

# WILD AND FREE



## A CARING COMMUNITY MAKES AN IMPACT

Times continue to be “different,” but there’s certainly hope on the horizon that some degree of normalcy could return in 2021 in time for the busy tourist season. As always, we’ll follow the science and plan accordingly. With adjustments, our goal is to welcome our supporters and members at the rescue farm for scheduled weekly events and open the museum located in the Historic Corolla Village.

**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.

Our plans remain a bit fluid, so look for updates on our website, but one thing is constant, protecting the horses.

CWHF is the recipient of a significant educational messaging project that will most certainly help protect the horses in the 4x4 for years to come. The project is an ambitious undertaking requiring months of planning and collaboration between the community and the County.

An anonymous donor had an idea and spearheaded a project erecting permanent signs, strategically, along the oceanfront in Carova from the beach entrance to the Virginia line.

It is a significant project that required permission from Currituck County. The County approved the sign above for use on private land. Our generous anonymous donor enlisted help from a couple of local volunteers who found contact information for the oceanfront property owners in the 4x4 area.

Letters were sent asking if the property owners would allow wild horse signage on their property, and the response was overwhelmingly positive and downright enthusiastic!

In addition to the extremely supportive property owners, help was needed to install the signs and volunteers from the community stepped up to give their time and muscle with the installations.

Signs and materials have arrived and the project is progressing nicely with the goal of installation within the next couple of weeks, and completed by the end of April. When we say it takes a village (to protect these horses,) it really does, and we are grateful to have a very caring village.

What a wonderful way to start the season, with the strongest messaging the horses have ever had in their habitat, vital messaging that will be in place for years to come.



### Staff

Jo Langone  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Dan Gillogly  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Meg Puckett  
*Herd Manager*

Nora Tarpley  
*Trainer and Registry Manager*

Devon Eyring  
*Farm Care and Registry Asst*

Fran Hamilton  
Jeff Chedister  
Martha Chedister  
Bill Crone  
Marianne Gradeless  
Roy Hamilton

## Thank You for a Successful Membership Drive

We'd like to thank all of you for your support. Like many non-profits, it's a daily effort to find support and funding to continue our work. We are so grateful for our members and supporters who we count on every day. And who always have been there for us in times of crisis.

Some of the highlights for our Drive this past March were that we welcomed 69 new members and 77 participants renewed their membership! Overall, 545 individuals participated in some way during the month. All of these stats were new records for us!

We are making plans to re-open and we are eager to meet our members in person. If you are coming to the Outer Banks this summer, please include us in your plans, either at an event or at our newly enhanced museum in the Historic Corolla Village.

### YOU TOO CAN BE A HERD WATCHER

#### WATCH - RECORD - REPORT

##### Watch

- For anyone closer than 50 feet to the horses.
- Anyone feeding (by hand or tossing) food of any kind.
- Anyone chasing, pursuing, throwing objects at or harassing the horses.

##### Record

- Use your cell phone to photograph or film infractions.
- When possible photograph license plate numbers.
- Retain descriptions of individuals (clothes, caps, tattoos, etc.).

##### Report

- Please contact the Currituck Sheriff's Department at 252-232-2216. You can do this without giving your name if you chose to do so.
- Or contact us, the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, at 252-453-8002 and we will follow-up.

## By the Numbers: Spring 2021

96	Genetic testing has been completed on all of the rescues residing with us and 41 of the wild herd. We currently hold the results of 96 DNA tests which includes some historical data and are working with Texas A&M and UC Davis to analyze the samples.
18	Current number of rescued horses on at the farm.
1	The Corolla Wild Horse Fund is one of only two non-profits in the country that manages a herd of wild horses. All other herds are managed by government agencies, or not at all.
10,900	Number of followers on Instagram! CWHF posts updates regularly to keep everyone informed. Facebook is where we started our presence. Instagram is growing all the time, please follow there too.
2	Two educational signs were approved by Currituck County. The first is to be placed in Carova Park. The content and design of the sign was so well received that one will also be placed in Corolla at a location yet to be determined.
700-1000	The typical Banker is relatively small, standing between 13.0 and 14.3 hands (52 and 59 inches) high at the withers and weighing 700 to 1,000 pounds.
5-6	Wild Banker mustangs eat grass and other indigenous vegetation. Adults eat about 5 to 6 pounds of this vegetation each day and they drink fresh water from seeps, springs, rain pools, and the Currituck Sound whose salinity is generally not high.

## CWHF OUT AND ABOUT

Please check our website often. We are adding events as the season comes upon us.

A few things are firm that we'd like to share now. You can find us with our signature "Meet a Mustang" at the Sanderling on Saturday mornings in the month of April.

We are also sponsoring **Sunset Sounds**, the third Thursday of July, August and September (7/15, 8/19, 9/15). Join us along with other Historic Corolla Village merchants for a casual, relaxed way to start your evening. From 5 pm to 7:30 pm we'll have live music from Janet Martin

(janetmartin.com) in the courtyard adjacent to our location. Look for merchant specials throughout the Village. Dinner is available from Corolla BBQ and we are hoping to have a gentled mustang too (depending on weather and well, the mustang's mood that day.) \*Picnic baskets, blankets, or lawn chairs are welcomed at this free family-oriented event.



**Sunset Sounds**  
Performance by Janet Martin

free event, casual family fun, merchant specials

**Live Music - Food - Drink**  
picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets welcome.

Historic Corolla Village  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in July, August & September  
5 pm – 7:30 pm

Sponsored by  
COROLLA HISTORIC VILLAGE  
COROLLA WILD HORSE FUND