



MAA Membership Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2012 12pm-4pm
Northern Solstice Alpaca Farm

Present were: Bear and Lois Brace, Fulton Butler and Brenda Simoneau, Robin Fowler, Carol Furman, Matthew Hatch, Jill McElderry-Maxwell, Corry Pratt, Alan Russo, Ann Sylvester, Jan and Craig Wanggaard, Tami Wayboer, Janis Piper, Pam Lahay & Guest, Bonnie Callery and Karen Woods.

The weather was outstanding with bright sun and a wonderful breeze. The meeting started off with a wonderful pot luck lunch! Members brought many wonderful delights and we enjoyed them immensely!

We gathered in the main barn for the business portion of our meeting. The following topics were discussed:

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee is up and running. The committee will be reaching out to general membership as well as current directors to solicit interest in filling the upcoming opening seats. The committee will offer position descriptions as well and connect those with interest up with current directors for more information about the experience and requirements when serving.

The Blanket Project: I will be sending out a message from Claudia with the details of this year's blanket project. We have a new mill for production as well as the ability to produce queen sized, twin sized and throws. The deadline for purchase commitment will be a short window of time once I send out the email so stay tuned for upcoming emails.

National Alpaca Farm Days: National Alpaca Farm Days is right around the corner, scheduled for September 29th & 30th and we have set up a link on the MAA website home page to direct visitors to the farms who are offering tours/activities during that weekend. There is also an opportunity to sign up for the National Alpaca Farm Days website through AOBA where you can have your farm listed along with a map finder. Make sure to let us know if you'd like to have your farm added to the MAA site listing.

Gala Update: Ky Wolterbeek is working on the plans for our first MAA Holiday Gala. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our membership to get together and relax and share in the winter holiday cheer. The tentative date is Friday, November 30th. More details to follow.

WEBSITE: Janis Piper updated the group on the MAA website. The new site has just recently been available for viewing. We are asking membership to begin going through the process of checking for any incorrect or outdated information as well as updating their open herd profile so that their individual farm information is accurate. Please send in any details on alpaca related workshops, seminars, members in the news or any note worthy information for our site. Lots more work needed to put the meat on the bones and we welcome the support of current and previous volunteers to work on the site.

NEWSLETTER: We released the second electronic newsletter and received lots of positive feedback. Please, send Jill McElderry- Maxwell any stories or information that we can put into the newsletters. The recent article that Terry Callery published on stacking hay was of great benefit to several members. We'd like to get more folks contributing. This is a great opportunity for membership to place ads, share their experiences and much more. Remember that the electronic newsletters go out to the membership, leads and are posted on the website.

2013 Membership: There is a great need for us to improve the timeline of annual membership dues being paid. Introducing paypal option helped but we still have outstanding dues each year well into the summer. We acknowledge that non-payment is usually simply due to busy lives and forgetting to send in the payment, but we don't want to end up in a position of "nagging" our membership nor do we want to be faced with the decision of not allowing a member to participate because of lack of payment. We agreed to send out an early reminder and seek a commitment from members in advance to pay dues on time.

Felting & Dying Demonstrations: For two hours we had a really great learning how to felt soap with alpaca fiber, felt bats into large felted fabric and how to dye fiber. It was a very "hands on" experience and everyone had a wonderful time! It was agreed that we should include these types of hand on trainings at future meetings.

Meeting Close: We recapped the day with feedback on the meeting and appreciations for all who presented and for full participation.