

MAPACA



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

October 2003

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 10

MaPaca

Officers:

President:

Paul

Connor,

Vice

President:

Jovi Larson,

Treasurer:

A n d y

Schneider,

Secretary:

B r a n d o n

Boyd,

Members at

Large:

Kim

D e V o s ,

Nancy

Johanson,

Nick Melfi.

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

On Sunday October 26, 2003 your new Board of Directors had their second Board meeting in the last 3 weeks. The following agenda items were covered with decisions as noted.

- The official treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. We started the fiscal year with \$63,449. Our ending balance was \$108,850.
- A budget of \$265,000 was approved for Jubilee 2004.
- \$10,000 was budgeted for a mid-winter educational seminar for the MaPaca membership at a time and place to be announced, hopefully in November's newsletter.
- We approved a budget for two regional meetings prior to the Jubilee for the purpose of teaching showmanship techniques to assist owners and breeders in being the best that they can be in the show ring as well as working with their alpacas in general. (We would like to have these meetings in February or March at an indoor facility that can accommodate 10 or 20 alpacas as well as 50 to 100 participants. If anyone has any suggestions or input on this please contact myself, paul@bigskyalpacas.com or Brandon Boyd at ealpaca@aol.com . We would like to do a north central regional meeting, and a south central regional meeting. We have budgeted to rent a facility if need be.)
- The Board voted to expand the eligibility for the 1st Annual MaPaca auction to be held at the Jubilee, to

1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbon winners from the 2003 and 2002 Jubilees. Additionally, 25% of the auction lots will be made available for "juveniles only" and this will be an open class meaning anyone can nominate their juvenile regardless of past participation or show record.

The PA Farm Show: Anyone who would like to participate at the PA Farm Show in January should contact Brandon Boyd and advise of your interest. There are eight show days. Last year 4 farms brought alpacas for 2 days each. We will determine allocation this year based on the number of volunteers. We could also use volunteers to man the booth with the selected farms. There is much good will to be gained for the alpaca industry at the world-renowned livestock show. Ideally we would have representatives of 3 or 4 farms, each of the eight days that the show runs.

Participation is totally voluntary. Any expenses of any nature, other than the actual rental of the booth area, will be the responsibility of the owners and breeders who volunteer. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver of liability as pertains to their alpacas.

Additionally we will have a meeting room on Sunday January 11 for "Alpacas 101" seminars to educate the general public about alpacas. We are attempting to secure a room for daily seminars for this purpose for as many days as possible. This will also require knowledgeable breeders to staff these 1-hour seminars.

The Jubilee Volunteer Committee Chairpersons also met on October 26, 2003. We will report on that meeting and upcoming plans in the next Newsletter.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Paul Connor

President's Message: pg. 1
Annual Meeting Notes: pg. 2
Lions and Tigers and BEARS!/: pg. 3-4

A Little Too Early, One Cria's Story: pg. 6
Calendar of Events & Classified: pg. 7
Veterinary News for the East Coast: pg. 8

Notes Annual General Membership Meeting October 5, 2003:

The election is complete for the BOD positions as follows:

Paul Connor – President;

Jovi Larson – Vice President, Communication and promotion, web site.

Andy Schneider – Treasurer, Andy is up for re-election next year.

Brandon Boyd – Secretary

Alice Brown will be Associate Secretary to take notes at all meetings.

At last years Jubilee the volunteers, Nick and Cristy Melfi, Frieda Goodrich, Kit Hower, Gwen Smith, and many others, all pitched in to defray the over \$20,000 that was spent on salaries for people the previous year.

Currently MaPaca has about \$108,000.

Going into the Farm Complex new building we couldn't spend money before we had it. We need to maintain about \$65,000.-\$70,000.00 in the MaPaca Account. \$280,000 income from Jubilee with \$231,200 expenses. The Farm Show Complex has made increases again. After 2004 Jubilee will have to be first come first serve basis unless we move the Jubilee site, due to lack of space to increase in numbers. We need to look in to MaPaca promotion at regional and national events.

Any suggestions for donations, let the BOD know. We could put a questionnaire in the November Newsletter to ask for suggestions. Nick Melfi – Perhaps an animal at the auction could be donated to a worthy cause. Brandon Boyd – In the past MaPaca made a donation to New Bolton Center for \$3000. For Camelid Research. They have virtually dropped interest in camelids. Alice Brown – Suggestion for donation to Dr. Karen Baum, VA possible. And the Alpaca Research Foundation.

Newsletter Insert Ads. We can now accept insert for an additional \$100 from companies that sell merchandise or services that alpaca breeders may be interested in.

Paul Connor – Differentiation of associate and

life-time members. Life-time member is continuously a member after first joining. Consider making a special membership for those in the 7 states.

Frieda Goodrich – Perhaps drop the discount for MaPaca Members at the Jubilee. Paul Connor – Life-time members will be entitled to the discount.

Cristy Melfi – The 10% discount is good. Brandon Boyd – A complication. Membership within the region are going to be needed. Life-time member

needs clarification. Most shows don't offer a discount to people that are members. Paul

Connor – Out of region breeders should not get discount at Jubilee. And the dues should be paid by a certain date. Put a separate sheet in the Newsletter about the dues and that they must be paid on time.

PA Farm Show contracted for January 10-17.

Paul Connor – Proposed seminars for Saturday January 10th for the general public only. Two or three breeders giving seminars on introduction to

alpacas. Suggest seminars for established breeders at another time and venue. Nick Melfi – Kelly

Zanella is working on this. The purpose is to give education back to the membership. At the PA Farm Show, the booth needs to be manned for 8

days. Darwin Kell – The PA Farm Show has great potential. It's a good opportunity to get exposure. I feel we are not doing as good a job as we could

do. We need people there to answer questions etc. Brandon Boyd – We have the opportunity to rent a room for one day for 3 hours at the PA Farm

Show. Should we better use that room to reach the public. Andy Schneider – Some farmers stay there all week. Most livestock people are not interested

in alpacas. Paul Connor – Ann Lemon manages the volunteer effort for the PA Farm Show. Alpaca 101 could be done by our own members.

Darwin Kell – Willing to help with the PA Farm Show. November Newsletter should ask for local volunteers to help out at the PA Farm Show.

Currently the rooms are already filled up in Harrisburg for the PA Farm Show time slot. We need to look to another time to have the free seminars.

The November Newsletter should ask for local volunteers to help out at the PA Farm Show.

Feature Article:**Lions and Tigers and BEARS!
OH MY!***By Alice Brown*

A distant cousin of mine, Theodore Roosevelt, was the inspiration behind the lovable “Teddy Bear” that most of us had when we were children. Today, many alpaca breeders sell alpaca Teddy Bears. But, what do we do when bears become uncute and are living near our family and farms, even posing a threat to our alpacas?

Some of us live in bear country, and some of us may be living in bear country before long as the black bear continues to widen its range throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. A little knowledge may help us ward off a tragedy.

The black bear has powerful limbs with feet that have five toes with well developed claws on both the front and hind feet. Its teeth are adapted well for feeding on both plants and animals. A typical adult female black bear weighs in at from 100-200 pounds while a male can be much larger at 150-400 pounds. In the eastern United States, black bears range along the Appalachian Mountains from Maine to Florida.

Back in 1999 a black bear attacked a llama in Morris County (northern) New Jersey and the bear had to be tranquilized and removed. At that time it was reported that in 4 incidents of bear attacks in northern New Jersey, the bears involved killed one llama, 4 goats, and 11 chickens. In New Jersey, any bear caught killing an animal would be destroyed on sight. If an animal is not seen killing, but may be implicated in a livestock killing, the bear is trapped, tagged, and given a radio collar to give the bear another chance.

Although bears are considered good for the natural habitat because they eat insects, bees, wasps, and termites, as well as scavenging dead carcasses of wildlife helping to prevent disease spreading, as their population increases, problems arise with their proximity to people and livestock. Predation of livestock by black bears is most common in spring and summer. The most active time for black bears is around dawn and dusk, but they are also fairly active during the day. Usually the animals are solitary, except for females with

cubs. Limited food sources in early spring, accompanied by failures of wild berry and nut crops during summer are major contributing factors to bear predation. Since black bears are omnivorous, they feed on both vegetation and meat. Black bears have been known to attack even adult cattle and horses, but often go after sheep, goats, calves, and pigs. This being the case, our alpacas are also in danger.

When a bear attacks, it will sometimes break the neck or back of its prey with blows from its huge paws. However, normally black bears will kill by biting the neck and shoulder of its prey. Multiple kills of sheep and goats are relatively common. Lactating female animals are a frequent target of bear attacks.

If you see footprints that have five toes with a broad, short pad on the front foot and five toes with a triangular pad on the rear foot, where the rear foot oversteps the front foot in normal travel, you have black bears nearby.

During the breeding season of June and July, male black bears travel extensively throughout their home range looking for females. At these times the bears often pass through populated areas. During November through March female black bears remain dormant, while males are dormant for shorter periods, from late December through early March (at least in New Jersey).

As to numbers, back in 1970 there were fewer than 100 black bears in the state of New Jersey. However, as forested habitat increased and matured through conservation efforts, the numbers grew until today there are at least 1,900 black bears in New Jersey and their numbers continue to increase. In New Jersey, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for managing the black bear population. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife view black bears as an important part of New Jersey's natural heritage and as a vital component of its healthy ecosystem. In 2001, the bears ranged through 140 municipalities in 16 counties of NJ and they are steadily expanding southward and eastward. In New Jersey alone the year 2000 saw 1,375 complaints about black bears as compared to the 285 complaints in 1995.

What can breeders and residents do when they

(Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.)

find themselves living in bear country? It is recommended that farmers exercise good husbandry practices on the farm and around the home keeping things neat and clean. All potential sources of supplemental food such as garbage or refuse, pet foods, bird feeders, suet feeders, or animal remains including birthing material, such as placentas, should be removed promptly.

Make your property less attractive to black bears by making sure all solid waste is disposed of quickly and out of reach of bears. All garbage should be stored in airtight containers in a secure area. Store garbage cans against the inside walls of a garage or basement, or in a secure shed. Wash garbage containers at least once a week with a disinfectant solution to remove any odors. Feed outside dogs and cats only during daylight hours. All uneaten food and scraps, as well as the food bowls, should be removed after feeding. Birdfeeders should be hung in daylight hours preferably between December 1 and April 1, when bears are least active.

During times of black bear activity, domestic farm animals should be moved into protected areas and away from areas with heavy cover. Livestock should be protected with electric fencing, and if necessary kept in barns at night if possible. If possible, maintain well-mowed, cleared corridors around livestock holding areas. The object is to provide less protective covering for bears.

Some non-lethal control methods to prevent or deter black bears from coming into our farm include:

1. Loud noises (such as blowing horns, clapping, shouting, or firecrackers), and bright lights.
2. Permanent electric fencing is recommended to keep black bears out of pastures. The effectiveness of electric fencing can be enhanced by baiting it with peanut butter, bacon grease, or sardine oil.
3. Livestock guardian dogs can ward off depredating black bears.

On a personal level, if a person comes face to face with a black bear, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends remaining calm, as most bears are easily frightened into leaving. Never approach a black bear and always make your presence known through clapping, talking, singing, or shouting. Make sure the bear has an escape route.

If the bear makes huffing sounds, or snaps its jaws and swats the ground, it is warning you that you are too close. Slowly back away from the bear. If a black bear stands up on its hind legs, it is trying to get a better view and is not threatening. Black bears have been known to “bluff charge” when cornered, threatened or trying to get food. In such cases, again slowly back away. If the bear is encountered at close range, remain standing, avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly while speaking in a calm, assertive voice.

Never feed a black bear. Black bears that associate food with people may become aggressive and dangerous. Report all bear damage and nuisance incidents to your state and local authorities.

Care must be taken to distinguish bear damage from that of other carnivores such as coyotes and domestic dogs. Black bears can be identified by their tracks, feces, hair, or other signs. Any injured livestock will show tooth marks on the neck at the base of the skull or long claw marks on the shoulders. Any livestock killed by a bear attack will often have a broken neck or back. Often bears will drag or carry a carcass away from the kill site, and store it, returning regularly to feed on it. In the case of larger prey, bears will strip back or reverse the skin especially along the back. The udder of lactating female prey is highly preferred by bears and often will be eaten first. Coyotes usually kill their prey with bites to the neck, but unlike bears, they feed on the internal organs and hind quarters first rather than on the back or shoulders. In a coyote attack, 1/2 inch claw marks on the body are generally lacking and coyotes and dogs usually do not strip back the prey's skin.

One misconception about black bears is that they are likely to attack people in defense of their cubs. They are highly unlikely to do this. Black bear researchers have captured screaming cubs in the presence of bluff-charging mother bears with no attacks forthcoming. Actually defense of cubs is a grizzly bear trait, not a black bear trait.

If you have any questions about black bears in your particular location, contact your local or state wildlife officials.

(Information taken from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife web site, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection web site, the Virginia Cooperative Extension web site,

Editor's Ramblings:

The glow of autumn is shining through my living room picture window, as a light rain waters the grass that we just planted in our new pasture. I have a feeling of accomplishment and contentment in our choice to raise alpacas, solidified by the three romping cria out in the pasture with their dams. Yes, as my daughter Breanne always says when things work out, "Life is Good!"

How anyone could ever be bored in this life is beyond my comprehension. We daily are blessed with a myriad of wonders if we take the time to notice them. I understand how famous artists can move so many people to experience strong emotions when looking at their art work. We have daily artwork to enjoy that changes and shifts with each movement of the sun, the clouds, the wind, and ourselves. Nothing ever stays exactly the same.

Not so long ago I inhaled the sweet dry scents, sounds and feel of late summer, all of which is now replaced by the damp, leafy, crispy scents, sounds, and feel of autumn. The alpacas are reveling in the coolness of the air as they munch on the longer blades of green grass on the outskirts of the pastures that they missed over the summer. At night, they are happy to be outside, under the coolness of the clear starry night's sky. When I go out to check on them, before I turn in for the night, there is the Herdsire, cushed at a vantage point where he can watch "his girls" and cria, along with his own pasture. Each cria is nuzzled up close to their mother, side by side, each a perfect picture of how wonderfully these animals care for each other.

For us it is a break from the struggle of trying to keep the animals cool. We can rest a little and enjoy a lot, before the rigors of the cold winter come roaring in a month or two from now. It's a good time to reflect on what we've accomplished and where we are planning to go. A good time to get to know our animals better, perhaps spending some time just sitting in the barn with them at cushing, cud chewing time. A quiet time, with little movement, perhaps an occasional hum from this one or that, setting a peaceful atmosphere for observation and reflection.

At the most busy times of the year I can think back to these quiet times and remember that this is what this lifestyle is all about. This is why I wanted

to bring alpacas into my life. If I can't make time for such moments, what good would it be to have alpacas here. So, I take the time and guard it judiciously, a half hour here, ten minutes there, time well spent for sure.

To share a little about the recent October 5 MaPaca Annual meeting, the meeting addressed many issues. Please read the notes I took on page 2. Congratulations to the new members of the Board of Directors. The group seems like a good team who will work together for the benefit of us all. Jubilee plans are already in the works and a meeting with the volunteers, the end of October, will get the ball rolling even faster. Before long it will be time to send out registration packets.

Another item that will be coming up soon is membership renewal. If you haven't noticed, there was no renewal notice this past August. The BOD decided to change the renewal date to January 1, with the MaPaca membership running from January 1 though December 31 each year from now on. So, all those who renewed for the year 2003 received an extra 4 months extension of membership. A flyer will be put in November's Newsletter for all to renew by January 1. So, please watch for your renewal form next month and send it in ASAP.

I am working on an email mailing list that can be sent out to all MaPaca members when needed. If you have moved or changed your email address or you just got an email address, please send it to me at fpalpacas@aol.com. I will update your file and include you on our MaPaca notification email mailing list. I am thinking of letting you all know, by means of this list, when I start working on each Newsletter. That way if you have a story or contribution or ad, you will have a reminder to send it in to me. The list may also be used to let people know when and where the next MaPaca meeting will held, besides it's publication in the Newsletter and on the web site.

Please read the notes of the meeting on page 2. If you have anything you would like to comment on, please send your comments to any of the BOD. I'm sure they would love to hear from you. Keep abreast of the meetings when they are scheduled and plan to get to a meeting when you can. Contributions from the membership is much appreciated.

My best to you all, Alice Brown

A Little Too Early, One Cria's Story

By Diane Beaver of Alpaca Ventures,
Sidman, PA

I was out of town and my husband Mike was on cria alert for the weekend. Much to his disappointment, our Pocahonta girl delivered a couple of weeks early. To further complicate matters, this new little guy (Paco) could not stand to nurse. He had absolutely no strength in his front or hind legs.

When Mike called to tell me, I assumed they were a little crooked in the front, but would still be able to nurse after he got started. When I arrived back the next day, I was truly horrified at the instability of his legs. I had never seen anything like it. I would have to hold him up to nurse every 2-3 hours. Thank goodness he was able to nurse and I didn't have to bottle feed him. I tried putting little splints on his legs, but his liveliness went way down, so I took them off. I exercised his legs every time I helped him nurse. Still after 5 days of little sleep, there was not much improvement. So, the realization hit me, I may have to put him down.

I called the veterinarian and told him to come, but he wasn't available until about 5 days later. I thought, I have to wean myself away from him and thought if he can survive without me, maybe he could stick around.

It was hard, but I didn't go down to the barn for 2 days. I had my farm manager keep an eye on him though. When I returned on the third day, much to my surprise, this little guy was running in the pasture with the other crias. I was jumping with joy!

Now every day I look at him a wonderful feeling comes over me. A feeling of hope, that miracles do happen. My conclusion and advice for other breeders after this experience, is: don't give up on these little ones too soon. As you can see from the picture, his legs are perfectly straight now, and he is as normal as can be. You may even see him in the showring because he has awesome fiber!



"Paco" - Photo sent in by Diane Beaver of Alpaca Ventures, Sidman, PA

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

NEW! PLEASE TAKE NOTE: From next issue on no ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale or stud. Please submit only ads without pricing. Thank you.

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.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional \$100.00 added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either \$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00. Please send copies, along with payment, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the 20th of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check payable to MaPaca and include check with inserts. Any questions, email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@aol.com. Thank you!



Members Events Calendar

November 8, 2003 10:30AM-

2:00PM Alpaca Heritage Events

Presents: **Common Sense**

Approach to Camelid Breeding, Birthing, and Cria

Care. Speaker: **Dr. Karen Baum, DVM, Board Member of the Alpaca Research**

Foundation. Location: Columbus, NJ. Cost: \$45 per person (lunch included). Mail checks payable to Ingrid Wood, 1862 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Columbus, NJ 08022.

For more information call 609-261-0696 or Alice Brown at 856-697-8127. Directions will be mailed upon receipt of check. After the seminar participate in a fun mystery auction - proceeds will benefit the Alpaca Research Foundation. **Send your checks in immediately!** There are a few spaces left. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear Dr. Karen Baum speak.

November 14-16, 2003.

Alpacarama Show 'N' Sell.

Upper Marlboro, MD. Visit www.alpacarama.com for details. All alpacas registered will be for sale and priced in prearranged categories so there will be no need for negotiating. Low stress, fun environment for the whole family. Seminars, sales, and shows both days. Featured speaker: Dr. David Pugh. Performance and Halter Judge: Shannon McConnell. Fleece and Halter Judge: Amanda VandenBosch. Show Superintendent: Peg Stephens. For more information contact Glen Cook at

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad should include a one sentence description and contact information such as phone number and email. 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 one line ads to Alice Brown 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. **Free to good home, one Barred Rock Rooster and one Silver Link Rooster, 4 months old each. Contact Alice or Fred Brown. 856-697-8127.**
2. **About 100 locust fence posts, 4x4x8, \$8 each, chemical free, long lasting. Call 609-261-0960.**
3. **Custom designed, hand woven and knitted fashions from your alpaca's fleece, roving or yarn. Shop online at www.cherryridgealpacas.com.**

Camelid Humor:

Definition of "Spitzilla":

The alpaca who starts hocking it up the minute you come into view. Who once pregnant, or even ovulated, lets you know in uncertain terms that her hormones have changed through immediate wads of green, foul smelling cud flying through the air in your direction, particularly aimed at your smiling face. She repeats the same to any aspiring male alpaca who comes within firing range!

Veterinary News for the East Coast:

Eperythrozoonosis in Camelids *(Information taken from a report by Susan J. Tornquist, DVM, PhD, College of Veterinary Medicine, Oregon State)*

In researching “epe” (eperythrozoonosis), I discovered one of the leading researchers on this problem is Dr. Susan J. Tornquist, DVM, PhD, from Oregon State University. I wrote to Dr. Tornquist and she kindly shared with me a report that she wrote for the camelid conference held at Oregon State University in March, 2003. Dr. Tornquist has completed one study on eperythrozoonosis and another study is in progress. Dr. Tornquist hopes to have more papers out fairly soon after the current project is completed.

The *Eperythrozoon* species associated with camelids has recently been reclassified as *Mycoplasma haemolama*, based on its 16s rRNA sequence. This organism is most closely related to the *M. wenyonii*, affecting cattle. It is less close to other varieties affecting pigs and cats.

First described in 1990, *M. haemolama*, is associated with mild to marked anemia, and rarely death, in stressed, immune-suppressed, and debilitated camelids. It has even been detected in low numbers in clinically, apparently healthy, animals.

Two projects, supported by the Morris Animal Foundation and the Alpaca Research Foundation, were designed to develop a sensitive and specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based assay test to detect the presence of *M. haemolama* even at low levels. Once developed, the test is now being used to study “epe” in more detail, including its response to antibiotic treatment, and the presence of a carrier state. The goal of the projects is to determine the mode of

transmission of the parasite, as well as risk factors for infection in camelids. Currently, the mode of transmission is not known and little is reported about its prevalence, the effects of treatment on the carrier state, and the details of infection and disease from this parasite.

In one part of this study, an infected alpaca provided blood for experimental infection of 8 other alpacas. All alpacas developed detectable parasitemia by the PCR test at least 2 days before organisms were seen on blood smears. Four of the infected alpacas were treated with tetracycline (the currently recommended treatment) and four were not.

The alpacas were monitored by physical exam, body temperature, blood smear exam, and PCR test, among other things. After 6 months, the animals were given a drug to simulate the effects of stress. The animals were then monitored further as previously. The results were as follows:
*Parasitemia is not cleared by the standard tetracycline regime used in camelids.

*Once infected, many camelids may become chronic carriers.
*The PCR assay is more sensitive than blood smear exam for diagnosis of *M. haemolama*.

The PCR assay is now available for \$19 through submission of the whole, EDTA-anticoagulated blood to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Oregon State University. Dr. Tornquist may be contacted at Susan.Tornquist@oregonstate.edu.

For further information about “epe” visit this web site:
www.shagbarkridge.com/info/epe.html

A good article is available on the Alpaca Registry database. Another good article is found in Alpacas Magazine, summer 2002.

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

The Wind begun to rock the Grass
With threatening Tunes and low—
He threw a Menace at the Earth—
A Menace at the Sky.

The Leaves unhooked themselves
from Trees—
And started all abroad
The Dust did scoop itself like Hands
And threw away the Road.

*By Emily Dickinson from Judge
Tenderly of Me*

(Description of an Autumn Storm.)



Salt and Pepper crias, Allegheny Peruvian Sergeant Pepper (fawn huacaya male) and Allegheny Peruvian Tamina (black and white female suri). Both animals belong to Jack & Jill Reinhart of Allegheny Alpacas, in Wexford, PA.