



Your monthly news & updates

President's Message

by Ken Clark

I hope this message finds all of you finished with winter preparation. The last of the hay has been stacked, enough straw brought in to keep the kids warm over the next few months and the heated waterers and buckets are all in working order.

We hope you all liked the new venue for the Showtacular this year. I think the biggest comment I heard from everyone including the judges was, "Wow the lighting is great". The new venue was a learning experience for all of us, so next year there will be more new surprises.

Your new board will be working hard at preparing for an exciting and educational 2019. We are scheduling face-to-face board meetings for the next couple of months and the list of possibilities for our organization seems limitless. We will be starting the planning for Summer 2019 Educational events. Have an idea, please forward on to us. We are also working hard on the planning for an exciting 2019 Showtacular. You will be hearing much more about that in the coming months.

If anyone has any questions, suggestions or would like to join one of the new committees you will be hearing about, please contact your board at eaaboard@nyalpacas.com

I hope that you and your family have a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

2018 Showtacular Review

by Joe Crocco

Showtacular 2018 is now in the books. It is a pleasure to look back and take note of each year's improvements and accomplishments. We heard a resounding "hurray" from our exhibitors, judges and vendors with respect to Showtacular's new location housed in the newly erected building at the New York State Fairgrounds. Spacious, clean, column free and, with cheers from the judges, the best lighting ever!

All of the action this year was on site. We held our meet and greet on the mezzanine level in the executive dining room, overlooking the lobby/exhibition space. The flow and camaraderie were easy and pleasant. Our complimentary dinner was held in the two-story lobby, followed by our live auction event hosted by, none other than our own AOA executive director, Mr. Bud Synhorst and the world-renowned auctioneer extraordinaire, Mr. Brett Kaysen. Showtacular was fortunate to receive so many interesting, creative and generous donations. Thank you to all who donated and participated, you are all very much appreciated. As expected with all new endeavors we faced some "new" challenges and we now know what needs to be tweaked for 2019.

Look for more news about our show throughout the year.

This also marks our third co-hosted Showtacular. Once again, hats off to the empire alpaca association and the NEAOBA's respective show committees for their diligent efforts, hard work, and long phone calls to meet all the necessary goals to bring forth another successful show featuring two halter shows, a walking fleece show, a fleece show and auction event in three days, one weekend. Look for show results to be posted shortly on the AOA site.

Also, thank you to all the amazing and generous Showtacular sponsors. We all know that the show



would not be as strong without your support. Hats off to everyone involved in the 2018 Showtacular! Happy and blessed new year to all!

Save the date: November 7-10, 2019



Dear Empire Members,

I am reaching out to you with this note to let you know about a tragedy that happened in our New York Alpaca Community. The Flory's, Michael and Kathy were hit with tragedy Monday evening Dec. 3rd. Their barn caught fire and quickly spread destroying their house, barn and cars. In addition, they lost 3 male alpacas. They managed to save 7 females and they are currently staying with Jody Hatch.

I have reached out to Jody to see if there is anything the Alpaca Community can do in support of getting their life back to normal. The Flory's are currently moving a camper trailer to their farm to live in while they work to remedy the loss. I know several folks reached out via Facebook looking to assist in some way. At the moment it appears things are under as much control as possible. One item they will need is hay for the 7 females for the remainder of the winter and into spring.

If you would like to donate cash towards the purchase of hay for the girls, please reach out to me either via cell at 315-729-9358 or email at tartanacres_2001@verizon.net to make a donation. The board will pool the money and add any needed in support of purchasing hay for them.

*Respectfully,
Ken Clark
President EAA*

Fiber Committee Update

by Holly Jacobs

The fiber committee is an important part of EAA, as the committee is an avenue to help member farms share information for options to utilize their fiber.

The empire fiber project also gives member farms an avenue with which they can donate their fiber to the project and that in turn allows them to purchase finished products such as insoles, yarn, roving, socks etc. at a very low price. This is a member benefit to help farms make use of their fiber and get a variety of fine alpaca products for their stores.

To participate in the fiber project, you must be:

1. A current paid EAA member;
2. Donate a minimum of 10 lb. of fiber each year.

All product made for the Empire fiber project are available for purchase by contacting Theresa Jewel, Stoney Meadows Alpacas and Stone Mountain Looms at 585-750-9332.

For more information regarding the Fiber Committee and our future projects please contact Holly Jacobs at hblod625@aol.com or Theresa Jewell at jherzog1@rochester.rr.com.

Please watch for updates with the fiber project.



Marketing Committee Update

by Chuck Gerber

For 2019 the Marketing Committee will look to explore both online and conventional advertising for our affiliate. From starting an alpaca ranch in NY to marketing our products in a cost-effective manner. To start, the committee began an analysis of our current website. Some findings were that the website needs to be updated and is not as interactive as needed. We embarked on a mission to develop a consensus on how we could improve to offer our members more value. Items that will be worked on this year are:

- regularly update the slideshow to include pictures from “member farms” on our Home Page.
- add a “paid vendor tab” to provide resources for members
- add a password protected “Members Only” tab. This could be the “Angies List” for the Alpaca industry in NY, will also allow for Member feedback. We need feedback from our members if we hope to fulfill your expectations

Finally, we are looking forward to the day (coming soon) when our website will be “mobile friendly”?

Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO)

by Jim Evans

I had the opportunity on December 7th to attend and represent EAA at the Empire State: “Council of Agricultural Organizations” (CAO) Screening Committee Meeting. EAA is a recent new member of this organization. CAO, is a group of representatives from various agricultural organizations that have banded together to support each other and be a collective agricultural lobbying voice in New York State. CAO’s primary strength is its policy statements that get introduced to lawmakers on their lobby day.



To find out and understand more about this organization I recommend you take the time to read their policy statements which can be found on their web site. Although not all the organizations are in line with the alpaca industry the policy’s that are adopted have an overlapping on all agricultural industries. For more info on policies and what CAO is doing, please view their web site at empirestatecao.info.

I am excited for the alpaca industry to be a part of this organization and to have a voice in Albany. I am looking forward to the annual meeting in January and the lobby day in February. Any questions or suggestions you can reach me by email: smallpawsfarm1@gmail.com

Regards,
Jim Evans

Education & Youth

by Jay Russell

As this year come to a close, it has been a rewarding year working with the youth. We continue to build the youth program at Showtacular involving more 4h and FFA groups. The youth and education committee will be looking for more ways to grow, not only at Showtacular but throughout the year. Possibly have more education opportunities just for youth teaching showmanship and alpaca health.

I have a meeting with the officers of FFA on December 19th discuss 2019 opportunities. Our educational seminar hosted by Cabin View in 2018 was success and was enjoyed by all that attended. Looking forward to more topic ideas to make 2019 educational seminars even better.





our mission

Promoting, educating and supporting the alpaca breeders, owners, and enthusiasts of New York State.

SHOWTACULAR ^{save the} **DATE**
NOVEMBER 7 - 10 **2019**

NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

For more information, visit: www.showtacular.com



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