Horses: Karma Farms

We are currently offering two absolutely stunning 2 year-old stallion prospects. They are Colonial Spanish Horses, also registered as American Indian Horses. Both are easy to handle, lead, catch, and tie up as well as being gentle and people oriented. They will be ready to start as 3 year-olds next spring.

We also have several 2015 weanlings, 2014 yearlings, a few foaled in 2013 and up. Some have been started under saddle. We have exceptional breeding stock, with stunning colors, including some of the best pedigreed and most proven CS Horses in the world. 2015 foals include a brown grulla filly, Glory Days by Born To Run (Broom/Mora's Spring Dance) out of My Dancing Kimberly (Silver Tip/Ilo's Spanish Dancer), and a sorrel stallion, My Name Is Prince by CWH The Sea King (our champion Corolla stallion) out of Queen of the Silver Dollar (Choctaw Sun Dance/Little Corn). All reasonable offers considered. Call 903-407-0298



1) Smoke and Mirrors, Ilo Belsky bred loud snowcap colored appaloosa colt by El Condor Pasa (Timber Ghost/Ilo's Shaquita Bonita) and out of Phantom's Fancy Lady (Ilo's Phantom Blue Chief/Cimarron Lady). Pedigree includes not only some of the highest % Belsky breeding left in the world but also 25% Windrift Jack Dandy and 12.5% Gilbert Jones through Carmen's Chief. "Smoke" carries strong outcross bloodlines for appaloosa color.

2) Champagne High, last foal by Tambourine Man, champagne overo stallion by Choctaw Sun Dance out of Kiowa Morning Song. "Champ's" dam is Xena (X-Files/Esperanza). "Champ" is big, amber champagne in color, has appaloosa characteristics, so may spot out.

