

# *Mustang and Burro Trails*

## *On Delmarva*

*A newsletter by the Delmarva Chapter of the American Mustang and Burro Association*

*Marge Davis, editor and Chapter Secretary*

18655 Piper Lane, Ellendale, Delaware 19941 e-mail [markLdavis@hughes.net](mailto:markLdavis@hughes.net)

**May-June 2007**

## **SPRING FUN SHOW**

The Delmarva Chapter AMBA has scheduled a fun show for Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Dill's Auction on Hollering Hill Road, Wyoming, Delaware from 9 am to 4 pm. A current negative Coggins is required.

Twenty four classes have been planned with lots of games. Ribbons will be awarded at the conclusion of each class. There is an advance entry fee of \$20 to ride all day, or \$25 after May 15. Checks are accepted, should be made payable to AMBA, Delmarva Chapter and sent to Alycia Hovey, 190 Thompsonville Road, Milford, Delaware 19962

In addition to the show, there will be a silent auction as well as a new tack sale with items at greatly reduced prices.

Plan on coming to this show, either as a participant or spectator for a really good time. If you have questions call Mark at 302-422-1861 or send e-mail to [markLdavis@hughes.net](mailto:markLdavis@hughes.net)

## **DELAWARE HORSE EXPO**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Delaware Horse Expo took place on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Delaware State Fairgrounds. The event was kicked off by a dinner dance billed as "A Casual Country Affair" sponsored by the Delaware Equine Council on Friday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Delmarva Chapter had a "booth" in the barn with adoption information. A mustang and a burro were also on exhibit. There were large number of

visitors and members working at the booth were busy all day. They were pleased to note that there was a great deal of interest in the "Adopt a Horse or Burro Program."

## **The Long Rider Rides Again**

Long Rider, Gene Glasscock, is planning another ride. On December 1, 2005 in Columbus, Ohio, Gene ended a 3 ½ year ride to every state capitol in the continental US. Following that ride, he began writing a book (not yet complete) about his experiences, then briefly returned to Paraguay. However, some health issues (pneumonia, angioplasty, ...) caused his return to the U.S.

Unable to keep out of the saddle, he is planning to ride the Pacific Crest Trail from Canada to Mexico as soon as the snow pack in the Pacific Northwest diminishes. He has acquired 2 mustangs for the trip. He has his own web site so that his friends may keep up with his travels. This remarkable man is a young 72 years old, or as he likes to say—24 three times around.

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

**Memorial Day Parade:** The Chapter has been invited to participate in a Memorial Day Parade in Milford, Delaware on May 28. Members wishing to ride in the parade are asked to contact Mark for particulars.

Member Cathy Kirby was spotted riding her mustang, Tess, in Tuckahoe State Park (MD). It is interesting that Tess was immediately recognized as a mustang by her freezemark.

Debbie Edwards, Chapter Treasurer, is recovering from a hip replacement. She is doing well and hopes to be riding again in the near future. We all wish her well.

Alycia Hovey and Cathy Kirby rode their mustangs in an annual "Beach Ride" to benefit therapeutic riding in Delaware.

Mark & Marge attended the first day of the Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio on April 12 and assisted in the BLM booth in the breed barn.

The New England Chapter of AMBA had a booth at the "Everything Equine Expo" at the Champlain Valley Exposition Center near Burlington, Vermont on April 28-29. Kerry and Kurt Comisky of Connecticut donated a 3 year old mustang filly to be first prize in a raffle to raise funds for the New England chapter. The green broke filly (a range bred, barn born mustang) was on exhibit throughout the event. The winning ticket was drawn at the close of the Expo on Sunday afternoon. The winner was a veterinary technician who lives in Franklin, VT. The second place winner received a \$125 gift certificate for a mustang to be adopted at the Storrs CT Adoption in August (provided, of course, that the winner meets the BLM facility requirements.) The third place winner received a tote bag with an embroidered horse on the side.

The newly formed Virginia Chapter had their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April with 10 adults in attendance. They have chosen "Living Legends Chapter" as a name for their group. These folks are distributing flyers in tack shops and feed stores and putting together a display to be used at horsey events. They want to be ready for the Lorton Adoption in the fall of 2007. Way to go, guys!

## *The Staff of Legends*

Isabella Bird was a courageous 42 year old English lady in 1873 when she embarked upon a 3 month

expedition through in the Rocky Mountains. The account of her travels from San Francisco to Estes Park, CO and beyond is chronicled in the book "A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains." Most of her trip was on horseback traveling alone and carrying all her clothing and meager supplies with her on one horse. She relied on rental or borrowed mounts and rode several different horses. However, her absolute favorite was a mustang mare she named "Birdie."

Mustangs then, as now, often had the reputation of being ornery, skittish, unreliable and "jug headed." Perhaps this was due to the rough treatment these animals received during "breaking." Isabella describes this process as being brutal. However, Isabella exchanged her thoroughbred mare for a "well trained bronco, which could double like a hare and go over any ground." A little further on in her story she relates, "I have a bay Indian pony, Birdie, more a little beauty with legs of iron, fast, enduring, gentle and wise." She also describes Birdie's "funny ways" in following Isabella closely, laying her head lightly on her Isabella's shoulder and licking her face asking for sugar treat.

Birdie's inbred instincts caused her to refuse to cross an unsafe bridge on one occasion. Another time she put her foot in a prairie dog hole three different times and got out without injury. Isabella speaks of her as:

"my faithful Birdie"

"she is the queen of ponies – very gentle though she has not only wild horse blood, but is herself a wild horse. Always cheerful and hungry, never tired, looks intelligently at everything..."

(regarding a male fellow traveler) "Then his fine American horse on which he had ridden 2 days, broke down while my 'mad bad bronco' on which I had been traveling for a fortnight cantered lightly over the snow."

Isabella's story is told in letters that she wrote to her sister in England. These letters give a first hand account of life in Colorado in the 1870's and of the enormous hardships endured by all settlers. From our vantage point in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the ease that accompanies our lives, we can only marvel at the courage of people like Isabella Bird.

