



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

FALL 2017

Letter from the President

First, I want to say how sorry we are to have lost a long-time member, Mary Anne Murray. Our hearts go out to her husband, Bob. You have our deepest sympathy, and our thoughts and prayers are with you.

It has been a very busy fall and we've just begun! Weekends are filled with hurricane clean-up, preparation for shows, shows, farm visits, and events.

Sunday, November 12 is our annual meeting, Withlacoochee River Park in Dade City, FL. There is more information in this newsletter. Be sure to vote either via Survey Monkey, or in person at the meeting. We will have the results of the voting at the meeting. Bring the llamas and alpacas out for a pack trial hike on the trails. We will have two hikes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. If you have signed up a new member, you're eligible for the membership drive contest.

The Florida State Fair is February 8-19, 2018. The registration forms are on the website FloridaStateFair.com. Don't miss the deadline for entering the fair. Join the fun! If you've done an exciting event, please let us know by writing an article about it.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Claire-Marie Warner, FALA President

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What is a Pack Challenge?

At the November 12, 2017 Annual Meeting we will be having a Pack Challenge so what is that? This Program has been designed by the Pack Llama Trail Association. Although this year we are not sanctioning our event with them, we are using their program as the frame work. This is how PLTA defines a Pack Challenge:

“The Challenge is designed to be a fun event that provides a forum for training both handlers and llamas. In many ways it looks like a pack trial without the trial. Under the scrutiny of a PLTA endorsed official, the Challenge Master, groups go out on the trail to hike and negotiate obstacles. In doing so they accumulate points for the weight their llama carries, the elevation gain it makes, the distance it covers, and the obstacles it successfully completes. In all these categories, the handler chooses what and how much the llama will attempt. Points are awarded for accomplishment but no deductions are made for lack of participation. The burden of completion required in a pack trial is absent, as well as the anxiety that goes with. As a result, a lot of plain old fun is available, with plenty of opportunity for education as well. The protocol is easily adaptable to any group, at any age or ability level and in any terrain.”

So you go out as a group and some obstacles will already be defined but the fun part is you can create obstacles as you go. Someone in the group sees something they believe could be an obstacle, the group agrees and poof! an obstacle it is.

The decisions made along the way are up to the handler as to whether they feel their animal can handle different levels of obstacles. There is no failure, just fun and experience.

A pack is recommended but not required, the trail we have selected is 2.9 miles, and the pace is set by the group.



An Event Like No Other

I have never been to St. Augustine. After much planning and changes to schedules due to Hurricane Irma and the clean-up, the time had come for my inaugural trip. I must say we didn't have time to enjoy the city and all it has to offer, but there is one thing to note about St. Augustine, the Llama Restaurant really impressed me. No, the Peruvian owners Manuel and Ana do not serve llama, they really, really love llamas! They even have llama merchandise for sale. We were invited to the Llama Restaurant; well, when I say "we," I really mean the llamas. We went along for the ride and made it happen.

If you have the chance to go to St. Augustine, you must stop by the Llama Restaurant. They really know how to plate a meal! Everything we tried was delicious and cooked in the traditional Peruvian way, outside in a fire pit. The Llama Restaurant was celebrating their 1 year anniversary and wanted to do it in style. There is

no better way than to invite some llamas and have a block party. The llamas were the main attraction notwithstanding the food. There was music, dancing, and lots and lots of torrential rain. Despite the rain, the patrons came for the scrumptious food, and the restaurant was standing room only! Violet and Sateen can really draw a crowd!

We gave out calendars, tattoos, and chocolates. The llamas did a few walks around the block and drew a sidewalk crowd as well, many of whom stayed for the food at the restaurant. The reviews I've seen online for this restaurant is nothing but 5 star!

Write an article about your recent excursion! We would love to hear/read all about it!

Claire-Marie Warner



RESCUE RUMINATIONS

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Huge thanks to the FALA Board as well as, of course, the members for your recent donation! Your timing could not be more perfect!

Things have been spinning and although we have had quite a few adoptions, due to the numbers of animals coming in we've been doing some fee reductions for the adoption of multiples exceeding three animals as well as waiving fees altogether on older or compromised animals. While we have been able to cover costs, there hasn't been much to put in the "pay it forward" bucket to cover contingencies...and we have had more than our fair share of those lately!

Of course, the "boots on the ground" assistance that FALA members freely offer in regards to fostering, transport, farm checks, etc., is invaluable. Being surrounded and supported by a like-minded community is an essential element in our success and for that we thank you!

Deborah Logan
SOUTHEAST LLAMA RESCUE
Interstate Coordinator & Organizational Liaison
www.southeastllamarescue.org



FALA Hosts Marty McGee Bennett Clinic

Many thanks to Dan and Susan Moreland for providing the perfect venue for our event! Marty was fun and informative, as usual. We had a number of FALA members present and gained some new members, as well. In addition to attendees from Florida, New York, North Carolina and Washington state were represented. The feedback from participants was very positive. There were both alpacas and llamas available



Out and About

**Oakland Heritage Day
October 21, 2017**

Demonstration of fiber
uses and the animals

*Charlene Braun,
Claire-Marie Warner,
Doug Warner*





2017 Calendar of Events

November — **FALA Annual Meeting and Pack Challenge** — Sunday, November 12
9am—4pm at Withlacoochee River Park, Dade City, FL

December — Local Christmas parades and events

FALA ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, November 12

Arrival: 9am

Pack Challenge: 10am-12pm

Meeting: 1pm

Location: **Withlacoochee River Park**
12449 Withlacoochee Blvd., Dade City, FL

<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/Facilities/Facility/Details/Withlacoochee-River-Park-25>

Information for Challenge — Bring your llama or alpaca, a pack if you have access to one (not mandatory). Instructions for trails and challenge at 9:30am. We will be walking a 2.9 mile trail with obstacles. Wear comfortable closed-toes shoes and appropriate clothing for hiking. Our Trail Masters will be Tom Rothering and Mary Rose Collins.

Lunch — 12-1pm FALA will be sponsoring the hamburgers and hotdogs for the meal. Please plan to bring a dish to share. Contact Claudia Hammack for what you plan to bring and an RSVP for the day. She will make sure food or paper products are not duplicated; that way we will have enough of all types of food. Her email is: llamachick@yahoo.com and phone 352.586.2016 (text or call). **Please respond to Claudia with the food/supplies you will be bringing and number of people attending by or before November 7th.**

Please bring your own chairs for the day. Tables will be provided.

FALA Annual Meeting — 1-2pm Agenda- Election announcements and meeting discussion. 2018 FALA Calendars will available!

Advanced Pack Challenge — 2-3pm To be determined by the Trail Masters

PACK UP—HEAD OUT — 4pm

If you have an extra llama or alpaca, bring it! There may be people that are not able to bring an animal but would like to participate in the challenge!

See you all at the park!