



MWLA Newsletter

Fall 2014

President's Letter

Hello fellow Midwest Lama Members!!!

I hope this letter finds you all well. Our summer has quickly come and gone, and I don't know about you, but I am not ready for fall yet. What I do know, is these next six months will be very exciting for the MWLA. We've got Lamapalooza the first weekend in October, the new photo/calendar contest (more details on page 6), and the annual winter conference in February. The next six months should have a little something for everything.

At the last MWLA meeting we discussed all kinds of ways to get people involved in more lama things and the ways that MWLA can help make that happen. Many different topics were discussed, including the Fall MWLA meeting and all the enhancements that are coming to the Lamapalooza weekend. These editions should make for a very exciting event. If you want to volunteer to help out with the enhancement committee, please reach out to Ann Barkley.

Another exciting change is our new photo contest. All of the judging will be done by you, our members, and the general public via our website. In the end, the winning photos will be turned into the first annual (hopefully) MWLA lama calendar. So, everyone send us your cute, funny, and embarrassing lama photos.

Last, but not least, we have the winter conference coming up the weekend of February 21st and 22nd, 2015. Same great place, awesome MWLA members, and Mark Smith as our keynote speaker. We will be finalizing and posting the agenda for the conference later on this year, so be on the lookout for updates. Also, if you have any ideas for other speakers, roundtables, or projects, please reach out and let one of the board members know. The conference is for you, our members, and we want to bring in things that interest you.

We're getting lots of big things coming up, and I hope to see/talk to every one of you over the next several months. Happy fall everyone!!!

Katie

Camelid Community

“Fiber as Business” Conference



What a weekend! After a full year of planning and organizing Camelid Community’s “Fiber as Business” conference, we saw everything come together this past weekend at Wooster, Ohio, as 130 attendees from 19 states and Canada learned about the possibilities, potentials and options available to all of us who want to maximize use of our camelid fiber.

Speakers from Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America, New England Alpaca Fiber Pool, Natural Fiber Producers, Pacific Northwest Llama Fiber Cooperative, Alpaca Blanket Project, New Era Fiber Mill and 84 Alpacas Fiber Mill let us know what they can offer us. In addition we had a marketing expert, Tara Swiger; a tax and accounting pro, Dave Krebs; and Randy Hammerstrom, a representative from USDA’s Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News Office, provide us with the other parts of the puzzle we need to produce a cash flow from our fiber.

Many of you have probably already heard much about response to the conference from

Facebook and other online media sources. We will be posting photos and a conference wrap-up soon at www.camelidcommunity.us. Continue to visit our website over the coming weeks to find out about more Camelid Community offerings and events, some coming up next year...

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or comments, let me know...

Sheila Fugina

(bsfugina@frontier.com)

Treasurer’s Report

John Porter	March 25 - July 15, 2014
Beginning Balance	\$26,277.46
Income	
Dues	<u>\$50.00</u>
	Income Total \$50.00
Expenses	
Hodges Badge - Lamapalooza Ribbons	\$767.19
Philip Feiner - Lamapalooza Flight	\$326.00
Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair	<u>\$225.00</u>
	Expense Total \$1,318.19
Ending Balance	\$25,009.27

The Winter Edition of the MWLA Newsletter will be published in early January.

If you have anything you’d like published or advertised, please send the information to Pam Ritchie at pastorpamela08@aol.com by December 31, 2014.

There is additional advertising information on page 7 of the newsletter.

It's a llama-o-rama for 4-H kids in Sauk Rapids



With warm weather, sunshine and blue skies, Saturday seemed perfect for a stroll. At the Benton County Fairgrounds, more than 100 people did just that with an added caveat — they made sure their llamas had some outdoor fun, too.

A llama training clinic was a welcome opportunity for 4-H members from near and far to shake off any remaining rust from winter and prepare themselves and their animals for the summer event circuit.

"It's all about getting out early and working with the llamas," said Kelly Lingbeek of Marshall.

Lingbeek, who was with her 12-year-old daughter, Kaitlin, said her area's 4-H Club tries to make it to the St. Cloud region each spring. Kaitlin Lingbeek said Saturday's event gave her an opportunity to hone her skills.

"(Events like this) make you better because they teach you the stuff you don't know," she said.

Saturday's event isn't the norm, however. The day wouldn't have been possible without a grant the group received earlier in the spring. The Minnesota 4-H Foundation donated \$275 to host the event — which covered showmanship, performance, grooming and health.

When the opportunity to attend arose, plenty of people decided to take advantage. Sauk Rapids'

Cheryl Pflipsen, a 4-H leader who helped organized the event, said 4-H members participated along with 53 llamas. There were representatives from 15 counties.

"They're serious and they want to share the passion," Pflipsen said.

Chad Tirevold, a 4-H leader from Becker who was volunteering Saturday, said it was impressive to see so many people turn out, something organizers predicted.

"We were really excited (when they received the grant) because we knew what we could do with it," he said. "We knew the amount of kids that would turn out."

The hope was the added exposure to the animals would raise people's comfort levels around llamas.

"The kids that have never had that interaction with a llama, they can feed off the older kids that have the experience," Tirevold said. "It lets them know it's not a big scary animal and that this animal can do great things. And the parents can try it out and say, 'OK, that's something we can pursue in the future rather than just seeing them at the zoo.' "

Despite the fact they were miles from the nearest zoo, 11-year-old Erin Eberhardt, her 13-year-old sister, Austin, and the girl's father, Rance, seemed to be in the middle of one as the lunch hour neared. For their break, the trio decided to hang out among a group of llamas.

The group, from Foreston, doesn't own their own llamas but instead leases some through a farm in Princeton, where they exchange farm work for practice time and the use of the animals. Events like the one Saturday prove especially valuable for the girls, Rance Eberhardt said, and plenty of fun because it's just one more chance to be around the people and animals they've come to enjoy.

"It's a good experience," Rance Eberhardt said. "It keeps them going."

"It's a llama-o-rama for 4-H kids in Sauk Rapids", by Ben Katzner; May 3, 2014 was reprinted from The St. Cloud Times

SUMMER MWLA MEETING MINUTES

Seyforth Building, Pierce County Fairgrounds, Ellsworth, WI

Present were: President Katie Mazac, Secretary Ann Barkley, Margo Schultz, Connor Cook, Dan and Melody Whittaker, Jane Sells, Danita Doerre, Randi Kirchner, Julie Mazac, and Norris Berg.

Katie called the meeting to order promptly at 4:30 PM on Saturday, July 26, 2014. She passed out the printed agenda and asked if there were any additions or changes. None were offered.

LAMAPALOOZA: Since Lamapalooza was not held this spring due to low registration numbers, the plan was made to hold it in the fall. In that way, the ribbons and prizes which had already been purchased can be used. Lamapalooza will take the place of Lama Market and will be held the weekend of October 4 and 5 in Menominee, WI.

Kay Berg will be the clerk and will run the show. The show will be ILR sanctioned and participants can register on line.

The show will offer the usual halter classes, plus mature classes for llamas over 10 years of age and a mommy baby class. In addition, Ann is organizing an "Enhancement Group" which will work to make the events more attractive on many levels to members who do not necessarily show. This group is already planning games, prizes, drawings and additional attractions such as a photo contest, finished wool products contest and dessert contest. The Enhancement Group will also serve dinner at no charge to those in attendance. The fall meeting of MWLA will follow the dinner.

Anyone is welcome to join the Enhancement Group. Call or email Ann if you are interested: 651-433-2090/ prdrfarm@fromtiernet.net.

PHOTO CONTEST/ CALENDAR: Katie introduced a plan for a photo contest from which a calendar will be developed. There will be 4 categories for photo

entries. So far, these will include crias and lamas at work. Ideas for other categories should be suggested to Katie. Katie and Dan will gather the photos and they will be posted on line. Each member of MWLA will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite photo in each category. Cash prizes will be awarded to 3 places (\$30.00/ \$20.00/ \$10.00) and there will be one \$50.00 prize for people's choice overall.

The top 12 vote-getters will be published in an MWLA calendar for 2015. Photos should be submitted by the end of September. Voting will occur through October and into November. Votes will be tallied and the calendar will be printed and ready for sale by January 1, 2015. Calendars will sell for \$15.00 each.

MWLA SCHOLARSHIP: Member Cheryl Pflipsen had inquired whether MWLA has a scholarship fund for college-bound youth. MWLA does not have such a program in place. Discussion focused on what the standards should be and what might be involved in setting up such a program. One question was whether the applicant would need to be a member of the club. Ann asked how the youth could be a member if we don't offer a youth membership. Margo suggested creating a youth group and making the scholarship program the responsibility of that group. The members present were unable to reach a decision and felt more thought and member input would be appropriate. Julie moved to table the discussion until the fall meeting at Lamapalooza. The motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE: Katie expressed the wish to have the website offer more info in broader areas so that it would be considered a "go to" resource re: llamas for the general public. Dan will add a services tab and is looking for a link on shearing. Katie asked to have info from informative brochures and articles by Kristy Brown added. Dan will add everything he can. He

Continued from page 4.

MINUTES CONTINUED

asked to have people send him material, especially pictures.

FACEBOOK PAGE: It was mentioned that MWLA has a Facebook page. Dan stated he does not have the time to manage the FB page in addition to the website. We are asking to have someone step up and volunteer to manage the FB page.

FALL FLEECE SHOW: Katie asked whether the group would be interested in holding a fleece show this fall. The fleeces would be mailed in, judged, and then mailed back. The show would be entirely separate from Lamapalooza. It would be sanctioned by ILR and use an ILR certified judge. The winners would accrue ILR points.

Expenses were discussed. There would be a \$50.00 charge to sanction the show with ILR and \$3.00 would need to be sent in for each animal. There would also be a significant expense for the judge. Members expressed concern that there may not be enough interest to warrant the expense. It was suggested perhaps using a local ILR certified judge would save costs. Norris moved to table discussion until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Margo and passed unanimously.

DIRECTION OF THE CLUB RE: OTHER ACTIVITIES: Dan asked why we are compiling money and not doing anything with it for the good of the membership and the industry. There followed a lively discussion of ways the funds in the treasury could be invested for the benefit of the members, their animals and their farms' programs as well as to educate and interest more people in lamas. Suggestions included a club sponsored shearing day, show clinics, wool pool, and support of other lama related events.

Since there will no longer be a Lamapalooza in the spring, Ann suggested we use our energy and resources to support the events which already exist. For instance, she suggested some sort of exhibit or

demonstration at Shepherds Harvest and participation on some level at Llama Magic. Katie volunteered to flesh out what the picture could look like re: Shepherd's Harvest and Ann will look into what can be arranged with Llama Magic for spring 2015.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The next club meeting will be at Lamapalooza on Saturday evening. The winter meeting will be at the annual Winter Conference. Margo asked if we could consider holding more meetings at member farms.

Katie closed the meeting by reading the following quote: "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. The only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Margo moved to adjourn, Ann seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.



MWLA Photo Contest

The Midwest Lama Association is sponsoring a photo contest for any and all MWLA members.

There are 3 photo categories (with cash prizes).

- Crias, crias, and more crias
- Lamas at work (action photos)
- Any other lama photo

The photos will be displayed on the MWLA website (www.midwestlama.org), and everyone will be able to go on the website to view the photos and vote for their favorites.

Cash prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place in each division. \$25 for 1st, \$20 for 2nd, \$15 for 3rd, and \$10 for 4th. The photo that receives the most votes overall (People's Choice Photo) will receive an additional \$25. The winning photos will appear in a 2015 calendar published by MWLA. The entrant will have the choice to include a business card in the calendar as well.

WHO MAY ENTER: All MWLA members in good standing are eligible to enter. One entry per category per member will be allowed. Photos submitted must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity.

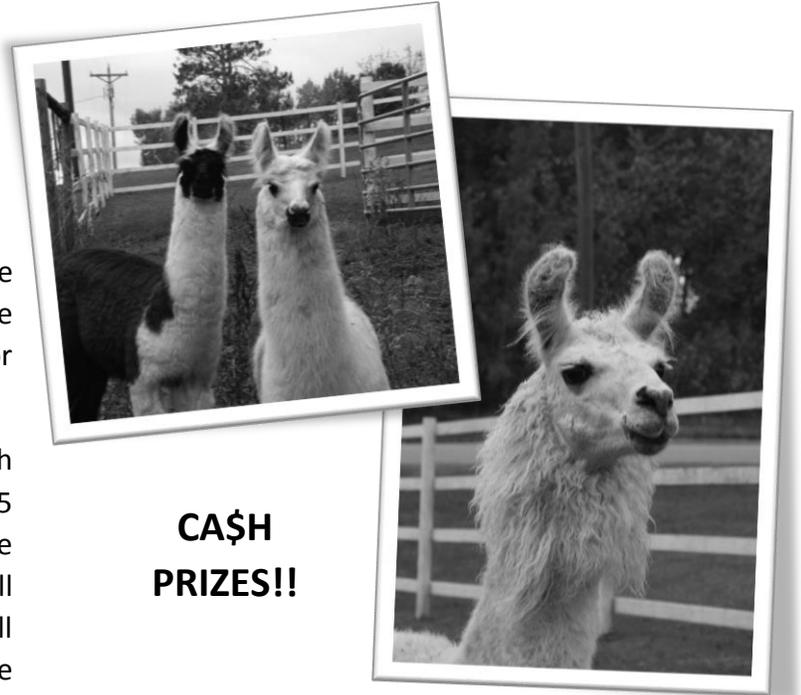
WHO MAY VOTE: Any person with a valid email address is eligible to vote. One vote per category per email address will be allowed.

HOW TO ENTER: Please email your photos, with the category that they are being entered in, by October 31, 2014 to: Katie Mazac (cazam.km@gmail.com).

DEADLINES: Entries must be received by October 31, 2014 @ 11:59 PM, to be eligible. Voting will open November 3, 2014. Voting will close November 30, 2014 @ 11:59 PM. Winners will be posted to the website December 5, 2014 and sent out via e-mail.

Please direct all questions to Katie Mazac.
715-220-9403 or cazam.km@gmail.com.

Entries must be received by
October 31, 2014 @ 11:59 PM



**CASH
PRIZES!!**

Our fall MWLA meet will be held at

LAMAPLOOZA

On Saturday, October 4th

After the show

Please submit your agenda items to Katie Mazac

**If you haven't signed up for
Lamapalooza already, it's not too late!!**

The deadline for entries is September 26th. And promptness is appreciated. But, entries (and the late fee) will be accepted up until show weekend.

Long story short, we'd rather see you there (even if you are a little late), than not at all.

And, if you aren't exhibiting, please join us for a dinner and the fall MWLA meeting on Saturday.

Print Advertisements & Rates

Advertisement	Dimensions (Inches)	Member Price	Non-Member Price
Full Page	8 X 10.5	\$25	\$30
Half Page (Vertical)	8 X 5	\$15	\$20
Half Page (Horizontal)	3.75 X 10.5	\$15	\$20
Half Page (Island)	5 X 8	\$15	\$20
Third Page (Column)	2.75 X 10.5	\$10	\$15
Third page (Banner)	8 X 3.25	\$10	\$15
Quarter Page (Vertical)	3.75 X 5	\$7	\$12
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	5 X 3.75	\$7	\$12
Quarter Page (Banner)	8 X 2.5	\$7	\$12
Sixth Page (Vertical)	2.75 X 5	\$5	\$10
Sixth Page (Horizontal)	5 X 2.75	\$5	\$10
Business Card	3.25 X 1.75	\$2	\$7
Classified (less than 75 words)	N/A	1st - Free 2nd - \$2	\$7
Classified (more than 75 words)	N/A	\$5	\$10

