



# MOPACA

**MIDWEST ALPACA OWNERS  
AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

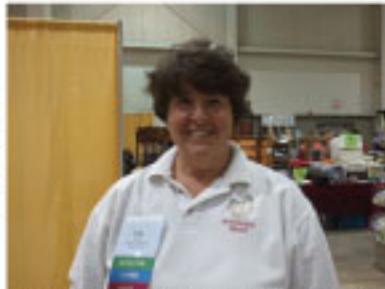
**LEARN IT, LIVE IT, LOVE IT!**

## MOPACA Newsletter

June 2014

### Upcoming Events

**FIBER**  
*Promoting*  
**“U”**  
*Education*  
**Fiber Arts**



Fiber “U” is the place to be July 12-13, 2014 in Lebanon, MO at the Cowan Civic Center. Please join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> year.

\*Great place to learn new fiber arts (note, you need to pre-register and MOPACA members get a discount on 2-day registration). After June 20<sup>th</sup>, please e-mail [liz@whirlwindranch.com](mailto:liz@whirlwindranch.com) for verification on class availability and total amount due.

\*Take advantage of FREE FREIGHT on fiber to AFCNA, NEAFP, ABP, The Sock Brigade, and North American Suri Company. Check out the vendor list and see if your favorite mill will be there too. All fiber needs to be delivered through the back by the large drive-through doors. Carts available to help with unloading.

\*Attend the MOPACA meeting at 5:15pm on Saturday.

\*Shop with 30+ Vendors in one spot and save on shipping charges

\*Use the State Tables to take advantage of FREE ADVERTISING. You bring your own flier, business cards, sales brochure and place it on the table from your state. ANYONE, including the general public can take your information and before you leave, you take home anything that is left over (one 9” x 12” square per person/ranch please- and everything must lay flat on the table).

\*Registered attendees get a free Midwest Fiber Resource Directory.

\*Visit with friends, new and old in air conditioned comfort.

\*Complete information about Fiber “U” is at [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org)





Fiber "U"  
The place to be  
July 12-13, 2014

# MIAS 2015

*Get your spin-offs and fleeces ready! We are gearing up for the 2015 MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show. The show will be held again this year at the American Royal, Hale Arena, in Kansas City, on March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, with check-in on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Judges this year will be Diana Timmerman and Sharon Loner. The animals will be judged 60% on fleece and 40% conformation. We are in the planning process, and have a couple of fun changes in mind. We want to see everyone at the show this year, so as soon as registration goes live, hop on and get registered so that you can have the best stalling possible. And, don't forget, the best bang for your buck is a Sponsorship!!!! We are looking forward to another fantastic show season. For additional details visit the MOPACA website [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org). Good luck everyone!*

*Debbie Hoerl  
MIAS '15 Show Coordinator*

## Calling All Members!!

Please consider volunteering for any of the following MOPACA Committees. We need you!!! Contact any MOPACA leadership member if interested.

Education  
Publicity  
Website  
Fiber U  
Show

# Member Events



Did you know that the MOPACA leadership sets aside funds for educational grants for MOPACA members? These funds often go unused. If you are considering hosting an educational event, please contact [MOPACA@mopaca.org](mailto:MOPACA@mopaca.org) for more information about the grant program.



## MOPACA Officers and Board of Directors

Eric Mortl - President  
Sheri Jacoby - Vice President  
Sharon Heimes - Secretary  
Audrey Kruse - Treasurer  
Brian Willsey - Director  
Liz Vahlkamp - Director  
Theresa Kaiser - Director

Please visit [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org) for membership information, meeting minutes, show information, upcoming events, herdsire gallery and past newsletters.

## Meet your fellow members... What do they do with their fleece??

Results from 22 respondents from a previous survey showed the following results:

14 raised huacaya, 3 suri, and 5 both

All sheared once per year  
6 sell raw fleece only, 6 sell processed fleece only, and 9 both

17 sell finished product, 4 do not

10 sell on their farm or other farm, 7 on the internet, 1 at

## **“Fiber as Business” Conference Offers Options to Camelid Owners**

If you are wondering how to generate an income flow from all that gorgeous fiber walking around in your pasture, Camelid Community’s “Fiber as Business” conference August 9-10 can provide you with the tools you need to make some money with your fiber..

Held at the Shisler Center in Wooster, Ohio, the conference will answer questions such as: What can I do with my fiber? How can I do it? Now that I’ve got something, how do I make money with it? After I make money, how do I keep the IRS happy? In short, you will learn the whole process from what to do after you shear your animals all the way to how to put your fiber profits in the bank and not give it all to the IRS.

Representatives of five **fiber organizations** will make presentations that focus on descriptions of their groups and services, what they expect from people (how to prepare fleeces, etc.) and what people can expect from them (money, product, etc.), typical turnaround time and how people can participate with them and make money using their services..

Two **fiber mills** will also make presentations on their services, expectations and the products they can provide llama and alpaca owners as well as how to interpret and use your mill’s bill to price your fiber products for consumers.

Author of the book *Market Yourself—A marketing system for smart and creative business owners*, Tara Swiger will present a session on using online **marketing** and social media to sell yourself and your products and another session on making the most of local and regional events and opportunities.

Once you’ve made some money with your product, you’ll be glad you had some **accounting and tax advice** from nationally recognized speaker David Krebs, president of Krebs & Co. Seminars and chief visionary officer of the CPA Advisory Group

We will hear from **another part of the larger U.S. fiber industry** at our Saturday luncheon. Keynote speaker Margaret Van Camp, vice president of the board of the Bluefaced Leister Union, will focus on how that specialty sheep industry has been successful in growing its market. She will talk about small flock marketing of wool and fiber and how that fits into marketing Bluefaced Leister fiber as an industry.

More conference details, including speaker bios and information on how to register for the conference, are available at [www.camelidcommunity.us](http://www.camelidcommunity.us).

## From the Foundation- Focus on Education

The Mid America Alpaca Foundation is happy to announce that Marty McGee Bennett has offered to do a feature column for the Foundation's newsletter the Foundation Post. Her first article will appear in this year's fall edition. This is a great gift to the Foundation, Marty's support for the Foundation has been outstanding and is much appreciated.



A word of thanks for the outstanding support from the MOPACA show's silent auction committee. The funds raised have allowed the Foundation to award 11 Externships this year. You can see all the recipients on the Foundation's web site [www.midamalpacafoundation.com](http://www.midamalpacafoundation.com) . Your support assures that many of these veterinary students will include camelids in their practices when they graduate. On the student's behalf, "THANKS MOPACA."