

BACA HORSE NEWS

October 2019

This is such a beautiful time of year! The heat of the summer is finally over, the air has a crispness to it and the trees are alive with color. But even more beautiful is to watch the Bacas run with their manes and tails flying, and to listen to the foals' chatter as they try to capture our attention. We recently had a visitor to BOC who was amazed at how friendly the colts are – and how respectful they are to humans. The Baca strain began when certain horses in the Baca family herd were found to have incredible personality traits: nurturing, calm, intelligent and eager to help. This made them a perfect therapeutic horse. This, along with their agility and stamina, enabled them to excel in working equitation, dressage, endurance and trail rides.

I hope that all of you will have the opportunity to visit one of the Centers and see for yourself how friendly the Bacas are. And if you are as passionate about these beautiful horses as we are, ask us about becoming a Foster Home!

The first foals: Esteban, Santino, Isa and Halvache



Relampago and Catalina



Winter ready!



I. Center for America's First Horse (Stephanie Lockhart)

News from The Center for America's First Horse
By Stephanie Lockhart

This time of year in Vermont never disappoints. The vivid foliage and stunning backdrop of the Green Mountains brought ten photographers to The Center for our 4th annual equine photo shoot. Our photogenic horses galloped wildly and then stopped and posed for their portrait. Santino, Adelantado and Morado, all sired by El Savache, won everyone's hearts as they gathered around the group. Our photo shoots have become quite popular and is great promotion for the horses as many of the images are entered in contests and art shows.

Santino, 2.5 years old, now has semen frozen for the future. We also have a mare in foal from him! Maya, my Sorraia mare was confirmed in foal with a due date of June 11, 2020. Santino's semen quality is extraordinary, as were his manners for the three collections that have happened so far. I am really excited about this cross as Maya has been one of my top horses for many years. These two are going to make a beautiful foal.

On the performance front, Morado and Augustine have turned heads in the Working Equitation arena this season. Morado is now ranked 2nd in the nation at Level 4, and Augustine is ranked 7th in Novice A and 4th at Novice B. One of our trips brought us to Virginia in August to compete at the largest Working Equitation show in the east. Both Morado and Augustine won grand champions in their divisions against some stiff competition. It was such a great weekend for promoting the horses.

I'm excited about my upcoming trip to Blue Oaks Center mid-October. My annual visit is focused on planning our future breedings, photographing all of the offspring and spending time with them assessing their conformation, character and movement. It's always great to spend time with Carol and Marina laying out the preservation plan moving forward.

Watch for pictures in the next newsletter!
Happy trails,
Stephanie



Maya, my Sorraia mare in foal to Santino. They will produce a lovely baby together.



Santino looking very grown up at 2.5 years old



Santino getting up close and personal with one of the photographers



Augustine at his first Working Equitation show, boldly going through a water obstacle



Augustine and Morado with their ribbons in Virginia



Morado focuses on the next obstacle at a Working Equitation show in NY

Check out all the activities that are happening at The Center for Americas First Horse on her web page:

www.CenterForAmericasFirstHorse.org

II. Blue Oaks Center (Carol Powell)

In August, Adelina and Catalina were featured at the Nevada County Fair. We had a booth set up where we could talk to people about this unique strain and their historical importance and people could visit with the Bacas up close. Once or twice a day for all 6 days, Adelina and Catalina worked together demonstrating their agility, intelligence, beauty and talent. They were crowd favorites!



BOC has a celebrity! While at the Fair, Carol was approached by the local radio station, KVMR, and asked to do a live interview. It was a fun and informative discussion. It was very well received as, over the next few days, we had several people approach us at our booth wanting more information on the Bacas because they heard Carol on the radio!



History is in the making with this picture.

This is Rocky, Sevillano and Esteban ... our 2019, 2018 and 2017 colts!!



Blue Oaks Center finished its first complete PATH Int'l Assisted Learning program for 24 youth. Awards and certificates were given out after every module and the graduation ceremony was in July. Our client's staff feedback was very positive and praised the curriculum and Lisa Calder, our PATH Int'l certified Equine Specialist instructor. We are so thankful to have Lisa, of Mindful Horsemanship, as part of the BOC team! Lisa's enthusiasm and passion for what she does helps move everyone in a positive direction. And we would also like to acknowledge our incredible volunteers: Suzanne Smith, Destiny Bradt, Judy Askins, Viky Banducci and Rose Wood. You are AMAZING and we appreciate everything you do for Blue Oaks Center, the EAL program and the Baca horses. Thank you!



I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Friends of the Bacas Survey. This survey mattered to us and we want you to know that you have a voice and we heard you! I have posted the results of the survey at the end of this newsletter. For those of you who expressed an interest in fostering a Baca, we will have information for you soon. Stephanie Hayes (Center for America's First Horse) will be visiting with Carol here at Blue Oaks Center. The main purpose for this meeting is to finalize breeding plans for the preservation of the Bacas. This will include the Foster Plan. Once we have the protocol in place and a list of the horses available to foster, I will post the information on our website and Facebook page. Thank you for your patience!

The survey was an eye opener in that only 12% of you forwarded this newsletter on. Ouch! The only way that this amazing strain of horses is going to survive is to make people aware of them!! Help us! I challenge each of you to forward this newsletter to at least ONE family, friend or horse group that you know. You can make a difference!

For more information about BOC or for past copies of our newsletter, please visit our website:

www.BlueOaksCenter.org

III. Sandhill Center (Linda Zimmerman)

August 6, 2019 was an exciting day at Sandhill Center. With a due date of 2 weeks earlier, Linda got very little sleep as she was checking on Sonora through these long nights. Of course, it was when Linda was called out of town that her husband woke up to this surprise! Her name is Suena meaning Dream. El Savache and Sonora's filly is beautiful! Please join us in welcoming the newest Baca:



You can find out more information at www.sandhillcenter.org

IV. Breeding Program

Stephanie Hayes, Center for America's First Horse, will be at Blue Oaks Center with Carol Fuller Powell in mid-October to discuss the future Breeding Program to ensure the preservation of the Bacas. There are some very exciting and innovative plans being made for 2020 which we hope to share details of in the next newsletter.

As we continue to make intelligent decisions based on genetics, conformation and character and to prevent in-breeding, we are excited to announce that we have 2 confirmed pregnancies for 2020:

<u>Due</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Sire</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mid-March	Sonora	Relampago	Sandhill Center
End June	Maya	Santino	Center for America's First Horse

The preservation of this strain is crucial. Not only do they have historical significance, with their versatility they are making an important impact on our communities today. With their mild temperament, uncanny ability to sense human emotion and their smaller stature, they are amazing therapy horses. Currently 2 of our Centers are using them in Equine Assisted Learning for at-risk youth and having great success. The Baca Spanish Barbs are also excelling at Working Equitation and Dressage, winning ribbons in all categories. Several Universities (UC Davis, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech) as well as an International Algerian Barb breeding site in Belgium are working with us for DNA testing to assure the purity of the breed and to prevent crossbreeding.

V. The Universities Progress Report

Carol Fuller Powell from Blue Oaks Center is providing us with this update:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Cothran and his assistant Rytis Juras of Texas A & M for their work and guidance over the past couple of years in developing a solid and research-based Preservation Program for the Baca Strain Horse. These two Researchers have been instrumental in the Baca Horse Strain going forward. Through their efforts, we have gathered DNA samples from around the world and analyzed the significance of our Baca Herd here in America to their descendants from North Africa and Europe.

While the Baca Horse here in America is out of extinction and categorized as endangered by the Conservancy, they are not out of the possibility of returning to extinction. Our next breeding plans must be taken seriously and collectively a priority in all of our minds. It would take only 3 years to reverse everything that has been accomplished; and we would be back to extinction. As we look

forward to their future breeding program, we – all interested parties and individuals - must think about what can I do to join this effort and assist in this special Baca Horse Strain. If we are to follow through with the plan that Dr Cothran suggests, we will need to out breed to horses that fall within the genetic make-up of the Bacas' confirmation, trainability, character and beauty. We have bred every Baca horse that is available and need to now look forward to the next step. Several genetically aligned, confirmation, trainability and character-based horses have been identified as 100% appropriate for breeding for a breed out. In addition, our costs continue for semen collection, storage, shipment of semen, artificial insemination, mare pregnancy and delivery and raising a foal from birth to one year., If we take this next step it will require financial support from all the "Baca Supporter". If we do not receive enough support, the strain will most likely dissolve to extinction.

Collectively, we need to make a decision. Since the preservation started in 2015, all monies contributed have been put towards the preservation – not one penny has been spent on Administration – those efforts have and will remain with volunteers. I ask if you have followed the Baca Strain and wish to see it continue, please consider an annual contribution, a holiday contribution, a memorial fund or just a personal contribution. Please consider matching a young girl who gave her \$5 allowance to purchase 5 flakes of hay for one of the foals. It just takes small amounts by many to make a difference. Our Financial Books are open as are all Non-Profits. I encourage each one of you to seek your own Baca Support. All donations are greatly appreciated. You can click on the link to our website and go to our donation icon on our home page.

www.blueoakscenter.org

Sincerely,
Carol Fuller Powell
Founder, Blue Oaks Center

VI. General Information

- *"A dog may be man's best friend, but the horse wrote history." ~Author unknown*

I found this quote while doing research on how horses came to America and thought how appropriate. It was also a very solid reminder of why our Preservation Program is so critical. Just a few years ago, the Baca Spanish horse was near extinction.

- Thank you for your continued interest in the Baca horses. We hope that you will consider making a donation to help prevent them from ever returning to "extinction". All donations are welcomed and 100% of your money will be used to support the Preservation Program. You can donate through our website (www.blueoakscenter.org) or you may contact me at 510-673-5000.

- Feel free to share this newsletter with your family, neighbors and friends who love horses. Please note that a copy of all the newsletters can be found on our website at: www.blueoakscenter.org

I wish you and your family, both 2 and 4 legged, a safe and cheerful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with happiness ... and more Baca babies!!



Happy Trails,
Marina Bigongiari
Executive Director, Blue Oaks Center
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(510)673-5000



FRIENDS OF BACAS SURVEY - SYNOPSIS

Survey Created 7-06-2019

1. Did you read our last newsletter?
 - a. Yes 92.0%
 - b. No 8.0%
2. Was the newsletter interesting and informative?
 - a. Yes 95.65%
 - b. No 4.35%
3. Did you forward this newsletter to family or friend?
 - a. Yes 12.0%
 - b. No 88.0%
4. Did the information in the newsletter explain why the preservation of this strain is so critical?
 - a. Yes 91.30%
 - b. No 17.39%
5. Was the point made that the 3 Centers are non-profits and all donations are tax deductible?
 - a. Yes 95.65%
 - b. No 4.35%
6. After reading the newsletter, would you consider visiting a Center or participating in a workshop?
 - a. Yes 76.19%
 - b. No 23.81%
7. Would you be interested in fostering a Baca if there are tax deduction available?
 - a. Yes 31.82%
 - b. No 72.73%
8. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter?

The majority of the responses to this question suggested more pictures. Quite a few of you asked for information on how to adopt/foster a horse.