

MWLA Newsletter

Winter 2016

President's Letter

Hello Midwest Lama Members!!!

If your year has been anything like mine, I'm sure you're reading this newsletter while walking out to the barn to do chores, or while stirring dinner on the stove. I know it's been a year of multitasking for me.

We've also been adapting to some changes within the MWLA. The digital newsletter, new board members, a new format for the Winter Conference, and a new venue for Lamapalooza. For several of these changes, we won't know how they affect our organization until later next year.

What I do know is this, it's been a great couple of years serving as the MWLA President, and I intend to help whoever is elected President during their 2016 – 2018 term in any way that I can. So, if you, or someone you know would make a great MWLA President or Vice President, please nominate them at our membership meeting during the conference. It is an exciting position to hold, and I know some of our members who would make great board members.

We've also planned a super exciting 2016 Winter Conference! It has been set up in a very different fashion, but I hope the change brings much more value to our members, as they will get to hear from a wider variety of presenters. The fiber portion of the conference is also as full and thrilling as ever. We have several class opportunities for our members as well as several people's choice competitions. There's even a people choice shorn fleece competition that's new this year!!

So, here's to a busy but sensational 2015 for MWLA, and what we hope will be the best year yet for our organization in 2016!

Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year. I hope to see you all at the winter conference in February!

Katie



WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska, WI

The meeting was called to order by President Katie Mazac. Board members present were Katie Mazac, John Porter and Lisa Piquet. Missing was Ann Barkley. Katie asked Duane Gjerner to take the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting agenda was printed out and distributed to the members. Katie asked for approval of the minutes from the fall meeting held at the Dunn County Fairgrounds in Menomonie and printed in the last newsletter. The minutes were approved with no discussion. The Treasurers' report was given by John Porter. Current balance as of December 31 was \$30,465.80. He has deposits of \$6,923.00 with the conference expenses to still be paid out from this amount. January 1 of 2014 our treasury balance was \$21,479.67. He reported the silent auction brought in \$1,108.50 and the live auction totaled \$3,330.00. He reported that the cost of the conference to attend basically just covers the cost of the meals. We currently have 109 paid members and 34 of them have not renewed. Katie will be sending them a notice as they will be dropped from membership March 1st. The Treasures' report was approved with no further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

MWLA Youth Scholarship was discussed. Kim Schechinger commented how important it was to keep the young people involved in the llama industry. There was much discussion as to who would be eligible and for what amount it should be. It was suggested to set up a youth council, establish a timeline, and set perimeters for the youth to apply. It was suggested to set up a committee to set this up and report back to the board with their recommendations. Kim Schechinger and Cheryl Pflipsen volunteered to head up this committee.

The MWLA Newsletter was discussed. Katie Mazac has currently taken on the responsibility of printing the newsletter. She reported there will be 4 newsletters sent out digitally to the membership. Anyone could receive a paper copy by requesting one from her. She encouraged anyone to send her articles or any information that could be printed in the newsletter. It was reported that no payment had been sent to the previous editors as approved at last years' meeting do to not producing the newsletter as expected. Any new e-mail information blasts will be coming from Katie Mazac.

Dan Whittaker reported that he has updated the MWLA website with a face change and new photos from the calendar contest. Duane Gjerner requested that the minutes of the meetings be posted under the Minutes section of the website even though they have been printed in the newsletter. There was discussion regarding a printed directory of the membership. Some people feel it very important and helpful to have a printed copy. Previously it had been decided to do a printed directory every 2 years. After the membership deadline of March 1st a new paper membership directory will be created and sent out to all the members.

Kim Schechinger thanked MWLA for the support of the 4-H Sponsored champion plaque for the State of Minnesota. It was approved to continue our sponsorship of up to \$400.00 for the larger 5 X 7 size.

NEW BUSINESS

MWLA would like to propose a memorial in memory of Shawn Phillip Lee. Shawn is the son of Danita Doerre, one of our very devoted members. Nick Hauptly made a motion and seconded by Mark Hoffman that \$250.00 be donated to Non-Hodgkin's

Continued from page 2

Lymphoma Society in his memory. Motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to elect a new Treasurer and Secretary. Katie thanked John Porter and Ann Barkley for serving in those positions. The first position up for election was Treasurer. Kristy Brown nominated Tracy McGinnis. There were no other nominations. Cheryl Pflipsen moved the nominations be closed seconded by Eric Olson. Tracy McGinnis was elected the new Treasurer.

Becky Willhite nominated Kim Schechinger for Secretary and seconded by Bill Schultz. There were no other nominations. Cheryl Pflipsen moved the nominations be closed seconded by Lorraine Kilmartin. Kim Schechinger was elected the new Secretary.

REGISTERING FOR A TAX ID

There was discussion regarding a Federal ID number. John reported that we do have a Federal ID but we are not considered a non-profit organization. He will submit the new officers to register them with the Department Of Financial Institutions. There was discussion as to the expense and paper work involved in becoming a non-profit organization. Tracy McGinnis will check in to it.

WINTER CONFERENCE 2016

There was discussion regarding next years' Winter Conference. It was the consensus of the members that the facility and location were the best central location. Kim Schechinger made a motion seconded by Margo Schultz that we continue the Conference at the Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska, WI to be held February 19-21, 2016.

CAMELID COMMUNITY JAMBOREE

The Camelid Community Jamboree is scheduled the 3rd weekend in September at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth, WI. September 19th and 20th. There was discussion as to what is going to take place at this event. Dan Whittaker reported the focus is to bring in new camelid owners. Norris Berg said it should draw the fiber people there. Fran Soukup was requesting that MWLA support this event with some sort of donation. The Camelid Community is looking for donations and marketing support. There were questions regarding if this would be just a donation to use at their own discretion or would it get the organization display space or any benefits. It was decided that we needed more information on details before a decision could be made. Fran Soukup volunteered to keep the organization informed as plans for the event develop.

TRAVELING DISPLAY FOR MEMBERS

Katie had been asked by Don Dippery about the possibility of a traveling MWLA display. The discussion pretty much indicated that the previous organizations did have such displays but were not utilized due to the difficulty and cost of getting them transported from one place to another. MWLA does have banners presently available to members that can be used at any event by request.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kristy Brown mentioned her Spring Tune Up event to be held at her farm May 8-10, 2015 and Llama Olympics Saturday September 12th. Other members added other events such as Llamapalooza October, 10th and 11th in Menomonie, WI. ILR-LFA show and sale June 12th-14th in Des Moines, Iowa, and Blue Earth, MN show July 25th. The National Cattle Congress is September 18-19-20. Heartland Llama Classic April 24-25-26.

Fran Soukup is planning an ILR fleece clinic to be held

Continued from page 3

in conjunction with Llamapalooza Friday through Sunday. She was requesting space in the food building, and 2 stalls in the barn. She was requesting \$25.00 from MWLA for guide books for each participant. Kim Schechinger made a motion to donate up to \$500.00 for the guide books but failed to get a second. Fran Soukup then reworded the motion excluding the funding of the books, but to request \$500.00 to help fund the fiber clinic as a whole. Seconded by Nick Hauptly. Motion passed with a paper vote 35 yes to 17 no.

Eric Olson invited anyone interested in being a Minnesota 4-H Judge that there would be a Judges Clinic May 10th in Marshall, MN. Wisconsin residents are eligible.

Fran Soukup made a motion and seconded by Bill Schultz on behalf of Barb Parsons that MWLA donate \$100.00 to the Badgerland show in Jefferson May 29-30-31. Motion passed.

With the requests for MWLA donations there was discussion that a committee be formed to handle these requests similar to the 4-H grant request forms. A certain dollar amount for this type of request could be set aside yearly and could be paid out up to that amount. This would include what the request was for, a budget and a deadline for such requests. This would then be presented to the board for approval or denial. Tracy McGinnis will review the 4-H application and develop a similar request form to be presented to the executive committee. This will avoid embarrassment to members asking for these funds at the annual meeting and give each request individual consideration.

Lorraine Kilmartin reported on the youth grant paid out this past year. Cheryl Pflipsen's 4-H group received monies from this grant and was very appreciative of MWLA support.

The Spring MWLA meeting is yet to be decided. A central location will try to be arranged.

Duane Gjerner motioned to adjourn. Brain Patterson seconded.

2016 Winter Conference

We're all looking forward to the Winter Conference!! Here's a link to the 2016 conference program and registration forms.

[Click Here](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Speakers Attending the Conference:

Dr. Kristy Brown, DVM

Dr. Sylvia Kehoe, PhD

Jenni Olson

Kim Schechinger

Dr. Yoana Newman, PhD

Dr. Michelle Kutzler, DVM

Greg Kenworthy, CPA

Lindsey Kurth

Roxy Smith

Char Tumi

Danita Doerre

And more...

Camelid Companion Certification Training

May 23, 2015

On Saturday, May 23rd, the Central Minnesota Llama 4-H Club hosted Level 1 of the Camelid Companion Certification Training Series at the Sauk Rapids Fairgrounds in Sauk Rapids, MN.

This certification program teaches handlers and their llamas the basics to grow their public relations skills and also builds a trusting, working relationship with their llama. In addition, it gives the handler and the animal an opportunity to take it to a higher level and work on the second and third levels of certification within this program.

This event had 13 4-H youth and 12 adults who attended which represented six different Minnesota counties that participated in the training. A total of 27 llamas took part in this clinic with many of them completing the first phase of Level 1 training.

To complete Level 1 training the handler and llama were instructed to go through an obstacle course that included backing the animal in a letter L shape, crossing a bridge and ramp, a change of surface, being petted by a stranger, having their picture taken, weaving thru cones, catching the animal to halter it and trailer loading.



Kim Schechinger, a Certified Companion Judge through the International Llama Registry, scored each animal as a pass or fail through each obstacle.

Level One and Level Two certification will again be offered in the fall of 2015 on Saturday, September 26th at the Benton County Fairgrounds. More details will be available later this summer.

The Central Minnesota Llama 4-H Club would like to thank the Midwest Llama Association for the grant to host these trainings; Kim and her daughter Kristine for leading the training certification, Mimbach Fleet Supply for their donation of Mazuri Llama feed samples, and Sam's Club for the beverages and snack. Thank you for making this a great training opportunity for the youth, adults and llamas who participated in this clinic!

If anyone has questions or needs further information about these amazing llama training opportunities, please contact Cheryl Pflipsen at tcanpflipsen@gmail.com



FALL MEETING MINUTES

Dunn County Fairgrounds, Menomonie, WI

The Midwest Llama Association Fall Meeting was called to order at 6PM on October 10, 2015 in Menominee, WI.

Meeting notes from Winter Conference were reviewed individually, after the president directed the members as to where they could be found.

The motion was made to accept meeting notes as written from John Porter, and 2nd from Bill Schultz

The Treasurer's Report was read. Balance of 29,431.28 at the start ending with 26,175.32 at time of Fall Meeting. This included the money given to the Camelid Jamboree.

Motion made to accept Treasures Report from Margo Schultz, and 2nd from Kay Berg.

OLD BUSINESS

CAMELID JAMBOREE

Those who were able to attend they reported that they felt the Jamboree was well organized, but not well attended. There was a border battle performance show with Minnesota vs. Wisconsin kids that was put together by Dan Whitaker and Lisa Piquet. This was held on Saturday, and everyone said was a lot of fun and they were

able to put some great prizes together for the event. They said they were not very well located, but seems that there was a lot of attention to what was going on there, and reported to be one of the biggest attractions for the Jamboree.

It was also said that the speakers were great and that there were quality vendors there with items for sales. It was made clear that this is not an annual event and will be held in a different location in 2016. On the down side since MWLA sponsored the rental of the grounds, there was no advertising seen as to that or anywhere where literature could be found for joining MWLA or even who we were. Lisa

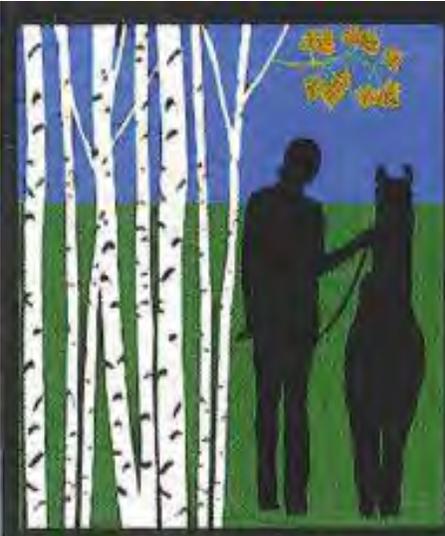
Piquet did mention that there was information at her stall. It was also noted that MWLA had not gotten a thank you from the Camelid Jamboree.

The subject of the Newsletter came up and Katie was going to work on getting something out. Subject still needing to be discussed. There were some concerns that not everyone was getting any email information either, also needing further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2016 Winter Conference is to be held once again at Stoney Creek Lodge in Onalaska, Wisconsin, February 19-21, 2015. Rooms are available to be booked. Katie

Continued on page 7



Llama breeding, sales & training.

Aspen Rayne Ranch

Steve, Sandy & Aspen Auld - Owners
2470 Fern Ave
Waverly, IA 50677
319.389.8252 / 319.389.8254
www.llamasrus.com
llamas@llamasrus.com

Continued from page 6

reported that instead of having one big speaker that she was working on small breakout sessions. She was in contact with the University of Minnesota to get some sessions worked out. The areas she had thought of were hay/pasture maintenance, and herd management. Kristy Brown had a slide presentation she would give, Lamas 101 was mentioned, and there was the option for Christian Davies for a fiber dyeing presentation. If there was anything that anyone was interested in she would be more than willing to look into that as well. She also was asking if there was anything special that anyone would like to have as a fiber class, and to either get a hold of her or Danita.

It was also brought up about notification of election which would be for President and Vice President, with the voting at the conference.

LAMAPALOOZA 2016

This event will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds running with Shepherds Harvest the weekend after Mother's Day in May, approximate dates would be May 14 – 15th. Shepherds Harvest is a fiber event that is host to 1000+ people. The building cost would be reasonable, and it was felt that this would be another draw for this event. It was mentioned that there would be a gate fee, but Shepherds Harvest may be willing to work with us on that. With Margo and Kay stepping down from Lamapalooza in Menominee, the group felt like this would be the way to still have the show, and make it earlier in the season. John Porter made the motion that MWLA work with Shepherds Harvest to put this show on, and 2nd from Dan Whitaker. Jenni Olson volunteered to step up and organize this event. A thank you went out to Margo and Kay for all their hard work at making Lamapalooza show an exciting event in Menominee. A lot of work goes into a show...
THANKS MARGO AND KAY...

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Bill Schultz, and 2nd by Kristi Brown

The Camelid Jamboree

Sheila Fugina and Barb Baker for Camelid Community

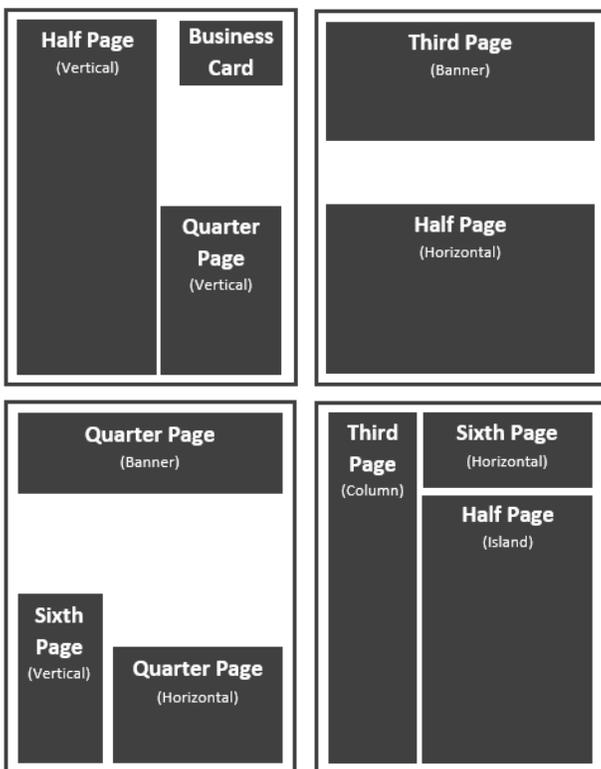
We've both had a super busy fall and are just now starting to get our heads above water, but we wanted to get you a brief report on September's Camelid Jamboree. Though the event received excellent publicity, attendance was light. Those who came were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences and couldn't say enough good things about the presentations and classes. They were amazed at the broad range of topics covered and the depth of knowledge of presenters. We are still receiving emails from people excited about their time at the Jamboree and who are looking for more information.

To the best of our knowledge about 15 to 18 animals sold either the weekend of the Jamboree or in follow up visits to llama and alpaca farms. A number of them were show quality and/or breeding animals. Some vendors sold well but most had slow sales due to not enough shoppers. The Pierce County Fairgrounds itself was a great venue. We heard many comments from both participants and those attending the event about how clean and neat the fairgrounds were and how very "Mayberry-like" it was. We agree—the buildings are well kept, the grounds are well maintained and the staff is excellent to work with. It's definitely a spot for people to keep in mind for their events and activities.

The 4-H Border Battle show was super fun and a great hit with visitors, as well as with the kids and animals in the show. When the dust finally cleared, Wisconsin won out over Minnesota, and the two top exhibitors who won animals were Mady Paquet of Ellsworth and Taylor Traynor of Spring Valley, both in Wisconsin. Mady took home Playboy, a four-year-old llama gelding from the Missouri llama farm of Larry Kisner. Playboy was purchased for donation as a top prize by Jim and Jan McArdle of Wisconsin and Marion Bragg

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



Trivia

Questions

How many eyelids does a lama have?

- 2
- 6
- 4
- 12

Lamas have 3 stomach compartments.

Which of the 3 ruminant stomach compartments do they have?

Choose 3.

- Rumen
- Reticulum
- Omasum
- Abomasum

What is the average birth weight of a llama cria?

- 35 – 40 pounds
- 12 – 20 pounds
- 20 – 35 pounds
- 15 – 45 pounds

Which other new world camelid is the closest in size to the llama?

- Vicuña
- Guanaco
- Alpaca
- Dromedary Camel

From which 4 South American countries do llamas originate?

- Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina
- Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay
- Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina
- Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru

Fleece & Fiber Judging Clinic

October 9-11, 2015

A fiber/fleece judging clinic was held October 9-11, 2015 in Menomonie, WI. It was held concurrently with Midwest Lama Association's Lamapalooza show. Instructors Fran & Ali Soukup with Danita Doerre presented and shared a wealth of fiber knowledge to ten participants.

The attendees came from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin and as far away as Kentucky and Indiana. Five attended for the educational purposes, while five planned to apprentice and go on to become judges. Midwest Lama Association members attending were Brenda Harting, Becky Wilhite, Kim Schechinger, Susan Frame, and Julie Mazac. Other attendees included Garnet Worthington and Peggy Juras from Kentucky, Julie Schmidt and Elaine Brovant from Indiana, and Charlene Tumi from Wisconsin.

Currently there are 15 certified ILR fleece judges, with only five of them exclusively fleece judges. The potential for five more judges will have a huge impact on the availability of qualified judges. Students learned about the different types of fleece classes: shorn fleece, coat on/fleece on the llama, two-ounce fleece sample, and finished product classes. Shorn fleece classes are divided into four divisions; (1) double fleece with crimp/crinkle (2) single fleece with crimp/crinkle, (3) single fleece without crimp/crinkle, and (4) suri fleece. Fleeces are further subdivided by the age of the llama at date of shearing: five months to less than twelve months; twelve to twenty-four months; twenty-four to forty-eight months; and greater than forty-eight months. Each fleece type has different criteria which follow industry judging standards designed to promote desirability to obtain the most marketable product. All participants were given an opportunity to "judge" multiple fleeces based on style uniformity, guard hair, fleece



structure, condition, and preparation (proper skirting).

In recent years fleeces have been evaluated for density by calculating the annualized weight of growth. A growing area in the world of fleece showing is 'fleece on' classes. These clinics are typically held at the farms of individual breeders where participating breeders provide the llamas for evaluating. One problem with this is that most farms do not have enough different types of llamas in their herds to represent all the fleece divisions. Holding the fleece clinic in conjunction with a llama show, provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to evaluate and judge many different kinds of fleece on llamas.

While this was not my first "fleece clinic rodeo", I was very pleasantly surprised at how this clinic provided another wonderful learning experience. The clinic followed and was taught from the ILR-SD show guideline book. The visual aids were very informative and complemented the written material very nicely. If you've attended fleece clinics in the past, or haven't had the opportunity to attend one yet, don't hesitate to take another one or sign up at your next opportunity. The participant reviews for this clinic were glowing. Everyone seemed to have a great time learning more about fleece, meeting new friends, and hooking up with old ones. Hope to see you at the next clinic.

MWLA "Roving" Reporter Julie Mazac

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 llamas. If you are planning a clinic that focuses on training and showmanship skills, llama-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!

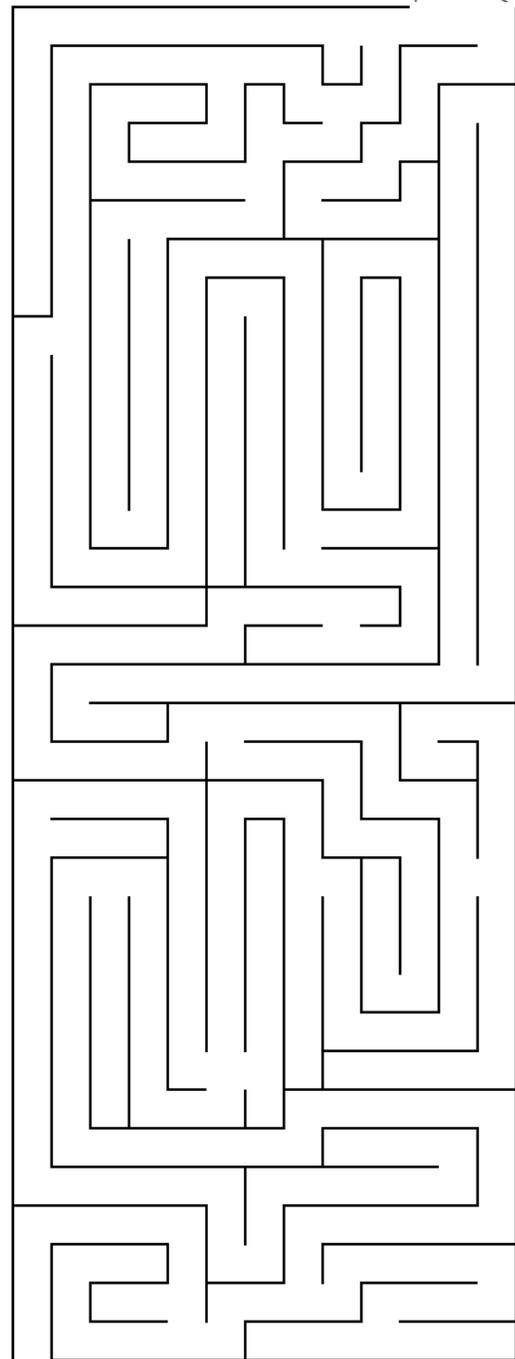
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of Virginia. Taylor won Mateo, a four-year-old alpaca gelding donated by Sara Bender Peris of Over the Rainbow Alpaca Ranch in Hector, Minnesota. Judging by their ear to ear grins, both girls were thrilled with their new animals.

We've been asked "what's next" for Camelid Community. Though two other regions are thinking about having a Jamboree in their areas in the future, the next event for Camelid Community will most likely be another "Fiber as Business" conference similar to the one held last year in Ohio. Llama and alpaca owners in the West have been asking for such a conference ever since we first proposed the one in Ohio, and we are looking into possible locations to accommodate the Rocky Mountain region as well as the far West and Northwest.

Meanwhile, we wish all of you a delightful fall and a great holiday season!

Kid's Corner



Answers to the Trivia Questions on Page 8

1. B 2. A, C, D 3. C 4. B 5. A