

# MAPACA



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

August 2004

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 8

## MaPaca

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Paul

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Vice

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Nancy

Johanson,

Nick Melfi.

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

## President's Message:

The Annual Meeting will now be held at the **Melfi Farm** on September 19<sup>th</sup> with lunch at noon and the meeting from 1pm to 3pm. If there is anything you would like placed on the agenda please send me an email to: [paul@bigskyalpacas.com](mailto:paul@bigskyalpacas.com) with a subject line of: Agenda item (s) for Annual Meeting. Even if it's something you feel you brought up before, please let me know (including Board Members and candidates – BoD meeting will be at 10am).

**Election** is presently going on. If you haven't sent in your ballot please do so now. The candidates are volunteering a significant amount of their time for the next two years with no benefit other than personal gratification and the occasional "thank you". Please show your appreciation by taking 5 minutes of your time and voting for them. (Special note: a number of people have asked why Andy Schneider's name is on the ballot

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## NOTICE OF AN- NUAL MEETING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THIS CHANGE:

the Annual Meeting of the members of the **Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association** will be held on the 19th day of September, 2004, at 12 o'clock in the afternoon, at Melfi Farm Alpacas, 74 Wertsville Road, Hillsborough, NJ.

Please RSVP: 908-369-3276 or [melfifarm@aol.com](mailto:melfifarm@aol.com).

### AGENDA

1. Seating of the Board of Directors and Officers.
2. Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting.
3. Treasurers Report.
4. Discussion of Jubilee 2005.
5. Such other business as may come before the Board.

## President's Message:

(Continued from page 1.)

again since they thought they voted for him last year. That is correct – when we added two new Board seats, one of the elected members had to be for 1 year in order to balance the election to 3 new members one year and four the next, instead of 2 one year and 5 the next.)

**Breed Standard** continues to be discussed with much intensity. Alpaca Heritage Events, Inc. hosted a discussion group on August 21<sup>st</sup> with everyone, regardless of opinion, able to express their thoughts. Notes from the seminar may be read at: [www.AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com). While I was not able to attend I believe the general opinion was that standards are in place in conjunction with the AOBA rules for judging, to go further has no justifiable basis other than for potential marketing strategies, which could possibly be misconstrued or misunderstood by potential alpaca purchasers with limited knowledge of the industry. Ingrid has articles posted on her website at: [www.stormwindalpacas.com](http://www.stormwindalpacas.com) for anyone who is interested in her research and thoughts. We welcome all opinions. Please send Alice Brown any input you may want to present.

**Heat Stress** in our region is always a major consideration from April thru October. I have noted some Vet articles recommending floor level fans to maximize airflow on the alpaca's underbellies. While this is ideal, in reality, one alpaca can block the airflow from one floor fan. Unless you have one fan per alpaca well spaced – someone is losing out. We have found that using strong, commercial grade 24 inch fans (available anywhere through Grainger about \$300 each), some oscillating, some stationary, we can cool a couple dozen alpacas with about 7 well placed fans, including 3 floor units. When the air is directed down it still flows along the floor but it covers about 10 times the area as stationary floor fans.

Hope to see you all September 19<sup>th</sup> at Melfi Farm.

Paul Connor

## From the Desk of the Jubilee Coordinator:

Hello fellow MAPACA members. I hope everyone's staying cool and enjoying what's left of summer. As I compose this article, I'm watching the first school bus of the year pass my farm. Is it **that** time already? School started earlier than usual this year (Aug 23), but seeing the buses reminds me... time does get away. Fall crias will be arriving soon. Is it **really** that time already?

Because time does slip away, we're making an early start on planning for Jubilee '05. Things are progressing at a nice pace. Much is tentative at this point but details will be worked out soon. Peg Stephens will again be our halter superintendent and Al Beatty will be our new fleece superintendent. Marty McGee Bennett will be presenting some of her Camelid Dynamics seminars. The contract for the show's pen panels has been signed and the price locked in. Team J&W will again be the provider and the panels will be available for purchase at the end of the show.

Several members have stepped forward to volunteer. Jess and Chris Armstrong, Ken and Lois Pocock and Amy Robb have volunteered to help wherever they can. Scott Gove, Nancy Johanson and Rick Stumpf will again be our outstanding volunteer announcers. Many thanks to all of them. Volunteers are what makes the show work. If you can help in any way, I welcome your call or e-mail. I also welcome ideas and suggestions. It's our show, and together, we all make it happen.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day and may we all have a fantastic fall birthing season.

Andy Schneider

## Editor's Ramblings:

By Alice Brown

The written word has always fascinated me since I was a child. When I was little, I don't remember there being very many books in our house. I do remember the newspaper being there and I remember that my Dad read me the funnies every Sunday when I was little.

One particular incident sticks out in my memory that may help explain why I love writing the MaPaca Newsletter so much. When I was about 8 or 9 years old, a little old couple living near us died. Shortly thereafter, a wrecking company came to tear down their old dilapidated house. This was a big happening in our little rural community and most everyone turned out to watch at least part of the goings on. A group of us children were especially enthralled with the big machines knocking down the house. We watched the workers working most of the day. We only went home briefly for lunch and we were back to watching right after we ate.

That evening when the workers left, a group of us children, unbeknownst to our parents who I'm sure would have forbidden us to do what we did had they known about it ahead of time, went over to the wreckage and started picking through the rubble. I found a small pile of old books that I looked through. I remember it as clear as a bell. There amidst the books was an old yellowed, slightly mouse eaten copy of Heidi. It was a big fat book! I carried my treasure home with me and read it many, many times. It was my favorite story!

At a young age, I learned to love reading and I often read stories that were about animals. Still, Heidi, with goat herder Peter, were always my favorite characters. When I read that big old book, I would be right there. I would be sitting right next to Heidi and Peter and the goats, smelling the edelweiss with them. When Grandfather made bread with melted cheese on it for Heidi, I was right there and tasted it too. When it snowed, and Heidi went sledding with Grandfather, I was right there feeling the cold wind and snow hitting my face as we all swooped down the mountain together. I vowed some day I would be a shepherd too. That was my dream when I was ever so small.

Maybe the fact that today I am raising alpacas is a continuation of that dream. Of course, I'm not in Switzerland on the mountains, but I love to sit out in the pasture with the alpacas and just enjoy the moment.

Today, while working on the Newsletter, I realized just how important animals and the written word have been throughout my life. So, you all can thank Heidi for her encouragement. The story still entralls me, even though I no longer have that old book, I have a new copy, that is not mouse eaten, by Johanna Spyri. I really think the essence of the Heidi story is part of who I am today. I love my alpacas, and I love the written word. Writing and editing the Newsletter is a labor of love and I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to do this.

For any of you other "Heidi" types out there, please feel free to send me an article. I'm sure everyone would love to hear from you. I have no backlog of articles at all for the Newsletter and I would really like to include articles from different breeders. As I've said before, it is free publicity. I will include your name, your farm name, and where you are located. So, get those fingers typing. The hardest part of writing is finding the time to sit down at the computer. Just pick a time and do it. Thanks!  
Heidi—oops, I mean Alice

Due to an oversight, **Chris and Jess Armstrong of Calico Moon Alpacas in White**

**Hall, MD**, were not on the list of people as donors for the silent auction at the Jubilee 2004. The MaPaca Jubilee Show Committee would like to extend their apologies to Chris and Jess Armstrong, as well as thank them for their generous donation of a full day photo-shoot for the silent auction.

## Feature Article:

# Genetics: Alphabet Soup

By Ingrid Wood, of Stormwind Alpacas, in Columbus, NJ

Ingrid is the Author of the book "A Breeder's Guide to Genetics." (Denise Como is Co-author.) This article is a reprint of part of Chapter One, entitled Alphabet Soup.

As a fledgling alpaca breeder, I was quite confused to see llamas, guanacos, alpacas, and vicuñas listed as separate species. I always understood that members of one species cannot produce offspring with those of others. In the rare cases that they do, such as horse and donkey, the offspring is sterile. Individuals must be genetically compatible (identical chromosome count and sufficient genetic similarity) for the female of a species to conceive, never mind give birth to, viable fertile offspring. A human and a chimpanzee cannot have children together, though they share close to 99 percent of their genetic make-up — and thus are genetically closer to each other than, for example, a chimpanzee and an orangutan.

Professor Robert C. King gives this definition of *species*: "One or more populations, the individuals of which can interbreed, but which in nature cannot exchange genes with members of other species." (*A Dictionary of Genetics*, 1978).

This is not so with the four camelids mentioned above. They can and do crossbreed with each other and produce fertile offspring. I was therefore happy to see Eric Hoffman's succinct comment in the *Alpaca Registry Journal* (Vol. V, No.1, Spring 2000): "They are officially listed as separate species, but by most scientific definitions, they could be considered different breeds instead."

Dr. Rigoberto Calle Excobar, professor of sheep husbandry in Peru, wrote in *Animal Breeding and Production of American Camelids* (1984): "Secondly, I must refer to the fact that Llamas and Alpacas are not definitively differentiated from a taxonomic point of view, and it seems that they correspond to breeds rather than to species."

I would therefore classify the two different types of alpacas, Huacaya and Suri, as breed *varieties* (not breeds as they are defined by ALSA, the show organization), similar to the coat varieties found in several breeds of dogs.

Llamas and alpacas have been crossbred (llamas bred to alpacas) to various degrees for thousands of years by South American pastoralists. This practice became more prevalent after the Spanish virtually destroyed the more sophisticated breeding programs adopted by the Incas. In *Lamas — Haltung und Zucht von Neuwelt-Kameliden* (8.Jahrgang, Heft 2), Dr. Martina Gerken reports on a presentation made at the Second World Congress for camelids held in Cusco, Peru, in November 1999. A genetic DNA analysis of more than one thousand live and mummified camelids identified roughly 90 percent of all tested alpacas as being crossbred with llamas. For llamas, the number of blood samples showing alpaca genes was 40 percent. Dr. Jane Wheeler's discovery showed that hybridization "was a far greater problem than anyone had suspected" (Heather Pringle, *Discover Magazine*, (2001).

Eric Hoffman reports in *The Complete Alpaca Book* (2003) that "Wheeler's work has resulted in reclassification of the alpaca from *Lama pacos* to *Vicugna pacos*."

What about wolves, coyotes, and dogs? They are all classified as members of the *genus* Canis and considered separate species, yet they produce fertile offspring when interbred. It's all confusing to a lay person (a non-specialist).

We can, of course, adopt the stance that Colin Tudge assigns to post-Darwinian biologists: "No definition of species can be perfect, so it is foolish to try and frame one: (*The Engineer in the Garden*, 1993). He believes that the "viable offspring" scenario works well enough. His detailed observations on the subject are quite interesting.

Genetic engineering makes the exchange of genetic material between species possible. The genomes of Scottish Blackface sheep were "engineered" by Ian Wilmut and Keith Campbell

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(creators of Dolly, the cloned sheep) to carry the human gene for the enzyme AAT. One day soon, those who suffer from Cystic Fibrosis will get relief due to the contributions made by these *transgenic* animals. Such genetic action is impossible to achieve with good old-fashioned sex.

What about the term *breed*? Dr. King defines *breed* as “an artificial mating group derived from a common ancestor for genetic study and domestication.” Dr. Sponenberg quotes Juliet Chilton-Brock: “... a breed is a group of animals selected to have a uniform appearance that distinguishes them from other groups of animals within the same species.”

The glossary of one of Dr. Sponenberg’s books gives this definition: “Breed—a group of animals that are similar enough to be logically grouped together, are distinct from others of the same species, and when mated together will reproduce this distinguishing type.” For example, a Borzoi bred to a Borzoi produces a litter of puppies that all exhibit the typical Borzoi phenotype (the Borzoi “look”). We call this “breeding true.”

Since all authors give further details and include glossaries with their work, you will soon catch on to the exact meaning of their chosen terminology or vocabulary. In conversations and correspondence with others, you might have to specify your interpretation of a definition to avoid misunderstandings. Most terminology is standard, however, so the few exceptions should not pose a major problem. If you are still not sure of the intended definition, do not be afraid to ask!

***A Breeder’s Guide to Genetics—Relax, It’s Not Rocket Science*** by Ingrid Wood (Stormwind Alpacas) and Denise Como, available from Quality Llama Products (1-800-638-4689).

## 2005 MaPaca Jubilee Art Competition Win \$500

We know you can do it! In case you missed the first notice in last month’s newsletter -- MAPACA announced an ART COMPETITION for the 2005 MAPACA Jubilee. The winning entry will be used to design the advertisements, postcards, show program cover, T-shirts and other items used to publicize the 2005 MAPACA Jubilee. The winning artist will win \$500!! And, you will be recognized as the winning artist in MAPACA publications.

Similar to the cover art competition for the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival (one of the premier fiber events in the nation), we wish to initiate an annual art competition. The winning alpaca art entry will be showcased on promotional material for the 2005 MAPACA Jubilee. The contest is limited to MAPACA members so you do not have to compete against non-member professional artists. When you are designing your entry, consider:

- The subject must be related to alpacas and/or alpaca fiber.
- An artist may submit only one entry. All two-dimensional media are acceptable.
- The art should be adaptable to smaller and larger formats.
- The art should be adaptable for reproduction onto advertisements, letterheads, postcards, show program cover, T-shirts, mugs, etc.
- Digital submission is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED! (Chris Armstrong will help.)

The complete rules and entry form can be found on the MAPACA website ([www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org)). Questions may be directed to Chris Armstrong of Calico Moon Alpacas at 410-343-0426 or [info@calicomoonalpacas.com](mailto:info@calicomoonalpacas.com).

**Deadline: October 1, 2004**

## 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. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacos@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. ***A Breeder's Guide to Genetics—Relax, It's Not Rocket Science*** by Ingrid Wood (Stormwind Alpacas) and Denise Como, **available from Quality Llama Products (1-800-638-4689) - soft cover: \$20.75, hard cover \$30.25.**
2. The "**Hay Saver**" double sided, covered feeder helps you keep your alpacas clean while reducing feeding costs. **www.AllAlpacas.com or 724-940-4045.**
3. **Custom designed, hand woven and knitted fashions from your alpaca's fleece, roving or yarn.** Shop online at **www.cherryridgealpacas.com.**
4. **2 oz. Custom hand-spun sample skeins from YOUR alpaca!** \$10 each plus \$2 shipping. **scmoore@1st.net or 740-934-9318 for details.**
5. **Yarn, batts, rovings, and felt from your alpacas.** Snuggler's Meadow Alpacas & Fiber Mill. **www.snugsalpacas.com or 440-636-5384.**
6. For Sale: **Products designed for alpacas:** Chutes, Shearing Tables, Skirting Trays, Panels, Feeders, and More. **www.AllAlpacas.com or 724-940-4045.**
7. **Alpaca Livestock Panels and Gate Combos** for sale. New, powder-coated in great condition! Indispensable for shows, creation pens, catching, and training. WoodsEdge Wools Farm. **Call Brent at 609-847-2425 or the farm office at 609-397-2212.**

**Jubilee Halter and Fleece Show  
Results may be viewed on the Ma-  
Paca web site at:  
[www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org)**

### Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

No ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale. Stud Service prices are acceptable. Thank you.

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 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.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional **\$100.00** added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either **\$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00**. 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.

If you have any questions, please email Alice Brown at [fpalpacos@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacos@aol.com) or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.



## *Members Events Calendar*

**October 2, 2004—Fourth Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale and Open Farm Day. 10AM-4PM—** presented by Alpaca Heritage Events, Incorp. This year the Alpaca Heritage Sale will be at the Waldorf School of Princeton, NJ. Free seminars, Free refreshments, Free parking, Alpaca apparel, Llamas, Herdsire Showcase, 20 participating breeders, over 40 alpacas. **Contact Alice Brown for information, 856-697-8127 or [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com) or go to [www. AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) .**

**October 2 & 3, 2004: Star Events' Breeders Edge Herdsire Symposium & Sale.** Featuring offspring of Dom Lucilio, the world's record setting sire and many alpacas & llamas! To be held at Double "O" Good Alpacas, Gainesville, VA. Free seminars. For more information contact **Linda Berry Walker at 609-397-2212 or [stareventslc@aol.com](mailto:stareventslc@aol.com) .**

**October 9-10, 2004: Third Annual "I Love NY Alpacas Autumn Celebration"—10AM-4PM,** Sponsored by Spa Alpacas. Fun and educational, activities include farm and facility tours, fleece-spinning demonstrations, free mini-seminars, hands-on alpaca handling and agility handling. **Contact Paul or Kelly Zanella, [www.spaalpacas.com](http://www.spaalpacas.com) or [pjzanella@aol.com](mailto:pjzanella@aol.com) .**



## *Members Events Calendar*

**October 9, 2004—Happy Alpaca Farm Day and Seminars—10AM-4PM—**Fenwick Manor Farm, New Lisbon, NJ. Dr, Norm Evans, DVM will speak on herd health, nutrition, and management. Andrea MacDonald will share information on alpaca fiber. \$85 per person or \$125 per couple (includes lunch). **Contact Katharine Thompson, 609-893-5552 or [FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net](mailto:FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net) , Web: [www.FMFalpacas.net](http://www.FMFalpacas.net) .**

**November 13, 2004: Fiber Seminar, 10AM-3:30PM.** Topics include shearing, show-fleece preparation, breeding and feeding for superior fiber, color genetics, and similarities/differences between huacaya and suri fiber. \$45 per person, lunch included. **Make checks payable to Alpaca Heritage Events and send to Ingrid Wood, 1862 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd., Columbus, NJ, 08022. Information: [www. AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) or 609-261-0696, or [alpacas@uscom.com](mailto:alpacas@uscom.com) .**

**April 21, 22, 23, & 24—MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee 2005—** The MaPaca Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA. See the MaPaca web site at [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and read your MaPaca Newsletter, to keep abreast of current Jubilee information.

**Veterinary News for the East Coast:  
TAPEWORM in ALPACAS**

*By Alice Brown*

With the East Coast dealing with one of the coolest and wettest summers on record, many of us are having to deal with tapeworm showing up in some or all of our alpacas. Although hot dry summers can rid our pastures of the pesky critters, wet, damp, and cool conditions are ideal for tapeworm propagation.

I wondered how tapeworm is spread and does it have an intermediate host? After considerable research, I discovered several facts that I would like to share with everyone.

To start out with, tapeworm in alpacas is the same as that actually found in sheep and cattle, *Moniezia*. Tapeworm in alpacas, according to Eric Hoffman, in *The Complete Alpaca Book*, is generally considered to not cause much harm in the animals. In agreement with this is the *Merck Veterinary Manual* that states, "It is now recognized that tapeworms are relatively nonpathogenic, but heavy infections can result in mild unthriftiness and GI disturbances.

The intermediate host of this tapeworm is a free-living oribatid mite that lives in the soil and grass. So, these are the little culprits! According to the *Merck Veterinary Manual*, these little mites ingest the triangular or rectangular shaped tapeworm eggs. After 6-16 weeks, infective cysticercoids are present in the mites. When

these infected mites are inadvertently ingested by our alpacas, infection occurs after about 5 weeks.

To disrupt this cycle we must practice rotational grazing, if at all possible. Keeping animals off contaminated pastures until they have lain dormant through a long hot dry period will help. Raking up poop daily or even twice daily will also help. Over crowding, that forces animals to graze close to poop piles can contribute to infection by tapeworm. According to Dr. David Anderson, in his recent article about parasites, he recommends worming with Albendazole (Valbazen) where possible, rather than fenbendazole. Albendazole works better for tapeworm than fenbendazole, however, Albendazole is contraindicated for pregnant females. If you chose to use fenbendazole, Dr. Anderson recommends giving 50mg/kg once daily for 5 days.

Dr. Norm Evans recommends a slightly different approach in his *Field Manual*. Dr. Evans points out that tapeworms often infect young animals and the presence of tapeworm is indicated by the observation of white "rice-like" segments in the stool. He says tapeworm may be treated with Panacur (fenbendazole), Valbazen (albendazole), Droncit (praziquantel), or Synathic 22% (oxfendazole). Please check with your local veterinarian if you see signs of tapeworm in your alpacas for the correct wormer to use in your particular circumstances and use that wormer at the dose recommended by your veterinarian.

Comments  
about the  
Newsletter,  
or any  
contri-  
butions,  
send to  
Alice  
Brown at  
fpalpacas  
@aol.com .

A poor life this if,  
full of care,  
We have no time  
to stand and stare.

—  
**W. H. Davies,**  
*Leisure*

**MaPaca Annual Meeting**

All MaPaca members are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the **Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association** to be held on the 19th day of September, 2004, at 12 o'clock in the afternoon, at Melfi Farms Alpacas, 74 Wertsville Road, Hillsborough, NJ. RSVP 908-369-3276 or melfifarm@aol.com .  
**I'M MAKING TRACKS TO SEE YOU THERE!!**