

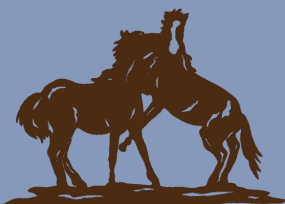
2024 VOLUME 1

WILD AND FREE

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund

A registered 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Charity

1130-E Corolla Village Rd.
P.O. Box 361
Corolla, NC 27927
252-453-8002
corollawildhorses.org



COROLLA WILD HORSE FUND

The Mission of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund is to protect, conserve, and responsibly manage the herd of Corolla wild horses (Bankers) 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.

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Chief Executive Officer

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Director of Herd Management

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Trainer and Registry Manager

Alex Tollman-McGrath
Farm and Horse Care Specialist

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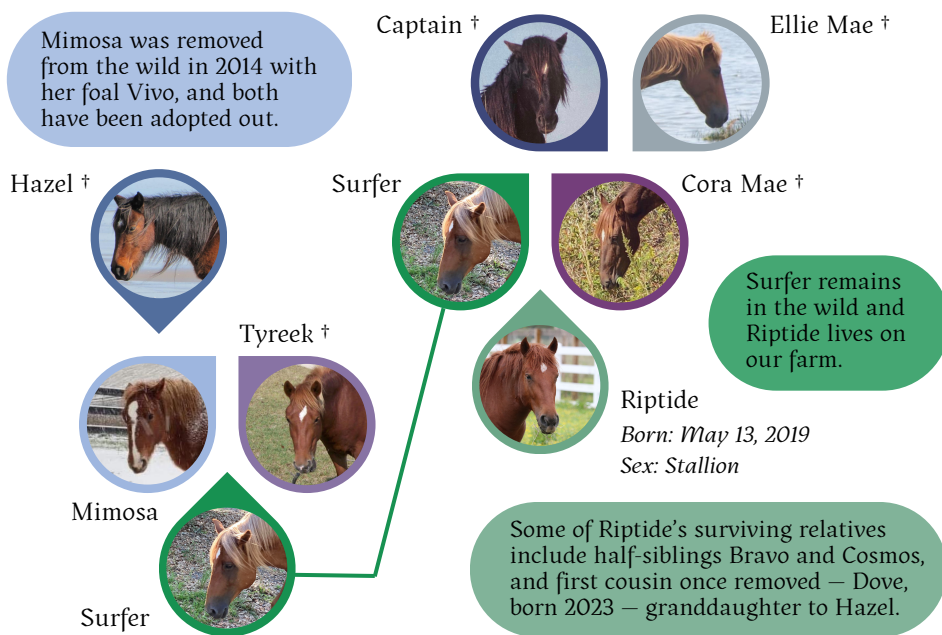
Lilli Storemski
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Amy Joslin

DNA and Family Lines

The Fund works closely with geneticists at Texas A&M to learn more about the Banker's genetic history and family trees. We've recently been able to determine Riptide's — rescued due to pythiosis in 2020 — ancestry back to his maternal great grandmother Hazel. This information has allowed us to form an extensive pedigree. Riptide's grandfather Tyreek was a stallion who was DNA typed back in 2007. His fate is unknown, but because we have his DNA on file, he is not completely lost to history. Eventually every horse in the herd will have a pedigree on file like this, and we will be able to connect them all together from parents to siblings to second cousins and everything in between!



Action item 1F of the *Wild Horse Management Plan*, a signed agreement between CWHF, Currituck County, US Fish and Wildlife, and the state of North Carolina, is "establish lineage of the herd." In 2020 we set out to collect tissue samples for DNA analysis from all of the wild horses and any formerly wild horses that weren't already on file. In addition to the current herd members, we have DNA on file from horses sampled in 2007, along with management records dating back to the 1980s. This project is ongoing, but we have collected enough data now that we've been able to start completing action item 1F. Many horses in our records are no longer alive, but because we've got their DNA, they are not lost to history. We've been able to reconstruct family lines going all the way back to great grandparents in some cases. Riptide is just one great example of how all of this work is coming together! This information can help us make better decisions about breed conservation and overall herd management, and it's also reassuring to have scientific proof that the horses we've lost over the years still live on in their progeny. Each and every individual is critical to the long-term genetic health and wellbeing of the herd. The more we know about them, the better equipped we will be to save them.

A New Adventure for Ducky



We are excited to announce that Lucky Duck, or Ducky as he's known around the farm, has been adopted and will be going to a wonderful new home this spring. Ducky was removed from the wild in 2018 along with four mares and his yearling son when they would not stop going around the fence into False Cape State Park, Virginia. He will be staying in North Carolina, and his adopter (a former Corolla Wild Horse Fund employee) is looking forward to continuing Ducky's work as an ambassador for the Banker breed. Join us in wishing them both all the best in their new adventures! If you are a current sponsor of Ducky, your donation and all sponsorship donations are used toward the care of all rescued horses at our farm.

Updates at the Farm

We are excited to share that through a grant from Currituck County Tourism, we've installed a wheelchair-accessible ramp at the farmhouse where we host *The Secret of Corolla* screenings and our gift shop during open houses! We are so happy to be able to accommodate all of our guests who come to visit the rescued Bankers.

Spring Open House

Meet rescued Banker horses at our Spring Open House at the farm! The Secret of Corolla docu-film will show at 11:30am followed by a Q & A with our Director of Herd Management. Hear the horses' rescue stories and meet the staff responsible for their well-being as well as those still living in the wild. There will also be local vendors. This is a great opportunity to visit the farm on a weekend before the summer season kicks off.



April 20, 2024
10:00am - 2:00pm
102 Young Rider Ln.
Grandy, NC 27939

Visit corollawildhorses.org/events for more information before your visit.



By the Numbers:

- 1 In 2023, 1 wild Banker was removed from the wild and now lives on the farm due to a leg issue — an older mare named Blossom. DNA tests have confirmed that she is Junior's mother. Junior was rescued in 2021.
- 2 Through our 4H program, 2 rescued Bankers — June and Ocean Pearl — spent a day at Currituck County Rural Center to experience off-site leading and riding. It was June's first time off the farm since her recovery.
- 15 On the 4x4, the speed limit is 15 mph when driving within 300 feet of a person. Please use the same caution when passing the wild horses!
- 111 In the wild, we estimate there are 111 horses roaming free on the northern Currituck Banks. The first foal of 2024 is a colt named Eros.
- 23 On our farm on the mainland, we care for 23 rescued horses that can no longer live in the wild, including one good-looking mule!

Preserving Horse Habitat



As stated in our Mission Statement, promoting the continued preservation of the Bankers' habitat as their permanent sanctuary is core to our work. That very habitat is under ever-growing pressure from the pace of development that continues along the Currituck Outer Banks. To protect the integrity of the breed, a wild population must be maintained in the habitat in which the horses have lived for the last several centuries. With this growing rate of development, it is more important than ever that we work together to preserve the habitat. This will not only provide an ongoing suitable habitat for the horses, but the connected corridor will also deliver co-benefits to other wildlife, natural resources and native plants as well.

To learn more about our increased focus on Habitat Preservation, follow us on all of our social channels. For more information and to find out how to directly be involved in this essential piece of our work, please reach out to Chris Winter, chris@corollawildhorses.com.

Owners are Donors



This program is an opportunity for Rental Home Owners to support the Fund, while sharing that support with your guests! The Bankers are such an integral element of vacations on the Outer Banks. What better way to honor that than to pledge a percentage of each weekly rental to preserve the habitat of the northern beaches and to protect the wild herd. There are three levels of giving, all offering exclusive benefits such as this steel-

powdered plaque to showcase your commitment to the horses in your rental. For vacationers to book your rental is to sustain the wild horses and their future, giving your guests another great reason to select your home. Learn more about this program at corollawildhorses.org/owners.