



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

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In the picture above, Dennis Keeney is presenting the Paul Ziegler Award to Charlie Vorisek for his Molded Beeswax exhibit that 2011 Honey Princess, Emily Bruckart, is holding.

On the right, 2011 PSBA Honey Queen is presenting a small gift to Mike Palmer, speaker at the PSBA Annual Meeting.



A plaque was presented to Linda Hackenberg the 2011 "Beekeeper of the Year" Award at the PSBA Banquet and Annual Meeting held in Lewisburg, Nov. 11 and 12. Also pictured is Stu Mathias, chairman of the Promotion Committee.



Pictured to the left is Herman Danenhower, who spoke on "Comb Honey Production" during the meeting on Saturday. He also did a presentation on "Gadgets for Beekeepers"

Photos by Bill Mondjack



Emily Bruckart, 2011 PA Honey Princess; Teresa Bryson, 2011 American Honey Queen and Alyssa Fine, 2011 PA Honey Queen are pictured above. Thank you for the great job promoting the beekeeping industry.

A note to my friends...

I was glad to see many of you at the fall conference. I also apologize I was not able to sit and chat with you more about my favorite subject. The fall conference has traditionally been a great place to wind down the season and talk with beekeepers from around PA. It is often we all share the same stories year after year. Although there are six or seven separate agricultural regions within the Commonwealth with very different climates and micro-climates, we often experience many of the same problems with our colonies. Lewisburg is a great place to discuss these issues.

If you missed this year's conference you missed many good talks about practical beekeeping. Mike Palmer was our main speaker and discussed his queen rearing techniques as well as overwintering nucs and summer splits. Mike makes a very good point for beekeepers in the northeast: overwintering nucs with young queens will help to supply those early spring bees that so many need each year. These nucs with young, overwintered queens can be used to supply queens or the sale of early northern nucs. I am certain these northern bees would out perform any southern package given the same conditions. In addition, if we get a lot of new "local" queen producers we can greatly expand the gene pool of our bees, and that will help make for stronger lines of bees with better qualities.

We also enjoyed the tips and experiences of Herman Danenhower. Herman is one of those practical gents that has kept bees for many years and it was very interesting to learn how he produces comb honey and markets his products that are produced "from the alfalfa fields on the eastern slopes of the rockies". Herman also shared some of his gadgets that he uses and has found useful over the years in his bee yard.

Jeremy Barnes shared his stories and photos of his recent trip to Kenya with Jim and Maryann Frazier to establish a beekeeper-to-beekeeper partnership. It is interesting how this type of partnership can benefit both sides half way around the world. We also heard from our State Apiarist Leo "Rick" Donovall on the state of beekeeping in PA and his ideas of how he will take us into the future. Rick wears several hats in Harrisburg, but it is obvious he is serious about helping beekeepers in PA. The Penn State research talks were on Saturday and I had to push these young researchers through their talk as we were behind schedule. I do apologize for the haste and hope folks were able to catch up with you and ask their questions throughout the rest of the day. We talked about the plans to host EAS in West Chester in 2013, and this is a conference you do not want to miss. The discussion on the honey house regulations ended like it always does with many questions still in everyone's mind. Consider this, I was talking with Mike Palmer on the way home Saturday evening and he produced 19,000 pounds of honey last year and Vermont

does not have any type of inspection program for extracted honey. He bottles it and sells it retail and also sells buckets retail and wholesale, no inspections from the state.

I would also like to thank our vendors for being there and showing their wares. It is always nice to have these folks and I did see supplies going out the door so I hope you were able to take advantage of the deals.

Our Friday night banquet was a buffet and one thing is for sure, the Country Cupboard knows how to feed a lot of people at one time. During the Banquet our 2011 Beekeeper of the Year was named, Linda Hackenberg. Linda has promoted honey and beekeeping for many years and has been instrumental in making our fall conference such a success. I hope it was a surprise for you Linda, as you deserve the recognition for many years of service to the PSBA, and beekeepers all over the United States. Our Auction raised over \$2,000 for the honey queen program and we all saw something similar to the Hatfields and the McCoys, our version was the Fishers and the Hackenbergs. The issue was not a fight over a hog in West Virginia but it was over who was taking home the beekeeping plaque donated to the PSBA from KB Farms in Kentucky. It was a beautiful carving and sold for \$500. Thanks guys for your continued support. Mark Antunes was our auctioneer and he had everyone jumping and bidding on the many donated items. I must also mention Richard Benninghoff, our entertainment for the evening. He performed a magic show that left everyone speechless. His humor and audience involvement kept everyone on the edge.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

Warren Miller
PSBA President

A suggestion:

When writing about the timing of spring hive manipulations, how about linking the manipulation, not to a calendar date, but to a natural event. The second week in May means something different to bees in the NW and SE of Pennsylvania. Some natural events (not in order):

- Apple blossom petal drop
- Yellow rocket bloom
- Peach bloom
- Apple bloom
- June bugs appearing on the screen door
- Hummingbirds return
- Daylilies bloom
- Tulip poplars bloom
- Locust bloom

Tim Sterrett

Hosting the Queens

One of the best public relations tools for beekeeping are the young ladies that give up a year or more to promote the industry.

A few years ago Rachel Bryson came to our fair, as the Pa Honey Queen, in mid-August. The one thing I remember was the weather. The day she visited it was cold and rainy. People were wearing flannels and sweatshirts. Rachel was determined not to tarnish the crown and continued the day in her sleeveless outfit. What a trooper! Aside from that she could answer any beekeeping question clearly and with confidence.

About a year later, Rachel was back as the American Queen Princess. This time it was for several days. My wife, Cathy, and I started tapping our resources and put together a 5-day schedule that included 6 school visits, 4 community groups, a radio interview and radio commercial. We kept her busy. I learned during that visit that these girls keep a professional appearance, speak clearly and are prepared to answer any beekeeping question.

Rachel's enthusiasm has kept her in the promotions program. Thanks to her mentor and guide, Linda Hackenberg, Rachel has stepped up to chairing the Pa Honey Queen program. She has also maintained activity with the American Queen program, sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation. (abfnet.org)

Last year Rachel arranged to have us host the 2010 American Honey Queen, Lisa Schluttenhofer. Rachel contacted me again in April 2011, about hosting again. This time she wanted us to host both the American Honey Queen and Pa Honey Queen at the same time. Are you kidding me! And since we aren't so far from the New York state line... could we get the American Honey Queen to New York?! All Rachel's charm and persistence paid off.

We began tapping our sources again. So, the week leading to this year's annual PSBA banquet and meeting we had the unique opportunity to have both the 2011 American Honey Queen (Teresa Bryson) and the 2011 Pa Honey Queen (Alyssa Fine) visit our area of northwestern Pennsylvania. The Honey Queens started the first evening by presenting a check of \$560, on behalf of the Northwestern Pa Beekeepers Association, to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Erie. (See the article on pastatebeekeepers.org) For their 4-day stay, the girls visited 11 schools. Each had a morning spot on the radio and newspaper interviews. And yes, I got Teresa to a school in Jamestown, New York. (Hometown of Lucille Ball... where we had a chance to visit the Luci-Desi Museum). The girls finished the week at our PSBA banquet and meeting.

A huge 'thanks' to my wife, Cathy, and to Charlie and Charlene Schroeck, in Erie, for helping to make the schedule and chaperone to the many schools.

I thought I might be able to assist Teresa while she gave her presentations. It only took a minute to figure out I could

help the most by just getting out of the way. She had this totally under control. This compliment goes to all the girls and the way they are prepared. Although the presentation is repeated, it always comes off fresh and clean. It is geared for the age group and time allotted. The topics covered are important to the public and beekeepers. These young ladies are one of the most important tools the beekeeping industry has with the public and education. What I experienced was just a snap-shot of their total year. I fell asleep half-way through one scrapbook. What a life experience!

I would encourage anyone to host a Honey Queen. Just a thought or two: Try to get the largest audiences you can. Remember they are sponsored by PSBA or ABF and don't have a 'paying' job. Help them with meals, stay and travel expenses. If they stumble with an issue, quietly help. They are eager to learn, teach and represent us. What a pleasure to work with.

Welcome to Jessica Long, our 2012 Pa State Honey Queen.

Charlie Vorisek
1st Vice-President

October-November Identification Reader

I started beekeeping in 1970 with one bee hive. I then started dividing hives and getting swarms from all over the county. At one time, I had thirty-five hives. I spread my hives at various locations on farms and in orchards in Lycoming County. I am now down to three hives due to disease, mites and other problems. I enjoyed extracting the honey, making beeswax candles and selling both at the local Farmer's Market. There were times my hives were destroyed by bear. I also had a move them due to high water.

I am a member of the Lycoming County Beekeepers Association. In the past, I was in charge of setting up the display for the association at the county fairs and the Farm Show.

I have found beekeeping to be challenging, frustrating and rewarding.

William F. Gilbert, Williamsport, PA

Merry 
Christmas 

Jeremy's Corner

“Where do bees come from?” the fuzzy bee asked as she ate through the last bit of wax that was holding her in the crib. A passing worker, whom the fuzzy bee had mistaken for her mother, thought quickly. She recalled what she had overheard from foragers as they used their heads to pack pollen into the cells in the pantry right next to the labor ward.

Big Mama, whom she had occasionally sensed with her antennae as the distinguished persona passed by in the dark in search of clean cribs in which to dip her royal abdomen, determined whether to give birth to boys or girls, although the nurse bees knew that the decision was based on the size of the basinet built by the ladies of the community. The latter was a carefully guarded secret among the ladies, not wanting to hurt the royal ego.

*Big Mama goes into labor as often as 2000 times a day and the young darlings are fed so often by their foster-moms and grow so fast that after a week they have increased 500 times in size. **

Fortunately Big Mama does not have to conjure up names for her progeny; indeed she does little for herself but is fed and cleansed by a retinue of women who hover around her day and night, tending to her every need. They know that should she fail they can choose several of her youngest daughters, feed them a special baby formula and they will become Big-Mamas-in-Waiting.

Every day, for about two hours, the young men of the community take off in search of a Big Mama (not their own, that would be incestuous) with whom to frolic. They run around recklessly, blinded by passion, and if they spot one they pursue her ruthlessly, often falling exhausted by the wayside until one of the four hundred lovelorn Romeos finally reaches her and in an act of explosive mating ... dies.

The rest of the guys go home to mama where the women folk tend to their every household need so that they can return to the fray the next day. Most will perish with their one purpose in life unfulfilled, bachelors to the very end.

Sadly there is no love involved. It's shameless, selfish procreation both from the men and from Big Mama who shows no interest in her children once they are ensconced in their basinet.

Meanwhile the ladies of the neighborhood, who outnumber the men 30:1, go through a series of activities ranging from preparing the basinet for new offerings from Super Mom to going to the store thirty times a day and returning with baby formula strapped to their legs in baskets.

In emergencies these ladies can produce boy babies that they lay in profusion in single basinet, but eventually the village will die because of the lack of co-dependent ladies to tend to their menfolk unless, by some kind of divine influence, a new Big Mama mysteriously appears in the village, literally dropped from the heavens, ready to get to work.

No, she thought, that can't be true. Not only is it ridiculous, it's enough to turn boys off of sex for the rest of their lives and for little girls like this fuzzy bee to give up any hope of successfully becoming pregnant. So let me tell her how it really is.

“In England,” she said, “the stork brings baby bees, which is why we talk about the birds and the bees. In France they are found under a cabbage leaf. But this is America, and so you can find out more about it on the internet.”

* For human readers, if we developed at the same rate, a child with a birth weight of 8 lbs would weigh 2 tons after 6 days and be the size of an elephant.

Jeremy Barnes

Results from PSBA Honey Show

Class 1 – Comb Honey

1st Jim Fitzroy, Verona

Class 2 – Cut Comb Honey

1st Bill Mondjack, Whitehall
2nd Herman Danenhower, Kutztown
3rd Charlie Vorisek, Linesville

Class 3 – Light Extracted

1st Jim Bruckart, Chambersburg
2nd Terry Shanor, Butler
3rd Jim Shindler, York

Class 4 – Medium Extracted

1st Roberta Jones, Murraysville
2nd Charlie Breinig, Dresher
3rd Wendy Rittenhauer, Penn Hills

Class 5 – Dark Extracted

1st Charlie Vorisek, Linesville
2nd Jane Morrow, Plum
3rd Jim Fitzroy, Verona

Class 6 – Creamed/Finely Crystallized

1st Sheryl Roland, Pottstown
2nd Bill Mondjack
3rd Roberta Jones, Murraysville

Class 7 – Commercial Block Beeswax

1st Charlie Vorisek, Linesville
2nd Terry Shanor, Butler
3rd Jim Fitzroy, Verona

Class 8 – Molded or Designed Beeswax

1st Charlie Vorisek, Linesville
2nd Kathy Vorisek, Linesville
3rd Gary Carns

Class 9 – Dipped Candles

1st Jim Bruckart, Chambersburg

Class 10 – Molded Candles

1st Terry Shanor, Butler
2nd Jim Bruckart, Chambersburg

Class 11 - Honey In A Frame

1st Wade Knapp, Troy
2nd David Harcum, Aliquippa
3rd Bill Mondjack, Whitehall

Best Exhibit of Extracted Honey - Charles Breinig

Subscription Rates

(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

American Bee Journal	Bee Culture
1 year \$19.50	1 year \$21.00
2 years 37.00	2 years 38.00
3 years 52.15	
The Small Beekeeper's Journal	The Speedy Bee
\$12.95	1 year \$17.25
(Regular Rate)	Quarterly Issues

Please send 6 weeks before subscription runs out as we send them in once a month.

PSBA Advertising Rates

1 Month		3 Months	
Full Page	\$23.00	Full Page	\$ 40.00
1/2 Page	12.00	1/2 Page	25.00
1/4 Page	9.00	1/4 Page	15.00
1/8 Page	5.00	1/8 Page	9.00
6 Months		One Year	
Full Page	\$75.00	Full Page	\$ 150.00
1/2 Page	40.00	1/2 Page	75.00
1/4 Page	23.00	1/4 Page	50.00
1/8 Page	12.00	1/8 Page	26.00

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In order to reflect the interests of all facets of Pennsylvania beekeeping, articles submitted for publication may on occasion express ideas contrary to the philosophy of the P.S.B.A. or a majority of its members.

----- ✂ ----- Clip here ----- ✂ -----

Application for New and Renewal Membership Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association

\$1.00 Junior Membership (under 17) annual dues
 \$20.00 annual dues \$25.00 family dues \$200.00 Lifetime Membership
I understand the dues entitle me to the Newsletter and all other benefits of membership.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ County _____

New

Renew

Make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
Send to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724

Upcoming Dates To Remember



Deadline for the November-December issue of The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is December 27th.

Montgomery Co. Beekeepers

Saturday, December 10, 4:00 p.m. at the Plains Mennonite Church. Holiday Gathering. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at honeyhillfarm@verizon.net.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email: RJArmstrong1@verizon.net for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wayne Co. Chamber of Commerce, Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com

2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 7-14 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. If you are willing to volunteer your time working or donating honey to be sold at the PSBA Honey Booth in the Food Court or the Honey Stand in the Marketplace, contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231. Volunteers are also needed at the Learning Center in the Large Exhibit Hall, contact Sharon McDonald by email sailor.mac.bruce@gmail.com There is a form to complete and submit to Stu found on Page 17 if you prefer contact by mail.

ABF Conference

January 10-14, 2012. Make your plans now for the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference, which will be held at the **Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino** in Las Vegas, Nevada. There's no place like it and we know you won't want to miss this opportunity to meet with your fellow beekeepers! Conference details will be available on the ABF Web site soon. www.abfnet.org

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email: RJArmstrong1@verizon.net for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers

Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. at the West Chester Borough Hall. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Center, Allentown. Contact Pete Thomson at 610-346-7875 for more information.

Basic Beginning Beekeeping Seminar

January 28, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Chicora Volunteer Fire Department, Chicora, PA. For more information, see ad on Page 21 or call 724-445-2471.

2012 Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

February 17 & 18 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Pittsburgh North, Cranberry Township, PA. Featured speakers to include: Jerry Hayes, Dan O'Hanion and Diana Cox-Foster, Ph.D. For more information, contact Penn State Extension of Beaver County at 724-774-3003.

Chester County Beekeepers Annual Seminar

Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Westtown School. Ross Conrad and Mike Thomas will be the speakers for the advanced seminar and Mark Antunes will conduct the beginner's seminar. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

Attention Counties: Please submit your 2012 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

Mail vs. Email

The Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association is sending out the newsletter via email instead of through the USPS to those members who are interested. If you would like to receive "The Pennsylvania Beekeeper" by email, please contact Yvonne Crimbring at pabee@frontier.com and include your name, mailing address, phone number along with current email address stating that you'd like to receive the PSBA newsletter via email.



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W.W.B.D. (What would Bill do?)

Nov.-Dec., 2011

By: Bill Mondjack,
Master Beekeeper, Lehigh Valley, PA.

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was approached by President Warren Miller to write a column in the P.S.B.A. monthly newsletter with the topic being a timely issue of concern or any question that may arise in beekeeping. The idea being to help fellow beekeepers become more proficient in our craft.



First let me say, I am NOT a scientist; I am a beekeeper just like you. As all of us know, if you ask 3 beekeepers the same question you will most probably get 5 different answers, so I would like to approach this matter as a Q & A posting as I do with many of our members in the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn., unless I decide to write about a timely issue.

If you have a question you would like to send in, please email it to me at: billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com with the subject line being WWBD, and I will respond with my opinion as 'what I would do' if the problem or situation was mine.

Here's a question I received by email:

Q: Oct. 6th - Answered by email: Oct. 13th

Hi Bill-

I hope you are doing well. My latest questions are about winter approaching. The way my wife and I have our hive set up is that we have (2) frame less shallow supers on top of our (2) deep brood supers that we use to protect our feeders from ants, other bees etc.

We use chick feeders (4) with floats in the pan for the bees to land and climb on. It is probably not the conventional method, but it works pretty well for us.

My questions are:

- 1. Will the open space of the empty shallow supers be too much extra area for the bees to keep warm in the winter, Or will it actually help with any condensation build up?*
- 2. When will we know when to stop feeding them and to leave them alone for the winter?*
- 3. I already reduced the bottom board opening to the three inch cut out, when should I turn it to the small opening?*
- 4. Lastly, do you crack the lid to allow air flow or do you leave the lid shut? I have been told to do it both ways and wanted to know what you do.*

We used several grease patties and did (2) powdered sugar treatments to help mite control, so I think we are good there, but if there is anything else you may recommend I am definitely open to any and all suggestions.

*As always THANK YOU for all of your help,
Eric*

A:

Hi Eric,

1. If using chick feeders works for you, good. Quail feeders tend to work also without the use of floats. I personally would not keep the feeders on during the winter months. If you choose to keep an empty box (without feeders inside) on top of the hives I would fill it with straw or leaves to take up the space and act as an absorbent for the moist air given off by the bees. I would use this between the inner and outer cover.

2. Your bees will need about 60 lbs. of stored food for the winter months. This equals about 1 deep or two shallows full of honey. You will have to physically check on them see how much they have stored and if they do not have enough, feed HEAVY syrup (2 sugar to 1 water) till they have sufficient stores put away.

3. Reducing the entrance is a personal choice. It is not absolutely necessary but recommended. Bees really don't need the full width of the bottom board as an entrance. I think you timed your entrance reduction correctly and reducing it any further is a personal choice. Many times I don't get around to reducing all of mine. In my experience I have found if it is too small it's harder for the bees to remove dead bees and sometimes they tend to clog the entrance, obstructing the air flow and hindering their passage.

4. Cracking the upper lid or providing an upper entrance is another personal choice. Some beekeepers will drill a small hole in the upper hive body, I choose not to do this but I do place a stone or piece of wood between my inner and outer cover. How much this really helps with air exchange, I am not sure but the bees seem to appreciate an upper entrance.

5. Grease patties are only useful for Tracheal mites not Varroa. It is said, powdered sugar dusting helps somewhat, but only if done religiously on a weekly schedule. If only done once in awhile it will not control the numbers of Varroa which will increase dramatically at the end of summer. The only way to tell if "you are good there" is to count mites on a drop board, do a sugar roll or alcohol wash and count mites. I think a more stringent mite treatment would be better.

Good luck with your bees,

Bill Mondjack

The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association represents the interests of the members of Pennsylvania. State dues of \$20.00 per year entitle members to the newsletter published ten times per year at Canton, PA, plus other benefits. Anyone 17 and under may become a junior member @ \$1.00 per year state dues.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Mrs. Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Rd., Canton, PA 17724. Phone: 570-673-8201. Email: pabee@frontier.com

Nature Notes

Our native **witch hazel** blooms in November and December. Witch hazel grows as a spindly, eight to ten-foot shrub in the woods. Its flowers are widely-spaced on branches and have spidery yellow petals. Oriental witch hazel, often used in landscaping, blooms at the beginning of the year and has showier, yellow or rust-colored flowers.

Some of us remember when **liniment** in bottles, jars, and tubes occupied the medicine cabinet. Liniments were rubbed on the skin in hopes of alleviating aches in muscles or clearing up skin rashes. **Skin** is the body's largest organ and one of its primary functions is keeping things out. If things rubbed on the skin got inside us, we would be in big trouble. Liniments are descended from the medieval medicine idea of **counter-irritants**. Mentholated topical cream (spread on the chest to treat a cold) and analgesic heat rub (applied to sore muscles) come from an ancient medical tradition. The counter-irritant theory says that the pain of accidentally hitting a finger with hammer can be relieved by hitting another finger.

Scopolamine (for sea sickness) is one of the few medicines that can be absorbed through the skin. A famous liniment is witch hazel, once made in Essex, Connecticut, by the Dickinson family.

Before physicians understood what was happening **inside** our bodies, they prescribed medicines that gave results: empty the stomach (emetics), empty the intestines (purges), make the patient fall asleep (opiates). And they recommended counter-irritants that made the skin feel hot (must be helping muscles, too) or cool (rubbing alcohol). This system of medicine was in use for more than five hundred years. It begins to fade away in the 1860s when Pasteur and others discover that germs cause disease.

Cold-blooded **turtles** and **fish** have become lethargic as lakes and streams cool. Turtles burrow into mud and their metabolism slows way down. Their bodies idle along on the oxygen they absorb through their skin and absorb from water that flows into and out of their rectums.

In the evening, **Jupiter** is high in the east and **Venus** is low in the west. Jupiter is farther from the Sun than we are; Earth can travel between Jupiter and the Sun. Jupiter can hang high in the night sky while the Sun is on the other side of the Earth. Venus is closer to the Sun than we are. Viewed from Earth, Venus is always close to the Sun. Venus is only visible in the morning before the Sun rises or in the evening after the Sun sets.

Half way up the northeast sky are **The Twins**, **Castor** and **Pollux**, a pair of bright stars. Above them is **Capella**. **Orion**, **The Hunter**, is followed across the sky by his dog, **Canis Major**. The brightest star in our night sky is **Sirius**, **The Dog Star**, in Canis Major. Rising before Sirius, between The Twins and Orion, is **Procyon** ("before the dog"). How can we remember which Twin is which? The twin closest to Procyon also has a name beginning with "P": Pollux.

By Tim Sterrett

Linda Hackenberg Named PSBA 2011 Beekeeper of the Year

When you hear the name of the recipient of this year's award, you may ask yourself... why is the wife of a beekeeper receiving the Beekeeper of the Year Award? Over the years, this woman has contributed greatly to this association and to the promotion of our profession as a whole. She is generous with her time, empathetic to and prayerful over the trials and tribulations of the industry, and can probably quote verbatim the ABC's of Beekeeping from her years of training Honey Queens.

Though severely allergic to honey bees, she has worked side by side with her husband, David, for over 40 years in the bee business. Not only has she helped in the bee yard, but has also willingly done all the odd jobs that grace the lives of every beekeeper...you all know them well. For many years she has also educated 4 graders about honey and beekeeping through visiting schools and hosting field trips. And though she stays busy being a beekeeper's wife, a mother, and a grandmother, you can also find her cooking for any and all beekeepers and their crew who happen to show up during the lunch hour.

She has assisted in planning our annual convention for as many years as it has been here in Lewisburg. There is a lot that goes behind the scenes to make this convention run smoothly each year, and she is one of the dedicated crew that makes that happen.

For 20 plus years, she has run the Pennsylvania Honey Queen program, spending hours of her "free" time scheduling events, encouraging and advising the Honey Queen and Princess, arranging for hotels, preparing the queens for the National convention, finding and training judges, and searching for potential candidates when there were none in sight. And we reaped the reward by having numerous American Honey Queens and Honey Princesses come from our great state. Five of Pennsylvania's Queens have reigned as the American Honey Queen since 1996. The only other state that can boast the same number is Texas.

As she steps down this year as chair of the queen program, she will continue to share her experiences with and advise, help, and cheer on her successor. Those of us who know her would expect nothing less from such a generous, encouraging individual.

Not only has she played a vital role in promoting honey in the state of Pennsylvania, she has served for many years on the National Honey Queen Committee, represented PA Beekeepers to the American Beekeeping Federation, and served as an alternate to the National Honey Board.

She promotes honey to everyone she comes in contact with, whether for medicinal purposes, cooking solutions or as a burn remedy; she thinks beeswax is the bee's knees; and she plays an incredible supportive role in the fight against CCD, ...someone has to answer all the local beekeepers' questions when her husband is in Washington yet again.

PA Honey Queen Report

By Alyssa Fine

Greetings, beekeepers! It's been another month and we find ourselves on the threshold of winter. For the Fine Family, the holidays are of a minor concern- my poor dad's more worried over whether or not to use fondant or sugar bricks to supplement the bees this season! Hopefully we'll overwinter well, as I hope all of you do, too.

November was not a particularly busy month for promotions, but the events that I attended were absolutely wonderful. On November 3rd, I traveled to Lebanon to attend a banquet in celebration of Lebanon Farm City Week. At my display booth, I prepared slices of pumpkin honey bread with buckwheat honey butter for the hors d'oeuvre hour, during which I was able to meet with many of the 250 people in attendance. I was asked to help model a beautiful "sheep to shawl" during the auction later in the evening. It was a wonderful event!

The following week was much busier! On November 6th I met American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson at Pittsburgh International Airport, and together we traveled to Linesville to work with Cathy and Charlie Vorisek for several days. Our first order of business was to assist with a "Honey to Money" donation for the local food bank. On behalf of the Northwestern PA Beekeepers Association, \$560 worth of honey sales was donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Erie. It is estimated that every donated dollar translated to 17 food dollars, so this was a very sizeable and appreciated donation. Throughout the next two days, I worked with Cathy Vorisek visiting Linesville High School, Alice Shafer Elementary, Seton Catholic, and Conneaut Lake Elementary Schools throughout the area. I gave 16 school presentations to nearly 600 students, ranging from preschool through high school seniors. The students were very engaged and excited about honey bees, mostly because they all recognized "The Bee Lady" and they wanted to learn more about how honey makes it from the hive into the honey bear containers.

The morning of November 8th, I was invited to COOL 101.7, a Linesville radio station. My 5 minute interview reached an estimated 35,000 listeners, and was also available online. What a great opportunity to represent the industry! Thanks are due to Cathy and Charlie for arranging the school visits and for all their hospitality during the trip.

November 8th, I traveled to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium to attend Burgh Bees' annual banquet. I was given time in the program to speak about the PA Honey Queen Program and my promotions throughout this year, paying special attention to events which directly benefited their local organization. The rest of the evening, in addition to speaking with the 60 or so beekeepers in attendance, I helped by selling raffle tickets. It was a great evening. Thanks to Joe Zgurzynski and all of Burgh Bees for inviting me!

November 9th I made my way back to Erie to meet up with Teresa at the home of Charlie and Charlene Schroeck. Charlie took us to Asbury Woods Nature Center, where for many years he has managed a very vivacious observation

hive. Charlie might be modest, but don't let him fool you- he is the most meticulous beekeeper I have ever met! He keeps a beekeepers log of individual hives that goes back to the 80's. I think this is part of his success; he analyses his hives, documents his approach, and learns from his errors.

The following morning, Charlie took me to Chestnut Hill Elementary School where I gave an hour-long presentation to 60 very excited students. It was a very enjoyable trip. Thank you again, Charlene and Charlie, for opening your home to me.

After promoting in Erie, I traveled to the PSBA State Convention in Lewisburg on Nov. 11th and 12th. During the annual banquet, I performed a preview of my 3-minute presentation for the ABF Convention this January. I am thankful for all the suggestions for improvements I received. I also gave a summary of my year so far, which has included:

- 122 Events
- 25,000 Miles
- 225,000 People reached
- 4.17 Million reached through media

It's been a fantastic year, and I want to thank everyone at PSBA for making this possible. I had the opportunity to crown our new 2012 Pennsylvania Honey Queen, Jessica Long of Tyrone. She will be a great representative for the PSBA and I wish her luck on her travels next year.

Finishing out November, I attended the annual banquet of 2 C's and a Bee on the 19th; where I was given time to speak about my travels this year. I had a great time seeing some familiar faces and also meeting new beekeepers in the association. Thank you for inviting me, Ken Hoover!

As the end of my reign draws near, I am looking forward with anxious anticipation to the American Beekeeping Federation Convention, which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada this January, where I will represent Pennsylvania when I compete for the American Honey Queen title. Thank you so much for this opportunity. This year has been a series of incredible experiences. In preparation for the American competition, I am selling raffle tickets to benefit the national program. The tickets, which are for a Queen size quilt, are \$5 each and you do not need to be present to win.

Thank you again and start your booking now for the 2012 season! If you would like to invite 2012 PA Honey Queen Jessica Long to your event, contact Rachel Bryson at brysonrachel@yahoo.com or (717) 643-0010 today!

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 4/12 and receives the newsletter at 1541 Temple School Road, Dover, PA will send his/her name and an account of his/her beekeeping operation to the editor at 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724 by January 20, he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, *The Speedy Bee* or *The Small Beekeepers Journal*. When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.

The Canticle Of the Bees

Bees in winter
Weather keep,
Rapt, a garden-haunted
Sleep,

Dream of summer,
Still as stone,
Save on Christmas Eve,
Alone,

When that honey-havened
People,
Roused by bells
From every steeple,

Wake and sing
With one accord
Alleluias
To the Lord.

“Praise Him,”
Sing the choiring bees,
“Lord of limes
And locust trees,

“Him who has
Dominion over
Fields of amaranthine
Clover,

“By whose providence
We fare
Daily through
The throbbing air

“And return
In drowsy flight
From the pastures
Of delight,

“From the many-petaled
Rose,
Hiveward
When the shadows close.”
So, at least,
The legend goes.

Visit them
When bells arrive.
Cup your ear
Against the hive.

You may hear them
Singing thus,
Small
But multitudinous:

“Alleluia,
Lord of all
Things that flutter,
Fly or crawl,

“Now Your Star
Has shone again,
Bless Your swarming Bees.
Amen.”

Wondering, walk there.
Do not fear them.
But remember
As you near them,
Only the pure in heart
Shall hear them.

Author Unknown
Submitted by William Bendokas

Volunteer To Help at the 2012 Farm Show Please Complete and mail

Yes, I am willing to volunteer my time at the 2012 Farm Show on behalf
of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association

I prefer to assist at:

- The Food Court The Marketplace
Dipping ice cream
Waiting on customers
Both
Other, please specify

Please circle is you can help with set-up on Sat., Dec 17, 2011 at 9 AM
YES NO

Please circle your preferred dates and times:

Jan. 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
AM PM All Day

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Comments: _____

Please list products and amounts you will bring to the Farm Show:

In order to receive your name tag and parking pass, please return this form by
Dec. 5 to: Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036

PA Honey Queen Program Report

The 2011 Honey Queen Program promotional season is quickly coming to a close and it has been an amazing success. The PSBA's two representatives, 2011 PA Honey Queen Alyssa Fine and Princess Emily Bruckart, have done an outstanding job this year promoting the beekeeping and honey industries. They have traveled across the state educating the public by attending schools, libraries, fairs, farmers markets and through participating in media interviews.

This year, Queen Alyssa attended more than 110 events, giving over 150 presentations, reaching more than 4.1 million people.

Princess Emily also traveled throughout the state, attending more than 40 events and reaching thousands of people.

Queen Alyssa will be representing the PSBA as she competes for the American Honey Queen and/or Princess title when she attends the American Beekeeping Federation Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada in January. Look for updates on Queen Alyssa's experience on the PA Honey Queen Program Facebook page.

As 2012 quickly approaches, we are looking forward to another successful promotion year with 2012 PA Honey Queen Jessica Long.



Jessica, 20, is the daughter of Gary and Jennifer Long from Tyrone. She has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration, with a focus on Marketing. Jessica's family is new to beekeeping and has thoroughly enjoyed learning about the industry. She is looking forward to working for the PSBA for this coming year.

Too quickly recap business discussed relating to the Honey Queen Program during the PSBA convention, the board approved opening a credit card for the Honey Queen's use. This card will alleviate some out of pocket expenses that, in the

past, the Honey Queen was asked to pay and will be used when purchasing supplies for the program

We are also looking for host families that will open their doors to the Honey Queen, allowing her to stay with them, instead of in hotels, as a means to conserve funding. The committee is seeking potential host families from across the state who are willing to provide lodging for the Honey Queen when she visits their area. A host family must have at least one adult female in the home during the Queen's visit and be non-smoking.

The time has also come to start planning your 2012 promotions. Because the PSBA has only one representative this year, requests will be given out on a first come basis. The Honey Queen is available to attend schools, libraries, fairs, farmers markets or any other event where the message of beekeeping should be shared. The Queen is trained in giving presentations to all age levels and can also provide cooking demonstrations when requested.

We have an excellent representative this year so please invite Jessica to your events.

To schedule a promotion with 2012 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Jessica Long, or for more information on being a host family for the Honey Queen, contact Rachel Bryson at brysonrachel@yahoo.com or 717-643-0010.

We look forward to working with you this year!

By Rachel Bryson, Chair

**ORDER NOW
SUPPLIES LIMITED**

PACKAGE BEES
3 lb. with marked queen
Ready the first week in April 2012

**Delivered to Loganton
(center of PA)**
We also drop off on the way up in
Chambersburg and Harrisburg

**Same price as last year
if paid for before Dec. 31, 2011**

Charlene Cella
867 E. Winter Road
Loganton, PA 17747
570-725-3682

Small Hive Beetle Survey 2011

The University of Maryland and Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Education Consortium (MAAREC) are asking beekeepers for information about the honey bee pest, Small Hive Beetle, *Athena tumida*. This valuable information will help get real numbers and prevalence of SHB in our region for this year and in the past years.

1.) When did you first notice Small Hive Beetles in your bee colonies? (Circle one category that applies to your bee colonies.)

- a.) First time this year b.) Last year c.) 2 years ago
d.) 3 years ago e.) 4years ago f.) 5 or more years ago

2.) If you were to rate your colonies infestation level this year, would you say: (Circle one)

- 0 = No SHB adults, larvae or damage
1 = Light, few SHB adults, no larvae observed, but no damage or disturbance of the colonies
2 = Moderate, many SHB adults (less than 100) and/or larvae found during part of the season with some impact on bees and colonies.
3 = Heavy, loss of colonies, obvious signs of stress, extensive damage, large populations of both adults (over 100) and larvae

3.) What kind of control did you use this year for Small Hive Beetle? (Circle one)

- 1 = Ground Treatment
2 = Trap (What kind of trap or traps?) _____
3 = Chemicals in hive or outside
4 = Any combinations of the above? _____

4.) If you had SHB in your colonies, were these colonies: (Circle one)

- 1 = Nucs
2 = Overwintering colonies
3 = New Hives (splits)
4 = Divides
5 = Overwintering Nucs
6 = Swarms
7 = New hives package _____
(If you know, please list the state where the package came from.)

5.) Are your colonies kept? 1= in shade 2= in full sun 3= partial shade (50:50)

6.) We are interested in finding out what the soil type is where you keep your colonies to get a better idea on the survival rate of SHB larvae during pupation.

List the closest town, county, and state where your bee yards are kept.

Town _____ County _____ State _____

Thank you for taking a take a moment to fill out this questionnaire. Upon completion, please fold, close, and mail to Michael Embrey, Extension Apiculturalist: University of Maryland, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169 Queenstown, Maryland 21658 or email to membrey@umd.edu. If you have any questions, you may contact Mike at 410-827-8056 X148. I would like to get these back by December 15.