



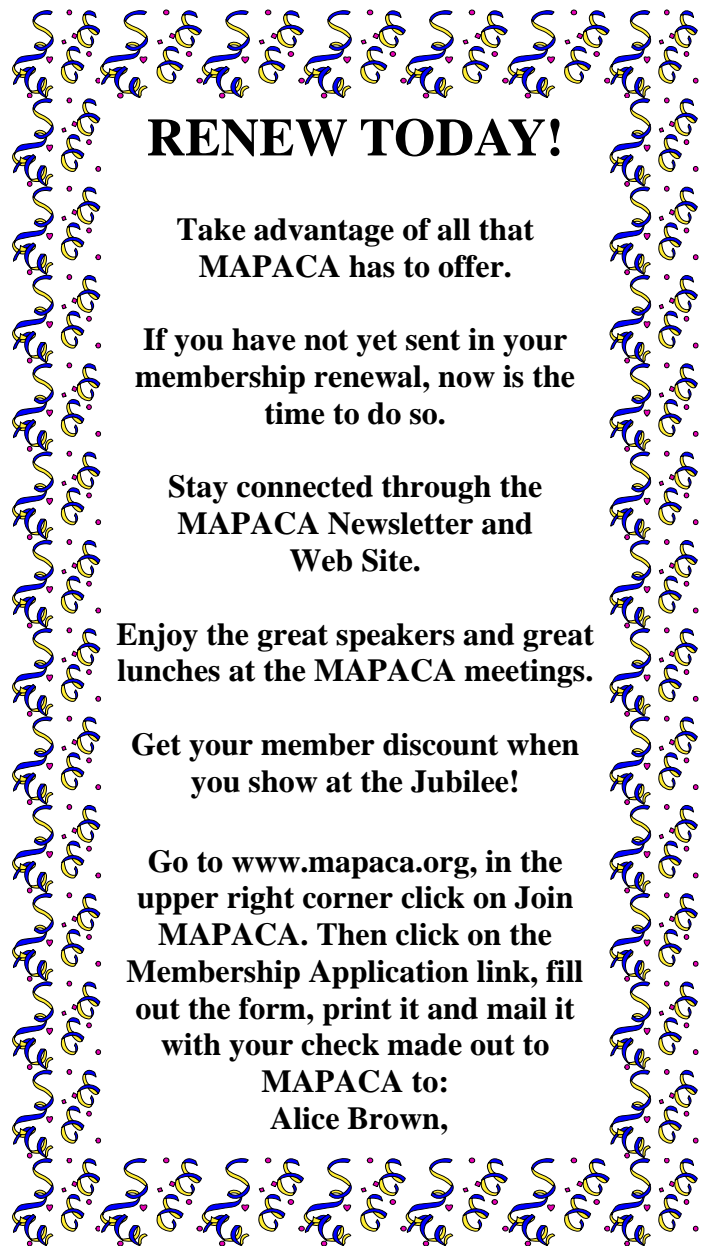
President's Message:

Over the past few newsletters I have given the membership an insight into what the Board of Directors have been planning and how we have gone about doing so. I urge you to join us at the next quarterly membership meeting at the New Bolton Center in Pennsylvania on February 10th to hear how we are progressing with our initiatives. Our guest speaker, Dr. Walter Bravo, will present on the topic of alpaca reproduction. You will also have an opportunity to hear about the services the New Bolton Center offers to alpaca breeders.

Our organization is fortunate to bring speakers such as Dr. Bravo to our membership meetings as a benefit to our members. When you think about the quality of our meetings and speakers over the past year it is also important to realize these meetings are of no cost for our members to attend. This is in large part due to those who sponsor the Jubilee. I want to thank those who have sponsored our show over the years and with the 2008 Jubilee registration soon upon us, I ask for us all to review the sponsor opportunities available. More information regarding

registration will be made available to the membership by way of this newsletter, our website, and email communications. I hope you will all join us in April for another outstanding Jubilee!

Wayne Robinson
MAPACA President



RENEW TODAY!

Take advantage of all that MAPACA has to offer.

If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal, now is the time to do so.

Stay connected through the MAPACA Newsletter and Web Site.

Enjoy the great speakers and great lunches at the MAPACA meetings.

Get your member discount when you show at the Jubilee!

Go to www.mapaca.org, in the upper right corner click on Join MAPACA. Then click on the Membership Application link, fill out the form, print it and mail it with your check made out to MAPACA to:
Alice Brown,

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April 24 – 27, 2008

**Pennsylvania State Farm Show Complex
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Planning on coming to the MAPACA Jubilee in April? Here are a few quick facts about Harrisburg.

- Harrisburg is the capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Founded in 1785 by John Harris
- Home to approximately 50,000 residents within the city limits
- Metropolitan area approximately 650,000
- Harrisburg is located along the Susquehanna River
- Close to tourist destinations: Hershey, Gettysburg and Lancaster
- Known as a transportation hub because of its close proximity to Philadelphia, New York, DC and the Northeast.
- On your way to town check out www.PennLive.com for Harrisburg news and weather.

Things to do while you're here:

Brush up on your Pennsylvania history and take a trip to the Pennsylvania State Museum.

Indulge the chocoholic in you and visit Hershey's Chocolate World.

Are you a Civil War buff? A visit to Gettysburg might be just the ticket?

If you're not a chocoholic you may be a shopaholic. Then stop by the outlets in Lancaster. While you're there learn more about the Amish.

New Bolton Center

New Bolton Center (NBC) is part of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. NBC is located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia. The George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals, featuring one of the world's largest equine surgical faculties, is one of the busiest veterinary clinics in the nation. Widener and NBC became the focus of world-wide attention in 2006 when Triple Crown hopeful Barbaro became one of their most famous patients. For farms in the Mid-Atlantic region, NBC is an important resource for animal health. It sees more than 6,000 patients each year on campus and more than 19,000 patients during field visits.

On February 10, MAPACA members and New Bolton veterinarians will join together on The Widener hospital at Alumni Hall where we will have the opportunity to learn from each other. With interest in partnering with alpaca owners and breeders, the veterinarians extended an invitation to the MAPACA membership. NBC staff and students will meet with the membership and share the services offered. Following the meeting, for those who are interested, there will be an opportunity for members to observe a necropsy and ultrasound procedure.

Each day approximately 40 veterinary students in their final year of professional training are in residence at NBC. Students rotate through all clinical areas of the hospital. This experience provides invaluable clinical training in the diagnosis, control, and treatment of animal diseases. The MAPACA BOD is excited to have this opportunity to partner with New Bolton and plan to continue this relationship in the future. As a member, take advantage of this opportunity. The students you meet today just may be your hometown vet tomorrow.

Editor's Ramblings:

Winter has finally arrived and I hope it leaves soon too! Trying to stay warm in single digit temperatures is no fun for humans or alpacas alike.

I'd like to remind those of you who have not yet sent your membership renewal in to me, to do so ASAP. If you are going to the February 10th meeting at New Bolton Center, you can bring your renewal to the meeting. So take a look in your checkbook and if you don't see a check already sent to MAPACA for your renewal, then fill out your check to MAPACA and keep connected!

One of your membership benefits are the free informative meetings that MAPACA provides. With a great lunch as well! Come and hear Dr. Walter Bravo speak on February 10th. See the insert in this Newsletter for further details.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the meeting. If you have an idea for an article for the Newsletter, let me know. I'd much appreciate your contribution.

Stay warm and healthy, Alice Brown

MAPACA Membership Meeting Dr. Walter Bravo on Alpaca Reproduction

On Sunday, February 10, MAPACA will host Dr. P. Walter Bravo who will speak about Alpaca Reproduction. According to his website, Dr. Bravo is a consulting veterinarian with advanced studies on the physiology of reproduction of llamas and alpacas. He has extensive research and clinical experience both in Peru and the USA. Dr. Bravo has authored many papers in scientific literature and layman journals. He has written chapters of reproductive topics in many books and lately has written his own book titled *The Reproductive Process of South American Camelids*. In addition to research and teaching, he has also worked as a clinician for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at UC Davis, and lately, for Alpacas of America - one of the largest alpaca operations in the USA.

Fairy Bells! – How Tiger Learned to “See”.

*By Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas,
Vineland, New Jersey*

The weather had been humid and warmer than normal temperatures prevailed in the month of September, 2006 in the Mid-Atlantic region of the East Coast. I spent time hosing the alpacas and ran the fans on the warmer days, which was not really normal for that time of the year. With four pregnant females ready to deliver between October 18th and November 1, I wanted to make sure no one was feeling the effects of the extended heat.

On the evening of September 28th I fed everyone as usual and everyone ate their food just fine. However, a few hours later, at bed check around 11 PM, I noticed one of my girls was looking rather uncomfortable kushed next to the hay bin. I watched her for a few minutes and then thought, “Well, she is not due until October 18th. It’s probably just the baby lying in an uncomfortable position or perhaps the baby is rotating in the uterus getting ready for delivery in about three weeks.” That’s not so unusual, I’ve seen others get particularly uncomfortable about three weeks out from delivery. I went to bed.

Next morning found me busy with phone calls and getting things done around the house. I didn’t get out to the barn until 10 AM. Within minutes of getting outside, it was obvious that this uncomfortable female was in labor. I called the vet and told her I had a female in premature labor and asked her to come as quickly as possible.

When the vet arrived she found the cria was in a kushed position with head back. She pulled the head around and straightened out the legs. The baby was born a few minutes later. He seemed quite alert and although he looked small, he was kushed and looking for mom in a few minutes. His ears were floppy and turned inside out at the tips. He weighted almost 11 pounds. When he stood, after about 2 hours, he was down on his pasterns, but at least he was up and trying to nurse on mom. After about 20 minutes of learning how to walk around he latched on to mom and she had plenty of milk. His temperature was also up to normal range by that time. We felt pretty confident that this little guy would be just fine.

Over the first three days he lost a little weight, but by day 4 he was back up to his birth weight.

And he was just fine for a few days, but on day three, he crashed. He was just walking along and fell over and that was it. He could hardly lift his head. I called the vet

and she had me start him on antibiotics immediately. Within a short while he seemed to rally and was up nursing again within two hours. His temperature was still normal. That night I spent in the barn, making sure he was nursing and remained OK. He nursed about every two hours throughout the night. We continued the antibiotics and I also gave him probiotics.

On day five he seemed to be feeling well, but then we noticed that he was running into the fence. He hadn’t done that before. We called the vet again. His weight was good; he had gained a half a pound. He was nursing well, but seemed to not be able to see well. The vet came and looked in his eyes. She wasn’t sure what was going on, but there obviously was a problem, perhaps some sort of infection that had settled in his eyes. She gave us some ophthalmic antibiotic and added medicine to dilate his eyes. We continued with the systemic antibiotic shots as well. I slept in the barn again to make sure he could find his mom to nurse.

On day six, his eyes did not seem to be improving, so the vet had us use a steroid medication for his eyes. She also changed his systemic antibiotic as the one we were using didn’t seem to be helping. That evening I noticed some blood in his eyes. We called the animal ophthalmologist. He felt an underlying systemic infection was causing the infection in the eyes and until we cleared that infection up, his eyes would not improve. We continued with the ophthalmic steroid antibiotic and the next day, day seven, the vet again changed his antibiotic shots to another kind, a stronger one.

All in all, I spent 8 glorious nights in the barn. We had the animal ophthalmologist out to see Tiger three times and the regular vet was there almost daily. Although we eventually cleared up the little guy’s infection, the doctor said his retinas were damaged and that he would never see again. I cried. The little cria just went about his business of nursing, resting, and exploring his environment as best he could.

I knew I couldn’t stay out in the barn forever helping this cria find his mother so he could nurse. So we made a secure area for him and his dam in the barn and we hung up blankets so that if he ran into the fence he would not hurt himself. I ordered a cow bell for his mother so that he could hopefully learn to find her by listening for her. When the bell came I put it on his mother and whenever he started to search for her to nurse, I would direct him to her and when he got under to nurse, I rang her bell. I did this several times and after only one day he was able to find his mother without me directing him. What a smart little guy. We named him Tiger-eye and call him Tiger because we felt he was a real fighter and would survive his ordeal.

After we finally took Tiger off all the steroid eye

medications and we knew he was responding to the bell on his mother, we let them out with the herd. By this time there were three other crias out in the pasture and I had the bright idea to put little “jingle” bells on them so that Tiger could hear his playmates as well. Of course, their “tinkling” sound would be different from his mother’s loud cow bell.

I had to spend considerable time the first week making sure that Tiger found his mother in the big pasture. However, he did really well, and within a week he would find his mother every time he wanted to nurse. He was also playing with the other crias! I was ecstatic! By the time he was one month old he was up to 30 pounds and he had mastered finding his mother to nurse whenever he wanted. The sound of the “fairy bells,” as I called them, in the pasture, was music to my ears and to Tiger’s ears as well.

There was still one last problem to overcome; how to help Tiger find his way into the barn. Up to this point it was sort of hit or miss. Sometimes he would follow the herd into the barn because he heard the bells. If they ran into the barn or he fell asleep, he would miss his chance to follow them into the barn. I had read a story about a blind llama that South East Llama Rescue had helped. His name was “Young Man.” I called them to ask for their suggestions. They suggested that I put a radio in the barn playing 24/7 to help Tiger hear where the barn was. We also put a wind chime up over the entrance to barn. This would hopefully help Tiger find the barn even when it was windy. It seemed when a storm came up, the sound of the wind and rain would drown out the “fairy bells,” making it nearly impossible for Tiger to orient himself. The wind chime helped, and within about a week of putting it up and putting the radio in the barn, Tiger began to more consistently find his own way into the barn.

Today, Tiger is a happy healthy yearling. I was concerned about weaning him and was hoping to leave him with his dam for as long as possible, but when he was around 9 months old she became open and he decided he would try breeding her! So, I had to wean him. I wasted all that worry, because it didn’t faze him at all. I took the cow bell off his dam and placed it on his best friend. That worked well. He immediately settled in to a routine of grazing with his gelding and young male herd in his new pasture. It didn’t take him any time at all to find his hay bin, his water bucket and his feed bin once I took him around and “showed” him where they were. What a real trooper he was.

I also worked to teach Tiger to come when I called his name and clapped my hands. He does this when he wants to. Sometimes he runs away from me if he doesn’t want to come in. It’s funny right now because he does quite well hearing my foot steps in the dry leaves and he

can actually do pretty good getting away from me if he wants to. Most of the time though, at least at meal times, as soon as he hears me putting out the feed bins, he comes into the barn to where I feed him. I close him in the barn and feed him there so that the others don’t steal his food. Although he does really well holding his own with the others, he is at a distinct disadvantage and that needs to be taken into consideration at meal time.

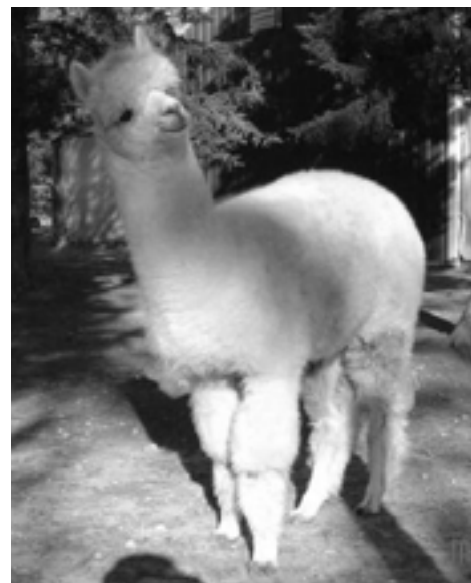
Because weaning him and moving his pasture worked so well, when a buyer came looking for two pet boys, I offered them Tiger and his buddy Tanzanite. I wanted to keep the two boys together. So, Tiger will be going to his new home this coming spring. His new owners are special people who I know will take good care of him and they only live 15 minutes away. Once old enough, Tiger will be gelded so that he won’t ever be picked on by the other boys. Once the testosterone kicks in, Tiger does not need to be dealing with knock down drag out fights. I have faith in his ability to adapt to his new environment as quickly and easily as he did when I moved his pasture for weaning. And of course, his new owners will have the wonderful “fairy bells” in their pasture when they bring their boys home. I’m very proud of Tiger!



Tiger at 2 1/2 weeks old, doing quite well thank you!

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

Tiger today, listening to my camera taking pictures of him! 16 Months old and quite a handsome fellow!



Welcome Our New Members!

**Thomas & Nancy Imphong,
Strawberry Farm Alpacas,
Carlisle, PA**

**Tricia West, Alpacas of West
Haven, Carlisle, PA**

**Richard & Carol Reed, Allen &
Rebecca Rebman,
Over Home Alpacas, LLC,
Bethel, PA**

**Cheryl Stine, Champagne Alpacas,
Hershey, PA**

**Donald Love & Terry Clark,
Atlantico Ranch Alpacas, LLC,
Blairstown, NJ**

**Greg & Terrie Reynolds, Bear
Garden Farms,
Capon Bridge, WV**

**Michael & Kelly Manning,
Limestone Ridge Alpacas,
Camp Hill, PA**

**Tom & Mary Wilson, Pearl Moon
Alpacas, New Windsor, MD**

**Wendy Hermes, Hermes Alpacas,
Midlothian, VA**

**George & Lisa Rudy, Alpacas of
Crabapple Ridge, New Bloomfield,
PA**

Calendar of Events

Feb. 23, 2008—The Suri Advantage—Seminar for New Suri Breeders –8:30AM-4:00PM—Have you been thinking about raising suri alpacas and wonder how to get started? This is the first seminar of its kind on the exquisite suri alpaca. Learn everything you need to know from basic care and management to evaluation of breeding stock. Get answers to all your questions on raising suri alpacas for profit. Preview starter packages. Hosted by Wild Rose Suri Ranch and Chesapeake Alpacas. For more information, info@chesapeakealpacas.com, phone 410-643-1993 or Anderson@WildRoseAlpacas.com. Cost \$75 per person/\$125.00 per couple.

March 15, 2008—Alpaca Heritage Sampler for Success: Pasture Management Seminar and Introduction to Raising Alpacas—Seminar to be held at Eco Complex in Bordentown, NJ—10AM-3PM—\$50 per person (includes lunch) - Call 609-261-0696 for details and visit www.AlpacaHeritage.com to download a registration form.

March 29, 2008—SAFONA NeoNatal Clinic—to be held at the Montgomery County Farm Home & 4H Foundation in Collegeville, PA—10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M. Guest speaker is Missi Cooper, VMD. Cost is \$40.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. For more info and registration forms go to: www.safona.org. If you need further info please call Naomi at 610-273-0220.

May 4, 2008—Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter Show (AOBA certified) - Ringoes, NJ. For more information and entry form: www.AlpacaHeritage.com. Halter Show Superintendent: **Ingrid Wood (609-261-0696 or stormwindalpacas@comcast.net)**, free seminars, free admission to public, small parking fee donation to Hunterdon County 4-H.

May 2, 3, & 4, 2008—New Dates for the Eighth Annual Spring Fling Auction and Golden Fleece Futurity at WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, NJ. Where Champions are bought and sold. New Dates, New Auctioneer. Mark your calendar and reserve these dates. For consignment consideration, send photos to **Star Events, LLC, Post Office Box 275, Stockton, New Jersey 08559.**



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. Shearing Table.** Totara Grove Shearing Table that was developed in New Zealand. With a shearing guide and a "how to" video. Excellent condition. Asking \$850 OBO. **Call Bob or Lee of Almost Heaven Alpacas at 304-496-1073.**
- 2. Shearing Table**—Excellent condition, used 1 season for 12 animals. Asking \$850.00. **Call 302-381-6062.**
- 3. 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 Larry.scheer@yahoo.com .**
- 4. FOR SALE: Male weanling llama**, alert personality, potential guard, silky brown fiber, DOB 5/25/07. Price—\$800.00. Contact: **Aurora Farm—Cindi Hassrick, Ottsville, PA 215-795-2584.**
- 5. Anatolian Shepherd Pups for sale:** DOB Nov. 5, 2007. Being started with alpacas. Both parents are great working dogs. These pups have great personalities and are showing that they are going to be good working dogs even at this young age. This is a Turkish breed, bred solely for livestock guardianship for thousands of years. 3 males and 1 female available. They are rough coated, not smooth coated. **Pictures available at www.forestglenalpacas.com.** Asking price \$1200.00 each now, but as they get older and are trained, the price will change. Discounts on purchases of 2 or more. **Contact Tina Weston, Forest Glen Alpacas, 814-827-2352.**

Membership Committee

Membership dues for 2008 are due. We have added an additional membership level – the Associate Membership level. This level could be utilized by farms located out of our 7-state region, non alpaca owners, vets, vet students or anyone interested in all the benefits a MAPACA membership has to offer.

Our next Membership Meeting will be held on February 10, 2007 at the University of PA, New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA. You don't want to miss *Alpaca Reproduction* by Dr. Walter Bravo. Please mark your calendars and R.S.V.P. early to Kathy Schwartz at (540) 908-7420 or simplyalpaca@aol.com.

February 10th Meeting Schedule:

- 10:00am - 10:30am Registration
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Membership Meeting
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm *Alpaca Reproductive Seminar* - Dr. Bravo
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm New Bolton Center/Hofmann Center for reproduction veterinarian speaks on what the New Bolton Center has to offer Alpaca Breeders.

Next Membership Meeting.... February 10, 2008

At the University of Pennsylvania,
New Bolton Center
Speaker: Dr. Walter Bravo
"Alpaca Reproduction" Seminar

(Classified Continued)

- 6. FARM & Alpacas For Sale:** Timberscombe Farm Alpacas is located in beautiful northeastern PA. The farm consists of 51 acres, home, 2 huge multi-purpose barns and several other outbuildings, and is for sale with or without our herd of 18 alpacas. This is a great opportunity to have a ready-made alpaca business. Farm equipment is also for sale. **Contact Joe or Jackie at 570-549-3030.** You can also visit out AlpacaNation webpage to view our alpacas and dispersal package:
www.alpacanation.com/timberscombefarm.asp .

Camelid Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program

The Veterinarian Continuing Education Grant Program for 2006 and 2007 will no longer be accepting applications. For those that have already sent in applications for those years, all required paperwork must be received by MAPACA by February 28, 2008 in order to receive reimbursement for their 2006 and 2007 applications.

Send all paperwork to:

Alice Brown
458 Main Road
Vineland, NJ 08360

MAPACA JUBILEE 2008 NEWS FLASH!

SPIN-OFFS have been added to the 2008 MAPACA Show. We are excited to announce this new addition to the show and to have Wini Labrecque as our judge. The forms are on www.mapaca.org and please note **the deadline has been extended to**

February 15th. This is a fun, easy way to enter a portion of your fleece (only 2 ounces needed) and showcase your animal. We'll be watching for your entries!

Al Beatty
2008 MAPACA Fleece Show
Superintendent

Please send all 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 AOBA 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.**

Far and away, the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

_____**Teddy Roosevelt**