



MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Newsletter

July 2007

Volume 7, issue 7

President's Message:

Hello MAPACA members:

Please mark your calendars to join us at the July 15th membership meeting in Cooperstown, NY. The Ommegang Brewery will be the setting for our gathering. The Cooperstown area has a wonderful array of doings and goings on for the whole family during the summer months. The seminar at the meeting will be presented by BreedWorks on Internet Marketing. Please check the MAPACA email you received last week for full details and contact Kathy Schwartz at simplyalpaca@aol.com or 540 908-7420 for questions and RSVP's. As usual the BOD looks forward to the opportunity to present another fine seminar free to our members and meet you face to face.

It's a busy time for MAPACA. We have updated and prepared the By-Laws for your signatures and they will be out to you shortly. As a part of our effort to move forward and finally close the door on

the IRS audit and protect ourselves for the future, we have been advised by our legal council that we need signed By-Laws on file. It is imperative that you read them, sign them and RETURN your ballot as soon as possible.

Election time is just around the corner for the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in running for the Board should contact Kathy Schwartz immediately. Keep an eye out for the ballots later in the summer. It's a great way to give to your organization. If you can't run for the Board get on a Committee!

Remember our Annual meeting is on October 21, 2007 so please clear your calendar for that day. Location to be determined. If you feel your area of the MAPACA footprint is under represented, let us know, we are open for suggestions. Do you have suggestions for the seminar topics at the membership meetings? We would love to hear your ideas.

If you haven't heard yet, AOBA has initiated a National Farm day in September on the 29th and 30th. Go to <http://www.nationalalpacaфарmday.com> to read all about it and get your farm listed. There will be national advertising for the event and your farm will be listed under "Find a Farm Near You" once you register. Get in on it and have a great farm day!

Hope to see you all in Cooperstown.

Carol Pfister
President

Table of Contents

President's Message:	pg. 1
Editor's Ramblings:	pg. 2
Get a Load of This!:	pg. 3
MAPACA Meeting Schedule:	pg. 3
Synopsis: Alpaca Fiber to Market:	pgs. 4 & 5
Calendar of Events:	pg. 6
MAPACA Meeting 7/15/07 Details:	pg. 6
Classified:	pg. 7
AFCNA Fleece Show:	pg. 8
Camelid Vet. Continuing Ed. Grant Program:	pg. 8
Advertise in the MAPACA Newsletter:	pg. 8



MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Carol Pfister
Whirlybird Alpacas, NJ
(908) 303-3670
carol@whirlybirdalpacas.com
- Vice-President:** Bob Ciszewski
Almost Heaven Alpacas, WV
(304) 496-1073
almsthvn@frontiernet.net
- Secretary:** Wayne Robinson
Emelise Alpacas, NJ
(908) 537-7935
info@emelisealpacas.com
- Members at Large:** Chuck Gulotta
Arcadia Hollow Alpaca Farm,
MD
(410) 374-6649
gulotta@kennedykrieger.org
- Monica Kline
a Suri Farm, ltd., PA
(717) 933-9922
info@asurifarm.com
- David Moran
Crimson Shamrock Alpacas,
WV
(304) 735-6128
dddmoran@aol.com
- Kathy Schwartz
Blue Earth River Farm Alpacas,
VA
(540) 234-0306
simplyalpaca@aol.com
- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
(856) 697-8127
fpalpacas@aol.com

Editor's Ramblings:

I've decided that alpacas know what they are doing. After all, as a breed they have been doing alpaca things for thousands of years. Us breeders seem to like to micromanage their lives, their environment, and their social schedule.

Last week I had a female that the vet said was pregnant with a progesterone of 3.49. However, on ultrasound exam, no fetus was found. I presumed retained CL, but figured I'd wait and see. Every time I had to do something with a male, I would run him through the girls pasture and see what sort of responses I would get from the girls. This particular girl has been spitting off vehemently since her one and only breeding last October. She spit off as recently as this past Thursday.

Night before last though, I heard orgling coming from the barn. The next morning all the boys were attentive at the fence line. I thought, hmmm, something's going on here. I thought it was just the hormonal change from the girl that was overdue indicating that she would give birth in a day or two.

With shots due for the boys, I proceeded to take one volunteer through the girls pasture. The maiden in question ran right over, gave a sniff and as he started to orgle, she dropped like a lead sinker. My eyes bulged out of my head as I pulled the boy off and ran to get tail wrap for her and yelled for Fred to come and help. We needed to do a breeding.

After a 23 minute breeding, this supposed pregnant maiden girl, who really didn't look pregnant to me, walked away with a smirk on her face, as the boy thought to himself, "I told you so!"

So with breeding season winding down, I hope all your girls are pregnant that need to be pregnant. I hope mine are too! Please mark your calendar for July 15th up in Cooperstown. I'll look forward to seeing you there. Should be a nice day for all.

You will be receiving your MAPACA election materials the first week in August. Make sure that you vote for the candidates of your choice.

Have a COOL summer! (We can only hope!)

Best, Alice Brown

Get a Load of This!

*By Ingrid Wood, Stormwind Alpacas, Columbus,
New Jersey*

Compared to other livestock industries on our continent, the North-American alpaca community is young. However, it is not brand spanking new, so folks, it's high time to dispense with the color genetics fairy tales. The most recent auction catalog to arrive at our farm once again had breeders boasting about their alpaca being "loaded with black genetics".

Most black alpacas are recessive blacks. They inherit their fiber's black pigment from both parents. The sire contributes a *single* Agouti allele (gene) to the cria. The dam does likewise. There is no such thing as an alpaca "loaded" with genes coding for black. The black animal out of two red/fawn parents is (color wise) genetically identical to a recessive black alpaca out of two black parents, four black grand parents, eight black great-grandparents... go back one hundred generations if you wish.

Sorry to burst the bubble of the creators of these fairy-tales, but dominant black alpacas are not "loaded" either. At the Extension locus, parents also only pass on *one* allele each to their offspring. There is absolutely *no* steady, continuous, generational accumulation of alleles coding for black. Of course, a dominant black stud or female may be homozygous for that trait, but homozygosity can be achieved in one generation.

Since all colors/patterns are acceptable in the alpaca industry, it is not crucial for alpaca breeders to grasp the concepts of color genetics. That should not give breeders license to fabricate genetic profiles. The inheritance of color genes is a science, not an area where breeders should "invent" facts as they please.

There are financial ethics as well. In one case

that I am personally aware of, buyers were duped into paying more for an alpaca supposedly "loaded" with desirable "black genes".

If you wish to use professional breeder nomenclature to gain credibility in the industry, please educate yourself. No time to read and study? Then simply describe the alpaca's color as it is! In my opinion, that's perfectly acceptable. As the circle of knowledgeable breeders widens, such a straight forward but honest statement will be more credible than the one "loaded" with bull.

Ingrid Wood may be reached at 609-261-0696. For more information on color genetics, visit www.StormwindAlpacas.com



A black alpaca is a black alpaca. WGA Apache.
*Photo By Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas,
Vineland, NJ.*

MaPaca Meeting

Schedule—2007

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.

Synopsis:

Alpaca Fiber to Market

By Jillian Ramsay Stern, Ramsay's Alpacas,
Butler, PA

By now, most of you will have received your copies of *Alpacas Magazine*. In it you'll see an article about the North Carolina State University, College of Textiles round table discussion with various people from the alpaca industry. It was a very informative and lively seminar. I found myself thinking that it was well worth the expense and small inconvenience of going.

The industry was well represented in all of its aspects. There were mill owner/operators (including the late and missed Glenn Berns), shearers, students, an international fiber processing machine importer and his wife, a local agricultural extension agent/professor, fiber artists, fiber herd owners, AFCNA officials, AOBA officials and last but not least, many alpaca owner/breeders from as far away as Colorado. MAPACA was well represented by about six members. Matched with this all star cast was a strong representation by the College itself. The Dean of the College of Textiles Dr. A. Blanton Godfrey was there as well Dr. Helmut Hegerth. John Anderson, Director of the East Campus, Textile Technology Center, a research partner with NC State University, College of Textiles was also there. His facility was the "long fiber" one,



Helmut Hegerth describing the process of making yarn and weaving it into fabric.

Photo by Jillian Ramsey Stern, Ramsay's Alpacas,
Butler, PA



One of the wonderful machines that they have at NC State University, College of Textiles.

Photo by
Jillian
Ramsay
Stern,
Ramsay's
Alpacas,
Butler, PA

whereas the College of Textiles' equipment was mainly geared to "short fiber" processing. Emily Parker, who handled most of the PR for the College ran the discussion part of the meeting. There were many support staff taking notes and doing all the behind the scenes work that this type of meeting requires. The first part of the round table discussion was a series of presentations by Dr. Hegerth, Director Anderson, Daryl Goodrich and finally Dean Godfrey. The presentations were quite effective, informative and bluntly, mind blowing.

We then went on a tour about the facilities which was even more impressive. There were hydraulic-powered looms (one of them made a sort of green shiny cloth, which I found out later was from recycled Seven-Up bottles!), spinning machines that were able to spin short fibers (possibly good for our animals' neck fibers that we've not been doing much with?), felting machines (they even felt kevlar!), fabric design labs, loaded with computers and printers. In short, a totally complete and impressive facility/laboratory. We never got to see the "burn room" where first responder outfits and protective gear was tested.

The discussion, after we got back from our tour, was lively and most informative. We, the alpaca industry are, probably as you read this, being put in

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

the College's huge data base system as a resource for manufacturers and researchers. This data base is accessed by just about the whole international fiber industry for possible sources and uses for all sorts of fibers from all over the world.

We did find that much of our information has not really been codified and collected in such a way as to have an industry wide standard of reference. One of the reasons is that we are still growing, discovering and learning. But a formal frame of reference that could be flexible enough to be continually updated is sorely needed by us and those who wish to learn about our industry's needs as well as technical information. One example that pointed this out was trying to ascertain what the costs of a purely fiber herd would be. In other words, how many animals were needed to get past the financial break even point. Another aspect of this problem was brought out by the agricultural extension agent/professor who was surprised at the lack of uniformity in nutritional and health information.

One of our first tasks should be to get as much of this information as we have and collate and centralize it in order to facilitate effective cost and budget studies of the different aspects of our industry.

Other strong points were:

A stronger concept and identification of the "greenness" of our product and linking up with pub-



Cotton rovings being drawn up to be made into cotton thread for weaving.

Photo by Jillian Ramsay Stern, Ramsay's Alpacas, Butler, PA



MAPACA members who attended the Alpaca Fiber to Market brain storming session (from left to right): Al Beatty, Jovi Larson, Alice Brown, Daryl Goodrich, Rosemarie Eiler, and Alan Rosenbloom. *Photo by Jillian Ramsay Stern, Ramsay's Alpacas, Butler, PA*



lic figures that have come out as committed to the support of "green" products (Bono, Ellen de Generis, and others).

Thinking of alpaca fiber usage in terms of blends with other materials for uses that are not necessarily related to fashion, but for things such as home insulation, binders for asphalt tiles (probably much of the fiber that we throw out would be good for this usage), blinds, drapes (again with insulating properties), and because of its natural flame resistance, protective clothing for babies, seniors and first responders.

After the meeting, there were promises of "This has to keep going. We have to keep this up." There was a heady feeling, almost like we were getting ready for the next leap forward in our industry.

A final and important note. Much deserved thanks and applause to Erin McCarthy for starting this whole thing and getting it going. It was she who donated a huge amount of fiber to the college and with her constant communication with the college, was most instrumental in getting this round table discussion started.

MAPACA Membership Meeting

Internet Marketing presented by BreedWorks
Sunday, July 15, 2007

Brewery Ommegang, Cooperstown, NY

Registration Time: 11-11:30am

Brewery Tour Prior to Lunch

Lunch to Follow at 12 Noon

Seminar & Membership Meeting to follow.

Please RSVP to Kathy Schwartz at (540) 908-7420 or simplifyalpaca@aol.com by July 5th.

Brewery: <http://www.ommegang.com/>

Area Hotels: [http://hasu.biz/index.cfm?](http://hasu.biz/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=14)

[fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=14](http://hasu.biz/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=14)

The next MAPACA meeting, hosted by HaSu Ranch Alpacas, will be held in Upstate New York at Brewery Ommegang. Nestled in the rolling hills of Cooperstown, Brewery Ommegang is the only Brewery in America dedicated to producing all bottle-conditioned Belgian style ales. Cooperstown, thought of more often as the home to America's favorite pastime, was once the center of a bustling hop economy.

In October of 1997, not far from the birthplace of baseball, ground was broken for what was to become America's most unique microbrewery. Based on traditional Belgian farmhouse architecture and set on a former hop farm in upstate New York, Brewery Ommegang was born with the philosophy that truly unique ales must be built from the ground up. Now brewing five award-winning Belgian-style ales and offering daily tours and tastings, Brewery Ommegang is the place where brewing is an art and partaking is a passion.

Along with the sweet scent of brewing hops, MAPACA members will be treated to a seminar on Internet Marketing presented by BreedWorks. The Internet has become the most popular and most vital marketing tool for small (and large) businesses today. No other marketing channel offers the depth and breadth of service, potential, and effectiveness. Off-line marketing like print ads and direct mail do still serve a purpose, but if you do not have a coordinated internet marketing strategy, you cannot effectively reach or serve your customers. This class will survey the many available internet marketing options and will help you put these services to work for your alpaca farm – immediately!

Calendar of Events

August 3 & 4, 2007– National Elite Alpaca Auction—Hosted by Cas-Cad-Nac Farm LLC, Sunset Hills Farm Alpacas, Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Co. The first National Elite Alpaca Auction will be the alpaca enthusiast event of the year! You are invited to come experience an unforgettable weekend at the Virginia Alpaca Farm in Leesburg, VA. The hosts will be joined by 17 other top breeders from across the country in offering some of the very best alpacas their breeding programs have ever produced! **Contact Ian Lutz 802-263-5740 or Laurie Feller 724-586-2412 www.elitealpacauction.com.**

August 4 & 5, 2007 -AFCNA Continental Fleece Show being held in beautiful Niagara Falls, New York. **See page 8 of this Newsletter for details.**

August 25 & 26, 2007—Alpacas—All Things Considered (Day One) and Advanced Alpaca Reproduction (Day Two) - 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Location: Leitersburg Activity Center, Leitersburg, MD. Cost: \$150 for one day, \$250 for 2 days. For more details and/or to register please contact **Tracy Barlup at tbarlup@longmeadowvet.com or 301-797-0450.**

September 22 and 23, 2007—Camelid Dynamics Clinics with Dorothy Hunt (attend one or both days)- Columbus, New Jersey. For details and sign-up form, visit **www.StormwindAlpacas.com or call 609-261-0696.**

October 6, 2007—7th Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale. To be held at Terhune Orchards, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540. A private treaty sale in an idyllic setting, with free seminars sponsored by 20 Mid-Atlantic breeders. For more information visit: **www.AlpacaHeritage.com** .

November 10, 2007—Fiber Seminar with Winnie Labrecque—Fleece Show (certification pending). Bordentown, New Jersey. For registration form and further details visit: **www.AlpacaHeritage.com.**

C lassified 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:** Destron microchips, Premier shearing machines, combs & cutters, scales by Salter-Brecknell & Arlyn, chutes, hay saver feeders, bar & mesh panels, gates, travel pens, & shearing tables by MSA; alpaca restraints by Pro-Tie; & tooth trimmers by Tooth-A-Matic. See our insert in this month's Newsletter. **Visit us online at www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay Ward of AuSable Valley Alpacas at 866-999-2821.**
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@originalpacaranch.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/ .**

C lassified Ads:

8. **Tis the season for alpacas to become naked.** If you do your own shearing and would like to save your back and make the job significantly easier, we have a shearing table for sale. Our table is the Totara Grove Shearing Table that was developed in New Zealand. We have used this table for 5 seasons and it is in excellent condition; comes with a shearing guide and a video. It's a steal at \$1,600. If you would like to become the new owner, arrangements can be made for delivery. **Call Bob or Lee of Almost Heaven Alpacas at 304-496-1073.**
9. **Shearing Table**—Excellent condition, used 1 season for 12 animals. Asking \$850.00. **Call 302-381-6062.**
10. **Boarding or Long Term Leasing of Farm Land for Your Alpacas**—The Farm at Rainbow's End, located in Lafayette, New Jersey, in Sussex County offers Boarding or the opportunity of Leasing Land for your Alpaca Farm. With 60 Acres of pasture and Woodlands available, there are unlimited possibilities for structuring your own design or simply to integrate your herd with ours. We also have 75 acres dedicated to growing Premium Orchard Grass Hay. Our Complete Package is Full Care including Veterinary Services on the Farm. Facilities include a Maternity Barn. Dr. Lori Walker DVM co-owns and lives on the farm. Call or visit us and make the Farm at Rainbow's end your alpacas home. **Contact Larry Scheer at 973-903-8624 or email larryscheer@earthlink.net.**
11. **Second Cutting Orchard Grass Hay.** Pre-Buy your orchard grass from The Farm at Rainbow's end. Buy at \$4.00 per bale and we will hold it for you. Never run out. **Contact Larry at 973-903-8624 or email larryscheer@earthlink.net.**
12. **Alice Y. Brown—Freelance Writing Services**—If you need something written and don't have the time to do it, **call Alice at 856-697-8127 or 856-305-7059.** Also, secretarial services available.
13. **Big Sky Alpacas Ranch for Sale**—Downsizing and relocating to PA near grand-children. Magnificent 6 acre "Gentleman's Farm", home, barn and property in Southern New Jersey. MLS listing #4960739. Also available with part of our alpaca herd. Contact Paul at 856-223-0570. Recommendation fee for MAPACA member, commission on any alpaca sales.

AFCNA Show

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the upcoming 2007 AFCNA Continental Fleece Show being held August 4th and 5th, 2007 in beautiful Niagara Falls, New York.

You won't want to miss this exciting fleece show. Along with the opportunity to win the Spirit Award, you will have the chance to attend a seminar hosted by Dr. Helmut Hergeth of the North Carolina Textile College. The new ideas and opportunities for our fleece market that he is willing to share with us will leave you excited and more interested than ever in alpaca fleece. **AND** we are accepting mail-ins. Please join us for this informative and action packed fleece show. A great fleece show and a weekend in beautiful Niagara Falls. What a two-pak! The site for this show is www.alpacawebsite.com. I look forward to receiving your entry forms.

Al Beatty
bellaseraalpacas@msn.com

Calling our volunteers!

Once again I am calling upon my faithful volunteers of the past, and any new people interested in volunteering, for the AFCNA Fleece Show. This show is being held in Niagara Falls, New York on August 4-5, 2007. Please join Al and me for another exciting fleece show. Let's enjoy Niagara Falls and the show together. Please contact me either by telephone 410 635-3862 or by e-mail at bellaseraalpacas.com.
Thanks! **Catherine**

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

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.

Any AOBFA affiliate may advertise their event for \$200. 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.**

Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR VET!

The MAPACA Board of Directors has established a program to support continuing education for camelid veterinarians serving alpaca owners in the MAPACA region. Grants will be available up to **\$1000** 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. Contact Alice Brown, with any questions.

Funds will be available retroactively for programs attended in 2006. The Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Application is available at: www.mapaca.org. **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