

MAPACA



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

April 2003

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

MaPaca

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Paul

Connor,

Vice

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Brandon

Boyd,

Treasurer:

Alan

Anderson,

Secretary:

Nick

Melfi,

Member at

Large:

Kim

DeVos.

M a P a c a

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.



President's Message

Welcome to the Jubilee!

Sold out!!!

Hopefully you open your mail promptly and it should be about 2 or 3 days before the Jubilee. We tried to accommodate everyone but we ran out of space. We thought 175,000 square feet of space in one room would be enough, it was close.

This will be the largest Jubilee ever and very possibly the largest show ever, however that is not our goal. The Jubilee started back in 1996. My first year in the "business," I remember Hugh Masters taking on the responsibility for staging the MaPaca Jubilee at the Sussex Fair Grounds. With willing, but limited, help, I remember Hugh telling me he had to figure out how to pick up the guest speaker at Newark Airport while he had to be overseeing the set-up at the fair grounds. When I suggested that MaPaca could at least pay for a rental car or a limousine transfer out of the registration fees Hugh responded, "I hate to spend the money". Thank you once again Hugh and Carol Masters for your contributions and hard work when MaPaca was in it's infancy – look what you gave birth to!

There have been many people over these past 7 years who have contributed much to the continued existence and growth of MaPaca but maybe none more noticeable, yet behind the scenes, than Patti and Alan Anderson. Though as busy, or more so, than many of us, Patti and Alan give their time each year to help in any way they can. Alan has been laying out the floor plan for the Farm Complex from day one. Starting in November of the year prior to the Jubilee, Alan begins planning for the numbers we project. Of course, when we have a brand new location as we do this year, his job becomes many times harder. In any case, somehow Alan works his magic each year! (If anyone thinks that seems easy – we are looking for volunteers for 2004!) And many thanks to David Reder who lays out the floor plan that Alan configures. David quietly, unnoticed, days before the rest of us even arrive at the Farm Complex, takes countless hours making sure every piece of sod is in the right place, every panel is set correctly, each year. Thank you David, once again.

Patti Anderson, while once on the Board of MaPaca, now continues to stay involved with the Jubilee by giving her assistance in the set-up and administration of the fleece, halter and performance judging, as well as any other facet of the Jubilee that we ask her to oversee.

Hats off this year to Nick and Cristy Melfi and their "Band of Merry Volunteers"! You all are the best! Please find the names of these wonderful individuals on page 2.

The panels included at this year's Jubilee are a new type of lighter, easier to handle, positive locking panel produced by J & W Holdings. These panels are available for purchase from the Team J & W Booth. By taking the panels home with you, you will save the shipping costs, which can amount to over 15%, plus a 15% discount on the base price of the panels. We would also like to give special thanks to J & W for going "above and beyond" to provide the panels for a show of unparalleled size without causing us to increase prices because of panel rentals. Thank you J & W! Paul Connor

Attention! Members NOT renewed for 2003 have a pink circle on your envelop and a matching form in your Newsletter. To remain MaPaca members, please renew NOW! Thanks.

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Message From The Event Manager:

Well, it's finally here, the 7th Annual MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee. YeeHah! The accumulation of six months of preparation will come to fruition. All the work the event staff has accomplished thus far is unbelievable. They have done a fantastic job. May I be the first to take my hat off to all of you and say "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you." Please take some time to let them know how you appreciate their efforts to get Jubilee 03 off the ground. I would also like to thank all the breeders for believing in the MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee and joining us with your animals. I hope you will all enjoy the new facility and the fact that the seminars are free. We are pleased this year that the AFCNA is taking part in the Jubilee in a new way. By the count of dinner tickets, most of you feel the same. This will be the first time there will be an auction at the Jubilee sponsored by the co-op. Next year, as promised, MAPACA will have it's first alpaca auction of the alpacas that have placed first and second at this year's Jubilee. In closing, I wish all good luck in showing, and have a great time while participating in the event. God Bless.

Nick Melfi, Jubilee Event Manager

Jubilee Reminder

from Kit Hower.

To all MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee Attendees:

Please remember to check in for your registration packet when you arrive at the Jubilee, whether you are showing animals, fleece, skeins, etc. or not. Official name tags are a way to keep security a bit tighter in this crazy world and they will be in your packets.

Thank you!

They Said It Couldn't Be Done!

But, the following firecracker volunteers have succeeded in putting together the largest MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee in history! The MaPaca Board of Directors would like to extend a heartfelt "Thanks" to these dedicated and hard working volunteers! As MaPaca members, I'm sure you also would like to join with the Board of Directors and myself, in extending a big "Thank You," to these volunteers. Here is the list of those you may wish to say thanks to if you see them at the Jubilee:

- Event Manager - **Nick Melfi**
- Administration Assistant - **Kit Hower**
- Show Manager - **Peg Stephens**
- Fleece Show Coordinators - **Andrea & Alex MacDonald**
- Volunteer Manager - **Gwen Smith**
- Facilities Chairs - **Alan & Patti Anderson**
- Meals & Entertainment - **Lou & Kim DeVos**
- Advertising Chair - **Frieda Goodrich & Nancy Johanson**
- PA Farm Complex - **Brandon Boyd**
- Vendor Coordinator - **David Reder & Tom Sutkins**
- Seminars & Education Chair - **Kelly Zanella**
- Assistants - **Ann Lemon, Linda Youells & Joanne Givler.**

Another Perspective on the War

by Barb Nuessle

Bay Springs Farm Alpacas, Cape May, NJ

I recently conducted a survey of my alpacas. While they constitute a relatively small sample, they are a very geographically and ethnically diverse population. As a veteran political pollster, I felt it incumbent upon me to conduct a focus group with my alpacas to find out what they had to say about the war in Iraq. Here is a sampling of their open-ended comments.

ANDINA: (native from Chile) What is all this talk of war? Where I come from there are continuous revolutions and people killing each other all the time. I came here to get away from all that. Every time I hear the hunters shooting rabbits in the woods next door, I feel like I am back home. I don't know about the rest of you, but I am going to stay inside the barn until the war is over. Midnight, will you bring me some duct tape and plastic wrap for the window?

MIDNIGHT: War in the desert? Not my kind of terrain. Let the camels take care of it. I hate the heat and the dust. I am having a bad hair day as it is. Last night after the freezing rain, I took a little roll in the barn and the dust got stuck in my black fleece so that I look like an absolute mudball. What I need is a nice warm bath.

CALYPSA: War is definitely not cool. I am not a peacenik, or anti-war or anything, but I would rather make love, not war. I am a reluctant transplant from Southern California and I am having a hard time dealing with winter. I would rather be basking in the sun and digging my toes in the sand, maybe doing a little surfing, or drinking Margaritas. Instead it is April Fools' Day and it is sleeting and there are no girls in sight.

CHANEL: Who cares about War. I'm really much more interested in some of those yummy carrots you are waving in front of me. Come over to the fence and give them to me and I will give you a big kiss.

CAIRO: You know that I am absolutely terrified of everything—lightening, thunder, snow, dogs, large birds, and most 2-leggeds --and now you are upsetting me with talk of war. I think I need a shrink. If I could figure out how to do it, I would stick my head in the sand. Since I can't, I am going to take cover under the apple tree and just smell the flowers until the war is over.

BARCLAY: Life is boring. War? Yeah! I just love combat. I may be small but I am fast and tough. Come on guys, let's do some sprints and show 'em that we're ready to go. I don't have my fighting teeth yet, but I think I can fudge about my age so they will let me in the army.

BRITTANY: I am not sure war is a good idea right now. I know I tend to be ambivalent about most everything. First I thought it might be the right thing to do. Now that I think about all the possible consequences, I am not sure. As for me personally, I am definitely not one to obey orders or follow anyone, anywhere. Unless, of course, there is something in it for me--say some alfalfa or clover on the other side of the hill.

FROSTY: Let Barclay go to war. As for me, I am going to stay in the barn with Andina until this war blows over. I will pass the time looking out the window and check out what is coming out of the woods. Maybe I'll see a coyote. Andina better not cover up my favorite window with duct tape and plastic. I need a clear view in case those hunters and dogs decide to come out of the woods near our pasture. If they do, I will scream.

LADDIE: I can scream a lot louder than you and spit farther too! But, I am with Frosty, no war for me. I am content to watch the Cencom briefings while I eat my breakfast.

ALEJANDRO: If I am called I will serve. I always do what is expected of me. I can be brave and fearless just like Barclay. Only I am older and wiser, not as apt to fly off the handle. If he goes to war, he will need me to keep him on track and out of harm's way.

CHILTON: When I grow up I am going to be a general. My father is named Dust Commander so war is in my genes. I know I am a born leader because everyone follows me whenever I start to gallop around the pasture.

MODERATOR: Thank you for your participation, 'pacas. I think many people hold similar views to the ones you have expressed.

**MaPaca Eastern Alpaca
Jubilee Sponsors
DIAMOND**

1. **Gail S. Campbell**, Ameripaca Alpaca Breeding Co. Inc., West River, MD;
2. **Diane & Mike Beaver**, Alpaca Ventures, Sidman, PA;
3. **Rebecca Black/Mitchell Rales**, Glenstone Farm, LLC, Potomac, MD;
4. **Bob & Lou Eustance**, French Hollow Alpacas, Bondville, VT;
5. **David & Laurye Feller**, Sunset Hills Farm, Butler, PA;
6. **Libby & Jerry Forstner**, Magical Farms, Inc., Litchfield, OH;
7. **Ed & Charlene Friedman**, Mountain Edge Alpacas, Boalsburg, PA;
8. **Mary Forte Goodman**, Mary's Alpacas, Miami, FL;
9. **Mike & Kim Harnett**, Heart's Desire Farm, LLC, Shinnston, WV;
10. **Robert & Louise Hebler**, Acorn Alpaca Ranch, LLC, Millis, MA;
11. **Connie Linn**, Linn Alpaca Suri Farm, Glen Mills, PA;
12. **Nick & Cristy Melfi**, Melfi Farm Alpacas, Hillsborough, NJ;
13. **Craig & Page Nitterhouse**, Shasta Springs Alpacas, Chambersburg, PA;
14. **Diane & Leon Rosenberg**, Meadowgate Farm Alpacas, Lawrenceville, NJ;
15. **Tim & Gwen Smith**, Smith-Haven Farm Alpacas, Flemington, NJ;
16. **Bud & Gail Stewart**, Rocky Run Alpacas, Malvern, PA;
17. **Mike & Robin Tierney**, Maple Brook Farm, Westfield, MA;
18. **Linda Berry Walker**, WoodsEdge Wools Farm, LLC, Stockton, NJ;

PLATINUM

1. **Alan & Patti Anderson**, Wild Rose Suri Ranch, Havre de Grace, MD;
2. **Dennis Balbac/Monica Kline**, A Suri Farm, Myerstown, PA;
3. **Jim & Gini Barker**, Sweet Briar Suri Farm, Burton, OH;
4. **Stephanie & Mike Barnhart**, The Alpaca Trading Co., Uniontown, OH;
5. **Sharon Brown/Jim Webb**, Virginia Alpaca Breeding Co. Inc., McLean, VA;
6. **Marcel & Francie Carbone**, Keystone Alpacas, Aurora, OH;
7. **Bob & Lee Ciszewski**, Almost Heaven Alpacas & Guest House, Augusta, WV;
8. **Glen & Susan Cook**, Blue Ribbon Alpaca Breeding Co., Gaithersburg, MD;
9. **Tilly Dorsey**, DAFI Alpacas, Butler, MD;
10. **Ben & Lynda Fisco**, Humming Hill Suri Farm,

- Newbury, OH;
11. **Nancy Johanson**, Alpacas of Brookhollow Farm, Boonton, NJ;
12. **Carol Karsten**, Hidden Hill Farm Alpacas, Antrim, NH;
13. **Otto & Herta Kuczynski**, Donna & Al Elser, Thompson Hollow Alpacas, New Kingston, NY;
14. **John & Lauren LoVerde**, Fleecy Dale Farm, Lambertville, NJ;
15. **Tommy & Mendy Royster**, Crosswinds Farm Alpacas, LLC, Richmond, VA;
16. **Alan Clark/Hernan Torres**, Finca Alta Vista, Honesdale, PA;
17. **Kelly & Paul Zanella**, Spa Alpacas, Ballston Spa, NY;
18. **The Alpaca Group**, Andes Alpacas, Lightfoot Farm, Maple Brook Farm, Royal River Alpaca Farm, Skyeview Alpacas.

GOLD

1. **John & Lyn Callen**, Mettowee Valley Farm, Pawlet, VT;
2. **Kern & Rhonda Deschner**, Tierra Prometida Alpaca Ranch, San Marcos, TX;
3. **Frieda & Daryl Goodrich**, Angel Wood Alpaca Farm, LLC, Hackettstown, NJ;
4. **Arlene & Marcel Gruter**, Purple Haze Alpacas, Bangor, PA;
5. **Jovi Larson & Richard Surles**, FiberGenix Suris, Ringoes, NJ;
6. **Ann Lemon & Dane Burkhart**, White Lightning Farm, Mohnton, PA;
7. **Ken & Claudia Raessler**, Royal River Alpaca Farm, LLC, North Yarmouth, ME;
8. **Ben Rogers & Denny Fuller**, Heronwood Farm Inc., Upperville, VA;

SILVER

1. **Joe & Robin Cardosa**, Pine Loc Alpacas, Columbia, NJ;
2. **Kit T. Hower**, Blankstone Farm Alpacas, Coopersburg, PA;
3. **Ruth K. Inglefield**, ALPACARIA, White Hall, MD;
4. **Dona Masters & Susan Zelazny**, Andes Dandies, LLC, Medina, NY;
5. **John & Suzanne McKee**, Shore Alpacas, Salisbury, MD;
6. **Susan Muther/Hazen Reed**, Hasu Ranch Alpacas, East Meredith, NY;
7. **Andrew & Kim Schneider**, Middle Eight Farm, Mountt Airy, MD;
8. **Wendy Schwab & Jeffrey Krieg**, Hillside Alpacas, Bradford, PA;
9. **David Stensland**, 'A Craftsman's Touch' Alpaca Co., Edison, NJ;

MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee Vendors

We have assembled a group of great vendors who will be present at the MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee. We would like to encourage all MaPaca members to visit these vendors while attending the Jubilee. These vendors are a great group and can help you in various aspects of your alpaca business from feed to fiber, and everything in between. Here is the illustrious list of vendors:

Great Threads, Bill & Sylvia Blackmon, NY;
Columbia Creek Farms, Jeff Carlton, PA;
S.C. Artwork, Stephanie Chaillet, OH;
Ravencoat, Skip & Nicole Chambers, NY;
Latin Collection, Ruth Cuzmar, SC;
Creekside Breeders Ltd. & Inca Fashions, Kim & Lou DeVos, PA;
Alpaca Fiber Coop of North America (AFCNA), Karen Dewhirst, TN;
John Deere Company, Dane Donohue, KS;
Ridge Mist Alpaca Supplies, Jane Dunston, ME;
PAOBA, Jennifer Ford, PA;
Prairie States Insurance, OK;
Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association, Scott Gove, MD;
Images of the Heart & Soul, Susan Gray, TX;
Team J & W, Lee Hall, Alberta, Canada;
Kencore Farm Fence, Phyllis Kendall, PA;
Enchanted Valley Alpacas, Marianne Klein, NY;
Gore's Trailer Mfg. Inc., Rosetta Long, NC;
DAX, Dax Meazel, CA;
American Livestock Magazine, Jeanine Mensch, TX;
Peruvian Link Company, Michael Pomroy, ME;
Lanart Company, Angelo Ponce, NC;
Dynamite Marketing Inc., Carol Sharon, CA;
Steven Llama Tique, Loren & Judy Stevens, MN;
Italtex, Malena Testino, VA;
Double "O" Good Alpacas, Suzanne Vosteen, VA;
Buckeye Feed Mills, Jim White, OH;
Please Visit Our Vendors!

Editor's Ramblings:

Watching news reports of the war can be detrimental to your health, I have decided. After engaging in such behavior, falling asleep to the sounds of CNN and bombs going off in Baghdad for the 14th night in a row, I awoke feeling on the verge of a panic attack! Enough is enough of that. I will take shelter and solace with the alpacas and turn the TV off.

Life does go on, no matter what is happening in the outside world, what is happening in my barn and pastures is what really matters, after all, to me. So, I took up a happy humming tune and went about cleaning the pastures, cleaning the barn, and visiting with the alpacas. The feelings of panic subsided, the shaking in my gut ended, the air seemed fresher, the sky bluer, all because I spent some extra time peacefully with the alpacas.

Perhaps we could market our animals as peacemakers. Although they have their occasional tiff, their general tendency in life is towards peaceful coexistence. Ever heard of an alpaca war? Not me! It's the homosapiens who feel the need to engage in such conduct. I think I will throw my lot in with the alpacas.

Spring is here, the Jubilee is upon us. Soon it will be time to shear. These are the things that help to bring sanity to me in a world bent on destruction and out of control in so many areas. I thought the article that Barb Nuessle sent me on the alpacas perspective on war was very creative and very thought provoking, even if it was meant as humor. There is always an ounce or more of truth behind any humor, I'm sure.

As I write, I'm hoping that things are improving with the feed contamination problem in Ohio and that all involved will be dealt with fairly and judiciously by the Land O Lakes feed company. I hope this problem never repeats itself and that all feed companies take note of the situation and vow to take action to make sure something like this never happens again. The lives lost can never be returned, no matter what, but at least as animal care takers, we can all work to make sure that our animals are taken care of as best we can.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Jubilee. The show is shaping up to be the biggest ever, a real EVENT in the alpaca world. I look forward to being there with all the fuzzy peacemakers, and imagine that block of time to be set aside as an oasis amidst all the outside turmoil.

My best regards to you all,
Alice Brown

Have you ever wondered what happens to the Teddybears we sell?

By Alice Brown

I received an email recently from a friend who bought an alpaca Teddybear from me for her granddaughter. My friend's granddaughter is 12 years old, in the sixth grade, and her name is Jaimie Downs. When my friend gave the Teddybear to Jaimie, she made a necklace for her with a story on it all about alpacas and how they are shorn, along with some pictures of alpacas. She put the necklace around the Teddybear's neck. Jaimie just loves her bear so much that she has given the bear a name, Tess. As a matter of fact, Jaimie loved Tess so much that she took Tess to school to show all her friends.

Jaimie relates, "When I took Tess to school, everybody loved how soft Tess was. My friends were talking about how they wanted to get one. They admired how it was made of alpaca fur!" Jaimie added, "I love how Tess is really soft! I love how she has different patterns of color." Jaimie admits that Tess sleeps with her at night, right by her side.

Yes, you never know where an alpaca Teddybear may travel to. However, I am convinced that alpaca Teddybears are alpaca ambassadors! So, never minimize the worth of an alpaca Teddybear!



Photo by Barbara Lane

Jaimie Downs with her special Teddybear Tess.

Camelid Humor *By Alice Brown*

Do alpacas like sports? I'm really not sure, but the first nice day we had this spring, my daughter Breanne came out to the barn looking for her soccer ball. She decided to go out and kick the ball around the pasture. The alpacas, after being cooped up for so long, were out in the pasture enjoying the lovely afternoon sunshine. The minute my crias spotted Breanne, their ears pricked up, their tails raised, and they watched intently to see what was going on.

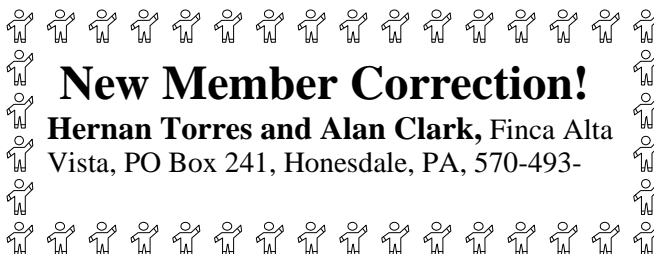
With one good kick, off went the ball and off went the alpacas. The funny thing is, the alpacas ran right after the ball. And so the game began. "Kick the ball, run and chase it, slam on the brakes, sniff the ball, and run away!" The process was played out again and again. It was so comical to watch that not only was I standing there watching, so were all the spectator alpacas in the other pastures.

One of our geldings, who particularly likes the ball game, was so excited when he first saw the ball go flying, it was as if he were saying, "Wow! Where have you been all winter!" So, next time you think your animals need a little entertainment, break out the old soccer ball and kick it around for them. Every one will have a ball.

AOBA Needs Volunteers!

The AOBA Conference Halter Show is looking for volunteers! It takes a staff of about 50+ people to man a show of that size, even with a professional superintendent. Bruce Beatty bbeaty656@aol.com is the volunteer coordinator for the AOBA Show Committee and would love to hear from you! If you are going to be at the Conference, please consider donating a few hours to work for a show that belongs to all of us. We'd like to have your names before the Conference book goes to press. We also need volunteers for the Fleece Show. Please Contact Freda McGill at carl-freda@att.net to help with the fleece show.

Lucy Farrar, for the Show Committee


New Member Correction!
Hernan Torres and Alan Clark, Finca Alta Vista, PO Box 241, Honesdale, PA, 570-493-

MaPaca Members Calendar of Events

May 3, 2003

Spa Alpacas' Fourth Annual "Everything's Coming Up Alpacas!"

Owners and Breeders Seminar

Thinking about raising alpacas? Have a lot of questions??? Join Kelly and Paul Zanella and their guest speakers for this educational, hands-on seminar featuring presentations, demonstrations and discussions on the alpaca industry, alpaca selection, herd health management, investment opportunities and tax advantages, marketing/sales and facility set-up and layout. The seminar will be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 8:30AM-5:00PM, (rain or shine). Sunday is an open house from 10AM-4PM with private treaty sales, fleece and fleece product sales. For more information see our website at www.spaalpacas.com or e-mail us at pjzanella@aol.com (518-885-0585) for an invitation. Seating in this educational program is limited and reservations are necessary, so please register early! Spa Alpacas is located in upstate NY, 30 minutes North of Albany.

May 17 and 18, 2003

John Mallon Alpaca Handling and Show Clinic.

Tired of fighting with your alpacas? Are your alpacas frustrated with you? Learn how to turn unacceptable habits into acceptable behaviors with ease. Great for experienced breeders as well as new breeders. Level I Clinic is the basics of handling, and is the prerequisite for the Show Clinic on May 18th. Learn how to show your alpacas and increase your chances of winning - just in time for AOBA!

Cost after April 15th is \$160.00 for

Level I, or \$300 for level I and Show Clinic. Bring your own alpacas, or use ours. Lunch and beverages provided. Limited availability of space to insure personal attention with John Mallon, so sign up now!

Contact: Patti and Alan Anderson at Wild Rose Suri Ranch, 410-734-7084, email: anderson@wildrosealpacas.com, registration forms & information at www.wildrosealpacas.com/mallon_clinic.htm.

May 24-25

Camelidynamics Clinic with Marty McGee Bennett

Mount Airy, MD. Hosted by A Paca Fun Farm. Contact: Neil or Jo Padgett, mcpneilp@aol.com or (301) 829-1762.

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

**Please note change if your ad is on heavy
paper!**

Spring is here, get those Herdsire ads in! We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 1/2" by 11" ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply **ALL** the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will now be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total. Please send copies, **along with payment**, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the **20th** of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check **payable to MaPaca** and include check with inserts. Any questions, email Alice Brown at **fpalpacas@aol.com**. Thank you!

Camelid Veterinary News for the East Coast

Digging in my garden, I noticed my Lilys of the Valley are sprouting. Guess what, they are toxic! I thought I had gotten rid of them, but there they are again. Over the years that I have had alpacas I've researched the toxic plant question many times. Last year Dr. David Anderson recommended a useful site to check on toxic plants. The site is found at <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/vex/vetdocs/toxic.htm>.

Another site that I particularly find informative is found at <http://vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/cover1.htm>. This site not only has multiple pictures of toxic plants, but it also gives a toxicity rating, lists animals affected, gives dangerous parts of the plant, explains the class of symptoms of toxicity, gives a plant description along with the pictures, gives signs of toxicity, first aid for toxicity, and prevention methods. One problem is that this site is in Indiana and may not have all the toxic plants or the same toxic plants as we have here on the East Coast. However, I found many of the plants to be the same.

More close to home is the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine toxic plant site. This site is found at <http://cal.nbc.upenn.edu/poison/intro.htm>. The site has multiple pictures and many listings along with an informative introduction.

The University of PA site brings out that some plant constituents produce adverse health effects and symptoms can sometimes be quite sudden or take some time to develop. Numbers of animal losses due to plant toxicity varies between geographic regions with western states having the highest levels. Here on the east coast, primarily

Pennsylvania, livestock losses due to poisonous plants is low. At times the particular chemical in a plant that causes the problem is unknown, but there are categories of toxic plant constituents including alkaloids, amino acids, peptides and proteins, glycosides, acids, terpenes, phenolics and tannins, and essential oils.

Most toxicity is the result of ingestion, thus it is good to know that many, but not all toxic plants are not very palatable. If other good forage is available, animals will avoid ingesting the toxic, unpalatable plants in favor of the good forage. Timing of ingestion is important because concentrations of toxins can vary from year to year, and throughout the growing season. Drought and other environmental factors may affect toxin levels.

If you have questions about plants in or near your pastures, collect a sample of the entire plant, including roots, wrap the sample in wet newspaper and keep chilled until it is brought to a laboratory for testing. In many locals the agricultural agent can assist in plant identification. As things start to sprout this spring, it is a good time to take a long slow walk through and around your pastures to look for anything unusual sprouting.

For example, our pastures are pretty new. The first year I had wild cherry trees sprouting all over the place. It took many trips of walking through my pastures to rid the pastures of these toxic plants. Last year I only found the sprouts where the birds poop, under trees and along the fence line. Birds love to eat wild cherries, hence the seeds end up in their excrement causing sprouts.

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
any stories,
send to
Alice Brown
458 Main
Road,
Vineland,
New Jersey
08360 or
email:
fpalpacas@
aol.com.

**'Tis sweet to hear the
watch-dog's honest bark**

**Bay deep-mouth's welcome
as we draw near home;**

**'Tis sweet to know there is
an eye will mark**

**Our coming, and look
brighter when we come.**

_____ *Lord Byron*

Volunteers Needed !

Volunteering is a great way to learn more about alpacas and meet your fellow breeders. There are positions open for Ring Stewards, Fleece Show assistants, and many more positions that will give you a unique opportunity to learn more about showing your alpacas and their fleeces.

This year's Jubilee will involve volunteers more so than in the recent past, to help keep expenses down for all. Your help is needed and appreciated! Please see your MaPaca Jubilee registration packet to see what volunteer jobs are available, then mail your filled out form to MaPaca Volunteer Committee, Smith-Haven Farm Alpacas, 71 Rainbow Hill Road, Flemington, NJ 08822. If you have any questions call Gwen Smith, Volunteer Chairperson, at 908-371-1632 (afternoons) and 908-359-0506 (mornings).