



Down On The Farm

Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance Newsletter October, November, December, 2008

THE ALLIANCE'S TRIBUTE TO DON

by Peggy Hart

In 1998 Don Dowdle, owner of the *Mid-South Horse Review*, gave to the area's horse community a gift that has given and will keep on giving for years to come. He donated \$400 to the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance to bring Kandy Hartell to Memphis to train members of the Alliance and to teach the first Basic Equine Rescue course to First Response personnel. Since that time over 320 policemen, firemen, highway patrol officers, and animal control officers have been taught and know how to help you and your horses when the worst happens.

When the Alliance first proposed doing a Horse Fair, Don was one of the first to hop on the bandwagon and support the idea. His booth attracted horse owners from all over the Mid-South area. Some had read his MSHR and many saw it for the first time at the Horse Fair. The year the Horse Fair hosted a seminar on barrel racing, and then offered a barrel race that afternoon with the top five riders participating in the family evening performance, Don donated the prize money. How the crowd in the arena, some who had never been to a barrel race, whooped and hollered for the riders!

Don helped to send representatives to the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference where they learned how to build trails and how to network with horse groups in other regions of the state and other parts of the country. Because of Don's support, Mid-South equestrians met Dr. Gene Wood, international trails expert, and with Dr. Wood's expertise, for the first time in over 12 years there is a new 6-mile trail in Shelby Forest thanks to the hard work of the Meeman-Shelby Forest Trail Savers.

The last time I saw Don was at the Alliance's annual meeting. Don was as interested in the future of trails in Shelby County as the rest of the group as they listened to Mike Flowers of the City Park Commission talk about the Greenbelt trail along the Wolf River. Don supported and worked to promote anything having to do with horses and the people who cared about them.

In October 2008 Don lost his battle with cancer and the horse community lost one of its strongest advocates. He was someone who loved to write and publish the

stories about the lives, horses, accomplishments and rewards of being passionate about everything having to do with horses.

We hope Don is now taking a well-deserved rest on a well-broke horse on a beautiful trail. He left those of us down here with the knowledge that we can be proud of our horses and we can promote them and speak out for them. We can build a future with our horses whether it involves starting a new organization, offering a new competition, or making the city, county or state listen to our needs. Whether you ride Gaited, Western or English or just keep horses to look at, we will all miss Don and his unceasing concern and work for the horse community.



MSHR CONTINUES

The staff of Mid-South Horse Review want to assure readers that we are continuing monthly publication of the paper and continue to support the regional horse community. In fact, MSHR would like to expand coverage of organizations, events, and interests of the multi-breed, multi-discipline readership. If you have suggestions for articles that you would like to see printed or events you would like to see covered, please contact the paper. If you want to get your business information out to a wide range of horse owners, please consider advertising in the MSHR. Send your dates to the Calendar and your items to sell to the classifieds. Call (901) 465-1905 or email: editor@midsouthhorsereview.com

ELECTION FOR BOARD MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

Some of our members have stepped up to the plate to support the Shelby Farms Park. Last newsletter we told you about the Hyde Park \$20 million challenge grant. Our Board voted to donate \$1000 to the Park and then we challenged you, our membership, to match our donation. Right now we have \$250 raised towards matching our \$1000 donation. So when you add it all up. That's \$1000 from the Alliance, \$250 from the membership which totals \$1250 and if you add that to the matching grant from the Hyde Foundation that will be \$2500 that the park will receive. We haven't turned our check over to them yet as the park is putting together a media event to receive the checks so if you would like to add to our members challenge amount we could possibly make it \$4000 for the park. Anyone out there want to donate even the cost of a sack of feed. Every little bit adds to the amount.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome Our **NEW MEMBERS** for 9/1/2008...11/30/2008

INDIVIDUAL

Jim Byrne
Jamille Lauglin
Elizabeth Wesolowski
Katherine West

The following folks renewed their SFEA membership:

INDIVIDUAL

John and Ryland Bruhwiler
Connie Carville
Cheryl Ramsey
Dale Segar

FAMILY

Jeanne & Mark Arcelle
Delores Hise
Jo & Kevin Kirchoff
Denise Landau
Paul & Marjorie Simmers

BUSINESS

Norman & Jennings, Jim Norman

GROUP

Nashoba Carriage Assoc.

SUPPORTER

Art & Bert Wolff
Sheffield Worboys

PATRON

Joe & Jan Krisle
Harriet McFadden
Karen Parker

If you do not see your name on the list and paid between the dates shown, contact Jerry Rhodes, Jerry@JERhodes.com

ANNUAL MEETING

SIDECAR CAFE
2194 WHITTEN RD
7:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER SANDEE DANIELS, VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR, SHELBY FARM PARK



You may have noticed that the issues of "Down On The Farm" have advertisements in them. These advertisers have many places to spend their advertising dollars, yet they chose to support the Alliance and advertise in our newsletter. Let's thank them for their support by patronizing them. If you are looking for a product, try one of our advertisers first.

This month's advertisers are:

Akin Equine Veterinary Services	p6
Creek View Farm	p5
Hall's Feed	p6
Hedda Schwartz	p3
Norman & Jennings Realty	p6

Down On The Farm, the official publication of the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance (SFEA), is published quarterly and sent to all current SFEA members.

Ads and articles are due by the 15th of the third month of each quarter.

SFEA is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to improving and promoting Shelby Farms and the Mid-South for all disciplines of equestrian sports.

To contact SFEA, (662) 851-7122 or write to SFEA, PO Box 423, Collierville, TN 38027-0423

<i>President</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Marilyn Lubin	Wesley Mueller
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
Brynda Read	Jerry Rhodes
<i>Secretary</i>	
Peggy C Hart	

NEWS FROM THE ARENA:

Mike Pierce, Operations Manager, of Show Place Arena will be getting married soon and will be leaving at the end of November to move to central Florida with his new wife. We wish Mike good luck and success. Jamie will be the temporary manager.

The arena is looking for some new management personnel. They are also looking for someone fluent in both English and Spanish to work at the arena in a non-managerial capacity.

Shelby County has renewed its contract with Agricenter International to continue to run Show Place Arena for another 3 years.

The walls at the Show Place Arena have been painted and Mike Pierce, Operations Manager, informed me at a meeting of the Arena Committee that they will be putting up the pictures for the Wall of Champions very soon. He and John Charles Wilson, President of Agricenter, will also be sitting down to discuss a mural that they want to put on the wall surrounding the pictures. They have the names of several mural artists and once they have decided on what they want exactly will contact them for bids on the work.

The arena has been asked to create a brief statement of goals for the next 5 years. If you have suggestions for things you would like to see added or changed at the arena contact Peggy Hart at talliho22@aol.com and she will carry your ideas to the next arena meeting. They would like an emphasis on concrete action items such as Program expansion/creation; infrastructure improvements; personnel needs etc.

FIREWORKS AT THE MARILYN LUBIN MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE

If you ride down the corridor along Mullins Station and Raleigh-LaGrange toward the cross country course on a moonlight night and look up at the radio towers it looks like an unending fireworks display going off over your head. And even when one of the cars on the road right next to you blows a tire big time it not only doesn't upset you it barely upsets your horse. And the creatures that usually don't come out during the busy daytime hours take leisurely strolls around the grounds and quietly slip back into the woods as you ride past. To say the moonlight trail ride shows you another aspect of Shelby Farms is to put it mildly as 36 riders found out on Oct. 11th.

Following a great meal provided by the Alliance everyone saddled up and headed out. The fast group took off behind Nathan Lubin and must have really hit a lick because they were not seen till they got back in. The medium speed riders following Wes Mueller worked their way through the Pine Forest then headed off to other parts of the park while the slow, lazy, leisurely moving group with Peggy Hart ambled around the west end of the park then headed for the cross country course. All told everyone seemed to have a great time.

Seven riders joined the Alliance and we look forward to seeing them at other Alliance events.



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WHAT KIND OF RIDER ARE YOU?

The Hunter Rider: Is skinny and trying her best to achieve the conformation of a 17 year old male in case she ever has a clinic with George Morris. Field marks include greeny-beige breeches and a baseball cap when schooling or mud colored coat and hard hat with dangling chin strap when competing. Forks over about a grand a month to her trainer for the privilege of letting him/her 'tune' up the horse, which consists of drilling the beast until its going to put in five strides on a 60 foot line no matter what she does. Sold the Thoroughbred (and a collection of lunging equipment, chambons, side reins) and bought a Warmblood. (Bought a ladder and a LONG set of spurs). Talks a lot about the horse's success in Florida without exactly letting on that she herself has never been south of the Pennsylvania line.

The Dressage Queen: Has her hair in an elegant ponytail and is wearing a visor and gold earrings sporting a breed logo. A \$100 dollar custom sweater (also with breed logo) is worn over \$300 dollar full-seat white breeches and custom Koenigs. Her horse, 'Leistergeidelsprun dheim' ('Fleistergeidel' for short) is a 17.3 hand warmblood who was bred to be a Grand Prix horse. The Germans are still laughing hysterically, as he was bred to be a Grand Prix JUMPER, but since he couldn't get out of his own way, they sold him to an American. His rider fell in love with his lofty gaits, proud carriage, and tremendous athleticism. She admires him mostly while lunging. She lunges him a lot, because she is not actually too keen to get up there and try to sit that trot. When she rides, it's not for long, because (while he looks FINE to everyone else), she can tell that he is not as 'through' and 'supple' as he should be, and gets off to call the chiropractor/ massage therapist/psychic, all of which is expensive, but he WILL be shown, and shown right after he perfects (fill in the blank). The blank changes often enough that the rider can avoid the stress of being beaten at Training 1 by a Quarter Horse.

The Eventer: Is bent over from carrying three saddles, three bridles, three bits, and three unrelated sets of clothing (four, if she is going to have to do a trot up at a 3-Day). The hunched defensive posture is reinforced by the anticipation of 'a long one' a ditch and a wall, and from living in her back protector. Perpetually broke because she pays THREE coaches (a Dressage Queen, a jumper rider, and her eventing guru, none of whom approve of the other) and pay trailers/stabling/ living expenses to go 600 miles to events that are spread out over 5 days. She is smugly convinced that Eventers are in fact the only people in the world who CAN ride (since Dressage Queen's don't jump, the H/J crowd is to afraid to go OUT of a ring, and the fox hunters, a related breed,

don't have to deal with dressage judges). The hat cover on her cross-country helmet is secured with a giant rubber band, so she can look like her idol, Phillip. Her horse, who has previously been rejected as a race horse, a steeplechase horse (got ruled off for jumping into the infield tailgating the crowd), a jumper, a fox hunter, and a polo pony (no bit stops this thing), has two speeds: gallop and 'no gallop' (also known as stop 'n' dump). Excels at over jumping into water, doing a head first 'tuck and roll' maneuver and exiting the complex (catch me if you can!) before his rider slogs out of the pond. Often stops to lick the Crisco off his legs before continuing gaily on to the merciless over jump just ahead. Owner often threatens to sell, but as he has flunked out of every other English-riding discipline, it will have to be to a barrel racer.

The Backyard Rider: Usually found wearing shorts and a sports bra in the summer; flannel nightgown, muck boots, and down jacket in the winter. Drives a Ford 150 filled with saddle blankets and dog hair. Most have deformed toes from being stepped on while wearing flip-flops. Has a two-horse bumper-pull trailer, but uses it for hay storage, as her horse hasn't been off the farm in 6 years. Can install an electric fence, set a gate, and roll a round bale, solo. Rode well and often when she used to board her horse, 5 years ago. Then she took horse home to 'save money' and has spent about 50 grand on acreage, barn, fence, tractor, etc. Has two topics of conversation - 1) How it's too hot/cold/wet/ dry to ride. And 2) how she may ride after she fixes the fence/digs drainage ditches/stacks 4 tons of hay.

The Natural Horsemanship Devotee: Looks like a throwback from a Texas ranch, despite the fact that he lives in the suburbs of New Jersey. Rope coiled loosely in hand in case he needs to herd any of those kids on roller-blades away from his F-350 dually in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Cowboy hat strategically placed, and just dirty enough to look cool. Levi's are well worn. 'Lightning' is, of course, this natural horsemanship guy's horse. Rescued from a bad home where he was never imprinted or broke in the natural horsemanship way, he specialized in running down his owners at feeding time, knocking children off his back on low-hanging branches, and baring his teeth. The hospitalization tally for his previous handlers was 12, until he was sent to Round Pen Randy; after ten minutes in said pen, he is now a totally broke horse, bowing to the crowd, and can put on his own splint boots. (With R.P. Randy's trademark logo embossed on them) R.P.R. says, of all this, 'Well, shucks ma'am ,tweren't nuthin'!' 'It's simple horsemanship

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NEW TRAILS AT SHELBY FOREST

Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park's first new trail in decades – a six mile path for horses and hikers – opened on Nov. 8. The six-foot-wide trails allows horses to return to the park for the first time since its horse-riding operation closed in Oct. 1996.

Volunteers with the Meeman-Shelby Forest Trail Savers provided their labor over the past two years to build the trail through old-growth forest. It's a beautiful area that has not been seen by the public," Said Trails Savers President and Founder Linda Dennington.

The Trail-Savers' labor and donations were used as the 20 percent local match to a \$77,586 government grant for materials, equipment and trail-building expertise. Clemson University professor Dr. Gene Wood was hired to design a trail resistant to erosion. The soil on the park's bluffs is susceptible to washing out. A number of wooden bridges have been built over drainage and the path is routed to keep elevation changes at a minimum.

Riders will have to bring their own horses; no vendors will rent them or lead trail rides like years ago. The trail will start and end from the parking lot of the park's stables originally built in 1991. The site will offer running water for the horses and bathrooms for the public. It is approximately a 2-1/2 to 3 hour ride. Plans are to extend the trail another two miles in the next phase of construction.

The park plans to close the trail on days when it is too soft from rain. Call the park before you plan your trail ride to make sure the trail is open. The number is 876-5215.

*Tom Baily, Jr
Commercial Appeal*

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SHELBY FARMS PARK NEWS

JOB OPENING

HORTICULTURIST

Position: Horticulturist

Openings: 1

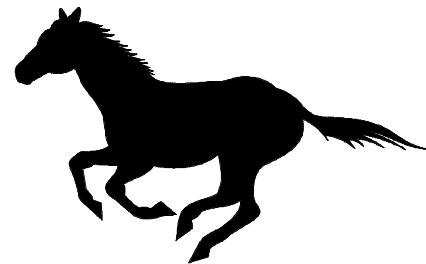
Position Description: The horticulturist is responsible for the Park visitor's well-being, park maintenance, site improvements and the health and vitality of our naturalized and native ecosystems.

How to apply: Send resumes to info@shelbyfarmspark.org with the subject line—Horticulturist Position or mail to Shelby Farms Park Conservancy, c/o Human Resources, 500 North Pine Lake Drive, Memphis, TN 38134. Call (901) 767-PARK for more information.



NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance welcomes Sandee Daniels as the new volunteer Coordinator at the Park



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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number () _____

e-mail address _____ Add me to the "e list" to receive meeting notices and other important SFEA related information via e-mail



Areas of Interest: ___ Trails ___ Cross Country ___ Dressage ___ Show Place Arena ___ Polo
 ___ Other (specify) _____

I am ___ Amateur/Hobby Rider ___ Equine Professional ___ Veterinarian ___ Equine Related Business
 ___ Other (specify) _____

I ___ own horse(s) ___ do not own horse(s)

Other equine-related organizations I belong to: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Angel	\$500.00	Patron	100.00
Supporter	50.00	Business/Group	35.00
Family	25.00	Individual	15.00

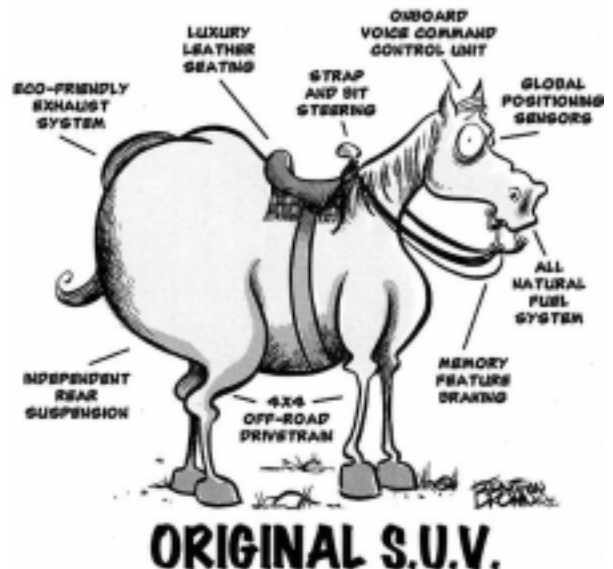
Dues \$ _____
 Additional Donation \$ _____
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Continued from page 4

ship. ' 'With this special twirly flickitatin' rope (\$17.95 plus tax), you'll be round-pennin' like me in no time!'

The Endurance Rider: Wears Lycra tights in wild neon colors. The shinier the better, so the EMT's can find her body when her horse dumps her down a ravine. Wears hikin shoes of some sort, and T-shirts she got for paying \$75 to complete another torturous ride. Her horse, Al Kamar Shazam, used to be called 'you' until he found an owner almost as hyper as he is. Shazam can spook at a blowing leaf, spin a 360, and not lose his big trot rhythm or give an inch to the horse behind him. Has learned to eat, drink, pee, and drop to his resting pulse rate on command.





Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance
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ANNUAL MEETING JAN 20, 2009
SEE INFO ON PAGE 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thinking about trying something new? Want to meet other people who enjoy horses? Here is your opportunity to meet and try something new with your horse while meeting people that like to talk horses as much as you do. Take time this year to visit some of the activities of our Member Organizations. We encourage groups to send us their calendar of events for inclusion in our newsletter.

DECEMBER

- 3-7 USDF Annual Convention, Denver, CO.
www.usdf.org.
- 8-11 USHJA Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.
www.usnja.org.
- 6 Alderwood Schooling Show
- 16 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Brynda Reed
901.829.3938
- 25 Merry Christmas

JANUARY

- 23 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Brynda Reed
901.829.3938
- 14-18 USEF Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH.
www.usef.org.

FEBRUARY

- 20 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Brynda Reed
901.829.3938

UNITED STATES HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 8-11, 2008
 HILTON NASHVILLE DOWNTOWN
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 NASHVILLE, TN 37201
 615-620-1000

MON. WELCOME RECEPTION AT BROWNLAND FARMS
 TUES. WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION
 WEDS. PRESIDENTS RECEPTION AND
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