

WINI'S BIOGRAPHY

Background

Wini Labrecque is a textile artist with interest in a wide variety of techniques. She has a very strong passion for fiber. Since the late 1980's, utilizing natural fibers, Wini has been spinning, weaving, knitting and felting from raw form to finished product. Her handspun skeins and woven/knit goods are sold at area art festivals and in area specialty shops. Wini teaches classes in beginning spinning, felting, and/or weaving to individuals or small groups. She has presented many special programs to area fiber guilds, Girl Scouts, 4H groups, alpaca farms and alpaca conferences. She is the weaver on the sheep to shawl team for her local guild, competing in competitions 2-3 times each year at the county and state level where she has won the weavers award on more than one occasion.

Once exposed to alpacas and their wonderful fiber, she has been utilizing and promoting the fiber to everyone who will listen.

Wini is an AOA Certified Alpaca Fleece Judge for the alpaca industry. She is also a Certified Camelid Fiber Grader/Sorter/Classer through Olds College in Canada. Wini is trained in grading/sorting of cashmere fiber and judging of cashmere fiber. She has helped developed a fiber evaluation protocol for the International Yak Association (IYAK) and is a fiber judge for fiber on the yak. Wini has presented at many shows and events on topics relating to fleece and fiber. Her passion for alpaca fiber has led her to a project to develop a wash and wear alpaca fabric. She partnered with a few select area alpaca farms to develop an alpaca textile company - American Alpaca Textiles (americanalpacatextiles.com) focused on utilizing USA alpaca fiber in textiles for the home décor market. Her animal experience includes 10 years as a Veterinary Assistant, raising Cashmere Goats for over 12 years and keeping a fiber herd of alpacas. Horses, sheep and angora rabbits were among earlier livestock kept on her property.

JUDGING EXPERIENCE

Judge - 2010 to present Judging 3 to 5 alpaca shows each year as Fleece Judge

Judge - 2010 to present Judging many Fiber Arts, Skeins and Spin Off Competitions each year

Judge - 2010 NORTHWEST ALPACA SHOW - FLEECE JUDGE

Judge - 2010 EMPIRE FIBER EVENT (NY) FLEECE JUDGE

Judge - 2010 EMPIRE FIBER EVENT (NY) Fiber Arts Competition

Judge - 2010 PACIFIC COAST ALPACA NETWORK - Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2010 PALMETTO CLASSIC - Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2009 MAPACA (PA) Fiber Arts & Skeins Competition

Judge - 2009 MAPACA (PA) Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2009 VAOBA (VA) Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2009 NJAC (NJ) Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2009 EMPIRE FIBER EVENT (NY) Fiber Arts & Skeins Competition

Judge - 2008 PAOBA BREEDERS SHOWCASE (PA) Skeins Competition

Judge - 2008 MAPACA (PA) Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2008 MAPACA (PA) Fiber Arts & Skeins Competition

Judge - 2008 EMPIRE FIBER EVENT (NY) Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2008 EMPIRE FIBER EVENT (NY) Skeins Competition
Judge - 2008 AOBA BEYOND FIBER TO FASHION Spin Off Competition

Judge - 2007 MONTEREY PRONK (CA) Skein Competition
Judge - 2007 MONTEREY PRONK (CA) Fiber Arts Competition
Judge - 2007 GREAT FREDERICK FAIR (MD) Alpaca Fleece Show
Judge - 2007 GREAT FREDERICK FAIR (MD) Skein Competition
Judge - 2007 MAPACA (PA) Fiber Arts Competition
Judge - 2007 MAPACA (PA) Skein Competition
Judge - 2007 EMPIRE (NY) Fiber Show Fiber Arts Competition
Judge - 2007 EMPIRE (NY) Fiber Show Skeins Competition

Judge - 2006 AOBA FIBER TO FASHION (RENO) Spin Off Competition
Judge - 2006 GREAT FREDERICK FAIR (MD) Alpaca Fleece Show
Judge - 2006 MAPACA (PA) Fiber Arts Competition
Judge - 2006 MAPACA (PA) Skein Competition
Judge - 2006 ABC HERITAGE CLASSIC (MD) Alpaca Fleece Show
Judge - 2006 EMPIRE (NY) Fiber Show Skein Competition
Judge - 2006 EMPIRE (NY) Fiber Show Fiber Arts Competition

Judge - 2005 ABC HERITAGE CLASSIC (MD) Alpaca Fleece Show
Judge - 2005 BUCKEYE (OH) Skein Competition

Judge - 2004 MAPACA (PA) Skein Competition
Judge - 2004 AOBA (NV) Winter Nationals Fiber Arts Competition
Judge - 2004 AOBA (NV) Winter Nationals Skein Competition
Judge - 2004 OABA (OH) Spin-off Competition

Judge - 2003 AOBA (PA) Nationals Skein Competition
Judge - 2003 OABA (OH) Spin-off and Skein Competition

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2012 to Present - Volunteer at all PAOBA events, Color checking at MAPACA show, Fiber Arts & Skeins Super at PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2010 - 2012 - Fiber Chairperson for PA Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association

2010 - Coordinator/Operator PAOBA Farm Store at PA State Farm Show

2009 - Spin Off Superintendent PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2009 - Coordinator/Operator PAOBA Farm Store at PA State Farm Show

2008 - Spin Off Superintendent PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2007 - Color Checking MAPACA, MONTEREY PRONK
2007 - Fleece Show Assistant PAOBA
2006 - Fiber Arts Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2005 - 2006 Chairperson for AOBA Raw Fiber and Fiber Products Committee

2005 - Fleece Show Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2004 - Fleece Show Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2003 - 2004 Assistant Chairperson for AOBA Raw Fiber and Fiber Products Committee

2003 - Fleece Show Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2003 - Present Fiber Chairperson for the PA Alpaca Owner & Breeder Association

2002 - Assistant Fleece Show Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

2001 - Assistant Fleece Show Coordinator PAOBA Breeders Showcase

General Volunteer 2004 AOBA Nationals - helped where needed