



SURI

Network News

a publication of The Suri Network

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of you for your vote of confidence in our recent Board of Trustees election. This year's slate of candidates was very strong in many ways. I'm happy to announce that all three of the incumbents Toni Cotton, Miriam Donaldson and I were re-elected. Your strong support is very much appreciated. We take this as a message that our leadership has placed the Network on a path that is aligned with your expectations and that is gratifying to all of us.

The Summer Symposium and Annual Meeting in Estes Park was an incredible event. All of those attending were very pleased with the range of topics and the quality of the presentations. The upbeat atmosphere, the camaraderie, and the feeling of excitement regarding future expectations for the Suri industry were absolutely infectious. The atmosphere that prevailed is difficult to explain in words on a page so I would strongly encourage you to talk to someone who attended and get their 'take' on the Symposium. Next year promises to be even better and we are already working on an awesome line-up of speakers and seminars. A new committee has been established with the sole purpose of planning and coordinating future Symposiums. If you are interested in serving simply contact the office and let us know.

The First Annual Suri Network All Suri Fleece Show was a resounding success! With 286 entries this was the largest turnout for a Suri fleece show in the history of the North American alpaca industry. Thanks to all of you for your participation. You have made this an historic event. Full results will be reported in the upcoming issue of PurelySuri™ and the winners will be featured in Alpacas Magazine and this issue of Suri Network News. What a way to market the success of your breeding program. Next year we are aiming for 500 fleeces!! Don't miss out on this fantastic event in 2007. At this year's Symposium Mary Lou Clingan gave an excellent two hour seminar on preparing show fleeces. Next year that seminar will be a full day. On Thursday you can bring your fleeces with you to the Symposium and skirt them under Mary Lou's watchful eye. Later that afternoon you can enter them in the show. What an opportunity to learn some valuable skills on your own fleeces.

It was announced at the Symposium that Marketing will be the major focus of the Network once the Breed Standard is completed in the next few months. Work has already started on a Suri marketing DVD that will be available to members. A new web site specifically focused on marketing is being developed by the SN Marketing Committee. A focused print and electronic media marketing campaign is in the design phase. The primary goal of this marketing push is to attract 'new' people into the Suri business. A secondary goal is to assist you in marketing Suris to existing alpaca breeders. A third focus is to develop avenues for marketing Suri fiber. The Suri Network Fiber Committee was recently formed with this goal foremost on its agenda.



MARKETING COMMITTEE

by Mike Murphy, Board Liaison

Beginning now and through 2007, The Suri Network will focus on marketing issues . . . marketing the Suri Network, suris, your farms, your animals. We are off to an outstanding start with our first ever ALL SURI CALENDAR. By the time you receive this it should be in the final design and production phase. The office was inundated with faxes and emails to secure the desired pages each farm wanted. We expected it would take 2-3 weeks to fill all the spots; it was full the second week! We have a project group formed whose focus will be to produce a marketing video with all suris. This will be available in DVD as well as in video on our new web site. Also, they will produce two short ads which can have your farm information tagged on which can be put on local stations, local cable channels and even run nationally. We will be working together with the Membership and Fiber committees where these committee missions intersect. YOUR affiliate is going to be productive and proactive for YOU!

See "From the President" - Continued on Pg. 4

WRAP-UP SURI NETWORK SUMMER SYMPOSIUM AND ALL SURI FLEECE SHOW

by Toni Cotton

With 120 attendees, the weekend was dynamic, interactive and educational! The event began with the Suri Network annual meeting at which the president, Dick Walker addressed the group discussing the evolution of the Suri Network over the past two years. With the efforts of the SN board, focusing on a membership drive the past few years, they have achieved their goal and we have grown to over 500 members! Committee reports were given by the board members. The president, Dick Walker recapped the events of the past two years, with the support staff of Hobert Office services, the Network has been able to provide its membership with two educational events per year, two annual PurelySuri™ publications and its first-ever AOBA Certified All Suri Fleece Show! The membership and breeder support of the fleece show was phenomenal! We kept Tim Lavan and Amanda Vandebosh busy judging 286 fleeces! Freda and Carl McGill were the key to the success of the show and we are so thankful for all of their efforts. Special awards and gifts were presented to first time fleece show participants as well as each Championship Suri Fleece was awarded piece of Suri pottery designed by Judy Steele.

The weekend was filled with educational events on reproduction, herd management, fiber studies and emerging diseases such as BVDV presented by Dr. Toni Cotton, Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Norman Evans and Dr. Rob Callen. Brett Kaysen led the breed standard sessions and enlightened the group with an in depth discussion regarding the benefits of instituting a breed standard to the Suri industry. There were brief social events both evenings immediately following the educational events for breeders to relax and network. The weekend ended on Sunday morning with a demonstration of how to prepare your Suri fleece for showing presented by Mary Lou Clingan. Fleece show judges Amanda and Tim ended the weekend event with the presentation of awards to the champion and reserve champion fleeces and a discussion of oral reasons. Attendees were able to view the fleeces after the presentation and the judges were there to answer questions and discuss fleece qualities.

Plans are underway for the 2007 Annual Suri Network Summer Symposium which will again be held in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado from August 16-19th. The focus of next year's event will be Marketing your Suris and your Suri fleece as well

as genetics. Along with the all day fleece preparation seminar on Thursday, there will be a full day handling clinic at the Estes Park Fairgrounds presented by Marty McGee-Bennett. This is going to be another great event - plan to attend!

Some comments on this year's event:

- ★ "I loved Brett's ability to speak his mind in this forum."
- ★ "Excellent! Bravo!"
- ★ "Excellent symposium – how about a lecture Thursday p.m. and end early Saturday p.m. to allow a visit to the park."
- ★ "The fleece show was excellent. Freda & Carl did a wonderful job on organizing the show."
- ★ Mary Lou's workshop needs much more time! She is so wonderful! All day or at least ½ day."
- ★ "Good topic selection – speakers were certainly well prepared and expert in their topics."
- ★ "What a refreshing variety – all pertinent topics."
- ★ "The stuff on latest research on luster was fantastic."
- ★ "Very rewarding and worth the attendance."
- ★ "Great conference!!"
- ★ "Super well organized symposium with blue ribbon speakers."
- ★ "This was by far the most interesting and best run conference I've been to. I didn't feel like there was any dead time the whole weekend – very unusual."
- ★ "Very new alpaca owner and was hesitant to attend, but am so glad I did! Learned so much from presentations as well as just listening to all the conversations surrounding me! First timer for fleece show – thank you for encouragement!"
- ★ "Excellent symposium – the discussions of the breed standard were particularly well done."
- ★ "This represented a real "Who's Who" of alpaca experts gathered to present in one conference! Great opportunity to hear this outstanding group. Excellent choice of judges for fleece."
- ★ "The conference was very well organized. It felt like the old AOBA Conferences. Ken and Marsha do an excellent job. They are organized, professional and most importantly, personal."
- ★ "Estes is a great location!"
- ★ "Thanks for all the hard work – the other 600 folks missed a treat."
- ★ "Great job on fleece show."
- ★ "Excellent event!! Well worth attending!"

See "Wrap Up" - Continued on Pg. 3



Suri Network Board of Trustees:

Dick Walker, *President* (alpacas@supersuris.com)
Miriam Donaldson, *Vice President* (alpacajack@aol.com)
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- ★ “It’s been a great event. Glad I came.”
- ★ “Simple breakfast, simple lunch is very good and cost effective – good job. Dinner on our own is also very good and cost effective. Well run seminar without “fluff.”
- ★ “Valuable info. Will attend next year. Pleased with push for breed standard.”

Seven color championships as follows:

- BLACK** Color Champion – Belle Mere Black Exotica
Alpaca Jack’s Suri Farm, Jack and Miriam Donaldson
Reserve Champion – Fox Run’s Peruvian Draco
Fox Run Suri Alpacas, Don and Carla Llewellyn
- BROWN** Color Champion – Tillman’s Life of the Party
Royal River Alpaca Co., Claudia and Ken Raessler
Reserve Champion – Dynamo’s Darlin’
Bar 3 Suri Alpaca Ranch, Donnis Martin
- FAWN** Color Champion – LCA Calhoun
Latah Creek Alpacas, Jack and Kelly Armstrong
Reserve Champion – Accoyo America Bravo
Double Dutch Farms, Inc., David and Sylvia DeGroot
- LIGHT** Color Champion – Belmonte’s Prize Possession
Mystic Springs Ranch, Vicki Trimberger
Reserve Champion – Toni’s HHF Accoyo Crowning
Glory
Bellborne Farm, James Bell and Carmela Osborne
- WHITE** Color Champion – Candlewood Accoyo
Magnum
Ravada Hills Alpacas, Ron and Sandy Hendricks
Reserve Champion – Maurizio’s Accoyo Caress
Wild Rose Suri Ranch, Alan and Patti Anderson
- GREY** Color Champion – This is Granite!
Alpaca This!, Kelly and Tyler Jarvis
Reserve Champion – Magic Silver Mist
Ten Sleep Properties LLC, Rebecca Trembath
- MULTI** Color Champion – WRSE Accoyo Amoretta
Wild Rose Suri Ranch, Alan and Patti Anderson

- Reserve Champion – FMR Fantasea
Flying M Ranch, Michael and Janis Murphy
- BEST LOCK** – Candlewood Accoyo Magnum
Ravada Hills Alpacas, Ron and Sandy Hendricks
- BEST LUSTER** – LCA Calhoun
Latah Creek Alpacas, Jack and Kelly Armstrong
- BEST PREPARED** – HMF Don Pasha
Hidden Meadow Farm, Bill and Barbara Moats
- FIRST TIME EXHIBITOR** – Dynamo’s Darlin’
Bar 3 Suri Alpaca Ranch, Donnis Martin
- JUDGES CHOICE** – AABC Michener
Alpacas of Tualatin Valley, LLC, Lona and John Frank

There were also **22 First Timers** who showed fleece:

- Bales, Barry & Barbara – Glory B Farm
Beam, Linda and Jokerst, Paul – Urban Alpacas
Cousill, Alan and Anderson, Jude – Pucara International
Geib, Kathie – StarGazer Farm Suri Alpacas LLC
Kreiensteck, Celeste – Thunder Mountain Alpacas
Livaudais, West – Alpacas of Champoeg
Martin, Donnis – Bar 3 Suri Alpaca Ranch
Moats, Bill – Hidden Meadow Farm
Moore, Kathy & Rob – Fox Creek Suri Alpacas
Murphy, Michael & Janis – Flying M Ranch
Pearce, William & Mary – Five Star Alpacas, LLC
Pearce, Charlene – Five Star’s Elite, LLC
Smith, Joyce – River Stone Peruvian Suri’s
Trembath, Rebecca & Wally – Ten Sleep Properties LLC
Vahlkamp, Liz – Salt River Alpacas
Van Natta, Bruce – Sur-Real Alpacas
Wargowsky, Bob – Windrider Suri Ranch
Wasserstein, Gail & Paul and Skidmore, Jay & Kathy –
Andean Vista Ranch/Lost Creek Alpacas
Williams, Marsha – Alpaca Valley Suris
Wilson, Mindy – Alpaca Bella Suri Farm
Zolvinski, Jeremy & Jenny – Flying High Alpacas
- For full show results, please visit our web site at
www.SuriNetwork.org

by Mike Murphy

Thank you to all who voted for their favorite name for the white suri. We are pleased to announce that the winner is “**S.A.M.**” which stands for **Suri Alpaca Mascot**. The winning name was submitted by Bill Vonderhaar of **Alpaca Bella Suri Farm**. He had this to say: “I am always looking for creative opportunities to involve my entire family in our Alpaca business. When we received the information about the naming contest for our Suri Network mascot, I thought it would be fun to participate and an opportunity to involve my 3 boys - Tyler 12, Ben 5 and Max 3. The boys really enjoyed and had a lot of fun brainstorming a list of creative names for the mascot. At the end, we sent in the 5-6 names we all liked the best. The winning entry S.A.M. - Suri Alpaca Mascot was actually one of Tyler’s ideas! We had a lot of fun. Thanks for the opportunity to participate!”



S.A.M.

SN RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Toni Cotton DVM

We are excited to report that the FN Fiber research project is well under way. Phase 1 which consisted of animal selection and sample collection has been completed. The following is a list of the data and samples from the study groups:

PRIOR TO SHEARING:

1. Photos of animal: head shot, left and right profile and close up of the fiber if possible.
2. Blood collection for complete blood chemistry analysis, cell blood count, serum mineral analysis and serum selenium.
3. Fleece collection from the right side of the animal in the shoulder, mid-blanket and hip area. 2X2 area collected and placed in a zip lock bag labeled with the animal's ID.

Make sure to label S for shoulder, M for mid-blanket and H for hip.

4. Skin Biopsy performed in the mid-blanket

AFTER SHEARING:

1. Weight of the animal
2. Body Condition Score
3. Height at the withers

The blood analyses are all complete, the skin biopsies have been sent in and the fleece samples will soon be sent in for amino acid analysis. We will be busy with Phase 2 which entails compiling all of the information into workable spread sheets for data analysis.

Bill Vonderhaar has been working closely with Bossa Nova Technologies, a company in California that has the technology to measure the shine (or luster) in human hair, to see if their technology can be applied to the measurement of luster in alpaca fiber. The SAMBA method objectively measures "shine" in human hair samples. The company is very enthusiastic about working with the Suri Network and with the help of Bill Vonderhaar, they are testing their methodology with suri fiber samples. If this technique proves to be repeatable and provides a quantitative means of measuring luster in Suri fiber, this will be a huge asset to the current Suri fiber research project.

A special thanks to Bruce Van Natta, Bill Vonderhaar and Claudia Raessler for all of their efforts in making Phase 1 of the project a reality and to all of the participating farms who participated in the project. The information that we are going to gain from this study is going to be a great foundation for future Suri fiber research.

NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The first step in implementing a national animal identification system is identifying and registering premises that are associated with the animal agriculture industry. The goal of the USDA is to establish a system that will identify in 48 hours all premises and animals that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or domestic disease of concern.

Additionally, if there is a disease outbreak in a specific area, it will be extremely helpful to animal health officials to have premises within that area identified so those livestock owners can be contacted. Alpacas are recognized as a livestock and therefore should be registered by their respective owners.

Widespread participation by our member breeders would strengthen our position as a livestock industry rather than an exotic pet industry. This, along with a breed standard, will help us to maintain our favorable tax position. As most everyone knows there are currently no sales tax on 'Livestock' but there is on pets and 'exotic - collectable' animals. As we heard at the Symposium several states are pushing to have alpacas listed in the later category so they can tax our sales. This is something that we obviously want to avoid as this truly is a livestock industry.

"From the President" - Continued from Pg. 1

At the Symposium it was suggested by several members that we offer a further incentive to you to go out and recruit new members. The suggestion was made in the spirit of bringing in as many non-member Suri breeders as possible prior to taking a vote on the breed standard in October. The board felt this could be best accomplished by linking a \$25.00 introductory membership with the existing dues discount program whereby a member will receive \$10 off their dues whenever they purchase a gift membership for a new member. As announced recently via email, this gifted membership will be good until 12-31-06. For example, if you purchased four \$25.00 gift memberships for four new members you would save \$40.00 on your dues next year. Our goal is to add no less than 100 new members with this program. **This introductory offer is valid until October 15th.** Call the office if you have any questions on how this program works and to find out what other benefits are offered to these introductory memberships.

We are wrapping up the development of the Suri Breed Standard with a survey that accompanies this issue of SNN. The information gathered in this survey along with the input from all the regional Type Conferences is being incorporated into the final version of the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND GET YOUR COMMENTS IN THE MAIL BY 10-16-06.** The final version of the standard will then be written and available for review and vote by the end of October. Most of the work has already been accomplished in the Suri Network Type Conferences held in Estes Park in 2005 / 2006 as well as various AOBA affiliate type conferences held at locations across the country. This survey is a final chance to have input on several aspects of the standard. A rough draft of the Suri Breed Standard is now available for your review on the web site.

Dieter Walker