

MAPACA



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

May 2003

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 5

MaPaca

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Vice

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Secretary:

Nick

Melfi,

Member at

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Kim

DeVos.

M a P a c a

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

A month has now gone by and the favorable comments are still coming in. Special thanks again to Nick and Cristy Melfi, this year's Jubilee Coordinators and all the many volunteers who made this year's Jubilee a tremendous success! (See "Message from the Jubilee Coordinator" and the article "The Seventh Annual MaPaca Jubilee a Smashing Success"). Many breeders are already looking forward to the 2004 Jubilee and the relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere in the magnificent new Farm Complex main hall. It was such a benefit having everyone in the same area, everyone knowing what was going on at any given moment. There were also far less "mad dashes" for the show ring. Next year we also hope to have an electronic display in the area of the show ring displaying the number of the class taking place at the time in each ring. That had to be the most asked question for 4 days – "what class is in there now?"

As advertised, there really was no "bad" location in the hall, however some locations were definitely more preferred than others. In that regard, preferred locations were provided to the Diamond sponsors this year. It was noted that the system of preferred locations tied into sponsorships make it much more expensive for small breeders to have a better location since if you only have two or three pens you are investing a premium of up to \$500 extra per pen if your goal is a preferred

spot; as opposed to a large breeder with 10 pens who is paying an additional \$100 per pen. With that in mind I am suggesting a plan to the Board that the pen prices be set according to location. As an example prices may range from as low as maybe \$150 per pen to as much as maybe \$400 for a pen located in the most preferred areas. Sponsorships can receive recognition for their generosity through the many other methods employed in years past – display pennants, ads in the program, announcements throughout the event, banners in the show ring, sponsorships of classes, etc.

Another way to maintain a level playing field for the small and larger breeders is the auction to be presented for the first time in 2004. The original concept was for the first and second place winners in the halter classes to be eligible to apply for inclusion in the auction. Since 150 to 200 alpacas from over 270 farms participating would be eligible only 1 entry per farm could actually be in the auction. This will provide an opportunity for 40 to 60 farms of all sizes to actually sell one of their alpacas at the Jubilee.

Other changes this year were "free seminars", as was done prior to 2001. With most seminars being offered twice, on Friday as well as Saturday, everyone had an opportunity to attend and no one lost money if they didn't make it. Thank you to all the speakers for the great job and special thanks to Dr. David Pugh for giving an unscheduled seminar on "Alpaca Health and Nutrition" on Saturday, in addition to his unforgettable presentation during the Banquet on Saturday evening. Kelly Zanella did a great job of organizing the seminars on the theory that each year the seminars and speakers should be different. It made a lot of sense since the majority of farms are at the Jubilee year after year. If you would like to be one of the new speakers for next year or have an idea for a special speaker please let us know on the form that will be in the June Newsletter. With the guidance of Kim and Lou DeVos the meal functions were all excellent. Again the new facilities made a big difference. By having multiple, complete buffet set-ups, Kim and Lou insured no one waited more than a few minutes to be served.

Hopefully next year we will again be able to avoid price increases. Due to the many thousands of dollars saved by using volunteers this year, MaPaca should be in good shape

President's Message: pg. 1-2
Message from Jubilee Coordinator: pg. 2
MaPaca Jubilee a Smashing Success: pg.3
Ten Ways to Sneak Another Alpaca...: pg. 4
Classified Ads: pg. 4

Editor's Ramblings: pg. 5
Bright Ideas!: pg. 6
Camelid Humor: pg.6
Calendar of Events: pg. 7
Camelid Veterinary News: pg. 8

when the final accounting is in. In that regard Alan Anderson has done a great job functioning as our Treasurer while once again taking on the immense, time consuming responsibility of laying out a brand new facility and making it all work so smoothly. For the fourth straight year - thank you. Also for the fourth straight year, thank you David Reder for all your many volunteer hours in the actual physical laying out of the facility and to the volunteers that gave you a hand.

As soon as next year's Jubilee Coordinator has been established we will need another group of dedicated volunteers to once again pull it off. I repeat, in next month's Newsletter we will enclose a form to start enlisting next year's volunteers, Chairpersons, speakers, etc. Please consider getting involved, or staying involved and respond to the form when you receive it.

MaPaca Board Candidates

The time is again upon us to enlist candidates for this year's MaPaca Board of Directors elections. Three positions are up for election to two year terms. I am going to ask the Board to consider adding two more Board positions for a total of seven directors. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is more input and ease of having a quorum at the meetings. We also need some small breeders on the Board. Please consider running even if you only have a few or several alpacas. All breeder's interests must be represented to help MaPaca be all it can be for all its members.

MaPaca Meeting

A general membership meeting has been scheduled for Sunday June 22nd at Nick and Cristy Melfi's farm. If you would like to volunteer to have a general membership meeting at your farm please let me know at: paul@bigskyalpacas.com. MaPaca reimburses lunch and refreshment costs. Location selections are made based on proximity relative to the entire MaPaca region and space availability. You could request having a September or a January 2004 meeting.

Tentative meeting agenda:

- 2003 Jubilee review and suggestions for 2004
- Nomination/selection of a Jubilee Coordinator
- Nomination/selection of a Nominating Committee Chairperson for 2003 MaPaca Board of Directors election
- Selection of auction service and rules
- Consideration of donations to Dr. David Anderson's work at Ohio State University, and Dr. Stephen Purdy's New England Animal Health Institute
- Training and/or educational seminars in conjunction with general membership meetings.

Happy Shearing!
Paul Connor

Message from the Jubilee Coordinators:

We did it! The 7th Annual MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee 03 was a Huge Success! Congratulations and many thanks to all those who made it happen. Everywhere I go, I meet people that say it was the best organized show they have ever been to. It happened because of the volunteers. The cooperation we received throughout the show was exceptional and in the end allowed a really great show and a smooth departure. With planning already in the works, next year should prove to be even more exciting. We have already received requests from both vendors and exhibitors, but we will need to make Jubilee 04 as good, if not better than 03. I am anxious to get anyone interested in having a volunteer position or staff in place ASAP, so the transition can go smoothly. In addition to all that took place in 03, we will have our first ever Alpaca Auction. I would like to thank Alan and Patti Anderson, Kit Hower, Frieda Goodrich, David Reder, Ann Lemon, Gwen Smith, Brandon Boyd, Kelly Zanella, and Kim & Lou DeVos for all their hard work in putting together this year's Jubilee. Also, a special thanks to all our seminar speakers, Dr. Toni Cotton, Kelly Zanella, Jerry Forstner, Kim DeVos, Walter & Doris Van Buskirk, and Dr. David Pugh, "You all with me on this one!" As staff, we would like to thank Peg Stephens, and Andrea and Alex MacDonald, the show superintendents. A great big thanks to all of our announcers, Scott Gove, Rick Stumpf, Nancy Johanson, and Chris Aiken. A very special thank you to all the many volunteers who helped to make this MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee work so well. There are many names we should be listing, but shearing season is upon us and that means more work outside. Thank you all once again and thank you all for being a big part of MaPaca. Can't wait until next year! Hope to see you all there.

Sincerely, Nick and Cristy Melfi

The Seventh Annual MaPaca Jubilee a Smashing Success!

By Alice Brown

“Smooth”, “easy”, “well organized”, “happy”.... these are some of the terms people used to describe their MaPaca Jubilee 2003 experience. The show had a total of 271 exhibitors from 26 states and 27 vendors. Breeders coming from near and far represented their states as follows: California-1; Connecticut-5; Delaware-1; Florida-1; Georgia-1; Massachusetts-6; Maryland-27; Maine-9; Michigan-3; Minnesota-1; North Carolina-1; Nebraska-1; New Hampshire-10; New Jersey-28; New York-37; Ohio-44; Oregon-1; Pennsylvania-55; Rhode Island-1; South Carolina-2; Tennessee-1; Texas-1; Virginia-18; Vermont-9; Washington State-2; West Virginia-5.

One line that those who were at the Saturday evening dinner will always remember is, “You’ all with me on this one!” Yes, Dr. David Pugh from Auburn University’s Reproductive Center in Alabama kept everyone entertained for a good long while with his vividly described humorous stories. Yes, Dr. Pugh, we were all with you each and every time laughing our heads off.

One event that was well attended and enjoyed was the costume class. The class was held during lunch so it did not interfere with other classes and the participants were able to show-off their unique costumes to a huge crowd with cameras flashing left and right throughout the event. What fun!

After the show, speaking briefly with the Judges, Kristen Buhrmann, Harold Herbold, Nard Mullen, Julio Sumar, and Maggie Krieger, it was obvious that they also enjoyed their experience at the Jubilee and appreciated how the show was so well organized.

Walking around the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex during the Jubilee, many offered comments about their show experience. Here is a sampling of what people had to say:

Jim White a nutritionist from Buckeye Feeds - “I enjoyed the show. Excellent show!”

Kit Hower of Blankstone Farm Alpacas- “It’s been a real learning experience for me. We did a tremendous amount of pre-planning for this event.

I would have liked to see more pre-planning on the part of breeders. It would have been helpful. But people seem to be very happy and that is rewarding.”

Jerry Forstner of Magical Farms - “The best run show I’ve ever attended. The volunteers should be highly commended. I can’t think of a thing that did not work well.”

Betsy Gove of Sandhill Alpacas - “I agree, it’s wonderful. The check-in was what I liked the best!”

Catherine Bentè of Alpacas of Sunshine Farm - “Much better for the public.” Don Hines - “We were impressed with getting us all in such a great facility.”

Mike Tierney of Maple Brook Farm - “We just think this is the April place to be.”

Katie Shedden age 8 of Thistledown Alpacas - “I liked coming to the Jubilee!”

Samantha Shedden age 5 of Thistledown Alpacas - “I liked winning ribbons for Angus!”

Jane Christie of Thistledown Alpacas - “The fleece show check-in was great! Much improved. It was a huge help not having to fill in the forms.”

Jo Overby of Rock Chimney Farm Alpacas - “An extremely well run show. Ernie (Kellogg) laid a great foundation and we are growing on it. Peg Stephens was great!”

Kathy Hamblett of BaggyWrinkle Alpacas - “It was great having everyone under one roof!”

Karen Dewhirst of the AFCNA - “We want to thank the Jubilee volunteers for allowing us to do our fund raiser. The atmosphere has been up beat and positive, very encouraging! They really have done a great job.”

Katherine Thompson of Fenwick Manor Farm - “I’m pleased to be in this nice new clean facility. We may grow out of it soon! I’m pleased to see so many new faces. It shows that there is a spirit of adventure and fun that goes along with showing.”

Hugo Uloa of Alpacas de la Patagonia - “I came because this is one of the largest shows in the world. I always wanted to come and it’s great exposure for us coming from the west. This is one of the best shows I’ve been at. It’s the best organized show and friendly. I’ll be here next year!”

Ten Ways to Sneak Another Alpaca Home

Sent in by Jack & Jill Reinhart
Allegheny Alpacas
Wexford, PA

1. Move the cats to the cellar, the dogs to the barn, the uncle to the hammock, and the yearlings to the TV-room. Continue the rotation weekly. Add a new alpaca into the mix after the third week. Stop the rotation when the alpaca gets to the barn. Your confused - and now grateful - spouse won't question further.
2. Organize a clandestine Camelid Underground Railroad, which connects sympathetic breeders across several states.
3. "That's not an alpaca. It is a vacuum cleaner that picks up loose hay on the floor of the stall."
4. Claim that it is not your alpaca, but that you are selling it on consignment for another farm.
5. Instead of heating the barn this winter, add another one of those "portable, fuzzy, alpaca-sized heaters." Continue adding "heaters" until the stall feels comfy.
6. Buy an extra large collar, obtain a dog license, give your new alpaca a poodle style shearing. Insist on calling her AKC Westminster's Dingleberries Stupendous.
7. Join PEP - the Peruvian Exchange Program _ where you feed, house, and culturally broaden the horizons of a young Peruvian for two years.
8. "This alpaca is not ours, dear. She says that she's on a scavenger hunt to find livestock investors."
9. Insist that the new alpaca is on a mission to find her long lost sister (the matriarch of your herd) after they were separated during their immigration to the U.S.
10. "But dear, we've always had eight alpacas. It has been a while since we had just seven. Yes, that dark brown dam has been part of the herd for a couple of years now. Honey, are you having memory problems?"

Classified Ads:

(It was suggested that we offer a classified ad section in the MaPaca Newsletter for members ONLY! So, here you have it, the new MaPaca Newsletter Classified Ads. Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad should include a one sentence description and contact information such as phone number and email. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. If we have the room we will run it again. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your one line ads to Alice Brown: fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.)

1. Millcreek Manure Spreader, ground driven, 20 bushel \$600.00; John Deere 72" Bellymount Finish Mower \$1600.00; Snapper Walk Behind Mower \$300.00. Contact Nick Melfi, 908-369-3276 or melfifarm@aol.com.



"Kissing Cria," photo by Yvette Kirilenko of Wool & Gray Alpacas, Flemington, NJ.

Editor's Ramblings:

It is days like today that make alpaca farming truly a gift. If days can be rated on a 1-10 scale, where 10 is the best, that is today. A light breeze, mid-70's, and sunshine, not to mention that I had a farm visitor this morning and just as she left another person called on the phone interested in alpacas. This person saw our web site and wanted to know more. Yes, it's days like today that make the work all worthwhile.

To top all that off, we are making progress on the pasture we've been clearing for the last two years. We finally bought a tractor to help us. The tractor's name is "Ole Blue." A sweet fellow, Ole Blue is a vintage 1941 Ford 9N. He doesn't want to be a "couch potato" tractor in his old age. Nope, not a life of leisure for Ole Blue, he wants a working retirement. And work he does, pulling stumps, dragging stumps, grading top soil, he does it all!

Not only is today a beautiful day, but we are also on day 345 of our baby watch. This will be the fifth cria born on our farm and the first this year. Yes, exciting times are here.

Speaking of exciting times, we had a great time at the MaPaca Jubilee and I hope you did as well. It was great to see so many smiling faces. It seems that a happy atmosphere was pervasive throughout the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and it was definitely contagious. I believe the great atmosphere was the result of a smoothly run show. I'm sure you all would agree that the volunteers did a stupendous job! I want to again thank each and everyone that contributed, time, effort, know how, and energy to make this year's MaPaca Jubilee the best ever.

It was indeed a pleasure to arrive and be greeted by people that knew what to do and where you should go. The welcome was warm as well. Color checking went off without a hitch and picking up our show packets was easy and quick. All this made for a relaxed and happy beginning. Afterwards we were able to set up our display and get our animals in their pens, again without a hitch.

I enjoyed the many vendors and especially the variety of vendors that were present. Where our pen spaces were, we were back to back with

Buckeye Nutrition and so we had the good fortune to be able to speak at length to Jim White, a nutritionist from Buckeye Feed Mills. We were also able to get monogrammed shirts for our farm and we even bought a few sweaters from the AFCNA display. Karen Dewhirst was her bubbly, energetic self and it is note worthy that she brings all that energy into the co-op.

We were able to have our alpacas shorn after we were done showing. We appreciated being able to do that. Shortly after shearing I noticed my little female was squinting in her one eye. I looked at it and it looked OK, but I thought perhaps she got some hair in it from the shearing. I didn't bring any saline solution to wash her eye out with. No problem! There was a vendor there selling alpaca first aid things, including saline solution. After a quick eye rinsing, my little alpacas's eye was back to normal.

I spoke to many people through the course of the show and people seemed genuinely excited about being at the Jubilee and they thought it was a very good show. One such comment came to me via e-mail after the show from Yvette Kirilenko of Wood & Gray Alpacas here in NJ. Yvette writes: "The MaPaca Jubilee 2003 was overall a great success....the easiest 'in' and 'out', color checks, stall location, etc. The volunteers all were very helpful and did a GREAT job. A big THANK YOU to each and every one! Dave and I had a great time and are already looking forward to next year!"

I think Yvette's thoughts are indicative of what many people felt about the MaPaca Jubilee this year. A great time was had by those who participated.

As for the Newsletter, I had several people mention that they have articles on the back burner that they want to write and send in for the Newsletter. Please, take those articles off the back burner, and light a fire on the front burner. Then send them to me while they are still HOT! It would be much appreciated. And remember, any contributions of photos or written material, puts your name and farm name in front of the eyes of well over 200 other farms, and adds to the recognition factor! So, I hope to hear from you all SOON! Thanks,

Alice Brown



Photo: **Me and My Shadow**
 by Chuck Lundquist of Valley Forge Alpacas,
 Radnor, PA

Bright Ideas! We Need Another and a Wiser and Perhaps A More Mystical Concept of Animals.

(From *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston.)
 Sent in by Joyce Lundquist of Valley Forge Alpacas,
 Radnor PA.

Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

Camelid Humor

(By Rick Horn from CA. I thought this story was cute, so here it is!)

The Ideal Alpaca

Comes when called by name.

Doesn't spit.

Always poops in the place you ask it to, but prefers pooping directly into a green Home Depot wheelbarrow.

Loves going to the beauty parlor for haircuts, manicures, and pedicures.

Shots remind them of the good old days from the 70s, and they like, wow, enjoy them dude.

Thinks Panacur is a treat, and stands in line patiently waiting for their ration.

Understands and reacts to heel, push, stand, come, stay, and put on your halter.

Three month gestation, triplets are the norm.

Loves to terrorize the occasional aggressive dog, bear, puma, or coyote that is stupid enough to wander in.

Never passes gas during ranch visits.

Makes sure their fleece is clean of vegetative material at all times, and asks assistance from a herdmate to clean those hard to reach places.

Loves it when they get to put a halter on for a trip.

Thinks going to the dentist for tooth trimming is the "llamas Pajamas" and wants those cool Colgate whitening strips afterwards.

Oh yeah, all that conformation and 14 micron fleece stuff too.....



MaPaca Members Calendar of Events

June 21

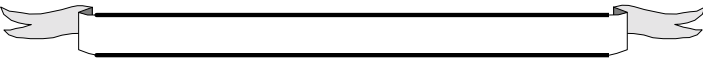
**Dr. Toni Cotton presents,
“How to Handle Alpaca
Emergencies on your
Farm.”**

Sunset Hills Farm Alpacas is please to host the renowned alpaca veterinarian, Dr. Toni Cotton, who will speak on handling alpaca emergencies such as Trauma, Illnesses, and Birthing, along with some general Reproductive and Neonatal information.

Dr. Cotton will also give a list of necessary emergency supplies to have on hand on our farms. An open question and answer period will take place throughout the lecture.

Join us for a wonderful learning experience! June 21, 2003 from 9AM to 4PM. Cost is \$99 per person. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Contact Laurye Feller 724-586-2412 or e-mail laurye@sunsethillsalpacas.com for more information and hotel accommodations. Reservations



MaPaca would like to extend an apology to:

**Ben & Lynda Fisco of
Humming Hill Suri Farm,
Ltd, in Newbury, Ohio.**

The Fisco's were generous Platinum sponsors for the MaPaca Jubilee this year and inadvertently their ad was not put in the MaPaca catalog. Those involved send the Fisco's their humble apologies for the error.



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 ½" 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

Taking care of the teeth of alpacas is an important part of alpaca husbandry. Alpacas have 30-32 adult teeth by the age of six years old. Males have fighting teeth, but these teeth are rarely erupted enough to be visible in females. The cheek teeth consist of the large upper and lower premolars and the molars, with four total on each side top and bottom.

In taking care of alpaca teeth the most common chore that needs to be done is trimming off the fight teeth on males and the lower front incisors on both males and females if they fail to wear down naturally. Keeping the teeth trimmed when needed maintains the contact with the front portion of the roof of the mouth or dental pad. Good incisor-dental pad lineup is necessary for alpacas to efficiently bite off the plants they browse on. Ideal lineup is described as having the tips of the incisors contact the dental pad approximately one eighth of an inch back from the front edge.

According to Dr. Stephen R. Purdy, DVM, there are very few alpacas that possess the ideal incisor conformation, yet most of these animals survive well grazing on grass and eating hay and grain supplements in the non-competitive environments provided at farms today.

When incisors become too long, they should be trimmed off so they contact the dental pad at the front edge. Various methods can be used to trim the teeth including the Gigli wire, the Highcroft tooth trimmer, or a dremmel tool. The animal will need to be restrained and some may require a sedative. A file can be used if necessary after trimming to smooth and even the biting surface.

Various implements can be used to keep the alpacas mouth open during trimming from a stainless steel or plastic

turkey baster, to dog chew bones, to one foot length of rubber hose held in the corners of the mouth across the top of the tongue to keep the jaws open enough for trimming. Keeping the incisors trimmed allows efficient grinding of food by the molar teeth and preventing malnourished animals.

Retained baby teeth (deciduous incisors) should be removed if they do not come out on there own. If retained, these teeth may trap food resulting in gum disease and may prevent normal growth of the permanent incisors.

Fighting teeth erupt in males between 2 and 3 1/2 years old and consists of two on top on each side and one on the bottom on each side. According to Dr. Purdy, All male alpacas do not need to have their fighting teeth trimmed if they are not aggressive fighters when housed with other males, or are not housed with other males. However, if there is fighting going on, these teeth must be removed, as fighters often go for the face area, ears, or testicles. A Gigli wire is used to remove these teeth.

If an animal has trouble chewing grass or hay, or spills grain while eating or has a poor body condition, the cheek teeth may have a problem. Sharp cheek teeth can be filed with miniature horse floats or other thin files. This should be done by a veterinarian.

This information was taken from Dr. Stephen Purdy's website at www.purdyvet.com/dentist.html.

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
any
contribution
s, send to
Alice Brown
458 Main
Road,
Vineland,
New Jersey
08360.

Animals are reliable,
many full of love,
true in their
affections,
predictable in their
actions, grateful and
loyal. Difficult
standards for people
to live up to.

--

Alfred A. Montapert



Next MaPaca Meeting

Come One! Come All!

Please join us on June 22, 2003 for
the next MaPaca general
membership meeting.

Place: Melfi Farm Alpacas
74 Wertsville Road
Hillsborough, New Jersey
Lunch 12 Noon

Meeting to follow at 1PM
RSVP Nick or Cristy Melfi
908-369-3276

Melfifarm@aol.com