

UMA News



Upper Midwest Alpacas

March, 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

President's Message

Welcome to the first 2016 UMA newsletter! First, let me say a big "thank you" to our outgoing BOD members: Secretary Sara Peris of Over the Rainbow Alpacas and Member at Large Dana Tiedeman of Riverside Suri Alpacas. We truly appreciate everything they have done on behalf of the BOD and membership!

Secondly, I would like to welcome the new BOD members: Secretary Brian Osterman of Suri Serenade Alpacas and Member at Large Susie Hansen of AlpacaShare, LLC.

Our new BOD is quite diverse. We have past BOD members, new breeders, and experienced breeders that are willing to

volunteer for the benefit of UMA. I believe that the diversity of this group will bring fresh ideas to the BOD and UMA membership.

I hope that you find the quarterly newsletters full of pertinent, helpful and fun information. We aim to provide enthusiastic and effective communication between the BOD, UMA members, and alpaca enthusiasts in general. Please pass this newsletter on to your personal alpaca and fiber contacts. We'd love to see UMA grow, help new breeders in the process, and remind old breeders of why they are involved with alpacas and their beautiful fiber.

Annual Membership Meeting 2/6/16

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting are available on the UMA website. 12 farms were represented, fulfilling a quorum. Member farms attending included: Wibotawat Farm, Apulanda Alpacas, Suri Serenade Alpacas, AlpacaShare, Candy Moser, High Prairie Ranch, Casweck Alpacas, Red Gate Alpaca Farm, Riverside Suri Alpacas, Foggy Bottom Farms, Hollyhock Farm Alpacas, and Bluff Breeze

Farm Alpacas, Inc.

And, we had some visitors: Spring Creek Hollow Farm of Cokato, MN (Dianna & Tom Johnson) and Valori Trantanella of Ellsworth, WI.

A lively and productive meeting was conducted at the Wescott Public Library in Eagan, MN.

Treasurer's Report

UMA has only two ongoing expenses: Constant Contact \$25/mo and Web hosting through Open Herd @ \$229/yr. At the time of the meeting the checkbook balance was ~\$1600 and we showed a net income from dues for 2016 of \$937.50. However, our last fiscal year showed a loss of \$885.93. The BOD has removed the "sliding scale" for dues from the website. Membership is \$50 regardless of date of joining or renewal.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: The fiscal dues year for UMA will go back to 1/1 through 12/31.

Events

UMA is committed to sponsoring educational events for members and non-members throughout the year. Suggestions for topics and speakers are welcome.

UPCOMING UMA EVENTS

YARN DYEING WITH DANA: In this class, Dana Tiedeman is willing to share her expertise dyeing yarn. She does not dye loose fleece. She'll bring all supplies and have yarn for sale for attendees that do not have their own white yarn. Date, location and time TBD.

Other UMA sponsored classes such as weaving, knitting, and felting have been proposed, stay tuned... suggestions welcome.

Quarterly Newsletter

If you have an item of interest for the membership, please submit it to any BOD member and they will make sure it gets into the newsletter. Some suggestions are: upcoming events (personal as well as UMA sponsored), handy farm & management hints, veterinary tips, and seasonal reminders/hints about registering animals, showing, shearing, birthing, etc.

Deadlines for submission are: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1 for distribution on the 15th of each month.

What has UMA Been Up To?

On October 11th last fall, UMA hosted a one-day Breeders Seminar at Bluff Breeze Farm Alpacas in Cannon Falls, MN. Approximately 20 people attended. Details of breeding, breeding protocol, and trouble-shooting were discussed in the morning session. Nutrition and tag information pertaining to grain & pellet mixes were extensively discussed in the afternoon. There was lively interaction between the attendees and presenters, Dr. Mike Pedersen of Animal Health Center, and Ron Genrick of Farmers Mill & Elevator.

Fellow breeders interjected their knowledge as well. More time could have been spent discussing the various types of hay, its condition, and feed value. Perhaps next time...

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

The **Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival** will be held on October 22 at the Isanti County Fairgrounds in Cambridge, MN. This is a great opportunity to showcase your fiber and fiber related products to the public. For more information see www.midwestfff.com.

And, coinciding with the Fiber Festival is the **Midwest Alpaca Fleece Show**, sponsored by two of our member farms. We are excited to have a fleece show back again this year. The show is AOA certified and Wade Gease will be back judging again this year. Fleece entry fees are low! As you shear, consider entering one or more for your fleeces.

We believe that better communication will lead to increased membership and renewed enthusiasm by keeping UMA in front of breeders and other alpaca enthusiasts. Our membership is down about 40%, which is typical for any given year. As events take place, our membership should continue to grow.

UPPER MIDWEST ALPACAS
Current Board of Directors


President - Teri Quamme	taquam@msn.com
Vice President - Connie Bodeker	bbfai@frontiernet.net
Secretary – Brian Osterman	brian@suriserenadealpacas.com
Treasurer - Barb Bender	barb@foggybottomfarms.net
Member at Large – Susie Hansen	casadehansen7@gmail.com

Complete contact information is available on the website:

www.uppermidwestalpacas.com

Benefits of UMA Membership

- All Farm members' contact information, breed of alpaca, and location are listed on our website.
 - UMA is committed to promoting the alpaca industry and educating its members.
 - UMA members enjoy significant discounts for educational and other events.
 - UMA hosted events and meetings are listed on the Home page & Upcoming Events page.
 - UMA members can list their personal events on the Home page & Upcoming Events page.
 - OpenHerd no longer shows unlimited listing of alpacas, products, and services for sale on your "free" OH web page. Though you can list your whole herd, they will only show 5 at a time, unless you upgrade to a paid account. Since UMA is a paid member of OH and an AOA affiliate, all alpacas/products/services for sale will show up in searches through the UMA website. You must first have a "free" web page through OH. Then, it can be linked to the UMA website.
 - UMA offers a page for "Preferred Vendors" – for those that offer UMA members discounted goods or services. This can be non-alpaca oriented. Current examples are: printing & insurance companies.
 - Semi-annual meetings keep members up to date.
 - Networking with like-minded breeders and enthusiasts.
 - UMA is a Non-Profit organization, operating for the benefit of its members.
-