



San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association
Annual Meeting Minutes - via Zoom
Friday, May 21, 2021

1. Call to Order- President Howell called the first annual meeting to order at 7:15pm ET
2. Introductions & Roll Call - Secretary Kim asked everyone to state their name, farm or organization, and location.

Directors present:

Sarah Howell, President & Marketing Committee Chair, Virginia
Erin Link, 1st VP & Fundraising Committee Chair, Wisconsin
Laurel Sherrie, 2nd VP & Herdbook Committee Chair, California
Kim Sparks, Secretary, Maine
Laura Griffin Farrell, Director at Large, Virginia

Directors Absent:

Lisa Leonard (aka Leslie Farmer), California

Committee Chairs present:

Karina Butchko, Idaho - Chairs the Genetics Committee

Committee Chairs Absent:

Stephen Howell, Virginia - Chairs the History Committee

Members present:

Charlotte Williams, California - new SCI owner on May 2nd, just started grazing business.

Paisley Ashland, Virginia - soon to be New York.

Kathy Perney, Virginia - soon to be Massachusetts.

Sherri Talbot, Maine

3. Why a Breeders Association

Erin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She explained that most of the information about the importance of having a breeders association came from the book, *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future*, by Dr. Sponenberg. Erin explained that the Heritage Breeds that have strong Breeders Associations are the most successful in accomplishing goals towards a sustainable population in perpetuity. Erin explained the benefits of having a breeders association that will give members access to marketing assistance, education, breeding programs, access to the herdbook, tracking genetic diversity and health issues, and networking with other breeders. Erin explained that the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association was formed in Nov. 2019 and that the Association is an Incorporated Association. Erin explained that the Association is 100% run by volunteers, we have an elected board of directors, and have written bylaws. Erin explained the importance of having future breeders or there will be no future for our San Clemente Goats. Erin stated that our Association has dealt with all of these topics in some form in the short time since we became an association. Erin explained that the Association has seen a 180% increase in the SCI goat population and the breeder community was at 44 and has increased to 90 breeders. Erin stated that the Association looks forward to working with other Associations in the future and that we were recently represented in a recent Heritage Breed Stamp unveiling in Virginia. She explained that the Association has several committees working on different things from historical research, color genetics, fundraising & marketing, and providing support and information for breeders. Erin explained that a Herdbook is being established by a dedicated member with help from other members. She explained that they have developed postcards and brochures for events nationwide. Erin explained that she personally started raising SCI Goats in 2013 and found limited information and resources available about these goats. She explained that having SCIGBA has made a world of difference offering reliability, direction, communication, and future planning.

4. 2020-2021 Accomplishments

President Howell stated that leading a brand new breeders association can be daunting but we have accomplished a lot. President Howell explained that behind the scenes we have laid out an infrastructure with bylaws, became incorporated, we have a board and committees, and have been working on a website and social media platform. President Howell asked that the Committee Chairs give a brief update.

Laurel Sherrie- Chair of the Herdbook Committee

Laurel explained that the goal of this project is to maintain a comprehensive pedigree database on San Clemente Island Goats & herds for past, present and future herds for the use of our Breeders

Association Members. Laurel explained that pedigrees of individuals are an essential part of tracking, evaluating, and managing the populations for genetic diversity for the long term survival of the breed. Laurel stated that we feel that this should be accessible to breeders. Laurel explained this past year they made a separate herdbook for Canadian goats and for cross-breeds so they can all be kept track of and kept out of the pure bred pool. Laurel stated that they went through the entire data base and noted all deceased animals so they could get to the number of living goats which currently is around 1400. Laurel stated that there are several uses for the herdbook one of which would be to assess the health of individual bloodlines. Laurel stated that Dr. Sponenberg has a lot to say about managing blood lines in that if you lose a bloodline then you have lost some genetic material. Laurel explained that we are presently using the bloodlines compiled by the late, Leslie Edmundson and that is vitally important to keep track of bloodlines for genetic diversity. Laurel stated that for the coming year they will be working on finding the missing goats to fill the gaps in the herdbook, adding more goats to the herdbook, and developing a searchable online database of the herdbook.

Karina Butchko - Chair of the Genetics Committee

Karina explained that their Committee has three parts:

1. Breeding plans - if anyone needs help deciding the best pairings of their goats for genetic health, bloodline health, or just in general breeding of SCI Goats - she is able to help. Karina explained that she uses the Herdbook to help track the goat's health.
2. Purity testing - Karina explained that Paisley Anthony has successfully received University funding to work on this
3. Gene Bank - Karina explained that they have a list of priority bucks to use and is working with the Livestock Conservancy as they might be able to store seaman samples for free. Karina stated that they are looking for someone to Chair the Gene Bank Committee if anyone is interested.

Erin Link - Chair of the Fundraising Committee

Erin explained that their fundraising projects will be starting soon. They are working on pre-order t-shirt sales and long term they are looking at online auctions.

Stephen Howell - Chair of the History Committee

Stephen was unable to attend the meeting so President Howell gave an update. President Howell stated that when Leslie Edmundson passed away we lost all of the San Clemente Island Goat records. She

explained that the History Committee has been doing research to rebuild that history and find the primary sources. She explained that Stephen who happens to be a former sailor and was once stationed on San Clemente Island, he has been interviewing sailors and gathering information of those who were on the Island when the goats were there. She explained that Stephen has been in contact with a woman who worked with Jim Clapp who was hired to trap the goats on the Island. She explained that he has been interviewing some of the rescuers - one of which was a helicopter pilot who helped round the goats up. She explained that he recently met a person who had done seaman collection and DNA testing of the goats when they came off of the island. She explained that Stephen will continue to contact early breeders and gather more information about these goats that will be owned by the breeders and not just a single person.

Sarah Howell - Chair of the Marketing Committee

Sarah explained that they have been working on a social media campaign to increase awareness of San Clemente's and the Association. She explained that they put together a promotional post card to be used at events nationwide, added classifieds to the website, applied for a national San Clemente Island Goat Day and members chose October 9th, and we will be bringing back our Annual San Clement get together.

Laura Farrell - Editor of the Newsletter

Laura explained that she is the editor for the quarterly newsletter. She stated that the first of six newsletters started in the winter of 2020 and if anyone needs a copy of any of them we would be glad to send them to you. She explained that the goal is to share relevant and valuable information with everyone and with this community. She stated the goal this year is to upgrade the newsletter by developing a template that is easier on the eye. Laura asked to have comments and critiques on the newsletter as she welcomes suggestions on ways to improve and ideas on future newsletter topics.

President Howell stated that other accomplishments include creating partnerships with the Livestock Conservancy and Heritage Livestock Canada. She explained that we have started working with the Miller Park Zoo and in 2022-2023 the Miller Park Zoo is going to work with us to import San Clemente Island goats from Canada. She stated that we were invited to the mid-west buck sale which is a huge event at the Missouri State Fair Grounds and we started some work with 4-H with the hopes to expand this to a nationwide 4-H program. She explained that we started a Canadian Initiative with 9 breeders in Canada with 150 goats. She explained that she is working to increase the number of breeders in Canada.

5. 2021-2022 Goals

President Howell explained that they have three main goals for the coming year.

1. Building on our Accomplishments

Strengthening our current partnerships and seeking new ones.

Launch marketing campaign in Canada

Focus on "Use them or lose them" in San Clementes whether for meat, fiber, dairy, and brush. President Howell encouraged everyone to look up Slow Foods USA (<https://slowfoodusa.org>) as they track heritage breeds, native dishes and native plants. She stated that we would be applying to have San Clementes added to their Ark of Taste which would be another way to promote our goats.

2. Strengthen and expand our Community

Goatober - October 9, 2021, National SCI Day and Annual Social going live across the country with zoom/social media presentations.

3. Increase Participation among breeders

Involve more breeders and in committees and projects. Update Herdbook and increase data collections.

6. Join the Board

President Howell stated that we have two openings on our Board, one for Treasurer and one for a Director at Large. President Howell asked if anyone was interested to let her know. President Howell explained that Grace Mitchell who was one of our Directors at Large who was a zookeeper at the Miller Park Zoo is moving onward and upward so that position has opened up. President Howell explained that we have four meetings a year with the next one in June and then on the off months we have 8 optional round table meetings. She explained if you would like specifics of the jobs you could review the bylaws that are on our website.

7. Growing Pains

President Howell stated that the past year we have experienced growing pains and will no doubt experience more in the coming year. She explained that at her farm she raises several heritage breeds and from her experience with several associations the SCI Association has experienced more growth pains than any other community. She explained that when you analyze the history these issues stem from the breeds conservation origin. She explained that unlike other heritage breeds, they were handled thru an animal rescue and not a livestock or agricultural organization. She explained that the initial champions of this breed were not farmers but animal rescuers who lacked the foresight to build a breed sustainable

and genetically diverse population for usable and marketable livestock. She explained that the conservation efforts were essential; we need to embrace a second parallel path in order to move the breed forward to secure a future for this breed. She stated that until the SCIGBA came about, the Livestock Conservancy didn't list a purpose for our goats and whether it be meat, dairy, fiber, brush, or pack SCI goats not only have a purpose on paper but on actual farms.

President Howell read the following quote from Tony Gaskins:

You will have to change to go to new levels. Change should mean growth. Those who aren't prepared for new levels will ask you to remain the same; but that's only because Greatness makes them uncomfortable.

President Howell explained that the incorporation of a formal, active Breeders Association has seen some upheaval by some who are not ready to embrace new ideas and breeders. She explained that they preferred the status quo that leads to stagnant population and community growth. She stated that the SCIGBA has attempted to build bridges with open dialogue a handful are not willing to join the conversation. She explains that we can't be bogged down by this negativity and instead we need to move forward in a positive, productive direction by placing the goats before our own personal agendas. She explained that our actions, professionalism, and accomplishments speak for themselves; we will continue with transparency and open dialogue. She thanked everyone for taking this journey and wishes to see the goats continue to flourish into the future.

8. Comments & Questions

Sherri Talbot stated that Autumn Dufresne in Vermont sent her apologies for not attending as she was busy with the birth of baby goats.

Paisley Anthony stated that her summer project is to determine how the SCI goats can be used as fiber with their cashmere and she is collecting samples. She explained that she will be sending the samples off to the Montana wool lab to get electron microscope tested to see if it has the specific micron thickness needed to be cashmere. She explained if anyone wants to send in samples the testing is paid for by the University and directions can be found on the Facebook page. She explained that UC Davis is working to do a purity test for SCI goats in the future so she will be working on the preparations for this.

Charlotte Williams stated that she has this brand new herd of SCI goats that she purchased from one breeder but had kept two separate herds. She explained that the two oldest does are from one herd and the five other does are from the second herd. She explained that the two older does are bullies and asked how people deal with this when blending two herds. Erin explained that it can take some time for them to establish as a herd and have heard that folks have used what are called ram shields that is like a face mask that you put over the

bully goats and can help curb that aggressive behavior. Erin explained that sometimes you just have to let them duke it out and that can be very frustrating. Sarah stated that she agreed with the ram shield and it worked very well. Sarah explained that you need to take the time to watch the goats to determine if this is just normal behavior or is it so aggressive that one of the goats will become physically injured. Sarah also suggested having places where the smaller goats can retreat to that the larger goats can't get to. Charlotte explained that she has a 20-foot livestock trailer and that she is running a grazing operation. Sarah suggested maybe installing cattle panels in the trailer that would allow smaller goats to fit under them and not allow the bigger goats access to that section of the trailer.

Sherry Talbot explained that she had introduced a new goat to her herd and had one of her goats that were very aggressive for several weeks against the new goat. She stated that eventually the new goat got sick of being picked on and stood up for herself and that was the end of the bullying.

Karina Butchko stated that she really appreciated everything that everyone has done to get this organization off and running. She stated that it is really exciting to hear that the numbers are increasing and there are so many new breeders joining and it really inspires confidence and excitement for the future.

Erin asked if Paisley and Karina needed more volunteers to help them with their projects. Karina stated that they do need more people. Erin asked if people need certain qualifications to volunteer with them. Karina stated that if anyone is interested that they could find a place for them. Laura asked what kind of experience is needed. Karina stated that could use help with the simple tasks like asking people for cashmere samples. Karina stated that it is whatever anyone wants to work on to their ability.

9. Closing - President Howell thanked everyone for attending. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm ET.