



MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Newsletter

Oct. 2005
Volume 5, issue 10

President's Message:

New Board Elected – Effective October 16 your Board of Directors will consist of 2 new members, Carol Pfister and Bob Ciszewski – congratulations! Re-elected were Nancy Johanson and Jovi Larson. Of course, Andy Schneider, Fred Brown, and Frieda Goodrich are presently on the Board. Nick Melfi has resigned – we thank him and Cristy for countless contributions over the years and wish them all the best.

Having served on the MaPaca Board for the past 6 years I have seen many changes occur within MaPaca as well as the industry in total. I think we are making great strides in getting alpacas recognized in the world of agriculture and animal husbandry in general. For those now starting with alpacas, a lot of ground work has been laid to make your experience more gratifying, satisfying and successful than ever before possible. There are now many sources of information to ensure your alpacas receive the best nutrition, maintenance and health protocols for your particular area of the country and location. There are more and more vet students taking an interest in camelids as the marketing efforts of all of our organizations take on a national synergy. The inexhaustible efforts of AFCNA and the AOBA Fiber Committees have brought significant public attention to the many wonderful traits of alpaca fiber

and the magnificent garments that are being produced in an ever expanding array of styles and patterns.

The future is bright and these magnificent creatures are in our lives to stay. I wish you all the best of times with these gentle creatures. They require so little and give us so much. May all your crias be healthy, all your problems small, and the road ahead full of good times.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you for the past 6 years.

See you around.

Paul

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**2006 MA-PACA
Art Contest
\$500 for Winning
Design!
November 1, 2005
(Entry Deadline)**

See your artwork up in lights!!
Actually, it will be on the Jubilee show catalog, auction catalog, the website, T-shirts and maybe a few other places.

MAPACA members and their children are eligible to enter.

Go to www.mapaca.org for entry form and rules.

MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Paul Connor
Big Sky Alpacas, NJ
856-223-0570
paul@bigskyalpacas.com
- Vice-President:** Jovi Larson, PhD MBA
FiberGenix Suris, NJ
908-806-6255
info@fibergenixsuris.com
- Treasurer:** Frieda Goodrich
Angel Wood Alpaca Farm, LLC,
NJ
908-852-7204
info@angelwoodalpacas.com
- Secretary:** Fred Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
856-697-8127
AandFBrown@aol.com
- Jubilee Coordinator:** Andy Schneider
Middle Eight Farm, MD
410-549-3224
middle8farm@aol.com
- Members at Large:** Nancy Johanson
Alpacas of Brookhollow Farm, NJ
973-335-3393
alpacas@brookhollowfarm.com
- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
856-697-8127
fpalpacas@aol.com



Jubilee Coordinator's Message:

Hello Everyone,

Plans for the **tenth** annual MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee are picking up steam at a pretty good rate now. All of our judges are hired. We'll have Amanda VandenBosch, Kristin Buhrmann, and Tim Lavan for halter, Wade Gease for performance and composite, and Jane Tellier for fleece. Peg Stephens will be the halter superintendent and Al Beatty will be the fleece superintendent.

We're working on some special recognition for our volunteers along with more and improved recognition for our sponsors. We will be using the big screens from Show Solutions (the ones they tested last year) and will be putting sponsor ads on the screen system. We need volunteers, both now and during the show. The continued success of the Jubilee depends on getting the necessary volunteers to make it all happen. If you can help for even an hour, please contact Monica Kline (she's the volunteer chairperson), or myself.

Because of facility scheduling problems we have to be completely moved out and the buildings cleaned by midnight Sunday night. There's a horse show moving in at 0600 Monday morning and the buildings have to be ready. This will require several changes in our format. The first and biggest change is we can't use sod in the pens this year because it takes several days to clean up the mess it leaves. We'll be using straw instead. We will have sod in the show rings and maybe the auction area.

Exhibitors may want to bring bedding pellets to use under the straw in their pens. Pellets soak up the urine and ammonia and will help your alpacas stay clean and dry. Please be sure to use pellets made from non poisonous trees. Woody Pet and the other pellets made specifically for bedding are safe. Wood stove pellets are less expensive but they may contain material from poisonous trees.

We will have a five stall maximum per farm, including displays, for the '06 Jubilee. This is so we can accommodate as many participants as possible. There will be a limited number of sponsorships available at each level involving preferred pen space because there are only so many "preferred locations." These pens will be assigned as sponsorships sell, in order to guarantee sponsors the pen space they've paid for. We cannot accept reservations or payment until registration opens. All sponsorships will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The number and location of "preferred stalls" will be designated before registration opens and when they're gone, they're gone.

We may have fewer vendor spaces available this year. We're going to try moving the soft goods vendors back inside the Expo Hall. We may be able to place some hard goods and services vendors in the hallway. The barn, fence, and trailer guys can go in the Arena, as long as they can be completely moved out by 8 PM Sunday evening. The auction and most of the seminars will be in the Arena. This should help guarantee traffic for all vendor locations.

That's it for now. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please e-mail or call. Take care. I wish us all lots of happy, healthy, fall crias. Cheers. **Andy Schneider**

Editor's Ramblings:

Nothing calms the soul like a crystal clear blue sky in the morning. Such was the case for me this morning. For the past two days I have been trying to help another breeder with problems resulting from a severe dystocia. Unfortunately I am one of those people who gets extremely emotionally involved with crias and alpacas in trouble. I've tried to distance myself emotionally, but it never works. However, this morning the soothing blue sky, a cool gentle breeze, and my alpacas all looking healthy and happy, did wonders to ease my shredded nervous system.

As I fed my alpacas I "hummed a little hum," as Winnie the Pooh would say. Two yearlings, Emy and Summer, came over for good morning smooches. The four almost due females all came to eat their grain and looked more comfortable than they have the last few days when it was rather muggy and warm.

Speaking of muggy and warm, our extended summer weather here on the east coast has resulted in the "Drought Monitor" declaring that New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Maryland and Massachusetts are in a moderate drought. The rest of the East Coast is considered Abnormally Dry and could go into a drought very soon, if rain is not forthcoming. Go to <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/> to keep tabs on drought conditions in the United States.

As if you didn't already know it, the New Jersey Farm Bureau Newsletter said that the recent weather of blue skies and no rain has brought a drought warning to New Jersey. The state climatologist at Rutgers University, David Robison, declared that the summer of 2005 was the hottest on record for the state where records go back to 1895. Many of the states reservoirs are hovering around the drought warning line.

My farm is rather like a desert right now, but that did not dampen (pun intended) my spirits as I allowed the soothing blue of the morning sky and cool breeze calm my jangled nerves. The alpacas were enjoying the crispy leaves that are being prematurely shed by the poor drying trees. It's like, "You can't just eat one!"

Once all the alpacas were fed and watered, I set about hooking up the hose and sprayed whoever wanted it. With humidity lower than it has been and temperatures predicted in the mid-80's, I really didn't expect all the interest in the hose. But there they were, crowding around, jockeying for the best positions to get the full effect of the cooling water. My Tourmaline put her nose on mine as if to say, "Thanks mom, this is sooooo refreshing!" She seems to love the water more than the

rest and is just about always first in line when I turn the hose on. Momma Topaz waddled over, she is due with her cria this weekend, and stood in front of me to hose her. I noticed the cria kicking as I ran the water over her abdomen. I asked her if she was going to have sextuplets! She just smiled at me!

So, life is good, things are in place to help us cope, if we just take the time to notice them.

I just wanted to let you all know that I no longer have much of a backlog of articles to choose from and would very much appreciate your input for the Newsletter. Please share a fall birthing story, or breeding story. Have a "Bright Idea" to share, please send it to me. How about something comical that happened at your farm? Write it down in an email and send it to fpalpacas@aol.com.

The election results are in and the new Board of Directors will be seated at the Annual Meeting on October 16th at Brookhollow Farm in Boonton, NJ (See page 6 for more information). If you are able to make arrangements to be there, that would be great.

I personally want to thank Paul Connor for all his dedication and hard work that he has contributed to MAPACA over the last 6 or 7 years. Paul will no longer be on the MAPACA Board of Directors. However, I'm sure that his hard work will continue to have its influence on MAPACA in the years to come. Paul encouraged me to be the Editor of the Newsletter, which has brought me great satisfaction and joy over the last 5 years. Paul proofread every single issue and put up with me hounding him day and night so that I could put the Newsletter out on time. He also faithfully wrote a message for the Newsletter every month for the last 5 years. No easy task by any stretch! So, I personally want to say thanks to Paul for everything that he has done as President and previously Vice-President of MAPACA.

Nick Melfi has decided that due to time constraints and other responsibilities that he can no longer be on the MAPACA Board of Directors. That being the case, Nick has resigned his position and the person with the next highest amount of votes will now be on the Board of Directors. Thanks Nick for all the years of hard work that you gave to MAPACA as Jubilee Coordinator for two years and as Jubilee Auction Liaison as well. Thanks to Cristy Melfi too, as often their home was offered as the location for MAPACA meetings. Cristy was always the most gracious hostess and I for one really appreciated all her efforts in that regard.

Hope all your births are easy, all your crias healthy, and your skies are blue each morning.

My Best to Everyone, Alice Brown

Camelid Humor!

A Humorous Tooth Trimming Story (As portrayed by a 17 year old girl)

*Breanne A. Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas,
Vineland, NJ*

Time to trim fighting teeth again on the good old alpaca ranch. The wire for trimming, a turkey baster, and some paper towels all at hand. Our first victim: a 3-year-old true black alpaca with cute, overly fuzzy ears. The terrified alpaca is placed in the metal chute to be restrained, and his halter nose loosened so his mouth can be opened wide enough.

My best friend, who was sleeping over, hops up onto a stack of wood chip bags to watch this "circus." My mom (most of you know her as Alice Brown), as always, is a nervous wreck about it. Doesn't matter how many fighting teeth she trims, she's always a wreck. She places the turkey baster in the alpacas mouth, while I get a firm hold on his head. My dad is in the front and he starts sawing away at the sharp edge of the fighting tooth when the trimming wire suddenly slips and a tooth comes flying out of our poor victim's mouth. My mother is absolutely horrified. She picks up the tooth in disbelief almost dropping the turkey baster from her other hand. I shake my head and calmly point out that it's just a baby tooth from the back, not the whole fighting tooth. My mother still shocked and upset that she was holding a bloody tooth in her hand didn't hear a word I said. My dad heard me and was ready to get started again. He motions to my mother, "Put it back in his mouth." And my mom dead seriously replies with: "The tooth?!"



Breanne Brown and Summer Jewel

Poisonous Plants: the Heath (blueberry) Family

*By James E. Perry, Ph.D., PWS, Ambler's Alpacas,
Lanexa, VA*

The blueberry family is a very large group of trees, shrubs, and vines. Members of the family are found throughout the US and a number of genera have been shown to be poisonous to livestock and people. The Delaware Indians used an extract of the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), a common shrub of the eastern US, to commit suicide. Other members of the genus, sheep laurel (*K. angustifolia*) and pale laurel (*K. polifolia*) have also been known to poison livestock. Several species in this family, including western dog hobble (*Leucothoe davisiae*), rhododendron, and azalea (both belong to the genus *Rhododendron*), are known to have poisoned camelids (see "Putting Camelids and Poisonous Plants into Perspective", ILReport, Spring 2003, Vol. 8(1):8-12). The principle toxin is a resin, andromedotoxin (however arbutin, a glycoside of hydroquinone, is also present) and all portions of the plants are toxic, either green or dry. Other members of the family known to be toxic include: Pacific Labrador tea (*Ledum columbiana*), fetter bush (*Zenobia speciosa*), mock azalea (*Menziesia ferruginea*), and Japanese pieris (*Pieris japonica*). Members of this family are, for the most part, avoided by livestock except under poor pasture conditions. However, in at least one situation I have observed llamas grazing on planted azaleas, even though plenty of pasture was present. The owner later informed me that there were no ill effects.

Signs of Poisoning: Signs of poisoning in livestock include repeated swallowing, copious salivation, slow pulse, lowering of blood pressure, convulsions, progressive paralysis, and death (Kingsbury 1964, Lewis and Elvin-Lewis 1977, Knight and Walter 2001).

Management: Since it is known that these plants are toxic to camelids, I strongly recommend removing members of this family, particularly of the genus *Rhododendron* and *Kalmia*, from areas where animals are allowed to graze. If an owner wishes to continue using members of this family as

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

ornamentals, make certain the animals do not have access to them. Eradication is fairly simple. Most of the plants are fairly shallow rooted and can be pulled from the ground with a small tractor. I have had good success with cutting them off at ground level (remember to remove the cuttings from the grazing range!). While some grew back from the roots, a second cutting completed the job.

To learn more and see photos of the heath family, I recommend the following web sites: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html> (Cornell University Poisonous Plant site) and <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/factsheets.cfm> (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry, an excellent site for a written description and distribution, and photos of all North American trees.

(This article has been extracted and modified from "Managing Your Ranch for Poisonous Plants" by J.E. Perry, Camelid Quarterly, December 2003, pages 1-6.)

Poisonous Plants: the Walnut Family

By James E. Perry, Ph.D., PWS, Ambler's Alpacas, Lanexa, VA

The walnut family includes two tree species common throughout most of North America: the walnuts and the hickories (including the pecan). Fortunately, only the black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), a tree common through out forests in the eastern US, and other member of this genus planted as ornamentals, are known to be poisonous. The chemical responsible for toxicity has not been clearly identified and only horses have proven susceptible to date. Laminitis has occurred in horses when they were bedded on black walnut shavings. There is also a report that horses may show mild respiratory signs from pollen or fallen leaves. The effect on camelids is yet unknown, so caution is advised when dealing with this genus.

I recommend Camelid owners either remove walnuts from their pastures or keep their animals away from them. Make sure that your animals are not fed walnut leaves or are allowed to bed on walnut shavings. There is no evidence that hickories cause problems, but again, until proven safe I would

use caution around these species.

Signs of Walnut Poisoning: Laminitis (inflammation of the laminae in the hoof of horses) can occur within 12 to 18 hours of contact with black walnut shavings. Consumption of the shavings may cause signs of laminitis as well as mild colic. Affected horses may become unwilling to move or have their feet picked up, are depressed, may exhibit limb edema, and difficulty breathing.

To learn more and see photos of the species discussed above, I recommend the following web sites: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html> (Cornell University Poisonous Plant site) and <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/factsheets.cfm> (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry, an excellent site for a written description and distribution, and photos of all North American trees.

(This article has been extracted and modified from "Friend or Foe: North American trees and Camelids", by J.E. Perry, Camelid Quarterly, June 2004, pages 1-6.)

Bright Idea!

By Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas, Vineland, NJ

Carrying hay around to the different hay stations on your farm can be done by hand. However, I have found that it is easier to use a laundry basket. I feed orchard grass hay primarily, but I like to add a little alfalfa daily. I put about a flake of alfalfa in the laundry basket and carry it to each hay station where I dole out the amount I want each group to have. I give the boys theirs first and the girls, who get more alfalfa, get theirs second. Once I am done I usually have lots of alfalfa leaves in the bottom of the laundry basket. This, of course, is their favorite, so I place the laundry basket on the ground for the girls to clean up. Once empty, the basket goes back to its spot in the hay storage areas.

MAPACA Annual Meeting

October 16, 2005

Lunch at 12 Noon, Meeting to follow at 1PM.

To be held at Johanson Mfg Corporation adjacent to Brookhollow Farm (at 301 Rockaway Valley Road, Boonton Twp. NJ)

For Directions go to: <http://www.eastmeetswestalpacauction.com/maps.html>

RSVP 973-335-3393

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 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, email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@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. **Pocono Farms Products Oak Hay feeder**—holds 1 bale. Used, needs hay grid. See at <http://www.poconoalpacas.com/HusbandryAids/hayfeeders.htm> (new \$135.00) \$50.00 410-734-7084, Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
2. **Leer Model #122 Truck Cap for 6ft Truck Bed.** Very good condition except for front window needs replacement. See details at <http://www.leer.com/caps.html>—(New over \$900.00) \$350.00 picked up at farm. 410-734-7084 Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
3. **Team J W Alpaca Handling Equipment**—chutes, lightweight panels, gates, and Hay saver feeders of all sizes. Some discounted used equipment available. See http://www.wildrosealpacas.com/alpaca_equipment/alpaca_equipment.htm or call 410-734-7084. Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
4. **Kubota L3020 4WD tractor**—purchased new in 2000; 30hp, hydrostatic transmission, turf tires, front bucket loader, and 6' heavy duty Woods Brush Hog. Lightly used. \$12,000. Call John for details 609-397-1149.
5. **Polaris Ranger 4x4**—purchased new in Nov 2003. Outstanding farm utility vehicle. Equipped with motorized dump bed to make manure clean-up easy. Bench seat comfortably seats 3 (great for farm visits). Front windshield. Very low hours. \$6,000. Call John for details 609-397-1149.
6. **MSA (formerly Team J&W) Alpaca & Light Livestock Equipment**—in stock chutes, feeders, panels, and shearing table. Can be shipped or picked up at our farm. Will be at the Empire Show with product to sell also. www.lightlivestockequipment.com/ or call Jay at (518) 524-0545 AuSable Valley Alpacas, Jay, New York.



Calendar of Events

October 1, 2005—Fifth Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale—Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds, Route 77, Mullica Hill, NJ.—10AM-4PM. Twenty breeders in one convenient location offering alpacas for private treaty sale. Free seminars, free parking, free admission. Demonstrations. Vendors. The Alpaca Heritage Sale animals for sale and directions can be found at: [www. AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) . Contact Alice Brown at **856-697-8127** or fpalpacas@aol.com .

October 1-2, 2005: “I Love NY Alpacas Autumn Celebration,” Ballston Spa, NY (30 minutes North of Albany) Sponsored by Spa Alpacas. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Fun, educational, relaxing event in the midst of pastures full of friendly, fleecy alpacas. Weekend activities include farm and facility tours, fleece spinning demonstrations, free mini-seminars, hands-on alpaca handling and agility training, shopping at “The Fiber Nook” farm store. **Contact: Kelly & Paul Zanella (518) 885-0585, pjzanella@aol.com or www.spaalpacas.com**

October 2, 2005—Neonatal/Cria Care Clinic—Sponsored by the Maryland Alpacas Breeders Association. Buckeystown Veterinary Hospital in Buckeystown, MD (just south of Frederick). Includes neonatal lecture with Dr. Toni Cotton and choice of Hands-on Neonatal Lab with speaker Dr. Toni Cotton or Cria Care Lecture with speaker Dr. Gail Campbell. Light breakfast and great lunch included. Registration forms and additional information: [www. marylandalpacas.org](http://www.marylandalpacas.org) or Valerie Perrin (Valerie@southmountainviewalpacas.com), **301-371-0657** or Scott Gove (cgove@prodigy.net), **301-865-3552**.



Calendar of Events

October 8-10 (9AM-5PM) Annual “I Love NY Llama and Alpaca Days—Hosted by the Hudson Valley Fiber Farms. (located 30 min. north of Albany). Experience the beautiful foliage of the immense Hudson Valley while leisurely traveling to five beautiful farms to admire the wonders of raising llamas and alpacas. At these unique farms you can see how and why people raise these spectacular animals. You can try your hand at the animal agility course and see demonstrations of spinning, weaving, carding and other fiber arts along with many other exciting activities. There will be something for everyone! Wrap up your tour by getting an early start on your Christmas shopping at the quaint farm stores where many items are hand made and one of a kind. For more information and a map go to www.HudsonValleyFiberFarms.com .

November 12-13, 2005—Breeding, Birthing and Aftercare—9 AM-4PM—Rivanna River Farm, Ruckersville, VA, in association with ABFS, will host Dr. Norm Evans for this important 2 day seminar for new and experienced breeders alike. This course is ABFS accredited. Fee: \$350, two from the same farm, \$650 (includes continental breakfast and lunch both days). Register at www.ABFS.CA by October 12, 2005. For information, **please contact Dee Dee Greer, 434-973-8312 or info@RivannaRiverAlpacas.com**.

ARF Research Projects for 2005

Through the incredible support of the alpaca community, the Alpaca Research Foundation has provided funding for five new research projects currently underway for 2004-05. In addition, ARF is able to support two projects through the Morris Animal Foundation. These projects are to be conducted at six different universities in the USA and Canada. They address a variety of needs in the alpaca industry.

The research topics include the following:

- 1) Gaining a better understanding of the hormonal control of ovulation.
- 2) The first color genetics study to take advantage of the enormous amount of information coming out of the alpaca genome project.
- 3) A definitive study of the ability of the West Nile virus vaccine to prevent infection in alpacas.
- 4) An innovative approach to limiting neurologic damage due to meningeal worm infection.
- 5) Testing of a new blood substitute that can be used to treat anemia in alpacas.
- 6) Testing in alpacas to find the correct dose and

document safety of omeprazole, a drug that has been used to treat stomach ulcers in horses.

The official title of these research projects, the investigators, and the allocated funding are listed below. For a more detailed project description, visit our website at www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org.

Gregg P. Adams, DVM, PhD, University of Saskatchewan, SK, Canada

Ovulation Inducing Factor in Seminal Plasma of Alpacas, 1 year, \$14,181.75

Emilie Campbell, PhD, Brigham Young University, Provo Utah

Investigation of Genes Controlling Pigmentation in Alpacas, 2 years, \$12,087.78

Michelle A. Kutzler, DVM, PhD, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Experimental West Nile Virus Infection in Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Alpacas, 1 year, \$20,630

Jeffrey Lakritz, DVM, PhD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinases in CSF Fluid of Alpacas with Meningeal Worm: Role in Pathophysiology of Neurologic Deficits, 1 year, \$28,000

Susan J. Tornquist, DVM, PhD, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Effects of Polymerized Ultrapurified Bovine Hemoglobin Blood Substitute in Anemic Alpacas, 1 year, \$12,387

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

* * * * *
 * *BE TRUE TO YOUR-SELF* *
 * * * * *
 * *Starting out to make money is the greatest mistake in life. Do what you feel you have a flair for doing, and if you are good enough at it, the money will come.* *
 * * * * *
 * *Greer Garson (1904-1996)* *
 * * * * *



“Did you say you wanted cute!”

Forever Precious Tourmaline

Photo by Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas, Vineland, NJ