



Member Information

December 5, 2002

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



We wanted to take the opportunity to touch base with everyone to recap 2002, to let you know what is in store for the beginning of 2003, but

most of all to say, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We as a Board of Directors are so happy that you have chosen to be a part of this fantastic organization.

There were several special things that happened in 2002, first and foremost we were able to get the Empire Alpaca Association off the ground in March. Memberships have been coming into Polly at a fairly steady clip and we now have 65 members. Our web site hit counter has been proving to us that our marketing efforts have been paying off, we ran 8 adds in 2 magazines through the spring and the summer, as well as, braving the crowds at the Empire Farm Days in August. We were also lucky enough to get a few newspapers to give us some great articles and some free publicity for the show in October. Speaking of the show, the evaluations that have been sent into AOBA have just raved about the Extravaganza. We have also received a number of e mails and letters sending congratulations on a job well done. I hope everyone agrees that it was a proud moment for New York and we hope a good time was had by all that attended.

We also had our first election this year, 60% of the members voted, that's spectacular. Thank you for your support and energy. Now to the 40% that forgot, we will make sure that we send out a few more reminders next time. A big thank you goes out to Jennifer Marti for her year of service. Jennifer gave a lot of energy to our organization. Chris Gilman will now be coming on board and she looks forward to working for all of you.

Throughout this Newsletter we will update you on where we are heading and what plans we have for the first quarter of 2003. February is going to be a very busy month and one that we will need a lot of your help and support. Make sure you read the next pages carefully to learn about what we have in store. We have hopes for
another

Board of Directors

President

Scott Young

Vice President

Kelly Zanella

Secretary

Polly Michaelis

Treasurer

David Friedman

Members at Large

Richard Jonassen

Tim Wilson

Chris Gilman



Winter Alpaca Breeder's & Veterinarian's Symposium

OK..... So its winter. No more shows...no more shearing, mowing, weeding, planting, painting, weed-whacking, haying, or bug spraying. Gosh, what will we do with so much free time? Well, we're gonna get educated – that's right! Breeders, owners, enthusiasts and veterinarians, clear your calendars on February 14th, 15th & 16th for our Winter Alpaca Breeder's & Veterinarian's Symposium to be held at the Desmond Inn and Conference Center in Albany, New York. The invitations will be coming this week but here is a preview of the weekend!



The weekend will start with the **Veterinarian's Only** Symposium on **Friday, February 14th**. Our medical professionals will have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Ahmed Tibary and his assistant Dr. Jennifer Scott as they present and discuss alpaca health and health related issues. The major topics of this presentation will include reproductive soundness in male/female alpacas, neonatology, diagnosis and therapy of common medical procedures. Dr. Tibary is well regarded by the professional veterinary community throughout the world for his expertise in camelid reproduction. This daylong program is a fantastic opportunity for our veterinarians, vet techs and vet assistants to learn from the very best! Please be sure that your vet receives an invitation from us to attend. Tuition \$150.00 includes lunch, presentation booklet and CD-ROM.

On **Saturday, February 15th and Sunday, February 16th** our Symposium continues for **Alpaca Breeder's and Owners**. Maggie Krieger and Mike Safley will join Dr. Tibary to present and discuss our focus areas for education: medical/reproduction, fleece/fleece characteristics, conformation and "criating" the very best alpaca. Each speaker is very well known in the alpaca industry and considered to be an alpaca expert in the areas they will be addressing.

Saturday's educational program will run from 9AM to 5PM. Afterwards all Symposium participants are invited to an informal cocktail social where old friends and new acquaintances can relax swap 'pacas stories and have fun. On Sunday the program will run from 8:30 AM to 3PM. On both days a continental breakfast and lunch is included in the tuition cost of the program. Cost: Empire Alpaca Association Members: \$135.00 Non-Members: \$150.00

Symposium invitations are in the mail. Space is limited and reservations are required. So please be sure you and your vet reserve your seat for this super event. Although we have a list of camelid vets that we have invited, please be sure to ask your vet(s) if they have received an invite and are interested in attending. This will be a very special opportunity for you and your vet to learn from the best!

For more information and complete biographical information on our speakers please see our website. Any questions can be directed to Kelly Zanella at pjzanella@aol.com.

Our Association



Here's a breakdown of the Empire Alpaca Association as of the end of November 2002. Sixty-six total members (59 farm and 7 associate. Four states represented: New York, Vermont, New Jersey and Georgia with 37 counties in New York State. Our animal census breaks down as follows (numbers are approximate – for many farms the last birthing season is not reflected): 1054 total animals. Huacayas: males – 265, females – 627; geldings/non-breeders – 105. Suris: males – 24, females – 31, geldings/non-breeders – 2. Not too shabby for being less than a year old!

Nominees needed to run for Board or Directors

It's now time to consider running for the Board of the Empire Alpaca Association. We will have one seat up for election in 2003, Polly Michaelis term is up. We would like to see two members running for this seat. Please consider running for one of the most energetic, enthusiastic and well run AOBA affiliates there is. Your expertise and input would greatly enhance our association and the alpaca industry. Just contact the Nominating Committee head Tim Wilson (twilson@alpacasofpleasantvalley.com, or (315) 684-3421) for more information.



Pride of New York

Would you pay (just once) \$25 to join a group of dedicated New Yorker's interested in promoting agriculture and its products? The "Pride of New York" program is doing that right now. For your one time fee you get to be part of a statewide campaign dedicated to encouraging New Yorkers to look for and purchase items produced in New York State.

The "Pride of New York" will provide you with ad materials, stickers, banners and a host of other things to help you become a part of this marketing effort. Once you have joined you will have the use of the "Pride of New York" logo to tie-in your advertising to the "Pride of New York" campaign. We will want to make sure all of us that join gear some of our advertising to the Pride of New York Fall Farm and Fiber tour over the Columbus Day weekend.

Along with the statewide awareness efforts the Agriculture and Markets people put out a quarterly newsletter to keep everyone updated on upcoming events and programs.

Our alpacas, along with fleece, rovings and yarns, processed in New York, are eligible to come under the program. Finished goods do not qualify. This only points out the need to develop and support a New York State fiber processor.

The "Pride of New York" is easily joined. Go to the Ag and Markets web site, www.agmkt.state.ny.us and click on "Pride of New York". Scroll down to "Marketing" and there is the "Pride of New York" link. When you enter you'll be able to find all you need to know about the program along with a printable application. While on the site look around, there is a lot of good stuff there.

One last thing. As a group we owe NYLAA (New York Lama and Alpaca Association) a huge THANK YOU for getting llamas and alpacas approved for this program. Thanks a lot NYLAA and a job well done!

On the Road Again!!!!

Given the great marketing successes had at the Empire Farm Days in August, the Association will be making an appearance at the New York Farm Show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse on February 20, 21 and 22, 2003. The New York Farm Show is billed as the "Northeast's largest ag extravaganza drawing the nation's best selection of farm suppliers and the region's best farmers." The Association has purchased a 10x30 display booth for alpacas, information and product sales. We had 4 people working the booth at the Empire Farm Days and it was nowhere near enough. In addition at this show we are adding product sales which will require a whole slew of additional help. **Please check your calendars – we'll need lots of volunteers to speak to the public and work the product sales booth. The Farm show is requiring all the names of workers early, we need to know if you can help by December 30th.** Contact Polly Michaelis (info@fingerlakesalpacas.com) if you're able to help out. This will be a fantastic marketing opportunity, don't miss out. **We will need at least 7 people a day.** Look for more information in the near future.



Empire Alpaca Extravaganza Speakers – A Success!



We would like to thank all of our guest speakers for doing a fantastic job of sharing their knowledge and experiences at the seminars held during the show in Syracuse. We have received feedback from both the attendees and the speakers - it was a great experience for all. We are already in the planning stages for next year's show and speakers. Let us know what topics or in what areas you would like to hear more information. You can contact us through the EAA website or contact Kelly @ pjzanella@aol.com



Member Information

Empire Alpaca Association
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Hancock, NY 13783

*We're working for
New York!*

www.empirealpacaassociation.com

Food, Glorious Food

We wouldn't be us if we didn't discuss food. By popular demand here's a recipe from our "chili meeting".

White Chile

Poach 4 chicken breast halves without skin in 2 ½ cups water with 1 teaspoon lemon pepper and 1 teaspoon cumin seeds until done. Remove chicken from poaching liquid and cut up, reserving the poaching liquid. In same pot, sauté 1 cup chopped onion and 1 clove minced garlic until transparent. Add: 2 packages Green Giant Shoepeg White Corn (thawed), 2 cans diced green chilies undrained, 1 teaspoon ground cumin, 1 tablespoon lime juice and two cans Great Northern Beans, undrained and the reserved poaching liquid and heat until corn is cooked. (Sieve out cumin seeds if desired before using liquid.) Add the poached chicken that has been cut up or shredded and heat through. Garnish with Monterey Jack cheese and sour cream if desired.



Extravaganza Recap

As we stated before it seems as though all who attended the Empire Alpaca Extravaganza 2002 had a very worth while experience. We had 108 breeders from 14 different states bring 357 animals and 83 fleeces. We also had 20 youth exhibitors make all of us very proud of them. The building looked fantastic, the seminars were incredible, the competition was top notch and the fun was priceless. Sounds like a Master Card commercial. This was a total volunteer show with the exception of just a few positions, so there are so many of you to thank. One new aspect of the show was the product booth. Members sold \$5,800 dollars of product through out the weekend. It was very well organized by Kathy Jarvis and Denise Caldwell, thank you ladies for giving all the members your time. Thank you to everyone that had an impact on this event. It is first class events such as the Extravaganza and the Symposium that will continue to allow NY to move to the fore front of this industry. Thanks again.