

# MWLA Newsletter

Winter 2015

## President's Letter

Greetings Midwest Lama Members!!!

Winter is here, and so are the days of frozen water tanks, snowy lama whiskers, and subzero temperatures. Thankfully, we all know that winter doesn't last forever (even if it feels like it), and we've got a great conference planned that is sure to make this winter just a little more exciting.

The annual winter conference is coming up in just a few short weeks, and I hope you all have sent in your registrations, because this is going to be a conference you won't want to miss. We've got great speakers coming in and what promises to be a day of awesome presentations. We also have our annual banquet and fund raising auction; knowing some of the items that other members are donating, the auction is bound to be an exciting way to wrap up our Saturday festivities. Also, for those of you bringing donations, we have some new advertising options. Please check out page six of the newsletter for more information.

Sunday morning of the conference will also be our winter membership meeting, and I'd like to ask everyone to bring any agenda items they'd like discussed to me, either before or at the conference. The board is here to help make this organization great in any way that we can, but in order to do that, we need your proposals, event ideas, and general improvement suggestions.

This year at the conference, we will also be holding elections for two officer positions, the association's secretary and treasurer. Please take a minute to think about those positions, and try to imagine yourself in one of them. If you have any interest in either of those positions, please reach out to me, and I can better explain the duties for each position and answer any questions you might have.

Anyways, as I sit and write this letter to you, I can see the snow falling outside my windows and just want to say, stay warm, and I hope that I see as many of you as possible at the conference.

*Katie*



# FALL MWLA MEETING MINUTES

## Dunn County Fairgrounds, Menomonie, WI

The fall meeting was held at Lamapalooza in Menomonie, WI. There were approximately 45 members in attendance.

President Katie Mazac called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She passed out copies of the agenda and the minutes of the summer meeting. Both were accepted by the group with no discussion.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer John Porter reported the treasury had a balance of \$26,277.46 as of 3/25. There was income of \$50.00 for dues. The following expenses were paid: Ribbons for Lamapalooza \$767.19, Lamapalooza judge \$326, Show Sponsorship \$225, Lamapalooza barn \$400, and Grant to Cheryl Pflipsen \$100. Total expenses were \$1818.19, and the closing balance was \$24,509.27.

The Treasurers report was adopted as presented with no discussion.

**Photo Contest:** Katie presented her plan for the club calendar/photo contest. Katie will send out an email with details of how to enter. Entries and voting will all be done online. Members can vote once in each category, and the top 12 vote-getters will be selected for a monthly photo for the 2015 club calendar.

**Timeline:** Photos will be submitted by the end of October. Voting will be completed by the end of November. Katie indicated the calendar will be completed and ready for sale before Christmas.

**Youth Scholarship:** The topic of a youth scholarship was brought up again. It had been tabled at the summer meeting. The consensus of the members present was that the applicants must be 18-19 years old and must be a member of the MWLA. The selection process would involve an application in which the youth would discuss their plan of study,

give background re: their involvement in lama related activities and write some sort of essay.

John suggested the officers serve as the selection committee. John suggested the officers organize the process and present their plan at the Winter Conference.

**Facebook Page:** The members were invited to join the group on FB. The page would be an excellent place to post photos and make announcements for all to see. John will be the administrator of the page.

**Fall Fleece Show:** Katie inquired whether the group might be interested in sponsoring a fall fleece show. This idea had been tabled at the summer meeting. The fleeces would be mailed in, judged, and mailed back to entrants.

Many members felt a fleece contest would be too expensive. To make it worthwhile, we would need to hire an ILR certified fleece judge. Entry fees would not cover the expense of a judge. The idea was dropped due to lack of interest and difficulty seeing how it could be financed.

**4-H Plaques:** Kim Schechinger thanked the group for sponsoring the 4H prizes at MN State Fair.

**Lamapalooza/Club Show:** Katie brought up the question of whether the group wants to have 2 shows per year, for instance possibly to return LPZA to the spring and also sponsor Market in the Fall as had been done previously. Kim and several others said spring does not seem like a good time to have a show. It is already a busy time of year with farm chores, births, graduations, and other events.

Ann Barkley said we had been unsuccessful making a spring show work this year but having LPZA in the fall seems to be working out well. She suggested

we continue having our club sponsored show be called Lamapalooza, and that we only have one show per year, Ann also mentioned there are other opportunities for involvement in the spring and that it would be good for the club to take advantage of those. She mentioned Llama Magic and Shepherd's Harvest as possibilities for members to showcase their animals and programs. Dan Whittaker stated Llama Magic will not be held in 2015. Margo Schultz suggested we also support the Llama Olympics held at Kristy Brown's. John suggested we discuss various opportunities for involvement at the Winter Conference in February.

Ann moved to have the club sponsor a single show each year, that it be called Lamapalooza and that it be held the first weekend in October. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Winter Conference:** The Winter Conference will be held February 20-22, 2015 at Stoney Creek Inn in Onalaska, WI. Mark Smith will be the headliner. He will focus on llamas as a business and a hobby. Danita Doerre will be in charge of the fiber offerings/workshops.

Ann asked whether we could also offer more program options. Dan wants more program items in addition to fiber projects and education, for instance a driving class. Lamas 101 and pasture management were also mentioned. John stated we need ideas and volunteers.

John pointed out that it is difficult for a presenter to go up against the keynote speaker. It was mentioned that the alpaca presentation last year was not well attended. For this reason, John wondered if it might be better to schedule the breakout sessions on Friday evening.

Jenni Olson offered the idea of having U of M vets talk if Kristy Brown is not interested in doing so. It was suggested that something about financial

management and the IRS might be good. Tom Parsons made such a presentation at a previous conference. Melody Whittaker suggested farm management and operations as a subject.

Everyone was encouraged to bring their ideas to the officers and conference planners.

**Newsletter:** Katie announced that the newsletter will now be done online. It will be sent quarterly, possibly more often if appropriate. Members can request a paper copy if they wish. The group who had originally agreed to publish the newsletter will no longer be involved. Katie will be formatting the newsletter in PDF.

Dan asked about how to set up advertising. John can take care of that. The costs of advertising will be less since the expense of printing will not be involved.

**Website:** Dan reported he has added a link for shearing. He asked for ideas for more links and also for photos. He stated we are getting lots of hits and it would be good to take advantage of the exposure.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## Treasurer's Report

**John Porter      Oct 1, 2014 - Jan 31, 2015**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$24,509.27
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$1,150.00
Fall Lamapalooza	\$3,883.00
Midwest Lama Conference	<u>\$4,825.00</u>
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$9,858.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Johnson Bank Service Charge	\$10.00
2015 MN State Fair Award	\$28.50
2015 Calendar Contest Costs	\$1075.30
Lamapalooza Expenses	<u>\$2787.67</u>
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$3901.47</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$30,465.80</b>



**MIDWEST LLAMA ASSOCIATION**  
**WINTER CONFERENCE**  
**YOUTH PROGRAM**

February 21-22 2015

ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUTH PROGRAM:  
YARN  
LLAMA AND/OR ALPACA FIBER (YARN, ROVING, ETC.)  
MARKERS AND PENCILS

**| AUCTION ITEMS FOR THE YOUTH |**

**PATTY & BRIAN PATTERSON**  
715-273-3584  
brian@mytvf.net

## Fiber Day

October 11, 2014

The Fiber Day hosted at the Pflipsen Llama Pfarm on October 11, 2014, was a success! With two presenters to help the adults and youth learn about projects pertaining to llama fiber such as spinning, dyeing, and other crafts, the day turned out to be helpful to many people as they are now able to pass on their knowledge.

The day started with the youth learning how to spin by hand, in which they got to keep their hand spinners to use on their own time. Others learned

how to dye fiber into a vibrant color scheme. Many people learned how to use the spinning wheel, or





Cont. from page 4 Fiber Day

they learned how to card, wash, felt and separate fiber. All of the skills gained by the youth and adults were highly useful in getting the most out of their animals.

After a pizza lunch, time was spent walking the llamas down beautiful trails and learning about expanding their knowledge in the llama project in general. With 21 youth and 18 adults from five area Minnesota counties attending, much knowledge was shared between everyone. The Fiber Day was a great time in which everyone left with a smile on their face and much useful information.

Thank you to the Midwest Llama Association for their grant donation to make this event such a huge success for the Central MN Llama 4-H Club!

- Cheryl Pflipsen



## If you haven't signed up for the Winter Conference yet, it's not too late!!

The deadline for registrations have been extended, and there will be no late fee for registrations postmarked before February 7th..

Long story short, we'd rather see you there (even if your registration is a little late), than not at all. Reach out to the officers with any questions.

Our winter MWLA meet will be held at the  
**WINTER CONFERENCE**  
On Sunday, February 22nd

 stoney creek  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

**From the Midwest Lama Association board**, to our members. As you all know, we will be holding our annual winter conference the weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we wanted to take this opportunity to ask for your help.

We have several new things planned for the conference this year, and we hope that all of you are as excited as we are for the variety of classes and speakers attending this year's conference.

This annual conference has another important piece, the fund raising auction. We, your Midwest Lama board, would like to ask you for your support. We are seeking donations for the live auction, the silent auction, and the youth auction, all of which help us to provide a variety of events throughout the year.

We already have several things planned for 2015, including a fiber judging workshop, continued community support with grants, and our annual fall

show. None of this would be possible without your support and involvement.

If you are attending the conference, feel free to bring any donation items along with you. If you can't attend the conference and would still like to donate, please reach out to any of the board members, and we will help you figure out how to get your donation to the conference.

As an **added bonus** this year, we will have additional advertising at the conference for anyone bringing a donation. So, we are asking that if you plan on bringing a donation, please send a flyer or desired advertisement to Katie Mazac before the conference, as she will be putting together a slideshow of all the conference supporters, and it will be played throughout the conference. If you need help putting something together for the advertisement slideshow, don't hesitate to reach out to Katie. **Thank you!!**

## The HW Farm Shoppe

*specializing in quality alpaca fiber products*

- HWF alpaca yarn – natural & hand-dyed colors
- HWF alpaca fiber, roving & bats
- Alpaca Yarn Co yarn – hand-dyed tonal & variegated
- Fair Trade items (hats, gloves, scarves, bags)
- Socks – variety of styles & colors
- HWF hand-crafted items (scarves, shawls, headbands, hats)
- Hand-woven rugs & unique gift items



Visit The HW Farm Shoppe booth at the 2015 MWLA Conference!!

Visit The HW Farm Shoppe located at Hickory Wind Farm-Alpacas for a unique shopping experience. Our Fair Trade items are made in Peru & Bolivia. Other products are from American companies including the Alpaca Fiber Co-op (AFCNA), Creekwater Alpacas, and the Alpaca Yarn Co. Our HWF yarn, bats & roving are milled from our alpaca fiber by local fiber mills.

*HWF believes in selling quality alpaca products at reasonable prices; we do not re-label manufactured items with our own farm label.*



### HICKORY WIND FARM-ALPACAS

N7080 Garves Coulee      Bangor WI 54614  
(between La Crosse & Sparta WI; north of Hwy 16 off Hwy 162)

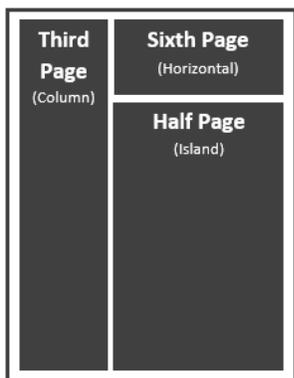
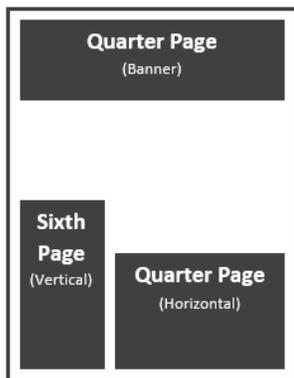
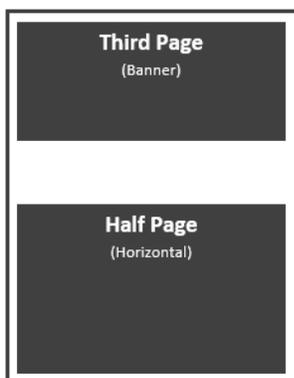
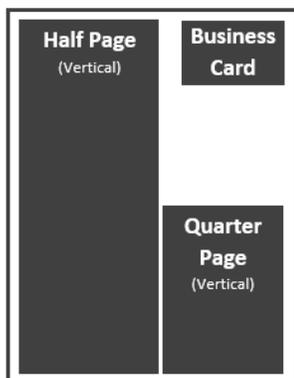
alpacas\_hwf@centurytel.net      608.486.4868  
www.hickorywindfarm.com

#### The HW Farm Shoppe Hours

**February – September** - Easily by appointment  
**October-January** – Sundays 11 am – 3 pm  
Weekdays by appointment

## MWLA Newsletter Print Advertisements & Rates

Advertisement	Dimensions (Inches)	Member Price	Non-Member Price
Full Page	8 X 10.5	\$20	\$30
Half Page (Vertical)	8 X 5	\$12	\$20
Half Page (Horizontal)	3.75 X 10.5	\$12	\$20
Half Page (Island)	5 X 8	\$12	\$20
Third Page (Column)	2.75 X 10.5	\$8	\$15
Third page (Banner)	8 X 3.25	\$8	\$15
Quarter Page (Vertical)	3.75 X 5	\$5	\$12
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	5 X 3.75	\$5	\$12
Quarter Page (Banner)	8 X 2.5	\$5	\$12
Sixth Page (Vertical)	2.75 X 5	\$3	\$10
Sixth Page (Horizontal)	5 X 2.75	\$3	\$10
Business Card	3.25 X 1.75	\$2	\$7
Classified (more than 75 words)	N/A	\$2	\$10
Classified (less than 75 words)	N/A	Free	\$7



ways to ensure your animals are cared for in the winter

### Get your hands on your lamas

It can be very difficult to judge the body condition of animals that are in full fleece. Getting into the habit of touching every animal on a regular basis will ensure that there are no surprises come shearing day.

### Calorie requirements will rise and fall with the temperature

As temperatures fall, your lamas will burn more calories to stay warm. Keep the weather in mind when deciding how much to feed, and avoid feeding a standard amount of hay/grain every day regardless of the weather conditions.

### Locking animals in the barn might do more harm than good

All lamas must have shelter from the elements, but locking your animals in a closed building or barn can lead to poor air quality that can affect a lama's respiratory health. Good air flow is just as important as adequate shelter.

### Beware of over blanketing

When it's snowing outside and you're warm inside, it's hard not to feel for your lamas. But rushing out to pile another blanket on them can lead to a whole host of other problems. Lammas in good health, with adequate nutrition, and proper shelter should be comfortable in all but the worst weather.

### Be ready for anything

With inclement weather comes all kinds of surprises. Wrap your trailer hitch in bubble wrap and duct tape so it doesn't get covered in ice and snow. Then, when you need to hook up your trailer, you won't have to thaw or de-ice the hitch.

## Alpacas for Sale



Like us on FACEBOOK!

### See the HWF Herdsire & Sales Listing at the 2015 MWLA Conference!!

- Huacaya females (all ages) & neutered fiber/pet males
- Variety of colors including white & grey
- Good health, halter trained & easily handled
- Range of reasonable prices
- Fleece & halter award winners; champion bloodlines

Better yet, plan to visit HWF to meet our alpacas first hand – you won't be disappointed!! See our website for photos, directions, and our customer support policy.



### HICKORY WIND FARM-ALPACAS

N7080 Garves Coulee

Bangor WI 54614

alpacas\_hwf@centurytel.net

608.486.4868

www.hickorywindfarm.com

## Kid's Corner

P T A K D B P Y P R H  
 Z B M R I A E V I T A  
 I F A C L L R B H E L  
 Z Z L Z E P F M S W T  
 J V L Q M A O I N G E  
 C C Q N A C R D A N R  
 L R I B C A M W M I J  
 H U D B K N A E W T I  
 V H Q P A E N S O R M  
 O W D M G Z C T H A U  
 W W O K F S E W S C B

ALPACA  
 CAMELID  
 CARTING  
 HALTER

LLAMA  
 MIDWEST  
 PERFORMANCE  
 SHOWMANSHIP



## March 15 Deadline for Midwest Llama Association Grant

Just a reminder from the grant committee that the 4-H/FFA grant deadline is fast approaching. March 15 will be here before we know it!

Grants are available for special events and clinics that support youth involvement with lamas. If you are planning a clinic that focuses on training and showmanship skills, lama-care, or use of fiber, check the grant requirements and find an application on the Midwest Llama Association website: click on 4-H grants, or try this link: <http://www.midwestlama.org/4-h-grants>.

The grant committee welcomes your applications!