

OUTFOXING THE COMPETITION

Chances are, if you have attended a mule and donkey show lately you have heard the announcer call out his name. Clyde's Gallant Fox has dominated in the show pen in 2011, winning high point at nearly every event across the country. In fact, only halfway through the show season, he has already earned more NASMA points than any other donkey on record in a single calendar year.

Clyde's Gallant Fox, better know as "Ted", was a Mother's Day present for his owner, Samantha Francis of Richards, MO. The Francis' own a mule, Clyde's Brass Ring, who has seen his own share of success in the show ring. Brass is sired by Candace Shauger's mammoth jack, TJC Clyde. Samantha knew TJC Clyde was a great mule sire so when the opportunity presented itself to purchase a donkey by Clyde she took it.

"I saw a picture of Ted as a foal in a for sale ad that Candace had placed in *Mules and More*," said Samantha. "He was the most adorable thing I had ever seen and I told my husband, Dwain, that I had to have him!"

The Francis' brought the young jack home where he was Samantha's shadow for the first two years of his life.

"Ted loved the inside of his ears rubbed and he always liked kisses when he was little," recalls Samantha. "He would follow me around like a puppy and would even bump me if I wasn't giving him enough attention. He would also bray when he heard my voice."

Samantha says that she was always impressed by Ted's disposition. He really enjoys being around people and even as a baby would always try to do whatever was asked of him.

She was so sure Ted was going to be successful that she named him after her favorite rock star, Ted Nugent.

"I chose his name because I knew my little donkey was going to rock the place when he grew up!" said Samantha.

Since Ted was handled by Candace as a foal, Samantha wanted to place him with a female trainer. "Ted was always so gentle I thought he needed a woman's touch," said Samantha. "He was such a sweetie and I knew it would take the right kind of person to train him. Someone just as easy going as he was."

In October of 2009, Ted made his way to Oklahoma to start his training with Dan and Tabitha Holland of Signature Equine.

"He was special from the start," remembers Tabitha. "He is one of the best minded donkeys I have trained."

Ted went to his first show, the Fort Worth Stock Show, in January 2010 following less than 120 days of training. He was the Reserve High Point Training Level Donkey.

Ted finished 2010 with a NASMA Reserve High Point Training Level Donkey award and was also named High Point Green Donkey for the GCDMA.



Even though Ted had one more year of eligibility left in green competition, Tabitha and Samantha made the decision to move him up into the open donkey division for 2011.

"Ted has always been a great looper," says Tabitha. "I knew he was ready to compete with the older donkeys because he is a naturally forward mover and has such a great mind."

At the first show of the season, Fort Worth, Ted was high point donkey.

"I felt like this was going to be Ted's year," Tabitha said, "He has developed into such a great all around donkey that he is capable of winning any class he goes in."

After Ted established himself at the beginning of the season, Tabitha started making plans for Bishop.

"I have always dreamed of winning the High Point at Bishop Mule Days," says Tabitha. "I have been reserve twice. The competition is so tough that you can't make any mistakes. You have to place high in every class to have a chance."

Ted came through again winning five World Championships, two reserves and ultimately was named High Point World Champion.

"Bishop was definitely his most exciting win so far," exclaims Samantha. "We have worked really hard to earn this award!"

"It was a team effort," says Tabitha. "Dan won the pleasure driving with him and that is where we fell behind

in 2010. I knew Ted would be great in the western pleasure and then he came through in the speed events as well. It was a very special win for all of us. I was really excited that my dad, Gary Kinser, got to come along and share this with us. He trained horses for many years and I still call him all the time for advice."

Dan and Tabitha also trained and showed the Reserve High Point Donkey, Rock Point Thomas owned by Terry Bates of Bloomfield, MO.

Ted followed his Bishop win with another big title, High Point at the Great Celebration/NASMA National Championship show in Shelbyville.

"My best memory at this show was winning the western pleasure. That is my favorite class and Ted has proven himself over and over in this event winning at Houston, Bishop and now Shelbyville. For me it is like the triple crown," said Tabitha.

Ted continues to win in the show ring and is now hoping to build a legacy as a sire.

"We bred exceptional mares this year and we are all on pins and needles waiting for the results," says Tabitha.

Ted stands at stud to mares and jennets at Signature Equine in Morris, OK. Shipped semen is available and his foals are eligible for the Iowa Futurity. For more information, visit www.signatureequine.com. You can also follow Ted on Facebook. Simply search for "Clyde's Gallant Fox".



Clyde's Gallant Fox
2007 Mammoth Jack
57" Tall

Clyde's Gallant Fox is Currently Leading the Nation for NASMA 2011 High Point Donkey earning 238.5 points to date. The most points ever earned by a donkey in a single year!

2011 Accomplishments

Bishop Mule Days

Bishop, California
High Point Donkey
World Champion Western Pleasure
World Champion Barrel Racing
World Champion Reining
World Champion Pole Bending
World Champion Pleasure Driving
Reserve World Champ Ob Driving
Res World Champ English Pleasure

NASMA National Championship

Shelbyville, Tennessee
High Point Open Donkey
National Champ Western Pleasure
National Champion Pole Bending
Reserve National Champion Trail
Reserve Nat Champ Ob Driving

All American Mule & Donkey Congress

Tulsa, Oklahoma
High Point Open Donkey
High Point Driving Donkey
High Point Western Donkey
High Point Gymkhana Donkey
Reserve Grand Champion Halter

Houston Livestock Show

Houston, Texas
Reserve High Point Donkey
First Place Western Pleasure
First Place Pleasure Driving

Ohio Mule and Donkey Classic

Wilmington, Ohio
High Point Open Donkey

San Antonio Livestock Show

San Antonio, Texas
Reserve Grand Champion Halter

Fort Worth Stock Show

Fort Worth, Texas
High Point Open Donkey