



# Quarterly

Spring 2008

## **MOPACA Discussion Group on Yahoo is here!**

MOPACA member, Phyllis Turner of Shady Creek Farm, will be the Moderator of the new MOPACA Yahoo Group. This group was created to have a central location where any member or prospective member of MOPACA can gather to exchange ideas, plans, hopes, needs, & questions! The purpose of this group is to offer a positive community bulletin board where members can post topics related to



alpaca farming, fleece harvesting, husbandry, pasture

management, or other alpaca related topics we farmers, fleece processors, spinners, weavers etc. may want to discuss on a local level.

For more information on how to join this group go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MOPACA>.

**Submitted by Liz Mitchko of Whirlwind Ranch.**

**Information on the:**

**National Animal ID System**  
From Chuck Purgason, MO  
State Senator 33<sup>rd</sup> District

[Click here for the report](#)  
or go to the Alpaca Education Page at  
[www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org)

## **New Officers & Board of Directors**

New Officer's and Board were elected for 2008

Congratulations to the following:

**Cindy Jasper, Director**  
River Bluff Alpacas  
**Sandy Binder, Director**  
Mid-Missouri Alpacas  
**KimBaake, Director**  
New Fenwick Alpaca Depot

**Glenn Alpert, President**  
Alpacas R'Diamonds  
**Stephen Wolff, Vice President**  
Alpaca Kingdom  
**Lisa Ferrero, Secretary**  
Big River Alpacas  
**Mary Licklider Treasurer**  
Curly Eye Alpacas

## Welcome New Members!

### NEW FARM MEMBERS

Rena Bartlett & Eric Cogdell  
Rivendell Meadows Alpacas - KS

Katherine Beyer  
Riverwind Farm Alpacas - IL

Dean & Connie Blechle  
Breezy Ridge Alpacas - MO

Vic & Brenda Bullock  
Stellar Alpaca Ranch - MO

Stephen & Gwen Coltrin  
Diamond Triple C Ranch - OK

Rusty & Kelly Deman  
Rockin' D Ranch, LLC - MO

David & Karen Galbraith  
Walnut Creek Alpacas - OK

Dale & Debbie Hoerl  
Alpacas of Moose Creek Ranch - KS

Roger & Robin Howser  
Chisholm Trail Alpacas - OK

Mike & Sheri Jacoby  
Alpacas of the Heartland - NE

Patti & Doug Jennings  
Willow Bend Alpacas - IL

Ronald & Pamela Nelson  
The Promise Alpaca Ranch - MO

Steve, Rose Ann,  
Shana & Tasha Knoblock  
Knoblock's Prairie Ranch - KS

Jeff & Kim Overbey  
Parson's Prairie Farm, MO

Dave, Debby & Jadra Parsons  
A-paca Dreams - MO

Jennifer Rushing  
JennCria Alpaca Ranch - MO

Mark & Rana Thygerson  
Thygerson's Country Dream - MO

Jack & Julie Wier  
Wier World Llama & Alpacas - IL

Brian, Barbara, & Paul Willsey  
Rockin' W Alpaca Ranch - MO

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Dan Jones  
Shaded Hickory Alpacas - MO

## Letter from the President



Thanks to the returning and new members MOPACA has continued to grow with 124 current members. MOPACA's commitment to education is demonstrated with our support of AOBA's student design program involving college students from North American competing in fashion and textile design. New for this year is a scholarship for a veterinary student at three of our area universities with camelid programs, MU, OSU, and KSU.

The members that attended the February MOPACA seminar with Dr Andy Merriwether on alpaca genetics were rewarded with a great seminar, many thanks to the education committee.

An added benefit to our farms is the national advertising MOPACA does with ads in several nation publications. Our farms can then be located on our website page at [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org). Thank Pete Caffrey for his effort and expertise in getting those ads published!

Best wishes for a nice calm spring and a good cria crop and good luck at the Springfield MOPACA show.

**Glen Alpert – Alpacas R'Diamonds**  
**MOPACA President 2008**

## Area Events

**Mar. 29-30 – MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show** – Springfield, MO. Visit [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org) for details.

**Apr. 26 – Shearing Seminar.** – Centerview, MO. Visit [www.alpacawings.com](http://www.alpacawings.com)

**May. 10 – Open House.** – Centerview, MO. Free food - Cash Bar available - Children welcome! Contact Annie Earhart at Visit [www.alpacawings.com](http://www.alpacawings.com)

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### **Look to MOPACA First... First in Education**

By Pete Caffrey

For those members who attended the Andy Merriwether seminar in St. Louis there is little doubt about MOPACA's dedication to education. Are you getting a good return on your membership fee? I think we are unique for the size of our affiliate when it comes to good value and first class programs. A good sign of excellent money management, and outstanding work by the Education Committee. They invest a lot of volunteer time setting up these programs, planning lunches, accommodations and travel arrangements for the speakers. Just think what it would have cost to book a plane or drive, hotel and meal expense to hear these nationally renowned speakers, if they were not presenting in our region.

MOPACA has taken a landmark step in Camelid Veterinarian Education. Scholarship programs have been set up at the University Of Missouri, Kansas State University and Oklahoma State University. Each scholarship is worth one thousand dollars to be awarded to veterinary students who show interest in Camelid studies. The student will be selected by Dr. Dusty Nagy

at the University of Missouri, Dr. David Anderson and Dr. Meredith Jones at K-State and Dr. Melanie Boileau at OSU. Third and fourth year students will be eligible for these scholarships. All three of the Universities treat alpacas on a daily bases and have camelid studies as part of the curriculum. This is an investment in the future; these are the vets who will treat our animals in the years to come. A great project, with outstanding dividends for the alpaca community. These funds are open-ended accounts and additional contributions may be made in the future by family and friends. MOPACA will have information on where to send donations as soon as the scholarships are set in place.

Just two more reasons why folks "Look To MOPACA First."

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### **MOPACA WEBSITE UPDATE** (By Kim Baake)

The Website is going full swing now with lots of additions and updates. The Herdsire Gallery is gaining exposure and members keep adding their wonderful herdsires! We will be updating the news pages with useful information, as well as adding fiber and alpaca education tips/hints this summer. We are monitoring the statistics and compared to last year, we are getting double and triple the hits on the pages. Here are the hits for 2008, (as of 3/19) and they are impressive!

**3769....Unique Visitors**, (first time visitors)

**6914.....Total #of Visits** (includes repeat visitors)

**32635....# of times pages were viewed by the # of visits.**

Also out of all the pages (the top 25), here are the top five in their order that were viewed: **Show Page, Home Page, Show Schedule, Membership Map, and Herdsire Gallery!**

Your Website Committee,  
Kim Baake, Mary Licklider, and Ann Mayes

## ***5<sup>th</sup> Annual 2008 MOPACA Invitational Update!***

By: Rhonda Butler, Show Coordinator

This year has been an eventful year for MOPACA as an organization. Our membership is steadily growing; we have had great educational seminars and have taken steps to increase our marketing with an eye catching new theme "Look to MOPACA First". We hope you enjoy seeing our theme throughout the show and will also take notice that MOPACA is stepping it up a notch to make a bigger presence. We are committed to increasing public awareness of the alpaca industry. As you drive throughout Springfield the weekend of our show, keep your eyes open to see one of the five billboards advertising the show. Let us know what you think, if they captured your attention and made a difference in your show experience this year.

The MOPACA show committee has worked for months preparing for your arrival and I would like to thank each and every one of them for giving freely of their time and expertise to make this a great show. Thank you Show Committee, you are the best!

Something new for our show this year is our photographer Christina Calliham with "Good Ol' Days Photography". Christina will not only be at the photography booth, she will be taking shots of you in the show rings, mingling amongst the crowd and wherever else she can capture those special shots that we all miss. More information can be found in this show book about Christina and her services.

In closing, I would like to wish all exhibitors good luck in the show ring this year. Enjoy our show in Springfield, but, get ready! In an effort to improve the quality of our show and allow room for growth, *we are relocating once again.* Kansas City, here we come. **In 2009, the American Royal, Hale Arena will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show.** We hope to see you there! **For more show information, log on to: [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org)**

### **Affiliate Congress Report – March 2008**

The AOBA Board reported this week that they have tabled the idea of changing AOBA from a Colorado into a Tennessee corporation until after spring Board elections. They have been too busy with other work for now.

Once again, your input on Show Rules can be given anonymously through the Affiliate Congress, as well as personally to Betty Brock, the Show Rules System Administrator. Send your comments on changes you'd like to see made, or things to remain unchanged, to me at [gwolf@starband.net](mailto:gwolf@starband.net) by April 1. I'll strip any names and send our MOPACA comments to be added into the Affiliate Congress document that will go to Betty before the deadline. *Please be aware that rule changes made next year will get locked in for three years, so this does make a difference to those who show.*

A new resource on EPDs – estimated progeny differences – will soon be available to Affiliates. The AC team working on issues surrounding establishing a fiber industry using a livestock model plans to finish this product by April. It will contain reading materials from scientists; a PowerPoint presentation; a chapter from a classic breeding text available through the Internet; and pointers to industry experts within the alpaca and livestock communities.

Another working group is gathering resources on emergency and disaster planning. This has turned into a huge project, and various other animal agencies are willing to cooperate with the camelid community.

2009 is the International Year of Natural Fiber, as proclaimed by the United Nations. The website is at [www.naturalfibres2009.org](http://www.naturalfibres2009.org). The Affiliate Congress is eager for AOBA to produce a comprehensive marketing plan to take advantage of this opportunity. We are waiting to hear about details. In the meantime, please visit the site and think of ways it could help your business.

The AOBA Rose Parade Committee reported to the AC that they've raised about \$30,000 for the project. This is entirely separate from the AOBA Marketing budget. If they don't raise enough for this year's parade, the funds will carry over to a 2010 initiative. Having a float, with two geldings riding on it, would be a great way to bring in the 2009 International Year of Natural Fiber. The Rose Parade group is willing to take questions from anyone, so don't hesitate to ask.

Respectfully submitted, Gwen Wolff, [gwolf@starband.net](mailto:gwolf@starband.net)

## NEWS FROM THE MID AMERICA ALPACA FOUNDATION

The MAAF has selected a new advisory board for 2008; Dr. Dusty Nagy, University of Missouri, Dr's. David Anderson and Meredyth Jones from Kansas State University, and Dr. Melanie Boileau of Oklahoma State University. Joining the scientific advisors are Dale Pessin, Show-Me Alpacas and Bob Sines, Cedar Hollow Farm Alpacas. We are very proud to have such an outstanding group help guide the Foundation.

In January of 2008 the MAAF launched the **MAAF Veterinary Student Externship Fund**, this fund makes available a one thousand dollar a year grant to allow veterinary students to travel from campus to attend Camelid related events, seminars and learning experiences. These funds will be available at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma State University and Kansas State University. This fund will be directed by the scientific advisory board at MU, OKS and K-State campuses. Our advisors said "this fund will have a major impact on student learning "This fund is in addition to the MOPACA sponsored **MOPACA Camelid Scholarships**. For more information about the Foundation, go to [www.mid-amalpacafoundation.com](http://www.mid-amalpacafoundation.com)

MAAF BOD: Pete Caffrey, President; Lynn Wedel Treasurer; and Robert Baldwin Secretary.

If you have a story or a photo about an alpaca experience that you would like to share, please send to Kim at [newfenwick@wildblue.net](mailto:newfenwick@wildblue.net)

### NOTICE OF MOPACA MEETINGS

- Summer, 2008. Check the website for time and registration details.
- Future meetings will be announced via email, newsletters and on the website calendar.



*May all your alpacas be this calm at shearing time!*

**About this photo:** He was so sweet and calm as we sheared, that we barely had to hold his head down. No drugs, just his nature! Wish they all could be so calm.

HAPPY SHEARING SEASON 2008!



MOPACA, an Affiliate of AOBA

MOPACA Newsletter - Spring 2008  
Editor: Kim Baake