

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

A Registered 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity

Summer 2019

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corollawildhorses.org
252-453-8002

WILD AND FREE

NEW ROADS (STILL UNPAVED, THOUGH!)



The Mission of the
Corolla Wild Horse Fund
is to protect, conserve,
and responsibly manage
the herd of wild Colonial
Spanish Mustangs
roaming freely on the
northernmost Currituck
Outer Banks, and to
promote the continued
preservation of this land
as a permanent
sanctuary for horses
designated as the State
Horse and defined as a
cultural treasure by the
state of North Carolina.

Staff

Jo Langone
Chief Operating Officer

Meg Puckett
Herd Manager

Tim Nolan
Finance Manager

Teesa Belanga
Donor Programs

Nora Tarpley
Trainer

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Assistant Trainer

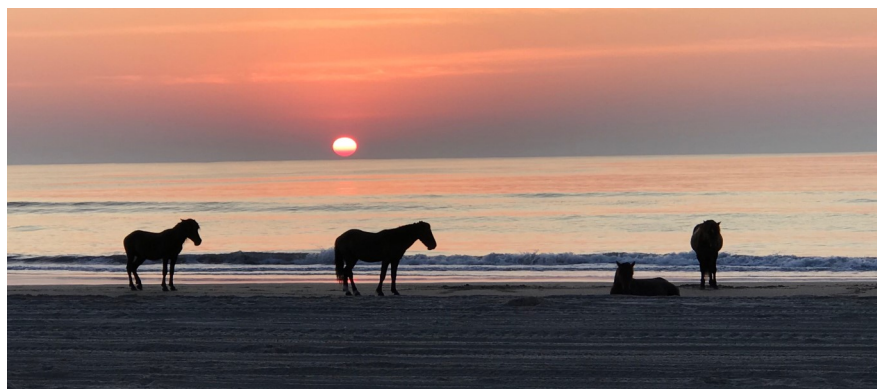
Some years ago, CWHF's staff and board of directors began crafting and honing its Strategic Action Plan to serve as a road map for the long-term protection of the Corolla horses. This plan touches on everything from herd management to land preservation, education, media and PR campaigns, and the Fund's role in the surrounding community.

Our mission is at the forefront of every decision made - to protect, conserve, and responsibly manage the herd. A big part of that is understanding how the horses utilize the space available to them, understanding their behavior and how different environmental factors impact it, and being a presence on the beach that advocates for the horses by way of education and cooperation with the local community. In order to achieve this, we recognized that we needed to do two things.

First, we created an "observation team" staff that is on the beach 7 days a week, taking notes on horse numbers, locations, and behaviors, monitoring horse/human safety, and representing the Fund to the public in general and especially visitors. Second, the Fund recognized the importance of building our relationships with the commercial horse tour companies so that we could provide training workshops for all tour guides and office staff and develop an environment that would promote open lines of communication between their staff and CWHF staff. Since this past January, we no longer offer tours to the public so that even more of our time is continually focused on our core mission. Three of our guides became Sanctuary Observers themselves, and we hired an additional two people to complete the roster. They take extensive notes on the horses each day, and they are available to respond to incidents and relay information to the herd manager.

We started our work with the commercial tour groups just at the advent of the high season and have been able to complete training workshops with the staffs of Wild Horse Adventure Tours and Corolla Outback Adventures. We look forward to working with the other companies in the near future. The training includes information about the history of the Banker horses, their biology and natural behavior, signs of illness or stress, and the reasons behind the Fund's management policies. It also gives us a chance to chat with all of the guides face-to-face and answer their questions. The guides are invaluable to us because they have their eyes on the horses every day and can let us know if they see anything we need to check out. They also reach thousands and thousands of people (way more than CWHF did on its own tours!) over the course of a summer. The guides have a direct line to the herd manager and the sanctuary observers, and can call to report injured horses, or anything else of note.

You may have also seen our "no feed" yard signs, heard the PSA running on local radio, or noticed a fridge magnet in your rental home. All of these tools and programs were purposefully developed to bring the community together in an effort to save the wild Corolla mustangs. Together we can make sure the horses have a home on the Currituck Outer Banks for many more generations. If you'd like more information on how you can help spread the word, reach out to us—info@corollawildhorses.com



Supporter Spotlight: Linda Craney

There are currently 15 rescued Corolla mustangs at our rehab farm on the mainland. Caring for these horses, and training them, goes beyond being a full-time job! We rely on a dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers to help us with everything from feeding horses to mowing the grass.

Linda Craney has been working weekly at the farm for several years now, and is one of our most capable and trusted volunteers. She is always happy to help in whatever capacity is needed, whether that means grooming and exercising horses or cleaning pastures. She's also a wonderful mentor for new volunteers.

What makes the mustangs special?

They are so dang smart! And with intelligence comes curiosity. They are always watchful and interested in what's going on around them. I was driving an ATV with a trailer to clean manure out of the large run-ins the horses have in their pastures. The whole group in the pasture looked up from grazing and came strolling up to see what I was doing. I had tears in my eyes I was laughing so hard as eight (horses) gathered around me smelling the manure in the trailer, pulling at the pitchfork handles and nosing me for ear scratches.

What things would you like people to know/understand about the rescued mustangs?

What they represent for the wild mustang population. I hear people tell stories of visiting the Outer Banks as children in the 1970s when it was common to see the mustangs wandering around Corolla. As more land is developed and more people visit the off-road areas, we have to think about how we are going to co-exist with the wild horses into the 21st century.

Thank you Linda for all of your hard work and dedication! It's because of people like you that the Fund can ensure the rescued mustangs live happy, healthy, and enriched lives.

By the Numbers: Summer 2019

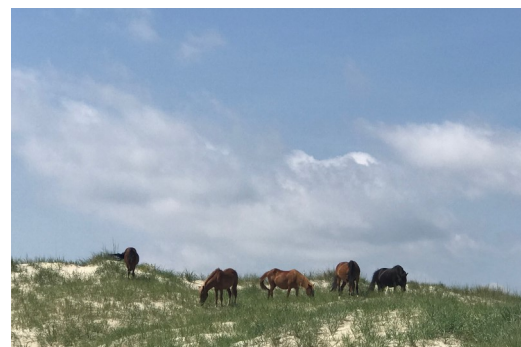


15/31: There are currently 15 horses living on our 31 acre rescue farm. You can meet them all every Wednesday throughout the summer at our open house.



1: Our Banker Strain of Colonial Spanish Mustangs tend to have one less vertebrae (like Arabians) and oval shaped cannon bones that contribute to their strength, stamina and resiliency.

100k: We've reached one hundred thousand fans on Facebook! That's a big village—and the horses certainly benefit from the support! By sharing our posts and interacting with us on social media, you are helping us advocate for the horses.



11: Did you know that horses are pregnant for 11 months? So far in 2019 we've had 5 foals born, and we are hoping for more this summer and fall. The herd lost 11 individuals last year, and babies are most welcome!



Looking for a special gift for the horse lover in your life? Please remember to visit our online store. Surprise that special person with a unique item sure to please and remind them of our special Banker horses.

www.corollawildhorses.org