



Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association  
General Membership Meeting July 8, 2007  
and Annual Picnic

President opened meeting at 2:00 pm

President asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last General Membership Meeting of March. Motion to approve was supplied by Chuck Gulotta and seconded by Andy Schnieder.

#### Treasurer Report

Chuck Gulotta reported that the balance in the account stands at \$3,000.00 even. All bills have been paid, with not outstanding payments known.

#### Education Seminar

Scott Gove reported that the topic for the November seminar will be on Accounting and Legal issues for the Alpaca business. Doug Boyle, a CPA from Frederick, MD will speak on Alpaca farming tax issues. Jeff McCovy, a lawyer from the firm of ... will speak on Contract Law and how it applies to Alpaca contracts. Jess Armstrong mentioned that the November meeting and seminar is tentatively to be held at the Carroll County Ag. Center. Should that venue fall through we are looking for a back up location. Please inform Jess of any place you feel could meet our needs.

#### MESA

Tilly Dorsey reported on a program known as the Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture, or MESA. Interns from all over the globe arrive each spring for 8-12 months of training at sponsor farms across the U.S. The host farm provides lodging and supervised training activities for the interns. This is a great opportunity to pass on your knowledge and love for alpacas and have a helping, willing, hand for a few months. All interns are extensively screened prior to participation. For more information, contact Tilly, or go to [www.mesaprogram.org](http://www.mesaprogram.org).

#### The Great Frederick Fair: September 14 – September 22

Heinz Welms reported that MABA would again be a host at the fair and maintain a MABA booth at the “City Streets – Country Roads” exhibit. The primary host day for MABA will be Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed on this day from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in 2-3 hour shifts. Please contact Heinz if you can help. There will be 4H kids showing alpacas, a fleece show, spinning and more. This is a wonderful event attended by 60,000 -70,000 people each year. There are current breeders who first learned of alpacas at the “Great Frederick Fair”.

#### National Farm Day

Several notices have been sent by AOBA and MABA through John Petersam’s efforts. At this point, 7 Maryland farms are signed up. This should be a terrific way to promote your farm and alpacas in general with AOBA doing all of the marketing. Any farm wishing to participate can find the information on the MABA website or contact John Petersam.

#### MABA Alpaca Show – November 2008

A general discussion about show plans was conducted. Chuck Gulotta informed that he is working on a cost/budget by evaluating cost/expenses of the MAPACA show and others to get a handle on what will be needed. Jess Armstrong has been checking on the availability of show superintendents to contract for this show. Jess also stated that this will be an AOBA certified show. MABA members should be aware this will be an enormous effort and will take many hours of member participation to succeed. The BOD and the show committee will need support. This

effort will go a long way to building MABA's treasury and its reputation and providing resources for membership activities. As things progress, notices will be sent to members. Please consider volunteering to help make this a success.

### MABA Display Booth

Richard Keyser reported on the research into display panels. He felt that the "used booth" market was unproductive. For new, 10' x 10' panels, the price will run between \$400.00 and \$700.00 he passed a sample brochure around for members review. Andy Schnieder reported on a table top model he has used effectively and its functionality and reduced cost. Heinz Welms suggested a table top model used in conjunction with a "power point" type demo on a computer might be effective. All of these efforts are to be evaluated and considered by the BOD. Purchase and graphics should be completed to be ready for the MABA Booth at the Maryland State Fair on August 28<sup>th</sup>. This then will be used at the "Great Frederick Fair" and all subsequent MABA events.

### Affiliate Congress

The membership present was asked if we should consider a new assignee to represent MABA at the affiliate congress or maintain Rick Stumpf as our representative. All agreed to keep Rick in that position for now.

### Maryland State Fair

Tilly Dorsey and Dave Nye discussed MABA's invite to have space at the Maryland State Fair on August 29, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. They are willing to provide space for almost any type of alpaca presentation, demonstrations, show, display booths, etc. Some of the details known at present are:

- Pen space will be available FREE of charge for farm displays and alpacas.
- Breeders will need to bring their own pens and display equipment.
- Bedding is still questionable. Will meet with fair officials to resolve.
- There is 24 hour security
- Cattle are required to have BVD vaccinations before attending any MD event.

Time will be given in the main show ring in the Cow Palace for demo's. Suggested demo's include:

- Fiber to Fashion. Discussion and display of raw fleece and types
- Demo's on spinning, weaving, knitting, carding, etc.
- Agility classes with 4-H youth
- General Information sessions about Basic Alpaca presented by breeders and/or senior 4H youth.
- Question/answer sessions with breeder panel.

Tilly Dorsey and Dave Nye are heading the committee and will meet with Fair Officials to iron out some details. A sheet was passed around for farms to sign up for the committee and had good response. If you have not had the opportunity to join this committee, please contact Dave Nye, who has the list, and get involved. It is felt that it could be a wonderful opportunity to inform the general public about Alpacas, bringing more people to this special world. It should be noted, the invitation has already been extended to other years.

### MABA Board of Directors Elections

Jess Armstrong reported that 4 current board members terms expire at the end of this year. Consequently, we will need to elect new members. All nominations must be made by September 30<sup>th</sup>, to hold elections in October and announce the new board members at the November General Membership Meeting. The new BOD will be seated on January 1, 2008. If you have a desire to serve, you can nominate yourself, or have a friend do so. If you have no friends, maybe you should reconsider! Please notify Jess Armstrong of your nominations. We are hoping to have 6 or more nominations so we have some choice in the elections.

### MABA Website

Chris Armstrong was commended on all the hard work and wonderful results with the MABA website. There are still problems with the photos, mostly related to incompatibility with member software and the website

software. While this issue could be fixed, it would require significant capital which is not available at this time. Chris will accept calls on this issue and will help you get your photo processed on the sited until funds can be acquired.

#### Picnic/Meeting Host

A grateful applause went to Stephanie Morrison for hosting this event. All was well prepared and what a beautiful alpaca farm.

#### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jess Armstrong and seconded by Andy Schnieder and applauded by all. The temp in the shade at the conclusion of the meeting was 96 degrees!