

  
**The** **RMLA**  
 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association  
**Journal**  
 www.rmla.com

Spring 2012

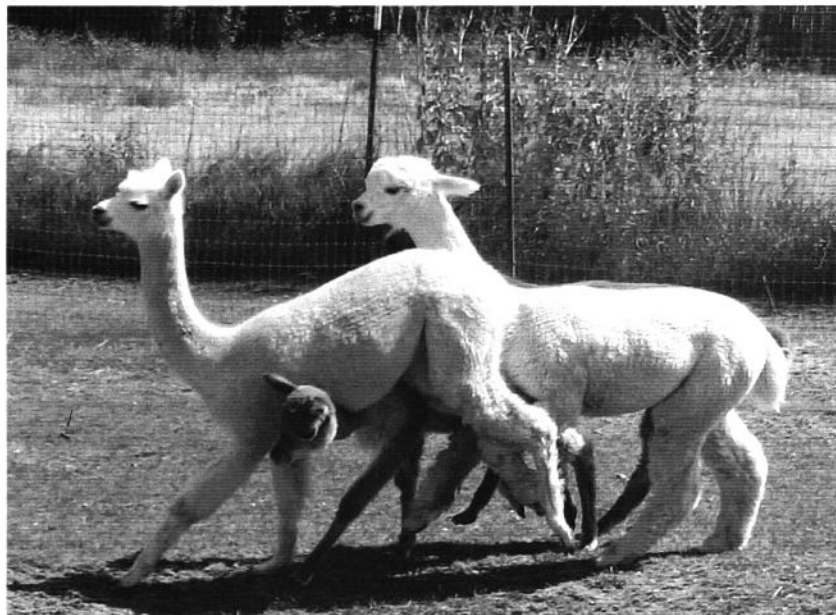


**In This issue**

Officers & Committees.....3  
 Presidents Message.....4  
 Editors Message.....4  
 Celebrating Volunteers.....5  
 Membership report.....6  
 Youth and 4-H report.....6  
 Bobra Goldsmith award.....7  
 News Flash.....8  
 Salute to the Pack Llama.....10  
 Calendar of Events.....11  
 NWWs.....12  
 Ask the CUS Vet Team.....14  
 The Trail we finally hiked.....17  
 Mountain Lion Facts.....20  
 A Little Idea.....26

**HAPPY 30TH  
 Anniversary  
 RMLA**

Celebrating 30 Years  
 of Educating  
 Members and the  
 Public as to the  
 breeding, raising, care  
 and use of llamas  
 and alpacas.  
 Plan to attend the  
 anniversary party at  
 the Annual Meeting



**WANT HELP WITH YOUR TRAINING?**

CLINICS AND WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE FOR

LLAMAS, ALPACAS AND PACA VICUNAS

*Jerry Dunn Bear Track Farm 303.277.1129 beartrak@q.com*

brent.holt@cfbmic.com



Auto • Home • Life

(281) 250-2000



**Bob & Barb Hance** 303.422.4681  
 11818 W. 52nd Avenue Fax 303.422.3568  
 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033  
 hancelama@att.net www.alpacas.ws

**Suti's Girls Are Here!**  
 and going to the show ring in 2012

They have their sire's conformation & attitude.  
 Phoebe Snow & Shenandoah Mist are ready to go!

Glenn & Kathy Stanko  
 Iron Horse Ranch  
 Whitewater, CO  
 970-256-7716



## Board of directors

### President

Lougene Baird  
Post Office Box 385403  
Waikoloa, HI 96738  
808-883-1887  
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

### Vice President

Jerry Dunn  
14550 West 50th Avenue  
Golden, CO 80403-1707  
303-277-1129  
beartrak@q.com

### Secretary

Gerri Rutledge  
2209 Road 9  
Waco, NE 68460  
402-366-9304  
buckshollow@wildblue.net

### Treasurer

Ann Bruhn  
P.O. Box 746  
Victor, CO 80860-0746  
719-689-2122  
719-689-2451(fax)

### Director at Large

Dick Williams  
Post Office Box 1070  
Plains, MT 59859  
406-826-2201  
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

### Journal Staff

Sue Grimm, Editor  
Jane Levene  
Kathy Stanko

## Committee Chairpersons

### Bookstore

Jan Adamcyk  
303-621-2960  
adamcyk@earthlink.com  
Liaison Ann Bruhn

### Bylaws

Lougene Baird  
808-883-1887  
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

### Calendar

Patti Morgan  
620-442-4996  
pmmorganks@gmail.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

### Education

Liaison Jerry Dunn

### Nominations & Elections

Maggie Merrill-Brown  
303-646-0568  
designer95@bluelinesite.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

### Events/Marketing

Jerry Dunn  
303-277-1129  
beartrak@q.com

### Fiber

Patti Morgan  
620-442-4996  
pmmorganks@gmail.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

### Finance

Position Open  
Liaison Ann Bruhn

### Government Relations

Teri Baird  
303-549-4434  
teri@brokenwindmill.com  
Liaison Ann Bruhn

### Journal

Sue Grimm  
303-567-2168  
rmlaeditor@gmail.com  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### Library

Dick Williams  
406-826-2201  
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

### Membership

Barb Hance  
303-422-4681  
hancelama@att.net  
Liaison Ann Bruhn

### Pack

Dick Williams  
406-826-2201  
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

### Publication Coordinator

Lougene Baird  
808-883-1887  
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

### Rescue

Olin Allen  
970-493-2886  
olinallen@earthlink.com  
Liaison Ann Bruhn

### Website

Ron Hinds  
303-646-1320  
pacaron@estreet.com  
Katy Wegner  
303-273-9231  
K2wegner@axint.net  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### Youth And 4-H

Briana Livengood-Cozzetto  
719-371-4839  
brianna0215@yahoo.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

*The Journal* is a quarterly publication of the **Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association ("RMLA")**. The RMLA Publication Committee and the Board of Directors reserve the right to select and edit all articles and advertisements submitted. Reproduction of articles herein is subject to written permission being obtained from individual authors. Lama newsletter exchange editors may reproduce articles as long as such permission from the author is obtained and the author and RMLA are given credit for the original work. The information in *The Journal* is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from readers' failure to heed this caution. The views expressed by the authors of articles are not necessarily those of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc., its officers, directors or members.

## Journal Advertising rates, Specifications and Deadlines

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horizontal	7.5"x2"	\$24	\$36
1/4 Page Vertical	3.5"x4.5"	\$24	\$36
1/3 Page Horizontal	7.5"x3"	\$35	\$48
1/3 Page Vertical	2.5"x10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5"x4.5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5"x10"	\$78	\$117
Back Cover	7.5"x7.5"	\$60	\$90
Inside Cover Front or Back	7.5"x10"	\$96	\$144
Two Page Spread	15"x10"	\$200	\$300

Classified Ads—Member \$10 for up to 50 words  
Classified Ads—Non-Member \$25 for up to 50 words  
25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	March 1, 2013	March 20, 2013
Summer	June 1, 2012	June 20, 2012
Fall	September 1, 2012	September 20, 2012
Winter	December 1, 2012	December 20, 2012

Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for four consecutive issues and receive a bonus of 10% discount.

Ads must be submitted by e-mail as a attached document. RMLA is not able to scan ads. We suggest ads are created in black and white.

The Journal staff does not design or create ads. However, the staff can refer you to RMLA members who might be able to help you create an ad.

Payment for ads must be received before an ad is published. To pay by credit card, call RMLA Treasurer, Ann Bruhn at 719-689-2122 with your credit card information.

By check, send to Sue Grim, PO Box 7, Dumont CO 80436. They must be in either word or Jpeg

## President's Message

Someone said to me the other day...."tell me about Board meetings and how you go about making decisions". Here was my story.

Usually through e-mail chat, a Director has an idea about something that has been brought to his attention. The idea is presented to the Board. If urgent, a decision is usually made by e-mail. If not urgent, we chat about it, think about it, chat some more and then it is put on the agenda for the next monthly board meeting. We discuss RMLA history concerning the issue, related past issues or failures and, always, our budget.

But, the driving force behind all decisions is found in the RMLA Bylaws. *Article II – General Provisions Section 2.1 MISSION. The mission of the Association shall be to*

*educate the members and the public to the breeding, raising, care and use of llamas and alpacas.* This statement is in the back and front of our minds at all when making any decision.

Seems fairly simple, doesn't it? This Board takes that a step further. We always consider how any decision effects ALL RMLA members, not just a handful here or several there. All the members.

As President, I encourage Directors to take their time and sort out their own thoughts regarding a decision. It is important to the function of the organization that Board decisions are made with forethought, depth of thought and accuracy. I encourage all discussion be kept to the point of business and on target.

I present an organized agenda a couple days before the meeting. Committee Chairs are encouraged to submit a small report. Ann submits the financials beforehand. Having an organized agenda and full knowledge of the financials allows each Director to come to each meeting prepared to WORK. And we do work.

It has also been my recent goal to have the minutes approved and posted on the website within 7 to 10 days of a meeting. I believe that an informed membership makes a stronger organization.

And, as always, if you have a question - call me. We will spend all of the time that you need to make sure your questions are answered.

Enjoy the beautiful Spring, Lougene

**Thank you Kathy Stanko**  
**For the great cover Photo**  
**of the Easter Llama**

Looking for something?

Check out

**RMLA.COM**

## A Note From the Editor

By Sue Grimm

Happy Spring!

Spring in Colorado can be a relative term, since it can snow until mid June. Its time to make sure your shears are sharp and ready to work. Get your shearing plans ready. If you use a shearer get in touch with them and get on the list.

Do you have an evacuation plan of action for any natural disaster that might happen?

It is also time to start thing about getting your fiber to the mill. Plan parasite and fly control for the up coming summer months.

Get your hiking boots cleaned oiled and

ready to go. Get you and your llama both in shape from the long winter cold and snow. Check out your pack saddle make sure it is safe and ready to go. Look into a Colorado hiking pass, so you are covered in case you get hurt in the back country. And get your summer hiking plans ready, check your maps and GPS and start planning! It may be awhile before the snow is gone up high, so take advantage of the trails in and around the Denver Metro area and other lower altitudes.

Get ready for the up coming show season. Get your animals tuned up and ready to go. It will be summer in what seems like a blink of an eye.

Have a wonder Spring. Sue

## SPINNING LLAMA and ALPACA

the best book since 1994, 3rd edition with 5 fiber/yarn samples and includes projects. \$18 plus \$2.50 shipping (\$20.50 total), to Canada \$3.25 shipping (\$21.25 total in U.S. Funds). Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Lane, Estes Park, CO 80517



# Meet the Volunteers

By Lougene Baird

Katy Wegner

K2 Llamas

Golden, Colorado

Katy is the technical writer and 'awesome proofer' partner of the WebMaster team.

Katy is the team member who reads and re-reads each page of the website making sure all documentation is as accurate and understandable as possible. While she has also touched every page, she has worked more in the background to assure what you see is absolutely correct.

As a professional technical writer, Katy has also gifted her numerous talents to RMLA.

For over 20 years, Katy has been a technical writer and editor and has worked in software documentation. She considers her

most important task as a technical writer is keeping the end user of the information first and foremost in mind when designing and writing documentation.

With this background, Katy feels their goal for the RMLA.com is to ensure that the website is easy to use and that the extensive information provided is easy to find. We also have add functions members have come to rely on, such as online purchasing.

Katy and her husband, Keith, have owned a couple of llamas for the past 17 years. Her interest in knitting and wool were the motive for jumping into the adventure of llamas. While she has not done as much with the wool as intended, they have enjoyed training them for

light packing and taking them out to RMLA events such as the Jelly Bean Classic and the St. Patrick's Day parade.



Ron Hinds

El Zorro Colorado Alpacas

Elizabeth, Colorado

Ron is the designing-partner of the WebMaster team.

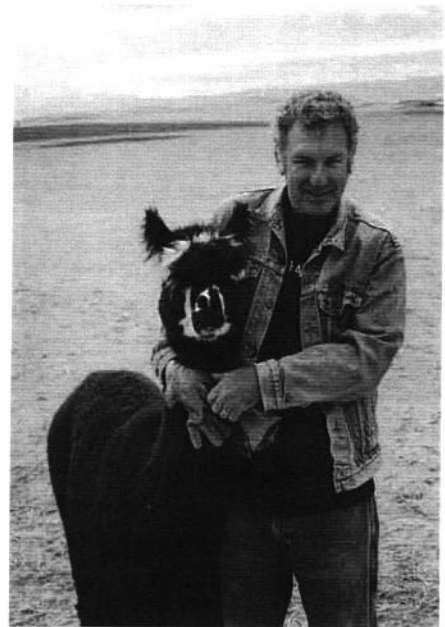
Ron is the person who has developed the new look you see at RMLA's website. When you click on to RMLA.com, the visuals you see have been designed by Ron. He has developed the interface with PayPal, put up the slide show you see on the Home Page, created an amazing calendar and much, much more.

As a professional website designer, he has generously gifted RMLA his many talents. His company is hosting RMLA.com at no charge to the organization.

Ron worked with the Denver Water Department for 26 years when he retired in 1994. The Internet came to life, and he began tinkering with design and mapping software. The internet was interesting to him and he began programming. Eventually, he moved to graphics and websites. He spends about 12-14 hours a day in the office, not a big shop, its just Ron and his Mac(s). He has designed and programmed for clients since the passion began.

Ron and his wife, Elizabeth Cline reside in Elizabeth, CO. In 1994, after driving by a field where the IKEA store now stands along I-25, he noticed these interesting creatures walking

around. They were llamas. The rest is history. They have 29 alpacas and llamas, which is actually quite primary to everything else he does.





Ron Hinds and Elizabeth Cline  
5704 Canyon Trail  
Elizabeth, CO 80107  
303-646-1320  
Cell 303-999-6103

**MAGNIFICENT QUALITY —  
— PERSONALITIES & COLOR!**

[www.elZorroColorado.com](http://www.elZorroColorado.com)  
[alpacas@elzorrocolorado.com](mailto:alpacas@elzorrocolorado.com)

## Membership Report

By Barb Hance RMLA Membership Chair

We finished the 2011/12 membership year with: 4 Young Adult members; 20 Youth Members; 26 Life Memberships; & 125 regular Adult Memberships

Roy Leach  
Becky Leach  
Rocky Ridge Ranch  
36694 Forest Trail  
Elizabeth, CO 80107-8107303.  
646.2718  
Cell 720.470.4148 720.470.4150  
becky@rr-ranch.net

Michael Swearingen  
Stephanie Swearingen  
2820 Valley Park Blvd.  
Larkspur, CO 80118-7615 303.681.2660  
info@coloradocrias.com

Joy Buckley  
Chuck Buckley  
1761 County Road 5  
Divide, CO 80814-9101 719.686.9410  
wbfarm@aol.com

Ried Clark  
3440 Harlan Street  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-7422  
303.238.4629  
rclark735@yahoo.com

Renew from 2010  
Marlene Markus  
Allen Markus  
2962 Bar 10 Road  
Calhan, CO 80808-8519  
719.683.4155, c719.660.0328

## Youth and 4H committee report

By Brianna Livengood-Cozzetto

*Note: We are delighted that Brianna has agreed to Chair the Youth and 4H Committee. In her 'youth', Brianna was a very active RMLA Youth member. She continues as an excellent show person and is very knowledgeable about llama and alpaca herdsmanhip. Brianna and her husband AJ are the proud parents of daughter Aubryne who was born 11-3-11. She is now working as a Registered Nurse part time for Parkview Hospital in Pueblo, CO. We all welcome Brianna as Chair and look forward to working with her in the years to come.*

I am thrilled to start working as Chairman of the 4-H/ Youth committee! I have many ideas and goals for this year and the years to come.

Goal # 1: RMLA will sponsor a youth clinic sometime in the spring or summer for all

youth to learn about showing, basic care, grooming, etc. This will be open to all youth regardless of if they are RMLA members. This hopefully will bring in new youth and adult members.

Goal # 2: Work with Colorado Extension to make llamas/alpacas a recognized 4-H project with their own record book (no more using dog, horse, chicken, etc). I realize that this will probably be the hardest goal to meet. I am ready for the challenge and will try to get support from as many 4-H clubs as I can, even if I have to go nationwide.

Goal # 3: Offer more accessible support for youth and their parents pertaining to llama care and showing. I will be available to answer questions anytime via phone, RMLA Youth Facebook page and e-mail. I would also ask for other members to be

youth mentors that could be listed in the service directory.

Goal # 4: Provide more recognition for RMLA youth members at shows and other RMLA events.

Goal # 5: Encourage youth to write stories (fictional or true) that will be published in each RMLA Journal. Prizes awarded at the end of the year for best stories.

I am open to any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call or email me. Also please add RMLA Youth on Facebook!

Brianna

# Bobra Goldsmith Award

By Jerry Dunn

Wes and Mary Mauz were selected to receive the second annual Bobra Goldsmith Memorial award from the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association.

The purpose of the award is to recognize RMLA members who have demonstrated a passion for education the community about llamas and alpacas through a variety of activities, which may include writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events. In memory of Bobra, Henry Rivera donated a beautiful bronze sculpture of a llama .

Wes and Mary were selected by the RMLA board of directors from nominations received from the membership. RMLA Vice President Jerry Dunn presented the award

to Wes and Mary at the National western Stock Show on January 7th, 2012.

Wes and Mary have shared who they are with the people in the llama community since the mid'80's.

They developed an affordable packing system that was functional and comfortable for llamas and used it exclusively on their outfitting adventures. The system was designed and created in their shop and it reflects exceptional quality and durability.

Wes and Mary are what I would call perpetual learners about the world around them and enjoy sharing what they learn with others. Llama hiking with them is a like experiencing a chapter out of the book of knowledge. Wes takes pride in his

knowledge of people and explorers who opened the west for us all.

He speaks through his photography as a way to share his personal experiences. Mary enjoys exploring plants and vistas along the trail. I'm always amazed at how Mary can carry on a conversation and walk the legs right off you as she shares her knowledge of plants and her joy of working with fiber.

Wes and Mary have had a compassion for people and llamas for as long as I can remember. I feel blessed to have them as friends.

## Wes And Mary Mauz

By Jane Levene

I have been buying all of my hay from Wes and Mary Mauz for the past 12 years.

I do believe Mary is simply an artist when it comes to the quality of their hay, and the attention she gives to baling it.

Wes and Mary have an enviable partnership, sharing so many hobbies and interests in life such as the llama trekking, and most importantly their love for their farm.

Wes will give me serious "hay envy" by emailing photos of the hayfields and the irrigation at sunset, or the wildlife that meanders through their

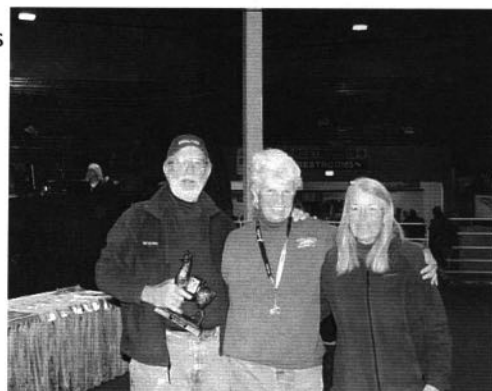
fields.

I am totally enchanted with their ranch house, imbedded into the side of a hill, surrounded by Mary's gardens.

But the ultimate gift Wes and Mary give everyone comes at the end of the year, when Wes posts the "Year in Pictures" and I truly feel a part of their lives. I can only hope that some day I will approach their ability to find the beauty and poetry in every day, evidenced by the slide show. My day is always better after stocking my barn with their hay, talking politics with Wes ( I know! I love to

live dangerously!!) and laughing with Mary. I do hope they know just how much we all care for them. I think I have a wonderful life, but when I watch Wes and Mary, I realize that they have set the bar incredibly high. Theirs is a life and a union that chooses to let the challenges of life make them stronger; to look outward, to give generously, to treasure their friends and animals and to see the beauty and joy in the world around them.

And they do all of this blissfully unaware that the rest of us are watching and learning from them, to live our lives better as well.



# News Flash the 30th Annual RMLA Fairplay Pack Llama Race

By Gary Carlton

## Saturday July, 28<sup>th</sup> 2012

As the sun rises on Saturday, July 28 hordes of spectators will line the pavement and sidewalks of Front Street in downtown Fairplay, Colorado in anticipation of the sound of the gun starting one of the craziest and zaniest races in the state of Colorado.

For the last 29 years participants and their llamas have gathered at the starting line to race against each other and time over the three mile obstacle course containing numerous hilly ascents and descents, a number of fast moving stream crossings, run-away llamas, river drenched costumes and all the while pulling or being pulled by their four footed companions.

This year we bring in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Annual RMLA Fairplay Pack Llama Race/Walk in all its glory, laughter, sweat and exhilaration.

While this race has changed over the course of the last 30 years to accommodate the ever growing popularity and interest in this event, the theme remains the same.

Some of the hardier participants will be racing a pack llama with saddle and panniers to demonstrate the amazing control and ability these sure footed animals possess, while attempting to cross the finish line at the front of the pack.

Others in this event will participate in the second heat of the day to generate awareness for the need of organ and tissue donation. The LAMA – RAMA is a fun hearted race that captures the true spirit of these wonderful medical professionals while they enjoy a day away from the hospitals, labs, and offices that save or enhance the lives of every one of us throughout our journey.

In our third and last heat of the day we feature a much slower pace for those who would like to just walk a llama through the same three mile crazy course and enjoy the

scenic Platte River valley. It gives many folks the opportunity to get acquainted with these peaceful and gentle animals for the very first time.

Near the end of our third heat we also feature the Llama Lunacy course to round out this day of fun for all ages and abilities.

This course will be set up for the kids next to the finish line. Every child will have the chance to walk a llama through the obstacles and will receive a participant ribbon and a coupon for a free ice cream cone at the Silver Scoop Creamery.

In the past few years we have not had enough saddles and panniers to accommodate all those who would like to participate in the Pack llama event. We will require that all llamas in the pack race have the required equipment and thirty pounds of weight this year. So we are asking all of the ranches to please bring extra gear so that we have enough for everyone.

The llama camp is located in the Beaver Creek recreation area four miles N/E of town and everyone is invited to come camp on Friday and Saturday night with the llamas. Just follow the signs from 285 and Forth Street in downtown Fairplay.

Our llama camp crew will host the pot luck dinner in camp around six pm on Friday Night. We will provide the main course so bring a side dish along with your family and friends and join us for dinner.

The Llama camp performance show will be held in camp on Sunday July, 29<sup>th</sup> to finish off this weekend of fun under the Colorado mountain sun. For more information about the show contact: dslockwood@juno.com

The Winners of the 2011 Pack Llama Race:

Men's Division:

1. Craig Kemp Time: 33:04
2. David Hudson Time: 33:05
3. Zac Johnson Time: 33:14

Women's Division:

1. Lisa Miller Time: 33:34
2. Kristen Schularick Time: 40:25
3. Kelsey Poo's Benson Time: 41:35

Top Three Llamas

1. Tal: Lightning Ridge Llamas
2. Sunrise: Comanche Creek Llamas
3. Lester: Corral Creek Llamas

A Special Thank You to the ranches who provided llamas for this event. We could never pull this off without your continued support.

Stage Stop, Rock-N-M, Comanche creek, Corral Creek, Gail Davidson, The Friedels., Lockwood Dreamster, Leigh DiNatale -Leaping Llamas 4- H, Escarpment, Cedar Cliff, Foot Hills, Clearwater, Stargazer Ranch, and Lightning Ridge Llamas.

Thank You to our Volunteers that keep it running smooth year after year.

Jeff & Sally Rucker, Patti Morgan, Kevin Kaltenbaugh, Gail Davidson, Jessie Morgan, Vicky Foster, Mark Smith, Arthur McEvoy, Niles Whalen, Sandy & David Lockwood, Mike & Bekki Friedel,

Steve & Angie Jenkins, Vivian Johnson, Casey Richter, Steve & Leslie Schubert, Ann Bruhn, Larry Lewellyn, Marry Wickman, and the Guffy Veterinary Clinic.

Don't miss this amazing chance to be a part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk. For more information, suggestions or to volunteer, contact gary@jmhfarm.com or Gary Carlton at 303-503-1324.





# Salute to the Pack Llama

By Jerry Dunn and Dick Williams

## Salute to the pack llama

Recently a friend posted a note that his favorite pack llama had passed away. To this day he still looks for him at the gate hoping to see him again.

Losing a pack llama is more than the loss of just another animal. It is the loss of a special companion. Our pack llama walks in sync with our heart beat and each step we take; they share the same air and marvel at scenic views with us. They carry our food and shelter over the high mountain passes and alert us to danger in the dark.

They cross roaring streams up to their bellies, sometimes swimming to make it safely to the bank on the other side.

At the end of the day all they look for is green grass and a cool place to rest.

Jerry Dunn

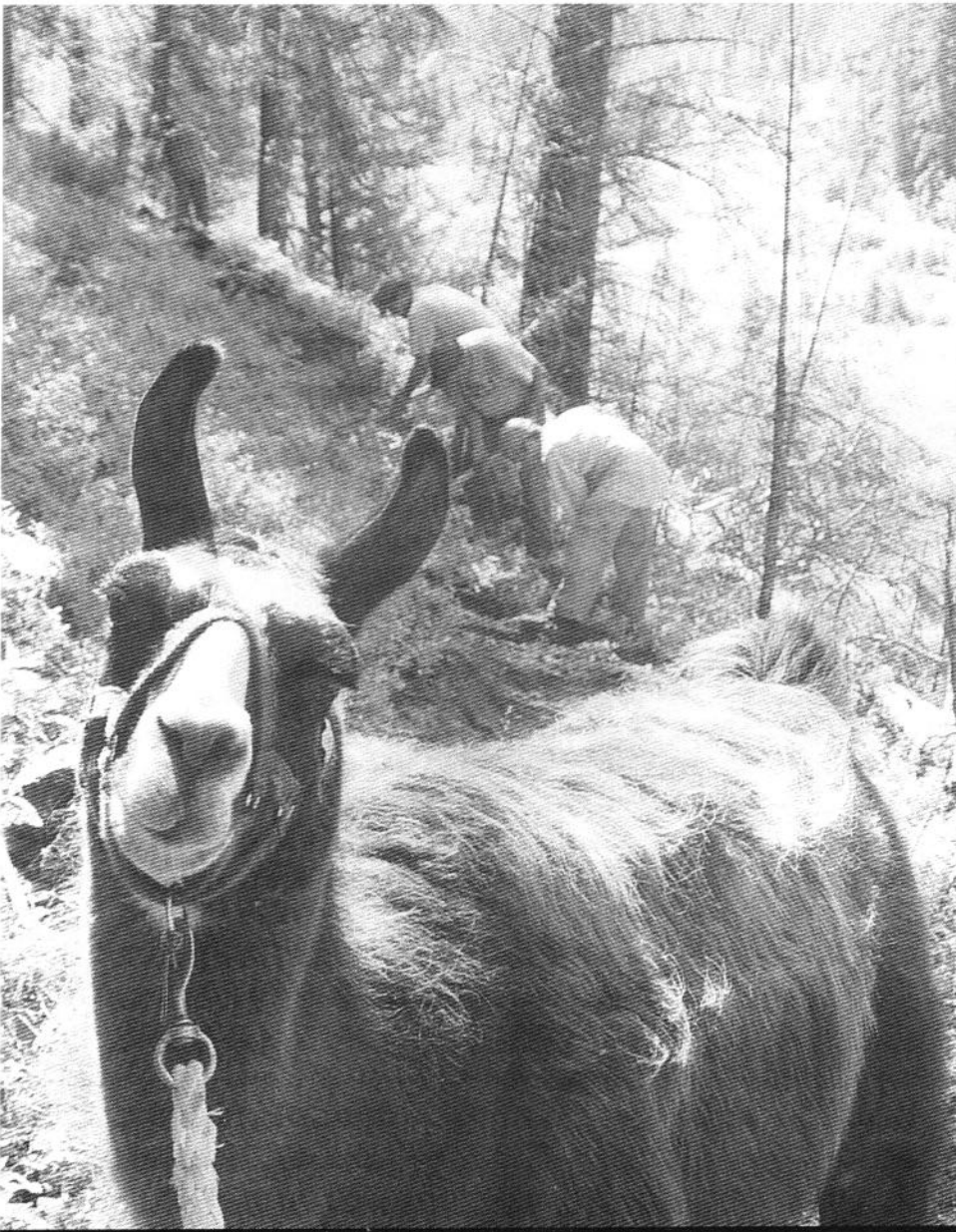
Kona as seen in an old black and white photo below

On Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, I lost my oldest hiking buddy. From the day he came to live with us he carried anything I could load on him anywhere I asked him to go. Kona was

behind me on every trail maintenance trip and pack trip I took for over twelve years and has been to more PR outings and packing demonstrations than I could ever count. He met me at the gate for his grain Saturday evening and was gone Sunday morning – I can only hope that his passing was easy.

Kona always made packing a pure joy and I only hope that when I get to the final trailhead he's there waiting for me to take that one last hike.

Dick Williams



### Lothlorien Llamas

Dick & Jeanne Williams

P.O. Box 1070

Plains, MT 59859

(406) 826-2201

Packing & Raising Llamas

## Get Ready For Spring Shearing

We offer sharpening for clipper blades, hand shears, scissors, and toenail nippers.

Call (307-672-5144) or email Paul or Karen Schwartz ([chantar@fiberpipe.net](mailto:chantar@fiberpipe.net)) for details.

Thank you for your business.

Bear track Farm	2
Farm Bureau	2
Hance Alpaca	2
Iron Horse	2
Spinning Llama and Alpaca	4
El Zorro Alpacas	5
Lothorien Llamas	10
Great Ready for shearing	10
Farm Bureau	16
Rock N Llamas	18
Bear Track Farm	18
RMLA Youth	18
Farm Bureau	18
Mazuri	19
Farm Bureau	26
Cache La Poudre	27
Farm Bureau	27
Rocky Mountain Llama	27
Caring for llamas	28

**APRIL**

- **Driving Clinic**, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., **April 21-22, 2012**

Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

- **Stars N Stripes**, Waco, NE., **April 28, 2012**

Contact Jim Rutledge, 402.366.9303, buckshollow@wildblue.net,

Catherine Steele, thesteele@gmail.com

- **Wild N Wooly Show**, Waco, NE., **April 28, 2012**

Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thesteele@yahoo.com

**MAY**

- **Jelly Bean Classic**, Arvada, CO., **May 12, 2012**

Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

- **\*Grand Mesa Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., **May 19, 2012**

- **\*Kokopelli Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., **May 20, 2012**

Contact Cheryl Juntilla, 970.640.8028, cajwdj@aol.com

**JUNE**

- **Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show**, Estes Park, CO., **June 8-10, 2012**

Contact Gayle Woodsum, 307.399.3815, coraldawnnews@aol.com

**JULY**

- **\*FAIRPLAY LLAMA RACE/WALK**, Fairplay, CO., **July 28, 2012**

Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, Gary@JmhFarm.com

- **\*FAIRPLAY CAMP PERFORMANCE SHOW**, Beaver Creek Recreation Area, Pike National Forest, Fairplay, CO. **July 29, 2012.**

Contact Sandra Lockwood, dslockwood@juno.com, 303.838.9554.

**AUGUST**

- **Leadville Trail 100-Hopeless**, Packing Aid Station Support, Leadville, CO., **August 16-19, 2012**

Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, gary@jmhfarm.com, Vickie foster, vlfoster@aol.com

- **Nebraska State Fair Llama Show**, Grand Island, NE., **August 25-26, 2012**

Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thesteele@yahoo.com

**SEPTEMBER**

- **LOCC Fall Show**, Castle Rock, CO., **September 1-2, 2012**

Contact Barb Harris, 719.275.9457, wildcatllamas@aol.com

- **Colorado State Fair Fun with Llamas**, Pueblo, CO., **September 1-2, 2012.**

Contact Brianna Cozzetto, 719.371.4839, brianna0215@yahoo.com

- **Looking for the Gold Llama Hike**, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CO., **September 29, 2012**

Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

- **Paca Buddies**, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO.,

**September 22-23, 2012**

Contact Brent Holt, 281.250.2000, Brent.Holt@CFBMIC.com.

The Journal is bring printed in Colorado. It will be mailed from the Dumont, CO. post office.

Youth if you need volunteer hours you can help with the labeling of the journal for mailing. Contact RMLAEDTOR@GMAIL.COM



# The National Western Stock Show 2012

By Stephen Quackenbush

In early January, a group of llama exhibitors made their way to downtown Denver and the Hall of Education at the National Western Stock Show grounds, to prepare for this year's show. There were 14 farm/ranches represented this year with a little over 50 animals. While this year's participation was a little lighter than in prior years, everyone had a great time. The benefit of having the Llama show the first weekend of Stock Show, is everyone can arrive at a leisurely pace before the show officially opens on Saturday.

Saturday is always crowded and busy, with lots of visitors constantly checking out our llamas. As a llama owner, it is rewarding to meet and greet the public and help educate them about llamas. It is always a treat to see hesitant children (and adults alike) get up close and personal with our wonderful and docile animals. At the NWSS, the grandstands are always full of spectators. As in previous years, we shared the arena and stalling area with the Alpacas and their show, which runs concurrently with the Llama Show.

I can't say enough how I appreciate the help I got from the volunteers at the show. Without their help, the show could not have happened. As a new and last minute Superintendent, I had lots of questions.

Jerry Dunn was invaluable and tolerant of my constant queries, which seemed to get more

frantic as the show approached. Mary Wickman was great in helping me organize and complete the scoring and dealing with the paperwork, which I had no prior clue about how to complete. The ALSA scoring was sent in to ALSA in February and given the changes in that organization, hopefully the results will be entered in a timely manner. Kurt & Judy Glaser as well as Wally & Cheryl Juntilla, my wife Shari and my family, among others were great at helping throughout the show. Thanks to those and the many others not mentioned here, that volunteered to keep the show running smoothly.

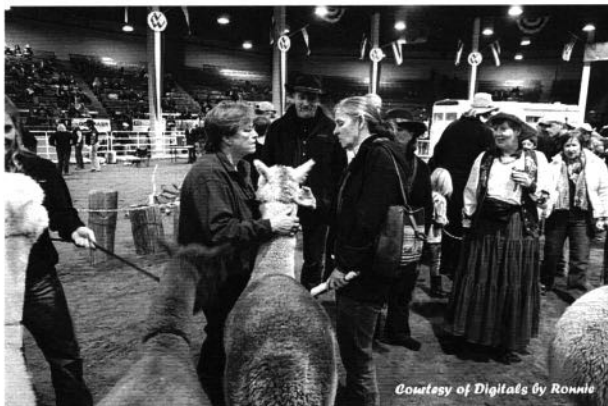
I was also pleasantly surprised with the number of Sponsors that stepped up to support the show this year. Given that I took over and started working on this in late October, it was fantastic that we got so many sponsors. Nearly all of the monetary support was paid out in show premiums, with some earmarked for specific classes, as requested. Additionally, we held a Stall Fee raffle, which was won by Sandy Lockwood during the exhibitor meeting. Heiniger donated a complete set of shearers (\$350 value), which was won by Robert & Jill Knuckles. I want to once again thank our sponsors for all of their support of the llama show this year. The Sponsors included: Andis, RMLA, Heiniger, La Chiripada, LOCC, Double K Diamond Llamas and Rockwood Llamas.

Once again, another fun event that has been hosted for a number of years at NWSS is the "Evening (Afternoon) with a Llama and Alpaca". This year's event was in the afternoon before the show started. It allowed the public an opportunity to have an up close experience with llamas and alpacas. The Stock Show has encouraged this program because it offers a more interactive and hands-on educational opportunity for the public (one of the only animals at the stock show where this can occur).

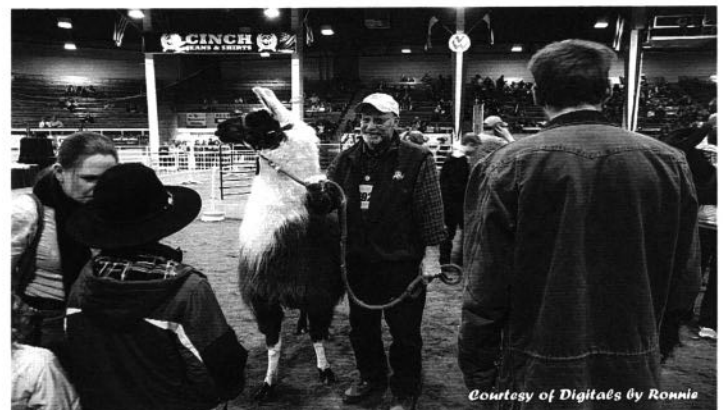
Before the performance classes started on Saturday, we presented the Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award.

This year's award was won by Wes and Mary Mauz. This award is presented each year at NWSS to the RMLA person or persons who have demonstrated a passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas through a variety of activities, which may include writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events.

Congratulations to the Mauz's for being this year's award recipients.

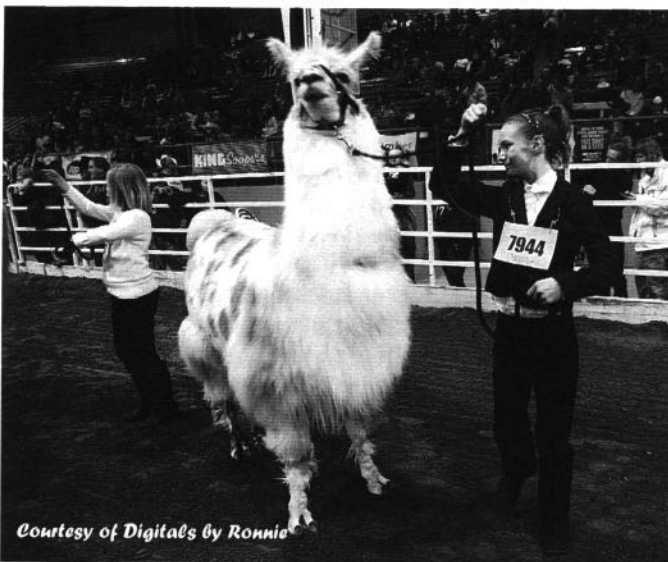


Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie

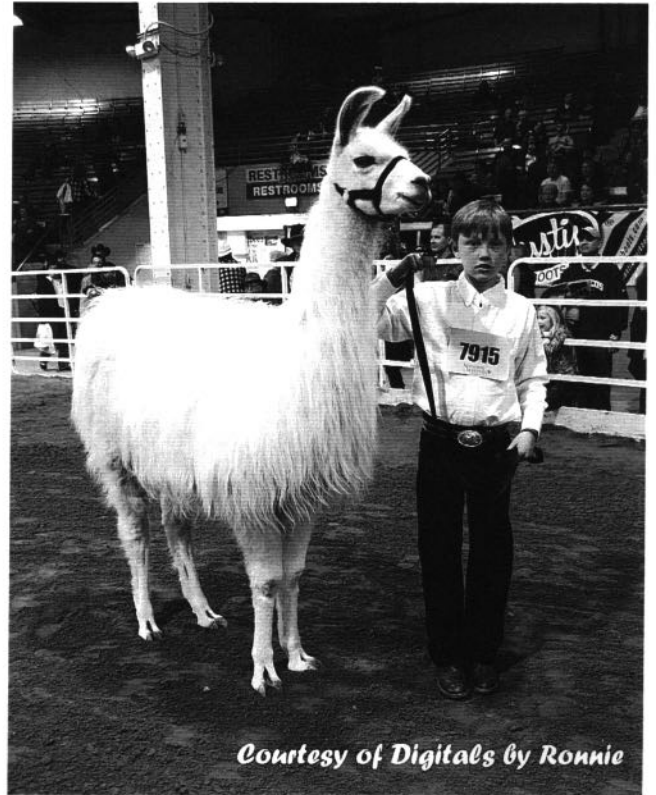


Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie

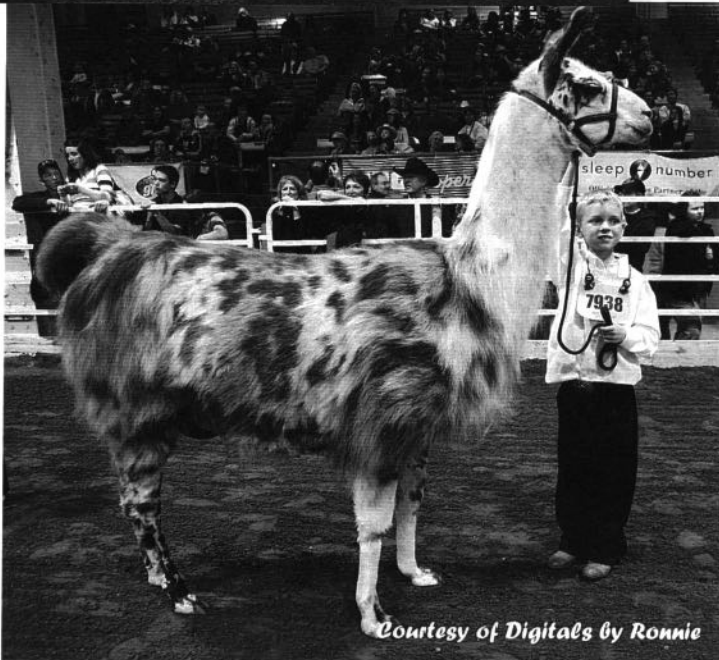




*Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie*



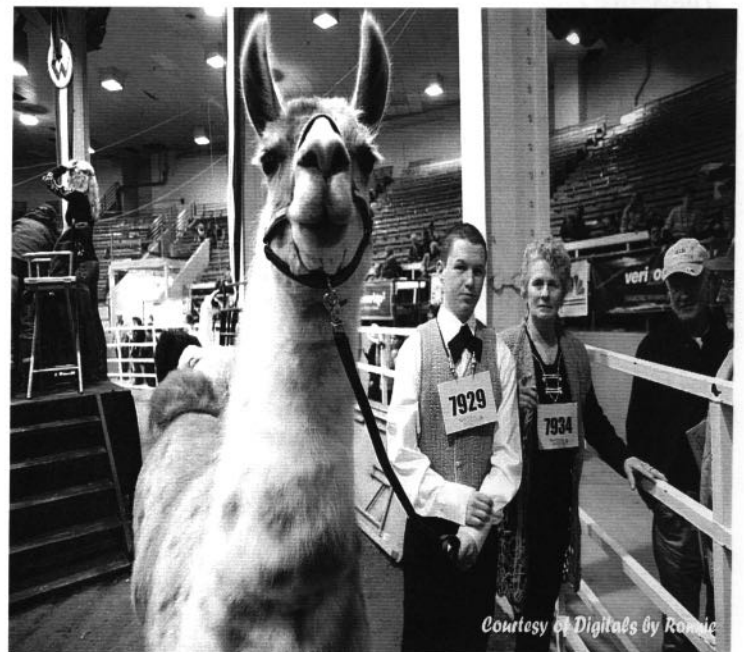
*Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie*



*Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie*

A number of the pictures for this article are courtesy of Ronnie B. who took numerous photos throughout the show and was our official show photographer. If you'd like to order copies of those pictures or see the many others that are available, please contact him at [digitalsbyron-](mailto:digitalsbyron-)

[nie@comcast.net](mailto:nie@comcast.net) or visit his website at: <http://www.ronster.smugmug.com/>.



*Courtesy of Digitals by Ronnie*

## Ask The CSU VET

By Kathy Stanko & The Colorado State University

Happy Spring!!! We have some great questions and very helpful information for you in this issue. So let's begin.

**Question: Do llamas get bloat like goats & sheep?** We have a llama who, last summer after all of our rain, came in from the field looking bloated and making belching/hiccupping noises in his throat. I would walk him for a half hour or so; he would belch and fart a bunch; then seemed to be OK as the noises in his throat would stop.

**Response from Dr. Callan:** Lush grass, clover, and alfalfa may predispose to bloat. The exact causes are not fully understood and may be different in different situations and animals. One is that the fresh forages may result in greater gas formation by the stomach bacteria and that exceeds their ability to eructate (burp) the gas off so they develop bloat. This is referred to as free gas bloat. It can be resolved when the animal eructates on its own. Sometimes walking the animal will help with this. Alternatively, you can pass a stomach tube to allow the gas to escape that way and relieve the bloat.

Alternatively, the forages can contain substances that make the gastric fluid become frothy (frothogenic compounds), resulting in frothy bloat. The froth traps the free gas bubbles and cannot be eructated, resulting in gastric distension and bloat. This type of bloat is not readily relieved with just a stomach tube and may require administration of a surfactant agent that can help break down the bubbles, changing a frothy bloat to a free gas bloat and allowing the gas to be eructated or relieved with a stomach tube. One surfactant product that can be used to relieve a frothy bloat is Poloxalene (Therabloat).

The laundry detergent Tide without bleach has also been reported to help break down the froth. If you have a case of frothy bloat, you can mix 2 tablespoons of Tide (non-bleach) laundry detergent with 2 cups water and administer orally with a syringe or by stomach tube.

After administering the surfactants to the animal, you can massage the abdomen to help mix the contents and improve the resolution of the froth. Generally in about 15 minutes, the froth will be relieved and the animal will either begin to eructate the gas, or you can again try to relieve the bloat with a stomach tube.

**Question: Can probiotics help a bloating problem?**

Would you administer the probiotics before letting them out to pasture or wait until they come in? What product(s) would you recommend?

**Response from Dr. Callan:** In general, camelids do NOT need a daily probiotic to support normal gastrointestinal activity. The normal GI microbial population comes from the environment and animals are constantly exposed to

these organisms as they eat feed or graze from the ground. However, some individual animals may have a disruption of the normal flora that could predispose them to bloating problems.

If you have an animal that bloats on pasture, you could try treating with a probiotic. It would be best to administer the probiotic before letting them out on pasture. There are a number of commercial probiotics available with very little research showing if any are superior in llamas or alpacas. Further, the viability and actual organisms contained in many commercial probiotics may not be what is reported on the label (see Wynn SG (2009). Probiotics in veterinary practice. J Am Vet Med Assoc 234(5): 606-13. PubMed # 19250038). One specific study showed that many commercial probiotics contained so few viable organisms that the likelihood of efficacy was questionable (Weese JS (2002). Microbiologic evaluation of commercial probiotics. J Am Vet Med Assoc 220(6): 794-7. PubMed # 11918274).

It is difficult to make specific recommendations for probiotics for camelids since there are very few made specifically for these species. One camelid specific product is Turval 5 Camelids Daily (<http://www.turval.com/products/exotic/turval-5>). Alternatively, you could use a probiotic designed for cattle like Probios or Fastrack. In general, you want at least 10<sup>9</sup> colony forming units (CFU) per dose to be efficacious. At this time, there is insufficient information to suggest that the general use of probiotics in camelids is beneficial. However, there may be benefit in select animals with gastrointestinal disorders such as recurrent pasture bloat.

**Question: Would a poisonous plant cause bloating symptoms?**

**Response from Dr. Tony Knight:** Specific plants that might cause the digestive system to stop normal motility would include those in the nightshade (Solanum) family. Plants in this large group contain tropane glycoalkaloids that act like atropine and can cause intestinal stasis and bloating. It is possible that a variety of weeds were growing in the pasture after all the rains, and some of the weeds may have been nightshades. Nightshades and other toxic plants are illustrated on my website - [http://www.southcampus.colostate.edu/poisonous\\_plants/index.cfm](http://www.southcampus.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/index.cfm).

From the description of the symptoms and the rapid recovery from the bloating, I would suspect the llama was eating lush legumes such as clover and other green grasses.

**Question: What is the latest thinking on deworming schedules here in the arid west?** I have read that we are over deworming our animals even at a twice a year schedule. And, should we rotate products among panacur; ivermectin; ivermectin plus; and safeguard?

**Response from Dr. Andi Lear:** This question causes considerable debate among veterinarians, parasitologists, and producers. The answer is not an easy one to give. Depending on your herd's travel history, location, housing style, and production purpose, the action you take against parasites may differ. It is said that 80% of the parasite load that is shed into the environment comes from only 20% of animals in herds. This can be due to individual predisposition such as genetics, previous exposure, or immunity. Young animals are more susceptible due to lack of previous exposure to develop appropriate immunity. Young, old, pregnant, sick or otherwise stressed animals may be immunosuppressed and thus may demonstrate higher parasite loads. Lastly, there seems to be unidentified genetic factors that partly determine parasite resistance or susceptibility.

Biosecurity is also very important for parasite control. If an animal leaves your property for any reason such as breeding at another ranch or participating in a show, new parasite exposure may occur. The additional stress on the animals may contribute to higher parasite infections following these exposures. That is why a quarantine period with a follow up fecal exam is recommended when introducing returning or new animals back into your herd. The time it takes from exposure to parasites to the presence of eggs in the feces varies for different types of parasites. In general, it is recommended to check a fecal sample at the end of the quarantine period (3 weeks) and once again at 6 to 8 weeks after the animals return.

While anthelmintics (dewormers) are an important part of a parasite control program, too much or inappropriate use of these drugs can result in the development of resistant parasites. In the Rocky Mountain region, the dry climate and high amount of sunlight make it easier to control gastrointestinal parasites than in other areas of the country and thus, we do not need to rely on dewormers as much to control internal parasites. Some of the more current principles of deworming that apply to our area include:

- A single treatment of all animals in the fall is satisfactory for most husbandry situations in llamas. In some situations, annual deworming may not be necessary at all.
- Focus any additional deworming treatment on either clinically affected animals, or those specific animals with high fecal egg counts.
- Perform quantitative fecal egg counts, assess body condition score, and observe animals for signs of diarrhea or pale mucous membranes in the spring at the time of shearing. This will help determine the clinically affected animals and the high shedders within your herd that need to be treated.

- Additional fecal screening for parasites can be performed at other times of the year (fall) for animals that appear to be losing condition, have diarrhea, neonates or juvenile animals, and any animals that are immune suppressed.
- Treat animals that have clinical signs (low body condition, pale mucous membranes, diarrhea, etc.) and positive fecal egg counts.
- Treat animals that have high fecal egg counts. In general, that could be considered to be animals with >50 eggs per gram for a specific parasite using a quantitative centrifugation fecal float method.
- Rotating dewormers is **NOT** recommended since it is shown to promote the development of parasite resistance. Stay with one dewormer for at least the current year, or longer, until resistance is identified.
- Perform a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) on several animals each time you deworm by performing a repeat fecal egg count 2 weeks after the treatment. You should observe a 95% reduction in fecal egg counts between the pre- and post- treatment egg counts. This will help identify when resistance is developing and allow you to change to another dewormer before more serious problems develop.
- Confer with your veterinarian to decide the best course of action for you and your animals.

**Question: When I read the labels on llama feed supplements and mineral mixes, I see all sorts of numbers depending on the manufacturer. Especially regarding the level of copper, what number am I looking for? And if the llama has free choice minerals but also gets a supplement, do I need to make adjustments?**

**Response from Dr. Robert Callan:** Feed supplement labels will include nutrient composition for the major nutrients (protein, fat, fiber, and TDN), minerals, and vitamins. These numbers help establish the nutritional value of the product and how it may fit into your dietary ration. The table below will help set some general guidelines for suggested daily dietary intake of minerals for camelids.

Continued on page 16



	<b>Estimated* Maintenance Requirement</b>
<b>MACROMINERALS</b>	
Calcium (%DM)	0.2-1.5
Phosphorus (%DM)	0.1-0.6
Magnesium (%DM)	0.1-0.5
Potassium (%DM)	0.5-3.0
Sodium (%DM)	0.06-2.0
<b>MICROMINERALS</b>	
Iron (PPM)	30-100
Manganese (PPM)	20-100
Zinc (PPM)	20-50
Copper (PPM)	5-15
Molybdenum (PPM)	0.5-1.0
Selenium (PPM)	0.2-0.3

\*Specific nutrient requirements in camelids are not well established and these maintenance ranges should only be use as initial guidelines. Consult with your veterinarian or nutritionist for specific requirements based on feed source, production status, and the use of the animal.

Because of geographical differences of mineral content of soils, it is best to perform an annual hay nutrient analysis and consult with your veterinarian or nutritionist to determine what supplement mineral composition is best. This is particularly true for copper, zinc, or selenium, where deficiencies (or excesses) in the content of forages can be observed depending on where they are grown.

Thus, the supplement that you choose may need to have a higher mineral content than the maintenance requirements so that when it is combined with

your forages, it will boost the total diet composition into the maintenance levels. These forage deficiencies can also be effectively and economically supplemented by an appropriate free choice vitamin and mineral salt as an alternative to, or in addition to a pelleted nutritional supplement. In general, fresh forage or dried hay should constitute at least 70% of the daily intake to support normal GI function and pelleted supplements should provide less than 30% of the daily intake for an animal.

## News From The RMLA Bookstore

Janice Adamcyk, Bookstore Manager

At long last a newly revised Lama Youth Project Manual is available. It is designed to coordinate with lama 4H youth projects. 32 pages for only \$6 which includes postage.

And, the new 3rd edition, 1st printing of Caring for Llamas and Alpacas, A Health

and Management Guide, by Clare Hoffman, DVM, and Ingrid Asmus is now available. It too has been updated and revised and can be yours for \$29.95 plus \$6 postage and handling or \$35.95 total. Colorado residents should add \$1.17 sales tax per book. This book has been sold all across the US; from Montana to Texas,

California to Maine, and most everywhere in between, as well as sold to our distributors in Canada, England and New Zealand.

Information on ordering both these publications is available on the RMLA website.

Annual Llama Fun Day at Pear Tree Llamas:

Calling all RMLA members and friends! Come and join us for our Third Annual Llama Fun Day at Pear Tree Llamas in Utah's beautiful Heber Valley. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 23, 2012. Event is designed as a time for the public to find out what you can do with a llama?. Event is free and open to the public; hours are 10am to 5pm. If you are interested in being a vendor at this event (llama fiber clothing, gift items, fleeces, yarn, etc., or have llamas for sale), please contact: Cathleen White, 435-654-1047, or [treelama@xmission.com](mailto:treelama@xmission.com)

[brent.holt@cfbmic.com](mailto:brent.holt@cfbmic.com)



(281) 250-2000



# The Trail We Finally Hiked

By Julie Neil

My husband, Fred and I have been hiking the trails in the Okanogan National Forest and surrounding areas for over 20 years. For some reason we just never got around to hiking to this little gem of a lake. We usually take weekend trips, so 10 miles with a 4,000 ft. elevation gain is usually not what we look for in a weekend hike. We live in Bellingham, Wa., and very often make the 5 hour drive over the North Cascades Highway on Friday night after work, then start hiking on Saturday morning.

Last August we took a 4 day hike to explore the trail to Crystal Lake. Intending an early start, we drove the 5 hours on a Wednesday night and slept in our van at the Crystal Lake Trailhead. About 5:00 AM Fred remarked, "You won't believe this but Rainy is loose." We had tied out our two llamas, Leo and Rainy after arriving, then went to sleep. Rainy had been tied with a bowline, which we thought was secure, but had come undone. (We now use a locking carabiner, which we tighten with a leatherman tool).

There is a pleasant meadow at the trailhead, so I can see why Rainy wanted to free himself. For 4 hours, with a couple coffee and breakfast breaks, we attempted to catch the rascal. We had built an ingenious corral with rope, tried luring

Rainy with food, then put down a pile of poop – this almost worked! I suggested in desperation that Fred drive back to town and get a veterinarian with a dart gun.

I was so relieved to have our llama back that we began our hike in high spirits, even though our early start was 10:00 AM. The trail traverses open forest, passes several small creeks, then crosses (how appropriate) Disaster Creek. We made pretty good time, the llamas were moving right along. We only saw one other couple (day hikers) and they were headed out. We stopped short of Crystal Lake for the night, by Disaster Creek. A nice spot for our tent, not the best for the llamas. After a cup of wine and food we enjoyed the evening, then retired early for a good night's sleep.

Feeling refreshed and re-energized we hiked the remaining 2 miles or less to Crystal Lake. We arrived around 11:00 AM, only one other hiker was there, a solo fellow with a tiny pup tent covered with a plastic tarp (very Spartan). He was surprised we arrived at the lake so early in the day..... we of course told him that our llamas are really fast.

We tied out the llamas (securely) in a beautiful grassy meadow and went about setting up our camp. Fred of course discussed fishing with the fellow hiker and

tried it himself. From Crystal Lake we followed an informal, but easy to find trail up the ridge and down to Kidney Lake. From the ridge you can look down towards Black Lake (a popular hike) you could bushwhack down, however it would be a tedious task as the area is all burned from last year's big fire. At Kidney Lake the fishing was great and we brought several tasty Cutthroats back with us. When we returned to camp, our neighbor decided to pack up and head over to Kidney Lake, as he had not had any luck fishing in Crystal.

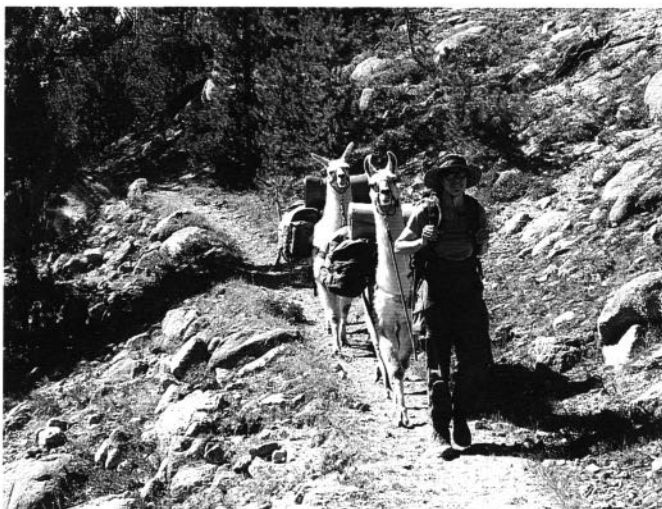
So with the lake to ourselves, we had a good fish fry, and a pleasant evening.

The next morning we packed up, left the gear ready to go, and had a good exploration of the ridge on the other side of the lake. We walked along a great wind swept shoulder by Mt Barney.

We camped once again on our way back, at a camp probably used by the trail crew. There was a good pile of wood and a meadow nearby for the llamas.

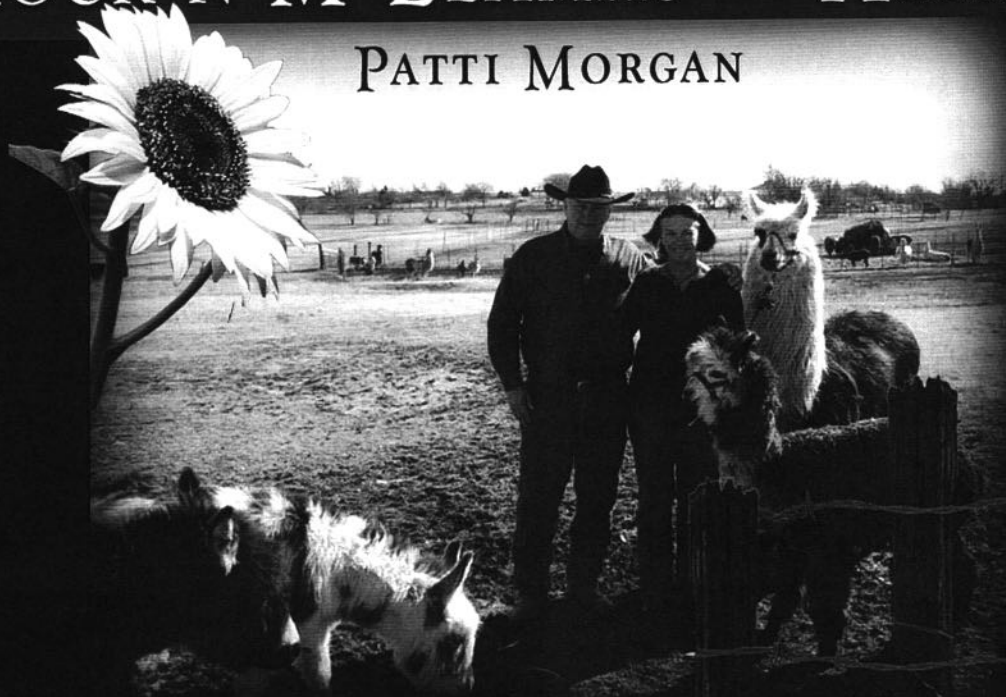
As we hiked out, the rain started. Good timing, as we were leaving anyway.

Now when we drive past the Crystal Lake trailhead, we can say, "There is the trail we finally hiked."



# ROCK-N-M LLAMAS & ALPACAS

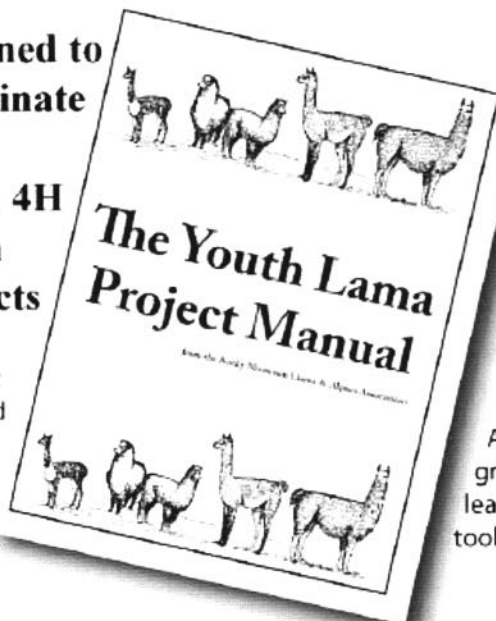
PATTI MORGAN



WWW.ROCK-N-MLLAMAS.COM

## Newly revised Youth Lama Project Manual

Designed to  
coordinate  
with  
Lama 4H  
Youth  
Projects



Excellent  
as a hand  
out to  
visitors  
to your  
farm

A  
great  
learning  
tool

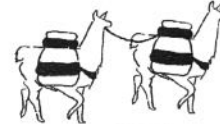
\$6.00 includes postage [www.RMLA.com](http://www.RMLA.com)  
Click on Publications to get yours!



Jerry Dunn  
Bear Track Farm  
Llama Training Center  
303-277-1129 [beartrak@q.com](mailto:beartrak@q.com)



PACK'EM



STACK'EM



DRIVE'EM

[brent.holt@cfbmic.com](mailto:brent.holt@cfbmic.com)



Auto • Home • Life

(281) 250-2000

# Mazuri®

The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

## LLAMAS RULE OUR ANIMAL KINGDOM



At Mazuri®, we know llamas rule. In the grand scheme of things, we produce more food for more specialty animals than any other company in the world.

#### MAZURI® LLAMA DIETS:

- Specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of llamas by complementing feed supplements and forage
- Complete and balanced nutrition with added vitamin E and selenium
- Fortified with organic minerals
- Added levels of biotin, niacin and thiamin

So for healthy, happy llamas and optimum nutrition, trust Mazuri.®



#### MAZURI® LLAMA DIETS:

Llama Chews™  
Llama Crumbles

Take a walk on the wild side and visit us at

[www.Mazuri.com](http://www.Mazuri.com)



Mountain lions, also known as cougars, panthers, or pumas, are highly efficient predators. These cats have a wide range throughout the Western states, and populations are increasing. An individual cat's range depends on food availability. Thus, a range can vary from 10 to 370 square miles.

Male lions weigh up to 165 pounds and grow to more than eight feet in length. Females weigh about 100 pounds. Female lions generally first reproduce at about two and one half years of age. Generally they have two or three young (kittens). A mountain lion's life span is estimated at 12 years in the wild, although cats have lived up to 25 years in captivity.

Mountain lions are solitary animals. They tend to live in remote country and are seldom seen by humans. They hunt their prey by stealth and ambush. Their method of killing is usually with a powerful bite at the base of the skull, breaking the neck. (*"Living with Wildlife in Mountain Lion Country," Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, CO*) The mountain lion, like the domestic cat with a mouse, will kill for the sake of killing. A lion may kill many more animals in an attack than it can possibly consume. Lions have killed as many as twenty sheep at one time. (*U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services [formerly Animal Damage Control], Reno, Nevada*)

A mountain lion requires 8 to 10 pounds of meat per day to survive. Its diet consists of deer, elk, porcupines, small mammals, livestock, and pets. Generally a lion prefers deer. Experts tell us a lion kills one

deer every 9 to 14 days.

(*Information compiled from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, San Antonio, Texas, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana*) And in some areas, it has been found that a lion kills as many as two deer per week, especially in hot weather. Why? First, a lion tends to leave a carcass once it has begun to spoil. Second, scavengers (vultures, crows, ravens, magpies, coyotes, skunks, etc.) find the carcass the lion has killed and hidden. They consume it before the lion returns to feed on the remains. Wildlife Services Specialists find that success in capturing problem lions is much greater within two days of the actual kill than thereafter. (*U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, Reno, Nevada*)

In Montana there has been an increase in lion kills due to the presence of wolves. Biologists have found that wolves will often chase a lion off its kill and consume it. Thus, the lion is forced to make more kills than usual. (*Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana*) We call this "predation compounding." However, there have been few studies, if any, to document the actual increase in predation due to such competition among predators.

The mountain lion population is increasing over most of its current range. This is due to two factors:

1. Food availability.
2. Lack of predator control.  
This population increase has a short-term benefit, but could create long-term problems.

The short-term benefit is that with more lions around, perhaps more people will have the pleasure of seeing them. The long-term problems are:

1. Decline in wild game populations due to uncontrolled predation.
2. Economic hardship - loss of hunting revenue, increase of livestock and pet losses.
3. Spread of disease by predators.
4. Attacks on humans.

Decline of wild game populations: In Presidio County, Texas, near the Rio Grande River, deer were found everywhere ten years ago. In those ten years, the lion population has increased dramatically. Today, there are areas where no deer can be found that were plentiful just a few years ago. Lion predation is a major factor in the deer decline.

Jeff Davis County, Texas, is prime mountain lion country. One rancher there usually took 80 paid deer hunters on his property every year. With the significant increase in lions, that same rancher today takes no hunters due primarily to lion predation on the deer.

Another problem in this same area of Texas is the decline of the porcupine. Although the porcupine is considered a nuisance animal, its populations have been decimated and, in many areas, have ceased to exist due to the increase of lions. (*Darrell York, Davis Mountain Trans-Pecos Heritage Association, Alpine, Texas*) Just another example of problems due to lack of predator control.



Economic hardship: Mountain lions can cause severe economic hardship on those whose livelihoods depend on harvest of game animals (hunting) and agriculture (livestock production). Additionally, there's an emotional hardship, particularly for children, as lions kill pets regularly.

Take, for example, the rancher in Jeff Davis County. If those 80 hunters were non-resident hunters, they would generate \$16,000 in license fees alone to the state of Texas. (Texas non-resident deer hunting fee figured at \$200) However, that's the tip of the iceberg in regards to the benefits. What about the food, gas, lodging, equipment, guide fees, etc.? If all those factors are figured in, the lost economic benefit is \$112,000. (*Information collected in interviews with Texas Guides and Outfitters. The average guide fee or hunt for deer is \$1,000. Most non-resident hunters travel an average of two days to reach their hunting destination. Thus \$200 is conservatively estimated for travel expenses - gas, meals and lodging. \$200 (license fee) + \$1000 (all expense paid hunt fee) + \$200 (travel expense) = \$1,400. \$1,400 x 80 (hunters) = \$112,000.*)

A conservative estimate of what a deer is worth (in Texas) as a production commodity (i.e. non-resident hunting) is \$1,400. Let's be even more conservative and say a harvestable deer is worth \$1,000. That would mean, taking the estimate of one deer per lion every two weeks, one lion could consume up to \$26,000 dollars of deer (if those deer were harvested by non-resident hunters) every year!

But lions don't just consume deer. They consume livestock as well. It's estimated by Wildlife Services Specialists that the percentage of domestic animals confirmed killed by predators is often as low as 10% or less. (*Interviews with Wildlife Services Specialists in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Nevada*)

Confirming a lion kill is accomplished by examining the carcass and noting areas attacked, bite marks, possible tracks, etc. This is difficult due to three natural processes:

1. Carcass not found (totally consumed). Lions are opportunists, meaning they kill whatever is easiest. Lions are well known to kill the young, both of wild animals and domestic livestock. If a young calf or lamb is killed by a lion, most, if not all, of the animal is eaten. Consequently, no carcass is found.
2. Decay rapidly eliminates evidence concerning death, especially in hot weather. A couple of hot days can eliminate most of the evidence detailing the cause of death. Further, scavengers accelerate the decay process.
3. Terrain - heavy vegetation, such as timber and undergrowth hide the carcass. There are thousands of acres of timber in the West. A carcass can be easily overlooked. And, lions almost always bury their kills.

According to the 1990 figures in the state of Texas, confirmed

mountain lion kills of domestic livestock were as follows: 86 calves (estimated value = \$40,850); 253 Mohair goats (estimated value = \$12,771); 302 Mohair kids (estimated value = \$13,690); 445 sheep (estimated value = \$31,132); 562 lambs (estimated value = \$33,909). (*1991 Figures from U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, San Antonio, Texas*)

The 1992 reports for Nevada list lion depredations as follows: 9 calves (estimated value = \$2,600), 1 horse (estimated value = \$1,000), 4 colts (estimated value = \$2,200), 5 goats (estimated value = \$500), 318 sheep (estimated value = \$32,896), 400 lambs (estimated value = \$26,359). (*U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, Reno, Nevada*)

These figures reflect only the reported problems and confirmed lion kills. To get a reasonable estimate of the real cost of lion predation on domestic livestock, multiply the above figures by 90 (the percentage of animals killed by predators and not found soon enough to confirm the cause of death). Mountain lion predation is a serious economic factor.

Disease curtailed with predator control: Mountain lions carry trichinella, a parasitic worm. (54% of 899 Montana cougars tested positive for Trichinella. Data from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana.) This parasite can be passed on to other animals and to humans. In humans it causes trichinosis, a disease characterized by headache, chills, fever and soreness of muscles. Humans contract this disease by eating infected meat that has not been cooked sufficiently to kill the larva. (*World Book*

*Dictionary, Volume Two; World Book, Inc. 1986, page 2231.12)*

Public safety: An increase in lions often leads to attacks on humans. We have a photo in our photo files of the stomach contents of a lion that killed a small boy. One can see clearly parts of clothing the lion consumed as it fed on the youngster.

Lion attacks on humans increase when:

1. Prey animals are few in number.
2. Lions become accustomed to man. Mountain lions are solitary animals. They generally hunt at night and, for the most part, are not seen by humans. However, recently lions have been sighted in and near Western towns. This indicates an increase in lions and/or a limited prey base forcing the cats to come closer to man in search for food. And this carries the potential for attacks on humans.

This problem has such significance that the state of Colorado held a symposium in 1991 specifically addressing the rise in mountain lion attacks on humans. The Wildlife Society Bulletin featured an article documenting lion attacks on humans by Professor Paul Beier of the Department of Forestry and Resource Management at the University of California at Berkeley. Beier's conclusion stated that mountain lion attacks on humans have "increased

markedly" in the last two decades. (Beier, Paul; "Cougar Attacks on Humans in the United States and Canada"; WILDLIFE SOCIETY BULLETIN, 19:403-412, 1991.)

Here are a few documented mountain lion attacks on humans:

1. Spring, 1986 - Orange County, California - Laura Small, age 5, was attacked by a mountain lion in the Ronald W. Caspars Wilderness Park. The female lion attacked her head and dragged her off. Laura suffered paralysis of her right side and was confined to a wheelchair for a period of time. She has had 11 operations. Now Laura has a steel plate in her skull. Her right leg is weak, her right arm is partially paralyzed and she is blind in her left eye.

A lawsuit of \$100 million and \$750,000 in personal damage was filed against Orange County. Small was awarded \$2 million dollars. Orange County appealed the ruling.

2. August 1986 - Justin Mellon, age 6, was hiking in Ronald W. Caspars Wilderness Park. He was attacked and mauled by a female lion. Mellon suffered bites to the head, leg and stomach. His injuries were not as severe as that of Laura Small. Note: Due to the lawsuit over the Laura Small attack, the Board of Supervisors for Orange County decided not to allow minors into Cas-

pars Wilderness Park at all. (Information compiled from Ronald W. Caspars Wilderness Park, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, Sacramento, California and various news reports.)

3. 1989 - Evaro, Montana - Jake Gardipe, age 5, was killed by two or three mountain lions (possibly a female with two kittens) while riding his tricycle in his front yard. The boy was dragged from the yard and the body was found nearby several hours later. The boy's home was 100 yards from U.S. Highway 93 just outside of Evaro. (Associated Press, September 13, 1989)
4. 1989 - Apache Junction, Arizona - Joshua Walsh, age 5, was mauled by a mountain lion near Canyon Lake, some 30 miles northeast of Phoenix. Without warning, and near a parking lot and boat dock filled with people, the mountain lion attacked Joshua, bit him on the head and began to shake him with its jaws and drag him away. Tim Walsh, Joshua's father, leaped down a 20-foot embankment, grabbed a rock, threw it and hit the lion on the head, scaring it. The lion dropped the boy. Joshua was air-lifted to Phoenix Children's Hospital where it took 100 stitches to close Joshua's head wounds, including re-attachment of his right ear which was nearly severed in the attack. (Phoenix Gazette, May 1, 1989, page A-1)

5. 1991 - Nevada Test Site, north of Las Vegas, Nevada - Mary Saether, was attacked by a 120-pound female mountain lion. She suffered minor cuts and received 21 stitches on her head, right arm, and back. The cougar crept up on Saether and two male companions and attacked before they were aware of its presence. The two men beat the lion with their cameras forcing it to release Saether. A Wildlife Services Specialist arrived the next day. As he was doing a preliminary check, he heard noise in a tree and turned to find the lion charging. The man had only enough time to draw his handgun and shoot the lion at point blank range. The lion was found to be in good health. (*U. S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, Reno, Nevada and various news reports*)

6. 1991 - Idaho Springs, Colorado - Scott Dale Lancaster, age 18, was killed by a lion while jogging near his high school. Lancaster was attacked by a 90 - 100 pound female cougar and dragged some 60 feet away. When asked how severely the boy was mauled by the lion, Undersheriff Dave Graham replied, "Bad!" It took authorities two days to find Lancaster's body. (*Clear Creek Courant, January 16, 1991, page 1*)

7. 1991 - Riverside, California - Searchers found evidence that Travis Zwiag, age 3, of La Quinta, California, was possibly attacked by a mountain lion. Shoe prints thought to be Zwiag's were

found a half mile from where the toddler disappeared. The prints stopped at a rocky overhang where mountain lion prints were found. "Where the shoes stopped, there was a slide area and what they believed to be drag marks," said Sgt. Craig Kilday. (*Associated Press, February 26, 1991 - Note: We found no record of the boy being found.*)

8. 1992 - Gaviota State Park, near Santa Barbara, California - Darron Arroyo, age 9, was attacked by a mountain lion as he walked along a park trail. Darron was hiking with his two brothers when a lion rushed from the bushes and attacked, attempting to drag him off in the brush. Steven Arroyo, Darron's father, was walking about a hundred yards behind the boys. He heard the screams and saw the lion dragging Darron. Steven rushed toward the cat, picked up a rock, threw it and struck the lion between the eyes. The lion dropped the boy and left the area. Darron sustained bites to the face and head and scratches to the chest. (*Information compiled from Santa Barbara News Press, Gaviota State Park and California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.*)

9. 1992 - Wenatchee, Washington - Jessica Vanney, age 5, suffered cuts and puncture wounds when a 60-pound mountain lion attacked her as she walked along a path

through trees at a 100-site campground in Lake Wenatchee State Park. Her father, Michael Vanney, witnessed the attack. "Jessica was 4 or 5 feet in front of me. She walked between two trees and I saw some movement out of the corner of my eye. Then I saw the cougar run around a tree and jump on her. Its front paws just wrapped right around her head and shoulders." Vanney grabbed his hunting knife and attacked the animal. This is the third known lion attack in the state. (*Associated Press, June 18, 1992 - Note: What if this was a full grown lion weighing 150 pounds? What if Jessica was walking that path by herself?*)

10. 1992 - Vancouver Island, British Columbia - An 8-year-old Kiyuquot Indian boy, Jeremy Williams, was fatally mauled by a mountain lion in the village of Kiyuquot. The boy's father and a dozen youngsters witnessed the attack. Jeremy was attacked as he sat on the grass in the elementary school playground. The cougar rushed and attacked the freckled, red-haired youngster as other children ran for help. Kevin Williams, Jeremy's father and a teacher at the school, hurried to the scene and watched helplessly while children screamed in panic. The school's janitor shot and killed the 60-pound lion. Richard Leo, a Kiyuquot Indian chief, said angry par-



ents accused the school board of ignoring the danger of wild animals. (*Associated Press, 1992*)

11. 1994 - Auburn Lake Trails, California (near Sacramento) - a 40-year-old vocational rehabilitation counselor, Barbara Schoener, was attacked and killed by a mountain lion. Schoener was jogging in the popular Auburn Trails area when a cougar attacked her from behind. The force of attack caused Schoener off the trail. Schoener made two strides before falling 30 feet. Schoener then stood up and moved another 25 feet down the slope where the final attack occurred. Wounds on Schoener's forearms and hands showed attempts to defend herself, but the 5-foot-8-inch, 120-pound woman was no match for the lion. The lion dragged Schoener 300 feet downhill and, after feeding on her, buried her with leaves and debris. Schoener received two fatal wounds - a crushed skull and bites to the head and neck. (*Sacramento Bee Final, April 27, 1994, page B1 and B4*)

These are but a few of the documented mountain lion attacks on humans, most of which were small children. All lions involved in these attacks that were located and destroyed, were found to be healthy. Some showed signs of hunger.

One major reason for the significant rise of attacks in recent years is the lack of predator control.

Since many people now live in urban or metropolitan areas, they are unfamiliar with predation, its impacts, and the many benefits of predator control. In fact, few even know what those benefits are. Further, there has been a constant barrage of misinformation calling for the return of the "natural" or "living in harmony with nature."

Dr. Lester McCann, Ph.D. has studied predation his entire life. His findings reveal:

1. Predators are the main carriers of deadly diseases of wildlife and to humans. Predators are well known to carry rabies. Raccoons carry a deadly fowl cholera which has devastated ducks in many areas.
2. Predation is non-specific - meaning the predator takes what it finds. Fox, skunk, and raccoon are extremely hard on ducks, pheasants, and other birds due to their nest destruction. Many studies have shown no young reproduced from nests, due to predation.
3. There have been NO significant increases in wildlife populations without some kind of predator control. (*McCann, Lester, Ph.D.; A New Day For Wildlife; (St. Paul: Ramaley Printing Company) 1978.*)

The enormous benefits of predator control are largely ignored these days. To understand those benefits, one must ask, "What are the problems caused by predators?"

1. The most obvious is their meat consumption. From the fox in the chicken house to the wolf in the barnyard, predation costs ranchers and farmers dearly. In the early years, the wolf, lion or bear could put a homesteader out of business in one night. Often all the homesteader had was an old milk cow and/or maybe some sheep or yearling cattle. It was common for a pack of wolves to come through and kill every animal the little farmer had. Many times cows or sheep had their udders torn off and eaten. It is interesting to note that government officials considered mountain lions as destructive as wolves in the early years.

The consumption rate of lions is estimated at eight to ten pounds of meat per day. To illustrate this, consider the lion population in California. Wildlife officials estimate they have 5,000 mountain lions in the state. (*California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California*) Those lions would consume 50,000 pounds of meat per day to survive. It must be noted that predators hunt 365 days a year. There are no seasons or bag limits.

2. Predators were hard on wildlife, especially before man came. Many are the accounts of early explorers forced to eat their horses due to lack of wild game. Perhaps the most significant factor was water, or the lack of it. Few natural springs



are found in the West. The scarcity of water allowed the predator ease in finding prey. Prey had to water, so the predator simply waited near the spring or river. Man came along and built reservoirs and dug wells and irrigation ditches. Water became more accessible and wildlife flourished, especially when the predator numbers were reduced. The abundance of wildlife today is a direct result of the improvement and management by man, including predator control.

3. Disease was curtailed with predator control. Predators are well- documented as

carriers of diseases harmful to bird and game populations. They also carry diseases harmful to man. The best known and most feared is rabies.

In the first part of this century, a rabies epidemic spread from the Pacific Northwest down through the southwestern states of New Mexico and Arizona. The coyote was the main carrier. Incidence of rabies is on the rise with numerous reports coming into the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Several Western counties have had rabies epidemics. In Wyo-

oming, a man was bitten by a rabid coyote. A few years ago, a child was attacked and bitten by a rabid bobcat in California. The child spent several days in a coma and then died from rabies. Rabies shots were administered, but failed to stop the dreaded disease.

Credit for part of the information in the is article is from

Copyright, 1995, T. R. Mader. Permission granted to quote from or reprint if full credit is given to the source

## **More Lion Information**

By Sue Grimm

It must be understood that predation must be addressed for wildlife to be abundant for viewing or hunting. The predator is to wildlife what weeds are to the farmer or gardener. You cannot have abundant wildlife with abundant predators any more than you can have a fruitful garden or crops with abundant weeds. Know for some information on the history of Mountain Lions in Colorado. In 1881 Colorado classified mountain lions as a predator, with a bounty offered for every mountain lion killed until 1995 when they were reclassified as a game animal. Between 1971 (the 1st year records are available) and 1965 1,754 lions were killed and turned into government agents for a bounty.

Colorado has on going lion studies to try and determine the number of

animals present in the state. Figures run from 3,000 to over 9,000. Several studies are on going using GPS to track the lion. In order to get a better estimate of just how many lions are present and what there ranges are.

I live and hike in lion country lion Colorado. This winter has seen several lions in my area. With in 3 miles of my house 6 dogs have been killed by lions, all from there own fenced yards. To stay safe you need to follow some simple steps.

1. Do your homework, it is the first necessity for safety in the outdoors with your llama. Make your plans based upon that knowledge, and use common sense. Talk to someone who knows the area, the local DOW agent or forest service personal. The more you know

about wildlife, and there habits in your area, or where you are going to be hiking, the more you can avoid a potentially disastrous encounter that could ruin your day.

You don't normally see a lion in the wild, even where they are plentiful. They are very secretive, and deadly. Most prey animals that are taken by a lion are never given a warning that danger is imminent. With lions, the general guideline is to make yourself look as large as possible to discourage the cat. Do not make eye contact, as that focuses its attention on you something you do not want to do. the If you are with other folks, join together in a group. Gather children with you, as well as pets. Back away don't panic or run. It would probably be good to make noise,

helps to discourage the lion. If you encounter a dead deer, or other animal, which appears to be partially covered up with leaves or sticks be especially wary. A lion will cover its kill and return until it's eaten. He's not far away.

With the increased sighting of lions in Colorado one

must be prepared for an encounter while out on the trail or in your own yard. In a recent security video from the courthouse in Georgetown, CO. A lion was spotted walking thru the parking lot early in the evening.

There have been sightings this winter in Roxbough

Park, Littleton, CO and one cat lounging in a tree on the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. And at least 2 llamas attacked and killed in the Lyons, CO area



brent.holt@cfbmic.com



Auto • Home • Life

(281) 250-2000

## How A Little Idea . . .

By Glenn & Kathy Stanko

Can turn into a day of fun & meals for the hungry!

Ever have one of those nights when you wake up with an idea and there goes the end of your sleep? Yep. It happens with many of us. This particular night, Glenn woke up with an idea to take a couple of our PR llamas down to see our friends at Grand Junction Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge during the holidays. You know, just a little visit.

Well, when he came home this little idea had turned into a food drive!!!! (This is

certainly better than some of his visits when he came home in a new truck.) Anyway, he and the Manager of the dealership came up with the idea of doing a food drive complete with Santa and our llama elves, Suti & Cimarron.

Glenn who is typically a 'bah humbugger' rented a Santa outfit to be worn over his Bah Humbug t-shirt and Bah Humbug sweat shirt. Then we began putting costumes together for the llama elves. The hats were a real treat: llamas can give you some pretty nasty looks when they want to. Then there was the morning that Glenn

went out to feed wearing his Santa hair and beard: those big loving eyes got bigger and Bigger and BIGGER.

The food drive was scheduled from 10 – 2 on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The dealership put ads on the radio and the folks from the Food Bank of the Rockies contacted the TV stations. In just these few hours 235 lbs of food were collected. The Food Bank uses a measure of 1.33 lbs per meal which translates into about 176 meals to feed people here on the Western Slope of Colorado. It was a fun time and a great Christmas for us!



# RMLA.COM

- Renew your membership – the new membership year begins April 1, 2012
- Check out a great resource or publication from the RMLA Library
- Advertise in the RMLA Yellow Pages and let the world know about your farm/ranch
- Visit the RMLA Bookstore – PayPal now available. Your place to purchase both the newly revised Youth Llama Project Manual and Caring For Llamas & Alpacas.
- Read and print out RMLA Fiber Co-op Guidelines – market your animal's fiber
- Buy the 2012 RMLA Calendar – Everyone should have one – they are awesome!
- Read Board of Director's Meeting Minutes containing committee reports to keep informed about what is going on in your organization

brent.holt@cfbmic.com



(281) 250-2000

## Rocky Mountain Llamas

Timberline and Ollie Llama Pack Systems

Bobra's Trail Halters

and more



~Trail Tested, Llama Approved~

[www.rockymtllamas.com](http://www.rockymtllamas.com)

303-530-5575 Niwot, Colorado

## Cache La Poudre



### MINERALS

*New Owners*

**Randy & Jody Sharp**

*Call To Order*

or to receive a brochure

**800-758-0825**

303-420-1659

#### Supplement #1

Diet consists of: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pasture; feeding grass hay. Supplement #1 contains a 2:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio and additional Vitamin E.

#### Supplement #2

Diet consists of: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pasture; feeding alfalfa or grass hay low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and Vitamin E.

#### Supplement #3

Diet consists of: Spring or irrigated pasture; feeding alfalfa or grass hay low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and recommended basic level of Vitamin E.

## *Insure Your Llama and Alpacas' Health for Just Pennies per Day!*

Cache La Poudre Minerals are free choice Vitamin and Mineral supplements formulated specifically to balance your llama and alpacas' diet.

- ✓ Supplements do not add unnecessary calories or protein to the animals' diet
- ✓ Tailored to meet different feeding situations
- ✓ Palatable so the animals will consume them willingly
- ✓ Safer than pellets, which may cause them to choke

On the web at: [www.CLPMinerals.com](http://www.CLPMinerals.com)

Zinpro® 100 also available.

Owners of *Arazzmatazz Alpacas*

**RMLA**

11818 W 52nd Ave

Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032

**PRESORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 7  
DUMONT, CO**

## **A Good Reference For An Experienced Breeder. An Excellent Gift For The New Owner!**

Buying an Animal ♦ Restraint ♦ Traveling with your Animal ♦ Newborns  
♦ Herd Health ♦ Wounds ♦ Mastitis ♦ Lumps ♦ Skin Disorders ♦ Lameness  
♦ Nutrition ♦ Digestive Problems ♦ Respiratory Problems ♦ Down  
Lama ♦ Poisonous Plants ♦ Reproduction and Birthing ♦ Giving Injections  
♦ Teeth ♦ Passing Stomach Tubes ♦ Normal Llama and Alpaca Vitals

**Only \$29.95** (plus \$6.00 postage and handling)

Make your check payable to RMLA for \$35.95

(Colorado residents please add \$1.17 sales tax = \$37.12)

Mail to:

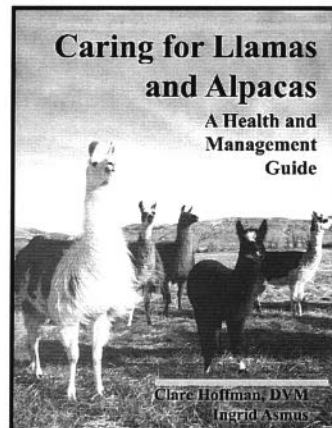
**RMLA Attn: Janice Adamcyk**  
**39420 Olson Court**  
**Kiowa, CO 80117-9604**

Include your name, mailing address, phone  
number and \$35.95 (CO residents: \$37.12)

**Non-US Mailings:** Contact Jan Adamcyk at  
adamcyk@earthlink.net for postage amount.

### **Caring for Llamas and Alpacas**

**A Health and  
Management  
Guide**



### **THE STANDARD IN THE INDUSTRY**

Caring For Llamas and Alpacas- A Health and Management Guide by Clare Hoffman, DVM and Ingrid Asmus. Now in its Third Edition, 172 pages—with many updated comments by the authors. Spiral Bound 8 ½" X 11" for easy reference in your barn. Larger type with over 60 detailed illustrations. An excellent gift for new owners of llamas and alpacas and serious visitors to your ranch.

*Now order online at [www.RMLA.com](http://www.RMLA.com) - click on Bookstore*