



MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Newsletter

March 2007

Volume 7, issue 3



Jubilee 2007 Update!

Hotels

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations by March 25 to be sure you get the special Jubilee Hotel Room Rates. Call 1-877-PA-PULSE (877-727-8573) to make your reservation at any of the participating hotels.

Just by utilizing this reservation number and staying at a participating hotel, you are helping us to be able to continue offering special low rates for Jubilee attendees. The more people that use the special Jubilee room rates, the better rates they will offer us in the future. It's so easy!

Make Plans to Attend the Saturday Dinner

An Evening with Bob Farmer and The Farmer's Almanac

- 6:00pm No Host Cocktails
- 6:30 - 7:30 Dinner
- 7:30-8:30 Bob Farmer

Bob Farmer writes and edits for the Farmers' Almanac, one of the nation's oldest publications. He is also the almanac's official spokesman, having been associated with the publication for more than 25 years. Mr. Farmer brings this nationwide tradition alive with his unique down-home style of humorous storytelling, laced with anecdotes and remedies. He travels extensively to inform, motivate and entertain audiences all over the country.

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Come enjoy a great meal with your friends and enjoy some lighthearted family entertainment, too!

Advance tickets - \$35 adult; \$20 child (12 & under)

Tickets will not be available for purchase at the show.

Please be sure to order in advance!

Fleece Show

Don't forget, even if you aren't showing in the halter show, or even if you can't make it to Harrisburg this year, you can still enter fleeces. It's easy to do. See the fleece show details on the Jubilee website at: <http://www.mapaca.org/jubilee/fleece-show.html>

Volunteers

It takes a village to pull off an alpaca show of this size. We can still use your help. Please submit a volunteer form with your job preference and availability. Someone will be in touch with you as the show nears. Plus, there is a special treat in store, just for Jubilee volunteers!

As usual, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to make this your best show experience all year!

Contact Show Manager, Anne Hallinan at [ma-paca@mhevent.com](mailto:mapaca@mhevent.com).

Young Alpaca Explorers

By Lisa German

Hey young alpaca enthusiasts, we are going to shape you up this year using your creative mind. We have a new activity that will keep your mind and hands busy. I'm sure your pleasure in alpacas will shine though on this activity. This year you will be creating an alpaca, and it won't take 11-1/2 months. All of the material will be supplied. Once you are done with your alpaca bring it to the table at Whispering Meadows Alpaca Breeder booth. Your alpacas will be judged Saturday evening and on display for everyone to see Sunday. Prizes will be given out on Sunday morning around 10:00am. Complete details will be available at the show!

MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Carol Pfister
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Jubilee Silent Auction!

Deadline: April 10, 2007

Calling all MAPACA Members! Promote your alpaca farm and support MAPACA by donating to this year's Silent Auction and Raffle fundraisers. Each year, the MAPACA show in April holds these events to raise money. This year, **all proceeds from the silent auction/raffle will be donated to the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF).** Silent Auction items have a value of over \$200, and can be a breeding to your premier herdsire, fine alpaca clothing, a B & B weekend, or almost anything else you can think of. Raffle items have a value under \$200 and have lots of possibilities, including alpaca items, gift baskets, artwork, etc. The deadline is April 10, 2007 for submissions, so please submit your donation today! This is your chance to support ARF and make your farm stand out! Please contact us as soon as possible with your donation! For Silent Auction items, contact JoAnn Wood (Fishwood Farm Alpacas) at (434) 993-9115 or via email at woodfam1@earthlink.net. For Raffle items, please contact Kathy Schwartz (Blue Earth River Farm) at 540-908-7420 or SimplyAlpaca@aol.com.

MaPaca Meeting Schedule—2007

April 27, 2007 (at the Jubilee, Friday at lunch)

July 15, 2007 (Sunday)

Annual Meeting Oct. 21, 2007
(Sunday)

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

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

FIBER ARTS, SKEINS, FLEECE, yes, it's that time again. We are looking to make MAPACA's 2007 Fiber Arts/Skein Competition better than last year and with the help of all the great artists we have as members, it surely will be. There are new ideas in the works for this year's show and once again we are fortunate to have Wini Labrecque as our judge.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, April 29, 2007 for a special event for all of our members. Cheryl Gehly, one of the foremost fleece experts will be giving a skirting demonstration in the fleece show area. This is one demonstration that you won't want to miss! Let Cheryl rid you of your fleece skirting fears and get you on the road to showing your fleece.

Be sure and check at the show for the times of this exciting and informative demonstration. For our fleece show enthusiasts, our goal is for a Level Four show this year! Our fleece show has grown over the past two years and we are thankful. But empty out your fleece room, closet or barn, this year and help make this show the largest ever. Get those entry forms in to us and as always we welcome volunteers. Should you have any questions, please call Al Beatty at 410 635-3862.

Thank you.

MAPACA Fiber Committee

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As you can see we have had a great influx of new members and more are joining as I write. Hope they enjoy receiving their MAPACA Newsletter every month. I would like to remind each new breeder to read your Newsletter to keep abreast of regional happenings and check the MAPACA website often for updates. Both avenues of communication will keep you current on all you need to know concerning MAPACA. I look forward to meeting some of you at the Jubilee. Please feel free to come up and say hello to me. I am always looking for people to submit articles for the Newsletter. Having your article appear in the Newsletter is a way to get your name out there to other farms in our region and actually all across the U.S. as MAPACA has members from Maine to N. Carolina to Oregon and Michigan.

Best, Alice Brown

Welcome Our New MAPACA Members!

- Misty & Don Sheehan, Misty Starr Alpacas, Martinsburg, WV
- Paul & Carol Beasley, Alpacas of Benton Hill, Beaver, PA
- Jeanie Zirrolli & Clare Rocheford, WalkaPaca Farm, Annapolis, MD
- Harryette Cipoletti, Cinnamon Run Alpacas, Mr. Airy, MD
- Mike & Kathy Graziani, Flame Pool Alpacas, Ltd., Columbia, MD
- Dave & Sandy Crouse, Meadow Brooke Alpacas, Myersville, MD
- Brian & Karin Lengel, Hidden Acres Alpacas, Pine Grove, PA
- Jesse & Kim Hill, Alpaca Hill, Manheim, PA
- Jim Michaels & Lauren Petersen, G.A.R. Alpacas, Hagerstown, MD
- David & Kellie Butsack, Noble Glen, Mohrsville, PA
- Michael & Terrill Esposito, Legacy Alpaca Farm, Randallstown, MD
- Dennis & Barbara Cole, Fox Chase Farm Alpacas, Prosperity, PA
- Joyce Miskovic, Alpaca Joy of Maryland, Highland, MD
- Stan & Jane Korbar, Patchwork Farm Alpacas, Selinsgrove, PA
- Tish & Jim Carpinelli, Jersey Shore Alpacas, Cape May, NJ
- Rod, June, & Tim Preston, Prestons Alpacas, Worcester, NY
- Deborah Woodcock, Pigeon Creek Alpacas, Spotsylvania, VA
- Brenda & Ken Clark, Tartan Acres, LLC, Homer, NY
- Mark & Alisa Mierzejewski, Burgis Brook Alpacas, Canterbury, CT
- Melanie Munson, Sacred Passion Alpacas, Harpers Ferry, WV
- Brian & Nicole Tait, Pilgrim's Reward Farm, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Robert Hughes & Linda Benson, King William Alpacas, King William, VA

MAPACA General Membership Meeting Recap - Jan. 27, 2007

By Alice Brown, *Forever Precious Alpacas*,
Vineland, NJ

“The meeting was great, well planned and well run. It exceeded my expectations by an order of magnitude.” – David Moran, MAPACA Board of Directors

“Yes it was really nice. I have gotten calls and was stopped after the event to be thanked. Way to go team and again Chuck and Kathy hats off to both of you!” – Carol Pfister, MAPACA President

“Thank you for a great meeting. It was well planned, educational, fun and the food was excellent. Thank you for your efforts.” – Tilly Dorsey, DAFI Alpacas, MD

The Tremont Suite Hotel was the place to be on January 27, 2007 for all MAPACA members, as evidenced by the above comments. If you were one of the 129 (representing 71 farms) that attended, I'm sure you would agree. Wade Gease, AOBA Certified Judge and Trainer and GLAA President, presented two well received talks.

First up in the morning, Wade presented *Understanding Properties of Alpaca Fleece & Showing it Off*. Each member was provided with two fleece samples to evaluate during the talk, one suri and one huacaya. Fleece samples were provided Chuck Gulotta, Kathy Swartz, Monica Kline, Barb Knick, and JoAnn Wood.

Wade pointed out that showing fleeces is a good way to determine how we are doing in our breeding program. In showing fleeces, we have the AOBA Certified Score Cards to look at afterwards. Finger tip evaluation of fleeces is possible with practice. It was suggested that this spring when we shear our alpacas we collect duplicate samples from at least ten alpacas. Label the samples as to date and which alpaca they are from. Send one sample of each to be micron tested and the others keep as a control group.

Now we are ready to start feeling samples. First he said, blow any dust off the sample, as that will affect the feel. Roll the fibers in your finger tips. You will feel some graininess when you get to the mid-20 microns and up. Sensory terms he used ranged from “buttery soft” to “scratchy course.” You can also look at the physical diameters by taking a small sample and placing it on a contrasting background colored cloth.

In regard to other fiber characteristics, Wade pointed out the uniformity of staple length, color and micron counts in different parts of the fleece are important. These qualities are important to processors of our fleeces.

Skirting fleeces for show require that second or short cuts be removed. If a fleece blanket has a spot in it, remove the spot. Wade brought out that he would like to see more meticulous skirting of show fleeces. He said good skirting is more important than having a slightly higher fleece weight. The annualized weight is determined by dividing the weight of the fleece by the months of growth. For example, if a fleece is

grown for 9 months and weighs 2.7 pounds the annualized weight would be 3.6 pounds. Remove any heavy dirt, vegetable matter, urine stains, areas with guard hair from the apron, and weak fleece. Keep your pastures and barn area clean and raked up prior to shearing.

Tui tipped fleeces can be avoided by shearing spring crias at one month or less of age. However, Wade does not recommend shearing fall crias.

In determining density of a fleece once it is shorn, Wade recommended feeling the density of individual locks. To determine weak fleeces, he suggested holding a few fibers by your ear and pulling. He said you can actually hear fibers breaking if the fleece has any weakness.

Brightness or luster are also important fleece qualities. Wade pointed out that brightness is the term used in huacaya fleeces and luster is the term used in suri fleeces. To determine the brightness or luster, Wade suggested folding a dust free lock of fleece over your finger and hold it at an angle to the light to see the “shine, sheen, or gloss of the fleece, which is due to reflection of light off the smooth scales of each fiber. In shows, Wade has seen fleeces win or loose due to this quality. He said that alpaca fleece is the only fleece in the world that reflects light in two levels. It is the **only** fiber that has brightness or luster!

Once a fleece is skirted well, roll it up so that the cut edge is out on the top of the bag you put it in. Wade recommended using lavender oil spray to protect your fleece and do not tie the storage bags! If you use cedar balls, remember to remove the balls before showing your fleece.

Wade's talk was followed by a wonderful lunch in a beautiful room. The MD crab bisque was wonderful! I can vouch for that!

After lunch the MAPACA Board of Director's conducted the General Membership Meeting. Carol Pfister opened the meeting. She wanted the membership to know that MAPACA is being audited by the IRS for the year 2003. The IRS is also checking on MAPACA's not-for-profit status. It was announced that MAPACA is forming a number of committees that will be staffed by volunteer MAPACA members and primarily headed by MAPACA BOD members as chairs or liaisons to the board. The objective of each committee is to develop new ideas and bring growth to our regional area and encourage membership involvement in that growth. Carol pointed out that it's your association, get involved!

Here is a list of the committees:

Contribution Committee – JoAnn Wood – 434-993-9115 or woodfam1@earthlink.net. BOD liaison – Kathy Schwartz – 540-908-7420 or simplifyalpaca@aol.com. This committee will be organizing events such as the silent auction and raffle, to raise funds for alpaca charity and research organizations.
Educational Committee – Scott Gove – 301- 865- 3552 or cgove@prodigy.net. BOD liaison – Wayne Robinson – 908-537-7935 or info@emelisaalpacas.com. This committee will identify educational needs and provide educational programs for MAPACA members and potential members at the Jubilee and at other venues throughout the year. The committee will coordinate with the various State Affiliates and area groups.

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They will also seek out veterinarian educational interests and needs in the region to promote MAPACA's Veterinarian Grant Program.

Fiber Committee – Al Beatty – 410-635-3862 or Bellaseraalpacas@msn.com . BOD liaison – Bob Ciszewski – 304-496-1073 or almsthvn@frontiernet.net . This committee's short term goal is to enhance the fleece, skein and fiber arts show that is already in place for the 2007 Jubilee. Along with working to create an additional event in 2007 to possibly include fiber educational seminars, fiber work shops, spin-off competition, an additional fleece show and further opportunities for fiber art competitions.

Long Range Committee – David Moran – 304- 288 – 9533 or dddmoran@aol.com . This committee will identify future needs of our organization and take steps to develop a plan for those needs.

Marketing and Publication Committee – Charles Gulotta – 443-928-9226 or Gulotta@kennedykrieger.org . This committee will include the Website Committee which has the task of improving the current website to provide a venue for communication among members. Also the Newsletter Committee which has the task of developing and organizing our monthly newsletter sent to all members. The goal is to provide a venue for communication between the BOD and its members as well as communication among the organization's members.

Meeting Committee – Bob Ciszewski – 304-496-1073 or almsthvn@frontiernet.net . This committee will arrange quarterly meeting locations, managing the setup of guest speakers and developing ways to increase membership involvement.

Membership Committee – Kathy Schwartz – 540-908-7420 or simplyalpaca@aol.com . This committee will create ways of increasing membership in our region as well as promoting membership involvement.

Mission Planning Committee – David Moran – 304-288-9533 or dddmoran@aol.com . This committee will provide future reasonable and productive options for MAPACA.

Show Committee – Event Manager – Anne Hallinan – ma-paca@mhevent.com . BOD liaison – Monica Kline – 717-514-0022 or info@asurfarm.com . This committee will organize the Jubilee and manage all aspects of the current year's event. They will have a debriefing meeting within one month after the current year's show to assess all aspects of what was done well and what could use improvement. They will be responsible for long range show planning to ensure that the Jubilee continues to be a success. They will work closely with the Marketing and Publications Committee to coordinate all aspects of branding the Show and promoting it for the best possible attendance and benefit for MAPACA members. They will work with the Educational Committee to guarantee that the seminars offered during the Jubilee afford MAPACA members and show attendees the latest and best information available in the alpaca industry.

"2008" Auction Committee – David Moran – 304-288-9533 or dddmoran@aol.com . This committee will develop plans for our future auction.

State Liaison Committee – Carol Pfister – 908- 303-3670 or carol@whirlybirdalpacas.com . This committee will create an

open pathway for communication between the states and MAPACA first and foremost. One initial task will be to identify what our member states feel MAPACA can do for and with them. As a start we will be working closely with the Education Committee to identify and initiate the educational programs our members want and cosponsor these programs throughout the region. With the flow of communication comes ideas and plans, and through this conduit we will be able to create an overall support system for our members and aid in the further development of our industry.

As you can see, there are eleven, yes count them, eleven committees that need members to volunteer to help out. Please, if you feel you can help, even in a small way, please contact the committee chair of your choice and let them know! In regard to the committees, each chairperson spoke about their respective committee/committees.

Kathy Schwartz said that she and JoAnn Wood will be working on the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction will include items worth \$200 or more that members donate. Proceeds will ALL go to the Alpaca Research Foundation. If you are interested in donating, please contact Kathy or JoAnn. The Raffle is a great way to get your name out there. This includes donated items with a value of less than \$200. Items can be anything. They don't have to be alpaca related.

Wayne Robinson spoke about the Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program. He stressed sharing this information with your veterinarian. So far we have had seven veterinarians apply for the grant which can be up to \$1000 for that vet per event.

Scott Gove and Wayne Robinson are looking for volunteers for the Education Committee. They are currently working to get a big name to speak at the Jubilee. If you have some ideas, please contact Scott or Wayne.

The Fiber Committee was presented by Al Beatty who said, "I'll do the best I can to enhance fiber use in our area." Al encouraged members to enter their fleeces in shows. He plans to send out a questionnaire to members to find out where we are as an organization. He will need the help of volunteers. If you would want to be a part of this committee please let Al know.

Quoting from President Dwight Eisenhower, David Moran said, "Plans are nothing. Planning is everything." His planning includes taking care of the future because it is the place where we will spend the rest of our lives. If you would like to contribute to the future planning for MAPACA please contact David.

Charles Gulotta said that the Marketing and Publications Committee is working to make the website more modern. In the future it is hoped that online registration for the Jubilee will be made available. To enhance the quality of the new MAPACA website, Chuck said he would like to have members send him some high quality photos. In Phase II of the website upgrade he brought out that he would like to provide more membership interaction. You will be able to pay on line and keep your membership profile up to date yourself.

In regard to the Newsletter, Chuck pointed out that Alice Brown works very hard to keep the Newsletter being printed

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(General Membership Meeting. Continued from page 5.)

on a monthly basis. He would like to see the content of the Newsletter include: 1. Barn management, 2. Alpaca health and research, 3. Controversial issues area.. He said he needs people to volunteer to help gather content in these areas.

The Meeting Committee, spearheaded by Bob Ciszewski, is planning to continue to see that meetings are moved around in the MAPACA region. We are looking at New York for the summer meeting. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please let Bob know. MAPACA will pay the cost for anything that you need.

In regard to the Jubilee and the Show Committee, Monica Kline announced that we will be using sod again this year. This was followed by an enthusiastic round of applause. Electric will be included with every pen space without extra cost. There are some rule changes for this year. Monica brought out that if you hire a judge for one task, he cannot be changed to another task. In another area, Jubilee admission for interested people will be free this year in order to get more people in to the venue. There will be no auction this year, but the newly formed "2008" Auction Committee will be working on planning an auction for next year. The four show rings will be in the Equine Arena this year where the lighting is good. The area will be covered with sod. This will allow MAPACA to place about 90-100 more pens in the main facility. In regard to the change to 60 fiber/40 conformation rule change, MAPACA will remain at 50/50 this year. Another change that is being considered is having the Production Classes first, instead of last, as in the past. Currently Monica said they need about 120 volunteers to help out with the Jubilee. If you would like to share in this great show as a volunteer please contact Anne Hallinan at mapaca@mhevent.com. Volunteers are needed for the following areas: Fiber Arts Coordinator, Gate Keeper, Ring Crew (*performance), Fleece Show, Ring Steward, Fleece Check-In Thursday PM, Silent Auction & Raffle Table, Vet Check, Color Check, Traffic Directors.

Again, Carol Pfister stressed that MAPACA, through the State Liaison Committee, wants to work through the various State organizations and help sponsor State events.

The overall theme of the discussion by the BOD was that they want to put things into place so that members feel that they get more out of their MAPACA membership. These committees are the tools by which the BOD feels this objective can be met.

After the General Membership Meeting, Wade Gease again took the podium, this time to speak with members on the subject, *Polishing Your Show Ring Skills*. Again Wade spoke to a wide eyed audience ready to take in all he had to share. Speaking of the change to a 60/40 rule in judging, Wade said that he sees more variation in the fleece of animals shown before him, and less variation in conformation. He pointed out that before a show, you should take note of what you need to pay attention to. Make sure you have your numbers correct. Prepare ahead of time.

Keeping your pen space area clean is important. Rake it up often and use fans to help blow debris off your animals. Make sure that you work with your animals on leading before the show. Wade said that he trains his crias when they are young. Make sure the halter fits properly. Never hold the clip on the

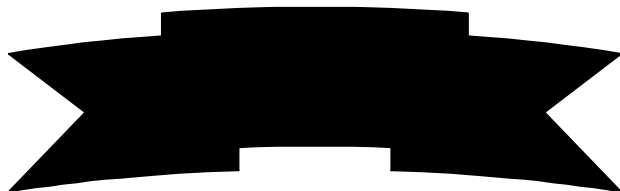
lead line; alpacas have been known to escape when a clip opens up in the show ring. Wear subdued colors so as not to draw attention to yourself and away from your alpaca! Don't wear anything that will distract your alpaca, such as dangling things. Wear close toed shoes. Remember to breath!

Before entering the ring, use the time you are standing as next up, to position your animal to show off its best qualities. After you start entering the ring, make sure that you walk in a straight line in whatever pattern the judge has indicated. Keep your eye on something on the other side of the ring and walk toward it; when the handler walks straight so does the alpaca. Don't let the alpaca lead you. Lead the alpaca in such a way as to make him hold his head erect, rather than dragging him with his head down. Pay attention to the judge and don't be lackadaisical. Don't move your animal around too much. Show respect for other people in the ring. Keep a distance between you and the animal next to you. When the judge approaches, you should automatically go for the teeth to show him. When you show the teeth, actually show the gum line. This is what the judge needs to see. Say the age of the alpaca in months if you are asked. Hold the animal for inspection; don't expect the judge to do this. Do not address the Judge. If you need to speak to someone, speak to the gate keeper or the ring steward. If your animal is unruly, it will cause it to be lower ranked and may even result in expulsion from the ring. Don't talk with other breeders while in the ring. Don't leave the ring or go up to ringside to talk to someone. Be professional. If the judge mentions your animal, take a step up and be seen.

I'm sure there were other tips that Wade offered, but these are some. Make sure you are at the next meeting so that you don't miss a single thing.

Following Wade's final discussion, Carol Pfister conducted a drawing to award the door prizes, which included two gift baskets and two certificates for a free MAPACA Membership and two free ads in the MAPACA Newsletter. Winners of the baskets were Sherry McEvoy of Alpaca Pastures of Virginia in VA and David and Lori Moran of Crimson Shamrock Alpacas in WV. Caroline Johnson of Mill View Mountain Alpacas, in PA and Paul Beasley of Alpacas of Brenton Hill, in PA won the membership certificates.

All in all, the meeting was a wonderful event and free to all members. I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of these quarterly meetings. As Carol said, get involved!



Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a short description and contact information. This will be a free service to current MAPACA members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

- 1. Alpaca Equipment:** chutes, scales, hay saver feeders, Tooth-A-Matic, shearing tables, Pro-Tie & mats, panels & gates See our insert in this month's Newsletter or visit us on-line at www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay Ward of AuSable Valley Alpacas at 518-524-0545.
- 2. Transportation Services** from Origins Alpaca Ranch: Private Transport, Emergency 24/7 Transport and "The Show String" - Will transport your alpacas to shows and show them on your behalf. **If interested contact Mike Kober at 908-239-8676 or mike@originsalpacaranch.com.**
- 3. Non-Breeder Boarding**—Fenwick Manor Farm is now offering a discounted boarding option for non-breeder alpacas. In our lush 5 acre pasture, alpacas have plenty of grass and room to roam. One nominal fee covers a year of boarding, basic shots and shearing. Save your pasture space for your ladies! Let us care for your fiber Animals. **Contact Katharine Thompson, Fenwick Manor Farm in New Lisbon, NJ—FMFAlpacas@Fenwick.net.**
- 4. Custom Fleece Processing**—Rovings (loose or center pull bump), batts, various weights of yarn or felt sheets available. The Fiber Factory, 1086 Industrial Park Road, Hornell, NY 14843. **Call Wendy at 607-382-7811 or contact us at east-valley-alpacas@eznet.net or www.east-valley-alpacas.com.**
- 5. Transportation and Showing Services** provided by Warford Creek Alpacas, LLC. No trailer or time to show your alpacas? Let us Transport and Professionally show your alpaca (s) for you. We will be attending all the Spring and Fall shows for 2007, so book early. **Contact Deborah Hoff at 908-996-2128 or 980-894-8044.**
- 6. Advertise your alpacas for sale, herdsires or alpaca equipment or services on our highly ranked website. Go to www.MountAiryAlpacas.com/ads.html for more information.**
- 7. Alpaca Care DVD**—shots teeth & toenail trimming, birth, breeding, comprehensive segment on shearing and shearing equipment and more. **Contact Kate Perez 301-607-9129 or www.mountairyalpacas.com/.**

Calendar of Events

March 17, 2007 10AM-3PM—Alpaca Heritage Sampler for Success: "Practical Barn Layout" by Kate McKelvie, "Breeding for Color" by Ingrid Wood, and "Showing Your Alpacas" by Yvette Kirilenko. \$50 per person, includes lunch. Seminars will help you succeed in important aspects of alpaca husbandry, breeding, and showing. **www.AlpacaHeritage.com for registration form/directions. Contact Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696 or Yvette at ysk@att.net.**

March 31 & April 1, 2007 OPEN HOUSE at Annapaca farm/The Alpaca Shop LLC in Hagerstown MD. From 10 am to 4 pm both days; Ten Western Maryland breeders will have alpacas on show and for sale. Free seminars on alpaca related topics. Free raffle! Alpaca fleece, yarn, and products for sale. **Information e-mail or call—Bert or Ann Kramer at: bertkram@aol.com or 301-824-2840. For directions www.annapaca.com/**

April 15, 2007—ALPACA BUDGET CAPER—ABC SHOW:

Come to the first AOPA Certified level 1 show in New Jersey. To be held in Ringoes, New Jersey. Come join the fun! For information www.alpacaheritage.com or call 609-261- 0696.

April 14, 2007--Sedalia Spring Fiber Festival-- Celebrate natural fiber with a wonderful day filled with all of our favorite fiber animals, fascinating classes, informative exhibits and demonstrations. Elite vendors feature raw fiber of every type, supplies and equipment, and gorgeous finished goods. Music and fun food in a beautiful country setting round out the day. Plan to attend and participate www.springfiberfestival.com/

April 21-22, 2007—Camelidynamics Clinic— presented by Marty McGee at Glengary Farm in Bath (Akron) Ohio. For information and reservations www.glengaryfarmalpacas.com/ click on event button.

April 27-29, 2007—MAPACA JUBILEE, 2007 - Check-in April 26. Come experience one of the largest alpaca shows in the world! To be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. **Information - www.mapaca.org.**

MAY 11-13, 2007—Seventh Annual Spring Fling Alpaca Auction at WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, NJ. Easy to choose, easy to buy, easy to get to, the Spring Fling Auction is the auction of choice for you to attend! Excellent seminars with NEW information important to breeding and industry! **RSVP today at www.starevents.com or call Brent and Linda Berry Walker at 609-397-2212.**

Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR VETERINARIAN!

The Board of Directors of MAPACA is delighted to announce the establishment of an annual program to support continuing education for camelid veterinarians serving alpaca owners in the MAPACA region. Grants will be available up to \$1000 per session to attend camelid educational programs. Includes travel expenses, meals, rooming as well as the conference. Grants are limited to one per year for each veterinarian. In the case of veterinary practices, only one grant per practice per program. Feel free to contact Alice Brown, Recording Secretary, with any questions you may have.

Funds will be available retroactively for programs already attended in 2006. The Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Application is available on the MAPACA website. Please submit the completed application to Alice Brown. The applications will then be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. MAPACA requests that all recipients prepare a brief summary of the program, within 2 weeks of attending, to be shared with the MAPACA membership on the MAPACA website. These summaries will be archived and kept on the website for future reference as well.

Print out the application on line from the MAPACA website (www.mapaca.org) and give it to your veterinarian to fill out and send to:

**Alice Brown
458 Main Road
Vineland, NJ 08360**

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.

Any AOBA affiliate or any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers may place an insert AD in the MAPACA Newsletter at a cost of **\$200.00**.

Please send copies of your ad, 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. When you send inserts, do not require that I have to sign for them! **Any questions email Alice Brown: fpalpacas@aol.com or call: 856-697-8127.**

"I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the "lower animals" (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me."

– Mark Twain

Please send your comments, articles, or submissions to
Alice Brown at:
Fpalpacas@aol.com.