



## President's Message—

A hearty welcome to all new MaPaca members! And Greetings to our long standing members as well.

Your MaPaca Board is excited about the changes and improvements that are coming to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MaPaca Jubilee, the highlight of the alpaca show season. We encourage you to take part and volunteer at the Jubilee, a great way to network with other alpaca breeders.

Please plan to donate either a breeding to one of your superior herdsires or an alpaca related item for our Silent Auction, proceeds of which will be used to assist camelid vets in advancing their knowledge at seminars. Let Marian and George Sykes (973) 827-3910) know what you plan to donate.

We are also looking for major donations such as female alpacas, farm equipment and the like for our auction. Proceeds from these major items will be

shared equally among ARF and ICI who were most appreciative of the funds they received from last year's auction which amounted to \$60,000, thanks to the following generous alpaca donors: Sharon Brown & James Webb—*Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company*; Tim & Gwen Smith—*Smith Haven Farms*; Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa—*Alpacas de la Patagonia*. Breeding donated by: Jack and Jill Reinhart: *Allegheny Alpacas* We'll see you at the Jubilee!

*Nancy Johanson*  
President

### 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.

Contact Nick Melfi and Donate an Alpaca!

MelfiFarm@aol.com or  
908-369-3276

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## Jubilee Update!

*By Alice Brown*

I'm sure you are all wondering what the MAPACA Board of Director's has decided in regard to BVD testing for the Jubilee this year. The BOD is still discussing this with AOBA, and a final decision will soon be made public, however the BOD has decided that there will be BVD testing required for the Jubilee. MAPACA would like to ensure that there are no PI animals at the Jubilee. However, it cannot ensure a BVDV free environment. Therefore, the BOD and the Show Committee is recommending that each and every farm practice good biosecurity at their farms on returning from the Jubilee. Breeders should quarantine all alpacas returning from the show. Information about any BVD testing requirements and what biosecurity measures to take, will be on the MAPACA website shortly. Go to [www.mapaca.org/jubilee2006](http://www.mapaca.org/jubilee2006) to keep abreast of all the Jubilee information. Registration forms will be available on February 12th and registrations may be sent in on February 13th.

## Silent Auction & Raffle Donations Needed!

Greetings to All,

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. Your donation will go to support the new Tuition Grant Program for Continuing Education for our Camelid Veterinarians. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

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

## Editor's Ramblings:

Hope you all have enjoyed the balmy January we have had. Makes one wonder what February is going to dump on us. I guess we will find out.

I don't know about all of you, but my head is swimming with a lot of BVDV information. Trying to sort fact from fiction can be a daunting task. I guess part of the problem is that the vets and scientists don't really have all the answers just yet for us. What applies to cattle may not always apply to alpacas, adding to the confusion.

The solution: time will sort things out. Putting faith in the research being conducted that is being supported by MAPACA through The Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) is a good thing to do. Please continue to support ARF with your donations. We need more answers to our BVDV questions.

As I have been tending to my alpacas on these past few balmy (winter?) days, I have been doing A LOT of thinking on the subject. I spoke to my vet and she said, "You have had not one premature birth on your farm, not one stillborn, not one loss of pregnancy, not one failure to thrive cria, no unexplained problems with females getting pregnant and holding their pregnancies and no congenital anomalies. You don't need to test for BVD." Still, I would like to know for sure.

At first trying to get the tests straight was a daunting task. I think I got it now. So, next problem to tackle is, if I am going to test, what test/tests should I run first?

After listening to Dr. Karen Baum speak, I understand that Dr. Dubovi at Cornell can pool samples for the Serum Neutralization test and the PCR test. Might that be the road to take? I've got to think about this some more!

While I'm waiting to get a better handle on this BVDV subject, I think I will just go out and enjoy my alpacas for a while and hope that soon we have a better understanding of how BVDV is affecting and has affected the alpaca herd in this country.

By the way, if you have not renewed your MAPACA Membership, please do so today. Time is running out for you to keep getting the Newsletter and keep your listing and link on the MAPACA website. Sincerely, Alice Brown

## MAPACA JUBILEE 2006 SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

### Jubilee Alpaca Donor ALPACA Donation

- **Full-page color ad** in the Jubilee program (back cover, inside front cover, inside back cover OR centerfold page)
- **Farm Name and Alpaca photo in 2-page Appreciation Ad from MAPACA in Alpacas Magazine**
- Special listing in auction catalog lot description
- **4 Friday night dinner tickets**
- **One free pen space** (above the five pen limit, if desired)
- Banner placements (Show ring & auction stage)
- Preferred stalling at show
- 2 extra parking passes
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Donor Banner to display at pens
- Farm Name on Sponsor Posters at show
- Animal Donor name tag recognition

### Diamond Sponsors \$1500

- **Full-page color ad** in the Jubilee program
- **2 Friday night dinner tickets**
- Farm banner in ring of choice
- Preferred stalling at show
- 2 extra parking passes
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Sponsor Banner to display at pens
- Farm Name on Sponsor Posters at show
- Diamond Sponsor name tag recognition

### Platinum Sponsors \$1000

- **Half-page color ad** in the Jubilee program
- Farm banner in ring of choice
- Preferred stalling at show
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Sponsor Banner to display at pens
- Farm Name on Sponsor Posters at show
- Platinum Sponsor name tag recognition

### Gold Sponsors \$500

- **Half-page color ad** in the Jubilee program
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Sponsor Banner to display at pens
- Gold Sponsor name tag recognition

### Silver Sponsors \$250

- **One-third page color ad** in the Jubilee program
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Silver Sponsor name tag recognition

### Bronze Sponsors \$100

- **Business card ad** in the Jubilee program
- Listing on MAPACA website as sponsor with link to farm website
- Bronze Sponsor name tag recognition

### BANNER GUIDELINES (MAPACA reserves final approval.)

Banner is furnished by farm.

Length: Min. 4 ft with at least 3 grommets across top

Max. 8 ft with at least 5 grommets across top

Height: Max. 32 inches

Banners shall be a lightweight material (vinyl, canvas, etc.)

Wood, plastic or metal banners will not be permitted.

**\*All advertising material must be submitted no later than March 15 to:**

Steph Pride

PO Box 1968

714 Poyntz, Suite B

Manhattan, KS 66502 Or email to: [info@llamabanner.com](mailto:info@llamabanner.com)

# MAPACA General Membership Meeting: Overview

January 15, 2006

For those of you who were not able to come to the Harrisonburg, Virginia, MAPACA Regional Meeting, you missed a really good get together. Starting in 2006, the Board of Directors (BOD) began a new policy of rotating our quarterly members' meeting to different locations coinciding with the states that are in the MAPACA region. Also, as part of the new policy, we will feature a guest speaker who will talk for an hour or so, on a variety of alpaca topics.

Virginia was selected as the first meeting location and Bob Ciszewski became the BOD point of contact to arrange for hosting and a speaker. Virginia members were enthusiastic about hosting the meeting and it didn't take Bob long to locate a breeder who wanted to host the meeting. Jim and Kathy Schwartz of *Blue Earth River Farm Alpacas* graciously accepted the invitation to host the meeting and made all of the arrangements. They did a superb job! Everything was well organized and thoughtfully done.

The BOD met in a pleasant conference room at Jim's office and then we joined the membership at *Simple Pleasures Restaurant* in Harrisonburg for a lovely catered lunch. The turnout was excellent with 55 members from VA, WV, MD, PA, and NJ. Our guest speaker, Dr. Karen Baum, DVM, of *Little Doc's Veterinary Care, Inc.* in Huddleston, VA has been treating camelids for over 20 years, serves on the board of directors of the Alpaca Research Foundation and the International Llama Registry. Most of us learned more about ARF and how it operates than we had ever known; it was very enlightening. Dr. Baum's presentation also contained significant information concerning BVDV, which is the latest disease to cause concern in the alpaca community. Although this virus has been in cattle for a long time and it has been well documented, we are just scratching the surface in learning how it will behave in camelids. Dr. Baum indicated that ARF has had a number of research proposals submitted to study the virus, and ARF continues to need funding to provide the research grants. MAPACA has donated \$20,500 to ARF to be used for BVDV research.

We have not selected the state for our next meeting, but will shortly. If you are interested in hosting a MAPACA meeting, please contact Bob Ciszewski at: [almsthvn@frontiernet.net](mailto:almsthvn@frontiernet.net) or (304) 496-1073.

## January 15, 2006 Membership Meeting

### Notes—

*Prepared by Alice Brown*

Attendance: Board of Directors – Nancy Johanson, Carol Pfister, Frieda Goodrich, Bob Ciszewski, Jovi Larson, Andy Schneider.

Recording Secretary – Alice Brown

The meeting was attended by 49 people who signed the sign-in sheet.

After listening to Dr. Karen Baum, DVM speak about BVDV and Equine Encephalitis in alpacas, the meeting was opened by Nancy Johanson. In regard to BVDV it was mentioned that BVDV has been around a while and that Dr. Ed Dubovi at Cornell University and Dr. Chris Cebra at Oregon State University are taking the lead in helping alpaca breeders get a better understanding of this disease. If your veterinarian needs information about testing or BVDV in general it was suggested that they call either Dr. Dubovi or Dr. Cebra.

MAPACA is planning a Type Conference to be held the first half of June. MAPACA wants to be objective in presenting the pros and cons of developing a Breed Standard at this time.

In regard to the Jubilee, the MAPACA Board of Directors has hired Anne Hallinan as Show Manager. The Board has also hired Ken and Marsha Hobert to handle the registration for the Jubilee. The goal for this year's show is to improve services related to the show. The Jubilee, which is always held on the last FULL weekend of April is scheduled this year for April 27 (arrival day), 28, 29 and 30. Since this is such a large show with about 1600 alpacas expected, MAPACA will need many volunteers. This is a good opportunity for you to network and learn. Please contact Anne Hallinan at [mapaca@mhevent.com](mailto:mapaca@mhevent.com) if you can volunteer to help out.

This year MAPACA will institute a grant for partial tuition reimbursement for existing camelid veterinarians. As much as \$500 per veterinarian will be made available to attend continuing education seminars that are applicable to camelids. Funds from the Jubilee Silent Auction and Raffle will be earmarked to go to our veterinarians in this new program. An application will be available shortly. Please watch the MAPACA web site and Newsletter for further information.

## 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 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.)



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

- Mike and Natalie Burger, Hidden Pastures, Branchville, NJ
- Camille DeSando, Pleasant Valley Farm Suri Alpacas, Gilbert, PA
- Andra Hausman, Andra's Alpaca Farm, New Tripoli, PA
- Neil and Caroline Johnson, Mill View Mountain Alpacas, Millview, PA
- Bonnie Belfiore & Doug Kittrell, Double 8 Alpaca Ranch, Jobstown, NJ
- James Lewis, Clark's Summit Alpacas, LLC, Hillsborough, NH
- James & Carol Mitchell, Rolling Meadows Farm, Shackelfords, VA
- Biagio & Natalie Mormile, Brat-Paca-Farm, LLC, New Rochelle, NY
- Stephanie Morrison, Springhouse Farm, Westminster, MD
- David & Ruth Nye, Moose Ridge Alpacas, Parkton, MD
- Wren Owens, Close-Knit Alpacas, Woodhull, NY
- Barry & Renee Prokop, Alpaca Vista Suris, Spotsylvania, VA
- Doreen Rose, Shear Elegance Alpacas, Thurmont, MD
- Thomas & Amanda Schwab, Little Wing Farm, Scottsville, VA
- Julie & David Wysong, Quarry Critters Alpaca Ranch, Littlestown, PA

## Correction

We would like to make a correction in the Letter to the Editor from Steve McCarthy. The Editor's italics was put on the wrong sentence, thus giving an erroneous importance to that phrase. The paragraph should have read:

"I have talked to MANY people in the country about BVD over the past 6 weeks and some believe that this is a Northeast issue because that is where the cases are being seen. I believe that *the Northeast is seeing the cases because we are testing for it* (italics by editor)."

## MaPaca Meetings—2006

**April 27, 2006 (At the Jubilee.)**

**July 16, 2006**

**October 15, 2006**

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

## **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 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. **Any questions, email Alice Brown: fpalpacas@aol.com or call: 856-697-8127.**

## **C**lassified 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. Team J W Alpaca Handling Equipment**—chutes, lightweight panels, gates, and Hay saver feeders of all sizes. Some discounted used equipment available. **Get Your year-end tax deduction!** 8ft. And 10ft. Team JW show panels available, while they last. 8 ft. panels \$68 (new \$78) and 10 ft. panels \$78 (new \$85). Available for pickup at Wild Rose Suri Ranch. See [http://www.wildrosealpacas.com/alpaca\\_equipment/alpaca\\_equipment.htm](http://www.wildrosealpacas.com/alpaca_equipment/alpaca_equipment.htm) or call **410-734-7084**.  
**Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.**
- 2. Alpaca & Light Livestock Equipment**—in stock chutes, feeders, panels, and shearing table. Can be shipped or picked up at our farm. **www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay at (518) 524-0545 AuSable Valley Alpacas, Jay, New York.**
- 3. Alpaca Clothing Wholesale**—Thinking of starting a farm store? 2006 might be the year to do it! We have access to a brand new company outside Lima, Peru who does beautiful 100% alpaca clothing at very reasonable prices. **Call Dan Roberts at 540-663-2390** about receiving a clothing cd and a wholesale price list.
- 4. Dungmaster 510—Manure vacuum.** Excellent for pasture cleanup. Originally \$1,795 plus shipping and tax. Will sell for \$750. Good condition. Can email picture. Respond to paul@bigskyalpacas.com or call 856-223-0570.



## Calendar of Events

**February 19, 2006—BVD Seminar—**10AM-4PM, Alpha Fire House, Alpha, NJ. Sponsored by the New Jersey Alpaca Community (NJAC). Dr. Ed Dubovi from Cornell University and Dr. Katrina Alger of Califon Animal Hospital will discuss transmission, clinical symptoms, testing, and control of BVD in alpacas as well as quarantine issues and new immunization protocols. \$40 for NJAC Members and veterinarians and \$50 for Non-NJAC members. Fee includes lunch. **Please go to [www.njalpacas.org](http://www.njalpacas.org) or call Frieda Goodrich 908-852-7204 for more information. See insert in the January 2006 issue of the MAPACA Newsletter for registration form, or print out the form at: [www.njalpacas.org](http://www.njalpacas.org).**

**March 4, 2006—An Introduction to Camelid Color Genes—**11:30AM—3:00PM. Seminar at Stormwind Alpacas by Ingrid Wood. Author of [A Breeder's Guide to Genetics: Relax, It's Not Rocket Science](#). Columbus, NJ. Easy access from Route 206, Route 295 and the NJ and PA Turnpikes. \$50 per person (includes lunch). Call—**609-261-0696** for details.

**March 18 & 19—WMAN Alpaca Farm Days—**10AM—4 PM at Annapaca Farm. Hagerstown, MD. The Western Maryland Alpaca Network (WMAN [www.westernmdalpacanetwork.com/](http://www.westernmdalpacanetwork.com/)) is hosting this Open House with free seminars, spinning demonstrations, and with alpacas, raw fleece, yarn, and a wide variety of alpaca products for sale. **For directions go to <http://www.annapaca.com/>. E-mail Bert or Ann Kramer at [annkram@aol.com](mailto:annkram@aol.com) or [bertkram@aol.com](mailto:bertkram@aol.com) or call 301-824-2840 for further details.**



## Calendar of Events

### **April 9, 2006—Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper (ABC Show)—**

Sponsored by Alpaca Heritage Events. The ABC Show is a fun and affordable one day alpaca halter show to be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship Maryland. Judge: David Friedman. Full Fleece, Performance, Costume Classes and a Fleece Show. Free seminars, parking, and admission. Entry fee is \$60 per alpaca. \$20 for a vendor booth. No stall fees, bring your own panels. **Entry DEADLINE: FEB. 15, 2006.** For more information go to: **[www.AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com)** or contact Ingrid Wood at: **609-261-0690** or **[stormwindalpacas@comcast.net](mailto:stormwindalpacas@comcast.net)**. **See form in December 2005 Newsletter.**

### **April 28-30-MAPACA Jubilee 2006-**

The MaPaca Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA.

- \*Halter, Fleece & Performance Classes
- \* 4 Rings of Simultaneous Judging
- \* World-Renowned Judges
- \* Seminars by Leading Alpaca Experts
- \* Picture Perfect Alpacas!
- \* Expanded Fleece Show
- \* **New! Skeins and Handmades Competition.** 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. Arrival and check-in date is April 27th.

### **May 12, 13, & 14, 2006 Star Events' Spring Fling Alpaca Auction—**

WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, New Jersey. Meet and mingle with breeders from across the country at the Sixth Annual Spring Sling Alpaca Auction, where top quality huacaya & sure alpacas will sell! Educational seminars at this 3 day event will focus on fiber, so mark your calendar and plan to attend! For more information or to request a copy of the auction catalog, please call the **Star Events' office at (609) 397-2212.**

## MAPACA Membership Renewal

If you haven't already renewed, please fill out and send in the renewal form from the December 2005 Newsletter or from [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and send it with your check for \$75 made out to MAPACA to:

**MAPACA  
c/o Alice Brown  
458 Main Road  
Vineland, NJ 08360**

## MAPACA Survey

The survey responses are coming in and we would like to thank all of you who took the time to express your desires for MAPACA's direction. If you have not had a chance to complete the survey yet please do so. It's important for us to have the pulse of as many members as possible.

Thanks again for participating.  
Bob Ciszewski

## NEW BOLTON CENTER UPDATE

For those of you following our discussion about New Bolton Center, at this point in time MAPACA does not have all the facts and information. The MAPACA Board of Directors is still investigating the issue with New Bolton Center and will let the membership know when all the information has been gathered.

Comments about the Newsletter, or any contributions, send to Alice Brown at [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com).

## Fleecy Fancy

*By David Reder, Pocono Alpacas,  
Stroudsburg, PA*

**Always I marvel that;  
fibrous forage  
following feeding  
fortunately fosters  
fecund follicles  
forming fleecy  
figurative fancies  
that I marvel all ways.**

*(C) David Reder  
2006*

## Volunteers Needed!

*If you would like to help out at the Jubilee and would like a great learning experience at the same time please volunteer to help out at the Jubilee!*

**In appreciation for your time and effort you will receive an original FREE MaPaca volunteer T-shirt!**

Please contact Anne Hallinan—  
[mapaca@mhevent.com](mailto:mapaca@mhevent.com)