



The Llama Rescue Review

The Newsletter of Southeast Llama Rescue, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 1



December 1, 2007

Greater Appalachian Llama & Alpaca Association Fundraiser



LAFF Felters Group with The Twelve Days of Christmas Felted Ornament Tree

Southeast Llama Rescue wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for the fundraising efforts of GALA (Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association) at their annual conference in Harrisburg, PA on the weekend of November 10 & 11.

Nancy Sottosanti, SELR BoA and Treasurer, represented SELR with an information booth at the conference. GALA auctioned 7 Christmas trees that were decorated with handmade ornaments to benefit SELR. SELR volunteers provided ornaments for one of the trees. Other GALA members made trees with felted llamas, peace doves, llama etched glass

SELR Mission Statement: To protect the quality of life and improve the well-being of abused, neglected, unwanted, and behaviorally unmanageable llamas through prevention, education, intervention, placement, and lifelong care.

ornaments and more. Vermont members made a 'tree' of colorful felted boxes, and each box contained a surprise, including a handmade shawl, Peruvian jewelry, and a felted flower. A felters group, LAFF (Llama & Fiber Friends) of PA donated a "Twelve Days of Christmas" tree that was laden with intricate and beautiful felted ornaments! The tree sold for \$5,000 to Carol and Doug Reigh. The groups members—Judy Eberly, Pat Fishel, Karen O'Neill, Marj Gerhart, Bonnie Henrich, Kay Schotta, Kathy Cooley, Sue Shoop and Pat McKinney— made over 100 ornaments for the tree.

There was also a beautiful shawl made during the conference that was sold to benefit SELR. The shawl was done by Tom Knisely, of The Mannings, East Berlin, PA.

In all, GALA raised over \$6,700.00 for SELR!

SELR was not the only organization to benefit from the event. Over \$15,000 was raised to be split between GALA and medical research. GALA represents a special group of people who are dedicated to the welfare and love of llamas. <http://www.galaonline.org>

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Adoptions

We wish to thank our most recent SELR adopters:

Teresa & Ed Cornell
 Diane Moxcey
 Nancy & Alan Ferguson
 Allison & Guy Aday
 Rema & Ronnie Solesby
 Gail & Charles Platt
 Chris Gill



We also thank our foster homes, volunteers, and donors! You make a positive difference in the lives of many llamas!

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

By Lynette Melton, SELR BoA, Chair



Southeast Llama Rescue volunteers have been busy this Fall - not only preparing our farms for Winter, but also representing SELR through a variety of activities and appearances.

On September 8 - 9, Deb Logan drove several hours to Fletcher, NC to set up a SELR booth at the Mountain State Fair. Deb organized the SELR volunteers, including me and Kim, Starr Cash, and Linda Brier. Alvin Bean helped out at the show and talked up SELR in that arena. We had a great time talking llama rescue with the many folks who stopped by our booth. And, we got GREAT new Mountain State Fair SELR Volunteer t-shirts from Starr! Congratulations to Bailey Strub - Bailey and adopted llama Wise Guy were the Junior Youth performance champs in the llama show at the Mountain State Fair!

On October 13 - 14, Deb set up and worked the SELR booth at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Ga., where she ran the SSLA raffle as well as the SELR raffle, and talked llama to anyone who would listen!

On October 27 - 28, Kim and I, Pat Cothran and her nephew Cory, Starr, and Sonny and Bob Eckhart worked the SELR booth at SAFF. We gained several potential volunteers/adopters, and raffled the lovely alpaca yarn that was donated by Starr. Congrats, Susan Gawarecki on winning the yarn!

November 2-4, Sean Day was at the North American Llama and Alpaca Show in Louisville Kentucky. Sean's table attracted a lot of traffic, with SELR Brochures and a donation jar, as well as adoption, volunteering, fostering and mentoring information available in a

condensed FAQ sheet.

Many thanks to all these dedicated volunteers for their time and efforts! I'm certain others of you have been involved in llamas activities that we'd love to hear about. Send pictures!

I hope we all take advantage of every chance to educate people about llamas and alpacas. No matter where I go, I carry my SELR tote (purchased at www.cafepress.com/selr) and wear my SELR bracelet, llama earrings or necklace. And my car sports a 'My Llama Is Smarter Than Your Honor Student' bumper sticker, a magnetic llama (available from Deb Logan) and a Southeast Llama Rescue license plate frame. All of these are great conversation starters, which can lead to opportunities to talk about llama rescue.

In the meantime, 16 animals were transported in October by various Coordinators and volunteers across the southeast. Most of this activity involved relocating surrendered llamas to appropriate foster homes and the delivery of adopted animals.

Special recognition, however, goes to Susan Sterling, who went beyond the call of duty by picking up two intact male llamas from different locations. Susan gelded both llamas, dewormed them twice, trimmed fighting teeth, cut the wool on one, and trimmed their toenails - all gratis. Then she put them in her trailer for transport. Apparently, this was quite a challenge, as one folded up like a card table and she had to lift him onto the trailer piecemeal - BY HERSELF! Thanks, Susan! We hope you were back to walking upright soon afterwards!

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Hey Day at the Western NC Nature Center



Marlin Moore (L), Floyd, Helen Moore (R), and visitors

On October 13, Kim and Lynette Melton participated as SELR representatives at "Hey Day" at the WNC Nature Center in Asheville. Lynette had the following to say about her experience:

"Many thanks to Helen and Norman Moore who brought Floyd and Marlin, donated a *Trek with Floyd* book and plush llama for us to raffle, as well as a portion of their book and plush sales for the day to SELR.

Floyd and Marlin were very patient and quite the gentlemen, allowing all the children and parents to pet them and give them nibbles of feed. Kristen Jansen, illustrator of *Trek with Floyd*, also joined us, along with her son

Jason, who was a great help in managing the children's coloring pages that we distributed to every child that came by (I believe there WERE 2000 of them!)

The children were almost as entranced by the llama roving and yarn that I took as they were by the animals themselves. Many of them asked for 'just a small bit of llama hair to take home.' Fortunately, I had taken quite a wad of some rainbow dyed roving, so was able to accommodate their requests.

Many thanks also to Starr Cash, and Elizabeth and Bailey Strub who came by and spent several hours each helping us out. It makes such a difference just to have another person to field questions!

We made \$95 for SELR, and we made many, many friends for the llamas."



Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

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On another note, Alvin is busy preparing her llama pasture to house the llamas that currently remain at our leased property. Mountin' Hopes, the therapeutic riding center where we lease pasture, is seeking a certification that will require no animals other than horses be housed on the farm.

With the establishment of our Regional Foster Centers as well as

an increased number of individual foster homes, we have been able to successfully disperse all but 12 of the llamas previously resident at Mountin' Hopes. Alvin will continue to maintain four of those animals as they cannot be adopted due to various issues, but we are actively seeking foster homes for the remaining animals, who are adoptable to experienced llama owners. 64 additional llamas are currently in 19 foster homes, waiting to find their forever

families, while two surrendering farms are holding llamas till they can be placed in either adoptive or foster homes. If you think you might have room for "just one more", please contact the Adoption Coordinator for your state to obtain further details. Lamas available for adoption and Adoption Coordinator contact information is available on our website: www.southeastllamarescue.org.

Happy Holidays! - Lynette

Volunteer Memorial: Kristin Hopkins *By Kris Paige, SELR Volunteer*

SELR recently lost a wonderful supporter and friend with the passing of Kristin K. Hopkins of Kimball, Wisconsin. Kristin, 62, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, November 3rd following a nearly 3 year long battle with a malignant brain tumor. Her friend and fellow SELR Volunteer, Kris Paige, wrote the following remembrances.

I first met Kris Hopkins on line. I'd just gotten 3 llamas, and like most newbies, needed HELP. The llama list I discovered was a great help with everything, and I was learning personalities of the members quickly. When I said I loved to spin, knit, and felt the llama wool, Kris wrote back, and the beginning of a great friendship was born. To keep others straight, she adopted K'North, or KrisNorth, and I was assigned KrisWuffles or just Wuffles <it's my name for a llama kiss>.

When I found out we were moving to Wisconsin, Kris was ecstatic! We met for the first time face to face shortly after the move, and it was all Larry, her husband, could do to get us apart so they could get to the 3 hour drive home. That drive, however, didn't stop us from communicating nearly every day by either phone, email, or both. Frequently, we met halfway, merrily swapping feed, fiber, even the occasional sheep <she had Shetlands, as did my neighbor down the road, so...> in the middle of the small town.

Kris was incredible with rescue--be it dog, cat, llama, sheep-- animals dearly loved her on sight, and her enthusiasm quickly influenced me. No one but Kris Hopkins could have tamed the half-wild "Baby Cat" <aka Psycho Kitty> who would try valiantly to rip the face off everyone and everything--then cuddle down, purring, with Kris, as if BC would NEVER think of calling the human race a foul name.

Then came the rather unbelievable call for us: 30 llamas needing rescue from a nearby farm, where severe illness had sapped finances and resources. Did I mention it was January, minus 20 at least, and literally, hip deep snow? Didn't bother Kris a bit. We rounded up extra help, halters, trailers, vaccination and deworming stuff, and off we went. Did I mention that many of the llamas had never had a halter on, or been handled much? Kris just kept directing things, I kept giving shots or picking up the south end of whatever llama had refused to load, and we kept at it. Kris was always the diplomat, the kind-hearted, soft-spoken one, and once, when I got overly enraged by not finding, as

I said at the time "...No Q to give a sub-Q shot in!" and turned, with rage in my eye to explain reality to the owner, Kris locked me in the trailer until I promised not to hurt anyone. When she let me out, we both laughed--the owner got suddenly VERY cooperative--heaven only knows what Kris told him!

Another rescue, I did the pickup, then couldn't convince the llama to come OUT of the trailer into the barn. Kris came down, it took the two of us about 4 hours to coerce this poor, terrified and vastly underweight llama that everything would be safe in the barn. I'd backed up as close to the barn as I could--the trailer door was about 2.5 feet from the barn door, there were llamas looking out at the newcomer, humming encouragement. Finally, Kris came up with the idea of portable panels lashed to the trailer and the barn, and a line of grain down the ramp, into the aisle of the barn, then into the wide-open stall. We went to the house, ate lunch, came back, and the llama was kushed in his stall!

Kris had the most infectious laugh I've ever heard. Somehow it mixed bells ringing, a delighted child, with just a goodly touch of total mischief. It showed in her artwork--she was wonderful with pottery, color, and was an incredible stamp artist, creating one of a kind greeting cards in the time it took me to find my car keys. When she got hooked on spinning, we had even more fun, as we submitted samples to a spinning competition in Australia, and even got certificates for our participation!

Kris's talents were incredible, her heart bigger than the Universe, and her smile lit any and every room. The world is just a bit colder, darker, and sadder for her passing. However, every time I see a rescued llama, cat, dog, or sheep thrive and live a healthy happy life, I credit Kris. I know in my heart that she's watching me, making sure I don't slack off on my duty to the furry children that may cross my path. In her honor, I won't sign my name "Kris" in the forums--I'll remain Wuffles, so Kris will always be the first.



Happy Endings: Manny & Osama



Above: SELR llama Little Big Man "Manny" and his companion Osama (bin Llama).

Macyln Humphries, a SELR volunteer, recently adopted Little Big Man, (a.k.a. Manny) to join her llama Osama. In early September, she celebrated Osama's birthday with a donation to SELR. Along with her donation, she included the following note:



"Today is Osama's 2nd birthday! I brought a peach and a few peanuts for the party. Osama said that in lieu of gifts, he would like contributions to be made to SELR for the llamas who need homes and medical care.

Thank you - Love, Maclyn"

Grain & Minerals 101 *By Chris Stull, SELR BoA & Adoption Coordinator NE PA*

In our last issue I discussed the different types and qualities of hay and hay substitutes. In some cases it may be necessary to supplement your llama's diet with foods other than hay to maintain a proper body mass.

Adding fat in moderate amounts is one good way to keep the weight on an animal without feeding a lot of grain. However, if you start going over one cup of vegetable oil or add too much rice bran, which is popular now, you've got to be careful. Vegetable oil has no minerals but may increase the need for vitamin E. Rice bran is high in phosphorous, and you can get into a reverse calcium-to-phosphorous ratio if you feed

too much. When phosphorous intake is higher than calcium, the animal's body tries to stabilize things by leaching the calcium out of his bones. This causes intermittent lameness, and could cause skeletal disorders and fractures.

As I mentioned previously, grass hay tends to be higher in calcium than phosphorous. If you add more than about a half pound of rice bran to that, you can push the phosphorous up to a level that would get into the danger zone, especially if you're feeding grain or a bran product that's not fortified with calcium.

If your llama is losing weight or is sluggish, you may need to add grain to his diet,

presuming he is not ill or carries a heavy parasite load. Oats are not a high-energy feed. Either whole or crimped, one pound of oats contains just about the same amount of energy as one pound of excellent quality hay.

Corn is a perfectly good feed for most animals, but people have gotten into trouble by not understanding it. A one-pound coffee can filled with corn

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Grain & Minerals

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contains two times the amount of energy as the same amount of oats, and if you suddenly feed the corn in the same amount as you do oats, an animal can get into trouble. Corn also is prone to mold.

There are many concentrate mixes out there that contain a mixture of corn, oats and/or barley with added vitamins and minerals. Choose one from a reputable company that is designed specifically for the animal in mind. Horse feed is not recommended for llamas.

Generally the copper content in horse feed is a bit too high for llamas.

The molasses coating on sweet feed breaks down as simple sugar in the bloodstream and sets off a whole chain reaction within the body—the pancreas produces sudden rushes of insulin which can be damaging to soft tissue and organ with repeated occurrences. If you need to put weight on an animal rapidly, use a dry pelleted feed mixed with plain soaked beet pulp for added calories. The wet beet pulp adds extra fiber and moistens the dry pellets

enough to cut down on the risk of choke. Naturally, this should be mixed at each feeding and not in advance as the beet pulp can sour quickly, particularly in the heat.

Lamas also need free-choice minerals specific to their needs as well as specific to the area in which you live. Lamas need loose minerals as they cannot lick adequate minerals from blocks. To find out about mineral deficiencies in your area, you can consult the USGS geochemical maps at: <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geochem/doc/averages/countydata.htm>

Remembering Copperbright *By Julie Weir, BoA & Adoption Coordinator II, MO, IN, KY*

Copperbright the llama died of heat stress and old age this past summer. She was 23. She came to me as a rescue at age 18. It was minus 29 degrees wind chill the day I brought her home. It was an ugly divorce and they dispersed 38 llamas in those bitter temps.

Copper had a baby six months after I rescued her (at age 18). Elsie May, her daughter, is a darling gal and is now busy being a guardian for goats in California, MO. The folks who own her love and treasure Elsie May.

I thought Copper was a goner a few years back in the winter. She shivered so badly. I

remember that one night I went into the barn and put a blanket around her (plus she was already wearing "the purple coat") and tucked it all around her and crossed it over her neck.

I dreaded going out to the barn the next day -- as the wind had howled all night long. I went out and omigosh -- Copper wasn't in her "spot" in the barn. I rushed to the barn window just in time to see her running into the snow -- coat flying like a Superman cape! It is a memory I will treasure.

Whenever Copper wore "the purple coat" -- she knew she was royalty. She would actually strut around the other



Copperbright, far right

llama gals as if to say, "Humpff -- she OBVIOUSLY doesn't care about YOU. Are YOU wearing a coat? Nooooooo -- only I get the purple coat."

I guess these reminiscences about Copperbright make me realized why I love these old llamas so much.

Llama Personal

LoGunn is a 4 year old gelding and a fiber lover's dream llama. He has rich, chocolate brown, crimped fiber and those perfect llama ears to go with it. He was initially surrendered due to aggression -- but gelding has calmed him down and he has grown into a sweet natured, awesome looking boy.

He lives quite happily at his foster farm with several other llamas and over 15 alpaca boys. He is a "show stopper" and could really take the ribbons in the nonbreeder category. Don't let this boy get away!



To obtain additional information or to submit an adoption application, contact Julie Weir at SIMPLECLWN@aol.com



In This Issue...

Remembering Copperbright, Manny and Osama, and more!

SEND US YOUR LAMA PHOTOS! Send photos, stories, and other llama news to:
melissa@theuniquegoat.com



Llama Quote

"The Llama is a woolly sort of fleecy hairy goat, With a indolent expression and an undulating throat Like an unsuccessful literary man."

Hilaire Belloc (1870 - 1953)
French-born British writer
More Beasts for Worse Children, 1897, "The Llama"
-Contributed by Lynette Melton

SELR in the Spotlight

Nancy Sottosanti, SELR Board of Advisors and Treasurer, was recently featured in a television segment on WHSV - Harrisonburg, VA about how GoodSearch helps charities. You can read the article at <http://www.wHSV.com/news/headlines/11333311.html> or visit the Southeast Llama Rescue Website homepage to view the video!



Vatsana of Persimmon Hill Llamas mugged for the camera during the interview with WHSV TV