



ABR Newsletter E-'Paca Parade October, 2008

(This issue is provided through e-mail; no paper copy will be sent.)

ABR Newsletter Committee

Denise Haines, Editor
Becky Zierer, Co-Editor

Newsletter Contents

Message from the President	Page 2
Quarterly Membership Meeting Agenda	Page 3
Vice President's Corner	Page 4
Communications Report	Page 4
Show & Events	Page 4-7
Education	Page 8-9
Membership	Page 9
Marketing	Page 10-11
ARI Update	Page 11
Fiber Committee	Page 12-13
ABR Storage Shed	Page 13-14
ABR Volunteers at Elitch Gardens	Page 14
Did You Know?	Page 15-17
Interesting Stuff	Page 17
ABR Board Election for 2009	Page 17-18
National Alpaca Farm Day	Page 18
Schedule of Shows, Events, Meetings	Page 18

Message from the President

Carl McGill
Bayou Creek Alpacas
President

Wow! What a strange feeling it is, hard to believe that I am sitting here writing my last newsletter to you as your President of ABR. A BIG, BIG THANKYOU to all of you and especially our Board members, past Board members, committee members and all the wonderful volunteers who have put in countless hours to make ABR one of the best Affiliates in the country.

As you know, we moved north to the Ranch for Fall Festival last year, and we will be back there again this year. It is a beautiful facility and we are working to make our Fall event better than ever.

The Affiliate Presidents Congress is continuing to work on opening the lines for better communication with AOBA. At our meeting in Nashville last July it was decided that we should try and work as an Advisory Committee, as allowed by the AOBA By-laws. This should give us a better relationship with the AOBA BOD and also give us the freedom to work on Affiliate member needs across the country as well. The first project is still to, **“Establish American Alpaca Product Industry with a livestock business model incorporating a national fiber industry.”** You can find out more about this and the other projects by going to the AOBA website and looking at **Affiliate Congress** which is listed under **Committees**.

Again, I thank all of you for allowing me to hold the lead rope of this great Alpaca organization. I feel that together, we have taken many a purple ribbon in this big ring we call the Alpaca industry and we will continue to be one of the premier affiliates in AOBA. We all have something wonderful in common, Alpacas. May your ribbons be blue and your Crias be girls.

Carl

Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies

Quarterly Membership Meeting

November 2, 2008

Marriott Denver South

10345 Park Meadows Dr.

Lincoln and I-25

9:30 AM to 12 Noon

Welcome	Carl McGill
Introduction of new Members/Guests	Ron Hinds
Director – Membership Report	Ron Hinds
Treasurer’s Report	Ann Danielson
Old /new Business	Carl McGill
Thanks to leaving BOD	
Introduction of new BOD	
Director – Shows/Events	Beth Blonder
Fall Festival	
NWSS & GWASS 2009	Becky Zierer
Vice President – By Laws Report	Lynn Boak
Director – Communications Report	Denise Haines
Director – Education/Fiber Report	Kim Kastner
Director – Marketing Report	Tom Costner
Presidents Congress Information	Carl McGill
Member forum for bulletins (events not sales)	

One – Three PM

Afternoon Education Program

"Ascending the Alta Plano" with K. Lea Ginnodo.
She will be taking us on a trip thru Peru

Vice President's Corner

By Lynn Boak
Arroyo Seco Alpacas
Vice President

The Government Relations Committee has enough members now to function and will meet to decide how best to do our work. There will not be anything going on in the Colorado or most other state legislatures until January, but it certainly doesn't hurt to keep an eye on Committees throughout the year. What's going on in Washington is alarming, but shouldn't specifically affect our industry except as it affects everybody. Thanks to those who stepped forward for this Committee!

The Long-Range Planning Committee has met a few times and is still hoping to have a few more members. We noticed at our last meeting that many of the goals identified by the brainstorming groups last Fall have been met! We are expecting another survey to go out soon and to glean some ideas from that.

Communications

Denise Haines
Daybreak Criations Alpacas
Director of Communications

This will be my last newsletter as Director of Communications. The past two years have gone by fairly fast to my surprise. I've enjoyed being on the ABR Board of Directors and bringing new features to the website. My replacement will still have areas to address that can be improved and new ideas presented. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

Member events can be posted on the ABR Calendar on the website under Member Events be sure to take advantage of that option. It is not only seen by other breeders, but also by people looking to join the alpaca industry.

If you would like to post an event or submit an article for the newsletter, send the information to Denise at Daybrkcreation@aol.com.

Shows and Events

By Beth Blonder
Red Creek Ranch Alpacas
ABR Director of Shows & Events

Fall Festival 2008

Kim Sawyer, Event Manager
Tapestry Farm Alpacas

Greetings from the Fall Festival coordinators! We are getting very close to show time on November 8 and 9, 2008. Fall Festival will celebrate its 2nd year at The Ranch Event Center and Fairgrounds in Loveland Colorado. (Visit www.alpacabreeders.org and click on the Fall Festival page for your entry forms and more information).

In order to accommodate potential growth, you'll see some changes in the layout of stalls and arena but I think you'll find everything to your satisfaction. We'll have some great updates in our show including:

- Beautiful Championship banners in both the Halter and Fleece shows
- All stalls will be professionally brought in and setup
- Cardboard bedding will be provided in the stalls similar to GWAS
- A new "Fiber Corner" is being developed to show off our alpaca fiber and great craft ideas. More to come on this!
- A "raffle" for a GWAS stall and registration fee (individual drawings for Huacaya and Suri breeders). One chance per fleece entered! More to come on this!
- Guest speaker at the Saturday Night Dinner – AOBA President, David Barboza, will speak about the AOBA Youth Program and Alpacas in the Livestock Model

We're still looking for volunteers to help make this show a success. Our shows happen because of **you!** Now is a great time to send us an email to get your name added to help out in your favorite area. If you're not sure where you should volunteer, we'll give you some suggestions!

We're in need of a couple more coordinators:

Volunteer Coordinator: work with the other coordinators and help organize the master list of our great volunteers. This position is not required to find volunteers for each area with the exception of an occasional email. All the work happens before the show starts!

Tear Down: This coordinator will ensure we have a few volunteers to help pack things up on Monday to get back to the Storage facility and that we leave The Ranch as we found it. ABR does not have to worry about panel removal or bedding removal! The coordinator is not the one that has to have the trailers to get items moved to storage, just need to find someone who can!

Communication/Radios: Make sure we have Radios ordered and on hand and working throughout the event. Learn The Ranch Sound System so we have an "expert" available through the show.

ABR and the Fall Fest Coordinators are doing their very best to make this the best show yet! Wouldn't you like to be an active participant?

Please call or email me at kim@tapestryalpacos.com or call me at 303-699-0997. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Alpacas at the National Western Stock Show January, 2009!!

Doesn't that sound great!!!

The Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies (ABR) Board of Directors has worked very hard in recent years for the inclusion of alpacas at the premier stock show held in Denver each January. The National Western Executive Committee has invited ABR to participate in the 102nd annual National Western Stock Show (NWSS)!!

ABR will be sharing the dates (January 15 – 17, 2009) with the Llama show. There have been several meetings between ABR, National Western personnel and organizers of the NWSS Llama show to best determine how to include the alpacas. An ABR Stock Show Committee consisting of Beth Blonder, Ann Danielson, Kim Kastner, Carl and Freda McGill, Jody Sharp, Cathy Seymour and Becky Zierer joined together to determine the best way to showcase alpacas in the space and time given to us by National Western.

The Show Premium Book will be mailed by National Western by October 1, 2008. Each ABR member will be mailed a Premium Book. The registration forms and the information on filling them out and the particulars of the show are contained in the book. Additional information on Alpacas at the Stock Show will be mailed to you closer to the date that the Premium Book will be mailed.

The NWSS pays premiums for winners and ABR will continue with this tradition. A list of payments is included in the Premium Book. Registration fees will be used for the majority of the payouts but we are also offering Sponsorships. A \$500 sponsorship will include a stall, the ability to choose your stall location, the sponsor's banner hung around the arena during the duration of the alpaca & llama show, a Spotlight banner at the stall and an ad in the show listings. This is a great Marketing venue with over 50,000 people attending per day. The alpacas create a lot of interest with the public and National Western has assured us that "Alpacas at the Stock Show" will be included in their advertising. If you would like to be a sponsor at this first ever NWSS that will include an alpaca show, please contact Becky Zierer, lzalpacas@aol.com.

Volunteer Coordinators will be needed in the following areas:

Banner/Sponsorship Coordinator, Compliance/Color Check Coordinator, Demonstrations/Public Seminars Coordinator, Check-in Coordinator, Parade

Coordinator, Ring Coordinator, Saturday Night Meet the Alpacas and Llamas Coordinator, and Showbook Coordinator. Already on-board are Becky Zierer as the Event Manager/Show Superintendent; Cathy Seymour as the Performance Show Superintendent; Kim Kastner as the Barn Manager and Beth Blonder will coordinate the vet check. Since this will be our first year participating in a show at NWSS, we will be defining these positions as we go. If you have interest in any of these positions or volunteering during the show, please contact Becky Zierer, zbalpacas@aol.com. Oh and we need a Volunteer Coordinator also!!

This is a very exciting event for the alpaca industry and for ABR in particular. We hope that everyone will wholeheartedly support this endeavor by signing up to volunteer, being a sponsor, signing up for stalls and entering your alpacas in the shows. We definitely want to make a splash with the alpacas at the stock show!! Please join us!!

Great Western Alpaca Show 2009

With Fall Festival coming up in November and Alpacas at the National Western Stock Show in January, 2009, let's don't forget to mark our calendars for the Great Western Alpaca Show (GWAS), May 1 – 3, 2009. The GWAS Steering Committee has already met and planning meetings will begin shortly. If you would like to volunteer and be a coordinator for 2009's show, please contact Becky Zierer, zbalpacas@aol.com. We are especially looking for those people who would be interested in being the Event or Shows Manager. If you love planning events or would like to learn the show particulars, these positions are for you!! Let Becky know if you would be interested and some serious training will be available!!!

We have a reputation as one of the best shows in the country and need your help to maintain that image!!

The State Fair

Linette Griffy and Cory Higgs

Again this year at the Colorado State Fair, Alpacas and ABR were asked to participate as an exhibit in the Agricultural Pavilion. Many people came out to see the Alpacas from several farms as well as gather information and buy finished Alpaca products. The exhibit was open for all eleven days of the fair, even on days that no farm was in attendance the booth was open and information was available to all those who stopped by. Many people seemed interested in the Alpaca business. Hopefully next year many more farms will be available for increased participation in the Colorado State Fair.

EDUCATION

By Suzy Rosenkranz
ABR Director of Education
Chairman, Education Committee
E-mail: sirosenkra@aol.com

We had some wonderful programs this year; unfortunately, due to the economy, fuel prices and it being an election year, we all watched our pennies and numbers were understandably down in seminar attendance. Hopefully, and with careful planning, that will change in 2009.

The Fall Neonatal Clinic at CSU has filled to capacity and promises to be a wonderful success. The Education Committee's final program for 2008 will be a trip through Peru with K. Lea Ginnodo at our November 2 member meeting. We have had requests for such a program so this will be a very special afternoon. You will travel to various parts of Peru that will include visits to an alpaca ranch on the Alta Plano, the Malkini Research Station, and other similar and fascinating areas. You will receive a review of medical research taking place and how evaluation of alpacas is conducted. This will be a fun and informative trip, so plan to sit back, learn, and enjoy! And you won't even need a passport for this trip!

Two major programs already scheduled for 2009 include a seminar in March with Angus McColl of Yocum McColl Testing Labs. He will speak on What We Test, Why We Test, and How We Test fiber. This program will be followed up with scheduled tours of the testing facility and will be an opportunity you won't want to miss. Much of the machinery used by the lab has been designed by Mr. McColl. The intricate machinery and equipment together with the scientific methods involved in testing our alpacas' fiber are so calibrated and recalibrated as to leave no room for error—truly an amazing process!

Dr. Robert van Saun, who authored the nutrition section of *The Complete Alpaca* by Eric Hoffman, will join us in the fall. His areas of research and expertise include:

- Pregnancy nutrition and its influence on health, production and reproduction
- Metabolic diseases and their prevention
- Nutritional formulation and management of domestic animals – Dairy and Beef Cattle, Small Ruminants (sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas), and Horses
- Nutritional Diagnostics
- Nutrition-Disease-Reproduction Interrelationships
- Preventive Medicine Programs;

and his research interests include:

- Transition cow metabolism and its relationship to metabolic and infectious disease
- Develop new diagnostic techniques for nutritional monitoring – metabolic profiling
- Mineral and vitamin metabolism in pregnant animals
- Modeling of rumen function and animal nutrient requirements

We also will provide a program on EPDs, and will continue our spring and fall neonatal clinics and the alpaca health issues program with Drs. Leon Anderson and Tim Holt—might even have a couple of surprises for you! We are thrilled to be able to provide such excellent programs for ABR’s members and guests, and to be able to include in the seminar fee a small breakfast and full luncheon at select programs.

The Education Committee always welcomes your suggestions and ideas for programs, so please feel free to let us know what you would like to see.

A very happy and beautiful fall is wished for you!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Report

Ron Hinds

El Zorro Colorado Alpacas

ABR Membership Director – 2007/08

As of 9/16/08:

Farm -	285
Associate -	19
Business –	16

Total:	320
--------	-----

For Your Information...

Years 2005-2007 year end totals:

	2005	2006	2007
Farm:	200	238	265
Associate	10	14	23
Business	17	17	14
Total	227	272	301

Marketing Committee

Tom Costner
Sunny Mesa Alpacas, LLC
Director of Marketing

Growing Your People Farm

Have you ever grown tomatoes? Or flowers? Even if you haven't, I'm sure that you have some idea what gardening is all about. Take tomatoes. You wouldn't expect to plant one day then harvest a perfectly ripe tomato the next morning. Or even in two weeks.

Chances are you are perfectly aware that you would need to spend more time to cultivate your tomatoes. You know because you read about it or you watched your parents grow tomatoes, or your friends talked about it. Or maybe you even saw it on the Discovery Channel.

In any case, knowing what to expect - you would plan in advance. Starting with a decision as to what variety of tomatoes you'd like to grow. The large and juicy ones, or the small berry types. Or any other type in between.

Then you would go to your local gardening center to buy seedlings. Or maybe you would order them from a catalog. Later you would plant your tomatoes in a carefully chosen, sunny part of the garden and water generously.

Two weeks would pass and you'd see no tomatoes. Would you quit? I don't think so - you would know that it takes time. How would you know? Because you would follow in the steps of those who have grown tomatoes successfully. You would water, weed out, and fertilize. You would support the fragile plants with stakes, or special tomato cages. You would be quite patient for two, three, maybe even four months before planning to harvest your crop.

All of this applies to growing your relationships as well. Perhaps you should call it "growing your people farm." Here are a few tips that will help you become successful in the people growing business:

- Take inventory. You cannot grow a garden successfully if you don't even know what is there. Create a database of your contacts and keep it current.
- Weed-out. Let's face it. Not everyone in your address book is a contact worth cultivation. Learn to recognize the beautiful flower that will bloom in the future and the weed.

- Allocate funds. Just keeping in touch with people will cost you - money, stamps, notes, phone calls, even small gifts. Building business through referrals is definitely less expensive than advertising, but it still requires some investments. Remember: even tomatoes need fertilizer.

- Develop a plan of action. Just like a good farmer plans in advance when to plant, when to cultivate and when to finally expect a harvest - you should develop your own plan (call it your People Farm Almanac). It will prevent you from giving up too easily.

The bottom line: don't expect your relationships with people to mature faster and with less effort than tomatoes!

Simply replace "tomatoes" with "alpacas" and you are on the way to a successful selling and marketing program.

ARI Update

Lucy Farrar
ARI Liaison

On Thursday, September 11, the ARI special committee on Estimated Progeny Differences circulated an ARIGram asking our members to take a brief survey about EPDs. In the first 20 hours, we had 330 members complete the survey...a phenomenal response that gives us hope of having a true industry-wide opinion on the traits that are important to breeders and how our members feel about the ARI database being expanded to include additional data for your use in making breeding decisions.

Estimated Progeny Differences are data-crunching programs in long-standing use in other livestock breeds, for example in cattle tracking milk production quantity and quality, birth weight, progeny growth rate and other items relevant to that livestock industry. For alpacas, it is important that you as breeders decide which traits would be useful to you in managing your herd.

If you have not completed the survey, it takes about 5 minutes of your time at the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TBquAJMbwBFbkUJyFJ62fg_3d_3d

Lucy Farrar, ARI Secretary

Fiber Committee

ABR Granny Square Afghan

Thanks to many busy hands, we are very pleased to announce that the granny squares are all finished! YEAAH! Billie Rogers is busy putting the finishing touches on our beautiful alpaca afghan that will be donated to the Silent Auction at GWAS next May. Wait until you see it – and feel it! It is a prize that only one lucky bidder will own at the end of the auction.

It was so fun working together to get this two year project finished. It's amazing how all of our natural alpaca colors came together so beautifully. Now that we are all expert granny square makers, we can start our own granny square projects for the holidays.

Thanks to the many people who donated their time and yarn to the afghan. I would love to give credit to all of those who contributed, but I know someone would be left out. However, a special thank you goes to Kathy Albi and David Ferguson and Billie and Mark Rogers for offering their homes for the Granny Square Affairs. Billie has put many hours and much of her own yarn into finishing the afghan for us.

All ABR members will all have the opportunity to benefit from the proceeds of the funds raised by the sale of the ABR Granny Square Afghan. Our Fiber Committee will be able to plan some great fiber events for our members with the proceeds.

Warm A Head, Warm A Heart!

We are proud to announce two important enhancements!! Hats for Cancer is being moved to October (better weather, we hope) and we will have our first Northern Colorado Hats for Cancer. We invite all alpaca owners, breeders and enthusiasts to be part of the Fall 2008 Hats For Cancer events sponsored by the ABR Fiber Committee.



#1 When: Saturday, October 11, 2008 Time - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Where: Unity Church of Ft. Collins, 1401 W. Vine Dr., Ft. Collins, CO

#2 When: Saturday, October 18, 2008 Time - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Where: Parker Senior Center, 10675 Longs Way, Parker, CO

Who: Anyone interested in learning to create hats from fine alpaca fiber or anyone who wants to have a day full of great fun with great people!

What: Experienced fiber artists teaching and/or leading participants in numerous techniques used to create luxurious alpaca hats.

- **Water Felting** lead by Pat Alger and Jean Burns
- **Needle Felting** lead by Christin Jones and Patty Rodrigues
- **Crochet** lead by Carl McGill
- **Rake Loom** lead by Jonathon Alger (FT. Collins) and Sue Lindh (Parker)
- **Fine Knitting** lead by Jody Sharp
- **Felting** of crocheted or knitted hats lead by (to be determined)

Why: The hats created at this event will be donated to Rocky Mountain area cancer centers to be offered to people contending with cancer.

Lunch: In an effort to minimize our costs, and to make these two events more relaxed and fun, we are planning a Pot-Luck lunch for each event.

When you RSVP please indicate which of the following you can bring

Main Course: Casserole, meat entrée, veggie main dish

Side Dish: Salads, Chips, Vegetables

Beverages: Soft Drinks, Bottled Water, Lemonade, Tea

Desserts: Cakes, Cookies, Sweet Rolls

Others: Paper Plates, Napkins, Plastic Silverware, Cups

Donations, Questions, RSVP - contact Billie Rogers (303) 644-5244

or email billie@dutchvalleyranch.com

RSVP necessary only to be certain we have supplies and treats for all.

\$25 Sponsorships Our past events have been **fabulous successes thanks to our generous sponsors!!** We are offering sponsorships for our fall Ft. Collins and Parker events. Questions or interest in becoming a sponsor contact Christin Jones (303) 697-8337 or email russtin1@msn.com

We look forward to you joining us in this fun, effective and beneficial event!!

ABR Storage Shed

Jody Sharp

Arazzmatazz Alpacas

For those of you who have never visited the ABR storage shed, you don't know what you're missing! The storage shed is the place where all of the ABR treasures are stored between events. We have carts, AV equipment, t-shirts, ribbons, performance ring equipment, decorations, vet equipment, boxes for the fleece shows, signage, poop scoopers – you name it, it's in there! We now have two large storage sheds rented in Parker. With many volunteers depositing items there after a long show, it gets pretty disorganized. But never fear! A courageous group of us (Ann Danielson, Andrew McArthur, Carl McGill, Freda McGill, Jody Sharp, and Becky Zierer) spent most of our Saturday on September 6th reorganizing those treasures and taking inventory of them. We pulled out boxes, counted and recorded their contents and put them back in what we consider an orderly fashion. In fact, in our opinion, the storage shed is now a showcase – we know what's there and we can find stuff! Now comes the challenge – keeping it that way. That's where all of you come in. Thank you very much!

ABR Volunteers at Elitch Gardens

Jody Sharp

Arazzmatazz Alpacas

On August 17th, ABR volunteers were treated to a wonderful day at Elitch Gardens. This was ABR's way of thanking all of our fantastic volunteers for the many hours they contribute throughout the year to making ABR events the very best in the nation.

We started the day with a picnic in the pavilion and then the fun began! It was great to see so many ABR friends having a great time. Bob and Barb Hance were seen at the top of the Ferris wheel surveying the whole park. Lucy Farrar and Tom and Lynn Costner were almost able to keep up with the grandkids as they ran from ride to ride. Many of our future alpaca owners headed for Kiddie Land. Some of the rest of us tried to pace ourselves so that our twirling stomachs had a rest between rides. ABR members saw each other throughout the day as we met coming and going in the park. The weather was perfect, the rides were fun and a great time was had by all.

A special thank you goes to Becky Zierer who volunteers so very much of her time for ABR. Becky planned the event at Elitches and then was not able to be there with us to celebrate. We missed you Becky! If anyone has a great suggestion for next year's event, contact Becky.

DID YOU KNOW

Ron Hinds – el Zorro Colorado Alpacas

If you Google the word “Nightshade” you get about 3 million hits. Many of them are related to a book or episode of Star Trek; The Next Generation television series.

But we’re not looking for that; we’re looking for a plant designation by the same name.

Actually there are a couple dozen plants with the Nightshade family, Solanaceae designation.

That’s what we’re here to talk about; to make you aware of it in your pastures and dry lots and it’s toxicity on livestock... especially our alpacas.

So what are Nightshades?

Egg plants, tomatoes, potatoes, red and green bell peppers, petunias, sweet peppers as well as chili peppers belong to the Nightshade family, a botanical genus called Solanaceae species.

This species also includes jimson weeds, poisonous belladonna, the toxic plants herbane, mandrake and tobacco.

There are a couple dozen plants with the Nightshade family, Solanaceae designation.

Around here (in the mid-western/western US) there is one that is more common and it is known as Cutleaf Nightshade. This plant has a distinct green color, different than anything else out there. Once you get this ‘color’ in your brain, you can spot Cutleaf Nightshade relatively easily.

The Cutleaf Nightshade is poisonous; it has berries, which also contain toxic levels of solanine, a toxic alkaloid. Normally alpaca adults won’t eat it if there is something better around. But crias will nibble at most anything. Dig it up, roots and all, and especially the berries and put them in the trash so they will eventually leave you property. The plant can be pulled up when the ground is damp, as the roots aren’t that deep.

Here is what it looks like:



Close-up of the berry (left)
View of large plant (right)

Other notes on the Solanaceae family:

Kathy Fisher, Fisher Farm, in Berthoud, recently sent out an e-mail asking if someone could identify an odd looking plant in their pasture. (*Some of you might have also got it via the Yahoo group 'alpacacolorado'.*) It has fairly large green pods that contain "...a nice shiny green round berry. She posted pictures. Kim Kastner, Columbine Ranch in Morrison was first to respond. Kim suggested it looked like the Virginia Ground Cherry from the Nightshade family.

(Note: If you're looking to classify a plant that has 'pods', start with the nightshade, Solanaceae family.)

Kathy later discovered it looked like *Physalis peruviana*, Cape Gooseberry. So a quick search on Google reveals that the Virginia Ground Cherry and Cape Gooseberry are (very) closely related.

The (ripe) berries are NOT poisonous but the rest of the plant is. This is true with a lot of Nightshade plants (Potato, Tomato, etc.) the fruit is sometimes edible, however, the plant, leaves and flowers are dangerous. This is also true with many other plants such a rhubarb and cherry.

Actually the berries of the Cape Gooseberry are cultivated around the planet. Uses of berries are similar to common Tomato. Ripe berries can be eaten raw, they're used in salads, desserts, as a flavoring, and in jams and jellies. Fruits are excellent when dipped in chocolate, and can be dried and eaten. Native Range: Native to Brazil, but has spread to highland areas of Chile and Peru. Cape gooseberries have naturalized in tropical regions around the world (including Hawaii). Habitat is generally in Coastal regions from sea level to. How

they got here and are growing in our extremely dry Colorado front range is anybody's guess.

It is known by all of these names: Physalis peruviana L., Goldenberry, Cape Gooseberry, Golden Husk, Groundcherry, Peruvian Cherry, Peruvian Ground Cherry, Strawberry Tomato, Winter Cherry, a cousin so-to-speak, to the Virginia Ground Cherry and are all classified as part of the Nightshade family.

The bottom line:

When you find an odd looking plant in your pasture be it Cutleaf Nightshade, Cape Gooseberry or ?, dig it up and put it in the trash! If you're interested in finding out what it really is, put the plant in a bag and go find it using Google.com.

INTERESTING STUFF

Becky Zierer
LaZyB Acres Alpacas

Alpacas are Livestock!!!

Did you know that Alpacas are Livestock? Well yes, that was what you were told when you purchased them, right? But now it is official!

In May, Congress overrode the President's veto and the Farm Bill was enacted into law. Part of that bill included, **"The definition of livestock is intended to include alpaca and bison."**

If you would like to read the entire text of this bill, access http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h6124enr.txt.pdf.

ABR Board of Directors Election for 2009

It is election time again for the ABR Board of Directors. Please vote for the following board positions:

- President (two year term)
- Vice President (one year term)
- Secretary (one year term)
- Treasurer (two year term)
- Director of Communications (2 year term)
- Director of Education (2 year term)

We would like to thank the ABR members who stepped up to volunteer their time to run for the board. There is a write-in space for positions that do not have two candidates.

Each ABR Farm Member will receive an election packet in the mail. The profiles for each candidate are posted on the ABR website, www.alpacabreeders.com. Please take a few minutes to review them and then exercise your right to vote. Ballots must be returned by October 17, 2009 to be counted.

National Alpaca Farm Day is a big success!

In talking with many breeders over the last couple days, it appears that NAFD was a big success. Breeders report having good attendance and the interest level from prospective customers was high. Those who participated last year were able to tweak what they did to improve on their success such as contests to name a cria, to exhibits around the barn, to having fiber artists working with the fiber. If you haven't participated in NAFD, consider it next year. You won't be disappointed!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

October 1, 2008	Fall 'Paca Parade Newsletter E-mailed
October 1, 2008	2008 Budget e-mailed to Membership
October 4, 2008	Neonatal Clinic – CSU Animal Hospital
October 13, 2008	Agenda Items due for October BOD Meeting
October 15, 2008	October BOD Meeting
November 2, 2008	Annual Membership Meeting
November 8 – 9, 2008	12 th Annual Fall Festival
November 17, 2008	Agenda Items due for BOD Meeting
November 19, 2008	November BOD Meeting
November 20, 2008	Membership Renewal Forms Mailed
December 15, 2008	Agenda Items due for BOD Meeting
December 17, 2008	December BOD Meeting
December 19, 2008	Newsletter Articles due for winter 'Paca Parade
December 19, 2008	Agenda Items due for Winter Membership Meeting
January 5, 2009	Winter 'Paca Parade Newsletter E-mailed

September 30, 2008
ALPACA BREEDERS OF THE ROCKIES