

# STLA NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS LONGHORN ASSOCIATION

## 2004-2005 STLA Officers

**Christy Randolph**  
*President*  
 (713) 703-8458  
 Lpinesranch@aol.com

**Rick Adams**  
*Vice-President & Membership Chair*  
 (512) 303-7017  
 gusadams@ev1.net

**Clarence Harabis**  
*Vice-President*  
 (361) 648-6249  
 charabis@hotmail.com

**Barbara Homer**  
*Secretary*  
 (512) 858-7246  
 jbarblonghorns@aol.com

**Bill Plaisance**  
*Treasurer*  
 (512) 398-9430  
 bplaisance@ev1.net

**John Randolph**  
*Past President*  
 (713) 703-8458  
 Lpinesranch@aol.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Pat Beach**

**Jody Beck**

**Robert Housewright**

**Joel Lemley**

**Shirley Lemley**

**Allen Perry**

**Ross Plant**

**Lonnie Shan**

Suzanne Perry, STLA News Editor  
 suzannep@austin.rr.com  
 (512) 263-5313



**FIELD DAY FUN!**  
 Along with a great lunch of grilled burgers and an afternoon of informative speakers, STLA Field Day visitors were treated to a Walking Tour at the Cedar Creek Cattle Company Ranch to learn more about the hosts' outstanding breeding program. Even C4's "Dancing Dixie" takes part in keeping all of those people herded up when they gathered in her pasture.

## STLA Field Day Brings Longhorn Lovers to Lockhart

Over sixty members and guests enjoyed a full day of Longhorn learning and fellowship at the 2004 STLA General Meeting and Field Day held on May 22 at Bill and Conda Plaisance's Double Nickel Ranch outside of Lockhart. The owners of the Cedar Creek Cattle Company (C4 Longhorns) served as hosts

for this annual affair which included great food, an informative ranch tour, and loads of Longhorn talk and networking for all visitors and guests.

Rick Adams, of C4 Longhorns, kicked off the day's busy itinerary by leading the group on a Walking Tour of this site of their ranching operation and

pointed out many of the magnificent Longhorn females used in their ongoing AI breeding program. A large number of their new 2004 calves and some yearling herd sire prospects were also seen on the tour.

Guests were then treated to a lunch of grilled burgers, home-

*Continued on page 2.*

## President's Letter

Dear Members:

I am so excited and honored that you have placed your trust in me to lead the South Texas Longhorn Association for the coming year.

First, I would like to thank our three outgoing board members, Bob Rork, Scott Kimble, and Ty Wehring for their past service and dedication to our Association. These gentlemen have been a great asset to the Board of Directors and I am personally grateful to have been able to work with each of them. I, also, want to thank Bill and Conda Plaisance and Rick and Michele Adams of the Cedar Creek Cattle Company for

hosting the General Membership Meeting and Field Day on May 22. The weather was perfect, the food was wonderful, the vet session was very helpful and informative – but, the fellowship of this group really took the show!

Our thanks to Joel Lemley for being our auctioneer and a special thanks to those who purchased a few items through that auction to help defray the costs of the event.

Your new Board of Directors is a great group of hard working and dedicated Longhorn Breeders and I look forward to a fun-filled and productive year. The Board of Directors is as follows: Christy Randolph, President; Rick

>



General Meeting & Field Day on May 22nd

Field Day hosts (cntr photo) C4 Longhorns' Bill & Conda Plaisance and Michele & Rick Adams opened their ranch to the association for a fun-filled day; Newly elected STLA President, Christy Randolph (left photo), discusses various show issues with the members attending the STLA Annual General Meeting; and (right photo), John Davidson, DVM, gives the group an informative presentation on full-herd TB Testing procedures and the new U.S. Department of Agriculture cattle-tracking regulations that will go into effect soon for all ranchers.



**FIELD DAY:** *Continued from page 1*

made side dishes, and some delicious desserts. After the meal, STLA Director and well-known Longhorn rancher, Joel Lemley, conducted a fun-filled auction of various Longhorn household and gift items—and with the purchases made by the crowd, raised over \$500 to help offset the expenses for the day's event.

The afternoon's featured speaker was Dr. John Davidson, DVM, who reported on the US Department of Agriculture's soon-to-be-implemented, and mandatory, cattle ID-tagging and tracking program. A summary of these new regulations, which will certainly impact all ranchers and breeders, will be available on the STLA website at [www.stla.org/articles](http://www.stla.org/articles) after June 25th.

Dr. Davidson also addressed the importance of full-herd tuberculosis testing and herd-free certification for all cattle breeding operations in Texas. An informal Q&A session followed with the guest

veterinarian answering a host of questions on these specific topics and attendees were given time to consult with the vet about any of their own herd-health issues.

The Annual General Meeting and election of board members rounded out the afternoon's activities. The roster of the new officers and board members is provided on the front page of this newsletter.

Following various officer reports and financial updates, newly elected STLA s

President, Christy Randolph, led a discussion with the members present about the problems that have plagued the San Antonio Show and the Star of Texas Show and offered various ideas that could be implemented to solve these difficulties and make the shows more positive events.

Decisions were made to work on adding a non-halter category to the San Antonio Show to increase participants and a Budget Committee was set up to oversee shows.

**President's Letter** *Continued from page 1.*

Adams, Vice-President; Clarence Harabis, Vice-President; Barbara Homer, Secretary; Bill Plaisance, Treasurer; Joel Lemley, Jody Beck, Ross Plant, Allen Perry, Lonnie Shan, Shirley Lemley, Pat Beach, Robert Housewright, and John Randolph, Past President.

Stay tuned to the STLA website, [www.stla.org](http://www.stla.org) for information regarding upcoming events and attractions. If you have not chosen to get your newsletter online, you will continue to receive your newsletter by U S mail. Don't forget about the free advertisement for members in this wonderfully new-formatted publication.

I look forward to seeing each of you on down the Longhorn Trail.

Sincerely,  
Christy Randolph



**Some Hot Cows and Even Hotter Prices!**

Darol Dickinson called it "a barn-burner of a sale!," and everyone there would truly agree that the 2004 Red McCombs' Fiesta Texas Sale held on May 1, at the RM Ranch near Johnson City, once again was the hot spot to see Longhorn history in the making. With 114 lots averaging a price of \$5,735, the high selling lot was from Bow Carpenter's herd, Sabrina 115 (pictured above) sold to Bill Hudson for a whopping \$61,000. Many fellow STLA members were buyers and sellers at this yearly extravaganza. See the June issue of the *Texas Longhorn Trails* for a full article and more photos.

STLA NEWS Editor, Suzanne Perry, caught this great glimpse of the bidding on this long-horned beauty and the shot was also used as the *Trails* cover photo for the June issue.

## Branding Cattle for Identification and Theft Prevention

*Continued from page 5.*

Never brand animals that are damp, or wet, as the application of the intense heat will scald the hide and cause a blotched, slow-healing sore. Also, never brand cattle after the application of a pour-on liquid medication or wormer as this could ignite from the heat of the iron and cause large burns.

The animal must be restrained in such a manner that it cannot move or jump when the hot iron is applied. Make sure your iron does not move or slip as this will result in a blotched and illegible mark.

When applying a branding iron to an animal, use a rocking motion with the iron still held firmly against the animal. The rocking of the iron will assure a uniform distribution of the heat on all lines of the brand. A properly applied brand should be the color of dark saddle leather when the iron is removed.

Cattle will carry brands for their entire life, so much care should be taken at the time of branding to produce a clean and legible mark that will heal easily and cleanly.

Do not brand over an existing brand. If necessary, place your brand in front, behind, above, or below an existing brand, but keep as close to your registered location as possible.

A properly burned brand is one that is easily read when the hair is clipped away from the brand location. Use of the proper equipment and techniques, plus plenty of experience, will help you apply good, readable brands to your cattle.

Excerpted and reprinted with permission from the *Texas Longhorn Trails Magazine*, Dec. 1999 issue.

For more information and details on registering your brand, see ***Branding Regulations*** on the TLBAA website at [www.tlbaa.org](http://www.tlbaa.org).

Want to see your RANCH PROFILE published in the STLA News? It's a great way to let others know about your program. Write your profile and submit it to STLA News, 1004 Lisa Drive, Austin, TX 78733 or send by e-mail to [suzannep@austin.rr.com](mailto:suzannep@austin.rr.com)

## STLA RANCH PROFILE

### J-B LONGHORN RANCH James and Barbara Homer

*"Our Gentle Giants are User Friendly"*

The J-B Ranch is located at Henly in Blanco County, the gateway to the beautiful Texas Hill Country, and was established in 1993. Henly is about 45 miles due west of Austin, on Hwy. 290. Our other pastures are within fifteen miles of Henly, in Blanco and Hays Counties.

I was raised on a ranch outside of Beaumont and spent every summer with my uncle on his large ranch in Louisiana. Jimmy is a BOI (born and raised on Galveston Island) and we lived there for many years. I ran a commercial herd of about 500 head, with two partners, on the west end of the island, while Jimmy ran our other businesses in town. We moved to the Hill Country in 1984. Raising Longhorns was just a dream—getting closer to Memorial Stadium and the Hill Country was our real goal!

We started out raising goats, mainly to clear the brush. I was missing not owning cows and on Christmas Eve in 1995, Jimmy surprised me with my first Longhorn. We nicknamed her Beva, (female for BEVO, of course). The next Christmas, I asked for another Longhorn and he gave me Rita.

In January 1997, a co-worker who knew of my interest in Longhorns brought Wilton Wilton by my office to meet me. Wilton asked what I was looking for next and I told him, "a pretty little 'ol black and white heifer." About two weeks later, I looked up to see Wilton standing at the door of my office holding up a picture of the cutest black and white calf you have ever seen. "Here she is!" he said. Carolyn and Wilton took us under their wonderful wings and have become very dear friends. They invited me to my first show, the Heart of Texas at Belton. I was hooked immediately and soon after entered my first STLA Show in San Antonio. I took that pretty black and white baby, J-B Alcalde's Daughter, to my first World Show in June 1998—and have never missed one since.

We started with one small pasture and one Longhorn cow. Our program is growing everyday and we now average about 30 head. Raising Longhorns is no longer just a hobby. Jimmy is now totally involved, as he has taken control of our feeding program—and leaves the buying, breeding, and selling to me. Our bloodlines include Abraham, Measles Super Ranger, Overwhelmer, Emperor, Blackwood's Diego, WR, and Cowcatcher. In 2005, we will begin to see our first calves from a leased son of Liberator's Leprechaun and our young Abraham grandson, J-B General Beauregard.

We get very excited about our show prospects, but that is not our total focus. Our mission is to produce true Longhorns, who will retain the traits that made them survivors, scroungers, and great mama's! Longhorns are truly the cattle with "personality," and we love our "Gentle Giants." Call us or drop by and visit anytime, we love to show off our girls and future herd sire prospects.

Ranch: 512/858-7246; Cell: 512/585-1618 or e-mail to [jbarblonghorns@aol.com](mailto:jbarblonghorns@aol.com).



# Branding Cattle for Identification and Theft Prevention By Kipp Brown

*Past President of the Dixie Texas Longhorn Association  
Associate Director of the International Livestock Programs at Mississippi State University*

## Origins of Branding

The use of branding for identification of cattle can be traced to the ancient Egyptians. The practice was brought to the New World by Hernando Cortez in 1521. As the Spanish explorer unloaded cattle from his ships, he applied a brand to each animal. With the establishment of Spanish missions throughout the present southwestern United States, a cattle industry took root. Records indicate a system for the filing of brands was started in California where the Spanish were grazing thousands of head of cattle. To record a brand, the owner had to provide a section of hide or leather carrying the imprint of the brand.

Following the Civil War, there were thousands of unbranded cattle roaming the southern United States. The need to brand and record those brands became increasingly important. State governments and cattlemen alike realized the necessity of brand records to prove ownership and protect against theft. Various groups and associations sprang up in Texas and across all of cattle country to enforce brand laws and protect cattlemen.

## The Use of Branding Today

Today, there are many new methods of identification available or in development. However, none can match a properly applied and registered brand as proof of ownership. A legible, recorded brand will eliminate many outlets for thieves.

Most states require registration of any brand used on livestock through the proper regulatory agency. Brands are normally registered in each county. The TLBAA, along with other breed registries, also utilizes branding as a means of identification. In this case, you should contact the registry as well as your state agency as to the availability of a particular brand when selecting and registering your brand.. This will eliminate duplication and also identify specific locations on the animal where the brand may be applied. Various registries also require private herd numbers.

Brands are also excellent to use for identifying animals within a herd. For instance this year's calf crop could have a private herd number beginning or ending with the year number. The first calf born (or first calf

branded, depending on your management program) could then be assigned number "1" and so on. You can adopt a system to meet your needs and situation. By using a private herd number for each animal, along with your holding brand, you have identified each individual animal you own for its entire life.

Number sets for use in applying herd numbers and custom-designed holding brands are readily available through various suppliers. Contact your local farm and ranch supply store or your breed registry for more information on pricing and availability.

## Types of Brands

There are three basic methods of branding available.

The *freeze brand* involves a technique of using liquid nitrogen to produce an extremely cold iron, which when properly utilized, will kill the cells that produce pigmentation in the hair. This results in white or colorless hair at the branding site. Freeze branding is not highly recommended for use as a permanent brand as it requires more expertise to apply and the results of your efforts are not know for 60 days or more.

*Electric branding irons* are used the same way as fire-heated irons and are becoming ever more popular due to their safety and speed. An electric iron can be heated to branding temperature in about 90 seconds, but the iron also requires a 110-volt power source.

The old-fashioned *fire-heated irons* are still utilized extensively by modern cattlemen. They hardly ever break and don't require electricity. They do, however, require a heat source. Popular sources for heating the irons include propane, charcoal, or wood fires. Propane heating is rapidly becoming the most popular because it is portable and heat levels are easily controlled.

The iron should be heated to an ash grey color. If the iron is black, it is too cold to produce a mark. A bright, cherry red colored

iron is too hot and will burn too deeply. The iron must be hot enough to remove the hair and outer layer of skin only.

## Design & Construction

Your brand design should be as simple as possible. Sharp angles and small circular areas should be avoided as they create a concentration of heat that will cause the brand to burn out and blotch. The hide in these small, tight areas will never fully heal. These problems may be partially overcome by providing a groove in the iron or allowing a one-quarter inch gap at these constricted points.

Branding irons can be built of iron, steel, stainless steel, or a new rust resistant copper alloy, which provides a more even heat distribution and longer life. It is recommended that an iron measuring approximately five inches in length be used for yearling calves and adult cattle. All irons should have a thickness of 3/8" to 1/2" on the face of the iron. A thin, or burned out, iron will cut too deeply into the hide and leave a narrow scar that will cover easily with hair.



## Applying the Brand

Depending on the age of the animal, the amount of hair cover, etc., a properly heated iron should be applied to the brand location for about three to five seconds. Cattle with extremely long hair should be clipped first.

*(Continued on insert / Page 3)*

# CATTLE CLASSIFIEDS

**Double M Ranch** Victoria, Texas. Bull calves for sale sired by CC Range Rider, a Superman son. Also, other Longhorns for sale at all times. For more information call (361) 648-6249 or e-mail [charabis@hotmail.com](mailto:charabis@hotmail.com).

**ASOCL - A Splash of Color Longhorns:** Offering Futurity Eligible cattle! Herd sires include EOT Outback Hot Shot by Boomerang; Silver Scamper, our grulla J.R. Seman son; Unstopabull and Remarkabull Tommie, both sired by V.J. Tommie. Package deals available. For details call (979) 743-4439 or visit us at [www.asocl.com](http://www.asocl.com).

**JC Longhorns** Victoria, Texas. Jr. Longhorn Bull for sale, 20 months old; horn 42" tt; pedigree includes (Sire side) High Center, Highway Man, Senator, and Tabasco. Dam's side includes JW Asphalt, Emperor, and Apishapa Genuine Draft. Other longhorns for sale as well. Call (362) 648-6249 or e-mail [charabis@hotmail.com](mailto:charabis@hotmail.com).

**The Struthoff Ranch - Breeding Quality Texas Longhorns**  
JK Sterling 262 and Dixie Goer calves for sale. Great show animals with multi-colors and horns. Herd sire prospects for sale. 9660 FM 1863, #1, San Antonio, Texas; Ranch (830) 980-3250, (830) 980-9523 fax; e-mail: [LWStruthoff@aol.com](mailto:LWStruthoff@aol.com) or visit us at [www.struthoff-ranch.com](http://www.struthoff-ranch.com).

**C&W Ranch.** Wes & Carol Chancey, Lampasas, Texas. Liberator's Leprechaun has given us some great bull calves and he is putting the body, height, length, and conformation on his offspring. Contact us for recent photos and info. These are show quality and herdsire quality animals! Call (512) 556-8186 or e-mail to [cwlonghorns@itex.com](mailto:cwlonghorns@itex.com); or visit us at [www.cwlonghorns.com](http://www.cwlonghorns.com).

**Longbranch Longhorns.** Cattle for sale at all times. Top lineage, docile longhorns that have it all! Color, conformation, and some of the longest horns in central Texas. Jimmy & Joann Muse. (512) 253-6722 or [longbranch@ev1.net](mailto:longbranch@ev1.net).

**Pearl Longhorn Ranch - Long Horns, Deep Bodies, and Proud Pedigrees!**  
Home of CC Blue Warrior; Heifers and bull prospects available for sale. Visit us at [www.pearl-longhorn-ranch.com](http://www.pearl-longhorn-ranch.com) for more info on top-quality Longhorns! Allen & Suzanne Perry. (512) 263-5313 (ranch office) or (512) 970-3793 (mobile).

**Whether you need show or pasture cattle;** we have cattle for sale at all times. Also, we are partners in the Millennium Futurity, so anything you purchase is eligible for the Futurity. Stop by anytime. Lonesome Pines Ranch; John & Christy Randolph; (713) 703-8458.

**Cedar Creek Cattle Company** has quality Longhorns for sale at all times. Visit our website for more details at [www.c4longhorns.com](http://www.c4longhorns.com) or call (512) 398-9340.

**Quail Ridge Ranch - Burnet, Texas.** Tom or Mary Beth Peoples. See us for some fancy show prospects and some great looking Longhorn cattle. We have new calves and a new website, check us out! [www.peoplestx.com](http://www.peoplestx.com) or e-mail at [peoplestx@aol.com](mailto:peoplestx@aol.com). Phone: (512) 756-2999.

**J-B Longhorn Ranch** Our Gentle Giants Are "User Friendly"  
Jim and Barbara Homer, (512) 858-7246 or e-mail to [jbarblonghorns@aol.com](mailto:jbarblonghorns@aol.com).

**HD Leading Edge son** out of a Rod's Husker daughter. Spotted roan, growthy bull. Horns straight out at one yr. old. Great junior herd sire for show babies. Astera Meadows Ranch; Wilton & Carolyn Wilton (512) 856-2230.

**Hitching Post Ranch** Home of Catahola Jockey (Ace's Catahoula/Jet's Superior Heir) and Junior sire HP Moon-Shine (J&R's Eclipse / Darlin' Clementine). Have several cows for sale bred to our sires. Call or e-mail for more info. Jody, Tonya, & Patrick Beck, Cedar Creek, Texas. (512) 321-0312; [beckslonghorns@aol.com](mailto:beckslonghorns@aol.com).

**Lemley Longhorn Ranch** - Joel & Shirley Lemley, Blackwell, Texas. (325) 282-4006 or e-mail to [sd\\_l@camalott.com](mailto:sd_l@camalott.com).

If your Classified Ad did not appear in this issue, please check to see that your membership dues are *current*. Dues are payable on May 1st of each year and advertising space is reserved for STLA members only. Please contact the Membership Chairman, Rick Adams, at the numbers listed on the front page to review your membership status or simply send your dues check in today.

The Cattle Classifieds are printed in each issue of the STLA Newsletter and now also appear in the Classified Ads section of the STLA website. Ads are free of charge for STLA members and should not exceed 50 words. There will be an extra charge for any special graphics and display wording. To place an ad, or update an existing ad, please e-mail your ad copy and instructions to Suzanne Perry at [suzannep@austin.rr.com](mailto:suzannep@austin.rr.com) or send by snail mail to 1004 Lisa Drive, Austin, Texas 78733. Please contact those individuals listed above to obtain more information and details on the products or services noted in the advertisement.

South Texas Longhorn Association  
c/o Suzanne Perry | 1004 Lisa Drive | Austin, Texas 78733

Visit the New  
STLA Website at  
[www.stla.org](http://www.stla.org)