



2021 Annual Meeting

San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association



Welcome



"The primary priorities of the SCIGBA are to promote transparency, honest communication, and breeder participation."

Agenda

- Introductions & Roll Call
- Why a Breeders Association
- 2020 - 2021 Accomplishments
- 2021-2022 Goals
- Join the Board
- Growing Pains
- Comments & Questions
- Conclusion

By Sarah Butcher Howell, President

"Welcome to the First Annual Meeting of the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association. The primary priorities of the SCIGBA are to promote transparency, honest communication, and breeder participation. Things that had been lacking within the community previously. We hope this meeting will serve as an example of our ongoing commitment to the breeders and the breed.

During this meeting we will discuss why the time has come for a breeders association, the accomplishments and goals of the SCIGBA, growing pains within the community, and more. Please utilize the chat room to make comments and ask questions. Secretary Kim Sparks will be monitoring the room and will address all of them during the "comment & question" period.

Thank you for being here."

Introduction & Roll Call

Sarah Butcher Howell President	Erin Link 1st Vice- President	Laurel Sherrie 2nd Vice- President	Kim Sparks Secretary	Laura Farrell Director	Lisa Leonard Director
Laurel Sherrie Herdbook	Karina Butchko Genetics	Erin Link Fundraising	Stephen Howell History	Sarah Butcher Howell Marketing	Laura Farrell Editor

Roll Call

- Name
- Farm or Organization
- Location
- Current, Considering, Friend

Why a Breeders Association?

History shows heritage breeds with strong associations are the most successful in moving towards the end goal of a sustainable population in perpetuity.

SCIGBA Successes:

- Population increase by 180%
- # of Breeders Doubled
- Built Community of Approx 450 people

Overall Purpose

- Promotion & Marketing
- Population tracking & management
- Communication & Networking

Benefits to Breeders

- Marketing Assistance
- Education
- Access to Herdbook
- Breeding Program development
- Plus more

Benefits to Breed

- Tracking of genetic diversity
- Tracking of health issues

By Erin Link, 1st Vice-President

"History of the breeds on the conservation priority list shows those with strong associations are the most successful in moving towards the end goal of a sustainable population in perpetuity. In the thirty-five years prior to the informal start of the SCIBA on Facebook, the San Clemente Island Goat population was stagnant. There was a constant turnover in breeders and a lack of cooperation, networking, and community. Genetic diversity within the overall population was degrading and no one was tracking or organizing breeders to reverse this trend.

Based on the success of the Facebook group, but also the issues coming to light, a small group of breeders felt the timing was correct for a formal association. The San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association was formed in November 2019. The SCIGBA is an incorporated association versus a private or unincorporated association. We feel anything privately owned in regards to this breed can create inconsistency and valuable information not being shared. The board also feels that an unincorporated association doesn't fit the bill for this breed as we need a well structured organization. Its operations are governed by a

set of bylaws and overseen by an elected board of SCI goat breeders. The SCIGBA is 100% volunteer run and aims to give a voice & vote to every breeder. (Above is taken directly from *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future* second edition. Pages 222, 223, 224, and 225.)

Generically, Breed or Breeders Associations are groups of people with a shared interest in a specific breed. While associations from common breeds tend to focus on genetic improvement for production, rare breed associations are faced with a host of different issues. For example, they must also pay close attention to genetic aspects of breed population viability and management and maintaining genetic diversity while working to promote and create a demand for their breed.

Appropriate inclusion and exclusion of animals can be fraught with difficulty, and each association handles that challenge differently. Many breeds are rare because of political and organizational failure within the breeder community as has been seen previously in the SCIG community.

Success for all BA's has a similar array of characteristics.

- Timely communication
- Inclusiveness
- Frank discussion without rancor
- Efficient processing of registration and other communication details.

(All of the above is taken directly from *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future* second edition. Pages 208 and 210)

Benefits of a Breeders Association, specifically the SCIGBA.

Management and promotion of the breed are at the core of an association's purpose, and these can be accomplished in a variety of ways. BA's can offer educational programs, involvement in research, recruiting and training new breeders, breed promotion, monitoring breed health, bloodlines, numbers and breed sales events. Looking toward the future and keeping new generations of breeders included is important for long term survival

The SCIGBA, in it's short official lifespan has tackled all of these subjects on different levels, though I may be missing a few.

- The SCIGBA has seen an increase in the SCIG population of 180%.
- The SCIG's breeder community was at 44 and is now at 90 breeders.

- The SCIGBA is working with other organizations like The Livestock Conservancy and Heritage Breeds Canada to keep helping each other out, to grow and learn and be a better BA. And the SCIGBA hopes to form new partnerships in the future.
- The SCIGBA and San Clemente island goats represented at a recent heritage breeds week and stamp unveiling in VA.
- Committees have been and are being formed. These committees are working together on things from historical research, to working with other organizations and groups to figure out issues like color
- genetics. Fundraising and marketing is in full swing and just providing support and information for breeders. All of this information is shared and free to breeder association members. This also provides doorways for others to be involved and share their own insight and talents.
- A herdbook is being established by dedicated member(s).
- The SCIGBA is following through with creating and providing postcards and brochures for events nationwide. The BA will have this information available at important goat related events to help spread the word. And the BA will be able to provide breeders with a template of how they themselves can promote SCI goats at their own local events.
- The SCIGBA created an easy to use classifieds area for ISO of sales on the BA's website.
- Members of the SCIGBA are working with other breeders on bloodline preservation.
- There are so many ideas to be shared and the SCIGBA has long term goals of making inclusion even easier. With online roundtable discussions happening, improving on communication, and encouraging others to be part of or chair committee groups plus perhaps an in-person annual meeting around the corners?!

Personal Thoughts on the SCIGBA

I have been raising SCIG's since 2013, and from my experience there hasn't been a good solid place and platform for myself and perhaps other breeders until I started working with the SCIGBA. I craved structure, reliable communication, and answers or direction for so long. I'm happy to have that now and know that others can receive that same reliability and direction. I think about the future of these goats, and I want to make sure younger people and new breeders are welcomed and included to keep this goat breed going and growing.

Side note, the SCIGBA was formed under the instruction from the book *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future*, as well as heavily taking information from this book to discuss what a BA is. I cannot recommend this book enough to people that breed heritage/rare livestock, poultry etc."

2020-2021 Accomplishments

Achieved	Specifics
Laid Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bylaws & Incorporation• BoD & Committees• Website & Social Media
Created Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Livestock Conservancy & Heritage Livestock Canada• Miller Park Zoo• Mid-West Buck Sale• 4-H
Started Canadian Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey• Heritage Livestock Canada

Summary by Kim Sparks, Secretary except where noted

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.

By Laurel Sherrie, 2nd Vice-President, Chair of the Herdbook Committee

"The SCI Goat Open Herdbook Project. The goal of the project is maintaining a comprehensive pedigree database on SCI goats and herds - past, present, and future - for use by the SCIGBA and our members. Pedigrees of individual animals are an essential part of tracking, evaluating, and managing the population's genetic diversity for long-term survival of the breed and should be accessible to the breeders.

This year we made a separate Herdbook for Canadian goats and a 3rd one for Crossbreeds. We went through the database and noted all deceased animals so that a count of living animals could be done. It is an ever-changing number of course, but we found it to be approximately 1400 SCI goats, far more than had been thought.

Another project the herdbook can be used for is assessing the health of individual bloodlines. Dr. Sponenberg in his Managing Breeds book has a lot to say about bloodlines and the importance of managing them for long-term maintenance of the genetic variability that is crucial in breed viability.

Definition of the bloodlines is being reviewed to more accurately describe them, but until then, we use the ones named by Leslie Edmundson many years ago. If no one is keeping track of them, no one knows their actual status. (For example, the New Hampshire bloodline was very prevalent in the NE area years ago. But no one was working on maintaining this bloodline. The 100% and high % NH goat numbers dwindled and individuals were not being paired judiciously with other NE goats, with the result of the bloodline being diluted more with each generation. The database was used to track down all that were possible to find and attempt to pair for increasing %s instead of declining %s. The other bloodlines are also in danger of disappearing with every generation diluting the %.)

We now have easy to fill out forms on the SCIGBA website, so breeders can easily add and update their goats for the Herdbook.

Goal for the next year, continue to fill in gaps on missing goats and missing herds. Make headway on an online searchable pedigree database. "

Karina Butchko - Chair of the Genetics Committee

Karina explained that their Committee has three parts:

- 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.
- Purity testing - Karina explained that Paisley Anthony has successfully received University funding to work on this

- 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.

Additional Accomplishments

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.

2021 - 2022 Goals

Where do you go from here?

Building on Accomplishments

- Committee Goals
- Strengthening Current Partnerships & Seeking new ones
- Launching Canadian Marketing Plan
- Use 'em or Lose 'em / Ark of Taste

Strengthen & Expand Community

- Goatober 9, 2021 - National SCI Day & Annual Social
- Representation at more events

Increase Participation

- Involve more breeders and friends in committees and projects
- Herdbook
- Data Collection
- Events

Summary by Kim Sparks, Secretary

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

- **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.
- **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.
- **Increase Participation among breeders**
 - Involve more breeders and in committees and projects. Update Herdbook and increase data collections.

Join the Board

Looking for a treasurer & a director.



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General obligations:

- 4 board meetings a year
- 8 optional roundtables
- Pitching in on projects as needed
- Available to assist members

** Please review our bylaws for more information

Growing Pains



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.

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SCIGBA | 2021 Annual Meeting

By Sarah Butcher Howell, President

Before I open the meeting for comments and questions, there is one last topic I would like to address. Growing pains. This past year has exposed growing pains within the community and I have no doubt we will continue to see some during the upcoming year.

At Skara Brae, we raise numerous heritage breed livestock and poultry and are involved in numerous breed associations. From my personal experience, the SCI community has experienced more growing pains than any other community. But why?

Analyzing our history, I believe our issues stem from the breed's conservation origin. Unlike other rare heritage breeds, initial attention was brought to SCI goats through animal rescue and not a livestock / agriculture organization. The initial champions of our breed were not farmers, but animal rescuers who lacked the foresight to understand the organizational needs to build a sustainable, genetically diverse population for usable, marketable livestock. In the forty years

since removal from the island, those origins have influenced the path of the SCI Goat.

While our pure conservation breeders were and are essential, we need to embrace an equally important, second parallel path in order to move the breed forward and secure a future for San Clemente Island Goats. That path is a utilization. Until the SCIGBA, not even The Livestock Conservancy listed a purpose for our goats. Whether it be meat, dairy, fiber, brush, or pack; SCIs not only need a purpose on paper, but on actual farms. This is one of the priorities of the SCIGBA.

If you refer to the slide, quote: "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."

The incorporation of a formal, active breeders association had been seen as an upheaval by some who are not ready to embrace new ideas or breeders. They prefer the status quo which lead to stagnant population and community growth. While the SCIGBA has attempted to build bridges through open dialogue, a handful are not willing to join the conversation, but instead wish to dictate it with mistruths and lies.

We cannot allow ourselves to be discouraged or bogged down by this negativity. Instead, we need to continue forward in a positive, productive direction. Placing the goats before our own personal agendas. Allowing our actions, accomplishments, and professionalism to speak for themselves. Continuing with transparency and open dialogue.

We appreciate your willingness to take this journey with the SCIGBA. We wish to see the community and our goats prosper and flourish.

Comments & Questions



Summary by Kim Sparks, Secretary

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.

Sherri 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.

Thank you for your support of San Clemente Island Goats & the SCIGBA. We are here to assist.



This was our first online event, but more are planned in the future. So please send me or the association, your feedback so we can continue to improve.