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MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Alpaca News You Can Use

Well the heat has subsided a bit and I, for one, am looking forward to fall! It's been a hot and challenging summer. Along with the fall weather comes a ramping up of organized alpaca events. National Alpaca Farm Days are concluded, there are many fall shows in which to participate, and fall crias are probably well on their way by now!

Hopefully you had a chance to vote in the recently completed MAPACA Board of Directors' elections. There were three Board seats being vacated by Terri Kinka, Randy Strong, and myself. We, and the MAPACA organization, are fortunate since Terri has re-run for another tenure on the Board. Election results may have been shared before this newsletter is received, so look for the election results in a MAPACA eblast!

Randy has been a consistent force on the Board and has contributed greatly over the last one and a half years. He has served as the MAPACA Membership Board Liaison and has worked ably to assure the membership list and the annual membership drive were completed successfully, as well as contributed to the planning and implementation of the last two Jubilee Shows, particularly the Herdsire Auction in 2009. My personal thanks go to Randy for continually offering critical opinions that encourage and challenge the rest of the Board to assure we act on the preferences of the membership. He will be missed.

In this issue you will be apprised of some of the exciting new activities going on for MAPACA's membership. We are actively searching for an Executive Director which will assure the organization's continuity and continual growth. We are in the process of adding two new membership benefits that we believe will serve our members well. One of those benefits we sincerely hope

that you and your farm never need, MAPACA 911; the other is the activation of a page on the MAPACA website – the Classifieds.

One of your Board members, Alan Clark, has been named the 2011 Jubilee Board Liaison and provides an update for you in this issue. Don't forget that we have moved from our typical Jubilee dates in April due to the Easter holiday. Mark your calendars – the 2011 MAPACA Jubilee will be held on April 8 through 10!!

As I sit here writing my eighth president's message, I am amazed at how time passes, especially when you're having fun! My tenure as your MAPACA President and as a Board Member is drawing to a close, and it's been an exciting, fulfilling, and rewarding time. I have had the pleasure to work with an incredible group of Board Members since 2008 and must say that each one has been committed to the industry and to the MAPACA membership. My hat goes off to them. I have learned a lot, hopefully contributed a little, and look forward to many more years of alpacas, volunteering for the organization, and working with fabulous folks in the industry. I wish you all the best and it's been my pleasure to serve you.

*Kristie Smoker,
MAPACA President*

**NEW
Jubilee Dates
for 2011!!!
April 8-10!!**

Join MAPACA today at www.mapaca.org

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It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating the successful completion of the 2010 MAPACA Jubilee. From its humble beginnings at Falkland Farm in Virginia under a tent to the grand alpaca celebration in Harrisburg that exists today, the Jubilee is a testament to the amazing volunteer efforts and generosity of MAPACA leaders, members and the alpaca industry as a whole.

**One of the biggest changes for 2011
is the Jubilee date: April 8-10!**

We are already well into the planning stages for next year's show, the 15th anniversary of the Jubilee, and our overlying goal is to implement innovative ideas that will permanently establish the Jubilee as THE not-to-be-missed alpaca show in the U.S. Some basic goals of our planning are:

1. Devise a system that allows for overall savings to participating farms. Next year may well bring the same challenging economic environment that we have seen over the past 2 years. We feel that it is important to seek further cost savings and pass those savings on to Jubilee participants.
2. Offer greater sponsorship opportunities and incentives for those farms that are financially able to support the Jubilee in this manner.
3. Explore adding a continuing education event for veterinarians in order to attract more vets into camelid practice as well as provide a needed service to practitioners that currently work with our member farms. Bringing area veterinarians to the Jubilee will also present a tremendous networking and public relations opportunity for all members.
4. Work diligently to add a more rigid time structure to the show, especially on the last day, in order to conclude at an hour that permits same-day return travel for the majority of long-distance participants.
5. Expand the Jubilee as an educational opportunity, especially as it relates to animal and fleece evaluation.
6. Establish the Jubilee as the most respected and competitive alpaca show in the U.S. by adding value to the highest awards achieved by participating alpacas and their owners.

Many ideas will originate from completed participant surveys from this year's show, but we depend heavily on continued input from the membership about how you would like your Jubilee experience to carry out.

Have comments or suggestions about how to make the Jubilee better? We invite you to send constructive advice to the Board as soon as possible; bod@mapaca.org or directly to the Jubilee Coordinator by email at alan@fincaaltavista.com. But hurry, April will be here before we know it!

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The Financial State of the Organization

Submitted by Terri Kinka, Treasurer

We are currently in a fairly good financial position, due predominately to the profit achieved from the 2010 Jubilee. We have earmarked some of that profit for a planned vet continuing education event in early 2011. The following shows our current financial standing and anticipated expenses that will take us to year's end:

Checking	\$ 35,702.00
Money Market	\$ 118,654.00
Pay Pal	\$ 4,655.00
Total Holdings as of 9/10/10	\$ 159,011.00

Anticipated Future Expenses through year's end:

Fall Newsletter	\$ 2,273.24
Fall Membership Meeting	\$ 5,500.00

MAPACA 911

THE MEMBER BENEFIT WE HOPE YOU NEVER USE!

We have probably all had times when we walked into the barn or looked out in the pasture and saw something that just made us panic!! The MAPACA organization would like to provide you with a method to get you help quickly and ease your sense of panic. MAPACA is in the process of developing and implementing a service for MAPACA members called, MAPACA 911. Members could use this service when unfortunate events happen at their farms such as the following:

- Sole owner breaks a leg and needs supplemental help for a couple weeks
- Hay barn burns down in winter and need emergency hay – fast
- Need emergency, short-term agisting for some reason
- Seeking colostrum in your area
- Etc.

For those unfortunate times, members would Log In and go to a "MAPACA 911" icon that will be placed on the MAPACA home page. That icon would take members to an email, the member would complete the email information, and then the email is sent to fellow MAPACA members to see if anyone can help! Members that can help respond directly to the person that needs the assistance.

One important note regarding this service -- Similar to how our typical 911 system works, it is for EMERGENCY situations only! It is critical that members not use this service for sales and marketing or for general discussions of alpaca related topics.

As we mentioned in the title, we hope none of you ever needs to click on that icon...but if you do, MAPACA 911 certainly could help you!

Board Members

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Kristie Smoker

Vice President
Ken Clark

Treasurer
Terri Kinka

Secretary
Kim Conrad

Member At Large
Randy Strong

Member At Large
Alan Clark

Member At Large
Chris Reachard

NEW MAPACA MEMBER BENEFIT!

In these difficult economic times, every little bit helps. We suspect that some of you have equipment you no longer use, hay that you want to sell to others, or are interested in performing alpaca related services – such as fiber sorting - for others. Well, MAPACA can help you! The MAPACA Classifieds will be activated on the website very soon. There is no charge for this service as long as you are a MAPACA member!

We will have four categories: Farms and Land, Hay and Feed, Equipment, and Services (this would include fiber processing, transportation, sorting, etc. There will be a limit to the length of the description and the "ad" will be posted on the MAPACA Classified tab for a month.

We also plan to implement an alpaca auction-type service on the website in the near future. Stay tuned on that one!

You will hear more details about how you can be included in the Classifieds in the coming weeks!

A Special Thanks...

The MAPACA Board of Directors would like to thank our Nominations Committee Chairperson, Frieda Goodrich of Angelwood Alpacas in Hackettstown, NJ. Frieda quickly accepted our offer to have her chair this important task for the organization and never stopped until the task was complete. Thank you Frieda for a job well done!

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Onward and Upward: MAPACA Board Recognizes Need For an Executive Director

As we approach the 15th anniversary of MAPACA as a regional AOBA affiliate, the Board of Directors has taken an important step in advancing the organization as a catalyst for success to the alpaca farms of our seven state area. By the time you receive this copy of the MAPACA Newsletter, the Board will be reviewing applications for the newly created position of Executive Director.

Much like our contracted bookkeeper assists the Treasurer in the accounting duties of the association; the Executive Director will carry out the essential day-to-day operations of MAPACA. Oftentimes solely the members of the Board of Directors shoulder the critical functions of MAPACA, and many years of dedicated service by these members are the reason that we are now financially able to employ a dedicated individual for the Executive Director position. But just as scores of generous individuals have volunteered their valuable time to make us the strong affiliate that we are today, many great ideas have been "left on the table" as a result of personal and professional time constraints and the annual turnover within the Board of Directors itself.

By employing the services of an Executive Director, we will be able to streamline the implementation of new ideas that will help us in achieving our common goals; to promote alpacas and support the membership in becoming and remaining successful alpaca owners and breeders.

The Executive Director will be responsible for the basic functioning of MAPACA (membership renewals, Newslet-

ter coordination, website maintenance, meeting coordination) as well as working closely with the Board of Directors to ensure the continued success of one of the largest and most successful alpaca shows in the U.S., the MAPACA Jubilee. By having an individual in this position, it will also ensure continuity as we change approximately one-half of the members of the Board of Directors each year.

As with any new position, there will be much work in building a solid foundation, but we are confident that an Executive Director will help us grow the association in terms of membership size and benefits to member farms. We are particularly excited about possible advances in providing member and veterinarian education, assembling a formal membership benefit package that would include discounts on alpaca-related goods and services, establishing a marketplace for members to buy and sell alpacas and related goods and services, as well as evolving the organization to become a facilitator for the exchange of fiber-related goods and services.

For a complete copy of the Request for Applicants (RFA), visit the MAPACA website (www.MAPACA.org) and click on "About MAPACA" and then "RFP." If you have any questions or comments on how we can make the most of this position, please contact the Board of Directors by email at BOD@MAPACA.org.

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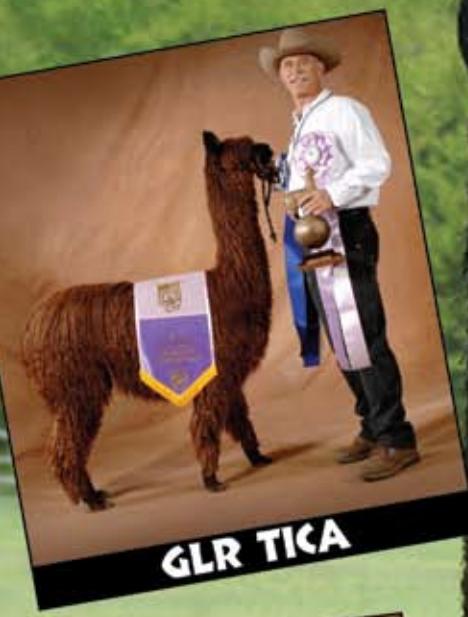
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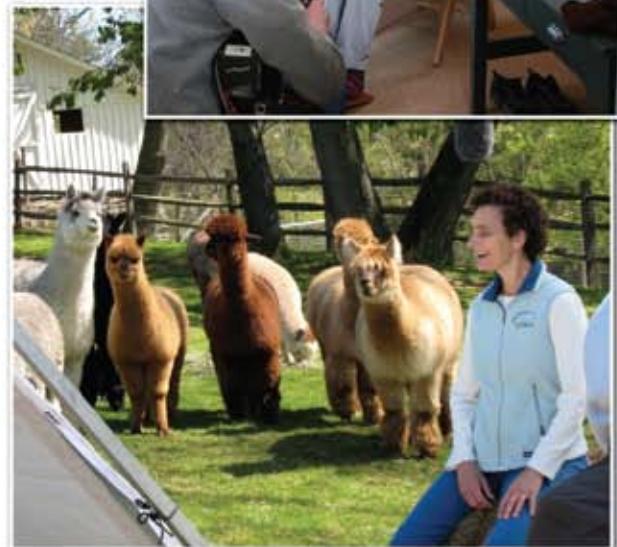
Alpacas on The Martha Stewart Show!

By Leda Blumberg

This past spring, Martha Stewart's production crew spent two days filming a segment on alpacas at Faraway Farm Alpacas in Yorktown Heights, NY. Originally airing on September 23 on Hallmark Channel, the segment can be seen on a link through Faraway Farm's website (www.FarawayFarmAlpacas.com).

The show includes a variety of scenes including feeding and care, shearing, and the creation of an alpaca garment from fleece to finished product. Faraway Farm's owners, Leda Blumberg and Steve Cole were interviewed about alpaca history, breeding, fiber characteristics and what it's like to raise alpacas. Faith Perkins, of Quarry Ridge Alpacas, demonstrated carding, spinning and knitting – and she created a garment for Martha to wear on the live portion of her show.

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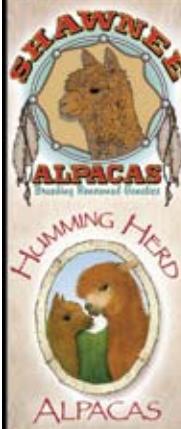
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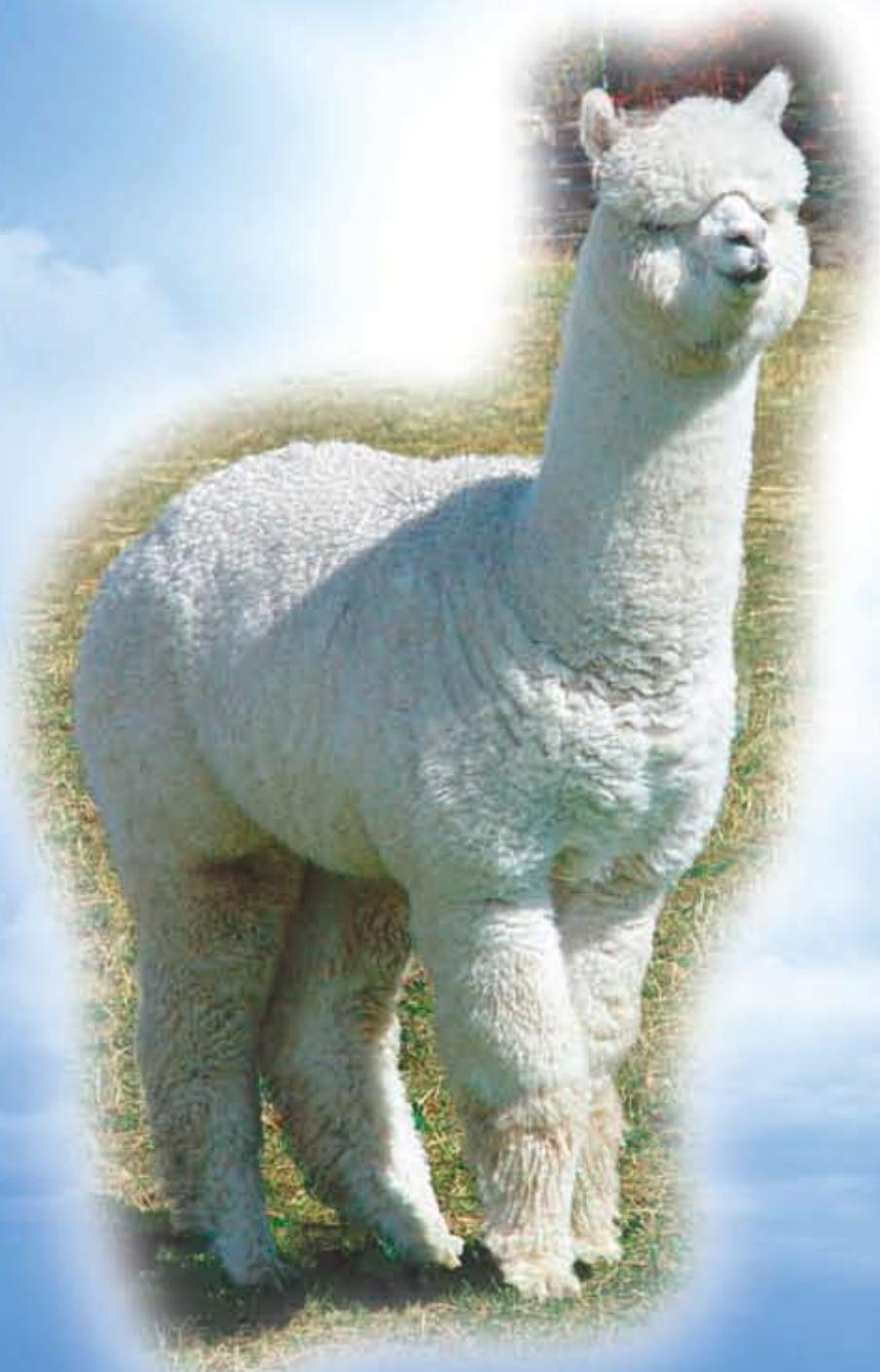
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SCHOOL YEAR: Keeping Youth Involved with Alpacas

By: By Kim Conrad, member of the MAPACA Board of Directors and owner of Paso Ligero Alpacas, LLC, East Berlin, PA

The summer and all of its fun in the sun are past, and the kids are back in school. The alpacas are still in pasture, the fall show season is in full swing, and fall cria are arriving. Nothing has slowed down on the farm, so you could still use the help and interest you might have had more of when the kids were out of school for the summer. So how do you keep kids interested in and involved on your farm once they've returned to their homerooms, lockers and extracurricular activities?

The extracurricular activities can be one of the keys. Many alpaca farms are located in and among school districts that still have some focus on agriculture and farming. In some cases, schools still have classes regarding agriculture in their curriculum. In many cases, they have great programs outside of traditional classes through clubs such as the Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H and Young Farmers Associations. But youth organizations don't have to be solely agriculture focused to get kids interested and involved. Good youth clubs are focused on creating well-rounded citizens out of our kids, and an understanding of nature, farming, where our food and natural fiber originates and animal husbandry can be parts of their programs that attract them to your farm. As a perfect example, anyone who has been to recent MAPACA Jubilee shows knows that youth organizations interested in getting involved with alpacas can go beyond traditional agriculture-fo-

cused clubs and associations, because you have seen the Paca Patrol that Kit Hower of Blankstone Farm has organized through her involvement with the Girl Scouts!

Agricultural clubs are a good place to start, though. The schools that have agricultural curricula or agricultural associations and clubs have staff teachers and advisors. And in this day and age, these staff members are often listed on school websites with contact information. So what better way to get involvement from local youth than to contact your area schools' ag teachers and advisors and invite them to your farm to discuss ways to get the kids interested in and involved with alpacas?! We all know that alpacas are still new and unusual to many people. So we can encourage these teachers to expand their students' horizons by inviting them to learn about alpacas as an alternative livestock option and natural fiber producer. Teach the teachers, and they will teach their students.

While we may not get entire clubs to do more than a farm visit, there may be many individual kids within these clubs who have an interest in doing more with alpacas. We all know that alpacas are a somewhat expensive livestock option as compared to traditional livestock. So many kids involved in such clubs can't choose to do their projects using alpacas because they can't justify asking their parents to purchase an alpaca for them to show in the lo-

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cal 4-H fair, for instance. What a perfect opportunity to not only get your farm name out there but also to do a good deed for a knowledge-hungry child - offer a 4-H club the chance for interested members to come to your farm and learn to work with alpacas and show one of your animals!

By the way, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) has a great pamphlet available for sale through the AOBA Store or to borrow from the library called the 4-H Handbook. It is a leader's manual with 4-H alpaca activities that can be a super resource to help you in guiding the kids who are interested.

These are just a few suggestions to get you started. One of the goals of the new MAPACA Youth Initiative is to provide a centralized contact listing of such youth organizations within the MAPACA footprint that can become an easy reference for our members to use to get youth involved in their area. While I am working to compile a listing, I am one person and need your help to reach to the corners of all of our states and find these organizations to list on our website for you. So I am asking interested members to find and send me the contact information for their local youth agriculture-focused organizations or other reputable youth clubs that have an interest in alpacas, farming or ranching or animal husbandry within their mission of



providing many experiences to their members. Please send this information to Kim@pasoligero.com. And if you already have some great youth involvement that goes beyond your own children, please send me your story and pictures if you have some so that we might also share the ways you have gotten youth involved on your farm and interested in alpacas. Teach the children of today and they may well turn out to be the alpaca breeders and fiber product designers of tomorrow!



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Voodoo Mama and the Technicolor Dust Bunnies

(or how I figured out how to use some of my own alpaca fiber)

By Ann Merriwether

I think a common problem for new farms is figuring out what to do with your fiber. I also think there is a strong desire to create something out of your very own fiber. So let's jump back in time eight years ago to our first shearing. After our first shearing the bags of fiber piled up adding to the clutter in our already chaotic house. The bags languished. I was just not sure what to do with them. I stuck my hands in them from time to time and they were so soft, but they got on my nerves because they don't turn themselves into something like sweaters and mittens. I'm probably getting on their nerves because I don't know how to spin and then knit, crochet, or weave them into anything. Sigh! Impasse! I decided I needed to start at the beginning, so that means spinning.

We were living in Michigan back then, so I joined a spinning group there. The Chelsea Spinners Flock is a huge and talented group. Dozens of spinners show up once a month to spin, chat, eat, and learn new skills. Spinning wheels were everywhere, Louets, Schachts, and Ashfords. Drop spindles dangle and twirl. Yarn was being created at an amazing rate. I wanted to do this. I wanted to make yarn! It all starts with yarn doesn't it? It looks so cool, like alchemy, a lost art. Think of all the fairy tales that involve spinning! You expect a unicorn to prance into the room at any moment. Women there were of all ages, there were even a few men and I'm 99% sure one of them was really Santa! He was a large guy with a long white hair and a beard (duh of course) and he was spinning reindeer fiber (okay really he was spinning flax but still). It was magic there. One of the men (not Santa, but a guy named Ron) ran the beginners circle. They had several wheels that belong to the group. You could try them out. In fact you could rent them for a month for a very low fee. I was warmly invited to "give it a go" and was given some combed fiber organized into long thin tubes (called roving) and thus began my first attempt at spinning. This was my big moment, the beginning of my career in fiber arts. Of course the yarn immediately broke and the leader slipped away on to the bobbin. This happened approximately 7 billion times over the next couple hours. I sucked at spinning. Ron was kind he started me over and over; I finally understood what men

mean about performance anxiety. With anyone watching me, I was a nervous mess. I got a drop spindle and tried spinning some alpaca with that, as it does not pull so fast, and I started to get the hang of it. The wheel I had the most luck with was a Louet and, surprise, surprise, after hinting blatantly and broadly for weeks, I got one for mother's day. I said, "Oh my goodness, a spinning wheel. I never expected that."

I loved my new Louet and the spinning began to flow. It is all very zen and totally relaxing once you get the hang of it. I got up at the crack of dawn take my wheel out on the patio and spin and spin uninterrupted. I had skeins of yarn draped artfully everywhere and it began to get on my nerves, because it wouldn't knit itself into anything like sweaters or mittens. I'm sure I was getting on its nerves too, since I didn't know how to knit or crochet or weave.

Okay now you'd think the next step would be weaving, knitting, or crochet lessons, but instead a completely different fiber art crosses my path at an alpaca show. Felting! You can take any fiber, tangle it all together, and get felt. Felt for hats, felt for slippers, felt for mittens, felt for dolls! Felt!!!! You can felt fiber and you

don't have to know how to do any of that tricky spatial yarn twisty stuff. There are two ways I learned how to felt: wet-felting and dry-felting. Wet felting involves warm soapy water and friction; you can shape a hat on a ball or even slippers right on your feet. There is also dry felting. You need a wicked sharp felting needle, which is about a 4 inch needle with tiny barbed needles on the sides near the end. Thrust back and forth through fiber it will tangle it and you can even sculpt with it. I fell in love with dry felting; I started making little

gnome dolls in my lap. Poke, poke, and poke fiber on a pillow or old piece of foam packing material so you don't push the needle through your leg. To make my gnomes you just shape balls out of fiber and begin poking your needle through, and pretty soon it's a solid little head, you add an egg shaped wad for the body tubes for arms and feet and Voila! Another gnome. I poked little faces with big noses on them.

The little gnomes were everywhere. I made them in natural al-



paca colors: browns and fawns and blacks with crimp white alpaca beards and long crimp alpaca hair. Some had little pointed caps; some had acorns caps for hats. Soon they had small wives and even minute babies sleeping in walnut shells. Honestly they all looked like tiny members of the band ZZ-Top. Andy, my husband, observed that it looked like I was making voodoo dolls. Actually they all looked kind of like Andy, (who himself looks like a member of the band ZZ-Top). I'd be needle felting a doll's nose in the kitchen and he's scream "Owww! My nose!" Something stuck my nose! I'd be poking the chest and he'd throw himself on the floor, "I'm having a heart attack!" Our daughters, Kenni and Helen giggled and giggled. That's how I came to call my fiber arts sideline, Voodoo Mama. Andy so far has not had a heart attack or lost the use of his eye through my gnome manufacturing, but I did injure him badly once, and it had nothing to do with voodoo. Here is an important safety tip!

I was felting in our living room in front of the fire. It was like some kind of picturesque, old-fashioned moment. I felt like Laura Ingalls Wilder, only instead of darning socks, I was felting alpaca fiber. We have a really comfortable living room and it has a wooden floor with nice rugs. In front of the large fireplace there are two comfy love seats with a huge padded double ottoman in between. I love to settle down in there in front of the fire and make a few felted things. This particular day I was felting away and I got sleepy. I dozed off and the gnome and foam felting pad with the needle stuck in it tumbled off my lap and landed upside down on the floor. Andy came in with a big load of firewood took off his boots (probably so he wouldn't wake me) came lumbering in and stepped right on the felting pad. The 4-inch hellishly sharp barbed felting needle went right through his foot and broke off against a bone. He ended up having to have surgery to get it out. Okay had this been reversed I'd have NEVER EVER let him live it down. We'd have had an anniversary each year with a fabulous present for me to commemorate my injury and during any marital fight it would have come back like a bowl of bad chili as ammunition. Andy to this day has never said one word about how negligent I was. Sooooo if you are ever felting, never leave one of those needles unattended. Always, always, always, stick that needle deep into the thin side of the pad.

The next thing I learned to do was dye fiber. Now a lot of dyes are little tricky to work with. You need to use steel pots and stuff that you will never again use for food, because the dyes are toxic. You need to use assists (or fixatives or mordants) that are toxic as well. You wear masks and heavy-duty gloves, and this is just not a thing for kids, and everything I do involves kids. But there is a kid-safe alternative. It involves a certain kid's drink mix (you know the one, it comes in a zillion flavors and colors). You just mix

a couple packets in four cups of water with a dash of vinegar and presto change-o, colorfast dye in an amazing array of bright vibrant colors. Soon my gnomes were wearing cheery red caps and had little gnome wizard's friends with blue and purple capes. Little Gnome witches had orange and purple striped stockings. I moved on to mermaids with blue green tails and purple hair. Okay here it the thing, as mentioned above, the Merriwethers are not a neat people at the best of times. The colored fiber added another level of interesting debris to our already somewhat interesting clutter. Little bits of berry- berry blue, kiwi lime watermelon green, bright orange and cherry colored fibers fell off the table and eddied around the house. My friend Gail said it best, "I love coming to your house, and you are the only person I know who has Technicolor dust bunnies."

So now I make gnomes, mermaids, birds, hats, dogs, alpacas, horses, angels, Santa's, and wall hangings. Whatever catches my fancy. I actually give occasional felting lessons and demonstrations (I still knit criminally badly).

One day my buddy Sharon and I were at the local mall for "Farm Days". Farms from all over the area were they're hanging out explaining farming to the mall goers. A lady from a Christian group approached our alpaca information table and took each of our cards. Mine has a picture of a Gnome and the name Voodoo Mama Fiber Arts. She asked Sharon if she would be willing to come give a talk about alpacas but she whispered (but not your friend, we are a Christian group we don't want any Voodoo). Sharon laughed so hard I thought she

was going to pee her pants! I said let me go get Andy and he could do his heart attack routine. Actually both Sharon and I went to talk to the group and we had a lovely time and they have since invited us back. This was the beginning of my journey into fiber arts so if you are looking at bags of fiber, try felting!

I first noticed alpacas in a parade in Dexter, Michigan in 2002. I was struck especially by how beautiful the animals were. Later that year my husband and I bought a 20-acre farm in Vestal New York, (and after a bit of convincing by me) we both decided that alpacas would be the perfect animals for us to raise there (of course there was that initial sticker shock too). We started with 8 alpacas while we were still living in Michigan and as I write this we have over 70. I was initially attracted to alpacas as cool livestock but I very quickly became very enamored of the fiber and am now a busy fiber artist (using the fiber from our alpacas and our Wensleydale and Jacob sheep in my work). Besides alpaca farming and fiber arts I'm also a developmental psychologist, at Binghamton University. My husband and I have two daughters Kenny (aged 16) and Helen (aged 13) both also very into alpacas (performance training and fiber arts especially).



The Barber Pole Worm

By Dr. Lori Walker from The Farm at Rainbow's End

Just recently, our part of the country has become aware of an insidious parasite that sneaks up on us then comes on like a freight train. *Haemonchus contortus*, commonly known as the barber-pole worm, has been well known in the southeast for years. It is now rearing its ugly head as far north as New England and even Canada. This sneaky bloodsucker is very subtle, difficult to diagnose, and tricky to treat.

Symptoms can be quite vague at first. Anemia, failure to thrive, and weight loss can be signs of quite a few disorders. Several farms have recently suddenly had animals "dropping like flies" once *haemonchus* gets a foothold. It is a bloodsucker that lives in the stomach. Just 1000 worms can drain up to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of blood a day! And a female can lay 5000 eggs a day, rapidly contaminating pastures. Severe anemia can result, as seen by white mucous membranes. The young, the pregnant, geriatric, debilitated, and otherwise immune-compromised are most likely to be affected. Often a farm will notice stunted growth, or "runts." The weight can seem to just fall off animals at an alarming rate. The immune-suppression often allows other diseases such as mycoplasma *haemolamae*, commonly known as "epe," to opportunistically coinfest.

Regular monitoring of fecals is the way to look for this parasite. The thing to know is that it is a strongyle, indistinguishable on routine fecal examinations from "regular old strongyles" that for so long we have just monitored for high numbers. The only labs that perform the special stain test to tell if the strongyle eggs are *haemonchus* are Oregon State and University of Georgia. Cornell does NOT at this time differentiate it. Any lab can culture it and see what worm hatches, but this is a labor-intensive and long process. The recommendation is that if strongyles are found on the routine fecal, send the sample to one of the two labs that perform the peanut-lectin stain so that you know if it is *haemonchus contortus* you are dealing with.

Okay, so now you have tested and either you breathe a sigh of relief that it is just "regular old strongyles," or you say, "Okay, there is barberpole worm on my farm. How do I deal with it?" If this is a new animal to your farm that is in quarantine, you do not want to introduce it to your pastures. This case warrants aggressive treatment. Safeguard/Panacur is virtually worthless against this parasite. So far, milbemycin and levamisole still seem to have some efficacy, as may Valbazen. Once you do choose and utilize a particular wormer, make sure to follow through and recheck the fecal afterwards! Too often we assume we did what we needed to do, when in fact the worst of the bugs has survived the treatment. We want to be very cautious in using up this precious resource of anthelmintics because resistance is forever! If the parasite is established on your property, it is not the end of the world. It is a much wiser idea long-term to deworm selectively based on animals that are symptomatic and the highest egg-shedders. In fact, by treating just the top third egg-shedders, you will reduce the egg count in the population by 85%. Anthelmintic resistance is an inherited trait in parasites. By leaving some untreated animals in the population, resistance is slowed down greatly. This is the principle of "refugia." The non-treated population will dilute out the resistant gene, thus delaying the development of resistance in the herd.

Once you know you have the parasite on the premises, it becomes a management issue. Caught too late, even eliminating it and giving transfusions is not always enough to save the animal. Regular monitoring of weight, body condition, and mucous membrane color can lead to early discovery of a symptomatic animal that warrants treatment.

The bottom line is, be aware, be vigilant, be selective in treatment, and we can keep this under control.

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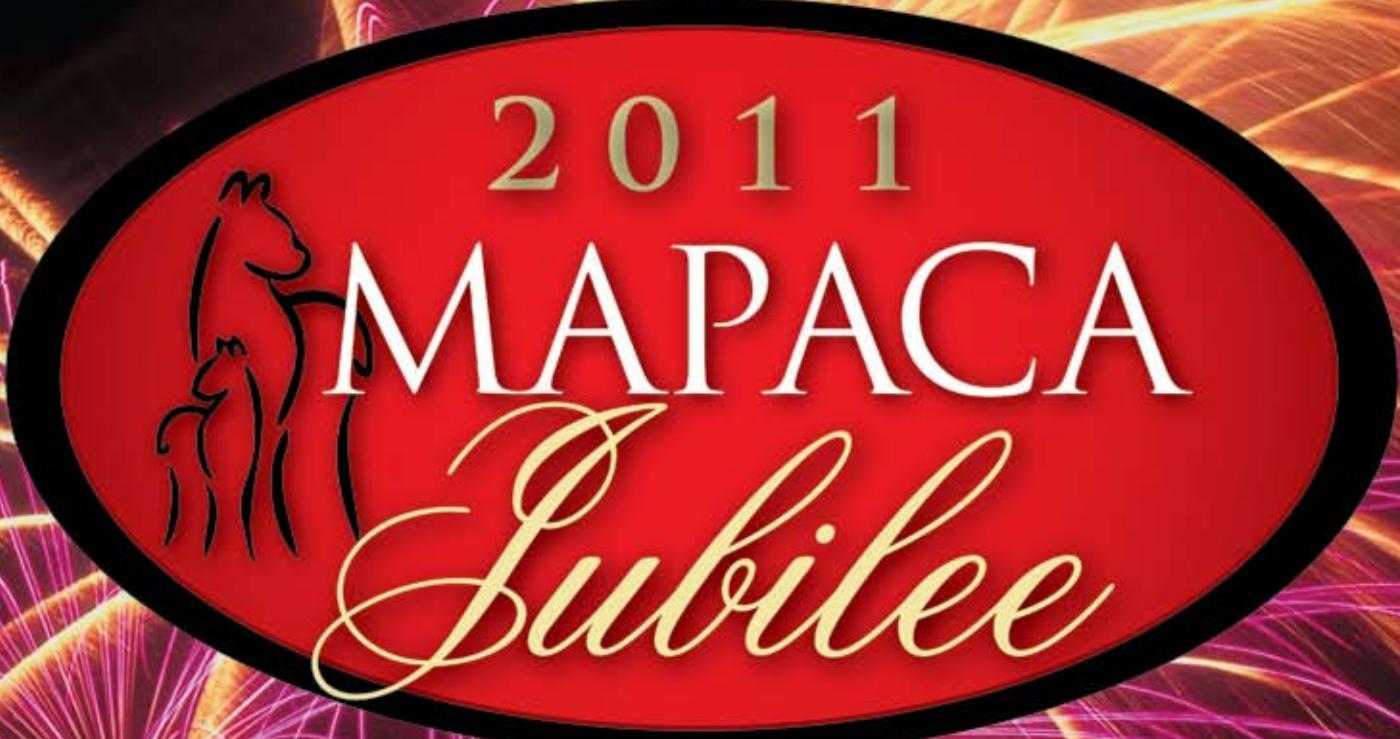
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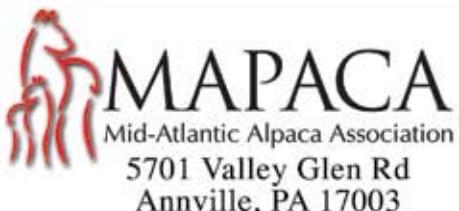
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