

MAA e-Newsletter

January 2007

Sent via the Yahoo group as text html from the Board of Directors

1. Leadership

Thanks to all who agreed to run for the Board in this past election. Without members willing to step up to assume leadership positions, MAA cannot function. Thanks as well to the Nominating Committee, Pam Drew, Jan Wanggaard, and Gay deHart, for their time in putting together an outstanding slate of nominees.

We would like to officially announce the **2007 MAA Board of Directors** as the following, with their respective committee liaison position(s) listed after their names:

President – Raini Perry (Education, Fiber Frolic, Outside organizations)
Vice-president – Nancy Durst (Fundraising/Vet Fund)
Secretary – Pam Harwood (Website/Marketing)
Treasurer – Brian Toomey
Director – Marianne Roberts




2. Communication

The BOD exists to serve you and one of our goals again this year is to provide for quick and effective communication. You can expect to find minutes from BOD and Membership meetings posted to the website as well as distributed via the Yahoo list as soon as they are available. In addition, we will be sending this e-newsletter to members of MAA and other interested parties on a quarterly basis.

If you have a question, concern, idea, or wish to have an item included on our agenda, please feel free to call/email individual Directors. However if you wish your message to be received by all directors simultaneously (and even sent anonymously if necessary) you may go to the Members section of the MAA website, and near the top of the page you will see [click here to send a message to all BOD Members](#)

The Maine Alpaca List on Yahoo.com is a critical tool for us to communicate amongst each other. As a reminder, we are re-posting the rules for the Yahoo List and will do this on an annual basis. Please remember the List is to be used for dispersal of relevant information and not for self promotion or business promotion in any manner. Use of this forum to disperse alpaca husbandry or health issues is encouraged. Please address any questions you have to a member of the MAA BOD and thanks in advance for your appropriate use of this valuable tool.

Instructions for using the Maine Alpaca Association Yahoo group

-  Any member of the group can send a message to all other members of the group by sending an email to MaineAlpaca@yahoogroups.com. This group may be used whenever you have an alpaca related question you want to ask the group or when you have information that you think the rest of the group should know about. Please use this forum to communicate about alpaca husbandry or health related concerns. **This group is not to be used for advertising purposes or self promotion of any kind.**
-  This group will also be used to send official MAA messages to the membership. If a meeting needs to be postponed due to weather, a message will be sent to this group before 8 am on the day of the meeting.
-  If you receive an email from MaineAlpaca@yahoogroups.com and reply to that message your reply will be sent to all members of the group. If you want to respond privately to the originator of the message then you need to write a separate message addressed specifically to that person.

- ✎ If you want to view the archives you will need to have a Yahoo username and password. You probably created this when you accepted the invitation to the group unless you already had one and you chose to use your existing name. You can access the archives by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and signing in. You will then be presented with a list of the groups you belong to. Select MaineAlpaca and you are in.
- ✎ If you are having problems, contact Al Maloney at newaim@midcoast.com for help.

3. Committee Help Wanted:

In order for our committees to remain the dynamic entities they are, and to keep the creative juices flowing, we encourage each member to sign up for a committee. You might not be able to attend all committee meetings, but your voice will be heard in online discussions. Not sure what you can contribute because you are “too new” to alpacas? Join a committee, listen, learn, and you’ll be amazed at how quickly your past “outside” experience will help ideas to flow!

Education: Dawn Brooker, chair

The Education Committee is responsible for lining up guest speakers at MAA’s 4 membership meetings, as well as organizing our annual Education Seminar.

Fiber Frolic: Al Maloney/Nancy Williams/Raini Perry, co-chairs

In 2007, MAA assumed stewardship of this small but growing annual fiber festival. MAA is working closely with the llama, goat, sheep, and bunny people to celebrate all things “Fiber” in the State of Maine.

Fundraising (Including Vet Fund): Marcia MacDonald, chair

The Fundraising Committee is critical to the continued fiscal health of our organization! Silent Auctions and raffles have added many thousands of dollars to MAA’s coffers. We need to keep up the good work!

SMART (State of Maine Animal Response Team) Committee: Anita Cooper, chair

Disasters come in many forms: fire, flood, and wind to name only a few. This dormant committee will help put together a list of owners and breeders who have trailers, extra quarantine/pen/pasture space, feed, halters, etc in case of emergency. The list should be updated annually, and MAA members will be encouraged to create their own emergency response plans.

Website/Marketing: Cindy Lavan/Al Maloney, co-chairs

The Website/Marketing Committee is responsible for putting MAA’s best foot forward through our website as well as local, regional, and national advertising and promotion, i.e. MAA’s Open Farm Weekends, newspaper and magazine ads, show sponsorships, etc.

4. Website

Take advantage of the great opportunity to help gain exposure for your growing business and support the MAA Website. The MAA website is self-supporting, relying primarily on advertising revenue for its growth. Please support one of MAA’s most valuable educational and marketing tools with your Banner or Classified ads, articles, photos, events, and “Snapshots”.

- A. **Resource Section** – We need articles or blurbs related to the topics below. We are asking our members to help write these sections. Please email al@newaim.com with your articles or intent to compose within the next few days. Please feel free as well to send additional topics you would like to see addressed on the MAA website.
1. What questions should I ask when I visit a farm?
 2. How do I know if I can start a farm where I live?
 3. LLC? Inc? What options do I have to establish my business?
- B. **Gallery** – Have you made a beautiful shawl and want to show it off? What about a woven alpaca blanket that you want to show the world? Send your photos to our webmaster at al@newaim.com for posting. We are also looking for artwork related to alpacas and photos of alpacas doing great things or just looking plain stunning in a field. NOTE – When submitting

you are allowing for exposure to the world. Please add your copyright material to the photo directly or be warned ahead of time, it's free game for downloading.

C. Members in the News – This section will provide brief articles or information on what our members are doing in and out of the alpaca industry. Informative and fun pieces which will tie into the lifestyle aspects of alpaca ownership. Please keep self promotion to a minimum. Please submit to al@newaim.com.

D. Snapshot of a Maine Farm -- this is open to all members of MAA. Tell visitors to the website how you decided to get into your alpaca breeding, fiber farming, or other alpaca-related business. Forms may be downloaded from the Members section and submitted to **Gay deHart**. Each month 2 businesses are chosen by lottery to be featured, and all featured Snapshots are archived.

E. Paid Advertising for your farm, products, business, services and stud males....

1. Classified Advertisements (Fiber, General Services, Equipment for Sale and Stud Service) – Cost is \$5/year. Please submit payment to MAA at 819 Middle Road, New Portland, ME 04961, and submit the ad to al@newaim.com. Once payment is received, your ad will be posted. You must be a MAA member in order to advertise. Some other restrictions may apply.

2. Banner ads– Front page visibility! 6 per month at the reasonable fee of \$30 per ad. The banner ad will be hot-linked to your farm's website. You may run 2 months in a row. If a space is available the 3rd month, you may be contacted for participation. Banner ad size is 150x50 pixels. Contact **Al Maloney** at al@newaim.com with your questions regarding this great opportunity.

5. News

MAA recently made its debut as an exhibitor at the Maine Agriculture Trade Show in Augusta on January 9-11. **Nicole Carter, Paul and Tammy Cheney, Pam Drew, Wendy Eaton, Pam Harwood, Marcia MacDonald, Al Maloney, Raini Perry, Claudia Raessler, and Craig Wanggaard** staffed our table to answer questions about alpacas and our industry as a whole, as well as the Fiber Frolic. We sold \$37 in raffle tickets for the Alpaca Throw to be raffled at the Fiber Frolic, \$22 in leftover Fiber Frolic merchandise, and \$377 worth of alpaca socks! Many Thanks to **Al Maloney** for organizing the whole thing and to for taking the time set up our display and take it down.

6. MAA Membership Dues Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that if you haven't yet, please pay your 2007 membership dues. Membership dues are \$75.00, payable to MAA. Please mail to: MAA, 819 Middle Road, New Portland, ME 04961. Membership will provide some great benefits in 2007 so we don't want you to miss out! Do it NOW!!

7. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS –

Great ways to learn, have fun, and make friends!

Some events require pre-registration so check for details via the contact information provided.

March 3-4 2007 Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine's Camelid Conference for Breeders -- Ithaca, NY See attached brochure for more information or go to www.vet.cornell.edu/education/ConEd.htm

March 29- April 1, 2007 – North American Alpaca Show – Springfield, MA

AOBA Sanctioned Level IV show. For entry information and information on speakers, show, etc. visit www.naalpacashow.com

April 20-23, 2007, All American Futurity Auction and Show – Louisville, KY

Alpaca Futurity and auction. For more information, visit www.the-futurity.com

April 27-29, 2007, MAPACA Jubilee 2007 Pennsylvania Farm Complex, Harrisburg, PA -AOBA

Sanctioned Halter, Fleece and Performance Classes. For more information, visit www.mapaca.org

May 11-13, 2007, PAOBA Breeder's Showcase, Toyota Arena, York, PA

AOBA Certified show sponsored by PAOBA. Visit www.paoba.org/breedersshowcase for more information and registration materials.

June 9-10, 2007, MAINE FIBER FROLIC – Windsor Fair Grounds, Windsor, ME.

Check out more information – www.fiberfrolic.com

Sunday July 22, 2006 – Maine Open Farm Day -- Date pending verification

Go to http://www.getrealmaine.com/visit/open_farm_day.html for details

Newsletter ideas, articles, comments, etc. please send to pdh@longwoodsapacas.com .

Thanks for your time and support of MAA!!!