

Membership Meeting
August 22, 2004, 11:00 a.m.
Maple Hill Farm B&B
Hallowell, ME

Present: **Andes Alpaca Farm**, Morelia Candia; **Androscoggin Acres Alpacas**, Jeff Erikson, and Maureen Libby; **Alpacas @ Choice View Farm**, Anita Cooper, **Blissful Alpacas**, David and Judy Bliss; **Blueberry Farm Alpacas**, Abby Fitzgerald; **Colonial Thyme Alpacas**, Wendy Eaton; **Fiber Fields Alpaca Farm**, Dawn Brooker; **Friendly Acres Farm**, Kathy Belisle; **Gentle Blessings Farm**, Elizabeth Badorek; **Half Horse Farm**, Paul and Tammy Cheney; **Lakeside Alpaca Farm**, Frank and Geri Gabriel; **NEWAIM Farm**, Al Maloney; **Pamelamas**, Pam Drew; **Raini Ridge Farm**, Lorraine Blowers and Brad Perry; **Royal River Alpaca Farm**, Claudia Raessler; **Stonewall Alpaca Farm**, Leslie and Carole Bacon; **Sugarloaf Alpaca Farm**, Brian and Kim Toomey; Jan and Craig Wanggaard; **Village Farm Alpacas**, Bonnie Callery;

Lunch served at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order by Dawn Brooker at 11:40 a.m. and a quorum attendance was determined.

Old Business

1. **Secretarys Minutes:** June meeting minutes accepted
2. **Treasurers Report** accepted
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. *Education Committee:* Members are reminded that committee members include Bonnie Callery, Martha Butcher, Abby Fitzgerald, and Carol Bacon. An account will discuss account and tax issues after the November meeting and a representative of the Agriculture Dept. will address members in January.

Other ideas were offered for future speakers/seminars including:

1. A fleece workshop in spring (by Dawn?) with members bringing own fleeces
 2. How to prepare and show animals (Tim or Dawn?)
 3. How to make press releases, involve the press and otherwise get free publicity (see Julia Wassum piece in the AOBA library for some ideas).
 4. Develop a specific Maine Alpaca Festival public education event and get the department of Agriculture to know alpacas. A totally alpaca event with insignias on balloons, etc. Perhaps begin within the Fiber Frolic milieu and separate as event grows use state fairgrounds (Union/Windsor?).
 5. A committee was formed to research the festival concept and general education of public on alpacas. Members volunteering include Morelia Candia, Leslie Bacon, and Anita Cooper.
- b. *Marketing Committee:* Raini Blowers will join the Marketing committee to fill the absence of Gay DeHart.
 1. Logo ideas submitted by members will be submitted to a professional for further development. Please continue to provide your ideas for logos as well as any suggestions of professionals in graphics and marketing that/who could be considered for use. So far, Inkstone Design in Thomaston and Breedworks in New York have been recommended.

- c. *Website Committee:* Several changes have been or are currently being made on the MAA website.
 - 1. The mission statement has been added.
 - 2. All available farm logos have been added to each individual listing. If you have a logo which is not on the website, please submit a copy to Al Maloney. Contact him regarding the best format choices.
 - 3. A state map with farm locations is being created for the site. It will be interactive so that visitors can point to a star indicating a farm location so that the name of the farm shows. A click on the name then produces all of that farms information.
 - 4. It was suggested that some content regarding alpacas from the GLAA website be used as a template on ours so that we dont have to start from scratch. Bonnie and Terry will ask for permission.
 - 5. It was suggested that press releases and reprintable stories should be added to the website. Al warned that links to newspaper articles need to be monitored carefully due to their short availability. This will require some organizational management.
 - 6. We need more pictures! Please submit interesting photos of alpacas, barns, births, pastures, views, shows, etc.
- d. **SART:** The Steering Committee of the State Animal Rescue Team has provided approval for MAA to develop and submit their own plan structure. They have also decided to change the name of the system to SMART for State of Maine Animal Rescue Team. MLLA will be contacted regarding their interest in joining with us in the development of this plan. A questionnaire will be distributed to all members regarding their current access to equipment and manpower/assistance so that we can begin to develop an availability map and steps for implementation.

New Business

- 1. **NECC/Vet Ed Fund:** The possibility of having a free booth at NECC was discussed to sell raffle tickets and hold a silent auction for the Vet Ed Fund. Leslie Bacon will contact NEAOBA regarding set up of this booth and get volunteers to man it. The booth will also have applications available to join MAA. It was also suggested that raffle tickets and pointers to the MAA booth in order to sign up for the silent auction items should be part of every MAA members area.

A \$100.00 certificate to Ridge Mist was suggested as a raffle item. They will be contacted regarding their interest in this. Those offering items for the silent auction include Leslie Bacon donating an alpaca chute (Al Maloney will transport it to Pine Tree); Wendy Eaton and Dawn Brooker each donated knit sweaters, and Anita Cooper donated a hand woven Ruana. Brian Toomey offered two lift tickets to Sugarloaf Ski Area. Please e-mail Leslie Bacon regarding other donations for this worthy cause. These items need to be available at NECC and can include items specific to alpaca owners/breeders and/or also for the general public.

Placing an ad in the NECC booklet was discussed. It was felt that the ad used for Fiber Frolic, perhaps in color, would work well for this publication as well. It was pointed out that the current MAA budget does not support the placement of the type of ad desired. At this point, members sent around a cup for donations of their own accord, yielding \$325.00 to be used for advertising at the NECC venue. If any funds are left over, they will be added to the current marketing budget. (Thank you to all for your enthusiastic generosity.) It was suggested that future dues include additional

amounts for more expansive marketing ventures.

2. Frank Gabriel told us of a personal experience through which he learned that animals (pets) used in agricultural circumstances are exempt of certain local and state regulations (in his case, no fine for a dog barking at night because it was a livestock guard dog). He encouraged MAA members to check ordinances out at both levels of government if complaints are lodged against them such as in his case. He had to spend the time looking but the effort was obviously worth it.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Becky Smith provided an informative workshop on alpaca training using the Mallon method. She worked with alpacas brought to Maple Hill B&B by Dawn and John Brooker.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Cooper, Secretary

Please send any corrections/additions to: acooper@gwi.net

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