

MARYLAND ALPACA BREEDER'S ASSOCIATION

March 9th, 2008

General Meeting Minutes

The second meeting of 2008 was held at the Glenwood Branch of the Howard County Library March 9th, 2008. The meeting was preceded by an interactive presentation by Ruth Bielobocky of Ionmarketing Design.

At 3:45 President Teece Nowell called the meeting to order, the following members were in attendance:

Board Member farms ~

Teece & Doug Nowell, Twin Beeches Alpacas, LLC
Barry & Mary Clark, Peaceful Hollow Farm
Jess & Chris Armstrong, Calico Moon Alpacas
Lora McMunn, In the Shoe Farms
Kate & Tilly Dorsey, DAFI Alpacas
Dave Nye, Moose Ridge Alpacas

Committee Member farms ~

Kathy Stumpf, Prarie Lake Alpacas
Heinz & Sue Ann Wilms, Brookmere Alpacas
Rose Page, Dameron Alpacas
Jackie Mathiason & Brad Dean, Alpaca Road, LLC
Julie Wysong, Quarry Critters Alpaca Ranch
Andy Schneider, Middle Eight Farm
Stephanie Morrison, Springhouse Farm Alpacas

General Members ~

Gail Campbell, Ameripaca Alpaca Breeding Company
Nicole & Victoria Tait, Pilgrim's Reward Farm
Dave & Sandy Crouse, Meadow Brooke Alpacas
Scott Gove, Sandhill Alpacas
Neil Padgett, A Paca Fun Farm
Patty Mattingly, Nobella Alpacas
Kathy & Mike Graziani, Flame Pool Alpacas, LLC
Craig & Cindy Harmon, Absolute Alpaca Heaven

Old Business:

The minutes of the November General Membership Meeting were approved. No Treasurer's report was given. Teece introduced the board of directors and named the committees for which they are each acting as liaisons. She explained the Board has a busy year ahead and will be meeting monthly, she appealed to the membership to volunteer and participate in a committee.

Teece thanked our presenter and Barry Clark, Marketing Committee Chair for making the presentation possible.

New Business:

Show Committee Report ~ Kate Dorsey

The Show Committee held an early lunch meeting prior to the March 9th General meeting. The main subjects covered proposed show layouts and near term marketing needs. The range of available stalls for the MABA Alpaca Celebration will be limited by the available space and the Show Committee is dedicated to hosting a very well organized, quality show. The committee is recommending 8X10 pens and would like to avoid the smaller 8X8 option. The maximum number of animals permitted will be 480 for our planned level III show, based on current AOBA rules. The fleece show will be limited by space also and will cut off fleece entries at 130, this will still permit a Level II show. Our Superintendents are Cathy Oyster, Halter and Al Beatty, Fleece. Suri and performance classes will be judged by Wade Gease and Huayaca classes by Jill MacLeod. Ruth Elvestad will Judge Fleece. As of March 9th AOBA had not issued a pending status and no show grant had been awarded.

Marketing Committee Report ~ Barry Clark

The Marketing Committee needs to go in two directions at once, to provide for the marketing needs of the upcoming MABA Alpaca Celebration and to direct MABA in a way that helps the organization become more widely recognized. Barry introduced Jackie Mathiason as a committee member and asked for volunteers. Upcoming projects include the creation of flyers and or posters for the spring show season, an ad in Alpacas Magazine, support materials for the Events Committee, a MABA decal featuring the updated

logo and various PR related placements for the show this coming fall. Craig & Cindy Harmon of Almost Heaven volunteered to join the committee.

Membership Committee Report ~ Chris Armstrong

On February 24th a Membership Committee charter was submitted to the Board and is awaiting final approval. Chris, who is temporarily acting as Committee Chair, introduced the Membership Committee members: Sue Ann & Heinz Wilms of Brookmere Alpacas, Rose Page of Dameron Alpacas & Lisa Land of Sunset Suri Alpacas and gave a brief report on the first teleconference meeting of the committee. At the Board's direction, the committee was responsible for making reminder calls to the membership about the March 9th meeting, as well as courtesy calls about upcoming membership renewals. The committee will be reviving the welcome packet for new members, to include information about the use of their web site accounts; local & regional resources such as vets, fiber mills, feed stores, farm equipment and a membership MABA decal. The committee will also be working hand in hand with the events committee to follow up on information collected from the public. Rose Page designed a "more info please" sign up sheet for use in the MABA booth. The next meeting of the Membership Committee will be April 7th via teleconference. The committee is in need of a Chairperson and anyone interested should contact Chris Armstrong. The agenda will include creating the welcome packet, following up on the Event Committee's collection of data and discussion about a "Concierge Station" at the MABA Alpaca Celebration.

Events Committee Report ~ Dave Nye

On March 29th, 2008 the Events Committee will exhibit the MABA booth at the Maryland Department of Agriculture's annual Open House. Rose Page of Dameron Alpacas, and Jackie Mathiason of Alpaca Road, LLC will be attending as exhibitors on MABA's behalf. The booth will include alpacas, fiber and garment samples, the MABA photo booth display, a sign up sheet and possibly a spinner or other fiber artist.

In addition, Dave listed the following events that are currently on the calendar:

- Maryland Alpaca Show & Sale
- MAPACA Jubilee
- Carroll County Farm Museum Events (BOD)
- The Maryland State Fair
- The Great Frederick Fair
- MABA Alpaca Celebration

Volunteers will be sought closer to the dates for each event. Dave Nye will be acting as the Committee Chair.

Education Committee Report ~ Lora McMunn

The Committee is currently investigating possible topics for the MABA Alpaca Celebration and actively seeking volunteers. At this point the plan is to keep the seminars at the show basic 101 type events. There will also be a more advanced Educational Event planned for the coming year which will reach out to the regional alpaca community with a recognized speaker. Julie Wysong, of Quarry Critters has volunteered to join the committee and more members are needed. Lora recognized the work that Scott Gove has done for the committee in the past and noted she would be contacting him for some guidance.

General New Business ~ Teece Nowell

The Maryland Alpaca Show & Sale to be held on April 12th & 13th has offered special courtesy to MABA farms. This includes free stalling for 4-H owned, performance animals. In addition, for every farm exhibiting animals at the show, Robin Gilmore Events, LLC will donate \$100.00 to MABA.

The membership is asked to submit photography for the use of MABA on its web site. Teece posed this as a friendly competition among the member farms. Photography on the web site is a few years old and due to be updated.

Our Annual Picnic will be the next General Meeting, July 11th. Active MABA members are asked to consider hosting the event provided they can supply ample parking. Please contact Teece if you are interested in hosting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40

Respectfully Submitted: Christine Armstrong, MABA Secretary