

December 8, 2013

Augusta Maine

Attendance by the following farms: Alpaca Dream Ranch, Apple Tree Alpacas, Dream on a Stream Alpaca Ranch, Farm in the Meadow, Darlene Hebert, Maine Alpaca Barn, Maine Woods Alpacas, OutBaca Alpaca, Pamelamas, LLC, Royal Creations, Sandy River Alpacas, LLC, SuCaya Farms.

We had a wonderful meeting and presentation at Margarita's restaurant in Augusta, Maine. Topics of discussion were:

1. Upcoming Board of Director positions. There are three out-going members who are willing to run again, but we do feel very strongly that new blood would be better. Thank you to Mike, Bear & Darlene as the nominating committee. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER...PLEASE CONTACT THE MAA!! It is not an overly time-consuming job and an added bonus...free membership to MAA for the years you serve.
2. Bear discussed the value of personal communication vs. all computer/technological. His feeling is that the personal communication is likely to result in better commitment to the organization.
3. Ginny's Rebar's brother, John, from the Cooperative Extension presented a very informative talk on "Ecotourism in Maine". There were a lot of great ideas, logistics and examples of ways to promote your farm and farm products. He had handouts that covered a number of things to consider when making a business plan and if ecotourism would be right for you. If you were not at the meeting and would like copies of the handouts please contact a board member.
4. Treasurer's Report. Pam Drew presented the financials of the MAA. Currently we have adequate funding in the Animal Welfare & Husbandry, Marketing and Education funds. The Operations fund needs revenue. It was voted on and unanimously agreed that we will allocate all 2014 revenue to the Operation/discretionary fund.
5. Ginny Rebar and Mike O'Brien both presented information and ideas on marketing the MAA and how it would benefit our individual farms. Mike had information from both MPBN and WABI, tv 5 which was distributed. There was round-table discussion on these ideas but no vote to jump into a marketing decision yet. To be followed up with more research and conversation.
6. NEXT MEETING...ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 19, 2014. This meeting will be held at Margarita's Restaurant in Augusta at 11:30. Please attend and support the Maine Alpaca Association!!
7. Upcoming dates -- details to follow but we are looking for volunteers--check your calendars and let us know where and when you are available!!

Jan 7, 8, 9 -- Agriculture Trade Show

June 7 & 8 -- Maine Fiber Frolic --ANYONE INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS ON??????

July -- Open Farm (date to be announced)

Oct 23 - 26 -- Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association (GALA) will be hosting their annual educational conference in Portland. Dr. David Peugh from Alabama will be a guest speaker. Do we want to sponsor a speaker (\$500) or what involvement do we want. This is a great opportunity for MAA to have the conference in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Ky Wolterbeek

Secretary, MAA