



"Nokota® News"

The Nokota® Horse Facing Imminent Threat

**YOUR
GENERAL HERD
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT
WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**



"We have an urgent need for donations. Last year's poor growing season has left us with dangerously low hay supplies and summer pasture leases need to be paid. Please help save the Nokota® by donating to the General Herd Management Fund today!"

Their struggle continues...DONATE TODAY!

**20 13
Nokota®Horse
Conservancy Board
of Directors:**

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Please take a moment to listen to the gripping plight of the Nokota® horse in this informative and compelling documentary written and narrated by Shawna Lichtenwalner. In her passion for the Nokota® she writes "Without the Kuntzes, these historic horses would have been lost decades ago. Together they have rebuilt the breed, using careful breeding practices so that the horses, whose numbers dipped as low as 20 at one point, are now about 1000 strong. It was a thankless, hard, and heroic task.

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Yet all of these steps forward are about to be negated by the cruel reality of economic hardship. The fiscal downturn has meant that the Nokota Horse Conservancy has seen a catastrophic drop in donations. This, combined with poor weather conditions during the hay growing season last year, has placed the well-being of the Nokotas in the most precarious position they have been in since the formal formation of the breed. Hay supplies have dipped so low that the Conservancy has only a little over a week's worth of hay left. When it is gone, hard decisions will have to be made. Money has not yet been found for the lease of summer pastures, and even if it is found there are at least six weeks to go before the horses could be turned out on summer pastures. With few options left, this feed shortage may force the dispersal of the Conservancy's herd, with few guarantees that the horses will all find safe homes. Dispersal could spell the end of the breed, for the vast majority of Nokotas, approximately 500 of the nearly 1000 that now live worldwide, may potentially be lost. It is certain that there are few options left for 118 horses owned by the Conservancy, horses that best represent the old bloodlines from the National Park, if money for hay is not found." Thank you Shawna for your Nokota love and devotion!

[Please Consider Making a Donation Today!](#)

The Nokota® Horse Conservancy



The Nokota® Horse Conservancy was formed as an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 1999 to preserve the unique breed of Nokota® horse that had, against all odds, survived the last century as a wild population within the harsh North Dakota badlands centered around Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The Nokota® horses owe their distinctive characteristics, from their calm and sociable personalities to their rugged conformations and their myriad colors which are often uncommon in other breeds, to both their heritage as early Native American and pioneer horses as well as to their struggle for survival as a freely evolving population that was forced to closely adapt to a brutal landscape of extreme weather, topography, and predation. With the support of the Kuntz family, who first became convinced of these horses great usefulness and only later learned of their long and proud history, and later the great help of the Nokota Horse Conservancy® (NHC) which coalesced around their already long enduring efforts, this breed has grown from less than 20 known individuals to over 300 fully foundation Nokota horses today. Among these, the NHC maintains over 100 Nokotas® chosen to continue as broad an array of different foundation bloodlines as possible. Meanwhile, we are confident that the Nokota® horses can easily prove themselves very valuable and desirable if only given the chance, and so the NHC's mission also

includes education and promotion via its website, expos, colt starting clinics, and now a newly offered membership option which will include this NHC newsletter at least 4 times per year.

The decision to offer official membership within the NHC comes at the request of numerous willing individuals in addition to the professional advice of a business and marketing consultant who specializes with non-profits (and is so kindly donating his services to the NHC because he too believes in our cause). The Nokota Horse Conservancy® has been very successful in better ensuring the entire breed's health and long term stability by concentrating on breeding the most imperiled bloodlines and now has grown its own herd to the point where it can safely sell some individuals of the now better represented families while continuing to concentrate on those bloodlines which are under-represented. The NHC's long term goal is to establish an expansive sanctuary managed as a full native ecosystem as similar to the Nokota horses' original home as possible where the NHC-owned Nokotas can once again run wild and continue to be sculpted by the same natural factors that helped to make them so unique and durable. This sanctuary and living history museum would also be a focal point of all things Nokota®, from pasture tours for guests and tourists to scientific studies by experts to colt-starting clinics and therapeutic riding to work in reuniting under-privileged Native American

youth with the horses that were so central to their entire culture. We have raised some limited funds towards this long term goal, but feel that if membership and sponsorship can help sustain the day-to-day activities of the NHC, then we can more successfully focus our grant writing towards this long-term goal of the sanctuary, which better dovetails with what most larger benefactors seek in a partner.

Since membership is new to our organization and we always prided ourselves in being accessible to all, we have opted to minimize our costs via email only newsletters and thus offer basic membership for only \$50 a year. In addition to 4 newsletters a year, members will soon receive discounts on various activities offered through the Nokota Horse Conservancy® and free tours of the NHC herd.

We thank you for your help in this initial membership drive, and we look forward to keeping in touch via this newsletter, our website at: www.nokotahorse.org, and the even more frequently updated facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/groups/359787905068/>.

Furthermore, we encourage all who are interested to contact us directly, or even come on out for a visit as all are always welcome.

More Nokota® News



Patrick Springer, Published February 18 2013

Nokota horse supporters look to North Dakota Legislature



“North Dakota’s honorary horse breed doesn’t get the respect supporters believe it’s due in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. “ *Patrick Springer-Fargo Forum*

[Click here to read the article](#)



[Click here](#)

to nominate the Nokota® Horse Conservancy to be featured on 'Making a Difference.'

Tell us why the world should hear their story. Nominate them for a possible profile on NBC Nightly News.

Click "+ADD ANOTHER FILE" below the second field if you are uploading multiple items.



North Dakota

Legislative Branch

SENATE RESOLUTION 4011

[CLICK HERE](#)
TO READ
RESOLUTION

January 31, 2013 ~ A concurrent resolution urging the National Park Service to recognize the historical value of the Nokota® horse and provide for its appropriate management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota ~ Introduced by Senators Erbele, Hogue, Mathern

SCR-4011 PASSED - [Click here to see all the Legislative Action](#)

**FIRST EVER
NOKOTA® HORSE
CALENDAR
for 2013**
is now on-sale
for \$10.00!!
Purchase yours at
www.nokotahorse.org

Calendar of Events

- [NY State Horse Breeders Show](#)
May 23-27, 2013
Syracuse, NY ([State Fair Grounds](#))
- The Nokota® Horse Experience
Clinician [Jack Lieser](#)
June 9-13, 2013 (Linton, ND)
- [NHC's 15th Annual Meeting](#)
June 15-16, 2013 (Linton, ND)

Nokota®Horses For Sale



Marmalade

National Park Ranch - (NPR)
100% Foundation Nokota
\$3,000.00

Sire: Wanblee
Dam: Cowlick
Foaled: 2008 Gelding
Color/Markings:
Strawberry Roan
Located: Linton, ND

Sensitive and laid back, Marmalade combines brains and athleticism to give someone the whole package. With three days under saddle, this responsive horse is off to a great start and can make somebody a wonderful partner.

Video clips of Marmalade trotting and jumping can be viewed at

<http://youtu.be/N9i0ch95soo>

<http://youtu.be/Etivz-8IPAM>

Theodore



Theodore

National Park Ranch - (NPR)
100% Foundation Nokota
\$3,000.00

Sire: Dark Warrior
Dam: Smoke Racer
Foaled: 2008 Gelding
Color/Markings:
Mahogany Bay with blaze
Located: Linton, ND

Self-assured and stunning! Theodore has great self-carriage and a striking presence. With his balance and stellar gaits, he will make a wonderful and athletic companion whether you are looking for a cow pony or a dressage horse.

Theodore is playful and self-assured with loads of potential and good energy. He was first ridden during the 2012 colt start in the days leading up to the annual meeting of the NHC. If you are looking for a feisty, fun challenge with big rewards, this is your guy. Theodore's movement can be seen both at the beginning and the end of a YouTube video at: <http://youtu.be/eRuEoLcZwJ0>

Nokota®Horses For Sale



Spotted Nacona

National Park Ranch-(NPR)
100% Foundation Nokota
\$2,500.00 if gelded

\$3,500.00 if kept a stallion

Sire: Voracious

Dam: Tall Badger

Foaled: 2012 Colt

Color/Markings:

Overo with a 50% chance of turning grey considering his parentage

Located: Linton, ND

"If you prefer height in your fully foundation Nokota, then Spotted Nacona offers substantially taller than average stature combined with sure to impress class and presence. And since Spotted Nacona comes from less common bloodlines, he surely would make a superb stallion prospect, too, who could easily be matched to any number of unrelated Nokota mares. The Nacona bloodline has, in particular been, of great concern and emphasis within the NHC since upon its formation only 2 fully foundation breeding descendents remained. We have been fortunate in expanding these so that we are now confident that they are secure enough to

begin offering some of the stud colts for sale. He is proud and alert, with a posture that clearly advertises how confident he is of his athleticism. And he is a perfectly fresh pupil in waiting, as no human hand has yet touched him or taught him any vice.



Spotted Nacona's sire, Voracious, is a sleek and lengthy iron grey son of Blue Moon and Stout Grey Nacona who was first trained as a sensitive and attentive saddle horse and even used by Brandon Diele during some of the roundups at the Kuntz Ranch.



Voracious

Spotted Nacona's dam, Tall Badger, is exceptionally tall considering her parents, yet epitomizes the typically calm Nokota demeanor. Her sire, Red Badger, only stood about 14.3 hands and

was a kind and peaceful yet successful herd stallion who came directly from Theodore Roosevelt National Park as a young foal to the oldest mare captured in the 1986 roundup. This little grey mare had been bred by Red Cloud, a red roan park stallion who sometimes produced very tall "ranch type" Nokota offspring. Tall Badger's dam, Two Crazy Swirls, is a very easy keeping, fecund, and docile black daughter of Crazy Horse & Black Squat who also gave the NHC a fine overo foal this year. by looking at her. One would never guess by looking at her that she is already 19!



Tall Badger

NEW - NOKOTA® HORSE CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP!

The fully tax-deductible donations collected through this membership program directly help feed and care for the Nokota® Horse Conservancy (NHC) owned herd of fully foundation Nokota® horses. The goal of the membership program is two-fold: first to help spread awareness about this little known breed which has yet to be given a fair chance to prove to this generation that it is just as fun and useful as its ancestors were to the American Indian's and pioneers of the northern Great Plains, and second to help fund the care of the NHC herd so its grant writers can instead focus on the long term goal of an expansive sanctuary where the NHC, with continued responsibility yet minimal physical interference, can let its Nokota® horses once again roam freely and evolve under the same natural conditions that helped to sculpt the Nokota® into such a durable, athletic, and thoughtful horse.



The screenshot shows the website for The Nokota Horse Conservancy. The header includes the organization's logo and name, along with the tagline "SAVING the Native Horse of the Northern Plains THROUGH EDUCATION, PRESERVATION & PROMOTION". The navigation menu includes Home, The NHC, In The News, The Nokota® Horse, Partnerships, We Need Your Help, and Connections. The main content area is titled "NHC Memberships" and includes a welcome message, a list of membership benefits (NHC Member Benefits and Membership Guidelines), and a "Donate Now!" section with a dropdown menu for donation amounts ranging from \$10.00 to \$50.00. Below the donation section, there are two subscription plans: "Junior Membership (under 18)" with a duration of 365 days and a price of \$25.00, and "Individual Membership" with a duration of 365 days and a price of \$38.00. Each plan has a "Sign Up" button and a "Details" link.



**BECOME A
NHC MEMBER TODAY!!!**

[CLICK HERE](#) or on the picture to the left to go to the NHC membership page of the website to

JOIN TODAY!!!

The rigors of the harsh North Dakota badlands are precisely what made the Nokota horse so incredible in the first place, and we feel that it is crucial to return at least a fraction of the breed to this environment to ensure that the Nokota® horse of tomorrow is the same as the Nokota® horse of our ancestors. Enabling this core breeding herd to once again care for itself would drastically reduce the operating costs of the NHC and help ensure the breed's long term survival. Furthermore, the sanctuary would be a focal point for all things Nokota®, from young horse starting clinics (which would include individuals of better represented bloodlines that could safely be offered for sale from the NHC herd), to tours and observations of wild herds and the myriad things they can teach us about equine communication, nutrition, hoof care, etc, to therapeutic riding and outreach programs to help reconnect Nokota® horses with disadvantaged American Indians.

Membership does NOT buy any type of voting rights or special privileges, but input is always appreciated. Members are entitled to free pasture tours of the NHC herd centered around Linton, North Dakota, and welcome at the open session of each NHC annual meeting (typically held in mid-June and always close to the horses). The primary material benefit of membership, in addition to the satisfaction of helping to preserve this integral fragment of American heritage that was very nearly lost forever, is the NHC's members only newsletter. At least four editions of the newsletter will be sent via email each year, filled with fun, informative, and colorful articles and photos about Nokota® horses.

Nokota® Horse Conservancy Membership Form

Please fill out and send your payment to:



The Nokota® Horse Conservancy

208 NW 1st Street
Linton, ND 58552
701.254.4205 (Phone - Fax)

Please print legibly - thank you!

*Date: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

FARM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YOUTH MEMBERSHIP (under age 18) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (family of 4) | \$75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one member) | \$1,000.00 |

Total \$ Enclosed: _____

Thank you so very much. You can expect your newsletter to be mailed to you after payment is received and processed.

*Membership is per rolling calendar year and will be processed according to the date on this membership form.

CROPPY

CROPPY By Major A.C. Huidekoper

“Croppy” was his name. His dam belonged to a Sioux Indian warrior who fought at the Custer fight on the Little Big Horn. As proof that she was there, she had a bullet through her neck. Notwithstanding her wound she trailed north with the tribes to the Canadian border, where the warriors were relieved of their arms, and the war ponies scattered. Some of these ponies came to the Marquis de Mores at Medora, North Dakota. I bought some thirty mares to cross on a thoroughbred horse that I owned and that is how “Croppy” came to the HT Ranch.

The boys of the ranch called this stallion “Grey Wolf”! His proper registered name was “Bound.” He was grey in color, fifteen-three hands in height, a grandson of old “Lexington”.



Reprinted from Marmarth
Messenger, Thursday,
September 15, 1938.

Croppy winning race William Clark

He had an honorable racing record on eastern tracks, when I bought him from Squire Demsey (a most excellent man) who lived at Springboro, Pennsylvania. “Bound” was one of the best sires I ever owned. I gave him sixty mares and he returned me thirty-three foals. He was dominating and on one occasion queer.

We had a mare that weighed about 1150 pounds, bright bay in color, spotted on her rump. She had Arab blood in her. I put her in “Bound’s” harem. He drove her out. He repeated this three times, and then I gave up. This was the only mare he ever refused that was put in his charge. “Bound” would herd his bunch of mares as well as a man could, and there was not a big enough stallion on the range to take a mare from his harem.

From this Indian pony dam and from this thoroughbred sire was born “Croppy” out on the range.

He never saw the inside of an enclosure until he was brought into the corral to be branded. After that for three years, he was brought in at the spring and fall roundup to be counted and looked at, and then turned loose on the range.

When “Croppy” was three years old he was brought in to be broken, as a cow pony. He was grey in color, fifteen hands high, and as both his ears were frozen off, he was promptly named “Croppy.” After “Croppy” was broken, he would carry a two hundred pound man all the day untiringly.

At that time the great event of the season was the 4th of July horse races at Dickinson, North Dakota.

All the cow outfits sent their fastest ponies, and some of the livery men along the railroad, especially Jerry Hayes of Dickinson, put in some smart ones.

The races were classed, and conditioned, for quarter dashes, half miles, and miles. Anyone could enter and fit their ponies the best they could, but for the big event – the cow pony race. The conditions were that the ponies were to come in the rough – just as they were from their regular range work. They were to race with regulation stock saddle, bridles, cinches, curb bit, and to be ridden by one of the cowboys belonging to the outfit from which the pony was entered.

Equine Affaire - Ohio

Written by Shelly Hauge



April 11-14, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. Frank and Shelly (and sister, Pat) drove to Ohio to attend this year's event. Karen Tweedy-Holmes was available to sign the just-released and very popular 'Horse Sanctuary' book, published by Universe Publishing and available in bookstores and on-line. The booth location changed and it seemed there was more traffic and visibility, making for a busy weekend of talking with people about the Nokota® horse and their unique history.

Special thanks to Jorja and Carl Mottayaw (Jingle Hawk), Steve Elliott (Blue), and Brandon Deile (Sinatra and Little Einstein) for being on hand and always available to show off their Nokotas® and engage the crowds. We made some new friends (Scott and Annie at Lazy H Ranch) and are so grateful to all who made this event possible, yet again.

MN Horse Expo—State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN



The MN Horse Expo is a wonderful event for the Nokota® horses and the NHC and has been attended in some manner for many years. It's close enough to home that several family members are able to attend and assist with the booth, stalls and horses. And thanks as well to many of our MN supporters who have come out of the woodwork to ensure that all the bases are covered. There this year were Leo and Frank Kuntz, Dawn & Corey Hager, Christa Kuntz-Small, Jordan Kuntz, Logan McCarthy, Felicia Rocholl and her gang of young riders, Charlie Hautman, Jerusha Steinert, Kelly Williams and probably others who I have missed (sorry). We are so grateful for your incredible support!!

CROPPY, continued

Guy Clark, an Englishman born, who had been educated in Canada, and then came to the States, was superintendent of the HT ranch at that time. Clark always had things in ship-shape, his ponies for the general race were slick as eels, and had racing saddles, snaffle bits, with rings at the ends as was the style at that time.

That year we elected to send in three entries: "Bob Fitzsimmons" for the mile, "Shorty" for the half mile, and "Croppy" for the big event – the Cow Pony Race. We sent the ponies to Dickinson a few days before the races, and we followed later in the Petaluma Cart. About half way to Dickinson, which was 55 miles from the ranch, we overtook a man leading a horse. To see a man afoot in that country indicated trouble, so we stopped to inquire.

The man was small, he was old, he wore a white pith helmet (a most unheard of thing in that country). His mare looked slick and racy. The man said he came from Ekalaka, where he had raced his mare and won. Before we left him he said, "Boys, I bid you free, I am dead broke; if you will stake the mare at the livery for the day of the races, stake me for grub, and pay the entry fee to the races for the mare, I will repay you double after the races, for the mare is lightning fast and can skin anything around here." We agreed to the proposition – Cow men are easy that way when a fellow is out of luck.

The bartender at Frank Kihm's hotel was named Fox (we called him Foxey). He said that he was a Belgium count, and I guess he was some time ago. He was six feet in height, dressed in immaculate white, with the proverbial diamond pin on his breast. We liked Foxey and he liked us. When settled at the hotel, he called us aside and said, "Boys, I have always backed the HT ponies, and I have won money on them, but I am not going to back them this time. I thought you might hear of it and wonder why it was. Well, I tell you, on the quiet – a lady with a hat full of money has come down from Miles City. She is kept by the scion of an English noble's family. She is "in the know" and tells me that some professionals from St. Paul are coming up with some thoroughbred horses and clean you up. As much as I dislike it, I have to put my money to win, and that is why I won't back you."

We thanked him, but I don't think it had much effect, for Clark was a bulldog, and the boys backed their ponies, win or lose.

The day of the races the town moved to the race grounds, and everyone who could, within fifty miles came too. We won with "Bob Fitzsimmons", we won with "Shorty", we lost on the Ekalaka mare; and then came the big event of the day, the Cow Pony Race, and our "Croppy". There were a good many preliminary functionings to the Cow Pony Race. The judge examined the saddles to see if they were of regulation weight, looked at the cinches, bridles and bits. When "Croppy" appeared the crowd laughed and jeered, and said, "Look at the old cow without any ears".

"Croppy" behaved well at the post, He was quiet but always up on his toes. The entries were numerous. It was a standing start, and when the gun was fired and the judge said "go," they were off like a squadron of cavalry. Most of the riders went to the quirt from the jump-off, but our rider touched "Croppy" with his spurs; he was off like a flash and was never headed from start to finish, and as he came down the home stretch, the crowd yelled, "Look at 'Croppy', see him run – the pony without any ears."

"Croppy" was the hero of the hour, and the pride of the HT outfit. We took Foxey back to town in the Petaluma and he said, "Never again, never again."

North Dakota was a prohibition state at that time (this was long before the eighteenth amendment), but little attention was paid to the law at the frontier town. Clark had received good odds from the lady from Miles City, and was a good winner. The HT boys had their pockets full of money, so the champagne flowed freely that night and the toast was "Croppy" -- the little son-of-a-gun without any ears.

Sometimes I draw a long sigh when I think of those old days on the HT Ranch – a sharp morning, a Grey Wolf mount, the "red pack", the chase after the buffalo wolves, the return to "Shackford" with an alkali thirst and a wolfish appetite; then John Tyler, with a saddle of antelope and bull berry jam, and as a finale, the pipe of peace as we stretched on the settee by the side of the big open fire.

Great days – Great days – and I have seen a bit too. The Nile and its wonder; Blidah with its 500 Arab stallions; Rome when the Pope still walked in the city; Monte Carlo and its pleasures; Paris with its Jardin de Marble; the Perche country where 1500 pounds was considered heavy for a Percheron stallion; Vienna – its regal stables under Emperor Franz Joseph; Beautiful Budapest; Jamaica, the loveliest of islands; Delmonico's at 14th Street; and 26th Street in the –50's, and all are gone.



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Linton, ND 58552

Phone/Fax: 701-254-4205
Email: info@nokotahorse.org
Web: www.nokotahorse.org

Nokota® News

SAVING the Native Horse of the Northern Plains **THROUGH EDUCATION, PRESERVATION & PROMOTION**



Sherriff - aka Fläckig Mus :

This guy is full of surprises. Willing to lay down the law in the herd, when working with people he is super easygoing and willing. A striking light grey with blue eyes, this guy is a very nice mover and is charismatic enough to turn heads. With two days under saddle in the June 2012 Nokota® Colt Starting Clinic, he has proved himself sensitive but level headed. He has a good start on him and lunges as well as rides.

Sherriff was born May 2008, a son of Pony Boy and Dancing Mouse, then gentled and halter broke his first winter. He should finish close to 15 hands with lots of muscle and bone to prove very durable. He was born grullo overo but has greyed very quickly so that these markings are only faintly distinguishable. Because Dancing Mouse's dam line is rare Sherriff is for sale directly from the Nokota® Horse Conservancy with the stipulation he remains a breeding stallion.



Sherriff

National Park Ranch - (NPR)
100% Foundation Nokota
\$4000
Sire: Pony Boy
Dam: Dancing Mouse
Foaled: May 2008
Color/Markings:
Grullo overo turned grey with blue eyes
Located: Linton, ND

