

Visit by The Waldorf School 3rd Graders

November 13, 2009

Farm visit to Paradise Found Fiber Farm by Third Graders.

We are located on the South end of Whidbey Island in Washington State and we open our farm to visitors on a regular basis. Every so often we have groups visit. This month we had a wonderful visit by the 3rd grade class from The Waldorf School located just up the road from us. One of the things that they teach the children beginning with the first graders is about fiber. Well since I am a fiber person this puts a big smile on my face. The class of 16, with 3 adults, arrived on Fri the 13th and we all had a good hour together. The kids fell in L O V E with the animals and the animals in L O V E with them. I did my talk about all three of the fiber critters we have here at the Fiber Farm; Llamas, Alpacas (both Suri & Huacaya), and the Pygora Goats. The kids listened and asked great questions, and then the hands on began. The kids took hay from the feeders and hand fed the Alpacas & the Goats. Of course the grass is greener in the child's hand then it is in the feeder. You would have thought it was treats. Even my shy ones were jockeying for position to be so lucky as to receive an offering from a child. Then the hugs began. We have 3 HAMS here; Baby Ruth the Suri Alpaca photographed hugging 2 kids at the same time. Nutmeg the female Llama who thinks all visitors come just to see her alone in the photo standing to let the kids reach through the gate/fence and touch her neck & side. And then there is Brianna the Pygora Goat, she does not even know there are any other animals here, she truly believes she is the only one and she made sure all hands with hay were pointing in her direction. So the love fest carried on for some time. Eventually we went back into the main barn for further educational chats about the critters. After which the children toured the fiber shack. Now here is where I had the biggest smile you could ever imagine. What a joy it was to watch 16 children talk fiber and be even as excited to see it as they were to see the animals. Friday the 13 was a wonderful day indeed.

Mary Donaty

www.paradisefoundfiber.com

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