

MAPACA

January, 2005 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1



President's Message:

JUBILEE MAY SELL OUT IN ONE WEEK!!!

Don't miss out! Farms will be registering for the Jubilee from around the country. AOPA does not allow discrimination based on membership – register as soon as you read this notice! Registration will close as soon as we are full – we have no choice. Do it now!

ARI DISCUSSION CONTINUED –

In this issue we are printing an article submitted by Libby Forstner, written by Mike Safley, presenting opposing points of view and opinions, to those presented in the October Newsletter by Tilly Dorsey, and/or Susan Stackhouse, and/or Eric Hoffman in a reprint of an article originally printed in LlamaLife II. It is necessary to include a copy of the previous article in order to understand many of Mr. Safley's comments. There will be no further debate carried in the Newsletter. I personally consider the participants on both sides of this discussion to be of the highest possible character and integrity – all having the best interests of the alpaca industry in mind.

Unlike the political system in our great democracy – the leaders in our alpaca industry, past and present, appear to be required to stick to, and defend, their positions, “until death do they or us part”. I think we all need to “chill” a little. Debate is a fundamental element of a democracy.

I personally would like all the participants to know (that includes four past presidents of ARI) that I believe all of us appreciate all of your hard

work, your personal devotion, your love for these magnificent creatures who's welfare is the object of all of this attention – and I applaud everyone of you for trying to help everyone of us, and for standing tall on top of the mountain, in full view, allowing yourselves to be a target for all of us, for the good of our industry.

For what you did, for what you do, for your pure motivations and your tireless efforts – thank you. Now let's lay down the swords and concentrate on the common ground. Thank you all for all that you have given. These unique creatures are worth it.

The End (really).
Paul Connor

Silent Auction & Raffle Donations Needed!

Greetings to All,

It's that time of the year again! The MaPaca Jubilee is just around the corner. Between reserving pen space and halter training please think about donating a special item for the silent auction or raffle. We are accepting donations of all types. Your donation need not be alpaca related. What a way to advertise!! Your name and farm name will be displayed with your donation. Why not support the alpaca industry and promote your farm. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

**Contact: George or Marian Sykes –
Alpaca Ridge, LLC. 973-827-3910 or
sykesmarian@hotmail.com**

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Jubilee Coordinator's Message:

Hello MAPACA members,

It is Monday, January 24th and many are digging out from under a big winter storm. I hope people and animals are safe.

Registration will be opening shortly. We expect the show to fill up very fast. Please act quickly by the fastest means available to you. On-line registration is encouraged. If you aren't comfortable with that, please fax your entries.

We still need lots of volunteers. It's your show, but it can't happen if no one helps. If you can spare even one hour, please contact Deb Hoff at Warford Creek Alpacas, e-mail deb-bie@warfordcreek.com. There's something everyone can do. This year, volunteers get special tee shirts showing their status as MAPACA volunteers.

We also need donations for the silent auction. All proceeds will benefit ARF, ICI, or charity. If you wish to donate an item, a breeding, a vacation time share, whatever, please contact Marian Sykes, Alpaca Ridge LLC, e-mail sykesmarian@hotmail.com. All donors will receive special recognition in the show book and by signage at the show.

We've had to make some changes from past years to reasonably accommodate as many farms and vendors as possible. Industry growth and a renovation project at the Farm Show Complex mandate new solutions. All vendors and most seminars will be in the Equine Arena, along with the auction. The fleece show will likely be held in the hallway between the Expo Hall and the Arena. Moving the fleece show and vendors gives us room in the Expo Hall for a few more pen spaces while allowing a little wider aisles and a bit larger show ring. Things were too tight last year. We're trying to allow more space between rows for health and safety reasons.

We're hoping the changes will be a win/win situation for most. There will be more vendors and they won't have to compete with the noise from the show rings. People going to seminars or viewing auction animals have to pass the vendors, giving them plenty of traffic. We'll have space for some hands-on seminars. The downside - if you have a vendor booth and show too, be sure you have enough help to do it. Your booths and pens will not be side by side. If you have alpacas in the auction, you will be caring for animals in two places. This arrangement may be inconvenient to some, but it's the best compromise we could find. Please help us make it work.

I have to mention some house rules. First, there can be **NOTHING** placed in the aisles. This is a safety issue, plain and simple. The Fire Marshall can close the show immediately for anything unsafe. MAPACA is liable for injuries. Second, the **only** things to be sold from farm displays are **alpacas and raw fleece**. Vendors pay a premium to sell their goods and we have to protect their venue. If you want to sell processed or finished products, please get a vendor booth. Third, we can't cover everything, so here's the general CYA rule - we all have to comply with requests and direction from show, facility, and safety officials. We can't bend the rules for anyone. Common sense and cooperation will avoid most problems.

Lets pull together and have a great show. Thanks. 'Til next month, stay safe and warm.

Andy Schneider

Donate an Alpaca to be Auctioned off in the 2005 Jubilee Auction!

Proceeds from the sale are earmarked for donation to ICI, ARF and for funding research projects.

Here are the benefits:

1. Donor will automatically get a space in the auction for another animal.
2. Donor can put 3 banners in the following locations:
 - 1 farm banner in the ring,
 - 1 farm banner on the auction stage apron,
 - 1 farm banner in the corridor leading to the auction arena.
3. Champion Class Sponsorship.
4. One Class Sponsorship.
5. Name tag recognition.
5. 12 Free Inserts in the MaPaca Newsletter.
6. Two extra parking passes.
7. Four Free dinners for Friday night.
8. One Free pen space over the 6 pen space limit.
9. Photograph in Alpacas Magazine.

**Contact Nick Melfi and Donate An Alpaca!
MelfiFarm@aol.com or 908-369-3276**

**The current alpaca donors are:
Sharon Brown & James Webb—
*Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company***

Tim & Gwen Smith—*Smith Haven Farms*

Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa—*Alpacas de la Patagonia*

THANK YOU!!

MaPaca General Membership Meeting January 16, 2005

Jovi Larson opened the meeting. Old Business – none.

Treasurers report – Frieda Goodrich – The checkbook is balanced up to date. There is \$86,753.88 in the checkbook and \$85,819.04 in the money market account. MaPaca is sending \$10,390 to the AFCNA for their casino night. \$13,500 will be split between ARF and ICI. The Jubilee netted \$60,000, the Auction netted \$4,000. It costs over \$300,000 to run the Jubilee.

Sue Tuccillo asked if we have a trailer yet. Andy Schneider responded that the trailer has been purchased and is almost full now with MaPaca things for the Jubilee. Kit Hower is working on a new MaPaca logo and when that work is complete we will put that on the trailer.

Since MaPaca has money in the bank the BOD has discussed how to use this to benefit the most people in our region. Money going to ARF and ICI will help our alpacas. The monies generated by the Jubilee could be used to make a scholarship fund for vets in the 7 state region. This fund would encourage vets to practice camelid medicine. About \$2,000-\$5,000/state/year could be given to get vets more involved with taking care of our alpacas. We need to determine the guidelines and how to oversee the project. This is of course dependent on the continued success of the Jubilee. We would also like to support continued education for our current vets.

Joe Fenstermacher wanted to know if some funds could go to help straighten out the ARI's registration problems. Andy Schneider spoke with Bill Coleman last month. He said there will be a bumpy period at first, but it should level out. MaPaca money cannot be used to help ARI. That would be something that AOBA could do. It is suggested if you have new registrations, do them online.

Connie Linn expressed concern over the lack of emergency services in our area. New Bolton is often not available. The BOD had discussed this in the past, but supporting just one clinic would not serve the entire membership. That is why we thought of the vet scholarship fund. Monica Kline wanted to know if the MaPaca region could be mapped to see where we have the most farms. The MaPaca region has not been mapped to determine where the highest concentration of breeders are. It could be done.

Conrad Lehr brought out that he and his wife lost a young female because it was discovered that what they had been treating her for was not her problem. He suggested that MaPaca develop some sort of data base for vets to collect data. Andy Schneider said that whenever a breeder loses an animal and has a necropsy done that information goes into a data base at New Bolton that is available to vets. Lehr asked if all vets know that. Andy said if they are licensed they should know that. One problem brought out was that many vets do not want to talk about what is going on at other farms. Liability could

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(MaPaca Meeting - Continued from page 3.)

be another issue.

Frieda Goodrich mentioned that a good biosecurity for shows is to isolate your animals when you come home for at least two weeks.

Bud Stewart suggested that vet students should be encouraged to commit to camelids. Today there are about 20 women and only 2 men graduating from veterinary school. You need to hook these students early. However, Nick Melfi commented that vets change before they come out of school. Once they are out of school they've determined if they want to do large animals or small. It would help if we can then get them to commit to camelids. We can consider Bud's comments. We can also offer our vets help with continuing education.

Joe Fenstermacher mentioned that many vets think that they cannot make a living taking care of camelids. However, a scholarship fund would help encourage new vets to take care of camelids. Monica Kline asked if we would be better off offering our existing vets scholarships for continuing education? Jovi Larson brought out that the vet would have to be nominated by a MaPaca member.

Jubilee – The Farm Show Complex is set. We will be ready to start online registration on February 1. Registrants will be able to pay using pay pal. Registration will open on February 1 at 12:01 AM. Each registration will have the date & time it was submitted. It is thought that the Jubilee will sell out quickly. We are investigating the possibility of people being able to fax in their ARI registration to a number and they can change it into an email file and send it to us. Barb DuVall asked if members would be able to send their ARI registrations as an attachment to an email. Jovi Larson said we are working on that.

Marylin Ott asked, "How many pens will the Jubilee have this year?" We will have about the same number of pens as were available in 2003. The rooms that were used before for the seminars will be closed off this year, so we won't be able to have so many seminars. The biggest change is the online registration and there will be only one big dinner. We will have sandwiches served in the lobby for the auction. You can then take your food into the arena if you choose. The dinner expenses will be considerably less this year. We will still have the Thursday night Pizza and salad.

The aisles will be a little wider this year, but NOTHING can be placed in the aisle! Some have sold items from their farm display in the past. They cannot do that this year. You will be asked to leave if you do. Barb DuVall asked if after shearing someone wanted to buy a fleece, would that be OK? Yes it would. Chris Armstrong asked about selling hand-crafted items from their own farm. Would that be OK? Nick Melfi commented, "Who would police it?" Where do you draw the line. The vendors complain. If you have 400 farms and 100 sell items from their animals, that's a lot of items. Jovi Larson mentioned that at the Empire show they had a common space where members could put things for sale. This is something that MaPaca could do in the future, but there is not time to get something like this together for this year. If we want the vendors there we need to adhere to the no selling rule at the pen spaces. However, you can display things made from alpacas on your farm that are not for sale. Jessie Armstrong

agreed with Nick Melfi and Andy Schneider that you need to have definite "black and white" line drawn or you will have a problem. Frieda Goodrich stated that we should put an announcement in the Newsletter that there will be NO SELLING this year, but we should also mention the possibility of a community MaPaca member vendor area for next year. Display is fine, just don't sell it.

To repeat for emphasis, Nick Melfi pointed out that there can be NOTHING in the aisles. They will shut the show down if anyone puts anything in the aisles. If you see someone putting something in an aisle, please explain to them why we can't do this. "It's up to all of us on this one!" We need to follow the rules. If someone doesn't listen, please contact Andy Schneider.

Monica Kline asked about the Avid microchip readers. Jovi Larson said she plans to send out an email this week about the readers. The readers can be purchased for \$270 and there is a 2/farm limit. The AVID people have our membership on file. When you call, tell them that you are a MaPaca member and give them your name. They will check that you are a member. MaPaca has purchased 4 scanners to be used at the Jubilee. All alpacas will be scanned at check in. AOBA says that as of July 1, all AOBA show animals must be microchipped. Before coming to the show make sure the chips are in place so that you don't have a problem bringing your animal into the show. The number for AVID is on their website.

Amy Robb said, "I know the NAIS is implementing this, which chip are they recommending?" AVID has two chips the Euro and the Secure chip. They are promoting the Euro chip because they feel that is what the government is going to go with. Connie Linn asked, "So you are recommending the Euro chip?" Actually, AVID is recommending it.

Sandy Shelly said, "I helped with the check in last year and we had a problem. Some big farms had a problem when they were unloading. They wanted to start bringing items into their pen area, but there was no map at check in. It would be nice to have a pen map at check in." Andy Schneider said we will try to figure out how we can do that.

Nick Melfi suggested that if at all possible people arrive at the Jubilee for check in well before 2:30 PM when things start backing up. Last year animals were unloaded faster than they could process them in.

In order to make money for ARF and ICI, Nick Melfi is looking for people to donate a female alpaca to be auctioned off. Those that donate will receive MANY perks, including a photo in Alpacas Magazine.

Sue Tuccillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Conrad Lehr seconded the motion.

If any member would like to comment on any of the proceedings of the General Membership Meeting, please contact any one on the Board members. Their contact information is on page 2 of this Newsletter. The Board would especially like to hear from members about the proposed veterinary scholarship fund or grant and the proposed continuing education grant for vets. Thank You.

Notes taken and typed by Alice Brown. - Recording Secretary.

ARI is Doing the Right Thing

By Mike Safley, submitted by MaPaca member Libby Forsnter, of Magical Farms, Inc., Litchfield, Ohio.

The October 2004 MAPACA Newsletter ran an article that was reprinted from Llama Life II entitled: 'Registry Creators Condemn ARI Board Action'. The article relies, in large part, on the point of view of Eric Hoffman and is critical of the role played by the 2003 ARI board, led by Libby Forstner, in canceling the ILR contract.

Eric Hoffman's persistent criticism of the leaders and direction of the American alpaca community is nothing new. Earlier this year he penned an article for the British magazine, Alpaca World, which is entitled, 'Ship of Fools', where he was critical of the ARI membership decision to close the Registry. For an in-depth look at Hoffman's claims about Registry closure and his misgivings about our industry's leaders you can read my article, 'The American Alpaca Market: A Ship of Fools? I Don't Think So!' at www.Alpaca-Journal.com.

Eric's criticism of Libby Forstner's leadership as ARI President has been particularly sharp, especially on the pages of Llama Life II where he said, "Forstner's term was marked with controversy and much change. She is well known for airing her beliefs and "vigorously challenging" her opponents on the Internet Alpaca Chat line." Hoffman goes on to dismiss the reasons Libby cited for changing the ARI's service provider, the ILR, saying that Jan Wassink had "rebutted" the ARI Board of Directors' position. I disagree with his assertions and I particularly disagree with his harsh criticism of Libby, who in my experience is a hardworking, well-liked member of our community.

I have reviewed the correspondence between the ILR attorney and the ARI attorney, various emails between the parties, Jan Wassink's article and Hoffman's articles. I would like the readers of MAPACA's newsletter to consider the following before they form their final opinions about Libby Forstner's tenure as ARI President, and whether, or not, it was a good idea to remove the Registry's management from the ILR's control.

THE ARI/ILR DISPUTE

In 2003, the ARI Board of Directors decided that it was in the best interest of the alpaca community to retain a new contractor to process alpaca registrations. They put the ILR on notice that they intended to sever the relationship when their contract expired. This separation became messy and, in my opinion, the ILR began to act in an unprofessional manner. The ARI Board found that the database, which the ILR managed on their behalf, was not in the best of shape. The ILR's attitude through this process is reflected in a 2004, Llama Life II article authored by Jan Wassink, the ILR Registrar, and that attitude contributed to a tumultuous turnover which impacted the ARI's ability to process alpaca registrations and ultimately their immediate relationship with the alpaca community. Here is some of what Wassink had to say:

"As most of you may know, the International Lama Registry staff has been providing registration services for the Alpaca Registry Inc. (ARI) since 1997. Last year, ARI decided to move to a new provider back east. And, we wish them the best. However, in doing so, the ARI has chosen to make statements blaming the ILR for delays in the transition process and also made other statements about the quality and level of service provided by the ILR."

The article was, basically, a rebuttal to the ARI position that the ILR had mismanaged the ARI database, had been unresponsive to requests for more efficient services, and had behaved unprofessionally after their contract was terminated. The ARI responded to the ILR charges with a July 1, 2004 letter from their attorney to ILR attorney, Timothy Goddard, setting the record straight. One of the major issues for the ARI was the quality of the information in the ARI database that was being managed by

the ILR, as pointed out in the following excerpt from the letter: " In some cases, the DNA information, which had already been sent by UCD to ILR for inclusion in ARI's database, was missing. In some cases, information other than DNA information was apparently missing, preventing Maxxam from finding the appropriate record. ARI has now confirmed that in some cases, multiple records existed for a single animal and Maxxam couldn't find the DNA information because it existed only in the third or fourth or fifth record created for the same animal.."

The ARI letter also pointed out that the ILR unilaterally changed their billing practices once the ARI determined that it was in their best interest to change service providers and they began padding their bills with additional overhead charges. This billing dispute created considerable additional problems for the ARI as evidenced in an email from Jan Wassink dated January 4, 2004 when he said: "I can not send you any more data updates until ILR bills are paid in full - including future Maxxam processing bills."

This was at the exact time that the ARI needed a complete database to allow them to continue processing their members' registrations. The ARI attorney had this to say about the ILR's payment dispute: "ILR had just issued a huge invoice to ARI on or about that day, which the ARI Board had had no opportunity to review (which, in fact, had not even been forwarded to the ARI Administrator's office for review or payment.) Mr. Wassink apparently wanted ARI to pay the bill immediately, without reviewing it, as he stated in the e-mail: "The current ILR processing bill is relatively easy to resolve - just have the ARI treasurer authorize payment." Mr. Wassink had also indicated to ARI's Treasurer on or about this same day that ILR would not be releasing ARI's final data until ILR's final invoice was paid.."

The ARI lawyer's letter to the ILR totaled nineteen pages and effectively dealt with the thirteen allegations made by the ILR against the ARI. It is clear from a thorough reading of the letter and related documents that the ARI was not well served by their long-term contract with the ILR. Furthermore, the ILR's conduct, after they were notified that the ARI would not extend the contract, complicated the separation and worked a hardship on the ARI members and the registration process.

The ARI has a long history of problems associated with the ILR's management of the Alpaca Registry. For a complete review of this history please read my article, "The Alpaca Registry and the International Lama Registry: A History" in the current issue of the Alpaca Journal at www.Alpaca-Journal.com.

LIBBY FORSTNER

I would like to offer my view of Libby Forstner's contribution as ARI board member and President. It is in sharp contrast to the picture painted of her by Eric Hoffman in Llama Life II and the recent article published in the MAPACA newsletter. Eric is also a past President of the ARI, and the past policy positions that he has taken put him at odds with Forstner's record of achievement and this may, in part, explain his harsh criticism of her.

Libby Forstner was President of ARI when the membership passed an amendment to the ARI Bylaws creating a requirement that any action to reopen the Registry be put to a vote of the ARI membership. Hoffman was the leading proponent of an open registry. Libby also led the effort to foster communication and a positive relationship between the ARI and AOA by advocating and implementing the initiative to publish the new industry newsletter, One Voice. Hoffman has criticized the One Voice publication.

The issue of closing the Registry creates a particularly sharp contrast of views between Libby and Eric. Libby campaigned on behalf of closing the Registry and was critical of Eric's use of Registry funds to oppose the initiative, which had broad support from the ARI membership.

After Forstner became ARI President, she consolidated the membership's instruction to the Board to close the Registry by pro-

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posing and passing, by a membership vote, several Bylaw amendments, which made it impossible to reopen the Registry without a democratic vote of the ARI members. Libby also proposed and put to a vote, Bylaw amendments, which made reciprocity (a form of opening the Registry) with other alpaca registries subject to a vote of the membership. And, consistent with her philosophy of making major Registry policies subject to a membership vote, she proposed and put to a vote, the Bylaw provisions that made artificial insemination, embryo transfer and cloning prohibited methods of reproduction for Registry purposes.

Libby Forstner's term was marked by additional significant accomplishments of which I list only a few:

1. In 2002, the ARI balanced the budget for the first time in many years.
2. In a major democratic initiative, the ARI increased the Board of Directors from 5 to 7 thereby increasing membership representation.
3. Instituted the ARI move to online registration.
4. Increased communication between the ARI/AOBA boards with initiatives such as the Government and Industry Relations Committee.

In my opinion, Libby Forstner was one of the most positive and productive presidents in ARI history. I think we need to thank Libby for her tireless effort to make the ARI more democratic and more responsive to the members' wishes. She deserves praise for her efforts and the petty criticism of her term in office by Eric Hoffman should be put in context of her overall outstanding contribution to the alpaca community.

IN CONCLUSION

The ARI has weathered the rough seas of their final separation from the ILR. Upon separating from the ILR, they retained Association Management Group Inc., of McLean, Virginia as their management services provider and Geneseek, of Lincoln, Nebraska, to provide DNA testing services. The choice of Geneseek, proved to be a wise decision. The decision to retain Association Management Group did not.

The 2004-2005, ARI Board of Directors, Floyd Romanik, Vice President, Jack Armstrong, Treasurer, Curt Gedney, Secretary, and Shauna R. Brummet, Ph.D., David Friedman, Jodi Weaver, led by President Bill Coleman, labored day and night to get the Registry operating smoothly and correct the mess created by the ILR. In September of 2004, they set up offices in Lincoln, Nebraska and hired the well-regarded ex-AOBA President Gordon Anderson to be the executive director. The Registry has completed the design of an improved registration software program and they have stabilized their operations. The years it took to free themselves of the ILR took their toll but the Registry is once again operating smoothly. And it's free, free at last.

Editor's Note: *MaPaca was recently asked by Libby Forstner (who is a current MaPaca member) to reprint several articles by Mike Safely in the Newsletter. However, these articles would have taken up much of our limited space over most of a years time. Ms. Forstner felt that a reply to our publication of the article, Registry Creators Condemn ARI Board Action by Cheryl Smith, in the October 2004 issue of the Newsletter, was needed in order for MaPaca to be unbiased and present another view. Thus, we felt that in all fairness we could print this one article by Mike Safely and submitted by Libby Forstner. That being said, I would like to let all members know again that we do accept articles that express differing points of view. I would like to add, that this practice of members submitting articles by other authors is not what I*

intended for the MaPaca Newsletter. As Editor of the MaPaca Newsletter for over three years, I have not printed articles in the Newsletter submitted by members and written by others. I would thus like to exercise my right as Editor and have decided that from this point on, if a member would like to have their view expressed in the Newsletter, it will have to be an article written and submitted by that MaPaca member. If that member would like to allude to or reference an article by another author, that will be acceptable. The article cannot take up more than 3 columns in the Newsletter, which is around 1500 words or less. As Editor I reserve the right to decide how opinions are expressed in the Newsletter, not as to content, but as to format. When such articles are printed in the MaPaca Newsletter, it should be remembered that these articles, or letters to the Editor, are the sole opinion of said author and ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINION OF THE MAPACA NEWSLETTER EDITOR OR OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE MAPACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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.

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 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, email Alice Brown at fpalpacos@aol.com or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a one sentence description and contact information.. 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 fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. Announcing **The Blue Ribbon Alpaca** by Susan Rosche (Pax River Alpacas). A delightful, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover children's book that promotes the alpaca. The story of an alpaca, her jealous companions, her awesome fleece and the children who love her. \$18.,95. Bulk discounts available. **Information at <http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/> .**
2. Alpaca Art on Egyptian Papyrus. Unique. Original or custom designs. Reasonable prices. Additional information and samples at **<http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/> .**
3. **Going My Way?** - A Suri Farm, Ltd. Has trailer space available for anyone needing transport to the following shows: North American Alpaca Show, Springfield, MA March 31-April 3, 2005 and The Futurity Show and Sale, Indianapolis, In., April 15-18, 2005. **For details contact A Suri Farm - Dogandcatnuts@aol.com or 717-514-0022.**

MaPaca Meeting Schedule **for 2005**

April 21, 2005 (At the Jubilee)
July 17, 2005
October 16, 2005*

***Please mark your calendars for these dates and plan to attend. Watch the Newsletter and the web site for announcement of the meeting locations, as the locations will vary.**



Calendar of Events

March 5, 2005—An Introduction to Camelid Color Genes by Ingrid Wood (author of *A Breeder's Guide to Genetics—Relax It's Not Rocket Science*). Seminar held at Stormwind Alpacas. 11AM-3PM. Columbus, NJ—easy access from Rts. 206, 295, and NJ/PA Turnpikes. \$50 per person (includes lunch) - **Call 609-261-0696 or email alpacas@uscom.com. Visit www.StormwindAlpaca.com for directions.**

April 3, 2005 Second Annual Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter & Fleece Show. West Friendship, MD, Howard County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Alpaca Heritage Events, Inc. Free seminars; learn about alpaca care and the tax advantages of breeding alpacas as a business. Free parking, and admission. Entry fee \$50/alpaca—unlimited class entries. Limit of 2 pens/4 entries. No stall fees, bring your own panels. **Contact: Ingrid Wood, 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com Kate Perez, kperez@erols.com or www.AlpacaHeritage.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 and read your MaPaca Newsletter, to keep abreast of current Jubilee information.

June 5, 2005—Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Halter Show and Sale—For Shorn Alpacas Only! Springfield Veterans Memorial Park, Springfield, NJ. Entries limited to 60 alpacas. Judge: Judith Korff. Only \$50/alpaca. Limit 4 entries per farm. Entries close April 15, 2005. A Hot Show for Cool Alpacas!! Go to: www.AlpacaHeritage.com for more information or contact Ingrid Wood, Show Superintendent at 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com. *

***Please note:** Notice of change for the Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Show—Scott McKelvie will be in charge of the catalog. Please contact Scott if you wish to advertise.

Preventing Dehydration in Cold Extremes

By Alice Brown

Usually we think of the heat in summer as causing dehydration. However, in the dead of winter, where we are about now, the cold dry air and tendency for the alpacas to not want to drink very cold water during cold extremes, can lead to dehydration. According to Dr. Purdy, "Don't forget about the water needs of your animals in the winter. Clean fresh water should be available at all times. I prefer having heated water available at all times. It keeps them drinking better and thus their digestive system working better than if you use cold water or even put out a bucket of warm water twice a day. Your animals will actually drink more water in the winter than in the summer. They are only eating dry hay with a very low moisture content compared to pasture or recently mowed hay. Also there is much less humidity in the air in the winter."

The solution to the problem is to make sure you provide not only plain water in some sort of heated waterer, but also electrolytes. We have a heated automatic waterer in our barn. Having an automatic waterer is good, but we also provide a heated bucket filled with water with electrolytes in it for each group of alpacas. If you measure the temperature in the heated bucket it is only about 40-50 degrees. That is not really very warm.

When the temperatures gets down to about 25 degrees, which according to Dr. Evans is about the cold threshold for alpacas, it is good to provide extra warm water. At our house we call it "tea." On extremely cold mornings I bring a bucket full of steaming warm water, about 95-100 degrees in temperature, out for the alpacas to drink. They generally drink the bucket dry. Another suggestion that some use is to put about 5

Tablespoons full of Gatoraid in a 5 gallon bucket of warm water.

When it is extremely cold you can bring the bucket of warm water out to the alpacas two or three times, more is better the colder the temperatures. I like to give them warm water first thing on a cold and frosty morning and then again late in the evening when I check on them before going to bed.



Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 7.)

September 10-11, 2005—The Eastern Extreme is Western PA's premier Alpaca Auction. Please join us to bid on some of the finest alpacas offered for sale in the country. In addition to Saturday afternoon's auction, the following Seminars will be presented: Dr. Norm Evan's, "Costly Alpaca Management Errors" - Saturday and Nutrition to Maximize Alpaca Fiber—Sunday. Jamie & Kim Platt of Heaven Sent Alpacas, "Alpaca Showmanship Skills Awareness." Wini Lebreque—"Fleece Skirting Workshop." Contact: www.easternextremeauction.com.

Alpaca Publicity Opportunity

August 1-7, 2005
Warren County NJ Fair

The Warren County NJ Fair would love to have some alpaca breeders display their alpacas at the fair.

Contact Tracy Smith
1-908-689-1974
or crossant@att.net

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

Editor's Ramblings:

Well, it's the Jubilee time of the year again and I am left with just this little space. I hope you are all keeping warm and that your alpacas are snug in their barns while the cold wind doth blow and the snow drifts cover the manure piles. Thank you to all those who have sent articles to me for inclusion in the Newsletter. I will do my best to get your article in print as I have room. (Wow! This is nice! I never would have dreamed I would actually have more articles than I can print in one or two Newsletters.)

There are about 35 members who have not renewed their membership for 2005. Please make sure you send your renewal to me ASAP so that you continue to receive your Newsletter. I put a form in this Newsletter just for you. If you did not receive a form in this Newsletter, you are in good standing for 2005.

Keep warm, stay dry, enjoy the fireplace if you have one, and catch up on your reading! Winter is about half over, spring is not far behind.

My best to everyone! Alice Brown