

# MAPACA

February, 2005 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2



## President's Message:

### DO IT NOW!

When you receive this Newsletter the Jubilee will be 7 weeks away. Very shortly you'll be standing in one of the most exciting environments in the world! (Assuming you love alpacas and the thought of watching the best alpacas in the country compete in what is possibly the most prestigious show in the world is "up your pasture.") If you haven't yet registered I have been told that registration will be open until March 7<sup>th</sup> and "there was no reason to panic". HOWEVER, I am not personally guaranteeing this and I suggest that you register the "minute" you receive this if you haven't already. If you are too late, sorry, I am personally not guaranteeing that you will still be able to get in – "even at the minute you receive this Newsletter".

### Land O' Lakes Law Suit

Libby Forstner had requested assistance in documenting blood lines and ribbon winners for backup in the "Land O Lakes" law suit. I asked Libby if we could mention something in the Newsletter that may be beneficial. Libby forwarded the following brief message:

"We would like to thank EVERYONE who helped by sending information and messages of moral support. Literally, hundreds of breeders sent pedigree information to help in the lawsuits. For our lawsuit, which includes one of more than 17 alpaca farms, Land of Lakes is still not admitting liability".

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### MaPaca Board of Directors Election

It's that time again! We have 4 Board of Directors positions up for election this year. Each position should have 2 candidates to select from. My term, as well as those of Nick Melfi, Jovi Larson, and Nancy Johanson are up this fall. Alice Brown will serve as Chairperson for candidate selection. If anyone would like to assist Alice in the "talent search" or to volunteer as a candidate - please contact her. The term is for 2 years. See you at the Jubilee! Don't miss the MaPaca social at 6PM.

Paul Connor

## Online Registration for the MaPaca Jubilee 2005 Is Up and Running!

Please go to [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) for all Jubilee-related information and **NOW register online! Be sure to read "Hints for Online Registration: (on the registration page) before registering.**

**For any questions, please contact Jovi Larson—[info@mail.fibergenixsuris.com](mailto:info@mail.fibergenixsuris.com) or 908-806-6255**

(Deadline extended to March 7 or until show is filled.)

## MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Paul Connor  
Big Sky Alpacas, NJ  
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Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ  
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## Jubilee Coordinator's Message:

Hello MAPACA members,

It's the 21st and February is almost over. 'Ol Man Winter is starting to loosen his grip. The days are getting longer and time for show registrations is getting shorter. Before you know it we'll be in Harrisburg.

The online registration system is up and running. We apologize for the inconvenience while we were getting the kinks worked out. We have extended the registration deadline to March 7<sup>th</sup> (or until the show fills up) to compensate for the time the registration system was not available. Please send your registrations to Kit Hower ASAP, and be sure they're complete. All pen reservations and show entries (halter, fleece, and performance) are due at the same time, as are dinner and seminar reservations. With the size of the show and a small volunteer staff, we just can't process them separately.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help at the Jubilee. You're the ones who make it all happen and we greatly appreciate it. We still need more volunteers to do a whole host of things. Deb Hoff is coordinating the volunteers. If you can give us some time, even if it's just one hour, please let her know. Her e-mail address is [Debbie@warfordcreek.com](mailto:Debbie@warfordcreek.com).

Nancy Lake at Alpine Alpacas has suggested using pet wood pellets under your mats in the stalls to help absorb the urine. Make sure the pellets you use are safe for animals. Once the alpacas pick their spot, you put the pellets down under the mats in that spot. When you clean up, you rake the pellets up, put them in the dumpster, and put fresh down. Nancy says one bag lasts a whole show for her. With the number of alpacas in the building and the length of the show, it would help to keep the air healthier for people and alpacas. I'd encourage everyone to use them, if possible.

Finally, in an effort to continually improve your show experience, we're kicking around a few ideas for the '06 show. We may develop a short survey to gather ideas from our members and print it in next month's newsletter or have it available at the show. Your thoughts and suggestions would be helpful.

See you in Harrisburg.

Andy Schneider

## **Volunteers Needed!**

*If you would like to help out at the Jubilee and would like a great learning experience at the same time, please go to [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and follow the directions on the volunteer form.*

**In appreciation for your time and effort you will receive an original FREE MaPaca volunteer T-shirt!**

Any questions please contact Debbie Hoff—  
Debbie@warfordcreek.com  
or  
908-996-2128

## **Silent Auction & Raffle Donations Needed!**

Greetings to All,

The MaPaca Jubilee is just around the corner. Between reserving pen space and halter training please think about donating a special item for the silent auction or raffle. We are accepting donations of all types. Your donation need not be alpaca related. What a way to advertise!! Your name and farm name will be displayed with your donation. Why not support the alpaca industry and promote your farm. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

**Contact: George or Marian Sykes – Alpaca Ridge, LLC. 973-827-3910 or [sykesmarian@hotmail.com](mailto:sykesmarian@hotmail.com)**

## **Donate an Alpaca to be Auctioned off in the 2005 Jubilee Auction!**

**Proceeds from the sale are earmarked for donation to ICI, ARF and for funding research projects.**

**Here are the benefits:**

1. Donor will automatically get a space in the auction for another animal.
2. Donor can put 3 banners in the following locations:
  - 1 farm banner in the ring,
  - 1 farm banner on the auction stage apron,
  - 1 farm banner in the corridor leading to the auction arena.
3. Champion Class Sponsorship.
4. One Class Sponsorship.
5. Name tag recognition.
5. 12 Free Inserts in the MaPaca Newsletter.
6. Two extra parking passes.
7. Four Free dinners for Friday night.
8. One Free pen space over the 6 pen space limit.
9. Photograph in Alpacas Magazine.

**Contact Nick Melfi and Donate an Alpaca!  
[MelfiFarm@aol.com](mailto:MelfiFarm@aol.com) or 908-369-3276**

**The current alpaca donors are:  
Sharon Brown & James Webb—  
*Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company***

**Tim & Gwen Smith—*Smith Haven Farms***

**Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa—*Alpacas de la Patagonia***

**Breeding donated by:  
Jack and Jill Reinhart: *Allegheny Alpacas***

**THANK YOU!!**

# Food for Thought Part 3

By Ingrid Wood of Stormwind Alpacas, Columbus,  
New Jersey

## Orchids, Hemoglobin, Alpacas, and a Gene for Thick Skin

After *Tears of the Alpaca* was published, I received much correspondence requesting copies and thanking me for sharing the information and my thoughts on the subject of an alpaca breed standard. One reader, however, was quite critical and felt that most of the article had been “off topic”. “Next thing you’ll bring up Sickle Cell Anemia,” he grouched. “What does any of that have to do with a breed standard?” He advised adoption of a show judging format that is used by judges of orchids.

By sheer coincidence, I read an interesting book not too long afterwards about the lives of famous, rich, and influential citizens of Washington, D.C. Among the scandals and intrigues that took place in our nation’s capitol (sounds suspiciously like the goings on at ARI and AOBA); the author described an encounter between socialite Elizabeth McIntosh and James Jesus Angleton. The latter was a famous and influential CIA spy catcher and cultivator of rare and beautiful orchids. Timidly approaching the powerful man at a social gathering, McIntosh showed Angleton a wilting orchid from her private collection. “How can I save this plant?” she asked. Angleton’s brusque answer, after only a brief inspection: “Bury it!”

Since my friendly orchid grower mentioned Sickle Cell Anemia, let’s explore the issue. In the USA, this painful and often deadly genetic disease primarily affects African Americans. People who have the disease inherited the gene for hemoglobin S from both parents. Carriers of the Sickle Cell trait inherited one gene coding for hemoglobin A and one for hemoglobin S. With rare exceptions, carriers do not experience any health problems.

Here is the interesting fact scientists discovered: Carriers of the Sickle Cell trait are protected from malaria. While two “doses” of the gene result in severe disease, one dose is of great benefit to people in a specific climate.

What can we learn from this example? As breeders, we must recognize that genetic issues can be extremely complex. Adopting a breed standard

may result in the loss of traits now deemed “undesirable” by those with considerable influence and power in our industry. It is quite possible that these traits and the genes that code for them will become important in the future. Protecting genetic diversity will ensure a genetic “piggybank” to help deal with as yet unforeseen future problems.

Sickle Cell Anemia obviously serves as an example of how specific environments favor particular traits (lacking the sickling trait, early European explorers died like flies in malaria infested regions of the African continent). One alpaca breed standard from Alaska to Florida? Such a plan shows little concern for the health and welfare of the animals.

It is decidedly easier to bury an orchid than an alpaca. Of course, my favorite orchid grower may disagree with that.

I suspect another big fat F for being “off topic” will soon be on its way. Luckily, I inherited a gene for thick skin from my father’s side of the family. One dose is really all a human needs for protection.

**Read, think... and decide what’s best for your alpacas!**

## Camelid Humor

By Sue Rosche, Pax River Alpacas, Upper Marlboro, MD

Our six year old son Ben wanted to confirm that alpacas have three stomachs. His reasoning went this way: One stomach was for hay, one was for grain, and the third stomach was for grass.

See, alpacas have three stomachs!



Photo by Bob Cizewski, Almost Heaven Alpacas, Augusta, WV.

These two enjoyed Ben’s stomach reasoning!

## Feature Article:

# Don't Fence Me In!

## Making the case for Chilean Alpacas

By Christopher C. Brown, *Brown Dynasty Alpacas, Clifton Heights, PA*

**"We were here first!"** The first importation of Huacaya alpacas was in 1984 from Chile ~ Alpaca Magazine, Summer 2004.

### Meeting a Chilean Girl

My first farm visit was to Valley Forge Alpacas in Pennsylvania, after learning much about the benefits of raising and breeding alpacas I ventured into the field. To this day I'm not sure exactly what I was looking for or what I'd hoped to find. I just found myself standing in the middle of that field picturing what it would be like to do this everyday for the rest of my life. I must admit it was quite enticing. For some reason I felt a need to touch the earth, the soft ground which subsisted these amazing creatures; in doing so, I heard an excited running in my direction. The next thing I knew I had an alpaca rubbing her neck over my head, "Oh, that's Shirley, Joyce said, she loves to meet new people." I also heard a throaty, guttural noise which I later learned was a sign of caring and affection made by mothers to lure young crias to tell them it is time to nurse. I looked up to be blinded by a massive chest with ultra-fine fleece – naturally, I rubbed her chest, or "plate," to reciprocate my appreciation. For the remainder of the day I had a shadow in Shirley. I was followed to all lengths of the farm by my new girl, gulping away to show her presence and her affection.

### Lock, Stock, and Barrel Chest

Needless to say, I was sold. We bought Shirley – our first female, our third alpaca, and we had our farm, even if not the land, yet. So "Brown Dynasty Alpacas" was born and we took the plunge, we prepared for our first show. It was a small show in Kimberton, PA, which was fine with us because we were extremely nervous, and anxious to hear what the judge would have to say about our baby. Well, maybe calling her a baby is a bit of an understatement. At the time of the show Shirley was about 13 months old and easily the largest female competing. Shirley has a large, full fleece that is very fine and her major draw to me was her enthusiastic willingness to please. For her first show, Shirley performed amazingly, she was relaxed, calm and up to standard – which is more than I could say for myself at the time – I was so proud of her. I literally didn't have to do anything, her personality showed through and I thought we

had first place locked up. As I said, it was a small show and to take first out of two is not that big of a stretch. In case you are wondering, we came in second. I was not pleased, however, some time has allowed me to digest the situation a little more fully... I wanted to take a moment to comment on the words of one of the judges as he explained his decision. One descriptive that stuck in my mind was that "this girl has amazing "girth" and would make a "wonderful foundation mother."

I am not a judge, nor do I pretend to have the knowledge which goes along with being a judge, however I have noticed a trend which to me is somewhat alarming, which is detailed in:

### Creating the "Industry Standard"

The many associations and newsletters we subscribe to are pushing for an industry standard. This can be a very good thing or a very bad thing, the good point is obviously a longtime goal for our alpacas, and what we, as breeders should strive for, a sense of direction if you will. My thoughts on this are simple, as a good friend said to me, "we are looking to create the great North American alpaca." This statement is striking to me because at the time I envisioned almost a new breed which is "American," bigger, better, bolder and without equal. Instead I see a thrust towards the ultimate homogenization of the alpaca in North America. I have taken note of what I like to call the "Peruvian push." There is a standard developing which is narrowing our viewpoint and giving the industry tunnel vision of what the "definition of us, is." There is life beyond Peruvian; there are also great strides to be made in this industry. If we fence ourselves in with the Peruvian prototype we might as well cut ourselves off at the knees.

### Fiber, Fiber, Fiber

Don't take fiber for granted, it is the bread and butter of our business, it is also our future. It has been estimated that there needs to be approximately 300,000 alpacas to support a mill in this county, we cannot afford to "write off" one third of the alpaca population to please the show ring. The borders are closed and we must work with what we've have, all of it! My advice, get those Chileans to the show ring – show them what you've got and what they've been missing! Be earnest and steadfast, the judges will soon come to appreciate what we've known all along. The North American Alpaca has yet to surface, we have the opportunity to create something the world has never seen, let's create something the world will never forget!

## MaPaca Meeting Schedule for 2005

**April 21, 2005 (At the Jubilee,  
6:30PM after the pizza social.)**

**July 17, 2005**

**October 16, 2005\***

**\*Please mark your calendars for these dates and plan to attend. Watch the Newsletter and the web site for announcement of the meeting locations, as the locations will vary.**

### **Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?**

*No ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale. Stud Service prices are acceptable.*

We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 1/2" by 11" ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply ALL the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional **\$100.00** added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either **\$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00**. Please send copies, along with payment, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the 20th of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check payable to **MaPaca** and include check with inserts.

If you have any questions, email Alice Brown at [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com) or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.

## **C**lassified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a one sentence description and contact information.. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com) or call 856-697-8127.

1. Announcing **The Blue Ribbon Alpaca** by Susan Rosche (Pax River Alpacas). A delightful, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover children's book that promotes the alpaca. The story of an alpaca, her jealous companions, her awesome fleece and the children who love her. \$18.,95. Bulk discounts available. **Information at <http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/>** .
2. Alpaca Art on Egyptian Papyrus. Unique. Original or custom designs. Reasonable prices. Additional information and samples at **<http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/>** .
3. **Going My Way?** - A Suri Farm, Ltd. Has trailer space available for anyone needing transport to the following shows: North American Alpaca Show, Springfield, MA March 31-April 3, 2005 and The Futurity Show and Sale, Indianapolis, In., April 15-18, 2005. **For details contact A Suri Farm - [Dogandcatnuts@aol.com](mailto:Dogandcatnuts@aol.com) or 717-514-0022.**
4. **Get 2004 prices on alpaca chutes, scales, panels, gates, shearing tables, shirting trays, and "hay saver" feeders** for pick-up at the 2005 MaPaca Jubilee when ordered by March 31 at Allegheny Alpacas. Visit [www.AllAlpacas.com](http://www.AllAlpacas.com) or call 724-940-4045.



## Calendar of Events

**March 5, 2005—An Introduction to Camelid Color Genes by Ingrid Wood** (author of *A Breeder's Guide to Genetics—Relax It's Not Rocket Science*). Seminar held at Stormwind Alpacas. 11AM-3PM. Columbus, NJ—easy access from Rts. 206, 295, and NJ/PA Turnpikes. \$50 per person (includes lunch) - **Call 609-261-0696 or email [alpacas@uscom.com](mailto:alpacas@uscom.com). Visit [www.StormwindAlpaca.com](http://www.StormwindAlpaca.com) for directions.**

**March 19 and May 14, 2005—Foundation for Success Alpaca 101+ Seminar**—Full day hands on seminar sponsored by Glen-gary Farm Alpacas, featuring Dr. Claire Whitehead DMV from OSU, Jim Loy CPA, Carol Zezula, Business Planner and Paul Kezdi. Learn about alpaca care, the tax advantages of alpaca ownership, how to create a sound business plan and how to evaluate an alpaca conformation and fleece. Register on our website: <http://www.gलगaryfarmalpacas.com/> or contact Patrick Cassesse 216-701-0052.

**April 3, 2005 Second Annual Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter & Fleece Show. West Friendship, MD, Howard County Fairgrounds.** Sponsored by Alpaca Heritage Events, Inc. Free seminars; learn about alpaca care and the tax advantages of breeding alpacas as a business. Free parking, and admission. Entry fee \$50/alpaca—unlimited class entries. Limit of 2 pens/4 entries. No stall fees, bring your own panels. **Contact: Ingrid Wood, 609-261-0696 or [alpacas@uscom.com](mailto:alpacas@uscom.com) Kate Perez, [kperez@erols.com](mailto:kperez@erols.com) or [www.AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com).**

**April 21, 22, 23, & 24—MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee 2005**—The MaPaca Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA. See the MaPaca web site at [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and read your MaPaca Newsletter, to keep abreast of current Jubilee information.



## Calendar of Events

**May 7-8, 2005: Fifth Annual "Everything's Coming Up Alpacas,"** Ballston Spa, NY (30 minutes North of Albany) Join Kelly and Paul Zanella of Spa Alpacas and guest speakers as they share their alpaca knowledge and experience. Seminar on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Reservations required. \$90 per person or \$160 per couple (includes continental breakfast, lunch and presentation booklet). Open House on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Contact: Kelly & Paul Zanella

(518) 885-0585, [pjzanella@aol.com](mailto:pjzanella@aol.com)  
or [www.spaalpacas.com](http://www.spaalpacas.com) .

**May 13-15, 2005—Star Events' 2005 Spring Fling Alpaca & Llama Auction,** WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, NJ. The Spring Fling will feature the Suri Symposium II on May 13. The Spring Fling Auction on May 14 will have a group of spectacular animals from across North America. Take part in the Shearing Festival to be held on May 15. Free educational seminars by industry professionals and world class entertainment. For more information contact Star Events at (609) 397-2212 or [www.stareventsllc.com](http://www.stareventsllc.com).

**June 5, 2005—Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Halter Show and Sale**—For Shorn Alpacas Only! Springfield Veterans Memorial Park, Springfield, NJ. Entries limited to 60 alpacas. Judge: Judith Korff. Only \$50/alpaca. Limit 4 entries per farm. Entries close April 15, 2005. A Hot Show for Cool Alpacas!! Go to: [www.AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) for more information or contact Ingrid Wood, Show Superintendent at 609-261-0696 or [alpacas@uscom.com](mailto:alpacas@uscom.com). \*

\***Please note:** Notice of change for the Alpacas Heritage Bare Naked Show—Scott McKelvie will be in charge of the catalog. Please contact Scott if you wish to advertise.

## Editor's Ramblings:

What Mohandas Gandhi said is so true. However, I would like to add another thought to his. If the greatness of a nation is reflected in its treatment of it's animals, how much more so is a nation's greatness measured by it's treatment of individuals. That is something to think about especially as it relates to the alpaca industry.

Over all, in the alpaca industry, I have observed that people are generally eager to please and diplomatic. This is a good thing. Where some individual breeders have strayed from this pattern, I tend to make a mental note of that, and I do not look to do business with them, nor would I recommend a customer to them.

I do believe that sharing differing opinions is a good thing, one from which we can all learn. I do not believe that if one person shares a different opinion, that that person is attacking those with different opinions. Sharing a different opinion is just that, a difference of opinion!

We don't have to always feel that we need to justify ourselves to those that have differing opinions. After all, they are just as entitled to their opinion as we are to ours. It is human nature to have biases and often these biases are not even

known to those possessing them. That being the case, there will always be two sides to every story, two ways of looking at the same thing. Having two sides to every story or two ways of looking at the same thing is a good thing. We can learn from this. If we were all clones and all thought the same way we would become stagnant in short order!

As the French say, "Vive la differencé!"

Again, thank you so much to those that have sent me articles. I actually have a back log and if you have not yet seen your article in print, please be patient. I will do my best to see to it that each article is printed as I have the space in the Newsletter.

The MaPaca Jubilee is coming up soon and it promises to be another stellar event in the world of alpacas. I hope you can all be there either as participants, volunteers, or spectators.

I'm looking forward very much to seeing old friends at the Jubilee this year. I hope also to meet some of the many new members who have joined MaPaca this year. My husband Fred and I are not showing any alpacas this year, but we have volunteered to help out with the show. I hope many of you will do the same and help out as well. The success of the Jubilee rests squarely on the shoulders of its many dedicated volunteers. Please go to [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and sign up to volunteer even if you are

not showing. All the volunteers with receive a FREE original MaPaca Volunteer T-shirt! Also, helping out at the Jubilee is a great way to get to know new people and to learn a lot!

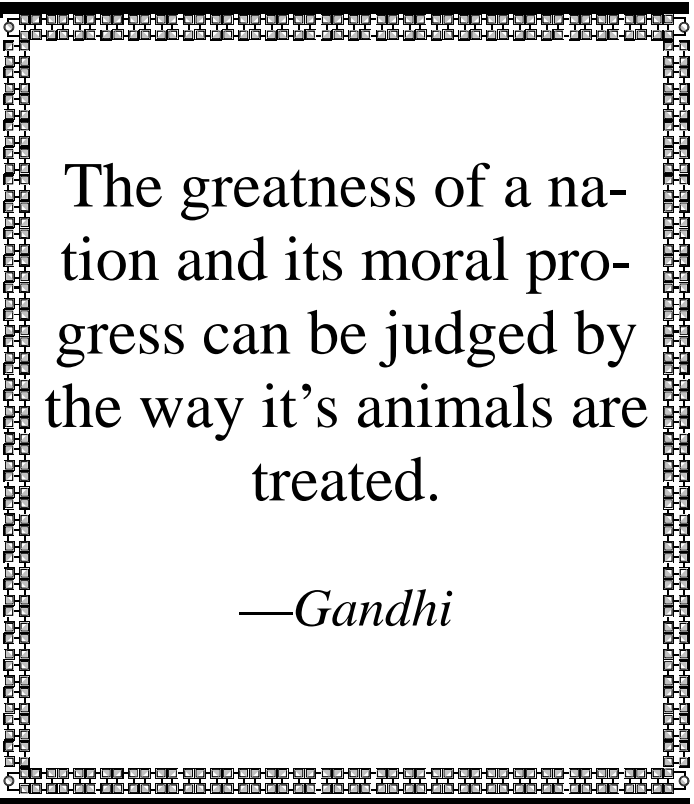
Thank you so much to those who have been serving behind the scenes readying the web site, tabulating the registrations, and taking care of the myriad of details that need to be tended to in preparation for a show of this magnitude!

Don't forget the MaPaca Thursday evening after the pizza social. See everyone in Harrisburg!

My best to you all,

Alice

Comments  
about the  
Newsletter,  
or any  
contri-  
butions,  
send to  
Alice  
Brown at  
fpalpacas  
@aol.com.



The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way it's animals are treated.

—Gandhi