



## *Midwest Lama Association Newsletter*

*January 2019*



Greetings MWLA Members...

Well, here we are in 2019... Last time I was anticipating Kristine coming home after 15 weeks in college and thinking of all the ways I could spoil her while she was home on break, and now I am looking at sending her back in a few short days and realized I don't think I got enough spoil time in... I have been told this is how my life is going to go for the next few years, so I had better get used to it. It is a beautiful sight to see your kids growing into themselves, but ever so hard to accept as a parent. Many good changes await our girls in the up and coming months. And I can't wait to sit back and watch it all happen.

As well, we have very exciting things happening for MWLA Winter Conference. The last few months the board has been hard at work, and we feel that we have come up with some exciting speakers. Justin Timm, Carol Reigh, Kristy Brown, Katie Mazac, and Rick Carlson, are joining us to speak on a wide variety of subjects to our adult members. And the youth will learn a lot of great tips and techniques with Kelsee Robinson, Kristy Brown, and Nick Hauptly. I have been in touch with everyone and can say you don't want to miss this year's conference.

For our fiber enthusiasts, Danita Doerre has been in touch with Three Rivers Guild and they will be joining us on Saturday with demonstrations of spinning, weaving, possibly knitting, crocheting, and whatever else craft they are doing with fiber. So, come check them out. IF you have a project and need some help with it feel free to bring and have them assist you.

We are still looking for vendors to display their goods in our farm and vendor area. Just let either Dan or myself know if you are needing an area. We will be glad to assist you with this.

One thing that we are doing in addition to the Friday night talk, is a painting class of a whimsical Lama. You don't need to have painting experience to do this project. I have done one like the one being offered, and it was a blast. All you need is a great imagination and the want to try something new. Let me know if you are interested in taking this class, so I can keep the instructor in the loop so she has enough supplies with her. You can pay her the night of the class, but a head counts needed.

Lastly, as in the past, please remember to bring auction items for the adult live and silent auctions, as well as the youth live and silent auctions. It is always fun to see what the HOT item ends up being...

I hope that you can join us February 15 to 17, 2019 at Stoney Creek Lodge in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Respectively,

Kim Schechinger



## *Midwest Lama Association 2019*

### *Winter Conference*

Dedicated to Pat Zophie

A Gathering of Lama Lovers February

15 - 17, 2019

***Don't Miss It***

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# Meet the Officers

## **President – Kim Schechinger**

Schecks Southwest Secrets

2502 12yh St S

Austin MN 55912

507-433-3809

507-440-7092

email: [red\\_sled2@yahoo.com](mailto:red_sled2@yahoo.com)

## **Vice President - Dan Whittaker**

Dawn to Dusk Llamas

10880 66thst. N

Stillwater, MN 55082

651-295-5340

email: [llamadan@aol.com](mailto:llamadan@aol.com)

web: [www.dawntoduskllamas.com](http://www.dawntoduskllamas.com)

## **Treasurer - Tracy McGinnis**

Bear Korner Llamas

22615 Cinder Avenue

Warrens WI 54666

608-378-4519

608-343-4519

email: [dentramcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:dentramcginnis@gmail.com)

web: [www.bearkornerllamas.com](http://www.bearkornerllamas.com)

## **Secretary - Lorraine Kilmartin**

Just a Handful

23265 E. Burns Valley Road

Winona, MN 55987

507-452-5727

507-312-0557

[lkilmartin5727@msn.com](mailto:lkilmartin5727@msn.com)

## **Newsletter Editor -**

**Tim & Debra Kohloff**

Sunset Alpaca & Llama Farm

196 Wedgewood Road

PO Box 1501

Buffalo, MO 65622

417 839-3974

[tkllamas@gmail.com](mailto:tkllamas@gmail.com)

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

Patricia A. Zopfi, 70, Stratford, passed away on Friday, November 23, 2018 at her home in the Town of Eau Pleine, Marathon County. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am on Friday, November 30, 2018, with Rev. Sue Eidahl officiating. Burial will take place in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Town of Eau Pleine, and serving as pallbearers will be Tad and Adam Christophersen, James and Jeremy Wenzel, Jenny Holt and Bill Feirer. The visitation will be from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Thursday and from 9:30 am until service time, all at Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford. Sauter / Rembs Funeral Home is assisting the family. Patricia was born on April 2, 1948 in Marshfield, to James and Marie (Handrick) Feirer and was a 1966 graduate of Columbus High School. She was united in marriage to Floyd A. Zopfi on August 12, 1972 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Rozellville.



After her education Pat became employed at Northern Auto until her marriage. She then farmed with her husband and later worked at Country Kitchen and Severts restaurants. She then was employed at Perkin's Restaurant for 32 years. She and Floyd also raised llamas. Pat enjoyed doing parades and fairs with her husband, traveling in 20 states, and helping to create a 52 llama driving team and then 72 hitch, becoming a Guinness Book world record. She also enjoyed reading, was an avid Packer fan and had a collection of 800 sets of salt and pepper shakers. She was a member of the Red Hats Society and loved and was loved by people from all over. She was known as a kind and giving person and even in death, her giving continues as her donation of tissues will touch the lives of many. She is survived by her husband, Floyd and her brothers and sisters, Michael (Kathy) Feirer of Marshfield, Terrance (Stephanie Newsom) Feirer of Vallejo, CA, Paula Korger, William Feirer, both of Marshfield, Ellen (Peter) Christophersen of Arbor Vitae, and Julie Wenzel of Marshfield and a sister-in-law, Alice (Walter) Humke. She is further survived by numerous nieces and nephews, 2 aunts, Mary (Dale) Mitchell and Geri Hoeser and she will be missed by a special friend, Karen Kolbeck. She was preceded in death by her parents. A special thanks to the first responders and neighbors who assisted.

[Service was held](#) Friday, November 30, 2018 at the Zion Lutheran Church (Strafford)  
700 North 2nd Avenue, Strafford, Wisconsin 54484 10:30 AM

# *What to Consider when Looking for a Fiber Processor*

*by Fran Soukup, Sugar River Llamas*

There are many things to consider when looking for a fiber processor. I am going to cover the main ones here. You most certainly will have some of your own priorities. I feel that your fiber processor should be like a partner with you. You are sending them your fiber that you are paying them to process. Hopefully they will treat it with care, as if it was their own.

**Location:** Most of you are probably not lucky enough to have a fiber mill in your neighborhood. But if you do it would be worth the drive to visit one. You will get a better understanding of the process. And if it fits the criteria that you are looking for in a fiber processor, it sure would be handy and you would save on postage.

In many cases, it is worth exploring shipping options. And, to pack as much fleece in a container was possible. I use clean feedbags, lined with a large plastic bag. Stuff that bag full, compress it, suck out the air (vacuum cleaner with a nylon cover on the hose works well), pack it again. You should be able to get as much as fifty pounds in one bag – but, you need to work at it .

**Equipment:** Does the fiber processor have the equipment to provide you the product you need? Not all mills have the same equipment. Do they have a dehairer to remove guard hair. If you want yarn, be sure they have a spinner. If it is felt you are after, you need to see if they can do that. You also need to know if you want needle felted or wet felted felt. Each produces a different type of felt. Do you want the mill to dye your fleece? Maybe you want a finished product. Is that service offered? Some people prefer the output from certain name brand equipment because of the quality of the end product they produce. Check with the fiber mills you are considering, making sure they can provide you with the final product you are looking for. Be sure to

consider the size of yarn you are looking for and the size of batts that can be made.

**Price:** Price is also important. When you are checking prices be sure that you are comparing apples to apples. Some mills price everything on incoming weight, some on final product weight. This can make a huge difference. Sheep wool, for instance can lose 50% of its weight in washing.

Llama and alpaca can lose 10% to 20%, although I had one mill return only 50% of the fleece as yarn. Let's look at some examples, based on costs/pound and assuming 10% loss during washing and again with carding:

Mill A, charges \$6 for washing, based on incoming weight, \$7 for dehairing, based on washed weight, and \$8 - \$10 for carding, based on how many runs are needed. You send in 10 pounds of llama fleece. Spinning yarn costs \$25 - \$31. Your price for 8 lbs finished yarn is \$398.

Mill B charges \$4 for washing at incoming weight, \$10 dehairing based on washed weight, and \$10 for carding to roving or batts. Spinning yarn is \$25 - \$26 finished weight, but does include carding. This gives you \$322 for 8 lb. of finished yarn.

That is a big savings. Mill B looks more expensive at first glance but came out cheaper in the end. Be sure to read through all the costs and ask the mill if you have any questions. Also check for discounts for quantities. Some mills offer this option.

**How fast can I get it back?** At the time I am writing this, many mills have a six month to one year waiting list, a couple were three months and some were a year. This may be very important to you so if it is ask for an estimate of time to get your fleece back. It will also make a difference what you are having done with it. ....Continued on next page.....

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If time is of the essence, check with several mills until you find the one that works for you. But, also be aware, quick turnaround might also mean the mill is not that busy for a reason. Some very efficient mills allow the farm to reserve a time frame for a small deposit. For long wait times, it might be a good idea to reserve a spot for next years shearing, now.

**Quality of Product:** Most of us want the best product we can find and at the best price. If you really want to see what a mill produces, ask for samples. They should be able to provide you with some. Also, talk to others and ask what mills they have used and see if they are happy with the end product. Sometimes people need it fast... and that is what is important to them. Sometimes it is price that drives people. Or, it could be quality. Like everything else you usually can't have it all. You will have to decide what is important to you and the final product you want.

**Miscellaneous:** Here are a few other things you may want to consider. Does the mill have a minimum poundage requirement? Some mills will need a minimum of pounds to even start the process for you. I have seen 2 lb, 10 lb, 25 lb, and 100 lb, minimums. Some have no minimums but will charge you for 1 pound if the weight is under that. Sometimes the fiber length is important. How long is your fiber? Most mills require two to six inches. Some can process longer amounts, up to 9 or 10 inches. Others will take any length fleece but will chop it into shorter lengths, during the processing (gives a cat hair effect in finished product). If your fiber is long, it would be best to check before you send it in. Other questions to ask: How much experience have you had in processing llama fiber? What kind of soap? Do you add oils? Do you use any chemicals? Do you process suri fleece? Do you blend with other fibers? Ask the mill as many questions as you need to. This is a great way to test their customer service. I hope you all find a mill that works well for you!



In situations where the owners are not able to keep or maintain their animals, SELR takes them in and ultimately finds new homes for them. **Funded entirely by private donations and adoption fees**, SELR assists new owners by providing basic care information and connecting them with local "mentors" who are able to provide assistance on a more personal level.

In cases of abuse or neglect by llama/alpaca owners, SELR assists local law enforcement and animal control authorities toward the best interest of the animals, which may result in SELR taking possession and placing the llamas in a new home. We also work closely with various animal sanctuaries to ensure that those animals who require lifelong medical care are afforded the attention they need.

When SELR gains possession of animals, they are vetted, trained, gelded if male and placed in pre-screened adoptive homes. Females are placed with a **non-breeding contract**.

We hope you'll help us save these wonderful llamas that so deserve our respect and care.

[www.southeastllamarescue.org](http://www.southeastllamarescue.org)



## Note from the Editor

2019 is here and the Winter Conference is around the corner. You have all undoubtedly received emails including information and signup information. It is (as usual) expected to be a very informative and entertaining. It is being dedicated to Pat Zopfi who passed away November 23, 2018.

We really need people to send us pictures, stories, articles etc., about your Llamas, alpacas, fiber projects (spinning, knitting, crocheting, etc.). Just because you may not think it is interesting does not mean that someone else will not enjoy reading about it. Spring will be here soon (although it may not seem like it) and it will be time to shear. Shearing pictures can be fun to share. I know some people out there go to parades and other public events, some pictures and a few words in your newsletter would be enjoyable for others to see.

You may notice on [page 20](#) of this newsletter is upcoming events, all of these are in Missouri and one in Arkansas. Please, please send me your upcoming events that pertain to fiber, Llamas and alpacas. It only takes a few minutes.



This past year at Sunset Alpaca & Llama Farm we had quite a few young people to visit us throughout the year, most of them were from a local college. The young lady in the picture above driving Ferdinand the Llama was a birthday girl and had no idea where her mother and friends were taking her.

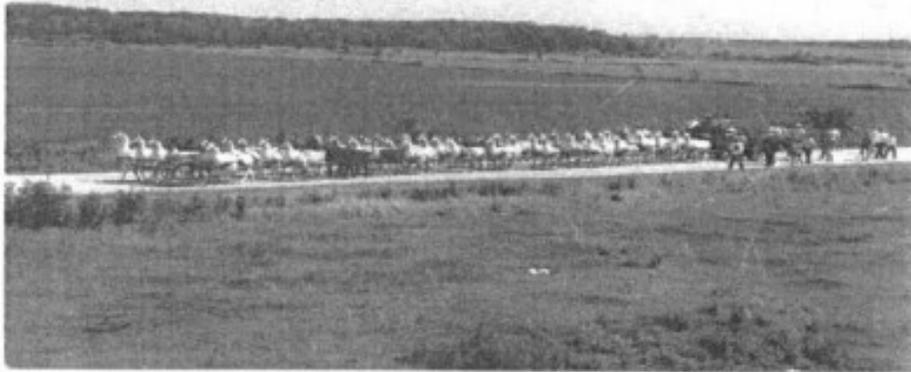
When they call ahead and assuming we can spare the time we are always happy to introduce people to the Llamas and alpacas. We of course do not accept money for this. The look on their faces is more than money can buy. After driving for a few minutes I threw the girl the lead rope that I had on Ferdinand and she was even more thrilled to be driving by herself.

To have any pictures of your farm events or any other events put in this newsletter email them to: [tkohloff@gmail.com](mailto:tkohloff@gmail.com)

# Keep Your Lama

# COOL!

*Part of Floyd & Pat Zopfi's Guinness World Record Lama/Team*



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[lamaserv@hotmail.com](mailto:lamaserv@hotmail.com)

[FAZ22222@hotmail.com](mailto:FAZ22222@hotmail.com)

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Midwest Llama  
Association 2019  
Winter Conference  
***Dedicated to***  
Pat Zopfi

- Male geldings and females. Babies from Metallic. Black and white. Good confirmation.
- Also selling llama and alpaca wool.
- Some top cutter blades, half used

Contact Floyd Zopfi at:

(715) 305-4234

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Floyd & Pat Zopfi

EP3715 Drake Ave

Stratford, WI 54484

## Attention MWLA Members:

Please send any photos, farm stories, articles or any information you would like to see in your newsletter to:

Tim Kohloff

Editor of the Mid-West Llama Association Newsletter

[tkllamas@gmail.com](mailto:tkllamas@gmail.com)

*Ashford spinning wheels & supplies*

AYRWEN

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642 Swedish Mission Rd.  
River Falls, WI 54022

(616) 403-7681  
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I can work with you to create pillows, runners, hangings or scarves in colors of your choice, or in your own yarn. Email me at



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507-452-5727

# 4-H Bus Tour to Wisconsin November 3, 2018



The Central Minnesota Llama 4-H Club of Benton County coordinated a bus tour on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to several sites in Wisconsin. Leon Ritter of Above All Coach Travel hosted 22 youth and 21 adults on his plush motor coach. It was a great time to bond and visit with friends on the coach as the first stop was 2 hours and 40 minutes into Wisconsin to the Mystic Waters Fiber Mill in Mondovi, WI.



Roxy and Dave Smith from Mystic Waters had the group break in 3 separate areas to start the tours. One group started in the “She-Shed” and got to do some shopping of yarns, rugs, fiber, dryer balls and other lama related items, along with trying out the rug loom. Another group toured the farm outside to see the animals, barn and fencing set up and meet the herd of 30 llamas. The third group got an up close tour of the process of cleaning, carding, felting and spinning the fiber. Roxy explained how all the machines in the mill were brought in from Canada and explained and showed how each one worked during the process.





The tour group ate lunch on the bus as we headed to our second stop in Ellsworth, Wisconsin to the Lazy P Ranch at the Paquet farm. Lisa and Steffanie greeted us with hot cider and sweet treats. Lisa talked about their farm and breeding program and Steffanie showed us how she trains the lamas to do certain obstacles and talked about the therapy animals and program through Camelid Companion. This farm has produced national champions within the lama industry. The 4-H youth also loved the farm cats, kittens and dogs.

The last stop on the bus tour took us to the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, the Cheese Curd Capital of Wisconsin. The group enjoyed shopping at their retail store, eating ice cream, sampling cheese curds and especially purchasing the delicious varieties of cheese curds and other cheese products for the ride home!

Special thanks to the Midwest Lama Association and Central Minnesota Lama Club for scholarships to our youth to help make this bus trip more affordable for the families!

Submitted by:  
Cheryl Pflipsen,  
CMLC Key Leader



# *Useful Links to the Llama Community*

## *Associations & Organizations*

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)  
[alpacainfo.com](http://alpacainfo.com)

Alpaca Nation  
[alpacanation.com](http://alpacanation.com)

Alpaca Llama Show Association (ALSA)  
[alsashow.net](http://alsashow.net)

The Argentine Llama Aficionados  
[ArgentineLlamas.com](http://ArgentineLlamas.com)

International Llama Registry (ILR)  
[lamaregistry.com](http://lamaregistry.com)

Llama Life II Magazine  
[www.llamalife.com](http://www.llamalife.com)

Pack Llama association  
<http://www.packllama.org/>

## *Health*

Alpaca Research Foundation  
<http://www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org/>

International Camelid Institute  
[www.icinfo.org](http://www.icinfo.org)

Morris Animal Foundation  
<http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/>

National Animal Identification system  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>

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### *Rescue:*

South East Llama rescue  
<http://www.southeastllamarescue.org/>

South West Llama rescue  
<http://www.southwestllamarescue.org/>

Still Point Sanctuary  
<http://stillpointsanctuary.org/>

### *Things to do with your Lamas:*

Midwest Llama Packing  
<http://www.midwestllamapacking.com/home.cfm>

**We ought not to treat living creatures like shoes or household belongings, which when worn with use we throw away." - Plutarch**



DeAnna Amos-Nele of Lake of the Ozarks Missouri is Spinning off of Marvel who is a French Angora rabbit, in Camdenton Missouri at the Camdenton Arts Fest in the fall of 2018. Marvel is owned by Debra Kohloff of Sunset Alpaca & Llama Farm Buffalo Missouri. If you look closely you will see Marvel

laying patiently in DeAnna's lap. Marvel laid there for a total of eight hours with a short break for lunch and to have children of all ages pet her. Other than that she never moved the entire time.

**To have Pictures and/or articles of yours put in the newsletter please email me at:**

[tkohloff@gmail.com](mailto:tkohloff@gmail.com)



## *Southwest Llama Rescue*

SWLR takes in llamas and alpacas that are abused and neglected, or from owners unable to keep their llamas due to failing health, aging, or lifestyle changes. We also work closely with law enforcement officials and animal control authorities.

We arrange and support foster care for those willing to adopt rescues, or for those who can provide foster care while the animals await placement. We provide information, advice, mentors and offer a long-term contract with anyone adopting one of our llamas.

If you have any questions, please contact your nearest [coordinator](#).

SWLR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in New Mexico, and funded by donations and adoption fees.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rescue.llamas/?ref=br\\_rs](http://www.facebook.com/rescue.llamas/?ref=br_rs)



*Midwest Lama Association 2019*

*Winter Conference*

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***Don't Miss It***

## *Recommended Llama Veterinarians*

### **Dr. Steven Boster**

Buffalo Equine  
Clinic 3810 County Road 12  
North Buffalo MN 55313  
763-682-2225

### **Lisa Hansen, DVM**

Pierce County Veterinary Clinic  
707 North Brown St.  
Ellsworth, WI 54011  
715-273-4632

### **Dr. Katie Morris**

Austin Veterinary Clinic  
3100 West Oakland Avenue  
Austin MN 55912  
507-433-5225

### **Clifton Paulsen, DVM**

Cedar Valley Veterinary Center  
506 West 1st St.  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
319-277-4564

### **Michael Pedersen, DVM**

Animal Health Center  
1415 Highway 20 North  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009  
507-263-3929

### **Dr. Lyn Peterson**

Kettle Hills Veterinary Service  
232 West State Street  
Hartford WI 53027  
262-670-1620

### **Dr. Jenifer Schlining**

ISU Veterinary Hospital - Camelids  
1600 South 16th Street  
Ames IA 50011



Bravo the Llama is a rescue Llama, he was purchased from a respectable breeder at approximately six months old and raised with 4 draft horses. They were not your everyday saddle horses but very large draft horses. I have been told that the breeding fees for Bravo's father were high. When I drove my pickup truck into the pasture where these horses and Llama were I must admit I was a little more than concerned when they all ran towards me at a full run. I was very happy that I was in the safety of my vehicle. They were not use to having a strange vehicle in their pasture and was curious about the Llama that I had brought with me.

I had taken some corral panels and another Llama to help capture this Llama. He had never been

handled, sheared, had his nails trimmed or haltered since these people owned him. As it turned out he was very easy to load in the trailer, I simply opened one of the doors and he all but ran in. He had not seen another Llama in four years and was ready for some camelid companionship.

I named him Bravo, it took only a matter of minutes after unloading him at our farm that he needed some rehabilitating. For one thing, if I stood still for even a few seconds he would walk up to me and put his nosed up against mine. That was nice the first couple of times but it was soon obvious that he considered himself dominate. He also did not make his "pit stops" in the custom manner. Meaning wherever he happened to be standing at the time is where he had his bowel movements. His pen was soon covered from one end to the other. However, I kept raking up the mess into a pile and he soon got the idea. After being gelded he was turned in with the other Llamas and alpacas. Later when we got goats and they began having families of their own he was a great guardian for them as you can see. No matter where he was, out in the pasture or in the barn you could (and still can) either walk up to him or let him see you and he will walk up to you and put his nose in your face. I reluctantly sent Bravo to live with some people not too far away. I still see him quite often and visit him and his other rescue Llama friends. This lady has taken in some Llamas that other people do not want because of age or medical problems. All of them have a GREAT home there.

[Tim Kohloff Sunset Alpaca & Llama Farm Buffalo Missouri](#)



Debbie Kohloff of Sunset Alpaca & Llama Farm in Buffalo Missouri is dressed in Character while demonstrating using her great wheel at the annual Mid Missouri Horse, Mule , Ox, Farming and Historical Crafts Days in Gerald Missouri in the first weekend in October in 2017. There was a good possibility of rain that weekend so a canopy was used. Everything including clothing was supposed to be kept in character

with the event. Tents, coolers etc. are supposed to be kept from the public eye as much as possible.

## ***Up Coming Events***

***Missouri Fiber Artists Retreat: March 22, 2019***

***Plyaway Spinning Retreat: Kansas City Missouri April 9—13, 2019***

***Llama Play Day: Ozark Arkansas at the Franklin County Fairgrounds***

***Fiber U: McGowan Civic Center in Lebanon Missouri. July 20—21,2019***

***Natural Fiber Extravaganza: at the Wilson County Exposition Center in Lebanon Tennessee July 19-21 2019. There will be Fleece show competitions, Vendors, fashion shows, hands-on workshops, educational seminars and more. [www.fiberextravaganza.com](http://www.fiberextravaganza.com)***

***Fiber Daze: Mt. Vernon Missouri Sept. 20.—21,2019***

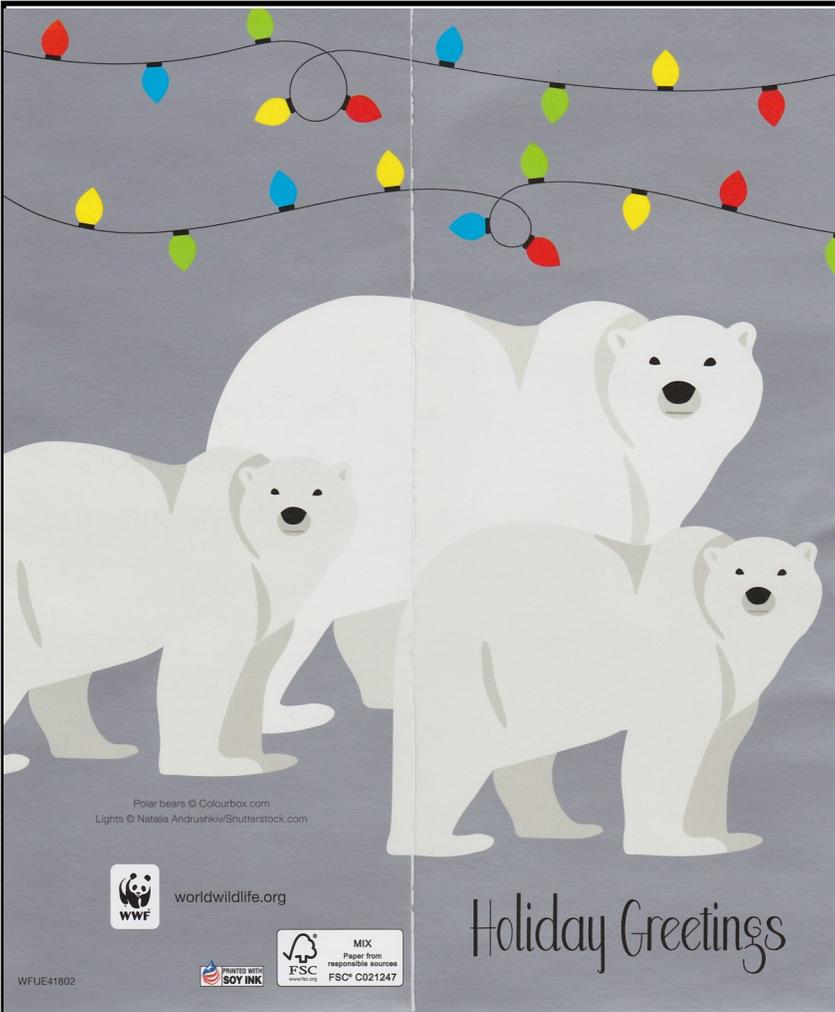
***Ozark Fiber Fling: Meramec Retreat Center in Steelville Missouri Friday and Saturday Nov 1 & 2, 2019***

You may notice that all of these events are in Missouri and most of you probably live in Minnesota or Wisconsin.....Please feel free to let me know what Fiber, Llama or Alpaca events are in your part of the world so we can put it in the newsletter.

Submit to:

[tkllamas@gmail.com](mailto:tkllamas@gmail.com)

The following Christmas Card and donation was sent to the Midwest Lama Association. We thank Beverly Cram for the \$100 donation in the name of her husband Ramon Cram and Pat Zopfi.

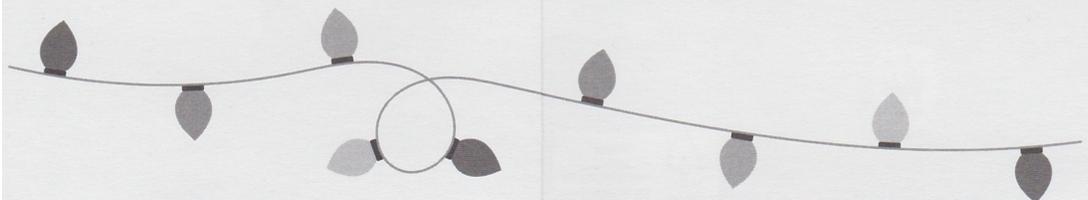


To the members of  
Midwest Lama Assoc.  
I am donating \$100  
in memory of  
Ramon Cram and  
Pat Zopfi.

May the joys of the season  
be yours throughout  
the new year

Sincerely,

Beverly Cram  
Cram's Lama Farm





# Midwest Lama Association 2019 Membership Form

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Census Numbers: Llamas: \_\_\_\_\_ Alpacas: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed/Mailed Copy of Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mailed Copy of Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Members:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Members:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Dues \$ 25

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms complete with payment to:

Tracey McGinnis

20185 Cinder Ave

Warrens, Wi. 54666