



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

FALL 2025

A Note from the President

Happy fall y'all!!

Phew!! We made it through a full summer of no hurricanes this year!! What a blessing! This is my favorite time of year, as I look forward to the upcoming cria season on the farm.

Hi! My name is Sarah Strautmann and I own Heaven Sent Ranch where we raise llamas, suri alpacas and American Aberdeen cattle. I am currently transitioning to the role of president with the current resignation of our president, John Previte. We wish him the best as he focuses his time on his family, farm and happiness! We will still see him at events, I'm sure!!

As many of you know, I have been actively involved in FALA over the past many years, starting out as a board member, and eventually transitioning to Vice President. I never imagined that I would be President one day!! I currently live with my family in North Florida, where my sister and I lead Camelid Connection. This is a 4H club focused on all things fiber, animal care and husbandry. We participate in many festivals and parades throughout the year. The youth of my family, as well as myself, enjoy a few shows each year, as time allows. I look forward to continuing the advancement of our youth participation through activities, and the education of our membership through seminars and events. I am excited to see what the future of FALA holds for us!! I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting and hike!

Sarah Strautmann
FALA President

Inside this issue:

2025 FALA Annual Meeting and Llama Walk Flyer	2
Lotsa Llamas—Tracy Weaver	3
Classified Ads	6
FALA Winter Classic Flyer	7
Winter Classic Sponsor Form	8
Calendar of Events	9

Thank you Mary Rose Collins and Cheryl Lambert, Casadellama, for hosting our September meeting!

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FALA Members and potential new members join us at Withlacoochee River Park, Dade City on Sunday, November 9, for our annual membership meeting, picnic, and alpaca / llama "Trek in the Park."

- Bring your Camelids or borrow a friend's as we start the day at 9:00 AM, hiking through beautiful trails, surprising unsuspecting campers, and enjoying nature with our animals.
- Bring your lunch, chairs and relax as we talk "Camelids" and review upcoming FALA shows and events under the pavilion.
- It is a great way to meet our FALA board and membership while networking with our Camelid Community. If you have questions, we most likely have answers! 🦙🦙👀
- As always, we will have a free raffle for prizes and other fun games for young and old.

We look forward to meeting new members and welcome existing members for a fun day at the park!



Lotsa Llamas



TRACY WEAVER
HUDSON, FLORIDA

WELCOME TO FLORIDA!

**Specifically Central Florida, Pasco County, Hudson
My home at Lotsa Llamas**

By Tracy Weaver

My journey began in Kentucky, where I lived for 25 years. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture/Agriculture at Eastern Kentucky University and a Masters' degree in Education at the University of Kentucky. I moved to Pasco County, Florida, for my job as an Agriculture teacher. There, I married and raised a family. The American dream!

One would think I was busy enough, in those days, to be blessed with 2 ½ acres of property, a house, a job, three children and a husband. But then to add to the mix, we decided to bring llamas into our lives. We dabbled in chickens, goats, sheep, and cattle during those beginning years, mostly for the children to show in our local fairs.

My school students participated in the local fair, exhibiting animals, and some even showed at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. And that is where I watched my first Llama Show. I was hooked!

After becoming interested in llamas, I spent a year visiting llama farms in Florida. Most of owners I visited suggested the Pearsons' Farm in Georgia for a larger selection of llamas. In 1995, I visited Pearson Pond Farm and bought three llamas: a mother, her cria, and a nine-month-old male. At its peak, our herd consisted of 15 animals, providing ample options for my three children to participate in shows at the Florida State Fair and other llama shows while enrolled in the Pasco County schools' Agriculture programs.



The Trio at the "Ask Me" station at the Florida State Fair

I now had five years of observing and being around llamas; I wanted to learn and be more involved. In 2001, I signed up for a llama judges' workshop to learn more about these wonderful creatures. From that point, my thirst for more carried me forward to participate in more classes to become a certified llama judge for halter and performance.

After a few years, I went a few steps further and added judging alpaca classes to the mix. One of my instructors and mentor, Deb Yeagle, who raised alpacas, encouraged me to take some judging classes to become certified in that area. I also met Brenda Crum, a wonderful woman who raises alpacas at Golden Spirit Alpacas. Not only are these animals beautiful, but oh, that fiber! I went into a pen of alpacas looking and feeling beautiful fiber. Again, I was hooked!

I have been judging animals and fiber around the U.S. for 24 years, and I've enjoyed the times spent with the animals and people that appreciate camelids for the joy they bring into our lives.



Left: 2018 Florida State Fair Youth Champion of Champions Program

Right: Mary, Louis, and Tracy taking a break between classes at 2025 Florida State Fair

Lower Left: 2023 Florida State Fair Youth Award Recipients

Lower Right: At the 2023 SSLA Conference Fiber Workshop



Now, 30 years later, I have one llama still with me named Bria. She is 26 years old and does okay eating and getting around. Just like any elderly animal, there are signs of slowing down. We've given her a soft food mixture because she's lost some teeth, and she had an eye infection that caused some sight loss in one eye. She still stands at attention when dogs or other animals go by her fence line. I'm hopeful she will pass easily when the time comes.

After retiring from my job as an Agriculture instructor for Pasco County Schools in 2014, I applied to take a course offered with the Pasco County Extension-Horticulture Director to become a Master Gardener Volunteer in 2016. The course consisted of 65 hours of classes over the summer, held one day a week for eight weeks. Additionally, I had to complete a written test and identify various plants related to the area.

For the past nine years, I have been a volunteer with the extension agents, working to inform and collaborate with the citizens of our county to enhance their knowledge about gardening, whether it's lawns, trees, fruits, or vegetables. I speak around the county on various subjects: Florida Coastal plants, Florida soils, houseplants, terrariums, and my favorite subject, bats, the mammal! It is a wonderful experience to share two worlds — Plants and Llamas and Alpacas!

CLASSIFIED ADS

SPINNING WHEEL FOR SALE

Circa 1983 Ashford Traditional spinning wheel for sale. Single drive and single ratio. Very good condition, wood just oiled. Comes with 3 bobbins. I can bring it to the FALA event on Nov. 9th for you to look at. Even if you don't spin it's a nice, decorative piece. \$100.00

Claudia Hammack





**5th Annual FALA Winter Classic
Alpaca / Llama Show**

**Saturday, January 17th, 2026, 8:00 – TBD
Sunday, January 18th, 2026, 9:00 – TBD**



**NEW LOCATION - Hayley Stables Arena
40812 Grays Airport Rd, Lady Lake, FL 32159**

FREE Spectator Admission!

- Covered Show Arena
- Stalls Available
- Halter, Obstacle, Public Relations and Pack Classes



Go to <http://www.falainc.com> for more information.



5th Annual FALA Winter Classic ALPACA / LLAMA SHOW

January 17th - 8:00 – TBD

January 18th - 9:00 – TBD

NEW LOCATION - Hayley Stables Arena, 40812 Greys Airport Road, Lady Lake, FL 32159.

SPONSOR FORM

Our 5th Annual FALA WINTER CLASSIC show will be a two-day show at Hayley Stables Arena, 40812 Greys Airport Road, in Lady Lake, FL 32159.

We are looking for **Show Sponsors** to help support our next FWC show on January 17th and 18th, 2026.

- Diamond Level - \$150 and up
- Gold Level - \$100
- Silver Level - \$50
- Bronze Level - \$25

All sponsors will be recognized in level order on our FALA Website and Show Day Board

Thank you in advance for your support!

We would not be able to continue doing our shows without support from our sponsors!

Make checks payable to "FALA Inc.", complete this form and mail them to:

FALA - 4211 S. Old Floral City Rd. Inverness, FL 34450

Sponsor Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Business Type:

Ranch: _____ Veterinarian: _____ Shearer: _____

Breeder: _____ Other: _____

NOTE: FALA – Florida Alpaca and Llama Association is a Not-For-Profit Organization.



2025 Calendar of Events

November 9 — FALA Annual Meeting & Llama Walk

Withlacoochee River Park, Dade City, FL

9am Llama Walk, lunch at noon

Meeting and Election results after lunch

December 5 — Entries due for the Florida State Fair Llama Show

Visit the FL State Fair website floridastatefairag.com/shows/llama

December 5 — Postmarked date for Florida State Fair Fiber Arts Competition Entry Form

This is for the forms only; items are due January 7, 2026.

The FL State Fair website floridastatefair.com/competitions/ has Fiber Arts specific information.

January 17 & 18, 2026 — FALA Winter Classic

Visit falainc.com/ for information and entry forms.

★ Need to re-home a llama or alpaca? Contact Claudia Hammack, llamachick@yahoo.com

★ Youth interested in showing a llama or alpaca for FFA, 4-H, or for fun? Contact Tracy Weaver, lotsallamas@earthlink.net

