

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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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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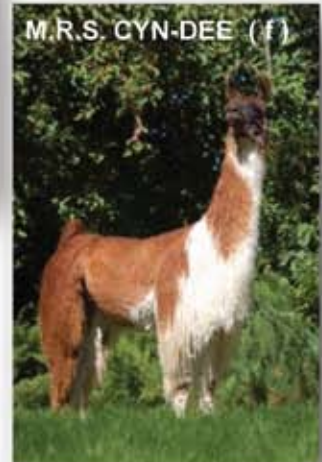
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WHERE TO BE

- **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.

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