



*Fascinating clouds along Highway 85 from Laredo to San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico, January 1, 2012. Photos by Joy.*

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NEWS OF JOY, BRIAN, SOPHIE & BO DUKE! :: VOL. EIGHT, NUMBER ONE :: JANUARY 2012

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*Happy New Year! • Feliz Año Nueves! • Glückliches Neues Jahr!*

The Beckners wish you a bright and happy year, filled with everything good.

JOIN US FOR A TRIP BACK TO 2011 -- IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Our travels to San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico.
- Our new boy, Bo Duke
- In my Garden
- A Bit about Business.
- Fabulous Faribault Woolen Mill!
- Sophie's New Coat
- A Walk through San Miguel with Brian

DECEMBER 30, 2011, 8AM, We leave for Sherman, TX. After having difficulty with my computer earlier in the week, I realize that, with the help of AT&T, I deleted all contacts in my iPhone! Yikes!

DECEMBER 31, 9AM, Geniuses at the Dallas Apple Store work their magic; twenty minutes down the road my contacts reappear! We arrive in Laredo about 4:30 pm, unpack, and prepare to have dinner at our favorite restaurant in Laredo, the Tack Room, next door to the old downtown Hotel la Posada. They are closed so we visit the cambio to exchange dollars for pesos, and drive back to the La Quinta, where we eat at the Mexican restaurant, Palenque, next door. A small band gives music to the gaiety.

JANUARY 1, 2012, 8AM, We roll across International Bridge Number One into Nuevo Laredo where nearly everyone must be asleep. We breeze through Immigration and are on our way via Highway 85. Gusty side winds upset a semi truck and trailer.

JANUARY 8, 2012, WOW! What a difference a week makes! Today is sunny, warm, and absolutely beautiful!



*In and near the Instituto, January 8, 2012. Photos by Joy.*

Of course, when the sun goes down, so goes the temperature.

*Next, our year in review...*

MARCH – MAY 2011, Copyright infringement hits home. Thanks to a collector/friend/attorney most is at least temporarily resolved. If you wish to learn more, look here: [http://www.joybeckner.com/stop\\_art\\_fraud.html](http://www.joybeckner.com/stop_art_fraud.html)

MAY 2011, Sophie, Brian and I drive to Oconomowoc, WI, for DCA, the Dachshund Club of America Specialty. We visit my friend Shirley Allison with whom I grew up. We have been friends since Kindergarten.



Brian and I meet three breeders who offer us standard smooth male dachshunds of various ages. Brian says nothing about wanting another dog, until we are headed home -- and -- twenty miles down the road! Brian and I select the closest of the three generous breeders, Pam Reed and meet Bo Duke!



JUNE 2012, Bodacious Bo Duke enters our lives. The handsome, Ch. Turning Point What Was I Thinking, (DOB, March 7, 2006) is a real lover. Sophie adores him, licks him and acts as though she is still two years old around him. Read into that what you wish. She definitely is Queen Bee!



*Sophie's new beau, the bodacious Bo Duke! January 11, 2012, on the terrace above the apartment that we rent in San Miguel de Allende. Photo by Joy.*

## 2011, In my Garden

MAY 26, 2011 - A humbling thing happened when I discovered three newly born deer about 20-30 feet from our deck door. Mama and I were surprised when we discovered each other! Here is one of the little deers among the May Apples and vinca minor. A vinca minor leaf is an inch long and a May Apple leaf is maybe 10-12 inches wide to give you a sense of scale.



## Lilies in July

Clockwise from above:  
"Schehezerade" blooms for the first time in three years.

"Silk Road" 15 blossoms! WOW!

"Henryii in yellow & white.

Garden photos by Joy





OCTOBER 2011, As treasurer of AWA, American Women Artists, I attend our show in Atlanta. After the gallery show, Seth Hopkins, Executive Director of the Booth Museum, treats attendees to a personally guided tour of the Booth, which opened in August 2003, and houses the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the country. We also visit the High Museum, where I am in awe -- seeing a spacious gallery full of Grainger McCoy's finely feathered friends, wood originals, and bronzes. I've always regretted not buying a certain sterling silver wing years ago, so I indulge in a sterling silver pin by this master avian sculptor.

Check out the exciting new AWA, American Women Artists website: [www.americanwomenartists.org](http://www.americanwomenartists.org).

*So long, "So Good to See You" MS - Bye, bye!*



"So Good to See You" MS sells out. Very limited numbers of the life-sized miniature long (ML) and, in 1:6 Scale, Long and Wire coats are available. Miniature Wire (ML) by commission.

"Life's a Ball!" Smooth, 1:6 Scale, is almost at the "Bye, Bye" stage. Only three *known* casts are available! Two more have been cast, but I have no idea where they are!



MISSING IN ACTION! Please tell me if you know the location of any of these bronzes:

"Life's a Ball" Smooth, 66/99, last location, Home, 7/7/04.

"Life's a Ball" Smooth, 76/99, last location, Home, 4/9/08. From Chaparral Fine Art.

"Dream Chaser" Long, 20/20, Right. Last date on my inventory sheet, 5/4/04. I'm embarrassed to ask. But, I hope someone will step forth -- hopefully three persons -- and tell me if they have one of these mystery numbers.



NOVEMBER 2011, I learn on "Sunday Morning" that the Faribault Woolen Mill Co. is up and running again. The 1865 Minnesota factory had been closed for two years and was within three weeks of being demolished, when two brothers who knew nothing of weaving blankets purchase the building and its 80-year-old looms. They hire 35 former workers, including an over 70-year-old gal who knows how everything should run. They are making it work and putting pride back in the town. Check here: <http://www.faribaultmill.com/>

How did I learn about Faribault in the beginning? Brian had purchased a beautifully basic Faribault woolen blanket that Sophie decided to chew. When I looked for the company in an attempt to find some matching natural wool, I found they were out of business. Fortunately, Brian's mom Jeanne had some un-dyed wool from when Brian's dad Neel had a loom. I used it to mend the blanket. We are thrilled to learn of the brothers' intestinal fortitude to start this icon of American ingenuity working again. More persons should do the same!

DECEMBER 2011, "Deli's Open" debuts. Modeled after Sophie, whose pups were born before I knew her, this piece is a tribute to our departed friend Anne Crockett. It is also a dedicated to all the good breeders who strive for good temperament, good bone and, of course, beautiful conformation.

Right: "Deli's Open" Smooth,  
1:6 Scale, 3 1/8"L x 2 3/8 "D x 1 3/4"H,  
Bronze, Edition 99 & 9 Artist's Proofs ©2011.  
Black & Tan patina is also available.

To learn more, please look here:  
[http://www.joybeckner.com/1\\_6\\_scale\\_delis\\_open.html](http://www.joybeckner.com/1_6_scale_delis_open.html)



### *Upcoming Events*

APRIL 18 - 21, 2012, Dachshund Club of America National Specialty, Mountain Creek Inn at Callaway Gardens, Highway 27 South, Pine Mountain, GA. <http://www.dachshund-dca.org> *I'll be there!*

MAY 5 - 27, 2012, Solo show at The Margaret Harwell Art Museum, 421 North Main Street, Poplar Bluff, MO. Opening reception: May 5, from 6 - 8pm. <http://www.mham.org> *I'll be there!*

NOVEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 25, 2012, American Women Artists, Annual Members Show & Juried Competition. K. Newby Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 19 Tubac Road, Tubac, AZ 85646. *I'll be there!*

NOVEMBER 3 - JANUARY 6, 2013, "Visions of the Southwest" American Women Artists, Master Signature Members, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, 2021 North Kinney Road, Tucson, AZ 85743. *I'll be there!*

### *Sophie has a new beau (Bo) and a brand new coat!*

In late Fall, 2006, when Sophie came to us at age 6½, she was fully dressed in gleaming black. Thank you, Marilou and Tim Callison! We immediately had her spayed -- and -- then the fun began.



*Ms. Sophie, San Miguel, February 2007. Photo by Brian.*

Gradually, she became a Mexican hairless Dachshund!  
Talk about a hormone imbalance! We think she did not like Edgar as Top Dog.



*Hairless Ms. Sophie, lounging in San Miguel, a year ago, January 2011. Photos by Joy.*

*After...*



*Late November 2011, at the La Quinta, Loveland, CO.*

After an April 2010, operation, Dr. Schaeffer, our wonder vet, tweaked Sophie's Chinese herbs and finally, after a year and a half, she grows thick shiny hair on her belly, sides, chest, and some on her upper back. YAY!!! Sophie is *HAIKY!!!* Brian and I just *know* Sophie enjoys being Queen Bee.

However, in December, she starts losing hair again. And – she is in another false heat! Her thyroid is normal. When we return home, Dr. Schaeffer will try different meds. Then again, maybe she needs a little more or less of something else to regain her gleaming black coat. Sophie remains a mystery.

## Dog House Rules Progression -- We think Sophie helped devise these rules!

1. Dogs are never permitted in the house. The dog stays outside in a specially built wooden compartment named, for very good reason, the doghouse.
2. Okay, the dog can enter the house, but only for short visits or if his own house is under renovation.
3. Okay, the dog can stay in the house on a permanent basis, provided his doghouse can be sold in a yard sale to a rookie dog owner.
4. Inside the house, the dog is not allowed to run free and is confined to a comfortable but secure metal cage.
5. Okay, the cage becomes part of a two-for-one deal along with the doghouse in the yard sale, and the dog can go wherever he pleases.
6. The dog is never allowed on the furniture.
7. Okay, the dog can get on the old furniture but not the new furniture.
8. Okay, the dog can get up on the new furniture until it looks like the old furniture and then we'll sell the whole works and buy new furniture... upon which the dog will most definitely not be allowed.
9. The dog never sleeps on the bed. Period.
10. Okay, the dog can sleep at the foot of the bed.
11. Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you, but he's not allowed under the covers.
12. Okay, the dog can sleep under the covers but not with his head on the pillow.
13. Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you under the covers with his head on the pillow, but if he snores he's got to leave the room. [S/he can also sleep with his head on my shoulder.]
14. Okay, the dog can sleep and snore and have nightmares in bed, but he's not to come in and sleep on the couch in the TV room, where I'm now sleeping. That's just not fair.
15. The dog never gets listed on the census questionnaire as "primary resident," even if it's true.

JANUARY 1, 2012. In Mexico, Bo is the premier bed warmer, sleeping under the covers, since Mr. Edgar, below, is no longer with us. Dear Bo is often called Edgar. Before Mexico, Bo Duke slept in his crate, in our bedroom.



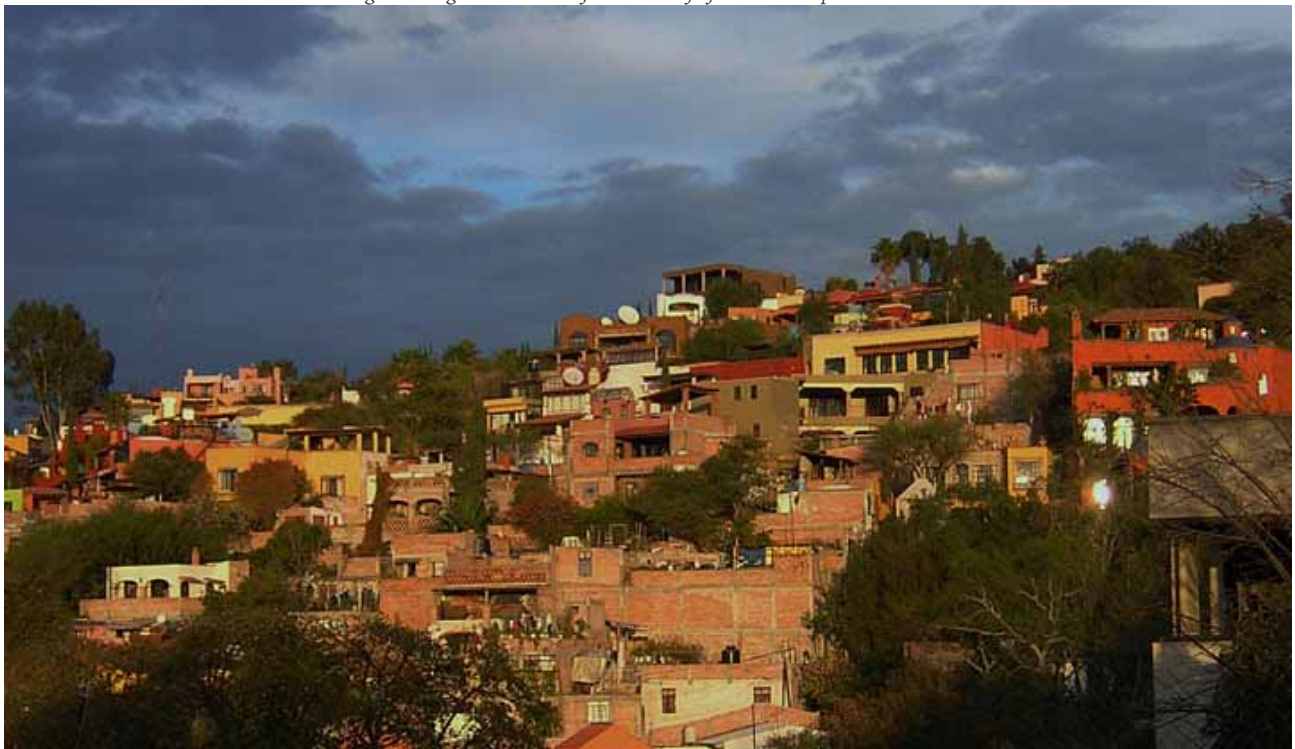
*In remembrance of our beloved Edgar: "A Wonderful Life" Digital Photograph, Joy Beckner ©2010*

SMA Q&A: Where do we get our US news? We get NBC news from Casper, Wyoming! Is it warm? With thick walls and no central heat, the interior temperature is 55 degrees on January 2. Now, interior morning temperatures are up to 60 and, maybe 63 in the afternoons. We wear layers and go outside to warm up in the daytime. When the wind blows, it is chilly. February is always more comfortable. Sunshine is uplifting.

JANUARY 10, 2011, Come, walk with Brian and enjoy a glimpse of San Miguel.



*Overlooking San Miguel de Allende from the roof of our rental apartment at Calvario 8.*



*Looking up hill from our roof toward Balcones, a mostly gringo community.*



LONELY PLANET, MEXICO: "The town of San Miguel, so the story goes, owes its founding to a few over-heated dogs. These hounds were loved by a Franciscan friar, Juan de San Miguel, who started a mission in 1542 near an often dry river 5km. from the present town. One day the dogs wandered off from the mission: they were found reclining at the spring called El Chorro. The mission was moved to this superior spot."



*Top: Lavenderia below El Chorro, Looking down from El Chorro. Bugambilia covered home below El Chorro*



*The El Chorro fountain below the mission was installed in 1960. Check the short dog with the long broken nose!*



JANUARY 14, 2012, Brian is all set to take a picture of this very narrow street when a beer deliveryman carrying three cases of beer on his back walks up the hill toward the car. See him enter the building on the left. Below is a large Christmas display in the Jardin, where locals and foreigners gather.



Colorado Sunset, near Grand Junction, CO, Thanksgiving Eve, 2011. Photo by Joy.

*May you enjoy a healthy, happy and prosperous year.*

*Brian, Joy, Sophie and our new boy, Bo Duke*

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*"Art is a living river that runs through our time and will run on as long as art is created and appreciated. To purchase a sculpture is to take a dipper full of the river home to constantly be refreshed with the energy of life." Stewart Turcotte*

"So Good to See You" MS and "Dream Chaser" Long: Photo by Mel Schockner  
"Life's a Ball!" Smooth, and "Deli's Open" Smooth: Photos by Don Casper