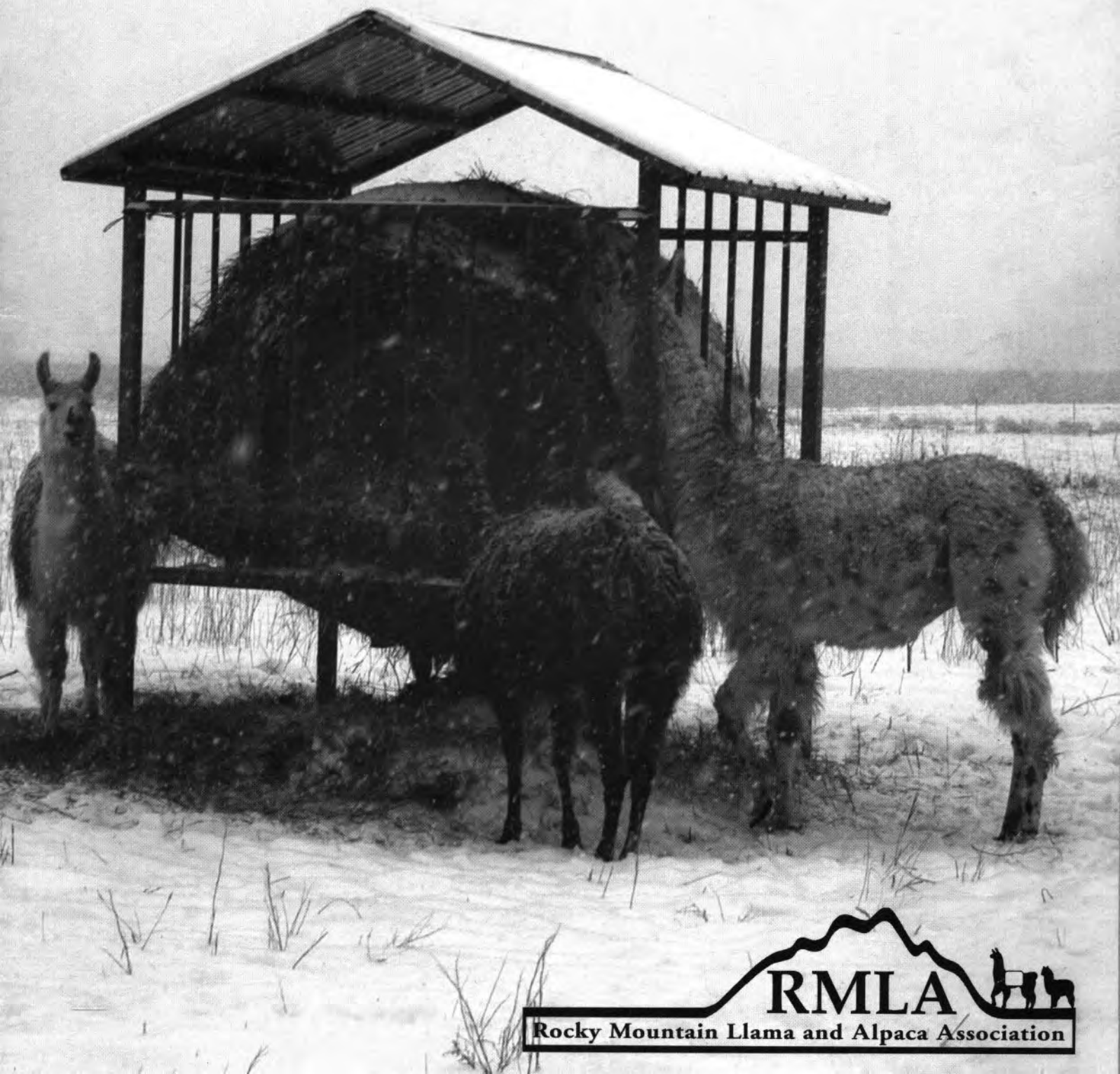


The Journal

Winter 2006



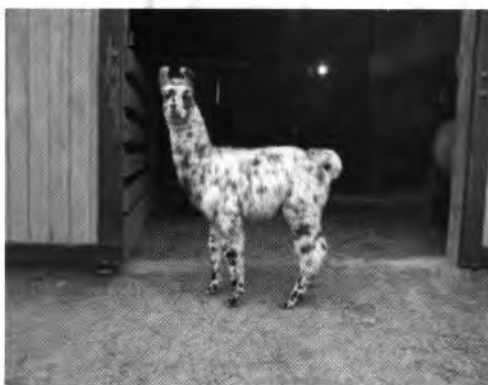
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* * * * *

Junior Membership: \$10.00 per year (must be 18 years or under and have an adult RMLA member sponsor). Youth members are not entitled to vote, but are eligible to receive scholarships and grants from the RMLA Foundation, Inc.

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Journal

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The Journal

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Winter 2006

On the Cover:
During inclement weather feeders, such as this one, provide readily available feed while keeping the hay from getting wet and spoiled. Also a great labor saving tool for those that don't like throwing small square bales out every day.

President's Message

With the warm weather and snowmelt just around the corner it's time to get ready for the busy chore season. Barn, pasture cleaning, and keeping those dreaded birds out of the barn are just a little bit of the fun we have to look forward to when the days get longer. For the birds I have tried hanging a plastic owl from the rafters. The swallows have left but the sparrows are another challenge.

It is also a busy time at RMLA. Currently we are in the middle of the first RMLA financial audit. Bylaw revisions, policy and procedure manual updates, and a 4H manual rewrite are just a few projects the board is working on. If you have any interest, input, or questions concerning any of these projects please feel free to contact any board member. We would love to hear from you.

Also, record sales at National Western Stock Show have put the Fiber Co-op off to a great start for 2006. With shearing season fast approaching what a better way to put that fiber to work for you. Think about having your fiber processed instead of leaving it for the birds and rabbits in the barn to build their nests. The Fiber Co-op is a great marketing tool for all of the membership to utilize to market a by-product these great animals give us every year.

Just one more tip for those of us still fighting freezing temps: When the hose is frozen, just put it in the trough for a few minutes and it will let you finish that one last winter chore.

Till the spring sun shines upon us,

Paul Schwartz





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Since 1978 ~ Raising, Training
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*Our llamas are still winning ~
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Camelid Community 2006

Scheduled for August 4-6 in Kansas City, Missouri

Sheila Fugina

Camelid Community 2006 will be held August 4-6 in Kansas City, Missouri. Open to everyone in the llama and alpaca industry, the main purpose of this annual event is to discuss "the state of the union" within the camelid world. It is an open forum for people to exchange ideas, share concerns and identify opportunities to help one another and the camelid community at large.

Camelid Community serves as a critical gathering for establishing contacts and encouraging improved communication throughout the llama and alpaca world on a variety of issues that impact our wonderful animals and us as their caretakers. Interested individuals as well as every llama and alpaca organization are encouraged to participate—bringing their issues, concerns and perspective to Camelid Community and taking back to their respective groups the important information generated by this industry-wide exchange.

We would like to have representatives from all geographical regions, regional and local breeder/owner groups and national groups. Bringing together concerned llama and alpaca organizations and individuals to discuss issues, suggest solutions and work toward common goals is critical to the very existence of our community itself. Facilitators for this year's event will be Barb Baker (bebaker@earthlink.net or 614-873-1736) and Sheila Fugina (bsfugina@pressenter.com or 715-246-5837). Please contact either of them to propose discussion topics. You are encouraged to

provide suggestions even if you cannot attend, but we do hope to see you there.

Camelid Community is again being held in Kansas City due to easy airport access and central proximity for people coming from all parts of the country. The name Kansas City is synonymous with great food, and Saturday night dinner at a popular area restaurant is included in your conference registration fee. Kansas City is also a sightseeing and shopping mecca, and the incredible nightlife is nationally renown.

The registration fee for Camelid Community 2006 is \$70 (a late fee of \$15 will be charged for registrations made after July 7). This includes conference fees, as well as Saturday lunch and dinner. The hotel provides an excellent hot breakfast buffet each morning with one complimentary breakfast ticket per room per day. The conference will be held at the Radisson Kansas City Airport, located at 11828 NW Plaza Circle (just off Ambassador Drive) about two miles from the Kansas City Airport (MCI). The hotel offers shuttle service to and from the airport.

Radisson has reserved a block of rooms for Camelid Community 2006 at a special discounted rate of \$70. Rooms must be reserved by July 7 to guarantee this rate. The hotel offers in-room data port hookups, fitness facilities, indoor pool with Jacuzzi, and free parking. Hotel reservations may be made at 800-333-3333 or 816-464-2423 (reference Camelid Community 2006).

Tentative Schedule: (All events will be held in the Parkville Room.)

Friday, August 4	7-9 p.m.	Informal Gathering
Saturday, August 5	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	Discussions (lunch break noon-1 p.m.)
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner
Sunday, August 6	8:30-11:30 a.m.	Discussions and Wrap-up

Camelid Community 2006 Registration Form

Mail a copy of this registration form and a registration fee of \$70 per person (checks made out to Camelid Community) to:

Sheila Fugina
1331 130th Avenue
New Richmond, WI 54017-6610

Name _____

Organization (if representing) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Payment \$ _____

Proposed Discussion Topics:

If you have questions, e-mail Sheila Fugina at bsfugina@presenter.com or call 715-246-5837. There will be a late fee of \$15 charged for registrations made after July 7th.



Winter and Water

Stephen Quackenbush

In the winter months, it's always a challenge in freezing climates to ensure your animals have adequate access to fresh water. For years we battled frozen hoses and failing heaters, in the never ending challenge to ensure all of our animals had water.

For those that have been in the business for years, this may be old news. But for those that have just started raising not just Llamas and Alpacas, but any animals, the biggest problem is keeping water accessible and ice-free during the winter months. When we first started, we used 70 gallon plastic or metal tanks and electric deicers. It was easy to get confused when visiting your well stocked local feed



Farm Innovators Submersible Deicer 1500 watts



Allied Precision Drain Plug Deicer 1500 watts



Allied Precision Cast Aluminum Sinking Deicer 1500 watts



Allied Precision Tank Side Deicer 1500 watts

store with the wide variety of fixed and floating tank heaters from which to choose from. Some models float on the surface while some sink to the bottom. Some are fixed to the side and some bolt through the drain hole.

Initially we opted for deicers that bolted through the drain hole in the bottom of the tank. But regardless of which model, that also meant running extension cords to five different tanks scattered throughout our property. And that still didn't address the problem of dragging frozen garden hoses around to fill up the tanks every few days.

An added problem with all tank deicers, except for those that bolt through the drain plug, is that the heating unit can be lifted out of the tank by the curious (or bored) animal playing in the water. Even those that mount on the side of the tank (left) can be pried loose by an animal.

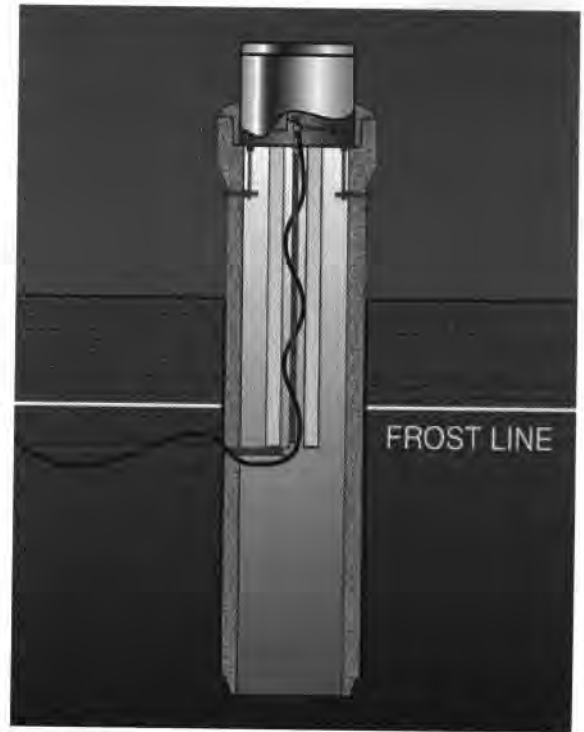
Allied Precision Plastic Tank Sinking Deicer 1500 watts

A fire in February, which completely destroyed two barns in Virginia, was suspected as being caused by a horse lifting a floating tank deicer out of the water and dropping into a pile of hay, which then overheated and ignited. Relying on automatic shutoffs, which the unit that caused the fire had, is not adequate insurance, as the folks in Virginia found out. Luckily in that particular case, all of the animals escaped injury, but the barns were a total loss.



After two winters fighting with tanks, frozen hoses and electric cords, we decided to find a better way. We went with installing automatic waterers and think it was well worth the investment in convenience, cost and safety. There are a number of automatic waterers on the market and after some research, we finally settled on Nelson waterers. Besides their history of dependability and all stainless-steel construction, they also most closely fit our installation method, of using a concrete culvert pipe buried vertically in the ground (right).

While operationally they are very convenient; practically install and forget, the installation takes a lot of planning and work. It took us most of the summer to trench 5-6 feet deep and lay almost eight-hundred feet of PVC water and electric line (.....our son became quite proficient at operating our backhoe). We also installed remote water shutoff valves every so often in the water lines in case we need to turn off a certain section. But in the end it's essentially maintenance free. Just the occasional clean-out of the bowl from animals dropping hay bits in while drinking. No more frozen hoses, extension cords and cleaning out tanks.



Suggested installation method for Nelson waterer with 250 watt heater



Miraco Lil'Spring 3100 Waterer with 250 watt heater



Farmaster Freedom Drinker with 100 watt heater

Another pleasant discovery was the cost savings that we realize. While the initial cost of automatic waterers are much more than tanks, hoses, heaters and extension cords, most automatic waterers use a much smaller heating element. The Nelson waterers use a 250 watt element, which consumes 1/6th the electricity of the drain plug heaters that we were using (at 1500 watts each!) With five different watering locations for our animals, we estimate that we've saved at least \$50 per month on our electric bills during the winter months. Of course those savings have all but evaporated with the overall increases in energy costs in the last year or two. But we can't imagine what our electric bills would have been had we still been using the higher wattage drain plug tank heaters.

And finally, we can't stress enough the safety aspects when providing year-round water to your animals. If you use floating tank heaters, especially in a barn or other enclosed structure, it's important that your animals cannot reach, play with or remove the heating unit and/or the extension cords that power them. Using drain plug heaters can reduce that risk.

If you're willing to put in the time and investment, automatic waterers practically eliminate those risks since all exposed electric sources and heating elements are inaccessible to the animals. This gives you peace of mind knowing that your animals are safe and have fresh water freely available at all times.



Free-Standing Nelson waterer with 250 watt heater

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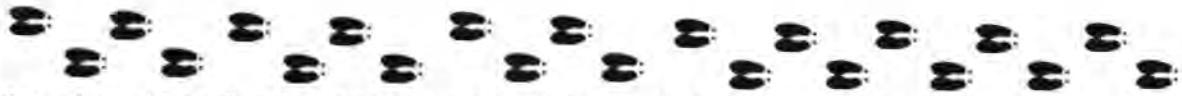
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Winter Tricks and Tips

Our readers were kind enough to share some of their tricks and tips for dealing with bedding, wind, shelter and water during the winter. Here's some of them.....



In the winter I bed the llamas with mats of straw about 2 inches thick laid down like tiles and cover it with a used carpet. This works really well until they potty on it, but in the spring I just clean it out and start with new carpet and new straw the next fall. I also use carpet over slippery floors in the summer but without the bedding underneath.

*Linda Hayes
Llama Linda Ranch*



One thing we started doing this winter, due to the tremendous winds, was buy the long skinny sand bags normally used for weight in pickup trucks and placed them at the foot of the barn doors leading out of the barn from each stall. The sand bags prevent the wind from blowing under the doors keeping the barn a little more cozy.

*Denise & Ron Haines
Daybreak Criations Alpacas*



You can make the winter more comfortable for your lamas by planning ahead when building loafing sheds. A southern exposure will give your animals the benefit of natural solar heating during the winter and still provide shade during the summer when the sun moves to the north. The exception to this rule would be when there is a prevailing wind in your particular neighborhood that requires a different orientation.

A three inch thick layer of coarse sand on the floors of loafing sheds will provide cushioning and also improve drainage, which makes cleaning up easier for those occasions when the animals aren't willing to go outside to use the facilities.

Keep a two or three foot long piece of two by four lumber or similar wood near each of your stock tanks to use for breaking the ice in case there is an electrical outage or your tank heaters fail for any other reason. Drill a hole in one end and string a piece of binder twine through the hole so you can hang your icebreaker on a fence post where it won't get buried in the snow.

*Cheryl Juntilla
La Chiripada, LLC*



Winter Doesn't Stop Our Fun

Janine Fausson



TSX Independence (on left) and Tall Tail's San Felipe (on right) pose in front of the finished tree with some of the two-footed hikers.

Fun with llamas is alive and well year-round on the Western Slope. The Grand Mesa Llama and Alpaca Club is an active group of llama lovers with members coming from as far east as the Front Range and as far west as Moab, Utah. We get together for activities ranging from parades to day hikes and overnight camping trips.

In December we participate in the Grand Junction Parade of Lights, which has thousands of spectators every year. It is such a popular event that the number of entries is limited to 120. The theme for the 2005 parade was "An Old Fashioned Christmas." Club members dressed up in matching

Mary Sievers and Super Llama Cinnamon meet a new friend.



nightshirts and stocking caps and showed off their light-covered llamas. Our Night Before Christmas entry was such a hit with both the crowd and the parade judges that we were awarded Third Place in our division. We are rather proud of the success of our endeavor because we were competing against motorized vehicles and floats with generators to power their lights, while all we could use was a many batteries as our llamas could carry!

This year we decided to do something different for our Christmas party. Instead of our usual pot-luck dinner, we bundled up and took a six mile hike on Pollack Bench Trail, which is located in one of the canyons of the Colorado National Monument. When we stopped for lunch we decorated a cedar tree with bird-friendly treats such as birdseed-covered bagels, ornaments cut out of tortilla wraps and strings of cheerios. The youngest Club member to come on this hike was Erin Casey, who is only eight months old!

February means parade time again. The Grand Junction Lions Club holds a fund-raising carnival every year to benefit local charities and



The author preparing for the Parade of Lights.



More Parade of Lights participants



Super Llama meets Super Horse

non-profit organizations, which gets kicked off by a parade during the afternoon. The theme this year was "Superheros," so we dressed up our llamas in capes with the insignia "SL" on their chests. The crowds lining Main Street really seemed to enjoy seeing the Super Llamas. An added bonus took place during the parade line-up when the llamas had a chance to make the acquaintance of some of the horses who work with the Mesa County Search and Rescue Team.



Wes Mauz, Erin, Paula and Tim Casey on Christmas hike

The canyons of the Western Slope present good hiking opportunities even while higher elevations are still covered in snow. In March the Club plans a hike in Bangs Canyon with a

spokesperson from a wilderness preservation group that is working to get the area designated for non-motorized uses.

April marks the beginning of the show season and Club members will get together to help show superintendent Jill Knuckles prepare for the Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classic Shows that will take place on April 29 and 30, 2006, here in Grand Junction. In the meantime we are working on plans for summer hikes, including overnight hikes and longer camping trips in the San Juan Mountains and the Flattops Wilderness Area.

When you find a group of people who share your enthusiasm and love for lamas, the possibilities for having fun are never-ending.



This horse doesn't seem to be afraid - maybe he doesn't realize that there is a llama hiding behind that mask.

Super Llama Tail Tail's Belize



Youth Corner: National Western Stock Show

Sam Mulholland

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to the 100th anniversary of the National Western Stock Show!

This year we celebrated a century of the National Western Stock show in Denver. In addition, we say goodbye to Jerry Dunn, who has participated in many llama shows and has been the superintendent of the stock show for 12 years. We also bid farewell to Darlene Vaughn, who has judged for ALSA for many years. We wish them well and we'll miss them very much.

Next year, the show will be managed by Dwayne Flinn of Cloud Peak Llamas.

Llofty Llamas 4-H club did very well this year. In senior showmanship, our very own Melissa Quackenbush won in her very first year as a senior. She also got a Grand Champion award. Tiffany Quackenbush took second and a Grand Reserve Champion Award. Third went to Bailey McHenry. Fourth place went to Mariko Matsuda. Congratulations to all of you.

This was the second biggest show in the history of the stock show.



Bailey McHenry



Melissa Quackenbush



Sam Mulholland



Jordan McHenry



Midori Matsuda



Mariko Matsuda



Gracie Mulholland



Kurt Quackenbush



Llofty Llamas Club Winners (I'm in the middle)



Tiffany Quackenbush

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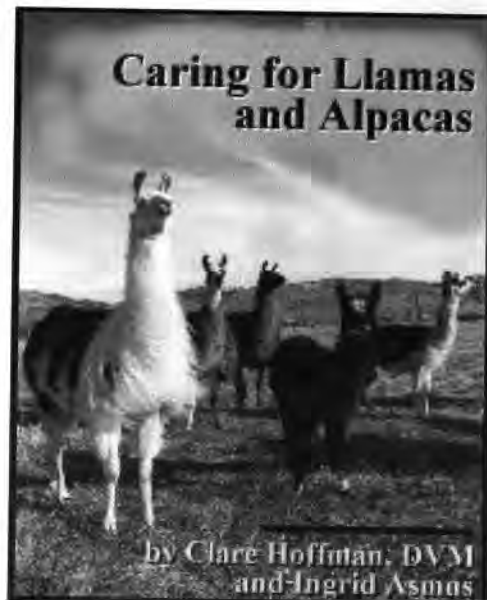
39420 Olson Court

Kiowa, CO 80117

303.621.2960

email: adamcyk@earthlink.net

ISBN: 0-9622768-2-0



RMLA Youth Award

Barbara Harris

RMLA is proud to announce the RMLA Youth Award. This award will be given once a year to an RMLA youth member. This will allow RMLA to recognize some of the outstanding youth that we have in our organization.

The selection of the youth will be made by a panel of three judges, based on the following criteria:

- RMLA Youth member must have been a member for a minimum of one year prior to application. This requirement will be waived for the 2006 Award.
- Youth may not hold this position more than once.
- Letter of reference. This must come from a non-family person.
- One thousand word (approximate) essay as to why the individual would make a good representative for RMLA. This essay should include how they will promote RMLA and llamas/alpacas as well as solutions to raising money for the RMLA Foundation.
- Project book detailing year long activity with llamas and/or alpacas. This book must also include school and/or community service activities.
 - Llama/alpacas activities may consist of, but are not limited to:
 - Showing
 - Fiber Projects
 - Community Service projects using llamas/alpacas
 - Science – Research projects

The deadline for submitting entries for the 2006 RMLA Youth Award is September 1, 2006 and the winner will be announced at the 2006 ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Championship. To obtain an entry form, please contact Barbara Harris at wildcatllamas@aol.com or (719) 275-9457.

The youth who is chosen must present a 3 – 5 minute acceptance / thank you speech at an RMLA function. This requirement may be waived if the youth resides too far away from any RMLA functions. In this case they may submit a speech for publication in the next RMLA Journal.

The award will consist of:

- Belt Buckle
- Certificate
- Award Letter for reference purposes
- Name and article about youth in the RMLA Journal
- \$100 U. S. Savings Bond

At this time as, LOCC Show Superintendent, Barbara Harris will extend to each youth chosen one free class at the LOCC Fall Classic Llama Show. If the youth doesn't show but would like to have their Project Book on display Barbara will provide a set up for this and will do both if the youth would like that as well. This offer will stand as long as Barbara Harris is show superintendent. Barbara would furthermore like to challenge other show superintendents with RMLA sponsored shows to match this offer as a way to encourage more youth to participate.

Feeding in the Winter

Shari Quackenbush

On those bitter cold or snowy days, the thing I dread doing is going outside to feed all the animals. Of course, it's always nice when you can send someone else out to do that chore on those days, but we have found another wonderful alternative. For the past two winters we have used a wonderful invention: A Round Bale Feeder.

We have purchased three round bale feeders and have one in each of our major pastures. They are all steel construction, heavy welds and rust resistant primer. We painted ours forest green to match our ranch. This is a custom made feeder manufactured by Rancho Linda Vista (see ad on page 26.)

The feeder has swing out and removable side panels so you can load from either side. It holds an 800-1000lb round bale 5-6ft in diameter. It keeps the hay up off the ground and dry. Animals can feed from it from all four sides and some like to get that which drops below the feeder. (And our animals like to lounge under it to feed and get shade).

It takes us less than 2 minutes from the time we start the tractor to finish and feeds our animals for about two weeks (20 llamas, 3 horses and a variety of goats & lambs). During the winter, we time our loading of hay to make sure that they are all full before a snowfall.

After getting the tractor going, we spike a round bale, drive over to the feeder, unlatch the side, which swings open. We place the bale into the feeder, cutting and removing the webbing (or twine) from the bale before lowering the bale completely into the feeder (so the animals don't try to eat or get entangled in the webbing/twine). After the webbing/twine is removed, we drop the bale and swing the side closed and latch it. The door can be completely removed by simply removing the hinge pins.

Another benefit to this feeder, is the fact that whatever does fall to the ground creates a nice dry bed for cushioning in bad weather – or just on a cold winter night. In the spring we clean up the ground below the feeders and make a nice compost pile.



Soothe Your Cabin Fever With A Good Book

Sharon Herbold

Don't waste your winter days staring out the window and swearing at the snow. When bad weather forces you indoors, make yourself a cup of tea and curl up with a good book. Winter is the ideal time to catch up on your reading and chances are good that the RMLA Library has a book or periodical that will be of interest to you. If you'd rather watch a videotape, the Library has more than 50 for you to choose from.

The Library is one of the most unique benefits available to RMLA members. It is an extremely valuable resource for both new and experienced lama owners, and the variety of material available is amazing. There is a wealth of information about health issues, including books and articles by nationally recognized veterinarians. If you are interested in hiking and packing, there are books on everything from evaluating a pack to

cooking outdoors. Videotapes about training and handling give RMLA members the opportunity to compare the training methods of several notable experts, without the substantial expense of buying all of the different tapes.

Winter is a great time to work on fiber projects and the Library has books about knitting, weaving, locker hooking, dyeing and felting. If you want to learn to spin or weave but can't make it to a class, there are books and videos that will help get you started. If you'd rather spend time planning outdoor projects for next summer, you might want to check out one of the books about barn or fence building. There are also numerous books for children available.

In addition to being a lending library, the RMLA Library is probably one of the most comprehensive collections of materials relating specifically to llamas and alpacas in the United States. It not only provides an excellent source for research materials, but is also helping to preserve the history of llamas and alpacas in North America. It would be difficult to estimate what it would cost to replace all of the Library's materials, but the fact that they are available to RMLA members at no expense other than postage truly makes it a priceless asset.

A list of the Library's contents as of April, 2005, is in the RMLA Membership Directory beginning on page 64. There is also a list on the RMLA website. The easiest way to request materials is through the website. Members can fill out a form on the website and email it directly to the library.

So when winter has you stuck indoors and you are starting to suffer from cabin fever, don't forget about the RMLA Library.



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Editor's Note:

Well, I finally got my first issue out (Fall 2005). It was a challenge learning a new software package and working with the printer to ensure the type and artwork would render well when printed. I want to thank Teri Baird (Journal Liaison) and my husband for all of their help. I would kindly ask that when submitting articles and especially photos, please use the highest resolution pictures and ads to ensure the best quality on the final print.

I wanted to mention that I thought the Rocky Mountain region got off to a great start this year with the show circuit at the National Western Stock show and it's 100th anniversary celebration. I wanted to personally say farewell to Jerry Dunn as show superintendent, who for the last 12 years has made the Llama / Alpaca event at the Stock Show a huge success.

As mentioned in the last Journal, I had just started a new job when I became the Journal Editor. Now that my day job has calmed down a bit (famous last words), I can hopefully focus more on the journal. While this winter edition is small, we are anticipating a huge spring edition, which is traditionally the biggest of the year. We will be adding some color to the spring issue, so we would encourage everyone to submit color photos with their articles and advertisements. Our theme for the spring edition will be packing, hiking and camping with llamas. So please send us your articles, photos and advertisements. As always I'd love to hear your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve on this fine publication and make it a valuable asset to the RMLA membership.

Shari Quackenbush
Editor@RMLAJournal.com



Ad Specifications

- No Bleeds -

	<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>		<u>Height</u>	
Business Card	2"	3"	1/3 page Vert	10"	2.5"
1/4 Page Horizontal	2"	7.5"	Half Page	4.5"	7.5"
1/4 Page Vertical	4.5"	3.5"	Back Cover Page	7.5"	7.5"
1/3 Page Horizontal	3"	7.5"	Full Page	10"	7.5"

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Half Page	\$48	\$72
Back Cover	\$60	\$90
Full Page	\$78	\$117
Inside Cover (Front or back)	\$96	\$144

Spring Promotional Issue

Special Ad Options for Centerfold 4 pages and Inside Covers
Contact Editor for Details

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Members: \$10.00 for up to 50 words per ad
Non-Members: \$25.00 for up to 50 words per ad
25¢ per word for over 50 words - members & non-members

RMLA Journal - Advertising Information

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All ads must be camera ready. For information or assistance on getting your ads ready for publication, contact Shari Quackenbush (see contact information on page 4). Additional charges will be incurred for ads to be run that are not camera ready.

Camera ready ads may be submitted electronically in the following formats: TIFF, JPEG, PDF. Microsoft Word documents that include graphics or photographs are not camera ready. Ads may also be submitted through the mail on high quality photo paper or the RMLA Journal web site. Photos will be scanned in color or grayscale (black & white), at 300dpi or higher.

Ads must be paid for by the time of publication. Checks should be made out to RMLA. Ads and payments should be sent to Shari Quackenbush, RMLA Journal, 5555 E. Willow Creek Road, Castle Rock, CO 80104. Ads can be electronically submitted via email (editor@rmlajournal.com) or at www.rmlajournal.com.

Barn Cats

Annette Mulholland

In the summer of 2004 I was working in our newly built barn getting ready for the show season. I reached into a container and my hand landed on something soft and furry!

Since there shouldn't have been anything soft or furry in the container, I quickly pulled my hand out and peered into the container. At the bottom were several pairs of little eyes looking up at me. Mice! Lots of baby mice!

Shortly after the barn was built, we began finding one or two mice drowned in the water buckets and tanks every day. When we moved our water tanks around there was always a nest of mice beneath them. They were in my husband's shop, which is inside the barn, in our garage and in our bales of hay.



My husband Tom, began setting traps. During that summer he was catching 15-20 mice per day. And we were still finding them floating in the tanks. What's more, there had been a confirmed case of hantavirous in our county.

We have a lot of predators in our area—from coyotes to owls—so I was worried about getting barn cats, yet we were not getting a handle on our mouse population at all.

Months later in a local feed store, a woman shopper asked if I wanted some barn cats. Thinking back over our summer, I said yes. We arranged a pick up date and I got my first two barn kittens—a pair of brothers, one black and one orange and white. They were too little to be outside, so they lived in Tom's workshop—wreaking havoc as they grew.

Friends in the area said that white barn cats don't last too long, so I quickly found a home for the orange and white kitten. Now the black kitten, named Mushu by my daughter, would need a buddy. A

friend had a yearling striped male we could have. This boy didn't stay around very long. He ran away twice—we found him the first time at a neighbor's house, but never did locate him the second time. This time I wanted an all black male kitten we could train to our property. We found a young male, which my son named Roku.

The boys look a lot alike, so we named them the CIB (Cats In Black). They come when called—one name for all—"CIB!"

We've had the CIB for more than a year. They come into the





garage or barn at night. While friends said we shouldn't get attached or tame them too much—the CIB are very affectionate. They do barn chores with me every day. The llamas adore them—though the feeling isn't returned. We adore them too.

While I was leary of putting barn cats on the property, they have made a huge difference in our mouse population. We haven't found any mice floating in the water tanks for more than a year. There are no mice in the house or garage. And, as you will see in the photo, one of the CIB figured out that the mice had moved into the hay loft. He uses the hay elevator to access the barn. My hay bales have no mice. As soon as we have put up new bales of hay, Roku climbs up the elevator into the loft and checks carefully between the bales for mice.



This winter we added another member to the CIB so they could officially become the CIB Posse. Sammy is an all black neutered male. He's still not sure what exactly his role is, but he has figured out that stalking other members of the CIB from behind a bale of hay is great fun. So is ambushing from atop a rock!



All of the boys are neutered. I do think it helps them stick around. They receive veterinary care when needed, but are, for the most part, easy keepers.

Now that we have had them for a while and can see what a tremendous service they provide, I can't imagine ever living in the country without barn cats.





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Serendipity Farms	24
Spring Fiber Clinic	25

See Page 21 for advertising opportunities and rates.



Upcoming Events:

TRAINING LLAMAS & ALPACAS FOR WILLING COOPERATION

Join us on March 18th or April 22nd for Bobra's Goldsmith's basic training clinics, to be held at Rocky Mountain Llamas, about two miles north of Boulder off Hwy. 36, and run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bring your llama or alpaca, or use one of ours. Fees range from \$55 for youths (10-15), \$65 for observers, and \$95 for hands-on participants. Topics covered include Bobra's well-known catch, halter and lead techniques; basic obstacles; grooming, including toenail trimming; loading in trailers and standard vans; and Bobra will address any issues specific to the participants' animals.

Whether new to llamas or an old hand interested in new learning techniques, you won't find a better clinic for the money! Bobra has been raising and training llamas for over 25 years, and sells a number of llama and alpaca products, many designed by her, through her Web site at <http://rockymtllamas.com>.

Additional clinics in basic training, packing and cart driving will be offered throughout the spring and summer. For more information:

Contact us at 303.530.5575;

email: questions@rockymtllamas.com;

or visit our Web site at:

<http://rockymtllamas.com/clinicinfo.com>



**Do you have an upcoming event?
Contact the Editor to list in the Journal**

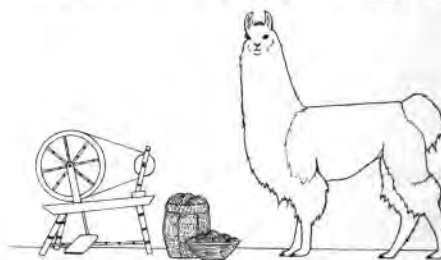
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Upcoming Youth Shows:

11th Annual Llofy Llamas

Summer Classic

Whispering Pines Park,

Franktown, Colorado

Saturday, July 15th, 2006

Judges: To be announced

Contact Show Superintendent:

Scott McHenry 303-688-6642

2006 Kiowa Creek Youth Show

Elbert County Fairgrounds

Kiowa, Colorado

Saturday, August 1st 2006

Judges: Patti Morgan

Contact Show Superintendents:

Dani Varela & Sherry Adamcyk

dvarela55@yahoo.com or 303-621-9021

Support our Youth!

The RMLA has always supported our youth. But we need your support by encouraging youth you know to participate in Llama / Alpaca related activities. Local 4-H and FFA clubs are a perfect place for youth to share with others and work on animal / agricultural projects while learning valuable skills. Contact a local club and introduce them to Llamas / Alpacas today.

Jelly Bean Classic

Arvada, Colorado

Saturday May 6th 2006

Judges: To be announced

Contact Show Superintendent:

Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129

beartrak@gte.net

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* The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Edition



Congratulations to Melissa (above left) and Tiffany (above right), for their great showing at the 100th Anniversary National Western Stock Show

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