



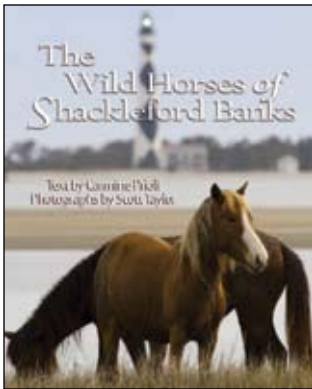
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Mystery, Politics, Ecology, and Controversy:
The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks

Text by Carmine Prioli; Photos by Scott Taylor



Nobody really knows where the wild horses of Shackleford Banks came from.

Some say their ancestors were abandoned by an early, ill-fated Spanish outpost. Some say they are descended from the survivors of Spanish shipwrecks. Others say that their line goes back to the

Lost Colony, to horses brought from England and left to their own devices when the colony disappeared.

Some argue that the Shackleford herd is made up of ponies, not horses. Some insist that the herd is not truly wild. Others claim that the horses should be removed from Shackleford Banks altogether.

When it comes to the Shackleford horses, it sometimes seems that the only thing people can agree on is to disagree. Those who are familiar with the horses, however, agree on two other points: they are beautiful, and they have survived for centuries against incredible odds.

With text by Carmine Prioli and photographs by Scott Taylor, the new book *The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks* is a comprehensive overview of the past, present, and future of these remarkable animals. The book is also an effort to raise awareness of the horses' plight. A portion of the proceeds from sales of *The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks* will be contributed to the Foundation of Shackleford Horses, Inc.

The Shackleford, or "Banker," horses have survived challenges from all directions, from hurricanes to the halls of Congress, but they endure in part because of the fierce devotion they often inspire in those who have seen them on their island home.

"It is hard to say exactly why the wild Banker horses

elicit such profound feelings," Prioli writes. "Perhaps they touch us so powerfully because, as creatures on their own treading upon the sandy pastures that separate a vast continent from a limitless ocean, their story is an affirmation of the American experience."

Carmine Prioli is an award-winning professor and director of graduate programs in the English Department at North Carolina State University, where he has taught American literature and folklore since 1977. His other books include *Hope for a Good Season: The C&E Bankers of Harkers Island*.

Scott Taylor is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a photographer for the Chapel Hill News and the Duke University Marine Laboratory before opening Scott Taylor Photography, along with his own gallery and studio, in Beaufort, North Carolina.



The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks
Text by Carmine Prioli • Photos by Scott Taylor
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