

Fall 2019

The Journal of RMLA



RMLA
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

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2019 Llama Camp

By Geri Rutledge, Waco, NE



The Camelidkids 4H Club once again pulled off a great camp. Along with the regular group some 'city' kids and special needs kids attended. For the added flair, residents of the Windcrest Assisted Living in Lincoln, NE came out with 9 residents. The group made a craft project, sending special memories home with each person. They made a felted circle and added embroidery work. Some of us hadn't done that for years. We traced llamas and alpacas and added flowers to bling the crafts. Everyone had time for all the animals: llamas, alpacas, paco vicuñas, goats, chickens, and donkeys. It was really a day at the zoo!!!

All chaos in order they enjoyed lunch in the barn... time with our youth and laughter galore. The comments made by the Residents from Windcrest as they watched our youth interact were precious. Resident Kathleen asked for a "dirty Shirley" for a drink and Butch wanted vodka water. The kids asked...do we have that???? Well not at this camp, but we all need to agree, they had a blast.

Our youth stepped up with demos, talks, and helping out all day. Alyse talked about the benefits of owning fiber animals. You don't eat them, you shear them. Colin talked about dressing them up like dinosaurs at state fair. Elizabeth talked about training so the animals can make visits to schools, churches, and nursing homes. Ally was really shy but she did answer questions at the end.

Thank you to everyone, especially RMLA. 2019 llama camp over and out.



h w

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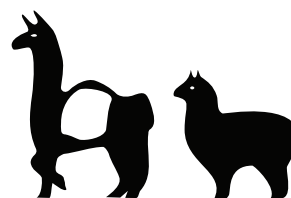
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Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 26

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EDITORS' CORNER

Our joy creating a Journal for you, our members, just keeps on growing. Not only are we receiving more and more unsolicited articles, Ron & I are in the 'nerve center' to receive comments from you and from folks far and wide who 'found us' online:

RMLA family, we just wanted to send the Association a short thank you note and some Kudos—we needed fast information about llamas & alpacas so your site was a big help, especially your sources/ recommendations page.

I'm not very tech savvy so I appreciate how easy you made it for us. We wish we lived locally so we could check out the llama alpaca camp! Our troop is doing our own Llama project this month (inspired by the 4-H program) and in a few weeks we will be visiting some real llamas & alpacas at a farm- very exciting! Before we visit Mr. Llama, we needed to do some research for our talking points (background, anatomy, health, care info, etc.) so you gave us some good ideas to get the ball rolling. John Frasier & Troop 325, Southern California.

The Fairplay Llama & Alpaca Event was a great success, again. See pages 15 to 19. Some changes were made and some new activities were in play. And we are possibly seeing a new trend: Fairplay as a 'destination' event? This year a wedding party asked RMLA to help them celebrate and we have already been approached to do something special for a 50th Birthday Party next year. We will see what unfolds.

Please enjoy all of the articles in this issue. Questions? Ask us. Submit an article? We are waiting. Thank you all.

Kathy & Ron



Cover Photo:

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay on a hike with young adults from Eagle Mount Camp..

See Susi's article on page 22.

Letter from Your RMLA Board

Another beautiful season is with us, happy Autumn to our members. We hope you enjoyed your summer with friends, family and the animals.

Fairplay reached a new level this year! And it was so much fun! Thanks to RMLA members and a good number of non-members who stepped up to help, in small and large ways, to make this year's activities a larger and a more fun event.

After two years, the 2017 -2018 Co-chairs for the Event moved on in their lives, in new ways and new places.

RMLA found itself without a trained event chair. So, the Board, with the help of other members, quickly jumped in to learn first-hand what it takes to make Fairplay happen. We kept great records of every task for future leaders and we hope to create a "How to do Fairplay" guide book. This will be something that RMLA has never had. The day just somehow happened, thank goodness, but there were no good records containing all the details.

Toby Stensland, participant in the Pack Llama Race for several years, tossed in his hat to design the courses and clean up afterward. We were off and running. Board members Ron, Lougene and Geri rounded off the team. We quickly verified that Mary Wickman could return as leader of the Llama Lunacy Youth Obstacle, Sally Rucker would remain the amazing announcer of the day and Marilyn Arnold, RMLA Bookkeeper, would again manage the registration desk and take in cash from additional participants and T-Shirt Sales. The Base committee was formed. By January 2019, responsibilities were divided up to cover and cross check all things required to have a wonderful day for our members and the visiting public on July 27.

While it may seem simple and should not require too much time, here are a few of the tasks that have received intense coverage from the team.

- **Restructure and expand the Public Walk so that both llamas and alpacas are welcome to walk with participants.**
- **Redesign the world-famous Pack Llama Race so that participants only run with trained and conditioned llamas. The team's athleticism is a spectator pleaser.**
- **Develop the event registration forms found on RMLA.com to incorporate changes.**
- **Verify and assure better communications with the Towne of Fairplay including publicity and Certificate of Liability requirements.**
- **Design graphics for current year T-Shirt, order t-shirts for registered participants and calculate how many will be made available to the public.**
- **Re-design and order ribbons and The Clancy trophy which is presented to the first team to cross the finish line in the Pack Llama Race.**
- **Purchase better participant bib numbers.**
- **Find more llamas than found in previous years and communicate with owners for their ease of parking and welcome each to market their ranch and animals.**
- **Secure a better place for the Youth Obstacle Llama Lunacy event, obtain coupons for each youth to get free ice cream from local merchant.**
- **and on, and on and on, maybe 100 other items have been covered**

All that we learned by working together will be organized for future volunteers to use as each year's event is planned.

With this in mind, PLEASE join us next year, have fun and help us with some of these tasks. Whatever you can do will be appreciated. We need as many members as possible to step up and help. You will have fun, market and teach about your animals and assure this long-time RMLA event continue.

The profits from Fairplay are set aside in a special reserve account that pay for the Liability Insurance for ALL RMLA events. Liability Insurance is FREE to all RMLA events. RMLA is an education-based organization and all events are educational.

RMLA needs everyone's help to continue to continue and grow the Fairplay Llama and Alpaca event into the future. Please consider joining us next year. And, thank you to those who were there to have fun and work

Lougene, Ron, Geri and Marshal.



Using Alpaca and Llama Fiber for Insulation

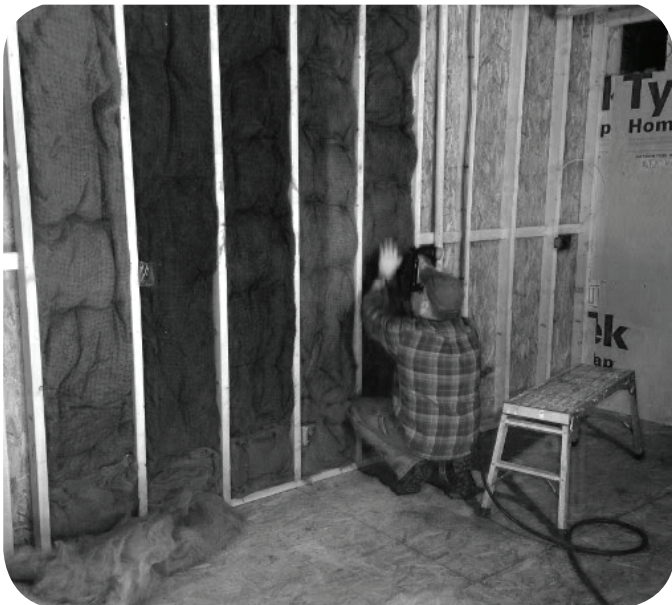
by Linda Hayes, Prescott Valley AZ

A while back I visited a ranch called Sustainable Settings near Carbondale, CO. Their mission was to show the public how to live off the land in a sustainable way.



Huacaya wool being readied for insulation batts

While there I noticed that they were using wool from their sheep to insulate the farm house. When I asked them about it, they admitted that the smell took some getting used to and was a major drawback. At the time I thought how llama fiber would be so much better as it doesn't have a noticeable smell.



Installing

Now, several years later I find that there is a company that is making insulation batts from alpaca fiber: Alpaca Fiber Insulation Company of Ohio, Inc. www.AlpacaInsulation.com.

Not only is their product environmentally friendly, it doesn't inundate you with tiny glass fibers that itch, making you throw away the clothes you wore when

doing the installation. The batts are 100% sustainable and 100% naturally green. AND it has no propensity to mold. They also found that the light weight fiber blocks sound effectively, is naturally antimicrobial and doesn't hold odors.

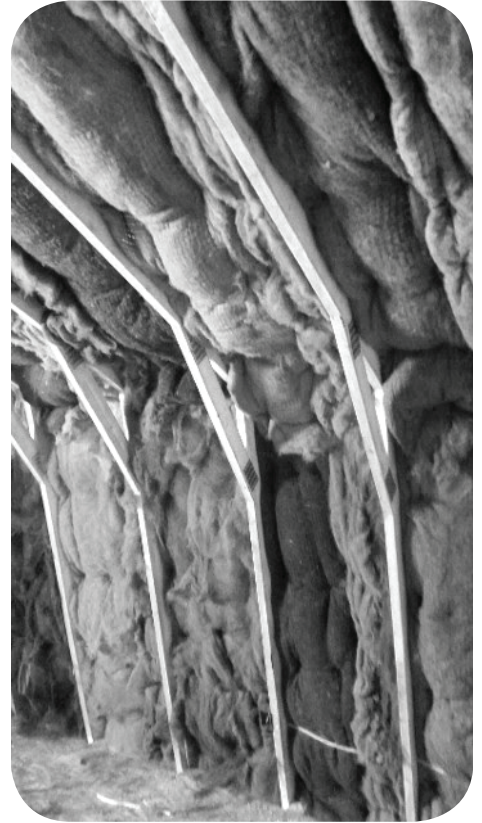
Alicia Rocco founded the company as an offshoot to her Spring Valley Alpaca farm. In just a few short years it has become an innovative alternative insulation among green builders. The fiber was tested for "R" factor and today's product has a rating of 16 +. "R

factor" stands for thermal resistance. The higher the number, the better the insulation. Three- and one-half inch fiberglass batting has an R-value of 10.8 - 11.9.

As most llama owners know, the fiber is fire resistant and will smolder and then go out on its own. It will hold about 8 times its weight in moisture and is easy to work with. Since it is not prickly, and has no lanolin, it is hypoallergenic.

The company treats the fiber with an oil insecticide. Insect infestation seems to be the only drawback to using fiber from our animals for insulation. Rocco says that "If you don't utilize an oil treatment/insecticide the alpaca insulation will have to be encased in either plastic or paper." Not a bad negative when you consider doing away with the glass fibers.

Perhaps this will be the new "wave of the future" for "Green" builders. Wouldn't it be nice to have buyers knocking on our doors to get every scrap of fiber our animals can produce? In the least, think of the money we can save by producing our own insulation when we build.



Fiber Installed!

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Truly Amazing

is what the volunteers & contributors of Southwest Llama Rescue can accomplish. *Help Is Always Needed: your time and money go a long way.

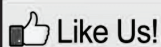
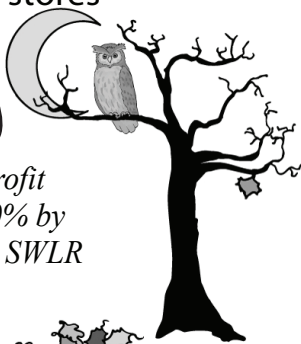
*Contact: www.SouthwestLlamaRescue.org or SouthwestLlamaRescue@yahoo.com or 184 Hoofbeat Trl, Kerrville, TX 78028

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as smile.amazon.com

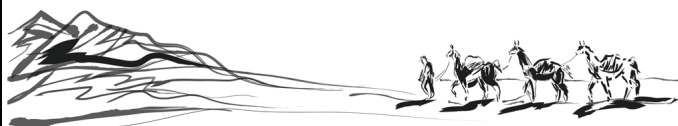
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Animal rescue site for people who need to catch llamas and alpacas.

Designed for people who know absolutely nothing about llamas and alpacas

Ask The CSU VET Team

The answers to the Ask The CSU Vet questions for this issue are contributed by the 4th year veterinary students in the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Livestock Medicine and Surgery Service: Lainey Slayter, Meredith Frey, and Shelbie Snow

Ok so now we have the blue green algae scare which appears harmful to all. My question is our irrigation water comes off a fast-moving creek. The creek originates from lakes on top of Grand Mesa which is 10,000 feet elevation. So, are we at risk for blue green algae?

Blue-green algae blooms generally occur in lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen. They may occur anywhere but are less likely in high-elevation mountain lakes and reservoirs. Blue-green algae toxins are produced only by certain species of blue-green algae and these toxins are not produced all the time, making it difficult to know if any given body of water is contaminated with the toxin. The only way to know if an algae bloom is harmful is to have the water tested.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment laboratory services can test water samples for the toxin. The blue green toxin is a hepatotoxin that causes severe damage to the liver. While there are no reported camelid cases in the literature, it is assumed that they are susceptible similar to other livestock, and are at risk of severe illness and death after exposure to the blue green algae toxin.

Symptoms of blue-green algae toxin poisoning may range from lethargy and loss of appetite to seizures, vomiting, convulsions, and death.

I'm a 4-H leader in Idaho. My son was given two alpacas, a few years ago. Last fall we bought five more Suri alpacas. We are still learning and trying to establish good management practices. How often should we be deworming them? We are using injectable ivermectin quarterly. Is that an appropriate treatment and schedule?

Due to the generally dry and arid conditions in the Rocky Mountain region, parasite control for llamas and alpacas is best managed through animal and pasture management. The best management practices include feeding off the ground, keeping pastures dry by preventing standing water, and frequent dung

pile cleanup. Even with the best practices, parasites can still become a problem within a herd. However, routine deworming of all animals in a herd is the primary cause of resistance of camelid and small ruminant internal parasites to common anthelmintic such as ivermectin or fenbendazole. Thus, it is important to carefully select the animals that are treated with an anthelmintic.

One way to concentrate your anthelmintic usage is by performing fecal floatation tests for the detection of parasites on a representative population of your herd. The focus groups of your sampling should be crias 2-6 months old, yearlings, and clinically diseased animals (weight loss or diarrhea) as these will be the animals that may benefit most from treatment and they may also be the

animals that are shedding the largest number of parasite oocytes in the feces and thus put the rest of the herd at risk. You should sample at least 10% of the animals that fall into these three categories to help monitor your herd parasite risk. In general, healthy adult animals with good nutrition and immune systems will effectively manage low levels of internal parasite exposure. If your animals have regular access to wet or irrigated pasture, then internal parasites can be a more challenging problem. Understanding what is affecting your herd can be the most beneficial way to target your deworming efforts.

Should we be vaccinating them for anything? We have not been, and that worries us. It's hard to find a vet in our area who is comfortable working with

Article Keywords:

- Anthelmintic
- Blue-green algae
- CD/T vaccine
- Clostridial vaccines
- Clostridium perfringens
- Coccidioidomycosis
- Deworming
- Distress call
- Fecal floatation
- Leptospirosis
- Superovulation protocols
- Vaccines
- Valley Fever
- West Nile Virus

continued on next page

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Ask The CSU Vet Team continued ...

camelids, so we are spending a lot of time slogging through google.

There are a *few* vaccines commonly administered to camelids, but it is important to note that most vaccines are considered “off label” in camelids as there have been no formal studies done by the manufacturers to guarantee safety and efficacy of these vaccines in these species. Veterinarians tend to use two primary vaccines in camelids, CD/T and rabies.

The CD/T vaccine provides immunity against *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D, as well as *Clostridium tetani*. *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D are bacteria that can cause diarrhea and sudden death in crias and occasionally adults. All mammals are at risk for tetanus infection, primarily through wounds or surgical sites. There are many protocols for CD/T, but one common vaccine schedule is vaccinating adults yearly; pregnant females 4-6 weeks prior to parturition; crias at 3-4 months old and again 4 weeks later then yearly thereafter.

Rabies vaccination should be considered yearly in areas where it is endemic, as camelids are susceptible to infection. This vaccine can be given as early as 4 months of age. A large animal product like IMRAB 3 or IMRAB Large Animal should be used. While a veterinarian is not required to perform the vaccination, exposed animals may be considered unvaccinated and treated differently if exposed to a rabid animal when there is no official veterinary record of vaccination.

However, due to rabies vaccines not being approved for use in camelids, even vaccination performed by a veterinarian may result in quarantine or euthanasia if an animal is exposed, depending on the situation. There have been two cases of rabies positive camelids in Colorado in the last several years. In both cases, the primary sign was rapid onset of neurological signs with unusually aggressive behavior and biting other animals or humans. This poses a significant health risk

to animals and humans and therefore rabies vaccination of llamas and alpacas is recommended in areas where rabies is present in Colorado. Please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/rabies-data> to see data on rabies prevalence in Colorado.

There are a few miscellaneous vaccines, including West Nile virus, leptospirosis and other clostridial vaccines that can be used if a herd has had an existing problem with any of these infectious agents, but they are not part of a common vaccination protocol in camelids.

Regarding the distress call that llamas make (not the orgling that goes with mating). What part of their body do they use to make this sound: vocal cords, nose, stomach, breath?

Llamas make many different noises, including humming, chortling, and screaming. Although it is not certain exactly how these noises are made, it is thought to be a combination of their vocal cords and the unique anatomy of the back of their throat. Llamas have narrowed nasal passages and a narrow larynx. They also have a long soft palate that ends just above the epiglottis. This means that it takes more effort to move air in and out of the airways and around the soft palate. The soft palate, resting so far into the back of the throat against the epiglottis, may lead to a squeaking noise when air is sucked in and forced out across it, like allowing air to flow out of a balloon when the opening is stretched taut.

Information from Camelid Publications in the Medical Literature from 2019

Aller JF, Abalos MC, Acuna F and Cancino AK (2019). “**Plasma steroid profiles and ovarian response in llamas treated with eCG for superovulation combined with exogenous progesterone during early luteal phase.**” *Anim Reprod Sci* 208: 106108.

The primary limiting factors affecting embryo transfer success in llamas is the variable and poor ovarian response of donors to superovulatory treatments. In other species, there tends to be more problems with ovulation

continued on bottom of the next page

Entering an ALSA Fleece & Finished Work Class

By Judy Glaser, ALSA Fiber Committee Chair, ALSA Llama Fleece Judge, and AOA Spin Off Judge

Entering a competition with something you have created with your heart and soul can be very rewarding. Not only for the fact that you made something but to have a judge give you comments and an actual score according to the judge's guidelines.

To enter in any ALSA Finished Work class you first must have an Adult Show (AS) number. Contact the Secretary at the ALSA office to register and pay for one. Now you must go to the show registration packet you want to enter. All sanctioned shows listed will have a link to their show packet. Some shows are only Performance and Halter, some have a Fleece show included. Fill out the show registration information and enter the class number that corresponds to the class you want to enter. You'll have to include a copy of your current ALSA membership card.

The ALSA Handbook (Rules) are also online. Part O is the Fleece section. This is where the rules, descriptions and other pertinent information is about

the classes. There has been an update on the classes which is the 22nd Edition. Some shows for the remainder of this year are still running on the 21st Edition. These classes are more general. Whatever the classes listed for that show are, go with it.

Look for shows listed on the ALSA web site (www.ALSAShow.org) calendar 2020 advertising a full fleece show. Plan your projects and you'll have time for some of the most popular Llama and Alpaca ALSA shows. Please email me if you have any questions judy.glaser@yahoo.com

2019 ALSA Handbook 22nd Edition



Alpaca & Llama
Show Association Inc.



Ask The CSU Vet Team continued ...

and embryo formation when using equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) for superovulation. However, eCG is commonly used in llama embryo transfer programs because it is less expensive than other superovulation protocols used in other species. This study examined the effects of progesterone supplementation with eCG superovulatory treatment on embryo number and quality in llamas, as it is well documented that higher levels of progesterone and estradiol are associated with higher fertilization rate, embryo yield, and embryo quality in sheep and cattle. It was concluded that supplementation with progesterone during eCG treatment increased ovulation rate and improved embryo quality in llamas.

Butkiewicz CD and Shubitz LF (2019).

“Coccidioidomycosis (kok-sid-e-OY-deze) in alpacas in the southwestern United States.” Transbound Emerg Dis 66(2): 807-812.

Coccidioidomycosis, also known as Valley Fever, is a fungal organism endemic in the southwestern U.S. and is a disease that South American camelids appear to be prone to and is often widespread and fatal. However, very little is known about the prevalence, diagnosis and treatment of coccidioidomycosis. A recent study found that alpacas diagnosed with coccidioidomycosis were found in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, with Arizona holding most of the cases. Interestingly, it was noted that alpacas in counties of Arizona with a high incidence of coccidioidomycosis in humans were 5.8 times more likely to contract coccidioidomycosis than animals residing in other areas of Arizona. In a survey, the most common clinical signs seen in alpacas with Valley Fever were non-specific, including weight loss, decreased energy, and decreased appetite. Treatment of coccidioidomycosis is not well understood in camelids and requires further investigation to find appropriate recommended anti-fungal drugs and prognosis.



Wait!

You Want to do What?

By Marty McGee Bennett CameliDynamics

Camelids are reluctant to have their mouth handled for the same reason they are afraid to have their legs handled: keeping the mouth free of injury is a very critical part of staying alive. Many handlers assume that this feeling from the animal's point of view is cast in stone. In fact as an industry we have designed halters and invented haltering methods whose purpose is to avoid touching the mouth. Instead of teaching the animals that it is safe to have their mouths touched we have let the animals convince us that we shouldn't do it. The problem is that we need to administer oral medications, examine the mouth and teeth, and the mouth is going to be touched both on purpose and inadvertently. If necessary, touching of the mouth is always unpleasant and frightening, then the animal begins to invest in avoidance and the whole thing becomes a vicious circle.

I have been fortunate to find a number of amazing teachers. I met Linda Tellington-Jones very early in my camelid career. Linda is an accomplished rider, teacher and I am honored to say friend and mentor. I began studying with her in the early 80's. Her work is transformative using balance and touching to teach an animal to feel safe and accept a human's proximity and touch. This short article exemplifies why the TTouch is so profound. In a few words and with a short lesson you can have a huge impact on the way an animal feels and reacts to your presence. It is so much easier to use the TTouch to systematically desensitize the mouth so that the animal is not afraid. Using the TTouch for desensitization has the added benefit of being pleasurable, making the animal not only cooperative but engaged in the process.

HOW: To work the mouth you must be in a catch pen. I suggest that you use the wand and rope method of catching and invest some time in teaching the animal to override his flight response and allow you to approach. Even if the animal seems ok, I would catch in this way as a gesture of good faith. Once your catch rope is up **HIGH AND SNUG** you can begin to use clouded leopard circles on the neck up behind the ears, on the forehead. To begin the progression to the mouth you will stand on the animal's left, balance the animal with the right hand on the catch rope and begin with your left hand on the underside of the jaw--well back on the jaw almost on the neck--if the animal seems worried you can begin with

the left hand partly on the neck and partly on the jaw or completely on the neck and work your way forward from there.

There is no set rhythm to your progression. Once you attain more skill you might be able to work your way up to the mouth in one short session or you might take several sessions. There is no right or wrong **EXCEPT** if you try to force the animal to accept your touch. You must meet the animal where he is and allow him to lead the process.

IMPORTANT: As you progress with the rest of these instructions be sure to pay attention to what you are doing with your right hand. If your balancing hand becomes dead weight the animal will begin tossing the head and you may mistakenly think that the problem is your left hand moving toward the mouth. This won't be



the case—the animal will be objecting to the perception that you are holding him because of the weight in your right hand!

Once your animal stands quietly and accepts the hand on the jaw, you are going to “walk” your fingers forward. I move my index finger toward the mouth and then follow with the rest of my fingers. Do your best not to slide your hand along the jaw or break contact and remake contact; both of these may be annoying or startling. Walking the fingers forward is the best way to make forward progress without fear.

Take a deep breath and before you walk your fingers forward again make sure that your animal is standing

continued on next page

WAIT! You want to do what? continued ...

in balance and is not moving his head around in an attempt to avoid you. This work DOES NO good if you just wrestle your way to the mouth. Once your left hand is within an index finger's reach of the lips move your index finger to rest on the fleshy spot that divides the lips. Do not move your finger just rest it lightly there and take a breath. If your animal is settled you can begin to



Marty using the Clouded Leopard technique on a cheetah

do some clouded leopard circles using your index and or index and middle fingers all around the mouth area.

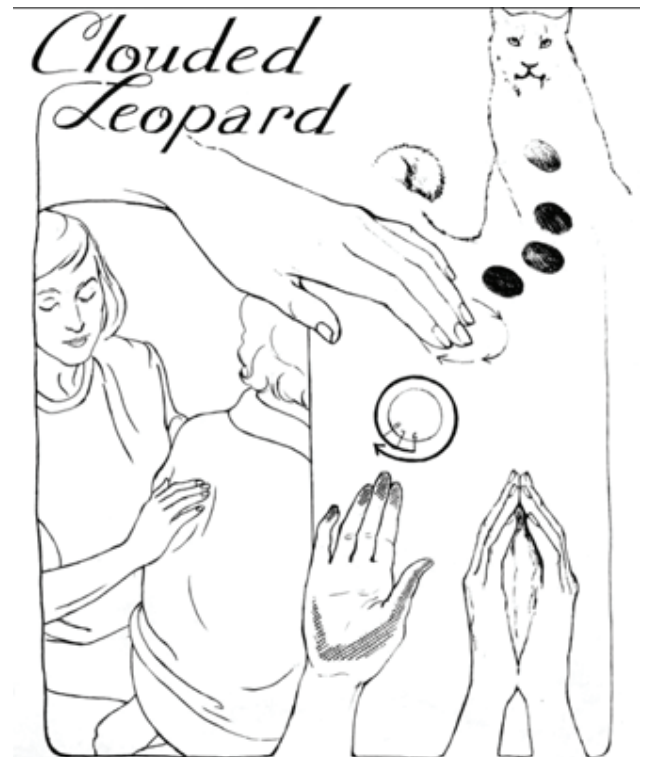
Once you work the mouth the job is really done, but most animals quite like it and you can surely work the mouth anytime you have time. I make a practice of working with the mouth and the rest of the head before I put a halter on an animal for the first time and before I administer any oral medication.

The most important thing is to balance your animal and not to wrestle. If you have any hope of changing your animals mind it will be with balance and not force. You can try working in a pen with a number of animals in it or working inside a trailer. Remember, if what you are doing isn't working change some aspect of what you are doing, even if it is a small shift, doing the same thing over and over only teaches your animal how to thwart your efforts!

Description: The Clouded Leopard TTouch:

This TTouch is done using the fingerprint part of your fingers. Your thumb acts as a placeholder and your little finger mostly goes along for the ride. Rest your hand gently on the animal and use the ring, middle and index finger of your hand to press gently (i.e., think: applying salve to your skin) and move the skin in a small circle one complete revolution and then just a bit more (i.e. total would be about a circle and a quarter). The circle is made clockwise.

Now, move your fingers to a slightly new location. DO NOT make the circles over and over in the same spot. When you begin you might take a second or so to complete one circle if your animal is calm or is getting calmer you can slow down. Release slowly. **Remember to breathe!**



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Intermountain Weavers Conference 2019

By Nancy Wilson, Camp Verde Llamas

The Intermountain Weavers Conference (IWC) is held the end of July every other year in Durango, CO at Fort Lewis College. Keep Reading: Not all the classes are weaving related. I spent three wonderful days studying spinning with Jillian Moreno, author of the book *Yarnitecture*.

One interesting task we did was for each of us to spin our default yarn (the yarn you spin without putting much thought to it), describe it and put a sample on a tag, then switch samples with



My spinning spot during class. (Note that I've already started the spinner's version of urban sprawl)

We also spent some time spinning different colors either side-by-side or as two separate singles and then plying together. These two techniques are what I described in the article on marled yarns. What was interesting about the technique this time was placing more effort into the side-by-side spinning. The idea is to make sure that some of each color is in each length



another class member. The task was then to re-create the other class member's sample using the information and sample as a reference. The lesson learned is to keep notes of what you're doing so that you can either re-create it later, or figure out what to do differently to get the yarn you want. This is a lesson that can be applied to any sort of fiber art.



Me smiling holding a bunch of fiber we got in class

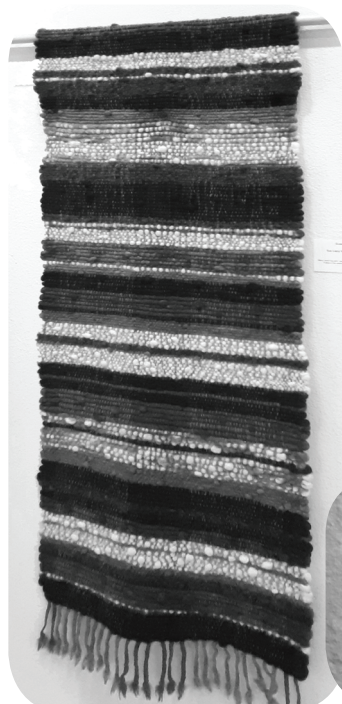
of draft, not the two colors randomly shifting from one color to the other. Done with intention, the resulting two-ply yarn where each single is spun side-by-side is a really interesting effect where the colors create little dots along the length of the yarn. When done with two different color singles, you can get different effects based on the contrast between the two colors.

Jillian shared a project worksheet with us as a tool to help narrow in on the type of yarn desired for a specific project. It was interesting to see all the various samples she had made and the difference it made in the finished fabric. For example, a yarn spun worsted style with a short forward draft (flat, not a lot of loft) will create a different knitted fabric than the same fiber spun woolen with a long draw (spongy, airy).

Jillian is known for using different techniques to spin dyed top and roving. We were given dyed top from three distinct dyers. We had a list of 10 different ways to spin the fiber to compare the results. One interesting and simple way to make a dyed braid look different is to split the braid in half lengthwise, and spin each half starting

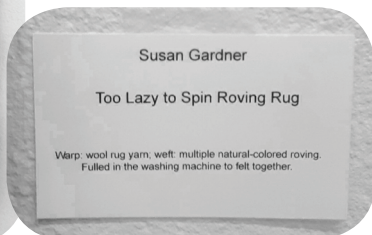


Classroom at start of class.



at the opposite end, then ply them together. So if the color sequence in the original yarn was ABCDE then the other ply would be EDCBA and different colors would match up when these two singles are plied.

In addition to the classes, there was a fabulous marketplace, a fashion show, and



Rug woven with roving and artist information. Susan Gardner was also one of the students in the spinning class.

two gallery exhibits. One exhibit featured items made by participants, and the other was items made by IWC board members and instructors. One item was a rug

Editor's Note: If you plan to go, register EARLY, as in even before registration opens! The classes fill up fast.

made by a board member using commercial rug warp and roving as the weft. I spoke with her about the piece, and she explained that the roving was a challenge to weave



Items in the participant show. It was interesting to see that not all the items were complicated designs. A lot of things based on rectangles.

because the roving can't be put onto a shuttle that can be thrown across the fabric but the result is definitely worth it.

I'm already planning to attend the Conference in 2021, and this time I plan to have items to submit for the gallery show and fashion show.



NEW RMLA Members

Welcome!

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

*and
Thank You*

Amy Stuart, DVM (Honorary). Ft. Collins, CO

William Hyde Grand Junction, CO

Address change: Julie K. Heggie (Visit website **MEMBERS BY NAME** for changes)

NOTE: Before members that are under the age of 18, or unverified to be over the age of 17, are not listed on the website, Membership Directory or above. A signed release is required from a parent or legal guardian. You can find a link for further instructions and that form at the top of the **MEMBERS BY NAME** page on the website. *Thank you*

**To Join or Renew your membership go to
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Another Successful Event From the Fairplay Llama & Alpaca Event Committee

First, the Fairplay committee wishes to send a huge THANK YOU to each of you who participated in the 2019 RMLA Fairplay Llama & Alpaca Event on Saturday, July 27th.

High water aside, trail designer, Toby Stensland, created a safe and fun race for all participants! And we had participants: 133 total registrants for the Race and the Public Walk. And, the word is out: we had people from Florida and Massachusetts on the East, California and Oregon on the West and all points in between.

A special Thank You to Mary Wickman, Llama Lunacy coordinator. This year she even had to train the llamas for the Lunacy course. Great Job Mary.

Again we thank Jeff and Sally Rucker for announcing and also bringing lots of beautiful llamas for the Lama Rama Race.

And new this year! RMLA members who brought their llamas and alpacas to the Public Walk were able to walk (at no charge) with their animal and teach the new folks everything they wanted to know about llamas and alpacas. Educating is at the very heart of RMLA Mission Statement and many attendees were able to handle and enjoy llamas and alpacas for the first time.

For the third year, Amy Stuart, DVM, Colorado State University, Livestock Medicine and Surgery Services attended the event to ensure the well-being of all animals! Thank you, Amy, and thank you CSU!

Because we don't want to overlook anyone, we just want to give a very special shout out to all of you. We hope word will get around and a new trend begins.



Pack Race Winners



Women's Division

1. Emma Stensland and Jerry
2. Amber Rosenfeld and Hurly
3. Delaney Mosteller and Spot

Photo Left to Right: Amber Rosenfeld with Hurly; Emma Stensland (Jerry is out walking with the public); and Delaney Mosteller with Spot

Men's Division

1. Jared Cooper and Jack Daniels
2. Doug Mosteller and Awesome
3. Connor Taberski



The Clancy Trophy

The Clancy Trophy is awarded to the first runner/animal team to cross the finish line. This year's winner was Jared Cooper with Jack Daniels.

The Clancy Trophy is named after the team who crossed the finish line first back in the 1980s! Clancy was the name of the llama. And rumor has it that Clancy could run a full marathon with how ever many runners could keep pace with him. That llama liked to race!



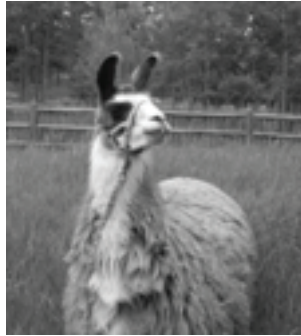
Llama Lunacy

By Mary Wickman

Llama Lunacy was a success; the kids started lining up prior to the start of the event. One young lady was so excited to do the course, she came early and helped us set up. This year I was able to use my neighbor (Fred Huggins) daughter's (Taylor Huggins) llamas (Danny and Play Boy). I started working with them a month prior to the event and they had the obstacle course down to a tee. We did not have time to shear them, but we did get nails cut. They had not been away from home for about 10 years, but they did great.

I received an email from Jessica Storm a couple of weeks prior to the event asking if we needed another llama for Llama Lunacy. I took her up on her offer and it certainly did make things go faster with three llamas.

Jessica brought JC, a very sweet 23-year-old boy – he was wonderful with the kids.



Danny



Play Boy



JC

I think about 50 kids went through the course. We had the usual obstacles this year – a tunnel, a path to walk on, a weave, and a huge hula hoop to walk through. The kids enjoyed the event and the coupons for ice cream.

Huge 'Thank You' to Taylor and Fred Huggins for letting Danny and Play Boy do the Llama Lunacy. Thanks to Jessica Storm for helping and her great llama JC. Thanks to Diane Turner and Ann Bruhn for helping with the event. A big thanks to Silver Scoop for donating coupons for ice cream.



On-Site Vet

For the third year, Amy Stuart (formerly Amy Kunkle), from the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital provided on-site vet services should they be needed. Fortunately, no animals needed Amy's attention. However, one of the participants did receive an ice pack for his ankle until the paramedics could get there.

Amy says that she is enjoying the event 'more every year and hopes to bring her parents up next year. This year she brought her brother and sister in law Allyce Kunkel. Allyce had the great job of handing out ribbons and said she would be happy to help next year!



continued on next page

The Wedding Party

Photos courtesy of Rich and Charlene

Rich and Charlene have been participating in the Fairplay Llama & Alpaca Event for the last 6 years. This year was something special! They contacted RMLA very early in 2019 to ask what they needed to do to guarantee the availability of 2 llamas for a very special wedding experience.



Rich and Charlene

They were married in Breckenridge on July 25th. On July 27th, the wedding party and their guests, about 30, made their way to Fairplay for the Public Walk. Many thanks to Jessica Storm, RMLA member, for providing two wonderful llamas, Gypsy and Rolex.

From bride, Charlene: Thanks for this awesome experience! We wish Rich and Charlene many more happy memories and of course trips to Fairplay.



Bride & Groom with their children (& llamas)



OVERWHELMED!

Being new to the world of these strange animals, we decided it was time for an event. We attended and participated in the Llama and Alpaca Event in Fairplay. Oh! We had no idea what to expect. We fully expected to just follow the signs and figure it out on the way. That was the first part of Overwhelmed. We didn't see signs directing us to the action, so looked for a crowd and got instructions there.

As soon as we stopped – llama in the trailer – a young woman emerged from the crowd and asked if she and her family could borrow Duke. After moving the truck and trailer and talking again, we found that is the way it is done. Apply and then find a critter that was not spoken for.

We had a really good time, met lots of people, loaded up and went home tired and happy.

By Jim & Ellen Roller
Rolling R Ranch, Littleton, CO



Sharing Our Llamas , Jessica Storm, Avondale, CO

It started with an email. Another llama friend suggested that I might be able to bring llamas to Fairplay. Two years ago, my sisters and I did the walk with our llamas and had a great time.

This year when I got the email, we decided to go ahead and bring our llamas for the public to walk with. We do several public relation events with our llamas every year and the last couple of years, it seems interest and curiosity in llamas has grown.

The fact we could walk with the llamas during the event made us feel more confident to loan out our llamas, and if any issues arose, we would be there to help out. The groups had a great time with the llamas. We answered lots of questions and many llama selfies were taken.



Be Prepared - Presume Nothing

Susan Unser, Unser Alpacas

That first year of being the parents to a small herd of Alpacas is much like that first year of being parents to a child. The hospital, and in this case the breeder, are so helpful with the delivery and then you get home and reality hits.

We had fenced off an acre so we could sit on the porch and watch them graze whilst we had our afternoon tea or scotch. However, within the first week we realized we had gravely misjudged their lawn mowing ability and so a call to our left hand, Donnie, and a trip to the hardware store afforded enough fence and poles to give them an additional 10 acres, from our front door to their barn. It only takes money!

We thought we had been really prepared with a barn, a corral, an auto water feeder, minerals, grain and a brand-new empty hay rack. Hay, you say! That shouldn't be a problem in this hay rich valley where we live. The few bales we were given, to serve as a barrier in the trailer for their trip from the Black Forest, were running out and winter was coming soon. Thus, it was with considerable confidence and ample ignorance that Al and I set off to find the local hay man, who assured us that his was the best alfalfa hay for Alpacas. With a couple bales in our truck, until he could deliver more, we arrived back at the barn and proudly put the hay in the new hay rack which is where it stayed for a full day. "Nope, we are not eating that!"

The next day we were off to see what a large Alpaca ranch in the Taos Valley fed their animals. And we were assured by their hay guy that they would love the timothy hay from Taos. We loaded a couple bales in the truck, arrived home, emptied the 'uneatable' alfalfa hay and filled the rack with timothy hay. We stood back to relish in the joy of seeing them eagerly eat that but instead, received another "What is this stuff?"

A call to Greg and Sandy (i.e. our mentors) revealed that these alpacas PREFER second cutting, orchard grass. Well excuse me! But Al and I prefer Starbucks, too, but we manage to wake up to Folgers every morning. So

the search was on for a ranch that grew this "special hay". A stop at Tractor Supply provided the name of a rancher in Colorado who just might have the "goods". My husband is a very patient man but I could tell, as he was hitching the flatbed trailer to the truck, that he intended for this to be our last outing to find hay and we were not coming back empty handed.

Early next morning with a thermos of hot Folgers and meager directions we set out to begin our adventure into the mountains of Southwestern Colorado. The dirt road, 3 miles left of the fork by the red barn, just after the second hill off the county road, proved to be a huge field of tall grass in the process of being baled. Glory be, we had struck green gold. Now these bales were about 60 pounds each and the rancher said "Just pull your trailer into the field and load up what you need".

Sure, turn two 70-year-old people loose in a field of bales. Not knowing whether to laugh or cry, together we grabbed one bale and placed it on the trailer, then another. And just when I was thinking I was going to have to drive this rig with 2 bales of hay to the hospital, a truck pulled up with two strong, high school boys who quickly loaded 100 bales on the trailer. We settled up and off we went to show "our boys" that we could provide them with their special hay.


And before we could back the trailer into their barn, they were happily pulling the stuff out of the bales. Mission successfully completed, another 500-mile victory and my celebrated husband had found yet another career at Unser Alpacas, that of *Happy Hay Hauler*!

By this time you must realize just how unprepared I was for parenting my little herd of 6 Alpacas? But at least we are now prepared for winter: we have the


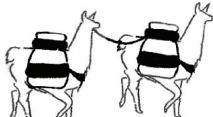

Unser Alpacas



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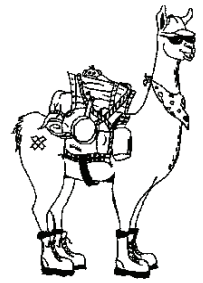
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Be Prepared - Presume Nothing continued ...

perfect hay! As it turned out, it was a mild first winter so I planned a trip to Northern Colorado to be part of a camelid training class. I drove 460 miles thinking I was going to learn about why “my boys” behaved like they did, why they seemed to delight in outrunning a couple of seniors who just wanted to catch and halter them for that longed-for stroll around the property.

Twenty people of varying experience levels and ages made up the class and I soon discovered we were there to learn that “how WE behave is what makes them act like they do”. That theory was hard to grasp. The Aretha Franklin in me just wanted a little RESPECT. Aretha was learning that all “my boys” wanted was to eat, drink and have a safe, clean shelter. Strolling around the property was not on their agenda. The theory became clearer when we were asked to think like an Alpaca.

I have huge eyes and everything looks so close when people reach for me, if attacked I have no defenses except for a bottom row of teeth and actually I think I am always under attack, especially from that lady who wants to pet my neck.

We put halters on each other to see how an alpaca might feel about this personal violation, learned to use a wand with a rope to gently capture and halter them without anyone needing medical attention. A blow-up Alpaca served as a model of the architecture of these animals and how that long neck is an asset we can use when catching them, besides how it makes them so cute when they gallop.

After the first day we were told to find a partner for our “hands on” part of class. Sitting next to me was a small young lady who became my team mate. Next morning, Marty, the guru of How to Handle and Train Alpacas and Llamas led us through a true northern Colorado blizzard to the barn where we were surrounded by pens holding many very large Llamas and two Alpacas.

Not a problem, until Marty assigned animals to each team.

My petite partner and I were assigned to *Atlantis*, the largest white Llama in the world, whose shoulders seemed higher than I was tall. In a moment of lunacy, I volunteered to go into the stall first. In hindsight I know that big ole *Atlantis* has probably been caught and haltered many times but this was my maiden voyage and he recognized my intimidation. He even had a gleam in his eye that told me he was going to have a little fun on this cold day. Everything I had learned listening and watching Marty and her plastic Alpaca left my brain as I confronted this giant with only a wand, rope and halter.

But enter his stall I did and he happily paraded me around this 10'x10' enclosure an embarrassing number of times then finally stopped and let me to put the rope over his very, very long neck at which point he must have taken pity on me because he lowered his head so I could place the halter over his football sized nose. Exiting the pen, I reluctantly handed everything to my partner and in she went. However, within 5 minutes she had caught, haltered and was out of the stall. I was very impressed but I think it was because I had worn him out the 45 minutes, I was in there with him. The whole weekend was a great learning experience and worth every dime, minute of time and gasoline to get there. Highly recommend Marty and her books for anyone who wants to learn about how to handle these animals in the most humane and effective way. www.camelidynamics.com

Writing these short tales of our lives with Alpacas allows me to share the fun and odd experiences we have had over the past years. For the next issue I am remembering how very smart these critters are and just what they will do for a carrot. You might also enjoy the hysterical first shearing too. Until next time, Susan Unser.



Llamas spread Love for sick and recovering kids in Montana

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay – RMLA E&O Committee chair

When YOU are sick, your world changes. It narrows, becomes smaller, more immediate and sometimes scary. When you KNOW someone who is sick, your world changes as well. It becomes worrisome, focused, sometimes depressing. When you BRING JOY to someone who is sick, your world changes AND their world changes. You bring joy to them AND to you! You bridge the gap between you and them with LOVE and – LLAMAS!



It was a sunny day on a beautiful reservoir in Southwestern Montana. Rustic cabins under tall pine trees were grouped around a small courtyard with a basketball net. Kids of ages 5 to 10 were playing and shouting in excitement as kids would in any other place. The large trees provided shade and peace, the mountains loomed on the far side of the lake, the waves lapped against the shore. Adults were seated on the edge of the yard on picnic benches, watching the goings-on, some smiling. To the casual observer, this was a typical scene at a summer camp. And yet, this group of kids and their parents lived with a shadow on their hearts and minds. Cancer had invaded their lives, changing them forever.

The camp is called “Camp Braveheart” and offers kids and their immediate families outdoor activities, games, campfires, crafts and special guests. It is run by Eagle Mount Bozeman, a local organization that is committed to provide quality therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, and to lend support for families of participants so that “they shall mount up with wings as eagles.” Eagle Mount focuses on people’s abilities, while gently supporting their disabilities through a world of

adventures. Following its founders’ wishes, Eagle Mount never turns anyone away if they cannot pay, and does not accept government funding. They have been transforming the lives of many – including those of tireless volunteers who show up to help and spread joy.

As we marched our llamas into the circle of kids, heads turned in surprise, mouths dropped and huge smiles spread on small faces. Our 5 llamas were all brushed and decked out in their finest: blankets with South American designs and colorful halters. They walked happy and proud into the circle that opened before them. Shouts of delight rang out as the kids approached, some cautiously. This was a huge surprise and it worked well! Candido (aka Prince Charming) sat down and let the small kids clamber around him. Little girls posed with him for photographs. The other llamas, Chico, Ishi, Domingo and Diego, were surrounded, touched, admired and photographed as well. The shy kids stepped forward, drawn by the llamas’ calm demeanor and acceptance of the noisy little humans.

A walk over a small bridge and up to a meadow was soon organized. The volunteers joined and were eager to lead the llamas. Then we formed a circle and many questions rushed at me and my helper, Deb, who previously had owned llamas, among them Diego who she was leading today with pride. Looks like a win-win situation to you? Well, let me assure you: it certainly was! One of the nurses I met had the most questions and is now set to find llamas of her own to go hiking with. Everybody was amazed how calm and gentle the llamas were, how soft and beautiful. I could tell that the llamas knew exactly what was going on and how important their role was. They were at their best behavior and gave generously of their spirit and heart. This was a charity event, of course, and the “pay” was priceless! 3 hours of joy on the faces of these, possibly very sick, kids and the smiles on the llamas’ faces filled my heart to bursting!

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A few weeks later, we had another opportunity to smile! A group of 13 young adults “in remission” staying at an Eagle Mount Camp near the Western border of Yellowstone National Park as well as 3 staff joined us on a day hike in Yellowstone. Nine llamas joined this outing and showed these young people aged 16 to 23 a good time in the wild outdoors. A local catering firm, “Cravins” of Bozeman, provided delicious picnic lunches free of charge and one of our biologist guides, Patrick Cross, donated his time to be part of this rewarding endeavor.

We hiked for a few miles through Yellowstone’s splendid countryside. The group was enthusiastic and outgoing, relating to the llamas in a most endearing manner. These young people had been through a lot in their recent past and were now letting go and opening up to the llamas and the beautiful summer day. The llamas were at their best, patiently waiting for slower hikers and listening to Patrick talk about the flora and fauna of



Yellowstone National Park. The picnic lunch, set up on roll-up tables with table cloths, was received with grateful thanks, the llamas were placed on long lines in the shade for grazing, and everybody engaged in conversation and questions about llamas and Yellowstone National Park.

Well, there was a lot we could tell them, and they wanted to know more! We were able to impart a lot of facts and dispel a number of misperceptions such as “llamas spit!” The young participants were able to experience the llamas close up and personal – and they loved them!! They couldn’t take enough pictures and were taking turns leading and caring for the animals. The llamas grinned from ear to ear. They were fussed over so much and they did not mind at all! On the way back to the trailhead, the attention on the llamas increased and everybody was very reluctant to let them go back into the trailer. Informative leaflets about llamas were eagerly accepted. In return, we received handcrafted little hearts.

My project of spreading Llama Llove for sick kids in Montana has begun this summer and will extend into the future, with hopefully more events added to the program. Watching the llamas with the young and vulnerable this summer as well as with the wounded and withdrawn on a past Wounded Warrior hike in Yellowstone, fills me with new wonder and affirms my conviction that animals of different species do find ways to relate and heal each other. We just have to trust and let it happen. And while the kids benefit easily in the way kids do, the adults around them also enjoyed learning about llamas as well as their cousins, the alpacas. As for me, I am enchanted –again – with llamas and the way they open and gladden hearts with their gentle personalities, patience and acceptance. And this summer, I am certain, they chased away, maybe just for a few hours but possibly for much longer, the cruel shadow of sickness and replaced it with the light of joy.

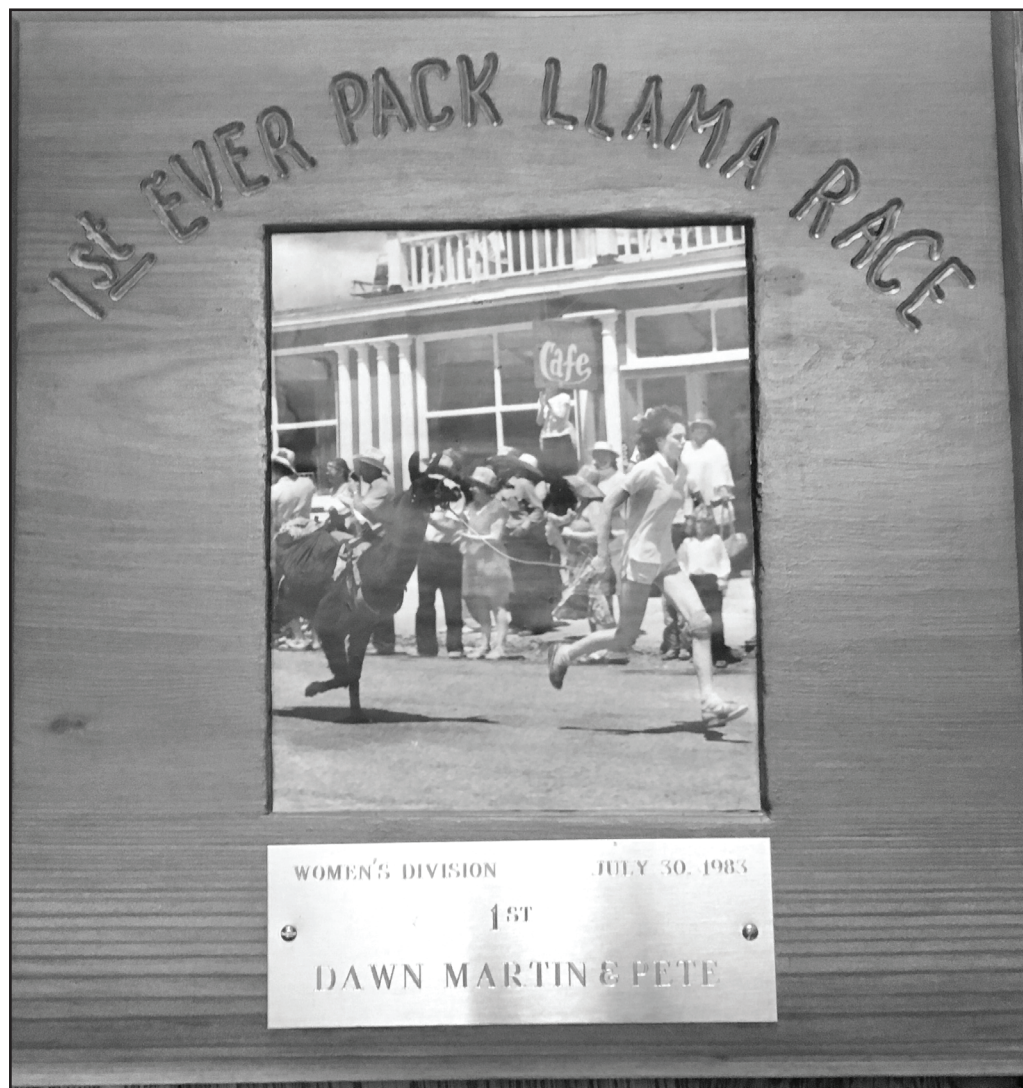
WANT TO HELP?

Contact your local charity organizations and offer to bring your llamas or alpacas to cheer up the young, sick, seniors, and handicapped. Send me your articles about your experiences, ideas and programs and we will include your outreach stories in the Journal. And, if you need to brain-storm how to implement you idea, contact me. Together we can make it happen. Susi: education-outreach@rmla.com



The First Winner

Dawn Martin with Pete was the winner of the first women's Fairplay Pack Race on July 30, 1983. Her father shared this memory with us.



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THE GATHERING |||||

By Linda Hayes, Llama Linda Ranch, Prescott Valley, AZ

Editors' Note: Opportunities to learn and expand your 'llama and alpaca horizons' occur everywhere. Check out this great event. It is a lot of fun!

Each year the International Llama Registry's Show Division has a national show. This year's "Gathering" was held in Cedar Rapids Iowa and had around 300 llamas. The event also featured the Llama Futurity Association's (LFA) show and sale.

Co-chairs, Nick Hauptly & Lisa Robinson came up with new ideas that made the show fun for everyone. They had an art class, 3 obstacle courses going at once and lots of free food. The Llama Futurity sponsored the free breakfast. When exhibitors opened their show packets they found "Vendor Bucks" which were chits that could be used to buy things from any vendor in attendance. After the show the vendors turned the chits in for real money.

The futurity sale was online as well as live. This resulted in some high prices. Since only females were sold, the LFA added a male claiming sale. Several high-quality males were entered in a halter class for a \$100 entry fee. Buyers could claim (purchase) the llama before they entered the ring. Nearly all the males were claimed because if the animal won money, it was split between buyer and seller.

The event had all the regular show classes as well as youth judging. The facilities were clean, convenient and spacious. The show used an online advance sign-up for volunteers. This proved useful as the show had an abundance of hard workers.

The Gathering will be held in Cedar Rapids again in 2020 on the same weekend. If you are up for the travel, you will be sure to have a good time.



Photo caption" Linda Hayes helping with the Youth Judging class at The 2019 Gathering"

SAVING THE REST, PART 2

By Lynda Liptak
Southwest Llama Rescue

Editors' Note: Part 1 of this rescue near Fairplay, CO can be found in the Spring 2019 issue of the RMLA Journal. Any rescue, large or small, is unpredictable! Flexibility by the human participants is just one of the skills required.

After Southwest Llama's (SWLR) recovery of 26 of the 34 llamas outside of Fairplay, Colorado, in late September 2018, I received a call from Kent Greentree in October who said he would like to recover the last of the llamas that had evaded us. I had already been thinking about the pure black female llama who I had danced with during the first rescue attempt and watched as she powerfully took control of her freedom when she charged past me in that last rescue attempt. She may make a wonderful pack llama with some kind treatment and trust work. Also we heard from a family member of the rescue site that she just had a cria (baby llama) who was only a couple of days old: just one more reason to get the remaining llamas to safety. Winter at 10,000 feet in the Rockies can be brutal.

Kent's enthusiasm and the outreach he had done within SWLR to get another volunteer was enough for me to agree to assist in this second adventure of llama rescuing. And so much was invested in learning the "lay of the land" in the first rescue that I felt this next effort should go more smoothly.

Kent suggested I should keep the black mother and her cria and he had his eye on another mother/cria pair that were still on the mountain. SWLR was aware of this rescue -Lynda Liptak is a BOD member and gave status updates to SWLR. When members of SWLR go on a rescue mission, they have the option to choose llamas and conduct "on-the-spot adoptions". This is a standard practice and saves resources for SWLR. Given the current lack of space at SWLR sanctuaries and Gayle, Kent, and I are well known to SWLR, we are legal adopters in a rescue operation.

We knew there were 2 females with new crias and an 'an orphan cria' who was left behind because she became separated from her mother in the last rescue. Plus, there was a young bachelor herd of three males still



Yes, there are eight llamas left to rescue: hidden is the newborn cria behind the white yearling male and near her all black mother.

there with the females. If not rescued, in a short time, there would again be a large herd of llamas roaming the area and we would be back to square one.

The question was, could we manage everything that needed to be done? Would we have enough support and materials like trailers and panels? It was a very long drive for us but if we could get there with enough panels, ample food to entice these wild llamas, and not get stuck in the snow or harsh conditions, I knew three of us could do this. We had one open weekend that would work for us. We figured we needed about 12 large panels to build the corral and loading chute. After much searching and struggles with a few offers and then strange cancellations, Kent finally had to take apart his corral and load up his panels onto his truck bed and lean them up over his cab since he was going to also pull a trailer. When Kent's contact bailed on us, my husband, Frank Liptak, stepped in.

On November 16th. we headed up from Albuquerque. Prior to the rescue and to be efficient with Southwest Llama Rescues' scarce resources, I would deliver three llamas who had been "cruelty seizures" to their newly adopted home with Cheryl and Karl Hermann in Elizabeth, CO. This is always a happy occasion and the most enjoyable part of my volunteer work.

Cheryl and Karl welcomed their new llama family with joyful excitement as we unloaded the

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Three females at their new home in Elizabeth CO

three girls just before dark to explore their new home. They happily ate from Cheryl's hand which was a very nice sight to see given their difficult history with people. My summer's work paid off and Cheryl and Karl were the perfect people to take over.

My three-horse slant trailer was now ready for another rescue. I figured I could hold 6 llamas and Kent's trailer could hold two llamas which was perfect for the 8 llamas we were saving. But what would we do with the ram? The Ram was bonded to the llamas and in a way was helpful in the first rescue. He was tame, although a bit aggressive as he had rammed one of the rescuers. Kent decided that he would take the ram and two llamas. This proved a challenge with the trailer space that we had.

Upon arriving at the site just before dark, Kent and a family member were pushing a large round bale of hay into the designated corral area which was right along the roadside. We were very relieved that hay got delivered finally. It snowed the night before so the llamas should be hungry. A lot could be said about the trouble we had getting hay (similar to the panel debacle) but in the end our close partnership with a kind family member saved the day.

After we set up the panels in the chilly evening, I thought we should close off the hay from the llamas so they could be caught in the morning after opening the corral. Otherwise they would nibble throughout the night and not be hungry enough to come back or stay.

They were leery and not easily contained. In fact, Kent brought some panel extension material for the entire large corral that would prevent jumping. We knew we had jumping llamas and his three-foot electrical fence was easily tied to the 5-foot panels providing 7-foot-high corral. This was a much better deterrent than my flag-tying on the end of bailing wire to the tops of the panels.

I enjoyed the evening light watching the herd of eight llamas plus sheep (ram) and getting acquainted with their dynamics. Black beauty is a new mom and it is amazing the tiny cria has survived the snow storm. The other orphan cria sticks by the black mama llama as well. There are three crias, in the mini herd, two female mothers, and three young bachelors.

The next morning Kent arrived early and opened the corral to allow everyone in for the grass hay and the alfalfa I also spread around. He noted that they would not all enter at once and furthermore, there were only 6 llamas to be seen. The newborn cria was missing as was one of the young males. My fear was they met with a



White fence extension on the panel prevented jumping out of the corral. Llamas and ram are seen here outside the corral thinking about coming in for hay.

predator and the young male, in trying to protect the cria, was also gone or very injured.

Should we capture the six in hand or should we wait to see if the other two arrive? It was pins and needles as we cleverly hid a few hundred feet away inside the truck up the road. Kent's plan was for me to drive down the road and he would jump out while in motion and close the gate on the herd. They were not afraid of traffic and would not suspect a person leaping from a moving

continued on next page

vehicle. We sat for about a half hour when all the sudden, we see the little cria coming through the woods happily trotting towards her mother and the young male yearling walking calmly behind her.

What a miracle! We called the yearling male Blackback, the Caretaker. I was so happy to see them; I could have cried. We spoke in whispers even though they could not hear us as we waited for all the llamas to find their way into the buffet zone. I was afraid starting the truck might startle the llamas – so when another vehicle was driving by, I started up the engine and idled until Kent and Frank were ready to do the sneaky deed.

Without rushing, while the llamas were contentedly nibbling, we went into gear and drove slowly by, Kent and Frank leapt out to quickly close the gate on eight llamas and a ram. Success! We all felt great and there was a mini celebration of high fives before we had to get them and the equipment loaded.

Ahh, but more exciting times were still to come. It looked like we would need to put all the llamas in my trailer so that Kent could take the ram in his trailer. So, the logistics of this ram as well as having Kent's two llamas in my trailer and there not being a corral at Kent's place (since we had to use his panels) was a messy problem that could only be solved satisfactorily if I found a home for the ram before getting to Walsenburg.

After loading up Mr. Ram in Kent's trailer, Kent realized that he may be going home with Mr. Ram instead of the pair of llamas he wanted. In this situation, SWLR allows for the instant adoption since Kent is a well-known llama trainer and member of SWLR



Mr. Ram in Kent's trailer needing a home on our way to Pueblo, CO.

It was late afternoon and about that time, our partner from the family arrived and helped to load the panels. After that, I was ready to go. But, Kent requested help

with the electrical line that was strung along the tops of the fence line that surrounded the field left there from the first rescue the month before. Frank walked out into the snow-drifted field to help collect and carefully roll up of the hundreds of feet of line.

Now we could leave. A storm and very chilly temperatures were forecast for the night. It was already after 5 pm when we started down the mountain and fog started to roll in. Once down in Fairplay, I had cell phone reception and kept trying to find someone who would take the ram so that Kent could then take his llamas from my load. I left several messages with people I knew, posted on social media sites, and even made a quick Craig's list add: Free Merino Wool Ram!

The most nail-biting time was while driving down the mountain. The fog was coming in and while driving in the dark, I realized that I was not sticking to the road! My tires were slipping and it felt like the trailer full of llamas was pushing me around. Although we had not yet seen any precipitation, the fog was enough to coat the road with black ice and my two-wheel drive Toyota Tundra was not cutting it. A few miles in I decide I must pull over. Other cars are driving along fine but with my vehicle and llama load, it was just too scary.

I realized I should let Kent know that he should stay back in Fairplay and I called him on the phone just to hear him in a panic as he nearly slides off the road. Oops! Going 10-15 miles an hour with other vehicles whizzing by, we white knuckled it into Canon City, Colorado. Kent was still back on the mountain and our communication this late was sparse, but he had our address in Pueblo and I hoped that he would make it down. What should have taken us 2.5 hours to drive, took us 7 hours and we arrived exhausted at our house in Pueblo, Colorado at midnight. The roads were covered in ice the entire way.

The next morning, we meet Kent at our house – he slept in his truck outside and he doesn't look like that was very successful. We go out for breakfast at the local café and I ask everyone in the place in my loud voice if anyone would like a merino sheep today? We get a lot of chuckles but no takers.

Given that it is Sunday, I am hoping that I can reach my friend Rachel Storm before church as she is my best hope for wanting a ram as a 4H project for someone. Kent wants his llamas delivered to his place and for us to help set up the corral for the ram and llamas - but the road to his place is also perhaps not passable so we

continued on next page

have a conundrum all due to Mr. Ram. Thankfully, right after breakfast, I get a call from Rachel and she is willing to take Mr. Ram – Yay! We just have to drive out to “the Lanes” near her place, load Mr. Ram into her trailer, sort out Kent’s llamas from the rescued herd and load them into Kent’s trailer, and everyone can be on their way home with their new animals.

Sunday was a beautiful overcast day and everything went right except for a couple of flat tires that I had in New Mexico (which I was getting quite used to anyway). And since this rescue, I have already adopted out two of the yearling males and have been building trust in the rest of them and beginning the training process.



Two crias, one momma, and one of the yearling males at our ranch getting fed and building their trust in people.



Do you know who this person is at Fairplay 2019? .. You can't miss her, she has purple hair. and the llama is part purple too..and what are those words on her shirt? If you know, send the editors a note to rmlaeditor@gmail.com . Thank you
First to respond,-we'll mail you a llama bumper sticker.
Use the subject 'Purple'

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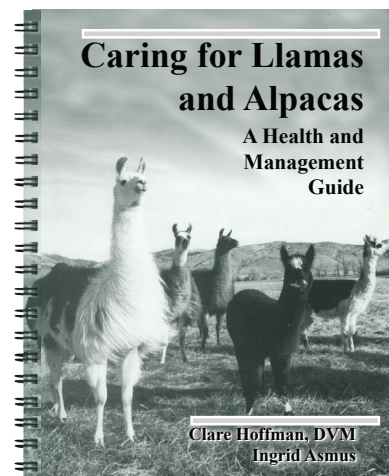
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Using the Youth Manual: Hello, I am working on making a pamphlet for a 4H project to have available in the llama barn during our county fair in Iowa. I would like to have your permission to use information from the Youth Llama Project manual in my materials. I will reference the manual on the handout. Please let me know if I have your permission. Thank you! Avery Meyer *Editors' Note: of course, we granted permission.*

RMLA Youth Manual

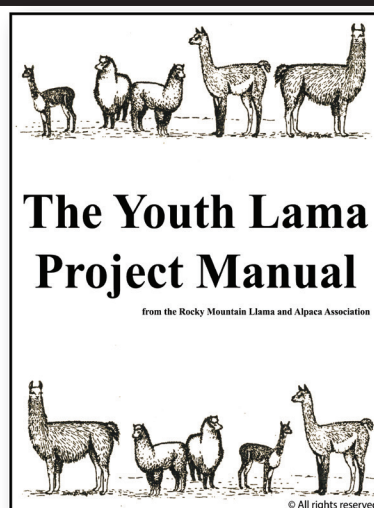
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Summer Trip Offers Leadership Development Opportunity for RMLA Youth Member

By Morgan Barba

Throughout my showing and 4-H career, I have noticed how so many youth have missed out on what I like to call the “whole experience.” Sure, showing your animals is a ton of fun and seeing your table top projects win a big, purple ribbon is very rewarding. But, there is so much more to show and 4-H than county and state fairs; or local competitions hosted by organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association.

4-H has afforded me the chance to participate in so many amazing leadership opportunities. This summer, I was chosen to represent Adams County at the annual Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) program along with 26 outstanding youth leaders from around the state. CWF offers senior 4-H

The CWF trip was an absolute blast! I met some of my best friends on this trip and had the opportunity to participate in a behind-the-scenes look at our nation’s capital. While this was amazing, the best part of this experience was the opportunity to develop communication, leadership and citizenship skills through hands-on learning and group activities.

One of the highlights of the trip was having the chance to meet and talk with Senator Cory Gardner and Representative Jason Crow. We discussed education, drug use and current events. Another highlight of the trip was being able to visit Mount Vernon. It is a beautiful location and holds so much history, it truly was breathtaking.



members the opportunity to learn how to be citizen leaders and to make a difference in our communities.

As a group, we researched congressional issues such as animal welfare and debated a number of topics including putting protection in place for animals used in commercial ventures and animals being used for biomedical research.

We learned how bills become law and drafted a bill to establish criteria that must be met before qualifying for animal cruelty-free labels on consumer products.

CWF was more than just a Washington, D. C. field trip. Whether you are showing llamas at a regional show, I feel it is important to challenge yourself. CWF offered me the chance to challenge my comfort zone, meet new people and strengthen my citizenship skills on a national level.

h h

Ron, Marilyn,
Kathy

Thank you!
Merci
Gracias
Arigato
Danke sehr

Mahalo
Shukraan
Grazie
Spasiba

do jeh
toda



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
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EVENTS CALENDAR

MARY WICKMAN, EVENTS CHAIR

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select EVENTS and hover on the boxes.

- **October 5, 2019, RMLA Annual Meeting, CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Fort Collins, CO 12:30 - 3:30.** A review of this past year and discussion about plans for the upcoming year. The brief meeting will be followed by a tour of the teaching hospital led by CSU vets, interns, and staff.

Save the Dates

Planning an event, but, the ‘paperwork’ is incomplete? Send us the information and we will let members know to Save the Date.

- **January 11 & 12, 2020, National Western Stock Show, Llamas & Alpacas. Denver, CO.** More details to come.