



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About...

March 2018

Michigan Llama Association

Vol. 23, Issue 1



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Llama Living



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Michigan Llama Association

Web Site - www.miichiganllama.org

Facebook Page - Michigan Llama Associaion

Bittersweet Farm



Suzanne Hockin Frambes
Kenneth Frambes
(517) 857-4626
GRJax7@springcom.com

**Are you a
whiz with the
computer and
love to manage
web sites and/or
Facebook pages?**

The MLA is looking for a person(s) to fill these positions. If you are interested, contact any Board member.

2018 MLA Board

President	Corky Dubois	616.902.2382
Vice President	Gary Surratt	517.457.3524
Secretary	Sheila Miller	517.645.2719
Treasurer	Pat Schneeberger	517.627.6562
Youth Representative	VACANT	
Immediate Past Member	VACANT	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Year one of two	Dave Thompson	616.902.2382
Year one of two	Bev Surratt	517.547.3524
Year two of two	Don Topliff	517.655.5988
Year two of two	Bev Souva	989.856.3461

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hillsdale Show	Tim/Stephanie Douwsma	574.606.6183
Lamafest	Don Topliff	517.655.5988
Library	Gary/Bev Surratt	517.457.3524
Marketing	Renee` Hobbins, Julia Tarsa, Sarah Wolf	231.228.6128
Membership	Pat Schneeberger	517.627.6562
Mid Michigan Show	Jerry Miller	517.645.2719
Newsletter	Suzanne Hockin Frambes	517.857.4626
Nomination	Jerry Miller	517.645.2719
Scholarship	Corky Dubois	616.902.2382
Spring Fund Raiser	Annette Aldrich	517.675.7705
Youth/Youth Fund Raiser	Bev Souva	989.856.3461
Youth Show	Corky Dubois	616.902.2382
Web Master	VACANT.	
Michigan Fiber Industry Coalition Liaison	Sheila Miller	517.645.2719

The MLA Board positions for 2018 are filled with the exception of a Youth Representative and an Immediate Past Member. Both of these are voting positions. If you are interested in filling one of these position, contact any Board member above.

Almost all of the committee chairs are filled, but if you are willing to help out on a committee, contact the chair listed above.

The Board is still looking for a Web Master and someone to take over the MLA Facebook page. For qualifications to volunteer for either of these positions, contact any Board member above.

Calendar Of Events

MARCH

March 9-10, 2018
**2018 Camelid Vet and Owner
Breeder Conference**
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
For more information contact Barb
Baker at 740.397.1736.

APRIL

April 6-8, 2018
March Madness
C-Bar-C Expo
Cloverdale, IN
ILR Show, LEA Futurity Sale

April 21, 2018
MLA Hobo Lama Show
Hillsdale Fairgrounds
Hillsdale, MI
For more information see the article
in this issue of Llama Living.

MAY

May 15, 2018
Llama Living Deadline

May 12, 2108
MLA Mid-Michigan Show
Eaton County Fairgrounds
Charlotte, MI
For more information see the article
in this issue of Llama Living

JUNE

June 1-2, 2018
Allen County Open Llama Show
Ft. Wayne, IN
ALSA and ILR Sanctioned shows

June 29 - July 1, 2018
**All American Youth
Jamboree**
**Hamilton County
Fairgrounds**
Noblesville, IN
See ad in this issue of Llama
Living.

JULY

AUGUST

August 15, 2018
Llama Living Deadline

August 15-19, 2018
Michigan Fiber Festival
Allegan County Fairgrounds
Allegan, MI
For more information go to their web
site at www.michiganfiberfestival.info/
*NOTE: See information on Page
19 in this issue of Llama Living for
information as to how you can place
your lama in the lama section of the
event.*

SEPTEMBER

September 1-2, 2018
Lamafest
MSU Pavilion
East Lansing, MI
For more information see the June
issue of Llama Living, soon on the
Lamafest web site, or contact Don
Topliff at 517.655.5988 or e-mail
him at dktopliff@gmail.com.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

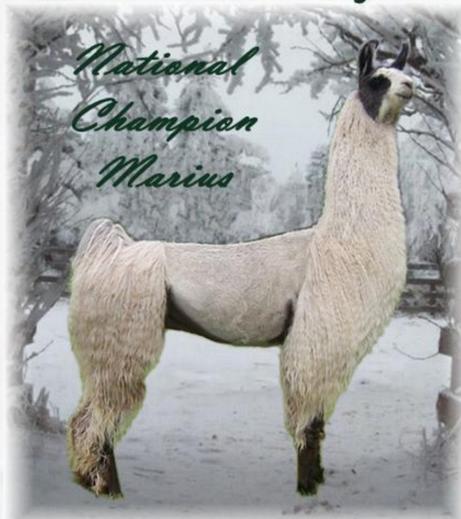
November 15, 2018
Llama Living Deadline

**MLA Membership/Board/
Election Meeting**
Date, time and location not yet
determined.

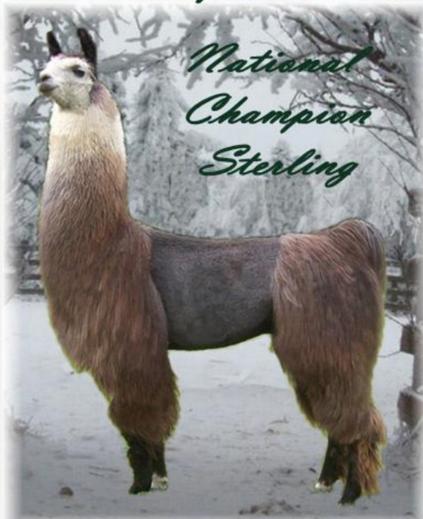
DECEMBER



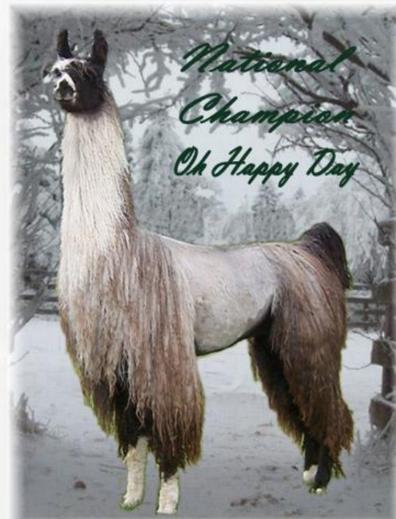
Dominant, Prolific Sires are needed in today's highly competitive market! We help to assure they stamp out Beautiful Offspring with an array of Show Champion Females for their court!



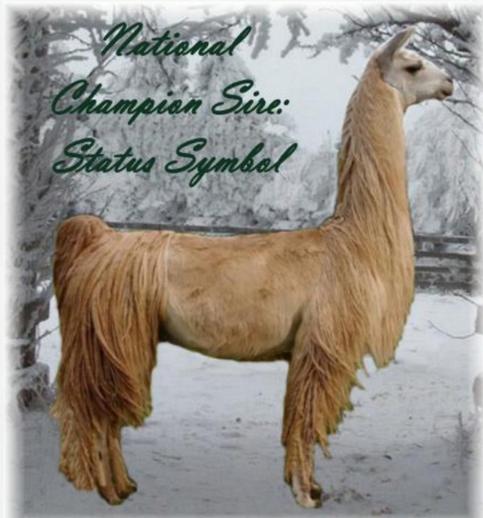
*National
Champion
Marius*



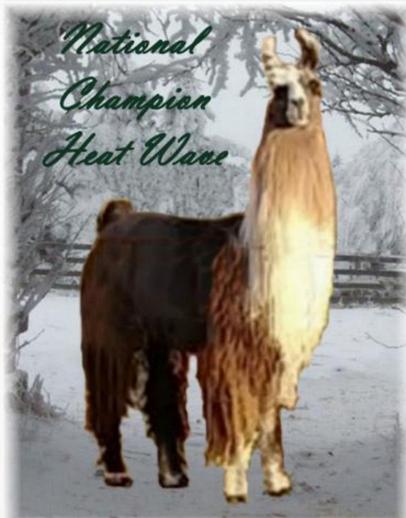
*National
Champion
Sterling*



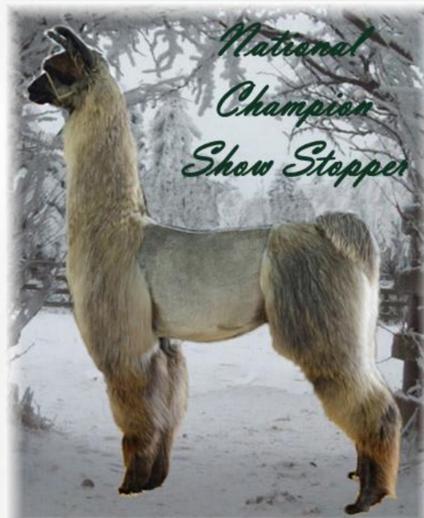
*National
Champion
Oh Happy Day*



*National
Champion Sire:
Status Symbol*



*National
Champion
Heat Wave*



*National
Champion
Show Stopper*

*We will be offering Females
bred to these Outstanding
Males! Stay Tuned!
Offspring Available Now!*



*We have Puppies!
Breeders of Little
Aussies for 20+ yrs!
Please contact us
for the puppy
of your choice!*

National Champion Llamas & Miniature & Toy Aussies

Lloyd & Tami Lash H: 517.467.2709 C: 517.605.7809 www.LashsUniqueAnimals.com

Lama Sightings



The above pieces of functional handmade artwork can be viewed and purchased at the Schaller Gallery in downtown St. Joseph, Michigan.

Michigan Fiber
Cooperative

Producer of.....



Fiber Farmers with livestock - from Angora goats and Rabbits to Yaks and everything in between are welcome to join the cooperative.

For information please contact:

info@michiganfibercooperative.com

American Youth Jamboree

"Where every youth is a star!"



A Don't Miss Event! - Make Your Plans Now!

National Youth Show & Conference for 4-H, ILR, & ALSA Youth

Cash Premiums, Ribbons, Awards, Prizes, & Fun!

New! Open Halter Show at the Jamboree

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Two Complete Youth Shows | Skillathon | Take-A-Chance Showmanship |
| Sweepstakes Obstacle | Vet Clinics | Many Fiber Workshops |
| Showing Seminars | Poster Show | Farmer Olympics |
| Youth Fiber Show | Versatility Awards | Free Dinners |
| Photo Show | Funny Money Auction | Youth Judging |

June 29th - July 1st, 2018 * Noblesville, Indiana (by Indpls.)

www.youthjamboree.net * One Low Entry Fee



Jerry & Sheila Miller
4705 Llama Lane, Potterville, MI 48876
517 645-2719 ~ millerlama@aol.com

Deborah Yeagle

ASEA Bronze
Redox Signaling Molecules

419-680-1186
loftypine@yahoo.com
www.debyeagle.teamasea.com

2882 County Road 82
Lindsey, Ohio 43442



Marty's Corner

Perhaps the most perplexing thing about getting to know llamas is learning to interpret their body language. A brand new llama owner feels as if he has been transported to an alien planet. He wakes up in the morning after the animals arrive, walks out to the barn and finds himself in the movie, "Planet of the Llamas". I don't care how much reading you do, how many farms you visit, and how long you dream about having a llama, there is something really amazing about seeing them standing in your barn! Llamas don't act at all like other animals we are used to seeing in the barn. They look us right in the eye, look strangely superior and seem to be totally in charge of their surroundings.



And then there is the spitting thing.... They do spit, you know. No matter how much we long time llama owners discount it, the fact is they can and do spit. Usually llamas have a perfectly good reason for the behavior mind you, but for the uninitiated it is something that takes getting used to. I had lived with my llamas all of a day or two when I arrived home to find my lovelies holding their mouths open drooling and shaking their heads. I was just positive that my brand new llamas had been poisoned and promptly called the vet. As it turned out, as any one who knows llamas, they had just had a little "spit" spat.

I have been a keen observer of llamas now for 20 years and have learned to look past the big clue (such as ears up or back or a well-placed lugee) to more subtle hints. Making my living as I do working with llamas, troubled or otherwise, learning llama-speak has been a matter of job security. It is better by far to predict undesirable behavior and preempt it rather than to deal with the consequences of misconduct. Each time a llama engages in a particular behavior, it adds to the odds that the behavior will become habitual. Once you learn to anticipate what a llama will do, you can choose to either encourage the behavior or interrupt it. You can cultivate good habits and prevent bad ones from getting started.

I find the following general list to be very helpful in evaluating an animal as I work. Keep in mind, this is a general guide. It is very useful to observe and make notes about the specific behavior of each animal that you own. For example, some llamas are more likely to keep to themselves than others and some llamas are much more vocal than others are. Taking that into account, the following is a general list that will help to take the emotional temperature of your llamas as you work with them.

When using these behavioral indicators in a training context, member that most llamas will show some degree of discomfort when you are training them. "Into each life a little rain must fall". I recognize that either based on inexperience and fear of the unknown or past negative experience with humans, any llama student is going to show some signs of discomfort. Llamas can be very dramatic and I find that new trainees and handlers often stop a lesson as soon as there is any sign of distress. It is useful for a llama to find out that he or she can recover from being upset. As the trainer you have the option of changing the subject matter, taking a break, offering some food or doing some body work to help your llama student calm down. Simply putting your llama away when he becomes upset will nothing but reinforce the behavior.

It is important for you to be aware of your body language and to impart a sense of confidence as you work. Move in a normal fashion, NOT in a slow motion pace. As counter intuitive as it may seem, moving faster from step to step is better for more nervous animals. High-strung llamas appreciate a trainer who is organized and who does not leave unfilled gaps of time. These llamas in particular are worried about what happens next - don't make them wait any longer than you have to.

Carry your shoulders in a relaxed way, don't hide your hands, but keep them to yourself unless you need to make contact with your llama. Remember to BREATHE! I find it useful to make intermittent eye contact and to stand behind the eye of the llama outside arm's length when possible.

Information is power: by paying attention to the signals on this list you will know when your student moves from discomfort to a more relaxed attitude. This lets you know that your approach is working. When the

opposite happens you can change your approach. Remember, the most important handling and training maxim... If what you are doing isn't working, do something DIFFERENT!

A LLAMA THAT IS CALM.....

- ◆ Is quiet.
- ◆ Will blink regularly.
- ◆ Will stand in balance on all four feet - weight and stance is evenly distributed. (See Note 1)
- ◆ Will breath at a normal rate.
- ◆ Will eat and/or ruminate (alfalfa is the best thing to offer as most llamas will eat it).
- ◆ Is still.
- ◆ Will hold his or her tail lightly against the body.
- ◆ Swallows on a regular basis.
- ◆ Carries the neck slightly forward of the shoulders.
- ◆ Moves his ears regularly and holds them loosely.
- ◆ Will watch the handler with interest

A LLAMA THAT IS UPSET.....

- ◆ Will lean against the lead rope or the side of the chute
- ◆ Will try to get up and down.
- ◆ Will seek to escape by leaping forward, pulling back or drawling through an opening.
- ◆ Will stop their feet and/or kick.
- ◆ Will hold his or her tail over the back, clamp it to the body or arch it up and over the back.
- ◆ Will stare fixedly.
- ◆ Will spit.
- ◆ Will refuse food.
- ◆ Will throw the head around sometimes in a distinctive pattern called “orbiting in which the llama looks straight up and whirls the head around in a circle.
- ◆ Will hum and/or scream.
- ◆ Will squat and/or urinate.
- ◆ Will hold tension in the face resulting in a wrinkle under the eye.
- ◆ Will hold the lips stiffly - lips are more pointed and held tightly against the teeth.
- ◆ Will have flared nostrils and rapid or irregular respiration.
- ◆ Will perspire around ears, armpits, footpads, in between front legs, and in between back legs.
- ◆ Will carry the neck behind the shoulders or hang it very low.
- ◆ Will stand in strange ways splayed out and braced or tucked under the body with the top line hunched.
- ◆ Will prick his ears forward or pin them back and hold them tightly and fixed. (See Note 2)
- ◆ Will hold the breath and drool and refuse to swallow or may be breathing rapidly through mouth.

(See Note 3)

NOTE 1 - BALANCE: Bringing your llama into balance will help a nervous animal calm down. Look at your animal's feet as you train and continually work at keeping your student in balance. Your student is in balance when you can take ALL pressure off the lead rope or release pressure around the neck and the animal doesn't move away.

NOTE 2 - EARS: I depart from the mainstream in this area, particularly I don't use the ears up = happy, ears back = sad thing. Loose ears generally indicate relaxation, tight ears either forward or back indicate consternation, annoyance, and aggression depending on context.

NOTE 3 - MOUTH BREATHING: If your llama student is truly mouth breathing and is not simply holding the mouth open as a result of spiting, it is an indication of a stress level that merits bringing a training session to a close.



Continued on page 10

Marty's Corner

Continued



VERY IMPORTANT NOTE ON HALTER FIT: When you are working with your animals, it is critical that the halter fit be taken into consideration. The halter must be properly fitted so that the behavior reactions indicate a reaction to the procedure or handling and not just to the halter. A properly fitted halter fits well up on the nose close to the eye, leaves room for the animal to eat, ruminate, and drink comfortably. It is imperative that you palpate the nose bone to make sure that the crown piece is snug enough to prevent the halter from slipping forward to the very edge or worse - off the bone. For more detailed information about halter fit and llama behavior, refer to "The Camelid Companion".

For more information about Marty McGee Bennett and Camelidynamics, see her web site at www.camelidynamics.com. □

ALSA Show Results - Lamafest 2017

YOUTH JUNIOR - YOUTH JUDGING

1 - Jackpot Blues, Lauren Pickett

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE - YOUTH JUDGING

1 - SHAG Nutter Butter, Meagan Bixler
2 - SHAG Power Mania, Heather Holland

3 - Coal, Cassandra Williams

YOUTH SENIOR - YOUTH JUDGING

1 - Ransom's Maximus Prime, Aubrie Ginther
2 - SHAG Terzino, Olivia Michel
3 - CVL Partlicloudy, Courtni Schmeichel

ADULT SHOWMANSHIP

1 - SHAG Time ToNotesMeToo, Stephanie Foerder
2 - Pleasing's Rockstarr, Amanda Oiszewski
3 - Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith

YOUTH SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP

1 - SHAG Misty Molly, Lexi Foerder
2 - SHAG Sassy Lassie, Avery Sins
3 - Mister Moonshine, Becca Foerder

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

1 - Star Freckled Princess, Ella Pickett
2 - SHAG Nutter Butter, Megan Bixler
3 - HF Venson, Hailey Sorg

YOUTH JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

1 - Marimae, Theresa Schasser
2 - Solid Rock's Survivor, Carter North
3 - Jackpot Blues, Lauren Pickett

COSTUME CLASS

1 - Ginger Burns
2 - Twenty One Reasons To Be Thankful, Karen Smith

SURI FEMALE JUVENILE

1 - CARU Harmonious Reflection, Tom & Barb Parsons

SURI FEMALE YEARLING

1 - LUA Wave's of Dyamonds, Lloyd & Tami Lash

SURI FEMALE 2 YEAR OLD

1 - SPCL Got My Swag, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

2 - SPCL Nashville Starr, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

3 - Star Freckled Princess, Ella Pickett

SURI FEMALE ADULT

1 - Klein Himmel's Amelia Earhart, Glen & Margo Unzicker

2 - SHAG Misty Molly, Stephanie Foerder

3 - TTara's High Hope TO27, Suzanne Carroll

SURI FEMALE GRAND

Klein Himmel's Amelia Earhart, Glen & Margo Unzicker

SURI FEMALE RESERVE

CARU Harmonious Reflection, Tom & Barb Parsons

SURI MALE JUVENILE

1 - SPCL Cameron Sterling, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

2 - AAL Captain Jack Sparrow, Tom & Barb Parsons

3 - Jackpot Blues, Noerder, Neni

SURI MALE YEARLING

1 - FEH Pursuit of Justice, Denise & Jason Fehrenbach

2 - SPCL Man of Steel, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

3 - Mister Moonshine, Stephanie Foerder

SURI MALE 2 YEAR OLD

1 - SPCL Silver Starr, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

SURI MALE ADULT

1 - NV's Knight Ryder, Timothy & Stephanie Douwsma

2 - Klein Himmel's Vision of Fire, Glen & Margo Unzicker

SURI MALE GRAND

FEH Pursuit of Justice, Denise & Jason Fehrenbach

SURI MALE RESERVE

SPCL Cameron Sterling, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

LIGHT WOOL FEMALE YEARLING

1 - LUA Bravado's By Design, Lloyd & Tami Lash

LIGHT WOOL FEMALE ADULT

1 - Winter's Dark Duchess, Bev Garret & Sue Saunders

LIGHT WOOL FEMALE GRAND

LUA Bravado's By Design, Lloyd & Tami Lash

LIGHT WOOL FEMALE RESERVE

Winter's Dark Duchess, Bev Garrett & Sue Saunders

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE YEARLING

1 - HF Valorie, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - Pandora RTC, Robert Douglas

3 - Hopeful, Suzanne Carroll

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE 2 YEAR OLD

1 - Marimae, Delores & Brian Greaves

2 - CVL Particloudy, Foerder, Nenni &

3 - CVL Perisian Dymond, Foerder, Nenni &

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE ADULT

1 - Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith

2 - SHAG Sassy Lassie, Abby Dugger

3 - Klein Himmel;Shira, Timothy & Stephanie
Douwsma

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE GRAND

HF Valorie, Lloyd & Tami Lash

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE RESERVE

Pandora RTC, Robert Douglas

MEDIUM WOOL MALE JUVENILE

1 - LUA Wave's of Prayer, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - HF Venson, Hailey Sorg

MEDIUM WOOL MALE YEARLING

1 - AAL Canadian Legend, Tom & Barb Parsons

2 - SHAG Sassy Lassie, Abby Dugger

3 - Klein Himmel's Shira, Timothy & Stephanie
Douwsma

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE GRAND

HF Valorie, Lloyd & Tami Lash

MEDIUM WOOL FEMALE RESERVE

Pandora RTC, Robert Douglas

MEDIUM WOOL MALE JUVENILE

1 - LUA Wave's of Prayer, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - HF Verson, Hailey Sorg

MEDIUM WOOL MALE YEARLING

1 - AAL Canadian Legend, Tom & Barb Parsons

2 - SPCL Dark Knight, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

3 - Solid Rock's Opera Ghost, Amanda Smith

MEDIUM WOOL MALE 2 YEAR OLD

1 - SRLL Marius, Lloyd & Tami Lash

MEDIUM WOOL MALE GRAND

SRLL Marius, Lloyd & Tami Lash

MEDIUM WOOL MALE RESERVE

LUA Wave's of Prayer, Lloyd & Tami Lash

HEAVY WOOL FEMALE JUVENILE

1 - LUA Elegance Status, Lloyd & Tami Lash

HEAVY WOOL FEMALE YEARLING

1 - Stage Stop Free Spirit, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - Argentine Morgana, Dubois/Greaves

3 - Tabouleh Argentine RTC, Robert Douglas

HEAVY WOOL FEMALE ADULT

1 - Chaleur, Glen & Margo Unzicker

HEAVY WOOL FEMALE GRAND

Stage Stop Free Spirit, Lloyd & Tami Lash

HEAVY WOOL FEMALE RESERVE

Argentine Morana, Dubois/Greaves

HEAVY WOOL MALE YEARLING

1 - MSF Show Stopper, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - Argentine Odysseus, Dawn Anderson

HEAVY WOOL MALE 2 YEAR OLD

1 - LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd & Tami Lash

2 - Argentine Mozart, Dawn Anderson

HEAVY WOOL MALE GRAND

LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd & Tami Lash

HEAVY WOOL MALE RESERVE

MSF Show Stopper, Lloyd & Tami Lash

NON-BREEDER YEARLING

1 - Solid Rock's Indestructible, Amanda Smith

NON-BREEDER ADULT

1 - Shadyhook Merlin of Camelott, Carmen Hartwig

2 - Argentine Shok 'N Awe, Dawn Anderson

3 - MSF Stomm Chaser, Foerder, Nenni &

NON-BREEDER GRAND

Shadyhook Merliin of Camelott, Carmen Hartwig

NON-BREEDER RESERVE

Argentine Shok 'N' Awe, Dawn Anderson

PRODUCE OF DAM

1 - Pristina's Firefly, Glen & Margo Unzicker

2 - Pristina's Firefly (2), Glen & Margo Unzicker

2 - Argentine Chiza, Dawn Anderson

GET OF SIRE

1 - SPCL Sterling Silver, Greg & Debbie Shellabarger

2 - Argentine Marcel's Ghiradelli, Dawn Anderson

MASTERS OBSTACLE,

1 - Solid Rock's Snickers, Joe Young

2 - SHAG TimeToNotesMeToo, Stephanie Foerder

ADVANCED OBSTACLE

1 - Klein Himmel's Vision of Fire, Cooper Douwsma

2 - Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith

3 - Pleasing's Rockstarr, Amanda Olszewski

NOVICE OBSTACLE

1 - LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd or Tami Lash

2 - NV's Knight Ryder, Tim Douwsma

3 - MSF Show Stopper,

YOUTH SENIOR OBSTACLE

1 - You Only Live Once, Madison Wells

2 - SHAG Misty Molly, Lexi Foerder

3 - Mister Moonshine, Becca Foerder

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE OBSTACLE

1 - Star Freckled Princess, Ella Pickett

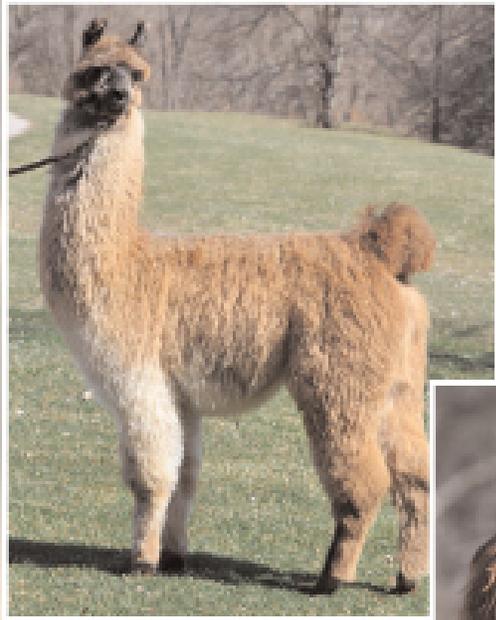
2 - SHAG Nutter Butter, Meagan Bixler

3 - SHAG Power Maria, Heather Holland

Continued on page 14

Looking for a great new addition to your herd?

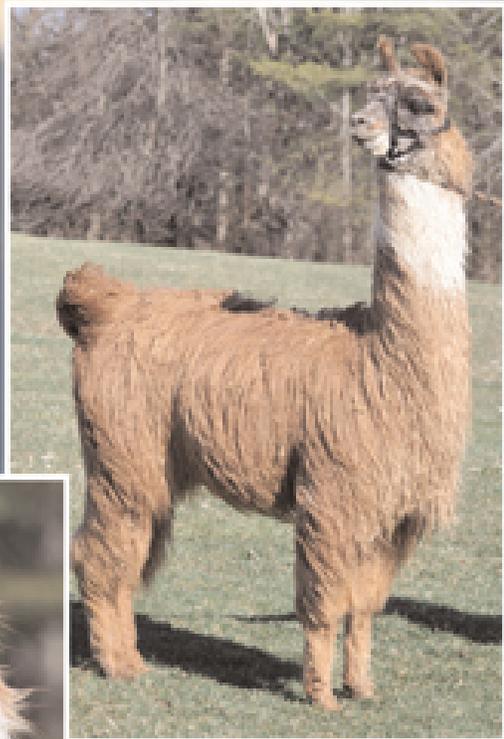
You will find a wide selection of young males & females, mature females - bred or open, and truly great stud prospects. These colorful suris & silkies are all 4-H trained and bred for correctness and people-pleasing personalities.



Glen & Margo Unzicker • 17740 County Road 14 • Goshen, IN 46528

You're sure to find it at Klein Himmel!

You will find great deals and packages made up of fine quality show, breeding and companion llamas. If you are looking for that perfect llama, contact Klein Himmel. Be sure to visit our web site for more pictures and information.



Klein Himmel
(LITTLE HEAVEN)

P: 574.825.4459 • E: glenunzicker@earthlink.net • W: www.kleinhimmel.com

Lamafest 2017

Continued

YOUTH JUNIOR OBSTACLE

- 1 - Sandy Acres Blue Rose, Kyle Smith
- 2 - LUA Elegance Status, Caitlin Kies
- 3 - Jackpot Blues, Lauren Pickett

SUB JUNIOR OBSTACLE

- 1 - Solid Rock's Snickers, Kyle North

MASTERS PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - Solid Rock's Snickers, Joe Young
- 2 - SHAG Time ToNotesMeToo, Stephanie Foerder

ADVANCED PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith
- 2 - Pleasing's Rockstarr, Amanda Olszewski
- 3 - Klein Himmel's Vision of Fire, Cooper Douwsma

NOVICE PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd or Tami Lash
- 2 - Solid Rock's Stellar, Becci Kunkel
- 3 - FEH Pursuit of Justice, Jason Fehenbach

YOUTH SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - You Only Live Once, Madison Wells
- 2 - Klein Himmel's Paddington, Katie Tuttle
- 3 - AHAG Misty Molly, Lexi Foerder

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - Coal, Cassandra Williams
- 2 - CNS Mudrin's Mist, Ella White
- 3 - HF Venson, Halley Sorg

YOUTH JUNIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - Solid Rock's Survivor, Carter North
- 2 - Sandy Acres Blue Rose, Kyle Smith
- 3 - LUA Elegance Status, Caitlin Kies

SUB JUNIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 - Solid Rock's Snickers, Kyle North

MASTERS PACK

- 1 - Solid Rock's Snickers, Joe Young
- 2 - SHAG Time ToNotesMeToo, Stephanie Foerder

ADVANCED PACK

- 1 - Klein Himmel's Vision of Fire, Cooper Douwsma
- 2 - Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith
- 3 - Merit's Silk Safari, Julie Goodwin

NOVICE PACK

- 1 - LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd or Tami Lash
- 2 - MSF Show Stopper, Lloyd or Tami Lash
- 3 - Solid Rock's Stellar, Becci Kunkel

YOUTH SENIOR PACK

- 1 - You Only Live Once, Madison Wells
- 2 - SHAG Sassy Lassie, Avery Sims
- 3 - Klein Himmel's Nikey, Emily Ott

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE PACK

- 1 - SHAG Power Maria, Heather Holland
- 2 - Coal, Cassandra Williams
- 3 - PVL Georgia's Sweetheart, Allie Matthews

YOUTH JUNIOR PACK

- 1 - Solid Rock's Survivor, Carter North
- 2 - Jackpot Blues, Lauren Pickett
- 3 - Sandy Acres Blue Rose, Kyle Smith

YOUTH JUNIOR PERFORMANCE GRAND

Sandy Acres Blue Rose, Kyle Smith

YOUTH JUNIOR PERFORMANCE RESERVE

Solid Rock's Survivor, Carter North

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE GRAND

Coal, Cassandra Williams

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE

RESERVE

SHAG Power Mania, Heather Holland

YOUTH SENIOR PERFORMANCE GRAND

You Only Live Once, Madison Wells

YOUTH SENIOR PERFORMANCE RESERVE

SHAG Misty Molly, Stephanie Foerder

MASTERS PERFORMANCE GRAND

Solid Rock's Snickers, Joe Young

MASTERS PERFORMANCE RESERVE

SHAG Time ToNotesMeToo, Stephanie Foerder

ADVANCED PERFORMANCE GRAND

Klein Himmel's Vision of Fire, Cooper Douwsma

ADVANCED PERFORMANCE RESERVE

Brooks Creek Preema, Amanda Smith

NOVICE PERFORMANCE GRAND

LUA Sterling's Sensation, Lloyd or Tami Lash

NOVICE PERFORMANCE RESERVE

Solid Rock's Stellar, Becci Kunkel





Mid-Michigan Llama Show will be a 1 day show. Pens will not be provided, but you may bring your own or you can show out of your trailer. Food available as usual. Leaping Llama, Llama Limbo, and the spring fund raiser are all planned. So bring your llamas, and spare change to get some great stuff! Starting at 8:30 Saturday. Email egflamas@yahoo.com for forms and entry.

MLA Annual Drawing and Silent Auction Spring Fund Raiser for Llama Living

Held each year on Saturday only during the MLA Mid-Michigan Show in Charlotte. The date this year for the event will be May 12, 2018.

With all of the great llama items in stores and on-line, there should be more than enough variety of llama items to appeal to everyone!

For more information, contact MLA Spring Fund raiser Chair, Annette Aldrich at 517.675.7705 or bring your items for the drawing in with you when you arrive to show your animals. Not showing animals, but want to submit an item, please bring your item to the drawing area as near to 9:00 a.m. as you can.

In addition to bringing in your items, be sure to purchase tickets to enter the drawing. The drawing is traditionally held towards the end of the day after the main show.

Letter To MLA Members

Below is a portion of a letter to Corky Dubois from Diana Farris, mother of former MLA Youth MLA members, Sierra and Mikayla telling us what Diana's daughters have been doing since they left the MLA Youth status.

Hi,

I am not doing 4-H with llamas. We are still doing PR events. Sierra just started a full-time position at Tanganida Wildlife Park in Wichita, Kansas. She is a hoof stock keeper and one of her main objectives is training an eight month old camel names, Tully!! She is working with alpacas, goats, a llama cross, camels, a zebra, a giraffe, a pygmy hippo and a rhino. She is very excited.

Mikayla is in her second semester at Findlay and was awarded "most improved freshman" last semester. They are doing great. □

Llamas With A Purpose Livestock Destined For Service

By Cynthia Masters

As a child, I spent many hours in my grandmother's shadow listening to her stories and watching as she effortlessly crocheted blankets, afghans, and shawls. The skeins of yarn she selected were hand dyed with dried flowers which hung year round from beams in our barn. She had a passion for dyeing these yarns the colors of twilight, gold, deep amethyst and crimson red. Today, I have adopted these brilliant hues as my own signature color for dyeing Texas alpaca and llama fiber.

My grandmother's crochet patterns were stitched from memory rather than drawn from instructions on a printed page. It was from the threads of her own childhood memories that she was able to weave animal characters into the stories she created to fascinate me. Her imagination drew not only from her own animal family, but from century's old myths, legends and European folklore. She filled these stories with animals who were triumphant and who managed to help humans enrich their own lives along the way. Most notably, the animal characters who so vividly captured my grandmother's heart and imagination were always twins. There were twin deer, twin sheep, twin goats and many other twin creatures. These twins were story line heroes. They were born in thought with a purpose and they were destined for service to help persons with the greatest needs overcome difficulties.

At the end of October, twin llama crias were born at my ranch. I believe they were born with a purpose and they are destined for service assisting veterans diagnosed with post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). Both twins are female and they are healthy. I attribute their good health directly to the quality of food, nutrition and care of their mother. Their dispositions are sweet and inquisitive. With proper care and handling, the twins will add value to the lives of veterans with PTSD who have served our country.

The Veterans Administration National Center for PTSD describes PTSD in user friendly terms as a mental health problem that people develop after witnessing a life threatening event. In early years, PTSD was classified solely as an anxiety disorder. The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Diagnostic Disorders has now re-categorized PTSD as a Trauma and Stress Related Disorder, Government statistics demonstrate that over 60,000 veterans are being treated at Veterans Clinics across the country today. Statistics also show that less than 50% of veterans and service members ever seek help. The numbers are staggering.

I have had the privilege of assisting veterans and war heroes diagnosed with PTSD for a number of years through the American Bar Association's volunteer lawyer program. This program provided initial training and

attorney certification through the US Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) in exchange for handling veterans appeal cases. Appeals require new and compelling evidence.

These cases created the opportunity for me to work with VA doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, clinicians, therapists and many other specially trained mental health professionals in gathering new evidence to prevail on appeal. Most importantly, I was able to work directly with the veterans themselves. These veterans were trying to cope on a day to day basis with the trauma, stress and anxiety associated with PTSD. The veterans cases have helped me understand the severity of PTSD as well as learn about the therapeutic tools adopted by health care professionals to assist veterans with PTSD. Under the right circumstances, animals can be an important therapeutic tool.

From a holistic standpoint, this background has provided in depth insight into the possibility of incorporating llama at a higher level in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT). Many alpaca and llama ranches are effectively using their animals in AAT programs at hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes. Some ranches have even developed a special once a month day for veterans and their families to enjoy the llamas. These heartfelt events raise visibility for veterans and they provide a wonderful family gathering to show appreciation for those who have served our country. Please consider hosting a similar event at your ranch.

While these events would be a good start for the twins, the ultimate goal would be to leverage existing relationships with VA health care professionals to include llamas in the plan of care developed for VA patients

Continued on page 18



Llamas With A Purpose Continued

diagnosed with PTSD. At present, AAT and Animal Assisted Activity (AAA) dogs are being used in medical settings to assist VA therapists to accomplish therapeutic goals and for social engagement of patients. Studies reveal that these dogs can aid in the healing process at VA Medical Centers. Handlers and their dogs work with goal directed treatment plans for patients. Including AAT and AAA dogs in a patient's plan of care has been proven to lower the veteran's blood pressure, reduce stress and increase motivation in therapy. Guide dogs, service dogs and certified AAT dogs are accepted as visitors at VA Medical Centers. Upon advance written approval, handlers may request an exception to enable other AAT animals to the VA facility. In two years time, I hope to include the twins in monthly visits on a volunteer basis at local VA clinics to assist veterans with PTSD under the supervision of a VA mental health provider. With documented results, this program should help to build credibility and raise visibility for the use of llamas directly in therapeutic care programs for veterans with PTSD. In working with the VA, documented results are important, particularly if a program is allowed to continue.

In addition to the VA Clinic visits, the twins may attend local fund raising events for veterans; they may develop a brochure outlining PTSD symptoms with a list of helpful resources and they may participate in other volunteer activities with veterans. With the passage of time, they will be story line heroes like the twin animal characters in my grandmother's stories so long ago. Their lives will be filled with purpose as they help those persons with the greatest needs along the way.

Many of the equine assisted therapy farms and service dog trainers that I have contacted are anxious to follow the twins in their volunteer efforts. I am grateful for their support and I hope you will also support veterans in your area in some special way.

Reprinted from the Humming Herald, 2017 Winter, Number 107. □

Make your Michigan Llama Association even better.....



WANTED

Llamas Llamas Llamas

**In the good ol' days, there were lots of
llamas to see at**

Michigan Fiber Festival.

We WANT them back!

Aug. 17-19, 2018 Allegan Co. Fairgrounds

**Bring your llamas for sale or
exhibition!**

**Plans are in the works for some
special activities and demonstrations.**

For more information and how to sign-up

Contact Cyndi Ernst

cynthiarernst@gmail.com

Upcoming MLA Llama Shows For 2018

By Sheila Miller

HILLBILLY HOBO HOOTENANNY

Another great one day show on April 21, 2018. This is our first show of the year and the easiest to prepare for in Michigan! This is an ALSA sanctioned show held at the Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI. Deb Yeagle, Tricia Schneeberger and Mary Jo Miller will be the judges.

Get there before 8:00 a.m. for the Exhibitors' Meeting and then on to a great time seeing old friends and showing your *non-groomed* llamas - emphasis on ***non-groomed***. This show is casual so get your not-best duds out of the closet and compete for the Hobo Hootenanny King 'n Queen contest.

Questions? Call Tim or Stephanie Douwsma at 574.606.6182 or e-mail them at Tdouwsma@comcast.net. All forms are on the MLA web site, www.michiganllama.org or www.kleinhimmel.com/. If you don't have access to the internet, call them and they will be mailed to you.

(Note to out-of-state exhibitors: One health paper could get you to both Michigan shows - Hillbilly Hobo Hootenanny and the Mid-Michigan Show on May 12, 2018 - see below.)

MID-MICHIGAN LLAMA SHOW

May 12, 2018 is the date of the Mid-Michigan Show at the Eaton County Fairgrounds in Charlotte, MI. It is a one-day, ALSA sanctioned Halter and Performance Show with Cyndi Ernst judging Halter and Tricia Scheeberger judging Performance. Forms can be downloaded from the MLA web site at www.michiganllama.org.

Camping sites are close to the arena and barn. The outdoor arena is covered and has bleachers - lawn chairs work too.

The fund raiser for Llama Living will be held during the show. Let Annette Aldrich know what llama item you may have to donate. Contact Annette at 517.675.7705.

Questions about the show: Call Dave Thompson 616.902.2383 or e-mail him at egflamas@yahoo.com. If you don't have computer access, they will mail forms to you.

LAMAFEST 2018

Complete information regarding Lamafest will be in the June 2018 issue of Llama Living. Until then save the dates of September 1-2, 2018. Information will soon be available at www.lamafest.com. Questions? Contact Don Topliff at 517.655-5988 or e-mail him at dktopliff@gmail.com. □



Hollywood Calling

Or a Celebrity Look-a-like

It started with an email looking for a llama to participate in a marketing event. The event would be at Steelcase for promoting their new mobile banking offices to Bank Of America. Dee and Brian Greaves' llama Deeca fit the bill, don't you think!



Bank of America's Llama Commercials for their mobile banking app.



Celebrity look-a-like Deeca

The Bank of America Execs were very impressed! And all the employees got to see llamas.



Are You A Breeder Or A Producer?

By Niki Kirkleski

Given the current climate of the camelid rescue population, it seemed appropriate to discuss breeding responsibility. Breeders and rescue groups have struggled for forever to find a balance of placing animals in responsible home that don't hurt the breeder potential sales.

Right now, many farms are struggling with wanting to breed their animals, but feeling guilty given the recent rescue of 600 mostly llamas (and a few alpacas) from the defunct Montana Lame Animal Sanctuary in Montana. Coupled with the dispersal of the former Meadow Wood Farm herd, it has left many breeders and responsible owners scared to breed. Truly there is a glut of unwanted llamas and alpacas all over the country. Mostly, depending on where you live and who you have producing locally. There is a HUE difference between a "producer" and a "breeder".

In order to carry on bloodlines, styles, etc. you have to have breeding. Our registries and species would perish if we did not. It is important, however, to contribute to the improvement of the species and have an end goal in mind for the animal you are producing. In camelids, we do not have an official "cull market" to get rid of mistakes and experiments like they do in cattle, sheep, etc. Thus it makes it even more important that we breed careful and with an end use/product in mind.

My definition of a producer is someone that has a goal of simply making more of something, in this case camelids. A breeder is someone who is pursuing breeding to improve on the species the an end product in mind. This end product has a market and specific traits, not just fiber or a cute face. The product is built on over a number of years and a breeder has the ability to carefully select for the traits they want and slowly create it. They also get a consistent product. When you look at their herd, you can see that consistency in their animals. This product is also in demand because of the quality it possesses.

Producers have throughout our history ruined companion animals (horses, dogs, llamas, etc.) because of our need to select aesthetically pleasing traits that are not functional. We always seem to find a way to mess with "Mother Nature" and try to create something we think is better because we know better. Look at the recent designer dog craze. It has created a bunch of dogs that have severe health issues and they have been marketed and sold by backyard breeder for families.

In the camelid world, I have seen a lot of rescues throughout my 25+ years of owning them. The vast majority of these animals come from people that were either taken advantage of in a pyramid type scenario, sold animals they should have never had or bought into breeding thinking they were going to make lots of money. Once they end up with bunch of babies they couldn't sell and hadn't trained, they dumped them and so begins the cycle of rescue. You rarely see exceptional packers, 4-H animals, trained drivers and more in rescue. I should also be noted that, depending on where you live, the market for selling these types of animals can vary greatly. Everyone breeds for the show ring and fiber. Who truly breeds for packers, 4-H animals, driving animals, etc.?

I encourage each owner and breeder to consider breeding only what there is a market for, to produce far less animals per year and, lastly, focus on the training of these animals. If we all had a "breeder" mentality, I think that our rescue issues would decrease significantly. Breeding is not a dirty word, but it should be done responsibly,

Reprinted from the Humming Herald, 2017 Winter, Number 107. □



2018

MLA Membership Application



- NEW MEMBERSHIP (\$25)
- FARM/FAMILY (\$25)
- YOUTH MEMBERSHIP (\$15)

- RENEWAL (\$25)
- VET/VET STUDENT (\$15)

The following information will comprise your listing in the MLA Directory.
*Indicates required information.

*LAST NAME _____

*FIRST NAME _____

ADDITIONAL NAME _____

FARM/BUSINESS _____

* ADDRESS _____

*CITY _____ *STATE _____ *ZIP _____

*E-MAIL (Please provide) _____

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Llama Living is a quarterly newsletter published by the Michigan Llama Association.

The opinions and articles in the MLA newsletter, *Llama Living*, are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the MLA or the newsletter editor.

Newsletter deadlines for articles, classified ads, and traditional advertisements are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th.

Ads and photos may be sent by e-mail as an attachment in PDF format to GRJax7@springcom.com. Ads appearing in the online version only of *Llama Living* will be in color.

All ads submitted must be positive print ready (no film negatives). For compatible advertising sizes, see next column under, "Advertising Rates". Any ad not meeting listed sizes will be adjusted to accommodate the page.

A discount for multiple ad placement is available. A 10% discount is offered on advertising run for a minimum of two or more issues in the same calendar year. This offer is valid for any size ad, but **MUST** be ordered and **PAID** for at the same time to receive the discount.

All current *Llama Living* accounts must be paid in full prior to the placement of future advertising. Send all checks for advertising, made out to the Michigan Llama Association, articles, classified ads, and camera ready advertisements to:

Llama Living
Suzanne Hockin Frambes, Editor
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

ADVERTISING RATES

PRICING

Half Page Back Cover (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$55
Full Page (9-1/2 x 6-3/4)	\$40
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Quarter Page (4-3/4 x 3-1/4)	\$15
Business Card	\$ 5
Insert (8-1/2 x 11)	\$70

(Check for number required)

Classified Ads - A minimum of \$5 for up to six lines. \$1 for each additional line.

Llama Living

c/o Suzanne Hockin Frambes
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