

MAA Members' Meeting October 16, 2016

The meeting was held at the lakeside cabin of Ginny Rebar in Athens, ME. We assumed that due to the traveling distance few members attended. Those who did will tell you that the weather was great and you missed the spectacular views of color as the trees were at their peak.

Our speaker was Tori Lee Jackson, from the University of Maine Cooperative Ext. Since she was the organizer of our first Alpaca School we asked her to be at this meeting to answer any questions you might have and to give you an overall of the "Marketing Through Social Media" class which she had previously presented to us at a former meeting.

We talked to Tori about how to get the most information for members at our next Alpaca School –

- Expanding our e-mail list and rating the top 4 subjects for classes (some of this will be taken from the last survey done)

- Asking MAA members to give a class as many of our members not only have the knowledge in certain subjects but also the hands on experience.

- Including subjects such as Openherd, alpaca certification registrations, value of marketing and networking, care of alpaca from birth through aging, etc.

We need more input from members so that the same few are not doing the jobs. The need for a Marketing Committee to keep a profile on our facebook page and newsletter was suggested. Another was an Education Committee. We could have "sub-committee meetings" held on the same day as a regular meeting so no extra traveling and time is needed.

Other suggestions were: to approach "Alpaca Nation", Openherd, AOA (originally ARI) etc., along with our members who have much knowledge in specific topics and see if we can interest them in speaking at a meeting.

Our next (2nd) Alpaca School will be scheduled for Mar., April, or May, before members get too busy in the Augusta area. "Bear" has offered to check with the MT. Vernon Community Ctr. For availability.

The commercial DEHAIRING machine , owned by Natural Fiber Producers has been shipped from Kentucky to the Saco River Dyehouse in Saco Industrial Park, ME. There will be an open house on Friday, Nov. 4th.

The Maine College of Art, located in Portland ME, is the only textile and fashion design college in the USA. Maybe there is a possibility to donate fiber to them. Being connected to them could be a great opportunity for alpaca owners and it's right here in Maine. Mike is checking into this.

HEADS UP!

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for November 13th at Victoria Greene's (Purple Paca Place) new home.

Our next MAA member's meeting will be held on January 21, 2017 at the China Buffet in Augusta. Our speaker will be an accountant, Philip Doucette from Austin Associates in Auburn. He has a good reputation in doing taxes for alpaca farmers. This is our election meeting. We will be replacing two Board members, Lois Brace (President) and Pam Drew (Treasurer). The Board makes the decision to choose the position for the new Board members.

After our meeting we all toured Ginny's farm. It was a great day. Thank you Ginny!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Brace, President