

# Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

[www.falainc.com](http://www.falainc.com)

EARLY SPRING 2024

## Letter from the President

Hello FALA members,

*We had a very busy January, February, and March with the Florida Winter Classic, Florida State Fair, SSLA Convention, and our March FALA meeting at Sunshine State Llama Ranch! All events were educational, fun, and rewarding!*

*As we enter April here in Florida, it's time to think about scheduling shearing, if you haven't already, especially for alpacas! Go to [www.falainc.com/Shearers.html](http://www.falainc.com/Shearers.html) to get a list of shearers. No one wants to wear a winter sweater in the Florida heat and neither do your animals!*

*Please remember to provide plenty of water, shade, shelter, and fans for your animals. If you can add electrolytes to their water, please stock up as well on JumpStart, and other things you need to keep your babies cool and safe!*

*Your Board is working on securing guest speakers and topics for our annual Educational Seminar. Dates and times will be announced shortly. We hope to have it once again at the Citrus County Board of Realtors building at 714 S Scarborough Ave., Lecanto, FL. It will be free if you are a FALA member or \$25 for non-FALA members, which includes 2024 membership. More details to follow. If there are any specific topics you would like covered, please email me the request and I will add it to our potential topic list.*

*Your Board is also working on other exciting events for this year, (details soon), plus our November Alpaca/Llama trek and picnic and our Florida Winter Classic 4 next January 2025!*

*Please review your farm information on <http://www.falainc.com> as we are in the process of updating our website. Let us know your contact information, herd size, and breakdown and if you offer public visits, a farm store, breedings, etc. We would love to write articles on our FALA farms in future newsletters. This is a great chance to share your successes with our membership. Please email me if you are interested and we will send you a outline.*

*Reminder if you haven't paid your 2024 yearly \$25 FALA dues, please do so! If you know of other farms that are currently not FALA members, please share our information with them. They can go to <http://www.falainc.com> to sign up.*

*With the summer months coming soon, remember to always prepare and let's hope for a mild summer for a change! Please be safe and keep your alpacas and llamas cool!*

*Shear, shade, water, and fans!*

John Previte

FALA President

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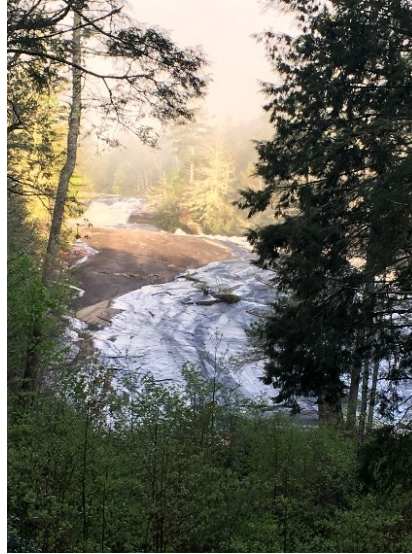
\*The information printed within this publication is for informational purposes only. Always rely on your veterinarian for advice and treatment. The opinions expressed in articles, letters, ads and editorials are solely the opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily express the views of FALA. Acceptance of advertising/bulletin board items does not imply endorsement of products or services. Articles, letters, pictures and other contributions are welcomed.

**Thank you to Sunshine State Llamas, Lisa and Marjorie, for hosting our March meeting, and for providing adorable crias to look at!**



# SSLA Spring Pack Trials

DuPont Recreational Forest  
Cedar Mountain, North Carolina  
April 27&28, 2024



This is a two-day event with a Cooking over the Open Fire Dinner  
Saturday Night.

Both Advanced and Basic Course Pack Trials Saturday and Sunday  
Morning.

This is a PLTA Certified Event

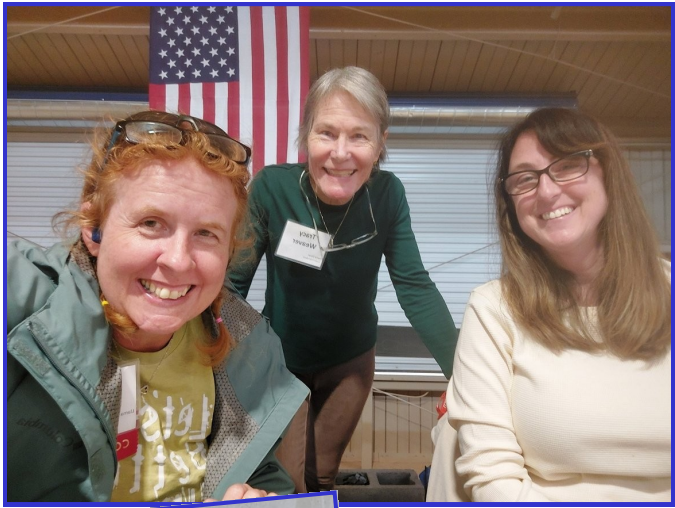
It is also a beautiful location just to come to and fun hike over the  
weekend.

Primitive Campsites are available with access to bathroom and  
showers.

Stall and pasture space available for the animals

Contact Mary Rose Collins, for details [mrc604@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mrc604@tampabay.rr.com)  
Details can also be found on the SSLA website [www.ssla.org](http://www.ssla.org)

# 2024 FLORIDA STATE FAIR



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## THOUGHTS ON SHEARING CUTS

### **Barrel cut:**

- ◆ Exposes the armpits and underbelly, areas where llamas release the most heat.
- ◆ Location of the highest quality/finest fiber for harvesting.
- ◆ Visually appealing in the show ring. Allows the neck to look longer, the body to look more robust, and disguises the natural tail set. It allows people to better assess fiber type and quality.

### **Lion Cut:**

- ◆ Exposes the same as above, but allows for greater ventilation.
- ◆ Improves breeding practices. Removes fiber from vagina, making it safer, cleaner, and easier for penetration. Removes fiber from testicles, allowing them to stay cool and produce greater sperm count.
- ◆ Visually appealing in show ring for animals with excellent top lines, tail sets, and rear leg conformation. This cut will naturally draw the eye to these areas. If these are their faults, it will not help.
- ◆ IMO it makes an animal appear more mature.
- ◆ More prime fiber to collect for processing/use.
- ◆ Less to groom and manage.

### **Full Body:**

- ◆ Ensure maximum comfort in your livestock to keep them cool, limit the amount of grooming they must endure, and removing any matting or coting in the fiber.
- ◆ Improves breeding practices (see above).
- ◆ Ease of grooming for beginning showman.

*Courtesy Nicholas Roberts, Show Judge*



*The United Nations declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024). The Year will highlight how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households in hostile environments across over 90 countries, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities. From alpacas to Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, camelids contribute to **food security**, **nutrition** and **economic growth** as well as holding a strong **cultural** and **social significance** for communities across the world.*

*Camelids play an important role in advancing the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) related to the fight against hunger, the eradication of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. From providing milk, meat and fibre for communities to transport for products and people, and organic fertilizer, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot survive.*

*Camelids play a key role in the culture, economy, food security and livelihoods of communities in Andean highlands and in the arid and semi-arid lands in Africa and Asia, including Indigenous Peoples. Even in extreme climatic conditions they continue to produce fibre and nutritious food. Indeed, the International Year of Camelids presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the role of camelids in building resilience to climate change – particularly in mountains and arid and semi-arid lands.*

*The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to build awareness of the untapped potential of camelids and to call for increased investment in the camelid sector, advocating for greater research, capacity development and the use of innovative practices and technologies.*



## 2024 Calendar of Events

**April 27 & 28 — SSLA Spring Pack Trial**  
DuPont Recreational Forest, Cedar Mountain, NC  
See flyer on Page 3

**May 19 — FALA Meeting**  
Beautiful Creatures Animal Ranch

- ★ Need to re-home a llama or alpaca? Contact Claudia Hammack, [llamachick@yahoo.com](mailto:llamachick@yahoo.com)
- ★ Youth interested in showing a llama or alpaca for FFA, 4-H, or for fun? Contact Tracy Weaver, [lotsallamas@earthlink.net](mailto:lotsallamas@earthlink.net)

