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MARCH 2009

Interview with
Marian Bragg

Close Call

Winter In
Minnesota

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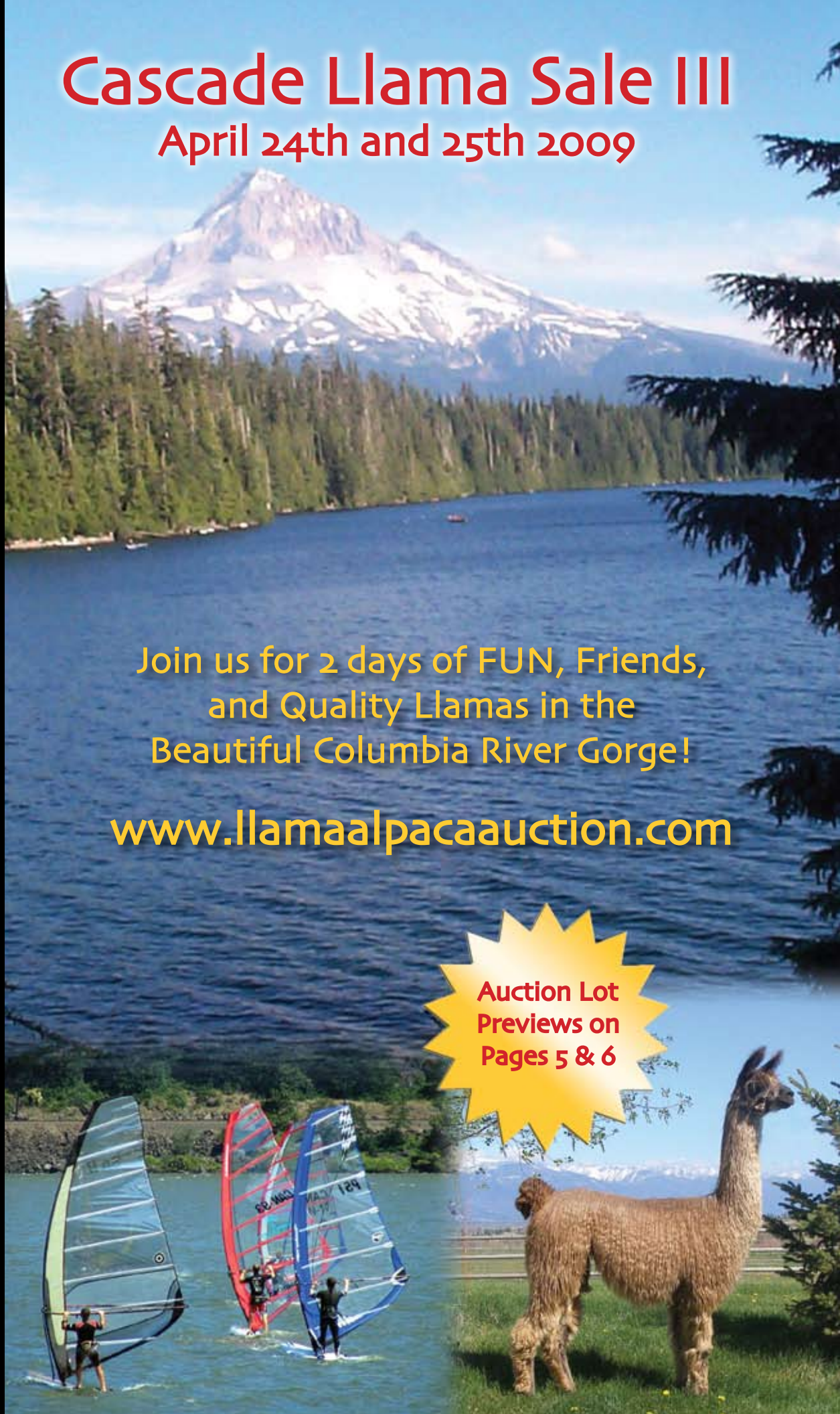
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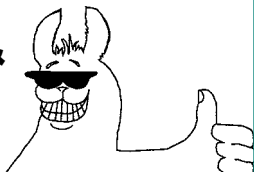
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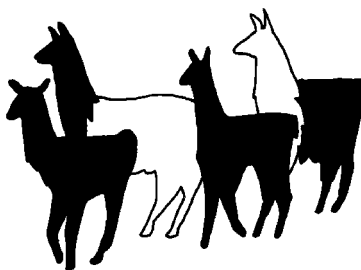
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...Sunday
morning is full of
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Cascade Llama Sale III

April 24th and 25th 2009

Please join us for the 3rd Cascade Llama Sale in beautiful Stevenson, Washington!

This year's Auction will be on Saturday at 1:00 and will be comprised of approximately 90 of the finest llamas from across the USA and Canada! The Auction's Selection committee always strives to offer the finest animals, along with a good selection of diverse types of llamas, this year's auction is no exception as you can find everything from Suris to Silkys to Argentines to Stretchy Show Winners! The Cascade Llama Sale will be one of the largest offerings of young show-ready females and young bred females in 2009. Also entered into this year's sale are some fantastic 3-in-1 packages with show quality male and female cria at side, as well as 10 elite quality males!

The theme for the weekend is FUN, friends, and quality llamas! Friday night we are bringing back the popular on-stage preview as well as the pizza and beer icebreaker dinner! Join us for some music, fun, and complimentary food and drink! Use this opportunity to catch up with some of your old llama friends, as well as make new friends from all over the USA and Canada! Cascade always has a good handful of new and/or prospective llama owners in attendance so bring lots of business cards and make some good contacts!

New this year will be a Llama Scavenger Hunt which will be introduced on Friday. Folks will

have until 1:00, Saturday to gather the answers from about 15 clues that we will provide on a scavenger key. All of the answers can be found in the sale barn: on stall cards, tack boxes, hay bags, etc. The 1st Place winner will receive a Free Full Page Full Color Ad in next year's Full Color Auction Catalog (A \$400 Value!), 20 runners up will receive halters, lead ropes, t-shirts, Starbucks cards, and other fun stuff! A good time is guaranteed!

The sale's site is the Skamania County Fairgrounds, located an easy 40 mile drive from the Portland International Airport. The fairgrounds is situated about a mile down the road from the renowned Skamania Lodge, a 175 acre Mountain Resort, complete with fine dining, a 18-hole 70 par golf course, spa, and fitness center! The Pacific Crest Trail, The Bridge of the Gods, The Columbia river and the Rock Creek Cove are all within site of the fairgrounds. Directly across the awesome "Bridge of the Gods" is the community of Cascade Locks, Oregon which offers several other lodging and recreation opportunities. There is much to do and see in Stevenson and surrounding communities including everything from antique stores and art galleries, to hiking trails, white water rafting, and world acclaimed windsurfing! If you are looking for the cure for the Wintertime blues, Springtime on the Columbia is the Cure!

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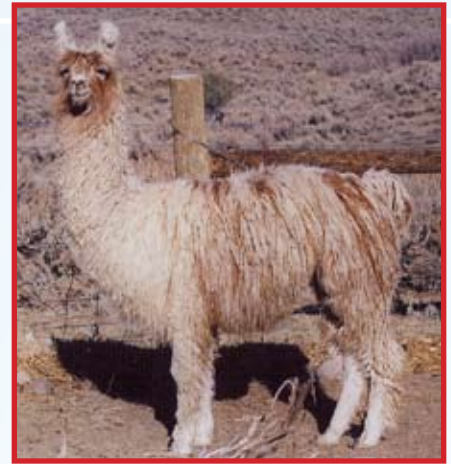
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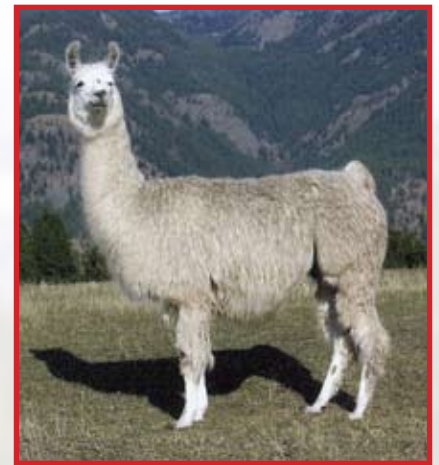
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Hi Marian, thanks for “Linking Up” with us. Where is your llama farm located? Describe for us the community that you are in.

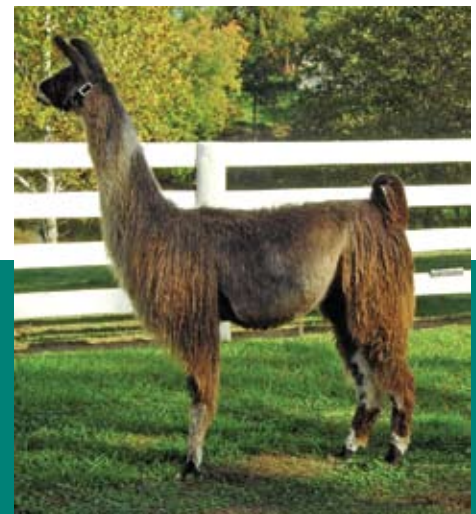
My husband and I live in Virginia’s piedmont, where Rappahannock, Fauquier, and Culpeper counties meet. This is horse and wine country. The area is rich in Revolutionary and Civil War history. We still have active fox hunting clubs and the steeplechase races are a big thing in the spring. Rappahannock County is one of only two counties left in Virginia that doesn’t have a stoplight, so it’s still fairly rural out here, even though we’re only two hours from DC. Our fall seasons rival those in Vermont in terms of beautiful color.

How did you get started in llamas? Where did the name Freestate Llamas originate? What made you decide to evolve your first purchases into a business?

I saw a picture of an alpaca in a magazine and fell head over heels in love. I spent a year researching the industry to figure out how I could justify the purchase of an animal costing at least \$20,000. I studied the herd size in the US and then reviewed the llama industry to see what comparisons I could draw. I immersed myself in conferences, conventions, and alpaca farm visits. I realized that the market

for new alpaca owners was saturated and that I’d likely be throwing money away. While all of this was sinking in, I enrolled in a Marty McGee clinic at Jo Overbey’s alpaca farm in Lynchburg, VA. I’d never handled anything beyond a dog and Jo insisted I needed to take this class. I had no idea what I’d signed up for and didn’t know any of the class enrollees, except Jo. When I arrived, Karen Baum, one of the class enrollees, and Marty relayed the excitement of the evening before when Karen’s stud bolted and jumped a fence! YIKES! Karen had brought the male to the clinic to work with Marty’s techniques on getting this guy to more easily load into a trailer. After a lot of instruction from Marty, we headed for the boys’ barn and I was assigned to halter Karen’s male. Terrified, I applied the techniques and lo and behold, they worked! I was so thrilled with myself. The male was docile and I gained so much confidence, you just can’t imagine. When we progressed to the females’ barn, Jo had a guard llama in with her alpaca girls.

Heather Marie (pronounced, “Heatha” in the proper southern drawl) always kept at arm’s length, and would stick her nose in the air and turn her back with every attempt to engage her. I just loved her. She towered over the alpacas and seemed so regal and haughty. Well, that did it. The following week I went shopping for a guard llama for the alpaca herd I didn’t own and found ESF Grace Full Too, a tall, silky, black llama that I couldn’t live without, along with a few others to keep her company. The owner encouraged me to show Gracie and that’s how I got into showing llamas. It only took one show and I was hooked. That was 10 years ago. I never gave owning an alpaca another thought. A few years later, Jo called me and said that her 420 pound guardian was focusing too much on grain and not enough on guarding. She needed to find her a new home and asked if I would like Heather Marie. I jumped at the opportunity! She still lives on my farm; we’re old friends now and I couldn’t bear to part with her. Ask Heatha Marie politely if you may pat her, and she will lean into you for some good southern lovin’!



Interview with **Marian Bragg** of Freestate Llamas

by Sue Wilde

I think I may have subconsciously decided to start breeding with my first show ribbon. Granted, it was 7th place, but it was a large class and I was clueless, so I felt I had accomplished something, and I had. But it wasn't until I moved to my current farm and built my big barn, culled from breeding my girls that couldn't produce show animals at all, and bought my fancy stud that my business began to seriously take shape.

The "Freestate" of northern Fauquier County is a small area between Marshall and Orlean, VA that was home to a band of lawless hooligans known as "mountain tenants" in the 1700's. They were uneducated and without religion, living on land owned by Chief Justice John Marshall and following leaders who encouraged them to resist all authority and to live as outcasts of society governed only by their own rude customs. My husband's family is from this area and it was he who came up with the name. The Freestate disbanded when Chief Justice Marshall eventually succeeded in ejecting the community off his land in the 1830's, but the culture of defiance survives today in the decedents, now known colloquially as "Freestaters".

How many llamas are currently in your herd? What is focus of your breeding program?

I've got 45 llamas (please don't tell my husband!). I like BIG llamas and I like to show, and I especially like to get the opportunity to wear my new custom-made cowboy boots...but I digress. I just love the grey colors. About 4 years ago, I decided to concentrate on producing suri llamas and went shopping for a top of the line suri stud. I bought Peruvian Kryptonite L214 and never regretted the investment. I've been very pleased with the progeny

from this stud; his Get-of-Sire placed in the top 6 at Celebrity last year! His most positive traits (size, fiber, disposition, conformation) are dominant in his offspring and I've gotten pretty accurate in determining which of my girls will throw a suri. I have about 15 babies due from him this spring.

In your starting years what seminars did you attend? What are some tips you learned that helped you be more successful with you llamas? What seminars are you attending presently that keep you current in the industry?

I just couldn't get enough instruction in the early years. I attended every talk of Dr. Anderson that I could get to. I drove out to the last OSU breeder's conference years ago and enrolled in their neo natal clinic. I took a Marty McGee clinic and then hosted one at my farm. I discovered color genetics and followed Phil Sonenberg and now Debbie Ullrich, whose book on color genetics I am anxiously awaiting to obtain. I heard Nikki Kuklinski talk about major historical herd sires and the traits they passed on to their progeny and more importantly, her observations on common breeding decisions. Lately, due to all the parasite problems in my area, I've been gobbling up all I can find on parasitology, picking the brain of one of my late father's PhD students, now a biology professor at American University, who has access to an entire organization of parasitologists at his fingertips.

Here's the best advice I can offer: buy the best stud you can afford. It's his qualities that will represent your breeding program. Two things I learned the hard way



this spring: (1) run fecals on every animal on your farm multiple times throughout the year, especially if you live on the east coast where it can be very wet in the spring, and (2) don't wean your boys on a man-made deadline, let them, and the herd, tell you when they are ready; it will be far less stressful on them, particularly in a year when the parasites are flourishing. Finally, every genetic problem I've had on my farm came from an otherwise gorgeous animal sold at a livestock auction, all of which I

Continued on page 10...

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 Breeding, Show & Sales

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 Owner

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...Continued from page 9

have since given away as pets. I'm not talking about the fancy llama auctions at LFA or Celebrity, etc. I'm talking about those held at stockyards. I've come to the conclusion that too many culled llamas are unloaded at these venues to unsuspecting breeders looking for a bargain.

You actively take your llamas out into your community. What are some of the latest events you have participated in? Do you find that this helps out in local marketing?

Yes, my farm has been a host farm on my county's annual farm tour for 4 years now, with over 200 guests a year. I've participated in local small farm festivals, local fiber festivals, been a featured destination in The Washington Post's weekly Road Trip, walked my llamas as pretend camels in a Christmas play with the 3 Wise Men, set up an information booth

for a local Girl Scout event with a South American theme, and I've walked llamas in the annual Christmas Parade in Washington, VA for the past 3 years. Little Washington, as it is known locally, was the original Washington, before Washington, DC. It was surveyed by George Washington in the late 1700's. With the exception of electricity, indoor plumbing, some paved roads, and a 5-star Inn, it remains relatively unchanged today. This year I took 4 of my suri boys: Grey Ghost, Client # 9, Wild Bill Hickok, and Quick Draw, all decked out in silly holiday costumes, along with 5 teenagers who help me on the farm from time to time. Grey Ghost and Client # 9 have a lot of show experience and the taller boys had none. The inexperienced boys were good as gold, while Grey Ghost had to be goosed constantly to complete the 2-block long parade and Client # 9 actually crushed mid-parade. Sigh!

Do I think any of this helps in local marketing? NO!!!! But I do think it helps my animals cope with strange situations and I think it helps break down public misconceptions about llamas spitting mercilessly and increases public awareness of what it takes to run a breeding farm. I also use these events to endear myself to my neighbors. A good catered meal with some decent wine and cocktails does wonders after 200 strangers have been crowding the neighborhood roads. Somehow, my neighbors can then forgive my huge "compost" pile, my noisy pet turkey (Tom-Tom), and the ugly run-in shed I have yet to tear down. Besides I use these events to sell my fiber, get much needed exercise, and avoid housework.

What do you think is a possible solution to the ALSA controversy facing the industry? How do you think ALSA would be affected by allowing llamas not registered with the ILR to show?

I don't know that ALSA can survive this controversy and I'm not sure there are enough dedicated people with the time needed to staff multiple show associations. I still belong to ALSA, but I did just recently take a lifetime show membership in the ILR. I voted against allowing CLR- registered animals to show in ALSA shows because I didn't feel ALSA provided full disclosure to its membership about the issues. I also felt

that ALSA minimized the significance of the resignations of the ALSA president and vice president and so I voted conservatively in response. At the time, the CLI website was under construction and I was unable to learn anything of significance from them, namely, how to search their registry. I also felt that the timing by ALSA, so close to a major holiday, was poor, and possibly calculated.

I don't own any animals registered in the CLR and I know nothing about them. Absent any more information than that, I don't believe it prudent to compete animals complying with potentially different standards in the same class. It would be like comparing apples and oranges. How fair is that?

Being in the llama business for over ten year's gives a person the opportunity to interact with a lot of other owners. What would be some advice you might have about the pluses and pitfalls of partnerships?

Partnerships can be very beneficial if the partners are honest with each other and with themselves. My advice to anyone thinking of partnering is to put the entire arrangement in writing, regardless of how close the relationship is with the proposed partners. Consider all partnerships as business relationships. Period. Try not to put more into any partnership than you expect to get back; otherwise you're just setting yourself up for disappointment or to be taken advantage of.

Over time, the value of any partnership will change and you may find you no longer need one, or worse, you may find your partners need you more. All of my partnerships started out great; but not all of them ended well.

As an active member of the ILR, do you think the registry should take a more or less active part in the industry?

The registry has an incredible amount of valuable data. It makes sense that they would take an active part in the industry, taking advantage of that resource. Additionally, the ILR has a wonderful reputation as an honest organization and I think that further enables their ability to be successful in the industry. Obviously they have my full support or I wouldn't have just



signed up for a lifetime show membership.

You are a very positive person and actively working on a successful breeding program. How do you think we can motivate our breeders to keep positive and progressive and keep negativity out of our industry? What is a tip we can pass on for a successful future?

I think the best way to motivate breeders to keep positive is to be honest about everything you do. For one thing, it's a lot easier...but I also think it raises the standard. Higher standards, especially when they are not required, for instance by law or by the organizations through which the animals are registered, set a good example that reinforces the positive. It takes effort and a sense of responsibility to the industry and to your customers to guarantee your llamas are free from certain diseases, to remove animals with known genetic problems from all breeding programs (not just yours), and to guarantee your llama's pedigree and age. Ultimately, people will begin to think, "hey, maybe that's the way it SHOULD be." It's not about producing income at the animal's expense or that of a naïve customer.

The thing that will motivate breeders to keep progressive is to keep them active in the show circuit. In 10 years, I've seen a tremendous evolution of what makes a great show animal and the beginnings of serious

breed definitions. We've added the suris, and now there is movement to add miniatures, Argentines, Classics, and other breeds. I think it's great! Look at how many breeds of dog exist. I'm hoping the show circuit can begin to evolve into something a little more sophisticated and hopefully nationally televised. Last year one of my Kryptonite babies, Freestate's Miss Conception, kept winning Grand Champion after Grand Champion. I had a blast! I was so proud of her and of me. The ribbons were big, the premiums nice, the recognition and sense of accomplishment indescribable. After every show, I'd gather up my ribbons and take them to my office and hang them on my door. It caused quite a bit of attention; even the executives took notice and everybody smiled and congratulated me! Now how positive is THAT? ☺

What also motivates me is to learn more about handling, herd health, research, fiber arts, etc. Every time I leave a conference, it energizes me. I want to go retest my hay and my water, and run new reports from my database about parasite loads at various times of the year for various age groups. I want to re-review my use of alfalfa and deworming of my near term moms. I'm further motivated when breeders share their problems and listen to mine and so I stay connected with my local llama group, LAMAS, and with the larger group to the north, GALA.



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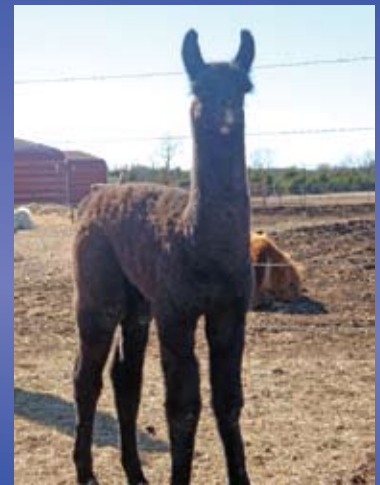
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WHAT DO NUNS AND A MONASTERY HAVE IN COMMON WITH RARE BREEDS, FARM CHEESE AND LLAMA SHOWS?

by Cathy Spalding

To visit the Priory of Our Lady of the Rock is to stop mid stream. It is to wonder of the true relevance of our lightening fast society in terms of the mental, emotional and spiritual growth in each of us... most of us somewhat unwilling and rushed participants in this fast paced society. It is to give pause in consideration towards our reverence for the land that supports us and to wonder of our interaction with all life. It is to wonder if we may have not indeed made our lives much more difficult in many ways as a result of our excited rush to make life much easier. And to wonder of the valuables left behind.

Our Lady of the Rock is located on Shaw Island, the smallest of four islands serviced by ferry in the beautiful San Juan Islands of Washington State. The monastery was established in 1977 on 300 donated acres. It is a Benedictine order, the oldest of the western monastic orders dating from the seventh century. Run by an incredible group of eight nuns, the focus of this order involves the traditions of prayer, manual labor and hospitality.

I first noticed Mother Hildegard some years ago at a llama show and sale. How could you miss noticing amidst a woman so full of life leading a llama strikingly dressed in full habit? I quietly wondered. It was not until a few years later that I came to know more of Mother Hildegard George and about Our Lady of the Rock.

Knowledge of the history of monasteries adds understanding towards the depth of reverence, contribution and the significant role they have played in our world over the centuries. Monasteries were the centers of learning during the Dark Ages. It was there that the volumes of knowledge acquired over time were preserved on the parchments

of the scriptoria. It was often the monasteries that held daily life together for the people in times of catastrophe such as war, disease or famine. As a result, there are few monasteries in Europe that are not surrounded by a town. When monks established life in a particular region, people would come and build a town. The first country fairs were held outside the walls of monasteries and churches. Monasteries strive to be self-sufficient and raise whatever is needed within their walls. Fifteen centuries ago, St. Benedict related that manual labor was as important as intellectual study for the nourishment and growth of the human spirit. Our Lady of the Rock is an embodiment of the Benedictine life holding a deep respect and sense of responsibility for the land, its resources and all of its inhabitants. They are committed to help in the preservation of threatened and endangered species and minor breeds of genetically valuable livestock. There is much manual labor balanced with prayer and meditation.

In keeping with their rich history, the nuns on Shaw Island raise a number of fiber animals. They have selected fiber animals that produce sustainable results. Roaming the fields of alpacas, llamas and Scottish Highland cattle are the beautiful Cotswold sheep. Why Cotswold's? Mother Hildegard says they chose the Cotswold in 1990 for a number of reasons. If they are going to raise animals, it is important that they make a difference in helping to preserve the loss of genes that could have commercial and cultural value. As Benedictines, they take a vow of Obedience that includes poverty in their life. That would mean, too, that they are always looking for ways to cut costs on the farm. As one of a number of heritage breeds,

Cotswold sheep are hardy and require little maintenance. They have good reproductive abilities dropping heavy weight lambs with little difficulty. They are not fussy eaters doing well on forage and coarser feed. They demonstrate an ability to adapt to various climates finding water even when the supply is frozen over. This translates into fewer vet bills, no need for fancy feeds and an ability to adapt to Pacific Northwest weather without special housing.

Cotswold's are a large meat breed highly regarded for their wool. Often called the "poor mans mohair," their curly lustrous medium weight fleece can yield up to 15 pounds per shearing with each fiber over 12 inches long. They can be shorn every 7 to 9 months making 3 to 4 shearings possible in a two-year period. There is a demand for Cotswold fiber. A fleece can bring \$5 per pound while the spun wool can bring \$32 per pound. Additionally, there is a demand for the sale of breeding stock with the dark woolled ones being more rare. Mother Hildegard has chosen to raise black Cotswold's still keeping several white ones. Both the wool and the lambs sell for higher prices than the white and are of particular interest to spinners and other hand crafters. Though their contribution to life within the monastery is clear, the nuns also selected the Cotswold for their ancient quality, their looks, their intelligence and gentle disposition. The lambs are each given names befitting of the year in which they are born. One year, the lambs were named after Olympic stars. Among others, Apollo Ohno, Alexi, Vonetta, Elvis and Sarah reside at Our Lady of the Rock. Mother Hildegard is the shepherdess of the monasteries flock of Cotswold's. "I can go on a trip and those here

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say they never hear a peep from the sheep. I can come home and if I so much as cough when I get out of the car, it's instant bedlam. You really don't understand the scriptures until you've raised sheep. As the Bible says, they know the voice of the shepherd.”

According to bone and wool fragments found by archaeologists, the Cotswold is thought to be descended from the Roman Longwool brought to England by the Roman's when they settled there nearly 2,000 years ago. The Roman Longwool became locally specialized developing into such breeds as Leicester, Lincoln and Cotswold. The word Cotswold comes from the “wolds” (hills) and “cotes” (enclosures) that were used to hold the sheep in winter. Cotswold's were well established in England by the 15th century and became the cornerstone of English wealth through the Middle Ages. Some of the most magnificent cathedrals including the 14th century Gloucester Cathedral, which has the largest stained glass window in all of England, were built by the wealth amassed from the wool trade. It is interesting to note that even

today, the Chancellor of the Exchequer still sits upon a sack of Cotswold wool in the House of Commons. It serves as a symbol of England's secure wealth.

The first sheep producers in the United States to register purebred sheep were Cotswold breeders. Christopher Dunn of New York imported the first Cotswold's to the United States in 1832. By 1879, they were the most popular and common breed in America. Over 764,000 were registered within the United States by 1914. In the following years, the dual purpose Cotswold was gradually replaced by more single purpose breeds -- those bred specifically for the purpose of either meat or fiber. With the introduction of the Merino from Australia, interest in the Cotswold began to wane. Merinos were prized for their fine wool and small sized lambs that were quick to mature. They were initially crossed with the Cotswold but as American rural life and American agriculture became more industrialized and labor intensive, development towards more specialized utility was encouraged. Amazingly, there

were fewer than 600 Cotswold ewes in all of England by the early 1980's. By 1993, fewer than 400 lambs were registered in the United States. There are currently fewer than 2,000 registered Cotswold's in the United States and only 400 black.



Mother Hildegard wins 1st Place and Grand Champion with her yearling ewe, Rody, at a National Cotswold Breeder's Association show.

Continued on page 16...





CASSALA



HEYLEE



HIDALGO

Congratulations Walkabout VI Stars!

HIDALGO

(Kastizo-Hezanna)
Cheryl Russell, OR

HEYLEE

(Kastizo-Hezanna)
Rick & Mary Adams, CA

CASSALA

(Federale-Cleocatra)
*Venesa & Chris Carter, MO
and Justin Timm, OR*

STARRMAKER

(Fivestarr-Silhouette)
Ken & Celia Austin, OR

TIJARA

(Falkon-*Tiger Lilly II)
Pam & Gordy Jensen, WI

NEVISCA

(Besakih-Nevasca)
Wayne Rankin, NV

APPRECIO

(Besakih-Apprecia)
Steve & Kim Fritz, VA

METICHE

(LW Marcellus-Maraiya)
Richard Snyder, PA

TARWI

(*Sipan-*Titi)
Cheryl Russell, OR

DESEA

(Besakih-Desa)
Carol Reigh, PA

CASTASPELL

(Carnaval-*Cantilena)
Sherri, Will, & Kayla Tallmon, OR

THE NOMAD

(Federale -*Nomada)
Ed & Margaret Bender, CT

STARROFWONDER

(Bolivian Awombroso-Starrsong)
Ed & Margaret Bender, CT

YLARIO

(Kastizo - *Yapa)
Cheryl Russell, OR

National Grand Champion Suri Male

National Champion 2 Year Suri Male (6)
½ of the National Res. Grand Champion POD (HEZANNA)
Northwestern Regional Champion Suri Male
LFA ALSA Show - Grand Champion Suri Male

National Grand Champion Suri Female

National Champion Yearling Suri Female (14)
½ of the National Res. Grand Champion POD (HEZANNA)
Southwestern Regional Champion Suri Female
LFA Futurity – 1st Suri Yearling Female (21)

National Grand Champion Heavy Wool Female

National Champion Yearling Heavy Wool Female (18)
LFA Futurity – 2nd place to TIJARA Silky/Non-Suri F (19)

National Reserve Champion 2 Yr Heavy Wool Male

Northwestern Regional Champion Heavy Wool Male
LFA ALSA Show – Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male

National Top Ten (5th) Yearling Heavy Wool Female (18)

Buckeye Regional Champion Heavy Wool Female
LFA Futurity - 1st Silky/Non-Suri Yearling Female (19)

National Top Ten (10th) 2 Year Medium Wool Female (13)

½ of the National Grand Champion POD (NEVASCA)
Southwestern Regional Reserve Champion MW F

National Top Ten (9th) Yearling Heavy Wool Male (17)

Eastern Regional Champion Heavy Wool Male

National Top Ten (5th) Yearling Medium Wool Male (17)

The Big E - Reserve Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male

National Top Ten (9th) Heavy Wool Yearling Female (18)

Grand National Fleece Show (6th) Dbl Coat under 24 mo. (33)

Eastern Regional Champion Heavy Wool Female

Northwestern Regional Champion Non-Breeder

(First time shown!)

The Big E – Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male

(First time shown!)

The Big E – Reserve Grand Champion Heavy Wool Female

(First time shown!)

Grand National Fleece Show (4th) Suri under 24 mo

Other Stars from the Hinterland Program

AMARU (Federale – Aviana) <i>Wayne & Darlene Rankin, NV</i>	National Top Ten (7th) Medium Wool Adult Male
CAMCHATKA (*Silverspirit-Candidasa) <i>Jerry & Katy White, UT</i>	National Top Ten (4th) Heavy Wool Adult Female
CASCADE HIGH (*Whist - Catalpa) <i>Caitlin Colburn, OR</i>	National Reserve Champion Heavy Wool Adult Male (11)
COSMOS THE ROCKETMAN (Fivestarr - Caracola) <i>Holly Russell, OR</i>	National Top Ten (9th) Advanced Pack (22) National Fleece Show (2nd) Dbl Coat under 24 mo. (33)
ESSKA (Carnaval - Eskala) <i>Ken & Celia Austin, OR</i>	National Top Ten (6th) Heavy Wool 2 Year Female
HJ CADFAEL'S CASPER (Cadfael – Overland Trail's Metallica) <i>Stan & Judy Wolff-Mills, CO</i>	National Champion Medium Wool Adult Male (11)
ICEBREAKER (Fivestarr–B.T. Spumoni) <i>Holly Russell, OR</i>	National Top Ten (5th) Medium Wool Adult Male (10)
NEXSTARR'S SAMBUCA (Cristobal–Nextstarr) <i>Carlos Mendoza , CO</i>	National Champion Yearling Heavy Wool Male (11)
PAPUCHO (El Fuente-Kobra's Sahalia) <i>Rick & Mary Adams, CA</i>	<u>National Grand Champion Non-Breeder</u> National Champion Adult Non-Breeder
PREMIERA'S CHOCO LATTE (Besakih-Premiera) <i>Carlos Mendoza, CO</i>	National Top Ten (4th) Medium Wool Yearling Male (17)

Owned & Shown by Hinterland

ALAKARTE (*Sipan-Aisza)	<u>National Grand Champion Medium Wool Female</u> National Champion Yr Medium Wool Female (25)
ARIETTA (Federale-*Ariana)	National Top Ten (8th) Yr Medium Wool Female (25)
BELLASERA (*Sipan-Balissima)	National Reserve Champion Yr Heavy Wool Female (17)
EAST FORK ILLUSION (Starr Fyter–The Devine MS Lily)	<u>National Reserve Grand Champion Medium Wool Female</u> National Champion 2 Yr Medium Wool Female (13)
LYNX (*Silverspirit-Lovli)	National Top Ten (6th)Adult Heavy Wool Male (11) Co-owned with Margaret Drew – Stonehenge Llama Ranch
NESKOWIN (Besakih–Nevasca)	National Champion Adult Heavy Wool Female (5)
NOVADA (Federale-*Nomada)	National Reserve Champion 2 Yr Heavy Wool Female (6)
PERUVIAN VISTEON (*Kantu P5-*Nevasca P5)	National Champion Adult Suri Male (5)
SILVER LIGHT (*Samponero–Silver Chime)	National Champion Juvenile Medium Wool Female (22)
NEVASCA (Federale-*Nomada)	<u>National Grand Champion Produce of Dam</u> (7) with ~ NESKOWIN & NEVISCA
HEZANNA (*Samponero-Hinerangi)	<u>National Reserve Grand Champion Produce of Dam</u> (7) with ~ HIDALGO & HEYLEE
CATALPA (The Canadian-Catalina)	National Top Ten (3rd) Produce of Dam (7) with ~ CASCADES & CASCADE HIGH



ARRIETA



NEVASCA



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...Continued from page 13

Today, Cotswold sheep are officially classified as a rare breed. A 1989 American Livestock Breeds Conservancy census discovered that a small number of domestic breeds dominate our farms while over 80 minor breeds are threatened with extinction. Founded in 1977, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy is the only organization in the United States working to conserve rare breeds and genetic diversity in livestock. It is a clearing house for information with the strong belief these rare breeds are a part of our national heritage and represent a unique piece of the earth's bio-diversity. "We have inherited a rich variety of livestock breeds, the loss of which would impoverish agriculture and diminish the human spirit. For the sake of future generations, we must work together to safeguard these treasures." Mother Hildegard has presented their work with the Cotswold at Our Lady of the Rock before this conservancy.

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy supports a number of programs including research on breed population size, genetic health and distribution, gene

banks, rescues of threatened populations, education about genetic diversity and the role of livestock in sustainable agriculture as well as offers technical support to breeders, breed associations and farmers. The conservancy reports that each day some breeds move closer to extinction stating with each extinction, there is a reduction in "the diversity within the livestock species and the biodiversity of the Earth." For more information on the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, how the watch of rare breeds is categorized and to discover what breeds are being watched, visit their web site at www.albc-usa.org/

Cotswold sheep are not the only rare breed gracing the fields at Our Lady of the Rock. In their continued exploration of breeds that are hardy and provide well for their intended use, they have acquired the Kerry cow, a breed developed in Kerry County, Ireland. The Kerry was the first breed to be developed as a milker and is often called history's first dairy cow. It is quite hardy surviving on hill pasture not normally sustainable for other breeds. Kerrie's are a small sized dairy breed most

often black in color. These horned cows are long lived often still calving at 14 to 15 years of age. They produce rich milk and have a gentle nature. The Kerry is now, too, a very rare breed. Imported to the United States in 1818, they prospered through the early 20th century. By the 1930's, they had all but disappeared from North America. By 1983, only 200 cows were known in Ireland. The Irish Department of Agriculture immediately took steps in support of maintaining the breed and today their numbers are gradually increasing. Currently, there are only 200 Kerrie's in North America with most of those residing in Canada. Our Lady of the Rock has a young Kerry bull named Seamus. He recently arrived from the New England Breeds Conservancy to service their females.

Our Lady of the Rock is the only working farm on Shaw Island. In addition to the Kerry, several Jersey cows provide milk for the monastery. The cows are milked early each morning and evening. Our Lady of the Rock is the *only* hand-milked dairy in the State of Washington. Their dairy

Continued on page 18...





Spring Celebration Llama Sale

You are cordially invited to attend the 21st annual Spring Celebration Llama Sale to be held on April 3-5, 2009 at the prestigious Heritage Place in Oklahoma City. For those who have never been, this is an opportunity to see hundreds of the top llamas in North America and to meet llama owners from all over the U.S. and Canada. For those who have been, it is a chance to renew acquaintances—join in the festivities and enjoy the new and exciting additions to the weekend's activities.

We will begin with the Celebration Classic (an "OPEN" double halter show and a walking fleece show) on Friday, the preview and auction on Saturday and the World Futurity show on Sunday. Don't forget the Celebration pre-sale party at Embassy Suites Friday night—hors d'oeuvres, live music and a no-host bar. All Celebration Sale buyers are eligible for a drawing to win a Martin Eichinger bronze "Winter Birth" specifically cast for the sale (valued at \$2,900).



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Mother Therese with one of her Jersey cows, left, and a Kerry mom, right.

has been named a dairy of merit and has a solid customer base. Some even travel by ferry from other islands to pick up their rich milk packaged in wide-mouthed glass jars. Though there is often more milk than anyone could drink, none goes to waste. Mother Therese makes farm cheese and a wonderful sort of mozzarella. The pigs enjoy any left over whey.

The monastery is also home to Scottish Highland cattle, llamas, alpacas, rare green-headed Australian spotted ducks, peacocks and their hens, rare Dominique chickens, pigs and various cats and dogs. Dominique chickens are on the critical list for rare breeds. It is estimated that the global population is less than 2,000 with fewer than 200 annual registrations in North America.

There's more... much more. Locally, the nuns are warmly termed "The Spinning Nuns." Each of the nuns pursues a special art of their own. There is a large collection of spinning wheels, fiber tools and looms in constant use. The nuns spin and weave items for their own use as well as offer handcrafted items for sale. Many of the liturgical vestments in their chapel have been hand woven from their spun and hand dyed yarns. Three hardy meals a day are prepared from ingredients grown or raised at the monastery. The nuns run their own farm machinery, welcome a steady stream of guests and drop by visitors while pausing for prayer and meditation eight times each day. And there's more...

Mother Hildegard George, OSB, holds a Ph.D. in child and adolescent psychology with many educational honors to her credit. She is a leader in the field of animal assisted therapy devoting her working career to troubled youth. In addition to her many



Evening prayer

responsibilities within the monastery, Mother Hildegard serves as a consultant for the American Humane Association regarding

animals and children. She lectures each year at the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a consultant and trainer to programs involving at risk children and teens, a Pet Partners instructor with the Delta Society and leads a llama 4-H group on Shaw Island. Mother Hildegard continues to travel throughout North America giving presentations on the important bond between humans and animals. She has presented in Monaco, France and Canada. The area of animal assisted therapy is vast and Mother Hildegard is a leading mentor with much to share. Her work with troubled youth and animals is renowned.



Kids and Llamas at Our Lady of the Rock Monastery

My personal (and now painfully obvious) limited view of monastery life has vastly changed since that first notice of Mother Hildegard leading her llama those many years past. In coming to know more about her and Our Lady of the Rock, I have felt to pause and consider where I am, where I am going, where I have been and how I chose to live as I travel my own path. Those incredible nuns on Shaw Island do not simply talk the talk... they live it with dedication, grace and humor.



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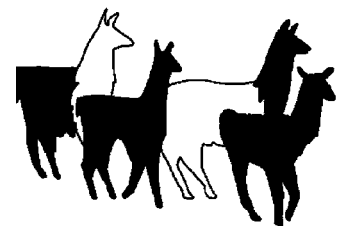
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A Close Call For A Little Llama



by Darlene Awarski

and ballooned from the hoof to the hip to three times its size! I called the vet again. At this point I was sure it was broken. I still couldn't believe that she was that hurt from stepping over the rail. We talked about an x-ray, but Dr. Wall thought the leg was too swollen to get an accurate view. When he came out that afternoon he was shocked to see the condition of her leg. When he started to examine the leg it exploded by his mere touch. After squeezing, lancing, draining and cutting away the damaged flesh, the leg looked much better. Still horrifying, her leg looked like someone had thrown a grenade at it. Dr. Wall gave her a course of antibiotics by IV and some more Banamine. The outlook was not very good. He felt she could die or lose her leg. Our job was to give her injectable antibiotics every other day, flush the wound with Nolvasan, and squeeze out any pus twice daily until it stopped seeping. Not my favorite thing, but Chimes' leg and maybe her life depended on our diligence. After the first week we switched to Betadine for the flushing, still giving antibiotics for three more weeks. Although I rotated the injection areas she still ended up getting abscesses in her armpits. Poor Chimes. Now the treatment was as bad as the affliction. We were also giving her a regimen of vitamins and pro-



While preparing for a show this past fall, I vowed not to wait until the last minute to get ready. So I began my list of things to take and who to groom when. For this show, my sister and I would be taking more llamas than ever, so I planned to groom each weekend and re-groom each llama that had already been groomed to keep up on them.

My young female llama named Chimes, had had several grooming sessions already and it was two weeks before the show. We had all of the llamas started and just needed to do touch up at this point. We ended with Chimes for that day as she is a very sweet little girl and easy to handle. We tied her to the wooden corral and began to brush. While we were brushing her she stepped through the rail of the fence and back. I picked up one of her back legs to get an area near her foot and she collapsed onto her other back leg. Had she hurt her leg when she stepped through the fence? It was such a simple incident that I couldn't believe she was that hurt. We felt her leg for any obvious damage, but couldn't feel anything. We walked her around and she did have a slight limp. So we figured she must have pulled something. We put her away thinking she would be okay in a couple of days.

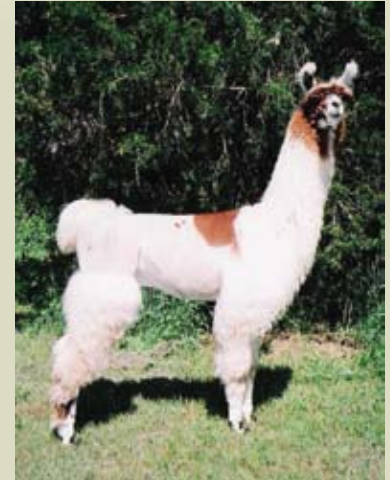
The next day her leg was swollen and she was limping even more. I called my vet, Dr. Jason Wall and we discussed watching her, putting her on stall rest and Banamine. By day three the leg had heat

Continued on page 20...



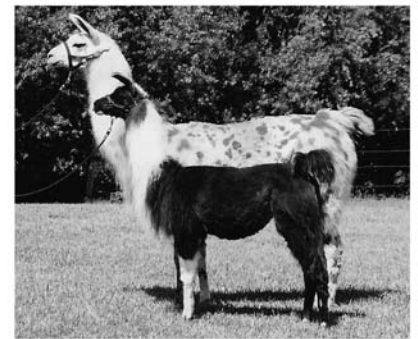
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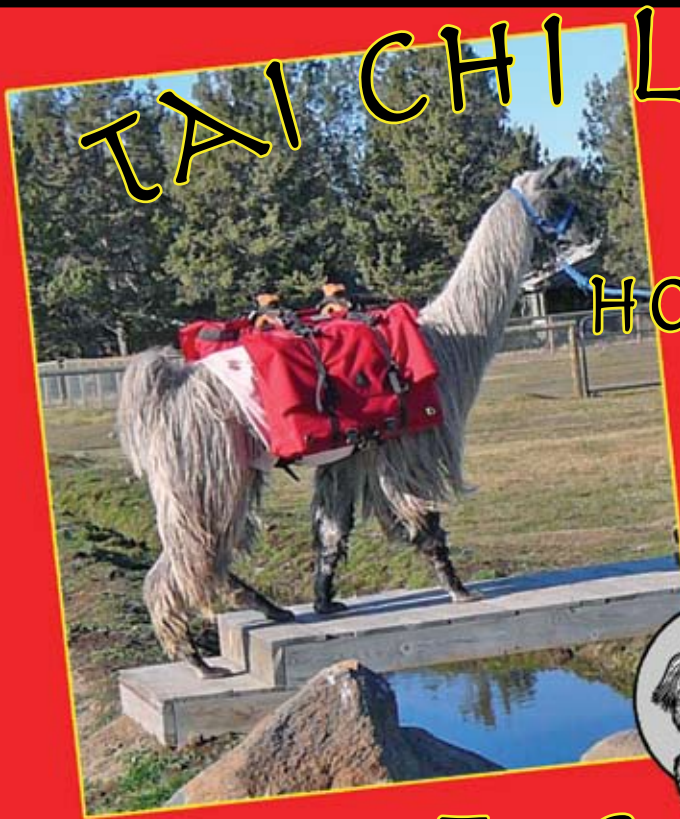
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...Continued from page 19

biotics for stress support, and through all of this she never resisted.

When the leg had reached a point that the draining had stopped, the flesh started to chunk off. At times it looked like cooked chicken. We then started to hose her leg with water and slough away the dead areas twice a day. We then applied scarlet oil and incorporated manipulating the leg to give it some movement. We continued doing this until the weather became too cold to get the leg wet. By this time the injury had healed to just a scab the size of a quarter.

When Chimes first started to limp it bothered me that she could have been hurt so badly so quickly. But at Dr. Wall's first exam, he discovered 2 puncture wounds. At that point I remembered that a couple of days before our grooming session I had caught one of my other mini's aggressively chasing a dog out of my pasture. That dog must have

bitten Chimes before it was chased away. Our vet agreed that Chimes' wound looked like it could have resulted from a dog bite.

We were fortunate that she didn't die and grateful that she didn't lose her leg. Dr. Wall is very surprised at her progress, but we followed his instructions to a "T" and feel that is the reason for her recovery. She still has a limp, and we'll never be able to show her, but our sweet little Chimes is still with us!



Winter in Minnesota.....

by Lynda Carothers



*New Llamas of Minnesota
President Margo Schultz*

We have just finished a week of very cold below zero temperatures. Who would think that is exciting? The folks in Minnesota do!!! Why? It's not a heat wave coming in nor are we heading south for warmer weather but it is time for the Llamas Of Minnesota winter conference! This year's conference was held January 16th-18th in Winona, MN.

The conference runs Friday night through Sunday morning. This a great time for seeing old friends and meeting new ones. A fantastic

time for fun, education and new experiences. Members drive in from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and even Illinois to join in the fun. We share llama stories, talk fiber, decide on shows and learn from our speakers. Friday night started with Dr. Kristy Brown joining us for a pizza party and a vet talk. We have her for a couple of hours for question and answer time. She will answer any question that we can come up with! We all feel so fortunate to have her so close to us. We always learn so much and she addresses problems that we find in our area of the country. Later that evening Fran Soukup held a fleece skirting party and we had a special meeting for our 4-H leaders.

This year's main speaker was Justin Timm from Frog Pond Llamas in Oregon. Justin shared his experiences of showing and owning llamas as a youth. He walked us through his herd (via a slide show of course) and talked about breeding, lineages, marketing and herd management. It was really great to see so much enthusiasm from one of our young adults. We also heard from a Wisconsin pasture management specialist, Jean Strumel. She did an excellent job educating us on pasture management procedures for our area. Susie Smithers of Ohio, judged our fleece show and had us all up exercising to "head, shoulders, knees and toes!" She also educated us on the finer points of fiber judging.

Saturday night was loads of fun. We started the evening out with our youth auction. The kids get to bid with "Llama Bucks" for their pick of donated items. The llama bucks are given out during the youth conference for helping and answering questions correctly.

After a wonderful buffet, we began our Llamas Of Minnesota fundraising auction. One tradition is that we have our main speaker do some auctioneering and I have to say that I think Justin Timm has been to auctioneering school! He did a fantastic job and helped the group raise over \$3500.

Sunday morning is full of fiber workshops. Margo Schultz and Veryl Giese-Knigge talked about knit felting and embellishing. Roxy



Main Speaker Justin Timm

Continued on page 22...

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...Continued from page 21



Learning to Needle Felt

Westland presented a session on preparing fiber for processing. One of our local fiber artists, Danita Doerre did a workshop on needle felted llama table runners and I taught a class on seamless wet felting. Participants were able to make mittens, purses or slippers.

Our youth conference runs concurrently with the adult conference on Saturday. This year we had over 40 youth in attendance! Lorraine Kilmartin, Natalie Langowski and I organized this year's fun educational program. Jackie Yocum led the kids through a photography lesson where the kids actually got to take pictures and then were able to see how to make them better by changing angles,

lighting and more. Dr. Kristy Brown, led a hands on session for learning to give shots and also brought in Louis the blow up llama, for demonstrations. The youth were able to look at fecal slides to see what parasite looked like under the microscope. A wonderful learning experience for all. The afternoon brought our craft activities. The younger youth made flower vases by wrapping yarn around glass containers. They embellished note cards with llama pictures and played educational games. Lorraine and Katie Mazac had lots of fun helping in this project. The older youth were

taught to do seamless wet felting and all were pretty successful with making a pair of warm llama wool mittens. The youth did a quick fashion show for the adults and got to show off their accomplishments. The youth session ended with a couple of fun games including Llama Jeopardy.

So you may ask, "What do people do in below zero weather?" Well the folks in Minnesota put on a great inside party and enjoy the weekend talking about llamas!



Left: Youth style show. Below: Seamless wet felting mittens.



Youth conference attendees earning Llama Bucks.



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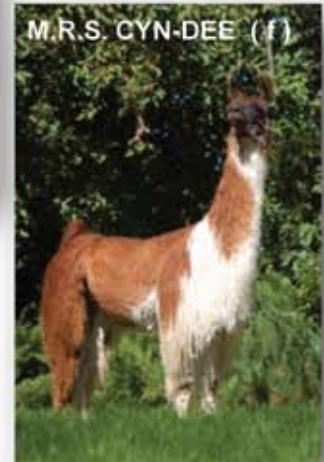
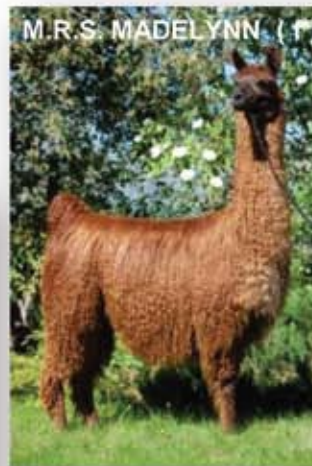
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WHERE TO BE

- **February 20-22, 2009--ORGLE Rendezvous, Tomah, WI**
Held at the Cranberry Country Lodge, the winter conference for the Wisconsin Organization of Lama Enthusiasts (ORGLE) offers a variety of classes for both llama and alpaca lovers, as well as a separate youth program. Also a fundraising auction, farm displays and vendors. For information, contact Joanne Newberry at llamas@wi.rr.com or 262-392-3359.
- **March 14, 2009 Alpaca Heritage Events' "Sampler for Success: Alpacas 101"**
Our topics will include a brief history of alpacas, alpaca breeds, diet and nutrition, reproduction, general health, fences and barns, alpaca stressors, temperament and behavior, holistic management, fiber and alpacas as a business. This seminar is co-presented by three New Jersey breeders with over twenty-five combined years of industry experience. Seminar will be held at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown NJ. Cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Be sure to register by March 9, 2009. For additional information, call Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696 or visit us at www.AlpacaHeritage.com.
- **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 Lama 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 or Tracey Wallace 909-792-3711 or 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 or 541-899-8097 for more information on the 2009 Spring Celebration Llama Sale.
- **April 11, 2009 Showmanship and Performance Clinic**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this hands on clinic taught by Pam Jensen. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.com
- **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. Halter judge, Debbie Shellabarger, fiber judge, Susie Smithers. For free vendor spaces contact, Charlotte Beaudin, 502-857-9100, dbeaudin14@hotmail.com
- **April 18, 2009 Beginning Driving**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this hands on clinic taught by Dan Whittaker. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.com
- **April 19, 2009 6th Annual Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter Show**
ABC Show is a one-day Level I halter show that caters to newer breeders with little or no previous show experience. We'll help you learn the ropes in a friendly, low-stress atmosphere that emphasizes good sportsmanship as well as bio-security. 4-H'ers are especially welcome to participate in our Youth and 4-H classes. Show judge is David Friedman. We only take 99 alpacas so be sure to sign-up early! Show will be held at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds in Ringoes NJ. For additional information, please call Show Superintendent Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696 or visit us at www.AlpacaHeritage.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
- **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
- **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 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 Show forms: www.LashsUniqueAnimals.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 or 715-246-5837, or visit www.llamamagic.com.
- **May 16, 2009 Techniques for Dyeing Skeins and Roving.**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this class taught by Vanessa Kessler. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.com
- **June 6, 2009 Beginning Wet Felting**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this class taught by Jarka Sobiskova. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.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
- **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.

Please submit your lama events to: editor@lamalink.com



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