

**Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.**

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

APRIL 2017

## Letter from the President

As show season draws to a close, shear season is in full swing. Who knew there were so many seasons in Florida! We are still enjoying the last remaining days of cooler nights and crisp mornings, but I know this will be coming to an abrupt end soon and the warmer and, dare I say it, *HOT* summer months will be upon us shortly. I hope everyone has had a chance to start shearing and hopefully will be finished soon. If you have not yet begun to shear or need assistance please feel free to contact anyone on the list of shearers. If you know of someone who has alpacas or llamas and it doesn't look like they know about shearing their animals, please go to them and offer to assist or let them know of someone else in the area who can shear for them. It is the neighborly-thing to do to offer assistance and possibly educate them about the animal. Their attention maybe more focused on what is being guarded and not the guard's health.

There was a great turn out for the Levy County Fair, with many happy exhibitors! There may even be a few pictures on Facebook. Cameras are always around! J

In this newsletter is the informational flyer for the Fiber Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Please come to the library and join us. The day ends at 2 PM and there are several restaurants in the area if you are interested in making a day of it before heading back home. If you are interested in being a teacher or participant, please contact either Charlene Braun or myself as we are serving as this year's chairs of this event.

Start now to prepare your fleeces for the upcoming shows; remember you have two years from the shear date to circulate the fleece for the shows.

*Claire-Marie Warner, FALA President*

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Big thank you to Claire-Marie and Doug Warner for hosting our March meeting at Serenity Hills Llama Ranch. We met in their spacious and light-filled fiber room. There are several exciting events coming up that were presented. We will be posting all of the details later.

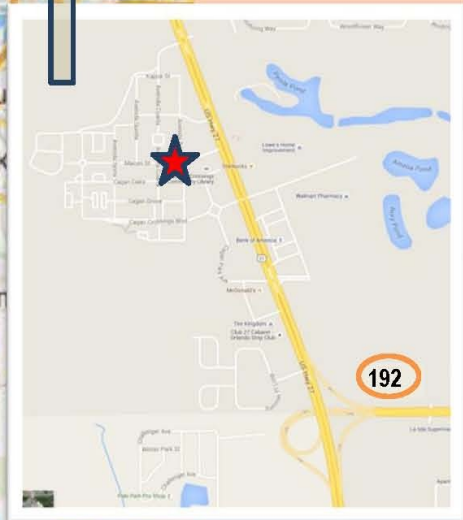
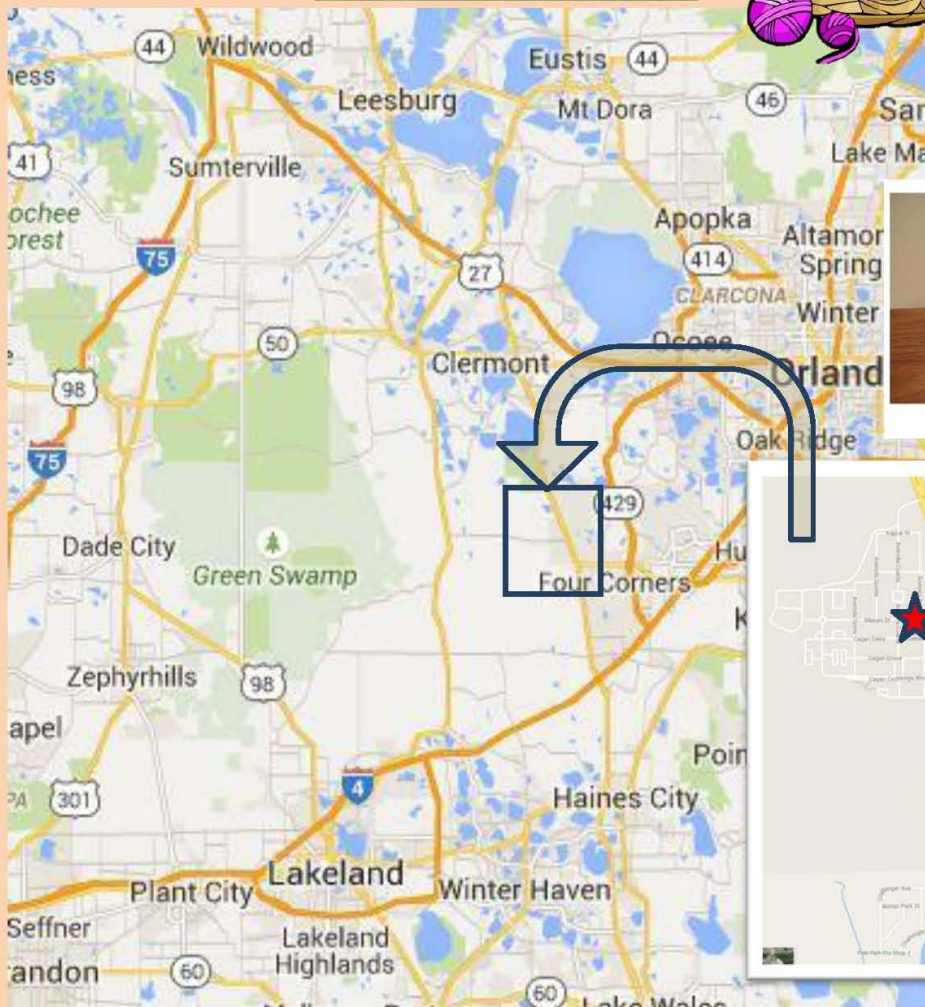
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## Fiber Day! Florida Alpaca and Llama Association Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 10:00 AM - 1:45 PM

**The Florida Alpaca and Llama Association** will be having their annual "Fiber Fun Day" on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Cagan Crossing's Library located on South Highway 27 in Clermont, FL. It will be a chance to learn how to crochet, knit, weave, spin, felt and other fun things to do with fiber. The library is open from 10:00-2:00pm on Saturday, and our program will run from 10 till 1:45pm. We hope to see you there. Please RSVP to **Claire-Marie Warner at 407-427-4570** if you plan to attend. Thank You!

Cagan Crossings Community Library - Meeting Room A & B

**Location:**  
**Cagan Crossing's Library**  
**Meeting Rooms A& B**  
16729 Cagan Oaks  
Clermont, FL 34714  
Phone: (352) 243-1840





# Levy County Fair Llama and Alpaca Show





# FARM SPOTLIGHT

**Florida Llama Fiber**  
Dale Schultz & Nancy Larson



This is what a second retirement means for us after 30 years as software developers in Southern California (city kids) and another 30 years on a small acreage farm in Southern Oregon. We started with 2 males back in the day, and one was entered in a show prior to our purchase. So, we went knowing nothing about showing a llama and got a ribbon. The judge, in discussing the female grand champion at the Nevada State Fair, said that she would be an asset to any breeding program. We agreed with her and started on building a herd that numbered almost 100 before we found out what caused that and stopped bringing our males and females together.

We lived in Oregon and later moved from a smaller acreage to a larger place with two barns and hay fields as our herd increased. We love these great animals and always want the best for them. We were very involved with our llamas – going hiking; learning to drive and pull a cart; going to shows, fairs and nursing homes over most of the western states; and taking seminars and training. We laughed at the driving directions that almost always included coming into a town and turning at the yellow flashing light. We felt proud of the job we were doing with our llamas when

several veterinarians volunteered that, if they came back as llamas, they wanted to live at our ranch. Although a couple of our llamas pushed the adult class by showing well at 20 years old, most would rather stay home and relax. We continued for a few more years by supporting local llama groups by manning informational booths, being show staff and show superintendents.

When we decided to move from Oregon to Florida, we knew we couldn't take our llamas with us. Over half of the remaining herd, now numbering 46, is between 19 and 24 years old with the balance in their teens. Many of our llamas had found the Willamette Valley in Oregon too hot and humid on occasion, so we knew the Florida climate would not suit them even if we could find land and facilities. Also, such a long transport would be extremely hard on these older llamas. We were able to work with the new owner of our ranch to board the llamas and allow the vet to come in every quarter for herd health. So, our llamas can stay in the same place where they've always been and be cared for. We don't feel that we could be responsible pet owners, if we discarded or abandoned our herd.

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# FARM SPOTLIGHT

**Florida Llama Fiber**  
Dale Schultz & Nancy Larson



We miss our daily “llama fix” so we happily go back each May for shearing. Many of our “babies” still remember us and come running for back scratches and mutual nose rubs when we show up. Even our geriatric llamas still produce a good fleece. After shearing, skirting and sorting; we take the fiber to the Fiber Cooperative of North America’s fiber depot near Portland. Our fiber merges with that of about 125 other llama ranches throughout the US and Canada to make socks, blankets, and rugs. See [www.LlamaFiberCoop.com](http://www.LlamaFiberCoop.com) for more information. Dale is active in the fiber co-op, and we stay in touch with other llama owners.

We would not trade away the experiences and education we have had and the love we have received from our llamas over the last 25 years. We still use the same veterinary clinic after all these years although it’s now the son that comes to the ranch. Also, we still use many llama handling techniques we learned from Marty McGee back in the 90’s.

You can contact us through [www.FloridaLlamaFiber.com](http://www.FloridaLlamaFiber.com) and we’ll always talk about llamas.





# FL State Fair Photos

Champion llama youth at the Florida State Fair. Congrats on your hard work!



Fiber on display







Kathi Volling's chickens are being well protected by two older ladies she took in. Goldmine and Chantilly, an SELR rescue



## **2017 Calendar of Events**

**May 21** — **FALA Meeting** at Peaceful Llama Acres, Dunnellon, 1pm

**June 10** — **FALA Annual Fiber Day** at Cagan's Crossing Library, Clermont, 10am-1:45pm  
Fun things to do with fiber, including felting, spinning, weaving and more!