



*"The process"*

# Why Live In A Colorless World When You Can Dye

by Laura Harrawood  
Show Me State Mini Llamas

I belong to a small group of fiber addicts called the Rural Missouri Spinners. We have been together for about 20 years. Hard to believe. We have, at some point, owned almost every fiber animal ranging from bunnies to yaks..... yep, Charlotte has yaks. For some reason we never thought there were any limitations on our fiber ambitions and our group even made a yurt. The yurt has long since been dismantled and recycled or eaten.. (by moths) but lives on in myth and memory.

We decided to have a dye day. This wasn't to be just *any* dye day.... this was to be a *natural* dye day. Natural dyes are dyes that are obtained from animals, plants, or minerals. Natural dying also means that it's a *whole* lot more work. Unfortunately, it seems anything that is valuable and worthwhile is always more work. We hadn't organized a natural dye day in years so we all got pretty excited. For us, natural dye days are always more fun because we aren't that good at it and our results are usually a serendipitous surprise. Most of us don't care what colors

we get as long as they are colorfast. Colorfastness is my only "have to".



*More natural dye results*



*Beautiful colors achieved with natural dyes*

Getting ready for a dye day is not easy. First of all a group of independent, strong willed women have to agree on colors and dyes. Second, we needed to make our day worthwhile so we planned to dye 10 pounds of fiber per person (sanity prevailed though and we eventually settled on 5 pounds each). Third, we needed to agree on a location (my farm) and last but certainly not least.... the food. Every one needed to prepare their 5 pounds of fiber by soaking and heating it in a particular mordant. A mordant is a substance that when combined with dye fixes it to a fiber. This mordanting task is labor intensive in itself. We used very safe and easy mordants like iron and alum.

By the time dye day arrived there were a lot of complaints from the group about how much work this was, how much younger we were the last time we

did this, how we understand why synthetic dyes were invented and *again* how much work it was. My friend Linda was in charge of organizing the colors and deciding in which order to dye. If you want an

orange color, you need to dye your fiber yellow first then dip it in the red but we didn't want to contaminate the red dye pot until we are all sure that those who wanted a pure red color got their fiber dyed first... then those who want orange put theirs in.....can you see where this is going? Dye day actually did start out to be fairly civilized until we got tired and then it was anarchy. People were dipping fiber here and there without any semblance of order. As soon as it became apparent that no one actually cared what color they got or how they got it.... it became a free for all and a lot more fun.

White fiber was not the only "color" that we used to dye. Cream colors, greys,

*Continued on page 22...*



*Olive drab from osage orange and iron*



*This over-dyed yarn started with a light brown llama fiber*

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Noblesville, Indiana (by Indpls.)  
[www.youthjamboree.net](http://www.youthjamboree.net)

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light browns, shades of medium browns etc. can all be over-dyed with a color. The natural color of the fiber changes the effect of the dye on the fiber. I think some of the most beautiful colors are achieved by over-dying.

Linda wanted to keep a detailed record of what mordant and dye made what color and what combination of dyes made certain colors. But yarn and roving ended up in pots that were supposed to be kept pure without mixing colors. Linda finally gave up her badge as dye police and joined in the chaos.

#### Things I learned about natural dyes:

- natural dyes, no matter what color, look beautiful when combined with other natural dyes.
- natural dyes can be expensive i.e.: madder root, logwood, indigo.
- natural dyes can be free for the labor i.e.: onion skins, coreopsis, black eyed susan, osage orange.
- priorities change the older you get. success is relative.
- items that are dyed with natural dyes are never priced high enough.
- and never, NEVER underestimate the process (spending time with friends) or become too focused on the outcome (the perfect shade of aubergine or burnt orange).

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# Extreme Makeover: Llama Edition



by Sue Wilde

America is awed every week by the amazing transformation of homes across the country. We view the process of the transformation with eager anticipation of the wonderful outcome of the efforts of the makeover team. We celebration with the recipient of the hard work and ingenuity of the team and we rest a little easier know that they are happier people.

Well, let's look at this a little closer!

- There is a focus, a goal
- There is a measurable plan
- There is location that is suitable
- There is reward for the effort
- There is a time frame

Now, let's get SMART about our extreme maker over: llama edition!

**S** Specific: Make a specific goal for your business. I will: Update my website, choose 2 locations to run effective ads, contact past, present and possible future buyers.

**M** Measureable: Make goals measurable. I will: Post at least 20 new photos and updates, create 2 effective ads whose responses I will record, I will reply promptly to all replies to my contacts.

**A** Attainable: Make sure you can achieve these goals realistically. I can: Update my website myself or hire a reasonable company to manage the updates, create my own ads or advertise with a magazine that includes ad set up in their pricing, I can use a computer, telephone or send an email out to my contacts.

**R** Rewarded: You will feel a sense of accomplishment as you have now finally taken the initiative to do it rather that just think about doing it. You will see results in your business.

**T** Time oriented: Set a time limit on your goal. This will be accomplished by Friday of this week.

Whenever you see a successful llama program, building project or career, believe me there is a SMART plan behind it. These days we need to be smarter than ever about planning to be successful. Our drive down easy street has gotten a little harder to navigate so we need SMART route planning to get us to where we want to go.

There is a company that was started by a group of women that were trying to save money and run their homes more efficiently called Smart Cookies. I am taking some inspiration from them and trying to change some of my ways to be more effective and efficient because playing it SMART pays off for all of us and we can be in awe of the transformation that our makeover, "llama edition" will be like and we will rest a little easier knowing we are happier with our efforts and results!

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# To Coach

by Sue Wilde

To Coach...comes from the root meaning "to bring a person from where they are to where they want to be," David Cottreal.

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others," Jack Welch.

A leader is key. The United States has invested the last two years to choosing a leader. All of the men and women that were "willing to walk the line" to be the leader, were people of integrity and with a willingness to serve. Their platforms were based on programs to make things better for all. All those running were ordinary individuals who went from where they were to where they wanted to be. "It's your attitude, not your aptitude, that determines your altitude," Zig Ziglar.

Who are the leaders in the llama industry? Right now people are voting for new people willing to serve on the Llama Futurity Association board. Thank you to all of you! The LFA is an association that is open to all llama breeders and works for the promotion of all types of llamas. LFA is an inclusive group that works for the promotion of llamas on an even playing field. They support ALSA shows and futurities. The volunteers that work on the LFA board are coaches. They want to take the industry from where it is to where it wants to be.

The ILR, ALSA, SLA, regional associations, local clubs are not names, they are people trying to take us to where we want to be. These associations

are centered on growing others and helping them grow their devotion to an animal that attracts good people.

We can subject ourselves to the negativity that pervades all aspects of life and the llama industry but why would we when there is so much positive to embrace. Llamas evoke feelings of compassion, caring and admiration. I have never felt malicious, unkind or subversive when I am with llamas. Llamas just want to be cared for and that requires caring people.

"It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him," John Steinbeck. Llamas expect greatness from us. They expect that we will treat each other respectfully. They expect that we will co-operate with each other for their good. They don't expect us to be petty, back biting and cruel. They expect us to be honest, caring and supportive. This is expected of us and



we can rise to this for them. Believe me, your llamas only want to be associated with the good ones!

Albert Schweitzer said, "Do something wonderful, people may imitate it!" Who are we trying to emulate? Are all our leaders perfect? Do they know all the answers? Of course not! But at least they are trying, we owe them our support. Michelle Sedas, offers this advice: "The way we respond when others make mistakes can cause them to feel ashamed or can allow them to remember our kindness and share our stories with future generations."

We don't want to stay in the same place, we want to progress! We want to go from where we are now to be where we want to be. The llama people we feature in our Linking Up section are those who love their llamas, are enjoying their llamas and are moving from where they are to where they want to be. They are positive, respectful and caring.

The final word is from a man who knows about coaching and leadership:

Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game.  
*Michael Jordan*



# WHERE TO BE

- **January 23, 2009 SCLA Select Llama Sale Friday at 6:00 pm**  
Held in conjunction with the Ft Worth Expo and Stock Show. For information go to [www.sclasale.com](http://www.sclasale.com) or Ft Worth entry info [www.fwssr.com](http://www.fwssr.com). The sale consist of 50 select lots and is the longest running association sale. Sale info contact Steve Berry — [berry\\_patch@itexas.net](mailto:berry_patch@itexas.net), 817-279-6725.
- **Feb 7-8, 2009 Golden Plains Llama Association's annual conference**  
4-H building, McPherson, KS. Agenda includes a variety of fiber classes, basic llama training for FFA/4-H youth, veterinarian presentation on breeding and birthing, activities for younger children, silent auction and much more. For additional information, please contact Chairman Pam Young, 620-465-2379 or [jpalpaca@havenks.net](mailto:jpalpaca@havenks.net).
- **March 21 & 22, 2009 3rd Annual March Magic Level III Double Casual Llama Show.**  
Relax ~ Fun ~ Casual ~ No Groom ~ Low Entry Fees ~ Great Awards. Hosted by Llama Association of Southern California (LASC) Location: Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Lancaster California. We will be offering all 4 wool divisions, driving, novice & advanced performance. All 3 youth age groups. Walking and shorn fleece will be a single show. March Magic had to be moved this year from the Fairplex in Pomona due to fairgrounds construction. This year's new facility is fully covered. No Rain Worries. Our show this year will be in conjunction with a Home and Garden Show. Show judges: Mark Smith ~ Senior Level Judge, Mary Jo Miller ~ Senior Level Judge Margaret Ricci ~ Level Judge Contact: Ken Sutton 760-240-6878 or [SewSew25@aol.com](mailto:SewSew25@aol.com) or Tracey Wallace 909-792-3711 or [DandT22@aol.com](mailto:DandT22@aol.com)
- **April 3-5, 2009 - Spring Celebration Llama Sale, Heritage Place, Oklahoma City, OK.**  
Tom & Nancy Simmons and Tim & Teresa Vincent have turned over the lead rope to Dan and Marilyn Milton after 20 years of putting on the Spring Celebration Llama Sale. 2009 will again see Shawn Norman's Grand Slam Llama show on Friday, the preview and sale will be on Saturday and the World Futurity on Sunday. Look for some new and exciting additions to the weekend's events. It is time to look over your herd and select your best for the grand slam show, sale, futurity and herd sire row. Contact Dan or Marilyn Milton at [dmmilton@charter.net](mailto:dmmilton@charter.net) or 541-899-8097 for more information on the 2009 Spring Celebration Llama Sale.
- **April 17-19, 2009 Central Kentucky Llama & Alpaca Show & Expo.**  
ALSA sanctioned show held at the Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center in Liberty, Kentucky will have vendors, Industry information booths, "show cut" shearing available for \$15 an animal, walking fiber classes for llamas & alpacas and free farm information display areas adjoining the arena on a "first come basis". Exhibitors are encouraged to market their animals, stud services and farm products at the event and KLAA will be advertising the show & expo statewide to bring in spectators. Other events will be fiber classes, photo and poster contests, silent auction, "ask the vet" session on Sunday and "ask your fiber questions" on Saturday with our fiber judge. Show superintendent, Helen Farley, 865-922-5844, [farley42@tds.net](mailto:farley42@tds.net). Halter judge, Debbie Shellabarger, fiber judge, Susie Smithers. For free vendor spaces contact, Charlotte Beaudin, 502-857-9100, [dbeaudin14@hotmail.com](mailto:dbeaudin14@hotmail.com)
- **May 2 & 3, 2009 Badgerland Sweepstakes and ALSA show**  
Jefferson County Fair Grounds, Jefferson, WI Largest LFA sponsored Futurity in the Midwest and Level II ALSA show. Contact: Barb Parsons for more information [theparsons@prodigy.net](mailto:theparsons@prodigy.net)
- **May 16-17, 2009 Indy Open Llama Show - Double Show Noblesville, IN**  
Indy Open 400 & Indy Open 500 All halter, performance, & youth classes offered. Fun Friday night get-together and complimentary "Exhibitor Thank-You" breakfast buffet served at exhibitor meeting on Saturday morning. Fun show, easy in/easy out, cash premiums, and ribbons. Information at [www.shagbarkridge.com/indy.html](http://www.shagbarkridge.com/indy.html)
- **May 2-3, 2009 The 7th Annual Llamas And More Association**  
will be holding a double point show at the Churchill County Fairgrounds. This is a no groom show and this year we will be holding a Walking Fleece and Shorn Fleece single show. Judges: Wally Baker for the Gold Show, Nikki Kuklenski for the Silver Show and Maryan Baker for the Garnet Fleece Show. See website [www.lamandmore.com](http://www.lamandmore.com) or Les Flynn 775-424-1217 for entry forms.
- **May 2-3, 2009 Millennium Magic Open Double Llama Show Breeder's Futurity**  
Saturday evening fellowship dinner Come on out to see what all of the fun is about! Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI Show contact: Tami Lash (517) 467-2709 [Uniqueanimal@aol.com](mailto:Uniqueanimal@aol.com) Show forms: [www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com](http://www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com)
- **May 9-10, 2009-The 15th Annual Llama Magic, Lake Elmo, MN**  
Held at the Washington County Fairgrounds, this private treaty sale offers llamas and alpacas for sale on Mother's Day weekend. A special llama training clinic for adults and youth will be held Saturday by Mallon protege Marc Page of Massachusetts. On Sunday, a fun llama/alpaca performance show for youth will be held with emphasis on those in 4-H and FFA. There will also be a fleece contest, demonstrations and a wide array of vendors. Contact Sheila Fugina at [bsfugina@presenter.com](mailto:bsfugina@presenter.com) or 715-246-5837, or visit [www.llamamagic.com](http://www.llamamagic.com).
- **June 20th, 2009 White Star Production Sale.**  
For more information contact Fred and Sharon Isayew 306.764.2917 or go to [fred@whitestarllamas.com](mailto:fred@whitestarllamas.com)
- **June 26-28, 2009 All American Youth Jamboree**  
National ALSA & 4-H Youth Show & Conference Noblesville, IN - just outside Indpls. 2nd Annual National Youth Show! Separate 4-H & ALSA shows with cash premiums & ribbons. Additional challenges such as Skillathon, Llama Jeopardy, Farmer Olympics, Fiber Show, Poster Show, Versatility Award, Obstacle sweepstakes. Showing seminars, fiber workshops, & vet seminars. Auction, street dance, cook outs. One price fits all! A "don't miss event!" Information at [www.youthjamboree.net](http://www.youthjamboree.net).
- **September 26-27, 2009 Millennium Magic Fall Festival Open Double Llama Show**  
Come on out to see what all of the fun is about! Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI Show contact: Tami Lash (517) 467-2709 [Uniqueanimal@aol.com](mailto:Uniqueanimal@aol.com) Show forms: [www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com](http://www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com)

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