

Whidbey Island



The Business Buzz

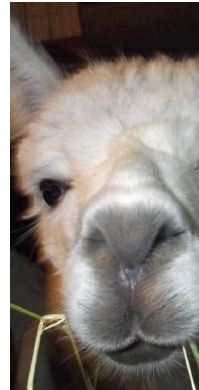
by Carolyn Browne Tamler

Carolyn's Business Buzz is focused on businesses and entrepreneurs on Whidbey Island. Each week I will bring you a story about someone brave enough to create their own business. My passion is to help people plan the marketing of their business by bringing their ideas into focus. Nothing pleases me more than to know that a survey I conducted, or a group meeting I facilitated, or an article I wrote, was productive and helped those in charge make decisions that were truly wise and effective. If you'd like me to tell your story and write about your business, please contact me at carolyntamler@whidbey.net.

For more information visit my website @ www.carolynbrownetamler.com to find out more about my experience and abilities as a marketing research professional.

Paradise Found Fiber Farm in Clinton: Meet the friendly animals who provide the marvelous fiber for a variety of products

Paradise Found Fiber Farm is home to a friendly herd of llamas, alpacas (both Suri and Huacaya) and Pygora goats. Mary Donaty loves her animals and she enjoys introducing visitors to them. Most of the llamas are senior citizens and the alpaca girls are all non-breeding or rescues. The Pygora's are a constant source of entertainment. All three animal types are fiber producers and supply Mary with the materials needed to create the hand spun yarns and hand made goods from these fibers which are then sold in The Fiber Shack located at Paradise Found Fiber Farm.



The Farm found its beginnings in 1986, and throughout the years the number of llamas grew. Then alpacas and goats joined the family. Today, Paradise Found is a retirement home for all of the current residents of llamas, alpacas and pygora goats, ranging in age from 10 months to 23 years. These animals are raised for their fiber; and they are not bred for resale.

The animal's fiber is removed by shearing, and the harvested fiber is sorted at the farm and prepared for the mill. It is then sent to a fiber mill where the final processing is completed. This mill processing washes and picks and cards the raw fiber into a form that is called roving. Roving is a continuous linking of all of the cleaned fibers; this is what spinners use to make yarn.



Photo by David Welton

The animals at Paradise farm provide many pounds of lovely fiber annually. The pygora goats are shorn twice a year by Mary and her husband, Lou. The alpacas are shorn every year and the llamas are shorn every other year by professional shearers.

The farm provides guided educational tours, visits with the animals, and products and processed fibers for sale in the Fiber Shack. The farm also grows seasonal produce and fresh eggs (egg customers need to call ahead to reserve a dozen).

Mary Donaty is also the creator and organizer of:

Whidbey Island Fabulous Fall Fiber Sale

Whidbey FiberQuest with a TWIST.

Paradise Found participates in several yearly events on Whidbey including:

[May & November- Whidbey Island FiberQuest with a TWIST](#)

[September- Whidbey Island Fabulous Fall Fiber Sale](#)

[September- Whidbey Island Farm Tour](#)

Paradise Found Fiber Farm is open year round on the weekends; for weekday visits, please call ahead. To learn more about Paradise Found Fiber Farm, visit their website: www.paradisefoundfiber.com or contact Mary at lamalou@whidbey.com or 360-579-1906.