

## MOPACA News

### National Alpaca Farm Day Edition 2009

#### Greetings from Alpacas of the Heartland !

We have had our alpacas for 13 months and this was our second National Alpaca Farm Day Weekend. We advertised in the local paper, and distributed fliers throughout the neighboring towns, as well as posted directional signage the morning of the event.

We were blessed with fantastic weather, and we welcomed over 250 visitors to our ranch.

It was a wonderful opportunity for people to see these gorgeous animals as we haltered several alpacas for visitors to see how well behaved the alpacas are, and allowed them to feel how soft and dense the fleece is on the animal. Many of our animals were receptive to being fed by hand by our guests, even children.

We had fleece and various alpaca items for sale as well as free refreshments for all. Guests were able to take away pictures and alpaca related puzzles for the children. We even gave away a stuffed alpaca toy to one lucky drawing winner.

Two fun days captured by over 300 pictures. Here are just a few. Come see us next year.

[Mike and Sheri Jacoby](#)

Imbe@huntel.net

Alpacas of the Heartland

Fort Calhoun, NE





# MOPACA News

## NAFD 2009

Page 2

Midwest Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association

### 2010 MOPACA Winter Meeting and Seminar with Dr. Ahmed Tibary

**January 16-17, 2010 at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.**

Dr. Ahmed Tibary is a noted theriogenologist or reproductive specialist in Camelids at Washington State University. He has worked with breeders and their personal veterinarians for many years. He will be our guest speaker at the MOPACA winter meeting of 2010.

*This is one seminar you should not miss.* We will learn about obstetrical problems, infertility issues in males and females, reproductive emergencies, and much more. Lectures will be presented with plenty of time for questions and the goal is for **you** to learn. There will be separate seminars for vets, vet students and vet school staff to present more detailed medical information.

Contact your veterinarians to save the dates for the special **vet only** sessions with Dr. Tibary.

Registration information will be uploaded to [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org) no later than October 30. Pricing will again be very reasonable for MOPACA members and their vets. Have your vets plan to join all of us at our Saturday "Meet and Greet" at the University after the Saturday afternoon session.

#### Your MOPACA Leadership Team

President:	Brian Willsey
Vice President:	Jim Carr
Secretary:	Renee Prochaska-Keenan
Treasurer:	Dave Binder
Directors:	Sandra Binder Robert Baldwin Don Haus

### Photo Op

An amateur photographer named Tamara Hughbanks stopped by our place on Saturday and took a few shots. The conditions for photography inside the barn with the animals and people were not ideal, but she seemed to get a few good ones anyway. Here's her link:

[http://www.tamarasnewcreations.com/Alpacas/Desoto\\_Bend.html](http://www.tamarasnewcreations.com/Alpacas/Desoto_Bend.html)

(Yes - one is a llama. )

[Helga Fensterman](#)

info@dbalpacas.com

DeSoto Bend Alpacas

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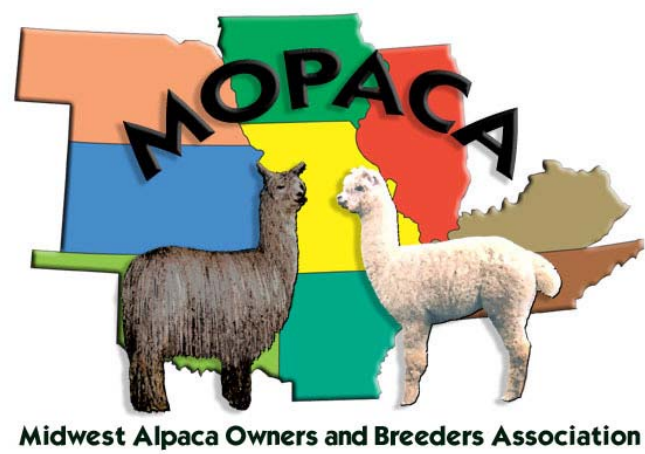
### 2010 MOPACA Summer Seminar Notice

**Save the dates of July 10 - 11, 2010.**

Liz Mitchko and her committee are working on a full weekend of fiber to take place at the Civic Center in Lebanon, MO. Two (2) days to learn more about sorting and skirting fleeces; spinning, weaving, felting, and more.

Take part in the spin-off, and fiber arts competitions; bring the family and see what the kids can do; be a vendor or a participant, or both. Volunteers are always welcome to help.

For more details, contact Liz Mitchko at [liz@whirlwindranch.com](mailto:liz@whirlwindranch.com) or 417-533-5280.



# MOPACA News

## NAFD 2009

Page 3

### Open Farm Day at Heartland Farm in Kansas



Sr. Annette Winter, OP volunteering to show off "Sara" to our neighbors.



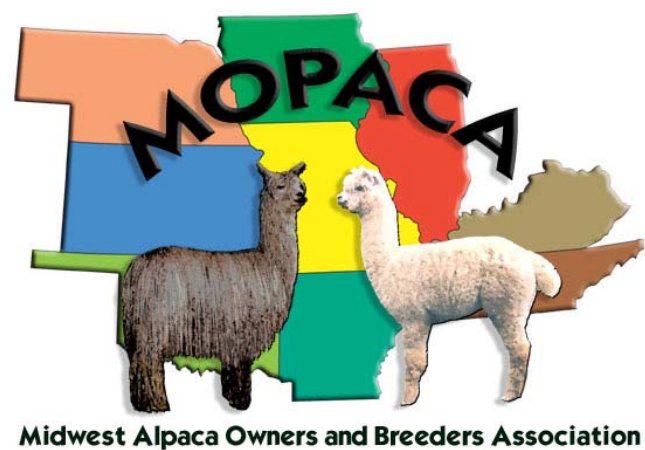
Longtime farm friend and neighbor Katy Pasnick volunteers to tend the solar oven.



Lanora Graves demonstrates spinning techniques inside the strawbale Arts Building.



Sr. Ginger Pearl, CSJ (left) bids farewell as Sr. Terry Wasinger, OP talks alpaca business with two visitors from Concordia.



# MOPACA News

## NAFD 2009

Page 4

### MIAS Show Update

The MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show is just around the corner. Your committee chairs are working feverously to get the registration up and running by November 1, 2009. Please decide how you will participate. Monitor our website, [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org), and be among the first to register and secure your stalling position. An email blast will alert you when online registration opens. Please note the change for 2010 show dates: **March 20-21, 2010**.

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#### 2010 MOPACA INVITATIONAL ALPACA SHOW (MIAS) HANDCRAFTERS' 2 OZ. SPIN-OFF

Not a spinner but would like to see your favorite alpaca's fleece spun up in a skein to show clients and make milling decisions from?

Want to save 2 beautiful ounces of fiber, including a well prepared value-added example of your alpaca's fiber production for your records and marketing use down the line?

Just want to see what your alpaca can produce and enjoy the ribbons as well?

#### **NOW IS THE TIME to prepare and submit Your Farm's entries for MOPACA's 2010 MIAS Handcrafters' Spin-Off Competition!**

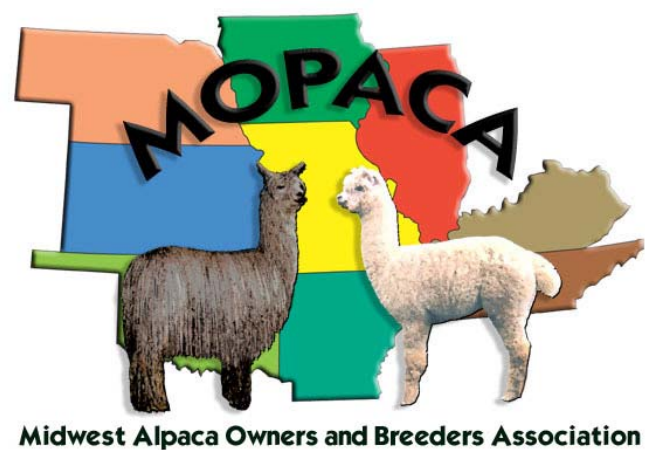
Mary Lessman of Memphis, Tennessee is our judge. Mary has been involved with all types of fiber for over 40 years. She is an avid knitter, weaver, dyer and spinner and is nearing graduation from Olds College's Master Spinner's certification program. She is an active member of a number of fiber guilds and has served over the past ten years as the President of a Memphis area Spinners' Guild. Mary prefers to work with fine fibers and will bring a wealth of knowledge and skill to the spinning of the fiber in this competition!

For official details on how to prepare your 2 ounce samples and enter the MIAS 2010 Handcraft's Spin-Off, see Section 8, page 9-12 of the online 2009 AOBA Show Division Handbook or go to [www.aobashows.com](http://www.aobashows.com) for details.

Online registration for the Spin-Off will be available starting October 22, 2009. Check our website, [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org) or contact **Nancy Haus**, 2010 MIAS Handcrafters' Spin-Off Coordinator for manual entry forms. Nancy can be contacted at [hummvfarm@aol.com](mailto:hummvfarm@aol.com) or 913-727-2366.

**Deadline for the Handcrafter's Spin-Off is December 15, 2009.**

**Enter early to avoid the holiday rush!**



# MOPACA News

## NAFD 2009

Page 5

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### MIAS Show Update Continued

The 2010 MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show wants to see you and your alpacas. Judges for the halter show are Amanda Vanden Bosch for all males and Suri productions classes and Dawn Brooker for all females and Huacaya production classes. Register online for \$40.00 per alpaca. Deadline is February 28, 2010.

For questions or changes, contact the Registrar/Treasurer:

Diane Howard 913-833-9321 (h), 913-645-5161 (c), 913-833-9321 (fax)

email: [serenityhill@hughes.net](mailto:serenityhill@hughes.net)

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The MIAS fleece show will be judged by Kathy Klay. Judging will take place on March 10, 2010 in Mexico, MO at Mid Missouri Alpacas. All fleeces must be mailed to the address on the fleece registration form before or by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. You may register fleeces through the online registration process for \$35.00 per entry. Fleece entry tags will be automatically completed online and can be printed at the time of registration.

Direct all questions to: Sandy at: 573-721-1415 or [applesandalpacas@ktis.net](mailto:applesandalpacas@ktis.net)

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Fiber Arts 2010

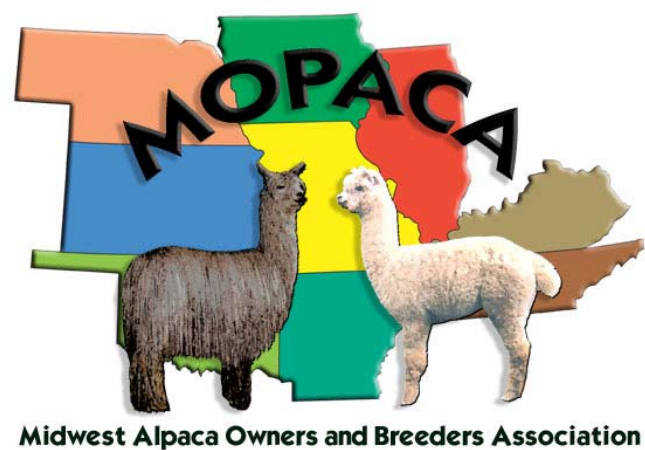
Calling all Farms!

Alpacas are fiber producing machines and it's to all our advantage to get the word out about our wonderful fiber and what it can be used for. We need your help to do this. Last year, our entries tripled from the first year of the Fiber Arts competition. We bought display equipment to showcase the entries to their best advantage

Let's keep up the momentum and see the entries triple again!

To do this, we need the support of every MOPACA farm member. It takes time to complete a Fiber Arts entry, so NOW is the time to start soliciting those entries. What can YOUR farm do?

- Enter your own handspun or millspun skein or Fiber Arts project. Show people the quality of the fiber from your farm.
- Encourage your customers to enter. Offer them incentives such as a discount on fiber or free skein of yarn if they enter using your fiber.
- Print out the registration rules, entry forms and tags from the MOPACA website. Distribute the packages to your local yarn stores, fiber guilds and customers. Make it EASY for them to enter.
- Submit an article to your local guild newsletter letting folks know we exist and are actively soliciting entries.
- Send suggestions to Anne Mayes at [annmayes@ktis.net](mailto:annmayes@ktis.net) on how we can get the word out.



# MOPACA News

## NAFD 2009

Page 6

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### MIAS Show Update Continued

Fiber Arts Continued....

We are also looking for demonstrators in our fiber arena. If you or someone you know has a fiber skill and are willing to spend 20-60 minutes demonstrating in the arena during the show let me know. We are looking for demonstrations on sorting, needle felting, weaving, spinning or anything else you do with your fiber.

With your help, we can show the public just how wonderful our fiber can be!

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You should have already received information about MIAS sponsorship. It is your support that allows us to produce a great show. If you have not received this information or have questions, contact:

Lisa Fererro at: [bigriveralpacas@esagelink.com](mailto:bigriveralpacas@esagelink.com) or 636-452-3436

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Photos, photos, photos! It is time to start thinking about what photos you want to choose for the MOPACA Photo Contest. You know you have just the right one (or two, or three, or four) that will be winning photos. If you love the photo - others will too. So start looking and gathering now, think about those clever captions and get them ready for mailing! The cost to enter is a bargain at \$10.00 each.

**Deadline for registration is February 20, 2010.**

Contact: **Debbie Hoerl** at [info@alpacasofmoosecreekranch.com](mailto:info@alpacasofmoosecreekranch.com) or 913-530-0769

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The MIAS silent auction will once again highlight some of your best products as well as breedings to top quality Herd Sires. Herd Sire owners will be happy to talk to you about their donations to allow you plenty of time to make your selections. Your generous donations to these auctions have allowed MOPACA to proudly donate \$10,000 in 2009 to the Mid-America Foundation in your name! Proceeds for the 2010 auction will benefit the Foundation programs.

For more information contact **Kyla Harrison** at [bluediamondalpacas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bluediamondalpacas@sbcglobal.net) or 816-507-6445

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### Education

Learn how to handle your alpaca in the show ring! **A MUST for first timers**, and a great refresher course for the rest of us. Join Don Haus in the show ring starting at 5:30 pm Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring your alpaca or come to watch, listen, learn, and have fun. Sign up online or just show up. It's free!!!