

OABA Quarterly Meeting
February 20, 2010

Board of Directors present: Jeff Bradford, President; Laura Lee, Vice President; Rick Johnson, Treasurer; Marilyn Wentworth, Secretary; Bill Goebel, Director at Large; Jana Lee-Harris, Director at Large; Joe Osborn, Director at Large; Louise Goebel, Fleece Committee Chair.

Members present included: Jack and Nancy Lee; Richard and Kaye Sanderson; Glenn Kerns; Mike Shankle; and Valaen Clapsaddle; Rebecca Camma; Brenda Ward

1. Dr. David Barker, from the OSU Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, gave a highly informative presentation on pasture plants and pasture maintenance and answered questions from participants. This seminar offered lots of scientific advice and Dr. Barker answered all of our questions about individual farm issues. We thanked him for his time and effort in helping Ohio's alpaca breeders.

2. Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Treasurer's Report – Rick Johnson

A. We have \$140,160.85 in the bank. He moved the account to a better bank.

B. Rick recommends we continue having the Herdsire Auction at AlpacaFest to offset costs of the show and raise money for OABA.

4. OABA Magazine is coming in March – *Ohio Alpaca Life* – Bill Goebel, Dir. At Large

A. This will replace the old yearly membership book

B. It will be online for all to read and include live links to all members' websites and email addresses.

C. It will be published quarterly with all members' info updated in each edition.

D. There will be hard copies that are distributed twice a year with updated info.

E. Advertising is going well; Laura Lee is the manager of this.

F. Editor is Laurel Shoumlin, and Nora Custer-Haberbusch is the assistant editor.

G. Rules apply to purchasing the cover advertisements so all members may get a chance. No one can have the cover two issues in a row. The BoD is not allowed to have the cover ads in the first issue.

H. The first issue of *Ohio Alpaca Life* goes to ALSA, OABA, AOBA, and past OABA members.

I. We will print 1000 copies of the first edition. 500 to the people listed above and 500 to distribute at upcoming alpaca shows.

5. Membership – Jeff Bradford, President

A. The new membership cycle will be June 1, 2010 – June 1, 2011

B. Anyone joining from AlpacaFest 2009 until June 1st will be grandfathered in until June 1, 2011.

6. Camelid Veterinary Conference – Joe Osborn, Director at Large
 - A. On March 25, 2010, OABA members and the public may attend a special day-long session for breeders.
 - B. There will be 8 veterinarians presenting
 - C. This is an unusual opportunity to learn all day and then mingle with the vets and get our questions answered at the dinner afterwards.
 - D. OABA is now a sponsor of this bi-annual event along with the Buckeye Show
 - E. Info is on The Ohio State University Continuing Education website.

7. Benefits of joining OABA – Jeff Bradford
 - A. The Website is now very current and functions are working much better. It is updated constantly.
 - B. Members can list up to 10 Herdsires, products, services, locations, events, etc. on the Website.
 - C. OABA gives the alpaca community in Ohio a voice with the legislature.
 - D. 501-C3 status allows us to write and receive grants
 - E. The new magazine will offer free links to members' farms and an opportunity to advertise to other alpaca owners and enthusiasts.
 - F. The membership drive is going strong with BoD and Membership Committee members calling farms to encourage them to join if they haven't already. The membership is currently down by over 50% from last year, so this is important work.
 - G. OABA members receive a discount on Alpacafest.

8. Committees – Jeff Bradford
 - A. Many committees need a new chairperson. Each committee chair will have a person from the Board who will mentor them and be their liaison to the Board.
 - B. Education, Long Range Planning, and Government committees need a chair.
 - C. Check on the OABA website for information or contact Jeff Bradford.

9. AlpacaFest - Joe Osborn, Jana Lee Harris, Marilyn Wentworth and Jeff Bradford
 - E. A. We plan to have the blanket fleece show added back in for this year along with the fiber arts, skein and spin off fleece classes. The fleece show is the most expensive part, so we are encouraging people to enter. The next OABA meeting (1st or 2nd weekend in June, TBD) will have a major seminar on preparing fleeces for showing. Anyone who enters a fleece from that event will get an early bird discount on the price of the fleece show entry.
 - B. AlpacaFest show dates are November 6, 7, and 8, 2010
 - C. We are exploring new venues to lower costs.
 - D. Speakers have already been retained:
 1. Mary Reed – preparing fleeces for show
 2. Dr. Robert Van Saun – feeding alpacas for health and vigor
 3. Dr. Pamela Walker – alpaca herd husbandry, best practices
 4. Alicia Rocco – using natural supplements to enhance herd health

10. OABA email blast contract changed to Constant Contact – Jeff Bradford
 - A. OABA needed more control and better rates.

11. AOBA National Show in Ft. Wayne needs volunteers – Joe Osborn
 - A. Volunteers get credit off of next year's dues
 - B. Volunteers will learn from their experience
 - C. Contact Joe Osborn for more information

12. OABA Survey – Bill Goebel
 - A. The survey will give us valuable data on the impact of our industry in the state economy of Ohio. We can use this with legislators and other influential people to help alpaca farms grow, and provide OABA with feedback on the job it is doing. It will also help us understand the different approaches each farm takes in how they do things in their business.
 - B. The survey is on the home page of the OABA website and will be accessible through the online magazine.
 - C. The survey is anonymous, and with tax time coming, people will have their facts and figures prepared. This should make completing the form easier. We need everyone's help with filling these out and returning them to Bill Goebel. Do not put a return address on the envelope.

13. All attendees went around the room again and introduced themselves and said a few words about their farms.

14. Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Wentworth
OABA Secretary