

2012 Carolina Alpaca Celebration

Education Programs and Time Schedule

“Breathing and Other Necessary Things You Need to Do in the Show Ring” Friday, February 17th 2012 ONLY @ 6:00 pm in the arena. *Presented by Les and Patty Fuller from Poplar Hill Alpacas*

In the ring between your alpaca and the judge it's all about 90 seconds. This lighthearted look at what you're doing in the show ring with your alpacas will raise your confidence level as well as your final placements. This seminar is a good overview for owners new to the show environment and a quick refresher for those breeders looking for a hint or two, highlighting some do's and don'ts and demonstrating safe handling of the alpaca in the show ring.

The Following Seminars, on Saturday and Sunday, will be held in the Gold Hall.

“Skin Diseases of the Alpaca” Saturday @ 9:30 am *Presented by Allan Cannady, DVM*

Dr. Cannady will discuss common skin diseases in the alpaca, how to identify them, some possible remedies and when to call the veterinarian. Identify them early and treat or you could have a whole herd with skin challenges.

“Alpaca 101” Saturday and Sunday @ 10:00 am *Presented by Sandra Buckery of Alpaca Breeze Alpacas*

The basics of everything you need to know to get started in Alpaca ownership, the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY of the Alpacas.

“Evolution of the Alpaca Industry in the USA and Business Planning for the Future” Saturday 10:30 am and Sunday 12:00 pm *Presented by Jim Morris of Diastole Alpacas and Al Kessie of Keepsake Farm Alpacas.*

Jim Morris will share the information of how the Alpaca business grew and evolved in the USA since the import of Alpacas into the states. Al Kessie will share the concept of developing and building a viable business and business plan for today and the future.

“Birthing and Caring for the Cria” Saturday @ 11:00 am *Presented by Allan Cannady DVM*

Dr. Cannady will discuss various birthing challenges, premature births and how to care for your newborn cria.

“Conformation as it Relates to Form and Function” @ 11:30 am *Presented by AOBA Certified Judge Kathy Klay of Jefferson Laurel Farm.*

Learn visually what correct and “not so correct” alpaca conformation looks like. Get answers to questions like...“Why are wedge shaped heads preferred? Or, “What’s the difference between cow hocks and sickle hocks and why does it matter?” Time is allotted for questions and handouts will be provided.

“The Joy of Spinning and Weaving” Saturday @ 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM *Presented by Linda Philpott, Co-Owner of Pineville Yarn Shop by Rainy Day Creations*

The Yarn Shop by Rainy Day Creations is a friendly, cozy place to learn new skills, see the latest designs, and have a sense of community with other fiber lovers. Linda will be providing valuable information for all who have an interest to start learning or to learn new ideas for improving your skills. She will bring both a weaving loom and spinning wheels for her demonstration. This is the last class of the day, so stay as long as you like and learn from an expert.

“My, my, what to do with all your Fleece” Saturday @ 12:00 noon *Presented by Lyn Kessie of Keepsake Alpacas, Elaine Kelly of Sugarberry Farm and Debbie Meyers of Sunny Skies Alpaca*

This seminar will approach the various options the alpaca farmer can do with all the fiber every year from their harvest. Also, address the benefits of having fiber sorted to make definitive breeding decisions, improve uniformity, consistency and quality of product. Seminar will address how you can use 93-95% of your fiber eliminating waste and increase profit opportunities.

“Keeping your Alpacas Healthy the Natural Way” Saturday @ 1:00 pm and Sunday@10:30 am *Presented by Alicia Rocco NHP Board Certified Integrative Health Practitioner, from Alpaca Spring Valley Farm*

Alicia is a practicing Natural Health Practitioner for over 35 years. After 5 year of using her same practices and philosophies for the care of her own precious alpacas, she is now educating and sharing her knowledge to provide a natural approach to keeping alpacas healthy, healing and supporting the alpacas and animals the natural way.

“Estimated Progeny Differences and other ARI Initiatives” Saturday @ 1:30 pm and Sunday @ 11:30 am *Presented by Darby Vannier, Executive Director of Alpaca Registry, Inc.*

Darby will provide a basic technical overview of EPDs – what they are and how they are used as just one tool in a breeder’s toolbox to help make decisions to reach breeding goals. The use of EPDs in other livestock industries for herd/flock improvement will be described. Darby will discuss the use of EPDs in the alpaca industry and what ARI’s development of an EPD program means for all of its members. Additionally, he will detail data collection and submission to the ARI EPD program and discuss how results are calculated and displayed to members. Lastly, Mr. Vannier will provide an overview of how you can leverage the ARI database and your EPD results to the fullest benefit to your farm. This seminar is geared to all breeders – come to learn about the technology and how it can be of the greatest benefit to you!

“Marketing a Must” Saturday @ 2:00 pm and Sunday @ 11:00 am *Presented by Sandra Buckery from Atlantic Breeze Alpacas*

Marketing should be an integral component of your business plan. Marketing is like **sleeping**, without it you will **crash**. This seminar will demonstrate the importance of marketing for the growth of the farm and all that goes with it.

“Preparing Your Fiber for Spinoffs and Cottage Fleece Competitions” Saturday @2:30 pm

Presented by Patty Fuller, CAC Spinoff Administrator

Ready to enter Spinoff competitions and Cottage Fleece shows but just not sure how? This seminar will take all the mystery out of preparing your fiber for entering into any Spinoff and Cottage Fleece competitions. You will learn more about the scoring systems and understand the judge's notes as they apply to your entry. Use this information to make better breeding, husbandry, and processing decisions of your alpaca's fiber.

“Learning the Best Practices for Farm Layout” Saturday at 3:00pm, Presented by a panel of Alpaca Farmers and facilitated by Al Kessie of Keepsake Farm Alpacas

You will receive a plethora of information from these wise old farmers/ranchers. You will learn what they did right (and wrong) and what they might do differently. Learn how to utilize what you already have on the farm and what you might need to add. The discussion will entail information regarding shelters, fencing, pasture, necessary equipment, design ideas for ease of herd husbandry, watering your alpacas and much more. Q&A as long as the panel can stay and as many questions you might have as this is the last seminar in the classroom for the day.

DEMONSTRATIONS at Vendor Booths:

Debbie Meyers, Apprentice Fiber Sorter of Sunny Skies Alpaca will be demonstrating fiber sorting and show you how you can use almost all your fiber and not throw away your precious commodity. She will also explain the benefits of fiber sorting to aid the alpaca farmer in breeding decisions. Stop by her vendor booth and learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Val and Kaarlo Hietala of Happy Hills Alpacas will be demonstrating Saturday and Sunday at their vendor booth. Stop by and check it out.

Needle Felting @ 11.00 am

Spinning @ 1:00 pm

Triangle Loom Weaving @ 3:00 pm