

MAA Bi-Monthly Newsletter – November 2006
Sent via – yahoo group as text html

Hello from MAA!!!

Another `electronic newsletter' from the BOD reporting on the comings and goings of your growing Maine Alpaca Association.

We wish to let you know that we are here for you and one of our goals this year is to provide for quick and effective communication.

We will be sending this bi-monthly newsletter to members of MAA. This newsletter will include a calendar of upcoming events, committee requests and more information important to you. Please take the time to read each newsletter carefully and contact the corresponding committee or BOD member with any and all your questions.

***** November 4th meeting has been postponed

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Due to conflicts with other events for many of our members, we will be postponing the meeting originally scheduled for Saturday, November 4th to Sunday, December 3rd at 11am. To hold a voting meeting we need to have a quorum of 13 member farms present, at the time of the decision to reschedule the meeting, we had 9 farms available. Our by-laws require 4 meetings a year, so we need to have a meeting before the end of the year. There are also some time sensitive items that need to be discussed and voted upon.

If you have RSVP'd and mailed in your payment, Raini will be in contact with you regarding returning payment or allowing it to be turned over for the next meeting.

Other news and information

1. Maine Fiber Frolic

Some of you may know that the Maine Llama Association, who has worked incredibly hard to produce and promote the Maine Fiber Frolic (and let's face it – created the event and made it the wonderful weekend it is) will no longer be coordinating or running this event.

The Maine Fiber Frolic has become a main stay of the fiber community in New England. Each state has its own fiber event and Maine's is the

Frolic. Vendors and patrons come from all over New England to attend this event.

After 6 years of coordinating and overseeing the event, some of the original members of the committees will be stepping down before next year's event.

What does this mean? Another organization needs to come forward to continue to run this popular fiber event. The Maine Alpaca Association has been asked to consider this.

Along with committee help from various other fiber organizations, the event could proceed in 3 ways. One – MAA takes over control as far as monies, liabilities and full event staffing with other volunteers ---- or ----- two, a private organization forms out of the present committee members ---or ----three, there is no event.

The MAA BOD would like to ask for your input ideas and most importantly your vote as to whether MAA should commit the monies, time, liability and resources to running this event. A large percentage of the committee members are MAA members, most of whom have agreed to stay on committee for another year---- but, and here's the thing – would we have the support of the entire membership year after year to produce such an event?

The Frolic has always operated at a small profit in the past years. Also, the Maine Llama Association is providing \$1,000 in "seed money" to the organization that takes control of this event.

We need your feedback, thoughts and then a vote from the membership on whether MAA should participate in this fashion.

We ask that feedback begin on our yahoo email group with your questions, ideas, thoughts, etc.

We will be mailing a ballot to all MAA members with a check off for MAA taking control of this event in all aspects. Ballots need to be postmarked by November 15th, so let's begin the discussion on the yahoo site in the meantime.

2. Vet Education Fundraiser

A huge thank you goes out to all who donated, bought raffle tickets or were involved in the great fundraising event for the Vet Fund at the New England Coastal Classic this past October. Huge thanks go to Nancy Durst of White Barn Alpacas for running a super successful

fundraiser. Over \$7500 was raised to help fund Camelid vet education for Maine vets. This is huge and her time and energy in this project does not go unnoticed. Thank you Nancy.

3. Open Farm Days

Wow, what another great year for alpacas in Maine! Many saw another wonderful year of attendance even on Saturday with that crazy weather. Visitors came from in and out of state to learn more about our farms and breeding programs. Many visitors traveled from farm to farm to learn more about our great and growing industry. Many had been to the Coastal Classic a few weeks before so they were eager for more hands-on information.

Special thanks needs to go out to Al Maloney for his help in marketing this event.

Also, if you have received publicity from this event such as a link to a newspaper site or anything – please send it to Al. We would like to begin collecting this information for a News Release section of the website. Just send him the link and he can gather the information. While you are writing to him, be sure to say `Thanks' as well.

4. Nominating Committee

The BOD has selected a Nominating Committee for the upcoming elections. Once organized, the committee will be seeking 3+ members who are interested in running for the MAA BOD. Length of terms will be 3 years. More information will follow from the Nominating Committee but start thinking about the future of this growing organization and what you might be able to do to help!

If you have any questions, please contact any BOD member or all BOD members at one time by using <http://www.mainealpacaassociation.com/member/BOD-Contact.shtml>. Thanks!

5. Upcoming MAA Meetings

More information to follow. The Annual Meeting is being planned for January 2007. Discussion on by-laws, election of new BOD members, budget approval and more will be on the agenda. We are considering an evening `annual banquet' time. The cost should be about the same as a regular meeting.

6. 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.

"Advanced Alpaca Fiber Production"
with Cameron Holt
November 18-19, 2006

Check out the upcoming issue for spring event dates in Maine and beyond

To add a calendar item, send an email with all specific information to cindylavan@fairpoint.net

Thank you again for your continued support of this great and growing organization!

Please contact us with any of your comments, questions or concerns.
Contact all BOD members via
<http://www.mainealpacaassociation.com/member/BOD-Contact.shtml>

Best wishes for a successful fall season!!

Your MAA BOD

Newsletter ideas, comments, etc. please send to
cindylavan@fairpoint.net.

Thank you for your time and support of MAA!!!