



MULE NEWS & DONKEY TALES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DONKEY AND MULE SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED 1973

JANUARY 2012

Great things are happening in SDMS!

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To all old, new, and prospective members of the SDMS,

It has been an interesting and busy year for all. Some things have gone really great and some not so much. This next year should be a very exciting year for everyone. We have the opportunity to increase our presence at the Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo this year with a two day event and some great prizes and prize monies added. Lets all tell our friends, neighbors, and anyone else that will listen about it so we'll have a great turn out in the stands.

The rest of the show schedule is just about set and looks to be a challenge. The second half of the prize money pay show, The Shoot Out, is up and running. All of the board members and all the other club members have worked really hard to line up sponsors with a little bit of money to donate to the cause. We're well on our way to having the committed prize money rounded up and I don't see many obstacles in the way.

Remember, everything that is done in the club is for the betterment of our equine friends and the people that show them. This is a total club sport and can only exist with the help of all of our members. Volunteers at the shows are always wanted

and needed for both the small and large animals--help if you can. There are no paid members, so the only thing you get is everyone's eternal gratitude.

Let's all get behind the SDMS this year and maybe we'll get the recognition Nationally for the club that puts on a really great show, just as we all know we do locally .

Ron Cornell, President

SDMS introduces Texas Hold 'em Series

SDMS has created an exciting new addition to the 2012 show season! At the end of 2011, SDMS Board of Directors unveiled The Texas Hold 'em Series show series. This combination of shows allows you to compete at the Fort Worth Stock Show, earn points, compete at the SDMS Texas Shoot-Out with the same animal, earn points, add the points together to compete for cash paybacks for combined High Point Champion and Reserve Champion in each division.

In addition to the awards offered at these two great shows, SDMS will give you cash for being High Point Champion and Reserve Champion in each Adult division. There will be special prizes awards for Youth & Sub-Youth Champions and Reserve Champions in each division. Entry in both shows is required to be awarded Texas Hold 'em Awards and you must be a member of SDMS to qualify. The total combined points for both shows will determine High Point Texas Hold 'em standings.

A complete listing of award divisions, information and rules is listed on the SDMS website. We have also set up a Frequently Asked Questions / Rules section on the our website to address additional questions.

Notes from the SDMS Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

The 2011 SDMS Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet was held at the Lake Brazos Steak House in Waco on December 3, 2011. All in attendance enjoyed a great meal, ample room for visiting and delicious desserts.



Thank you to all who brought the sweets. We had a good variety to choose from and more than we needed – Greg even surprised us with a cake. Check it out in the picture! He said he was up all night decorating – who knew he had such talents? The location was convenient and the service excellent. They were very accommodating and some of us even stayed afterward and watched the Baylor/UT game on their big TV.

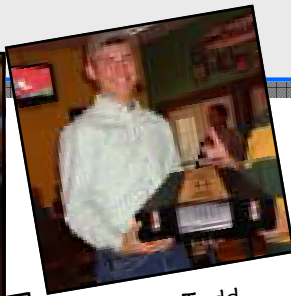
After the meal the Annual Meeting was held. Committee reports were given and everyone was updated on what's happening in your organization. The Treasurer's report was also given and the election of new Directors was held. The Board welcomes one new member for 2012-13 with the addition of Lori Miller as a new Director. Lori replaced Mel Howes who did not run for re-election. Thank You Mel for all your years of service to SDMS! Directors Lynda Cornell, Greg Schlosser, Ricky Scott, Frank Stein, and Kristin Stolee were re-elected for another two year term on the Board. At our Annual Meeting in 2012 we will be electing new Officers, Point's Keeper, Show Chairman, and Show Coordinator.

Awards, and the fun part of this event, were presented after installation of the Directors. A list of our winners is included along with some of the photos taken. Additional pictures are on the SDMS web-site.

The day concluded with the first board meeting of the 2012 Board of Directors.



Frank Stein



Shawn Todd

Bobbie F. & Olivia Lowe



Kathy Schmitt, Lynda & Elaine



Cayla Robbins & Lynda



Sally A. Sisu, Shawn & Olivia



Congratulations to everyone who participated in any SDMS activity in 2011! We appreciate your dedication and involvement in the club.





Miniature Donkey

Year– End High Point Winners

Champion Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Miniature Donkey

Animal

Frontier Legends Wyatt Earp
RDC Giancarlo

Owner

Sandi Costa
Jan Stallone

Champion Green Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Green Miniature Donkey

Morn Star Peace Pipe
Schmitt’s Chloe

Bobbie Ferraro
Kathy Schmitt

Champion Non-Driving Green Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Non-Driving Green Miniature Donkey

Zachery
Peeps

Lynda Cornell
Vicki Taylor

Champion Pre Green Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Pre Green Miniature Donkey
** points resulted in a tie*

Short ASSETS Touch o’ Flame
*RDC Santino
*Cedar Oaks Rojo

Kim Kasper
Jan Stallone
Cedar Oaks Farm

Champion Youth Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Youth Miniature Donkey

Stock Market’s Cash Benefit
** There are no members eligible for year end points**

Shawn Todd, Exhibitor

Champion Sub Youth Miniature Donkey
Reserve Champion Sub Youth Miniature Donkey

Stock Market’s Maximum Cash
** There are no members eligible for year end points**

Olivia Lowe, Exhibitor

Mule

Year– End High Point Winners

Champion Mule
Reserve Champion Mule

Animal

Lone Star’s Blossom
Mona

Owner

Rhiann Travis
Lynda Cornell



Champion Green Mule
Reserve Champion Green Mule

Five Mile Farm’s Blockbuster
Bowtie’s Mustang Sassyfrass

Marsha Stein
Janet Vance

Champion Novice Adult Mule
Reserve Champion Novice Adult Mule

Five Mile Farms Booger Bear
Katy

Frank Stein
Greg Schlosser

Champion Youth Mule
Reserve Champion Youth Mule

Five Mile Farms Booger Bear
Lone Star’s Blossom

Shawn Todd, Exhibitor
Rhiann Travis, Exhibitor

Donkey

Year– End High Point Winners

Champion Donkey
Reserve Champion Donkey

Animal

Five Mile Farms Sangria
McCool’s Talullah Chandor

Owner

Marsha Stein
Cindy McCool

Champion Green Donkey
Reserve Champion Green Donkey

Five Mile Farms Queenie
BJ’s Cassidy

Marsha Stein
Doris Burleson

Champion Novice Adult Donkey
Reserve Champion Novice Adult Donkey

Bowtie’s Headlight
JV’s Headlight Gambler

Stu Glenn
Jennifer Garretson

Champion Youth Donkey
Reserve Champion Youth Donkey

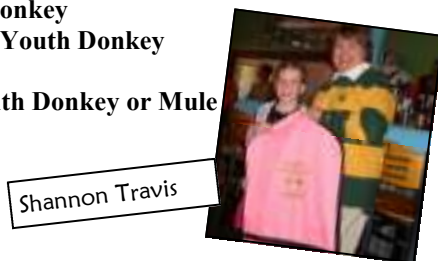
Five Mile Farm Sangria
Bowtie’s Talullah Chandor

Shawn Todd, Exhibitor
Addy McCool, Exhibitor

Champion Sub Youth Donkey or Mule

Arc O’Celebration

Shannon Travis, Exhibitor





Nice size class!

SDMS Fall Fantastic & "Showdeo" October 29 & 30, 2011

Greg & Vicki get ready!



Kim on Trail course



To Show or Showdeo, That is the Question!

Mini donkeys sporting neon pink panties; grown men racing around yanking on pantyhose. What was going on at Belton anyway? A Show-de-o that's what!

At the conclusion of the Saturday mule/donkey day, exhibitors shed their fancy show outfits for jeans, t-shirts, and even tennis shoes. Along with the boycotting of the bling went the lines

between mini-donkey and mule, between riders and runners. Competitors now became participants in an effort to play hard and laugh even harder.

Let the games begin! And they did, with so many pairing up for teams that the Pantyhose race threatened to go well into the night. Mules paired with donkeys; mini-donkey participants climbed aboard mules; youth paired with—I won't say age—experience. People were grabbing animals, and teaming up with whoever would take them to enjoy the thrill of racing around a barrel while trying not to let go of a pantyhose leg. By the end, those petite pantyhose could have held the entire population of a small mid-western town.

Musical Chairs took on a new look with riders baling off into circles, racing to take control. For the mini-donkeys, they never knew who exactly would be racing, or dragging, them from circle to circle, but they were as game as their generous owners. Mini-donkey owners were handing donkeys over to anyone who would lead them, and us mule people were trusting in their judgment.

The Panty Race was by far the ultimate blending of man/woman/child from all equine disciplines with fantastic little mini-donkeys. Much was learned by those of us who are used to climbing on instead of leaning over, of asking for a foot to be picked up rather than just picking up the whole animal. But the sweet success of racing with a little new friend clad in pretty pink panties was priceless. While I could understand one young lady's response "I don't know the donkey's name, some lady just handed her to me", I found it truly a testament to living for the moment when Sally Armstrong realized she had run the entire race with not only the wrong donkey, but her young, first-time-to-a-show donkey. Nice.

Other games carried on the laughter, the hooting and hollering for everyone, young and "experienced", mini or mule, donkey or dude. And those lines we all too often see between mini-donkey and large animal exhibitors were blurred and erased by a fantastically fun time. It was just about enjoying our animals and each other. It was just about getting to ride with my daughter and hearing her laughter and her telling me to go faster, about watching my youngest ask an "experienced" donkey rider to pair up with her, about pairing up with my former college teacher and great friend to race the panty race with my tennis shoes on. It was just about having fun, making new friends, both human and equine, and maybe learning a little something different, a new perspective—either taller or

Sandi on Trail course



smaller. That camaraderie carried over into the next day as comments on outstanding or outrageous performances

the evening before were tossed

about.

Olivia in Sub-Youth Trail

Egg & Spoon

Pantyhose Race



Egg & Spoon



Put-panties-on-mini

Due to limited space, we could not print the show results from the SDMS Fall Fantastic. Complete class results are listed on the SDMS website

The National Drive by Sally Armstrong

SDMS members Sally Armstrong, SiSu Morris, Barbara Hilliard, Marlene Collins and Tom O'Carroll attended the 2011 National Drive held October 4th – 9th at Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. This is the largest gathering of recreational drivers in North America. There were over 200 equine registered at the event.

Sally brought four of her Miniature Donkeys – Max, who she drove single; and Bond, Hardy and Creole, her three abreast hitch known as “The Tri-ass-letes”. SiSu and Barbara brought Ben, who drove single, and Rally and Rebate that SiSu drove as a pair. Of all the equine at the event these were the only Miniature Donkeys there. They attracted a lot of attention all week long. People loved them.

Tom and Marlene brought two pairs of Morgan horses to drive. There were some other “horse people” from Texas who were stalled with us as well. There were also four standard donkeys there, but no mules.

During the week we were able to drive the perfect trails through the 1,200 acres of Kentucky Blue Grass lined with miles of white rail fencing at Horse Park. We were able to drive some of the marathon course and a couple of hazards used at the World Equestrian Games last year. The weather was absolutely perfect and the autumn colors added to the beauty.

There were all kinds of carts, wagons and carriages pulled by everything from miniature horses up to a 2,064 pound draft horse, named Merlin. People drove single, as a pair, in tandem and four-in-hand. Sally had the only three abreast hitch there. That, combined with the fact that they were Miniature Donkeys caused quite a stir all week.

Sally's Tri-ass-letes made the blogs of Driving Digest magazine and the Carriage Association of America as well as the Facebook page of Kentucky Horse Park. A picture of them will appear in the January issue of Driving Digest.

During the week there were several clinics as well as some of the top clinicians in the country who would give private lessons. At the end of the week there was a combined driving event, The Kentucky Classic, that we were able to watch. There were world class drivers and horses participating on the course that was designed for the World Equestrian Games in 2010. It was an exciting opportunity to watch this event close at hand.

The National Drive will be held again next year at Kentucky Horse Park on October 9th – 14th. If you have a driving equine consider attending this fantastic event. It is all a very relaxed atmosphere, no competition – just fun driving, meeting new friends who share similar interests, and a great learning opportunity. Touring Horse Park is also an experience in itself.

Information for next year's National Drive will be posted on their website sometime during the summer. The website is www.nationaldrive.net. Any of us who went will be glad to tell you all about it and we will be going back next year. Come join us! ☺

Sally and The Tri-ass-letes & Sonja Hartmann, Sally's neighbor participating in the parade



SiSu and Barbara getting ready to take Rebate & Rally for a drive through Kentucky Horse Park.

SDMS Longears Festival needs a new home!

As most of you know, Parrie Haynes Ranch outside of Killeen, TX operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife has been the site of SDMS's Longear's Festival since it's beginning in 2007.

Also, as some of you may know, TP&W suffered extreme budget cuts in 2011. Parrie-Haynes Ranch was one of the victims. All full time staff was eliminated, and the future of the operation of the facility is in question. TP&W honored our reservation for Labor Day 2011 because it had already been reserved before the budget cuts took effect, but they are not taking any new reservations.

It is our sincere hope funding will be restored to this wonderful equine facility and that it could once again be available to us – BUT we have no idea when that may be! Regretfully, we need to find a new location for 2012! The more we look into trying to find a place that fits our needs for this event, the more we realize the saying "You never really appreciate something until you no longer have it", certainly applies to Parrie Haynes Ranch!

If you know of anything that might work for us, please contact Lori Miller at lorirueroyalranch@yahoo.com. We need:

1. 25-30 electric hook-ups; pens for both large and minis
2. a group meeting/eating place (preferably with kitchen)
3. marked trails for riding (roads/area for mini driving would be a plus)
4. Oh yes, and it needs to be affordable!

That last need is usually what gets us, as we have tried to keep this event expense to a minimum. Our goal has always been to have a fun, inexpensive week-end for families to enjoy with their long eared family members!

ALSO if you know anyone – state legislator/official/TP&W staff, please contact them to express how important this facility is to all equine lovers. It truly is One of a Kind!



The Harris Posse

**Check out the SDMS Website
for all of the great pictures
from the
2011 SDMS Longears Festival!**



Sally, Jim, Walter & Lee are
"on the road again.."
(Thanks Willie)



Cowboy Church in the Grove



Our condolences to Sally Armstrong. Sally's mother passed away on December 23, 2011, at the age of 97. Our sincere sympathy to you Sally!

Please review the SDMS policy Outline created by the SDMS Board of Directors. This outline was designed to review common procedures used by SDMS.

SDMS Policy Outline

Developed by SDMS Show Committee – Approved by SDMS Board of Directors 3/6/2010

REFUND POLICY

- Only applies to animal or exhibitor
- Need statement from veterinarian or physician on letterhead
- Documentation to be submitted within one week after show
- Only the class fees will be refunded
- Refund will be made after entry check clears bank
- Any appeal must be made at the next board meeting
- No refund for scratched classes

PAYMENT BY CHECK

- There will be a \$25 fee for returned checks
- Post dated checks will not be held or accepted
- No open checks will be accepted

OVERPAYMENTS

- Over \$10 will be refunded after the entry check clears bank
- \$10 or under will be applied to the show as sponsorship

ANIMAL SUBSTITUTION

- Can be made 3 days prior to show and pay office fee for new animal
- No substitutions at the show
- Can scratch one animal and late enter another – one hour prior to show
- No refund for scratched classes

LATE ENTRIES

- Late entries can be made up until one hour prior to the show
- Late fees apply

DOGS

- **No dogs permitted in the barn or arena**

COMMUNICATION WITH JUDGES

- Communication of any kind with a judge prior to the show will result in disqualification from entire show.
- Judge's word will prevail. No refunds.
- Also refer to Texas Donkey & Mule Rule Book - Section I: General Rules & Definitions Paragraph 1.1: Show Management, Part A.

YEAR-END AWARDS

- To qualify for year-end awards an animal must participate in 75% of SDMS shows
- Annual dues must be paid prior to the show in order for points to count

SDMS is now on Facebook!



SDMS now has a Facebook page! The information section of the page has general information about the club and a link to the SDMS website. The events page has a listing of our upcoming events. The page also features a photo section that features photos from recent events.

This page is not intended to replace the SDMS website, but act as additional source of information.

Once a "post" is listed on the page, it will be sent to all facebook members that have "liked" the page. This will allow for rapid disbursement of information.

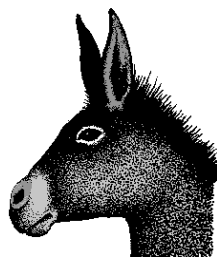
Currently the page is set **NOT** to allow comments. This page is for information and not gossip. Anyone that sees the page will be able to send a message that can then be forwarded to the proper Board member.

"Like" us on Facebook today to start receiving updates & news!

YOUR DUES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST SHOW IN ORDER FOR YOUR POINTS TO COUNT TOWARDS YEAR-END.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2012 DUES YET?

Mail 2012 Dues & Membership Form to:
Shirley Knott, SDMS Secretary
P.O. Box 869
Collinsville, Texas 76233
903-429-1410
Forms available online @
www.southwesterndonkeymulesociety.com



Did you know?

- Ketchup was sold in the 1830s as medicine. It was sold as "Dr. Miles' Compound Extract of Tomato."
- Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower', because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.

2012 SDMS Calendar of Events

January 21 & 22, 2012

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

Show #1 of 2 for The Texas Hold 'em Series

Justin Arena

Ft. Worth, Texas

See website for more information : fwssr.com

April 14 & 15, 2012

SDMS "Come and Take It" Spring Show

Gonzales Arena at The J.B. Wells Park

Gonzales, Texas

Kristin Stolee, Show Chair

June 8-10, 2012

SDMS Texas Shoot-Out

Show #2 of 2 for The Texas Hold 'em Series

Brazos County Expo Complex

Bryan, Texas

Lori Miller, Show Chair

September 3-5, 2010

Labor Day Longears Festival

Details to follow

October 27 & 28, 2012

SDMS Fall Show

Bell County Expo Complex

Belton, Texas

Larry & Elaine Wolfe, Co -Show Chair

For all SDMS fun & facts, go to
www.southwesterndonkeymulesociety.com

Next SDMS BOD Meeting:

February 4, 2012
11:00 am
El Conquistador Restaurant,
901 N. Loop 340
(IH 35 & Loop 340)
Waco, Texas

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!



You know your donkey has good manners when.....☺

We need YOU!

- Gate Keeper
- Ring Steward
- Give breaks & Assist other workers
- Registration & Check-in
- Pass out Ribbons & Awards

Whether experienced, novice or not even showing, we have a job you can do! Just a 30 minute commitment can make a difference in the success of our shows.

Contact Kristin Stolee to work the SDMS Spring Show in Gonzales

Contact Lori Miller to work The Texas Shoot-Out

Sign up today! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHOWING TO VOLUNTEER!



Useless or not so useless....Trivia

In the late 18th century, the word donkey started to replace ass, almost certainly to avoid confusion with the word arse, which, due to sound changes in the English language, had come to be pronounced the same way. The /a:s/ pronunciation of ass was eventually restored to /æs/ in order to reserve the distinction, but not without the consequence of American English losing the word arse entirely and assigning its meaning to ass. The origin of the word "donkey" itself is unknown. However, it is believed to come from the sounds resembling a bray.

We are lookin' for reports for the newsletter! If you have any stories, show pictures, cartoons, births, articles, tips and hints or anything you would like to share, please send items to:

Lori Miller
1531 Royal St.
Salado, Texas 76571
lori@ruerooyalranch@yahoo.com
254-933-3527 (fax)
254-947-8728 (home)



We are proud to announce and welcome the following newly elected 2012 SDMS Directors!

Dr. Frank Stein representing Large Donkeys / Mules
Lynda Cornell representing Miniatures and Large Donkeys / Mules
Ricky Scott representing Large Donkeys / Mules
Lori Miller representing Miniatures and Large Donkeys / Mules
Greg Schlosser representing Miniatures and Large Donkeys / Mules
Kristin Stolee representing Large Donkeys / Mules

*To these new Directors, we say thank you
for your commitment and dedication to the success of SDMS!*

SDMS 2012 Officers & Directors

President	Ron Cornell 817-229-5169 rcornell@protrucktrailer.com	Director	Lynda Cornell * ** 817-473-2356 donksbyc@ev1.net
Vice President	Jim Tippie 903-271-1379 jtwr1835@yahoo.com	Director	Kristin Stolee ** krstolee@aol.com
Secretary	Shirley Knott shirleyknott13@yahoo.com	Director	Lori Miller * ** 254-947-8728 lorirueroyalranch@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dr. Marsha Stein statevet@txcyber.com	Director	Ricky Scott ** 817-483-0673 Scott0411@sbcglobal.net
Show Chairman	<i>Assigned per event</i>	Director	Dr. Frank Stein ** 979-218-0642 fstein@texasbb.com
Show Coordinator	<i>Assigned per event</i>	Director	Greg Schlosser 512-461-7060 donkeygreg@aol.com **
Points Keeper	Larry Wolfe rrl1@vvm.com		

* Represents Miniatures

** Represents Large Donkeys & Mules

2012 Standing Committees

<p>Elections Lynda Cornell, Chair Cayla Robbins Marsha Stein</p> <p>Hearing Jim Tippie, Chair Ricky Scott Shirley Knott Kelly Riccitelli Marsha Stein Rori Travis</p>		<p>Scholarship Lynda Cornell, Chair Marsha Stein Sisu Morris</p> <p>Policy & By-Laws Ricky Scott, Chair Elaine Wolfe Robert Polley</p>	<p>Show Shirley Knott Rhonda Tippie Jim Tippie Ricky Scott Frank Stein Greg Schlosser Lee Fuermann Robert Polley Kristin Stolee Vicki Taylor Elaine Wolfe Larry Wolfe</p>
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2012 Special Committees

<p>Budget / Audit Shirley Knott, Chair Larry Wolfe Rhonda Tippie</p> <p>Texas Shoot-Out Lori Miller, Chair Elaine Wolfe, Co-Chair Shirley Knott Ricky Scott Walter & Lee Fuermann Sisu Morris Lynda Cornell</p>		<p>Longears Festival Lori Miller, Chair Lee Fuermann Jim Tippie Rhonda Tippie Elaine Wolfe Glinda Scott Larry Wolfe Deborah Nowlin-Keith Ricky Scott</p> <p>Sponsorships Robert Polley, Chair Marsha Stein</p>	<p>Rules Jan Stallone, Chair Lynda Cornell Marsha Stein * Sisu Morris Ricky Scott Greg Schlosser Kristin Stolee Lee Fuermann* Kim Kasper (* alternate members)</p>
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COLLEGE STATION, Texas — As many as 500 million trees scattered across the Lone Star State have died this year as a result of the unrelenting drought, according to preliminary estimates from Texas Forest Service. An estimated 100 million to 500 million trees with a diameter of 5 inches or larger on forestland were estimated to have succumbed to the drought. That range is equivalent to 2 to 10 percent of the state’s 4.9 billion trees.

EFFECTS OF DROUGHT STRESS ON TREES AND LANDSCAPE PLANTS

Let's blame El Niño or La Niña for something else. During times of drought, trees and landscape plants often show the effects of the hot, dry weather. The drought of 1999 and 2000 has had an impact on plants in Texas. To put into perspective the effect severe drought can have on plants, consider the following facts. Green plants normally have a moisture content of 125% - 200% or more. However, during severe and prolonged drought, the moisture content of live, woody plants can drop below 100%. Not only is this very harmful to trees, it contributes to extreme conditions for forest and range fires.

Water deficits in trees have an adverse effect on many of the tree's growth processes. Severe water stress will injure trees and may kill them. In addition, stressed trees are more vulnerable to insect and disease pests when compared to a healthy tree. Hardwood trees display numerous symptoms related to water stress. Wilting of leaves is a common indication of water stress. Wilting can be classified as incipient, temporary, or permanent. Incipient wilting is not readily noticeable, but it can change to temporary wilting which is characterized by visible drooping of the leaves during the day. At night the plant will rehydrate and recover from temporary wilting. During prolonged dry periods, temporary wilting can change to permanent wilting where the plant does not recover during the overnight period. Permanently wilted plants may recover when water is added to the soil, but prolonged permanent wilting usually kills most species of plants. Keep in mind there is great variation in wilting among different tree species and different types of soils. In addition to wilting, leaves may curl or warp, become crinkly, turn brown along the edges (scorch), turn yellow, turn brown, and/or fall from the tree.

Pine trees normally don't "wilt" from drought stress. Pine trees usually retain their needles for about two years. During dry periods, the second year needles (located away from the tips of the branches) will turn yellow and begin to drop from the tree prematurely. It is common to see pine trees with yellow or red second year needles during summer droughts. Landowners and homeowners should not be alarmed if they observe this condition. The tree is definitely drought stressed, but is probably all right considering the dry conditions. Stressed pine trees may be attacked by pine bark beetles, usually one or more of the three species of engraver beetles. These insects fly to a weakened or stressed pine tree and attack by boring through the bark. They feed and lay their eggs between the bark and the wood. Once the needles on a pine tree turn red, the tree is dead, and there is nothing that can be done to save it. Hardwood or broadleaved trees such as oaks, maples, hickories, etc., will not be attacked by pine bark beetles, but drought will take its toll on these trees, too.

Immediate effects of drought on hardwood trees are usually obvious, but delayed effects also occur. When unfavorable growth conditions are present now, growth for the coming year is often affected. Plants store food reserves and prepare for the next growing season during the current growing season. For instance, buds for next year's growth will be set during the current summer. The effects of the drought of 1999 and 2000 will carryover to the next growing season, and maybe beyond.

Lack of water also affects radial growth of trees (diameter growth). As a tree grows in diameter, each year it will produce a growth ring that consists of springwood (earlywood) and summerwood (latewood). The width of tree growth rings is greatly affected by the availability of water. During dry years, little radial growth occurs and the annual growth ring will be narrow. Because severe droughts adversely affect trees in many ways, radial growth often will be reduced for the current year and maybe even one or more subsequent years. Scientists can study the growth rings of old trees and determine rainfall patterns for years past. This science is called dendrochronology.

The general health of a tree depends a lot on where it is growing. Bottomland areas tend to be one of the most favorable sites for trees. There is usually adequate moisture coupled with deep, fertile soils. Sites that generally are not ideal for good tree health are ridges where shallow, eroded soils usually occur. Rocky soils and soils that may be chemically incorrect (especially pH or soil acidity/alkalinity) for plant growth tend to be stressful to trees. Even the direction a slope or hillside faces can affect tree health. South and west facing slopes tend to be hotter and drier and trees generally do not grow as well as on north and east slopes.

Soils with a high clay content will hold water much better than sandy soils. Trees growing in clay soils tend to be shallow rooted and may be more severely impacted by prolonged drought than trees growing on loamy or sandy soils where roots will grow deeper. Most of a tree's feeder roots that absorb moisture and nutrients are located in the upper 12-14 inches of the soil. When a clay soil dries out, the impact on the tree can be great since the tree is not "accustomed" to sending roots deep into the soil for moisture and nutrients.

Drought-stressed trees may exhibit signs of dieback or decline. This may be the tree's way of coping with a stressful situation. If the roots are unable to supply enough moisture and nutrients to the crown of the tree, the crown will usually begin to die back to bring the tree's crown and root system into a more favorable balance. It should be mentioned that it is often difficult to determine if a tree has died from drought stress or has simply become dormant and appears to be dead. Two simple tests can be done to help determine if a drought-stressed tree is alive or possibly dead. First, collect some small twigs about one-eighth inch in diameter and try to break the individual twigs. If they snap and break like dead, dry twigs it could mean the tree has died. On the other hand, if the twigs bend and don't break with a snap, the tree may still be alive. Second, use your fingernail to scrape bark from a small twig or branch. If the tissue under the bark is green and moist, the tree may still be alive. To be absolutely sure the tree is not dead, wait until the next spring to see if it sprouts a new crop of leaves.

During times of drought, the best thing for trees and plants is water. Homeowners should consider watering valuable shade trees (pine or hardwood) and other landscape plants to lessen the stress from drought and heat. Thoroughly water the ground area beneath the branches in the evening or early morning. About one to four inches of water should be applied; a light sprinkling is not of much value. To measure the amount of water applied, place a rain gauge or tall drinking glass in the sprinkler pattern. When there is one to four inches of water in the gauge or glass, the tree should be adequately watered. Without rainfall, watering should be done about every 10 days.

For more information concerning drought and landowner recovery plans, see www.txforests.tamu.edu

The Difference Between a Whinny and a Bray-Neigh

By Meredith Hodges

A horse can be dominated by man; A mule can be dominated by none.

A horse succumbs to aggression; A mule succumbs to affection.

A horse is indifferent to man; A mule is inquisitive to man.

A horse moves, then thinks; A mule thinks, then moves.

A horse looks at you; A mule looks into you.

A horse is trained by short punishment & small rewards; A mule is trained by long patience & great logic

To ride a horse well, one must be proud; To ride a mule well, one must be humble.

The more one understands people, the more one loves animals,

The more one understands animals, the more one loves mules!



Do I need a registration number?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, if you claim an exemption from sales tax on the purchase of certain items used in the production of agricultural and timber products, yes. In the Texas 82nd Regular Legislative Session, a bill was passed (House Bill 268) that requires a person claiming an exemption from sales tax on such purchases must provide a registration number issued by the Comptroller of Public Accounts on the exemption certificate issued to the seller. The Comptroller will provide a registration number to you upon your successful application for registration.

What types of items are subject to this requirement?

A registration number will be required in order to claim an exemption from Texas sales and use tax when purchasing the following goods and services:

- fertilizers, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, defoliant and desiccants used exclusively in the production of timber for sale, or on a commercial farm or ranch in the production of food or other agricultural products for sale;
- machinery and equipment (including component parts) used exclusively in the production of timber, or on a commercial farm or ranch in the production of food or other agricultural products for sale or the building or maintaining of roads and water supplies;
- machinery and equipment used by an original producer for packing and processing agricultural or timber products;
- machinery and equipment used exclusively in an agricultural aircraft operation, as defined by 14 C.F.R. Section 137.3 (crop dusting);
- tangible personal property incorporated into a structure used for poultry carcass disposal;
- components of irrigation systems used in the production of food and other agricultural and timber products for sale;
- seedlings used in the production of timber for sale;
- electricity used in agriculture or timber operations;
- services performed on exempt tangible personal property identified in this list; and, farm, timber and off-road motor vehicles.

What types of items are not subject to this requirement?

A registration number is not required for the following types of agricultural items:

- horses, mules and work animals commonly used in agricultural production;
- animal life, the products of which ordinarily constitute food for human consumption, such as cattle, hogs, goats, sheep, chickens and turkeys;
- feed, including oats, corn, chicken scratch and hay, for farm and ranch animals and wildlife;
- feed for animals held for sale in the regular course of business;
- seeds and annual plants, the products of which are commonly recognized as food for humans or animals, or are usually only raised to be sold in the regular course of business such as corn, oats soybeans and cotton seed;

Who is eligible for a registration number?

A person, including a non-Texas resident, engaged in the production of agricultural or timber products for sale in the regular course of business is eligible for a registration number that can be used to claim an exemption from Texas sales tax on the purchase of qualifying items included for eligibility for registration numbers are persons in these groups:

- farmers and ranchers who raise agricultural products to sell to others
- persons engaged in aquaculture and apiculture; (i.e. commercial fish farms or bee keepers)
- custom harvesters;
- persons engaged in agricultural aircraft operations, as defined by 14 C.F.R. Section 137.3 (crop dusting);
- commercial nurseries engaged in fostering growth of plants for sale (i.e., growing stock from seed or cuttings, replanting seedlings in larger containers); and, timber producers, including contract lumberjacks.

Who is NOT eligible for a registration number?

A person who is not engaged in the production of agricultural or timber products for sale is not eligible for a registration number and may not claim an exemption from tax when purchasing the items noted above. Examples of the types of activities that do not qualify for exemption include home gardening; horse racing; florists or similar retailers who only store or maintain plants prior to sale; wildlife management and/or land conservation; maintenance or operation of hunting and fishing leases; horse boarding; trail rides; commercial fishing; dog breeding and pet kennels.

How do I apply for a registration number?

To apply online, please visit www.GetReadyTexas.org. Paper applications are also available. See website for details.

Does every person employed by a farm, ranch or timber operation need their own registration number?

The primary owner or operator of the farm, ranch or timber operation may obtain a number that can then be used by any person authorized by the registrant. It is important to note, however, that the person to whom the registration number is issued is responsible for ensuring that all items purchased exempt from tax under the permit holder's registration number will be used in a qualifying, exempt manner.

This article is a reprint of information listed on the State of Texas Comptroller's website and is not meant to be an interpretation of any laws. Please see the official State of Texas Comptroller's website for full details www.window.state.tx.us

" Hey Boy" The 1st and the last!!

Hey Boy was laid to rest on January 4, 2012 due to his arthritis. For those of you who knew him and those that did not know Hey Boy, I would like to share a few things about this wonderful and loyal donkey.

When Don & Eugenia were dating Don wanted a miniature donkey, Now how do you tell your girlfriend I want a miniature donkey??? Well, they found a miniature donkey and they named him "Hey Boy". They took this donkey to Irving, Texas on Chamberlain St. (the middle of Irving) and that is where his wonderful life really started.

Don taught Hey Boy to drive. He had to compete with large donkeys at all venue's in order to drive. and that is where Don & Eugenia had such an impact on the SDMS to promote miniature donkeys. While Don and Hey Boy were driving and working on other things, they had an idea to promote other classes and have the miniatures perform even if they had to compete with large animals. Preparing for the Houston Livestock Show, Don took Hey Boy to Cayla Scott (she was 8) twice a week to practice RIDING HIM!! Well, they went to Houston and the funniest story is that Cayla was riding against the big donkeys - Tex Taylor, Wayne Winters, and they had a "tunnel race". You rode down to the tunnel and dismounted, ground tied your animal, came out the other end and rode back. Guess what? The other animals did not ground tie, Hey Boy waited for Cayla to come out the other end AND she could not get back on him, so she threw herself (belly first) over the saddle and poked him on the side, ran back and HEY BOY and CAYLA won third place!!!! This was the beginning.

Don and Eugenia attended all the shows to promote the miniatures and this is where my story really begins. Ron & I attended the FWSSR and I saw the miniatures and I HAD to have one, everyone said "see Don Foust". Well, we saw Don Foust and I bought one (Madison). Don helped me with driving and harness etc., Madison was Hey Boys' half brother but years later, if he had a good show, he was Hey Boys' FULL brother. Don & Eugenia talked to us about the SDMS and promoting the miniatures and we started attending the meetings with them. With alot of work there were more and more miniatures starting to attend the shows and additional classes were added JUST for the miniatures.

Don & Eugenia hosted many sales, seminars and shows, including the State Fair of Texas and Hey Boy always performed and TUFF COMPETITION!!! We didn't have divisions, you just jumped in and we all paid our dues over the years competing against Hey Boy. Don would bring some of his young ones to our house to be weaned and that's when we fell in love with "Cadillac Jack", yes we ended up the proud owners of him. Now keep in mind we started with one gelding and ended up with 13 miniatures - THANK YOU.

Over the years, Don & Eugenia bred, bought, sold and raised over 150 donkeys and the 1st and last donkey was Hey Boy, laid to rest with a service on Chamberlain Street where he was raised.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Don & Eugenia Foust.
Ron & Lynda Cornell

The Southwestern Donkey and Mule Society
presents



The 2012 SDMS Texas Hold 'em Series

Combine your points from these TWO GREAT shows
and compete for additional paybacks!

\$500.00
per Adult
High Point Champion
per Division
Texas Hold 'em Series Only

OVER
\$26,000 Total Value
IN CASH & PRIZES
AWARDED IN THE SERIES

\$300.00
per Adult
Reserve High Point
Champion
per Division
Texas Hold 'em Series Only

What do you call a contest that allows you to compete at
The Fort Worth Stock Show, earn points, compete at The Texas Shoot-Out
with the same animal, earn points, add the points together to compete
for cash paybacks for combined High Point Champion in each division?
We call that The Texas Hold'em Series!

**FORT WORTH
STOCK SHOW
& RODEO**
This thing is Legendary!

SDMS
TEXAS SHOOT-OUT

NOT ONLY do you get the prizes
from these great shows, you could win
cash if you're a series champion!

TSO- Where the Best go to show!

January 21 & 22, 2012
FWSSR Awards Feature

- ★ \$1000 Payback Coon Jumping Mule
- ★ \$1000 Payback Coon Jumping Miniature Donkey
- ★ Special Awards for English Donkey and English Mule
- ★ Buckles will be awarded in ALL High Point Divisions
- ★ \$250 Each Payback for Multiple Hitch Driving Champion
in Donkey, Mule and Miniature Donkey divisions

Deadline: November 15, 2011
Late Entry: December 31, 2011

June 8-10, 2012
Texas Shoot-Out Awards Feature

- ★ Featured JACKPOT Classes
- ★ Buckles will be awarded in ALL divisions
- ★ Special first place awards for every class
- ★ Multi Hitch Driving

www.fwssr.com
Details and rules @ www.southwesterndonkeymulesociety.com

www.sdmstexasshootout.com