



Newsletter of the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association

NOTES FROM THE PASTURE

Adapted from speech given at 2021 Annual Meeting

This past year, I adopted the motto “*Onward & Upward.*” To me, it meant looking for the positive, being problem solvers, staying the course, and placing our beloved breed first. Unfortunately, not everyone has adopted this sentiment. Resulting in threats, mistruths, gossip, petty behavior, and secrecy. Attempting to create an atmosphere of control and fear. I had hoped to avoid the necessity of addressing this community wide, but it has become evident I must.

“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.” ~Tony Gaskins

This quote is a perfect summary of the range of reactions our community is experiencing. The formalization of the SCIGBA in 2019 has exposed growing pains and fissures. I have no doubt these will continue during the upcoming years, but we must move *Onward and Upward.*

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. These initial champions lacked the foresight to understand the organizational structure needed to build a sustainable, genetically diverse population for the future. In the forty years since removal from the island, the San Clemente Island Goat population and community suffered due to the lack of a formal breed association. It was from this void the SCIGBA emerged.

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 utilization, new breeders, and promotion. Whether it be meat, dairy, fiber, brush, or therapy; SCIs not only need a purpose on paper, but on actual farms. We pay homage to our long time breeders while welcoming in fresh faces to help move SCI Goats into the next phase. Both are equally important.

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BE IN THE KNOW

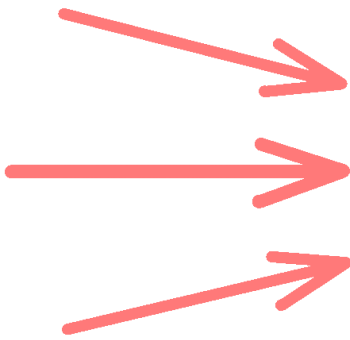


Photo courtesy of
Shuna Cerrato, Cascadia Heritage Farm

Notes from the Pasture. continued

These priorities have been seen as an upheaval by some not ready to embrace new ideas or breeders. Though asked to actively participate and contribute from the organizational phases, they prefer the status quo which led to a stagnant population and community growth. The SCIGBA has attempted to be proactive in building bridges even asking for outside help, but a handful are not willing to join the conversation. Instead wishing to dictate the course. Attempting to irrevocably divide the community.

I am here to herald, the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association will not be bullied or intimidated. We welcome, to the fold, all breeders, owners, and friends. There is room for all champions of the San Clemente Island Goat. We will not be discouraged or bogged down. *Onward & Upward*. Placing the goats before personal agendas. Working to be inclusive of all breeders and their opinions. Representing and problem solving where needed. Allowing our actions, accomplishments, and professionalism to speak for themselves. Continuing with transparency and encouraging open dialogue.

I implore you to not accept hearsay. Go directly to the source. Ask the hard questions. Seek out facts and not emotion. It is only through direct, honest, non-combative communication that we can ensure the breed thrives. The board of directors and myself hope you will continue on this journey with us. We are here to serve and assist.

Onward & Upward, Sarah

- Job well done to our Breed Description Committee for creating a proposed breed description with the assistance of Dr. Sponenberg of The Livestock Conservancy. Please check out the description and comment. Your input is important. scigba.org/breed-description
- Latest from Paisley on her student research at Delaware Valley University. "I want to thank all of you who have been working with me on this project, your help is invaluable! I have another poll for you all to fill out with data based on your goats (to create an objective evaluation guide)! You may fill out the form as many times as you want and none of the questions are required so you don't have to fill them all out to submit! Stay cool this summer!" Find the form at this [link](#).
- Missed the 2021 Annual Meeting? Find the minutes and Slideshow on our website. scigba.org/meeting-minutes
- The SCIGBA is in the process of updating our breeders directory. Please make sure we have your newest information. Follow the link and click **Add listing** scigba.org/breeders-directory

MOVING RIGHT ALONG

You have found the perfect San Clemente Island Goats to start or add to your herd, but how to get them from across the country? Figuring out transport can seem daunting to some, but let us help to erase some of the mystery and prepare you for your new herd members.

Join us each Thursday in July on both our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for a new installment of transportation topics.

- Types of Transport
- Paperwork
- Logistics
- Buyer's Checklist
- Resources

These posts are meant to spark a brainstorming. So send us your best tips, tricks, resources, and recommendations. We want to hear your experiences. See your photos and videos to add to the narrative.



Transporting doesn't need to be fancy. Just humane & safe for goat & handler. Sampson here has plenty of room, air flow, but yet can not injure himself or driver.

Photo courtesy of Rio Nido San Clementes

MONTHLY MEMBER ROUNDTABLES

The SCIGBA would like to hold an online monthly member roundtable. An opportunity to ask questions, give your thoughts, brainstorm, & / or discuss issues you are having with your herd.

Please complete our poll to help us find the best day and time.

<https://forms.gle/yTV4ZEsTexkTtZGm6>

CALENDAR

scigba.org/calendar

- July 8 4pm (ET) Board Roundtable
- Aug 12 4pm (ET) August Board Roundtable
- Sept 8 Deadline for Fall Newsletter Submissions
- Sept 9 4pm (ET) BoD Meeting
- October is Goatober! Perfect time to focus on all things SCIG!
- Oct 1 "The Island Goat" Check your inboxes!
- Oct 9 12 noon - 4pm (ET) National SCI Goat Day & Annual Social

• The annual SCIG Social started by Leslie Edmundson is back. Join us in Charlottesville, VA for an afternoon of fun, food, and goats. Can't make it? Join the online social at 3pm ET

Want to help in the planning? Have ideas to enhance our virtual social? Contact Laura Farrell at templehill1790@gmail.com

HELP TRACK SCI'S RARE, UNIQUE GENETICS

by Laurel Sherrie



Photos courtesy of Wind Dancer Ranch



Please help the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association with an enormous project of assembling an open Herdbook for the San Clemente Island Goats. The purpose of the project is to create and maintain a comprehensive pedigree database on SCI goats and herds – past, present and future. Features of the database include programs to perform trial mating charts with inbreeding coefficients. This useful resource can assist you as a conservation breeder in making decisions to achieve herd goals as well as track, evaluate, and manage the genetic diversity for long term survival of the breed.

We can't build this valuable resource without your help!

Please take a few minutes and add your herd in the San Clemente Island Goat Open Herdbook Project by visiting our [website](#). The San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association is not a registry. Instead we are a dynamic community of breeders dedicated to promoting the San Clemente Island Goat as a viable multipurpose goat while preserving the historical traits of the island goat and its unique genetic diversity. And we would love to have you as part of our fantastic community! Join us by following the link above and scrolling down to **Breeder/Herd**

Enrollment to add your herd. Then add your purebred goats by clicking the **Add Purebred** and your crossbred goats by clicking **Add Crossbreed** (*We want to keep track of crossbreeds to ensure they are not mistaken for Purebreds in the future.*) Don't have answers to all the questions? No problem! Just fill out what you can, every bit of information helps! If you need more room or find spreadsheets easier, let us know and we can send over an Excel form for your herd. **Please include all registered and unregistered goats.** Even if you have already given us information on your herd, please fill out these forms with your updates. This will also give us a complete picture for a 2021 Census!

A huge thank you in advance for all your help with this project! I will keep you posted as we move forward and as functions and features become available. Please let us know if you have any questions or great ideas to add!

CONTACT US

San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association

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- Find us on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube

Board of Directors

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Committees

- Herdbook - Laurel Sherrie, chair
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- Genetics - Karina Butchko, chair
 - kvr.writer@gmail.com
- Fundraising - Erin Link, chair
 - cornshloger81@gmail.com
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 - SkaraBraeHomestead@gmail.com
- Marketing - Sarah Butcher Howell, chair
 - SkaraBraeHomestead@gmail.com
- Breed Description - Laurel Sherrie, Chair
 - laurel@laurelsherrie.com

Coming Soon:

SCIGBA T-shirt Sales Fundraiser



OUR MISSION

The mission of the SCIGBA is to promote the San Clemente Island Goat as a viable multipurpose goat while preserving the historical traits of the island goat and the unique genetic diversity. This includes but is not limited to:

- Guarding the purity of the San Clemente Goat breed
- Retaining pedigree records of all animals that qualify as San Clemente Island Goats under the Association's set of guidelines
- Providing technical support and opportunity for collaboration to San Clemente Island Goat growers and breeders to further the breed's purity, conservation, and attract new breeders
- Exhibiting livestock and educating the public in order to promote interest in the San Clemente Island Goat

"THE ISLAND GOAT"

Laura Farrell, Editor

The "The Island Goat" is the official quarterly newsletter of the SCIGBA. Articles, photographs, and business cards that relate to San Clemente Island Goats are welcome. Submit your contributions to SCIGBAassoc@gmail.com Attn: Newsletter. Publication of articles or advertisements does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by SCIGBA.

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