



# THE

# PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

October-November 2011

Volume No. 9

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

## A note to my friends...

It is hard to believe that when you read this we will only be a few weeks away from our annual conference at the Country Cupboard north of Lewisburg along Rt. 15. This is a great event that year after year teaches new beekeeping ideas and skills to the young and old alike. I would like to remind you that if you are a new member of the PSBA we will offer you a free registration for the conference. All you need to do is give your name and member number to the ladies working the registration table and you are in, free to absorb the bounty of knowledge that will be echoing off the walls. We would also like to see you Friday evening at the banquet where this year Richard Benninghoff will amaze you with his award winning magic show and his strolling table magic that will keep you on the edge of your seat until it is time to strap on the feed bag. We have several large vendors that will display their wares and will also bring your order to Lewisburg to save you the cost of shipping. Don't put it off another year because we have top-notch speakers from home and far away to help you master this wonderful craft of beekeeping.

We have another issue that will need attention during our business meeting, our summer meeting and picnic. It may be hard to believe but we do not have a host for this annual event. We need a local group to step up and make us the offer to host this event. It takes a little planning effort to pull off but it can also be very rewarding. There is no need to have a Friday afternoon event as was held in the past few years. A simple picnic on a Saturday in July will work. One of my favorite singers, Bob Seager and the Silver Bullet Band said it best, "grass is good as carpet, anyplace is fine...".

We will be working on updating our committees and Lori Stahl and Jeremy Barnes have offered to head up this task so we will be looking for members to get involved and help keep the PSBA leading the beekeepers within the Commonwealth. There have been several attempts by ignorant elected officials to ban beekeeping within their political jurisdiction and we will have a break out session to discuss how the PSBA, PDA, PSU and a host of others have continued to successfully keep these regulations from taking effect. We can all learn from these past victories and be prepared to stomp out any of this foolishness in the future. One committee of personal interest to me is the Bears and Plants Committee. I have not thought about it much, but, this spring I have been hard pressed to

think of anything else. The black bear population is too large for our ever crowding Commonwealth. Even last week a woman near Johnstown was chased inside from her own back yard by an aggressive bear. There were several incidents of livestock being killed in Centre County this spring. The trap and relocate program needs a boost and the seasons need to be extended in many parts to reduce the population of these pests.

I would like to thank all PSBA members for their support this past year and the collective good we have accomplished for the honey bees of PA. So, I hope to see you all at the Best Western at the Country Cupboard for some good old fashioned fun and relaxation as we meet new friends and re-acquaint with our old pals.

See you in Lewisburg,

Warren

## 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@epix.net](mailto:pabee@epix.net) 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.

### In This Issue

PSBA Annual Meeting	3
View from Honesdale	3
Back to Buckwheat	5
Nature Notes	5
Apiary Products Show	7
Officers and Membership Information	8
Upcoming Dates	9
What Would Bill Do?	11
Honey Queen Report	13
Jeremy's Corner	15
Annual Meeting Program	17-18
2012 4-H Essay Contest	19

## PSBA's Annual Meeting November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

Plans are well underway for our annual meeting at the Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg. The program begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m., with our banquet Friday evening. On Saturday, the latest news and breakout sessions will be held along with our PSBA business meeting and election of officers. An **Executive Meeting** will be held **Friday at 9:30 a.m.** in the conference room at the Inn. **County representatives are urged to attend.**

There will be a \$20.00 registration fee (includes both days) to help cover the program expenses. The registration fee for one day is \$15.00.

### Banquet

The Annual Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Country Cupboard Friday evening, Nov. 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The cost of the Banquet (which includes a buffet dinner) is \$23.00 for adults, \$11.00 for ages 11-12, \$8.50 for ages 5-10, 4 & under, free. These prices include tax and tip. Please make your reservations with Yvonne Crimbring, (570) 673-8201, **before Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Door prizes are being given out during the banquet and we are looking for donations. Anyone wishing to donate door prizes, please send them to Dave Hackenberg at 1466 Crossroads Dr., Lewisburg, PA 17837 or bring them with you to the meeting.

The Country Cupboard Inn is located on Rt. 15, 3 miles north of Lewisburg. When coming in from the East or West - take I-80 to Rt. 15S exit and travel south approximately 10 miles.

### PSBA Apiary Products Show

Don't forget about our Apiary Products Show\* where your best honey and beeswax can win a ribbon. This is a friendly show that is great for new-bees and show veterans alike. Look for the show rules and class descriptions in this month's newsletter. We will take entries Friday afternoon, Nov. 11, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. No late entries will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. Friday. Winners will be announced and presented with ribbons on Saturday afternoon. \*There will be no Baked Goods Contest this year.

### Speakers and Topics

- Mike Palmer, commercial beekeeper from Vermont will be speaking on queen rearing and overwintering.
- Herman Danenhower, PA beekeeper and honey producer discussing comb honey production and gadgets used for beekeeping
- Lee Miller - speaking on honey judging
- Penn State Researchers discussing current projects for the 2011 season.

### Need a Place to Stay?

If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Country Cupboard Best Western, 524-5500. Be sure to mention you are with PSBA. Make your reservations early!! They will be holding a block of rooms for PSBA until October 15<sup>th</sup>. Other places to stay include: Country Inn Suites, 570-524-6600; Hampton Inn-Lewisburg, 570-522-8500; Days Inn University, Rt. 15, Lewisburg, 523-1171; Econo-Lodge, Rt. 15 South, Lewisburg, 523-1106; Comfort Inn, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-8000; and Holiday Inn Express, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I80 & Rt. 15) 568-1100. For Bed and Breakfast accommodations: Brookpark Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, 523-0220 and Pineapple Inn, Market St., Lewisburg, 524-6200. All above phone numbers are in the 570 area code.

## A View from Honesdale

Hi Beekeepers,

I am trying to make sense of the information overload coming to beekeepers all over the world. I've studied two German, one English and of course ABJ and Bee Culture. In trying to evaluate what I have read and come to some sort of action plan vies a vie our charges; I must admit I am somewhat confused. If you listen to one theory in favor of a specific treatment for mites, Nosema and AFB; then you are putting in the hive, depending on the scientific source, Pyrethroids and Organophosphates, which stay in the wax and strain our ladies and transfer to our honey. On the other hand I know people that stopped treating altogether and lost all their bees. What is the best course of action? In reading Randy Oliver's conclusions, I believe for me it's the Mite away 11 Pads, and treating in spring and fall for Nosema Apis and Cerana. I have been a beekeeper for over twenty years with 149 colonies that have never had AFB. I treat prophylactically with Terramycin. I'm not advocating any treatment, just proposing my thoughts on the subject. I hope to see you at the state meeting.

Charlie Kinbar 2nd VP PSBA.



## 2011 Honey Queen Brochures

The 2011 PSBA Honey Queen Brochures have arrived! They feature PSBA Honey Queen Alyssa Fine and Princess Emily Bruckart along with honey recipes, tips and facts. Cost is \$10.00 per hundred (plus shipping). Please purchase the brochures to help you increase your honey sales and support the honey queen program. The brochures are available for pick-up at the Annual meeting in Lewisburg; Glenn & Yvonne Crimbring's home, Canton, (570) 673-8201; or Stu Mathias's home. To order, contact Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036, phone 717-533-2231.

## Back to Buckwheat

Buckwheat has been interesting. I had the unusual opportunity to have 3 nice locations this season. These were all planted with the same seed, only each location was planted about 2 weeks behind one another.

Location #1 was 50 acres planted about July 5th. Conventionally fitted and planted. It was very thick with an extremely nice and lasting bloom. Just enough rain to boost it along.

Location #2 was 90 acres planted about July 20th. This was no-tilled into canola stubble, with a contact Roundup following the planter. The Roundup was to suppress the canola from choking the buckwheat. The bloom was about 40-60% of what it should have been, as the canola still competed very hard to grow.

Location #3 was 60 acres planted about Aug 6th. (A bit late by conventional wisdom) The field had been idle for almost two years. The "weeds" were sprayed in July. The ground was then conventionally fitted and planted. The bloom came very thick and full in late August and September, along side goldenrod.

By far, Location #1 looked to be the nicest of all. I had 25 of my strongest hives on it. The bloom occurred during the extreme July/Aug heat. Based on previous years, I should have produced 800-1000 lbs of buckwheat honey. I was very disappointed, as I was lucky to have 5 partial supers of honey. Just nothing! What the heck!

I rushed over to the next 90-acre field. 10 colonies on this field were more misfit hives with much growing to do. Well, each was working on its second super of wet buckwheat honey. This was on the poor bloom, competing with canola.

I invited another beekeeper to bring bees into these last two locations (less than 2 miles apart). I moved the 25 hives from the first location, into these last two locations. In total there were over 50 hives on these last two locations. Plus 5 hives at my home location, just 1/2 mile from the 90 acres.

Well...it can't be the seed... it's the same seed, same grower. Location #1 and #2 had very good honey production. I could even smell buckwheat in a hive I have 3 miles away. I was under-supervised with drawn comb and could have done better.

As I write this, after a quick field check, overall the supers look nearly plugged. I am estimating about a 40 lb average. I started with a frown and finished with a smile.

So what's the difference? I believe it's totally weather related. Location #1 started to bloom in the hottest part of summer. Each subsequent bloom was after the extreme hot. The last location enjoyed overcast and cooler weather. The last question will be to see how the seed harvest is on each location. Does the heat affect seed set? It may be hard to determine, as the density of each field was different.

Charlie Vorisek  
1st Vice President

## PSBA Nature Notes

Lower humidity in October lets us see the **deep blue** of the sky. The leaves of hardwood trees show pastel colors as their green chlorophyll breaks down. Hats off to **chlorophyll, which**, in the presence of sunlight, turns water and carbon dioxide into **sugar**. Like a bee colony, our bodies extract energy from one thing: sugar. Our cells break down sugar to release energy.



In the garden, we might see the web of a **garden spider** with the big, yellow and black female lurking on the strands. Garden spider webs have a vertical **zipper** pattern in the center. No one knows why. Spiders don't get a lot of positive reviews; spiders make us uncomfortable. Spiders work for us, helping control insects, especially in the house. Small **jumping spiders** are bold, walking on us as we sit in a comfortable living room chair. Yes, black widow and brown recluse spider bites can cause problems but most of us have never seen either of these spider species.

**Whorled wood asters** are blooming. This flower grows in 18" high clumps in the woods and has clusters of dime-sized white blossoms with narrow rays like a star. The rays give this flower its Latin name: aster means star.

**Canada geese** have gathered into flocks and move noisily from fields (food) to lakes (nighttime safety). Many of our Canada geese are non-migratory. Mechanical harvesting of corn and soybeans leaves some food on the ground. Winter cover crops may provide salad for the geese. This food, along with warmer winters, has allowed geese to stay. The geese we hear honking way up in the nighttime sky are migrating.

Sharp eyes might see a **loon** migrating. Loons fly high, fast, and alone. Loons are big, nearly as big as geese, and fly on narrow, slightly-crooked wings.

**Juncos** and **white-throated sparrows** return from northern nesting grounds to spend the winter eating weed seeds and food dropped on the ground by birds at feeders. **Song sparrows**, which do not migrate, have streaked breasts. White-throats have unstreaked gray breasts and a contrasting white throat patch. Juncos are slate gray above, and show white tail edges when they fly.

**Goldfinches**, now in drab winter plumage but still with dark wings and two white wing bars, may spend much of the day noshing at the feeder while **chickadees** and **nuthatches** dash back and forth between trees or bushes and the feeder. Some of the nuthatches are smaller than our non-migrating **white-breasted nuthatches** and have a white line above the eye; these are **red-breasted nuthatches** from the north.

October brings us a flood of smaller migrating hawks. Many of these **Accipiters**, short-winged, long tailed, bird eaters, will spend the winter living on birds attracted to feeders. **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's hawks** dash after prey,

(Continued on Page 7)

### Nature Notes (Continued from Page 5)

sometimes pursuing birds into bushes. Predators and prey are locked into an evolutionary arms race. If one ever evolves a decisive advantage, the other is in trouble. Hawks eat slow birds; quick birds starve slow hawks.

**Great horned owls** may be heard on still nights: "Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo." They are pairing off and setting up territories.

As night falls, **Planet Jupiter** will be brilliant in the east. Jupiter is huge, about 90,000 miles in diameter. (Earth is about 8,000 miles in diameter.) Jupiter is a gas giant planet, so cold that the gas is highly reflective ice. (Earth is a rocky planet.) By midnight, **Orion** will be in the southeast: a sure sign of winter's approach. Orion, with its belt of three bright stars, is our most striking constellation. As has been said here many times, people talk about the Big Dipper, but they recognize Orion.

By Tim Sterrett

- with an assist on evolution details from James Sterrett

## PSBA Apiary Products Show Rules

These rules follow the general format of the Apiary Products Show at the statewide Farm Show in Harrisburg, EXCEPT entries should not be labeled with exhibitor's name and address. This is to eliminate any possible bias in judging if names were to be identified, since our judge is likely to know some of our exhibitors. Instead of labels, exhibitors will be provided numbered tags to identify their entries. If you wish, you may bring labels and apply them after entries have been judged.



1) Entries will be accepted at the PSBA Annual Meeting on Friday, Nov. 11 from approximately 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

2) All apiary products exhibited must have been produced in Pennsylvania and must have been produced by the exhibitor during 2011.

3) Exhibitors may submit only one entry per class, but they may enter as many classes as they wish.

4) An entry must fulfill all of the requirements of the class in which it is exhibited. (see class descriptions, below).

5) All entries will be handled and placed on the show table by the honey show committee.

6) The judges may open and sample any exhibit. Moisture readings will be taken for all extracted honey and these will be recorded on your scorecard. Honey with a moisture content above 18.6% will be disqualified.

7) The show committee will provide a score card for each entry which contains a record of the judge's scores. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three places in each class.

### COMB HONEY CLASSES

Class 1. Comb Honey (3 sections, either 3 square sections or 3 Cobana rounds, no labels).

Class 2. Cut Comb Honey (3 12-ounce sections, no labels).

Best Exhibit of Comb Honey

### EXTRACTED HONEY CLASSES

The color divisions for classes 3, 4, and 5 are approximate. The show committee and/or judge may shift an extracted entry to another class to provide more consistent color ranges in each class.

Class 3. Light Extracted (Extra White to White, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 4. Medium Extracted (Extra Light Amber to Light Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 5. Dark Extracted (Amber to Dark Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 6. Creamed or Finely Crystallized (in glass, 3 jars, each 1 pound or less, no labels).

Best Exhibit of Extracted Honey

### BEESWAX CLASSES

Class 7. Commercial Block (single piece of pure beeswax not less than 3 pounds).

Class 8. Molded or Designed (not less than one pound of pure beeswax, i.e. ornaments, fancy candles, bar cakes, sculptures, etc.).

Class 9. Dipped Candles (one pair made from pure beeswax).

Class 10. Molded Candles (one pair made from pure beeswax).

### HONEY IN A FRAME CLASS

Class 11. Medium Frame of Capped Honey (enclosed in a case)



**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 4/12 and receives the newsletter at 1586 Pleasant Hills Road, Williamsport, 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 November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.**



**Subscription Rates**

(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

**American Bee Journal**

1 year \$19.50  
2 years 37.00  
3 years 52.15

**Bee Culture**

1 year \$21.00  
2 years 38.00

**The Small Beekeeper's Journal**

\$12.95  
(Regular Rate)

**The Speedy Bee**

1 year \$17.25  
Quarterly Issues

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

**PSBA ADVERTISING RATES****1 Month**

Full Page \$23.00  
1/2 Page 12.00  
1/4 Page 9.00  
1/8 Page 5.00

**3 Months**

Full Page \$ 40.00  
1/2 Page 25.00  
1/4 Page 15.00  
1/8 Page 9.00

**6 Months**

Full Page \$75.00  
1/2 Page 40.00  
1/4 Page 23.00  
1/8 Page 12.00

**One Year**

Full Page \$ 150.00  
1/2 Page 75.00  
1/4 Page 50.00  
1/8 Page 26.00

**2011 PSBA OFFICERS**

President: N. Warren Miller  
P.O.Box 64, Mongoville, PA 16856  
(814) 383-4331 superb22@hotmail.com

1st V Pres.: Charlie Vorisek  
15834 Linesville Rd., Linesville, PA 16424  
(814) 683-5888 vbeefarm@windstream.net

2nd V Pres: Charlie Kinbar  
PO Box 1678, Milford, PA 18337  
(570) 497-6402 purepahoney@gmail.com

Sec.-Treas.: Yvonne Crimbring  
2565 Southside Rd., Canton, PA 17724  
(570) 673-8201 pabee@epix.net



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**

4

☐ \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

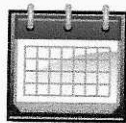
Email \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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 **November 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, October 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Park Street Complex, Honesdale. Contact Dolores Motichka at 570-253-2203, email: [dmotich@ptd.net](mailto:dmotich@ptd.net) for more information.

### Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email: [RJArmstrong1@verizon.net](mailto:RJArmstrong1@verizon.net) for more information.

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Friday, October 14 6:00 p.m. at the Fullerton Fire Hall. Annual Banquet, please make your reservations before October. 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pete Thomson at 610-346-7875 for more information.

### Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. at the home of James and Ginny Wood. Covered dish supper and meeting. Topic: Yearly Recap and Planning. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information.

### New Beekeepers Seminar

Saturday, October 15 at the Wayne Co. Chamber of Commerce, Honesdale. Seminar on all aspects of beekeeping. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepahoney@gmail.com](mailto:purepahoney@gmail.com) for more information.

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m. at Dutch Gold Honey. Honey Roundup and meeting. For more information, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911, email: [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com)

### Montgomery Co. Beekeepers

Saturday, November 5, 4:00 p.m. at the Plains Mennonite Church, Hatfield. Annual Fall Banquet. Attendees may reserve a seat by sending a check or money order for \$20 per person made payable to M.C.B.A. at this address- M.C.B.A Box 203, Hatfield, PA 19440. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at [honeyhillfarm@verizon.net](mailto:honeyhillfarm@verizon.net).

### Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden. Fall Banquet. Contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at 724-869-2151 ext. 6285, email: [Lynszym3@verizon.net](mailto:Lynszym3@verizon.net) for more information or to register for the meal.

### Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email: [RJArmstrong1@verizon.net](mailto:RJArmstrong1@verizon.net) for more information.

### Chester County Beekeepers

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 a.m. at the West Chester

Borough Hall. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: [ckarat54@gmail.com](mailto:ckarat54@gmail.com) for more information.

### PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 11 & 12 at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. Look for more information throughout this issue.

### Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Park Street Complex, Honesdale. Contact Dolores Motichka at 570-253-2203, email: [dmotich@ptd.net](mailto:dmotich@ptd.net) for more information.

### North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wayne Co. Chamber of Commerce, Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepahoney@gmail.com](mailto:purepahoney@gmail.com)

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Ag. Center, Allentown. Topic: "Thinking of Keeping Bees?" Contact Pete Thomson at 610-346-7875 for more information.

### Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, November 19, 6:00 p.m. at the South Montrose Community Church. Annual dinner and speaker, Harry Volker. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information and reservations.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:purepahoney@gmail.com)

### 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](http://www.abfnet.org)

# HONEYBEE CREATIONS

## Got pure beeswax candles?

(717) 892-2718  
[www.andymiller.net](http://www.andymiller.net)



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

October 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](mailto: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:

**Received & answered: Sept. 21, 2011**

*Q: Bill, I hope all is well. I have been traveling quite a bit so I have not been able to make the monthly meetings or tend to my bees. I have 3 colonies, two are full of bees and one is sparse. All are new packages this year through the club. I hived them into established comb.*

*I checked them a few weeks ago and they probably only have 30 lbs of honey each. I started feeding sugar water 5lbs/gal and they were taking it well. I stopped due to travel and tried again this week with 10lb/1gal and they are not taking it. I checked today and the bees are very busy, bringing back a lot of pollen. I have not seen them this busy all year.*

*Did I switch to heavy syrup too soon or is there a good flow now?*

*Also, we had a swarm in the neighborhood last week but it was too high to catch. I got a call from someone to remove a swarm this week. Is it usual for them to swarm this late? I assume there is no reason to catch them because it is too late to get established????*

*Since it was a reestablish year for me I will have to buy some honey from you. My family goes through it fast and my 2011 production is ZERO.*

*Thanks,  
Dave*

**A: Hi Dave,**

I would advise you go into the hive that is 'sparse' as soon as you can. It MAY be queenless or mites may have brought



the population down. Did you treat for mites? This is the time of year, mites will over populate the bees. Mite treatments should have been applied weeks ago. If the hive is queenless or very weak, wax moth may take over and really make a mess. Maybe the swarm was from one of your hives. This is not the typical time of year for a hive to swarm, you are right about that. A good reason to catch a swarm at this time of year is to hive it on drawn comb (possibly from one of your weak hives) and after it is established, merge it with a weak hive, giving it a boost in numbers and possibly a needed queen.

To the best of my knowledge, and speaking with others, there isn't much of a nectar flow on at this time in our area, and bees are low on stores, so feeding is recommended. They should be taking the heavy syrup and storing it. I know they are bringing in pollen. I would look inside to see if everything is OK (queen, larvae, capped brood, etc.). If you find your 'sparse' hive is queenless and brood less it may be better to take the loss now than to feed it and loose it over the winter months.

Good luck Dave,

Bill Mondjack

## July Identification Reader

I have been keeping bees since '75. I've had between 2 and 20 colonies since then. We moved to the Lewistown area recently and since the move I have had troubles with the bees.

I brought 2 hives with me and set them on a hill with trees to the West and North of them. Right before the chill of winter, our Amish neighbors were given permission to cut trees down for heat. The wind up here is so strong that even with weight on them they blew over. I got them righted but lost them anyway.

I ordered 2 hives and decided to set them on our property so I can keep an eye on them. Low and behold the wind got me again. It blew a beautiful cherry over right on my hives!!! I was able to salvage 1 of the 4 hive bodies—a half of a dozen frames and 1 queen. As I write this, I have one (which looks to be) strong hive.

I kept some of the frames from the second hive just to see if a queen survived but alas she did not. What survived were hive beetles! They infested the frames stored in my shed. Luckily no hive beetles were found in the good hive. I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Well I'll have to see how next year goes for me.

Frank E. Enterline, Reedsville, PA

## Honey Queen Report

By Alyssa Fine

Hello beekeepers! Another month has passed and we find ourselves entering the fall season already. It's almost time to start pulling those last supers and buckling down for colder weather. My last month of summer was quite busy with promotions work for the PSBA.

I finished up August with a trip to the Centre County Grange Fair on the 28<sup>th</sup>. I gave an outdoor presentation to a group of 75 children and adults before joining the children for their parade throughout the fairgrounds.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> I set up a booth at the Pittsburgh Public Market in the Strip District. I spent the afternoon answering questions for nearly 100 people who passed through my area. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, I traveled to Coburn for Crickfest, a sustainability festival. During the humid afternoon, I spoke to just about every person who attended, which I estimate at 300 people. September 5<sup>th</sup> I traveled to the Cambria County Fair in Ebensburg. Working with the local beekeepers, 2 C's and a Bee, we gave presentations to three groups of people. Despite the rainy conditions, we reached nearly 210 people that day.

September 8<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Blasco Memorial Library in Erie to speak with a very interested group of 20 seniors. I love teaching children, but it's always refreshing to work with adults who ask very different questions. On September 9<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Centre Hall to attend the Nittany Antique Machinery Show. Amid the old steam engines, I worked with Rich Walker at his education booth, teaching any passers-by about honeybees.

September 15<sup>th</sup> I set up a booth at the Market Square Farmers Market in Pittsburgh. During the afternoon, I spoke to approximately 50 people. September 16<sup>th</sup> I traveled to the Berlin Brothersvalley Fair in Berlin. This fair was unique because for the most part it took place inside of the local school. I spent my day giving short presentations to groups of visiting schoolchildren. I spoke to about 500 people that day. September 17<sup>th</sup> I got to visit the Great Insect Fair, which took place at Penn State's University Park campus in State College. Honeybees were featured in many locations throughout the fair. Not only were there observation hives and a pollination station, but outdoors there was a varietal honey tasting booth and a screened area where a beekeeper opened up a full-sized hive in front of an audience several times throughout the day. Nearly 8,000 people were in attendance, all of which were impacted by honeybees. September 18<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Dalton to visit Roba Family Farms. During their teacher appreciation day, I passed out packets of information to teachers as well as answered questions for anyone who came past, totaling 100 people.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, I visited a meeting of the Pittsburgh City Council where they gave a proclamation for National Honey Month. September 20, 2011 was also recognized as Burgh Bees Day, due to the work that this association is doing

throughout the city. I spoke briefly about the program, honey production, and the value of pollination before distributing honeybee-themed gifts to the nine council members.

September 21<sup>st</sup> I visited with a preschool group in Mount Vernon. I spoke to two classes for a total of 30 students. September 22<sup>nd</sup> I went to Wilson Christian Academy in West Mifflin to speak to a group of 80 students. September 23<sup>rd</sup> I visited South Butler school district in Saxonburg for their first ever PA Ag Products Day. During this event, students visited agricultural booths around the school grounds. I gave 16 mini-presentations to 150 students and their teachers. September 24<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Carrick Library outside of Pittsburgh to speak to ten people. Due to the small group size, we were able to talk in depth about honeybee topics that they found most interesting.

The school year is back in full swing! If you have any school-aged children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, be sure to contact their teachers about requesting an educational visit from the Honey Queen or Princess. For more information, contact Rachel Bryson at (717) 643-0010 or [brysonrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:brysonrachel@yahoo.com).

The Honey Queen Program exists because of the support of PSBA members across the state. If you'd like to donate to the program, please consider purchasing a raffle ticket for a beautiful handmade queen-sized quilt. All proceeds benefit the program and all the work that the Queen and Princess have been doing throughout the state. The winning ticket will be drawn during the PSBA convention in November, but you do not need to be present to win.

Thank you for your continued support!



Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak is pictured above with Alyssa Fine, PA Honey Queen, holding the proclamation stating that the City joins in celebrating National Honey Month and declaring 9/20/11 to be Burgh Bee Day.



## Jeremy's Corner

An earthquake, a hurricane, intense rain and severe flooding, all in the space of three weeks with only a few days between each in which to catch our collective breath.

Intense tropical storms, originating in the heat of the Sahara Desert and tracking across the Atlantic, are bad enough, but what happens when they combine with another major natural event?

The Richter Scale is geometric in its progression, not arithmetic, and apparently the Japanese earthquake of March 2011 was 3300 times more powerful than the one we experienced. The Fukushima Daiichi power station was designed to withstand a powerful earthquake and to resist a tsunami, but not to have to cope with a combination of the two, even though it is earthquakes that cause tsunamis.

We have a hard time planning for events that we don't want to imagine happening. But they are precisely the events that must be taken into account in a realistic assessment of risk. In the US, for example, we assume that our nuclear plants are safe and so far we have gotten away with it. The Japanese have not.

The American agricultural model is based on an immense industrial chemical monoculture that presumes the continued presence of major pollinators, whether they be honey bees or the wind. We pretend that we are not facing a major food crisis in coming years as our prime source of pollination for fruit and vegetables, the honey bee, declines. It's easier to talk about importing the majority of our food from Israel, South Africa and Chile than it is to change the behaviors which have caused the potential crisis in the first place.

The movie *Vanishing of the Bees* stresses that honey bees are symptomatic of a bigger challenge. They are the proverbial canaries in the coal mine if we care to listen to them. But if we study the bees in isolation we are missing the big picture. Other major species are in decline (frogs, fish, butterflies, birds, bats ...) and there is the potential for further crises to hasten their demise. We like to pretend that our future food sources are safe because we cannot imagine an alternative, and so far we have gotten away with it. But ultimately we may not.

Rebuilding after major disasters is possible. When an earthquake leveled the city of Kobe in Japan, which at the time was the 6th largest trading port in the world, 6400 people died, 300 000 were homeless, the damage was estimated at \$100 billion and the prediction was that it would take decades for Japan to recover. Yet within 15 months manufacturing was at 98% of pre-quake levels.

Similarly after the Northridge earthquake in 1994, the economy of southern California grew faster than it had before the disaster, and after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Charleston outpaced growth predictions in seven of the following ten quarters.

Initial reckoning suggests that Fukushima in Japan is recovering faster than has New Orleans after Katrina. Indeed

the Japanese Prime Minister resigned under mounting public criticism for not having done enough and not having done it more quickly.

So recovery is possible even if the toll on human life is enormous. And in those recoveries huge amounts of capital are either lost or redistributed. In earthquakes, for example, money is redistributed from taxpayers to construction workers, from insurance companies to homeowners, from those once lived in a destroyed city to those who replace them.

"No one changes because it's Tuesday." Sometimes it takes a life-threatening occurrence to change abusive or self-destructive behavior. Even if none of us would argue in favor of a disaster because of the possibility of a favorable long term outcome, especially a disaster that, unlike an earthquake or a tsunami, we have the power to prevent.

But what is it going to take to mount a sense of outrage at what is happening in our own backyards? How many setbacks do we have to experience before we begin to accept responsibility not only for the causes but also for the solutions? How many cataclysmic events will it take before we act proactively rather than reactively?

One of the joys of beekeeping is gradually discovering the order behind the apparent chaos of a hive. Every bee in a hive has a purpose and what initially appears to be confusion is in fact highly organized and purposeful activity. After a while one feels like Napoleon surveying a battlefiel or Peyton Manning looking downfield with the ability to read the play (or in our case, a frame,) see patterns in the disorder and take appropriate actions.

Is there a pattern behind the natural disasters of the last three weeks and are we the bee, who is caught up in the action and focused on one specific task, or the experienced beekeeper, who can stand back and see the bigger picture? And if the latter, where do we move our troops or to whom do we throw the ball so that we can emerge victorious?

Jeremy Barnes



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.

## PSBA Annual Meeting Program

Nov. 11-12, 2011

Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA

### Friday Morning PSBA Board Meeting

President: Warren Miller

10:00 – 12:30 Board Meeting – Each local organization should send one delegate.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and develop action items to be presented at the PSBA General Meeting Saturday. Each committee chairperson should attend and present the report of his committee. All PSBA members are free to attend and contribute to the discussion and voice or hand votes. Should any voice or hand vote be close, the president can, at his discretion ask for a vote of just delegates.

Lunch - on your own

### Friday Afternoon and Evening Program

Theme: Queens, Queens, Queens

- 12:30 Registration opens for the conference  
Vendors Open
- 1:30 Successful Queen Rearing – Mike Palmer; Commercial Beekeeper, VT
- 2:30 *Apis mellifera mellifera* project – Charlie Kinbar
- 2:50 State of Beekeeping in PA – Leo Donovall; PDA
- 3:10 Break and visit vendors
- 3:30 PA Queen Project; Where are we, where are we going, how do we get there?  
Warren Miller, Jeff Berta and Maryann Frazier
- 4:15 Honey House Regulations and Labeling – revisited; PDA Representative

### 6:00 Banquet

George Greig - PA Secretary of Agriculture

Join us at the Banquet this year and enjoy the table magic and humor of Richard Benninghoff. Benninghoff is an award-winning magician who has performed across America and has dazzled audiences with his wit and slight of hand up close magic. Richard will keep you entertained before the banquet and will perform a show after the meal that will include audience members. Get ready to enjoy this gentleman as he leaves you wondering and amazed.

Crowning of the 2012 PA Honey Queen  
Door Prizes and Auction

(Continued on Page 18)

**PSBA Annual Meeting Program** (Continued from Page 17)

**Saturday Morning Program**

Moderator: Warren Miller

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration  
Vendors Open
- 8:30 Welcome and comments – Warren Miller; PSBA President
- 8:45 Comb honey production – Herman Danenhower
- 9:30 Beekeeping in Kenya and beekeeper to beekeeper partnership  
Jeremy Barnes and Maryann Frazier
- 10:00 Research updates  
CAP and Stationary Apiary Update – Nancy Ostiguy; PSU
- 10:15 EAS 2013 – Comes back to Pennsylvania!
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Business meeting, reports and election of officers
- 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch - On your own

**Saturday Afternoon Program**

Moderator: Jim Bobb

- 1:30 Announcement of honey show winners - Lee Miller  
Presentation of the Paul Ziegler Award – Dennis Keeney
- 1:50 Overwintering in the Northeast – Mike Palmer
- 2:30 Research Updates – **Research Award Winners**  
The Effects of Fungicides on Honey Bee Health - Wanyi Zhi  
Honey Bee Mating Behavior - Gabriel Villar  
Investigations on Antiviral Drugs – Michael Freiberg
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 Breakout Sessions (select one)**  
Gadgets for Beekeepers - Herman Danenhower  
Honey Judging – Lee Miller  
Fighting local regulations to limit beekeeping in urban settings  
Round table for new beekeepers
- 4:30 Closing Comments-Warren Miller

## 2012 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

The 2012 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest is sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. Cash prizes are awarded to the top 3 winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place -- \$750.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- \$500.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place -- \$250.00. Each state winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

The 2012 essay topic is **"The Results of Honey Bee Pollination in my Community"**. Honey bees pollinate a wide variety of plants. The food crops that benefit from honey bee pollination have been said to contribute one-third of the American diet. In addition, many non-food plantings and natural environmental plants benefit from honey bee pollination. The 4-H'ers are encouraged to investigate the plants in their communities that benefit from honey bee pollination and determine the results of that pollination.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers, farmers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list.

Note that "honey bee" is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

### **NOTE: FOR 2012 ONLY ESSAYS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

#### **RULES:**

1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)
  - Write on the designated subject only.
  - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
  - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
  - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
  - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor the essayist's biographical sketch – which should be on a separate page.
  - Preparation for National Judging: **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY**. Prepare your essays double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research – 40%; (b) accuracy – 30%; (c) creativity – 10%; (d) conciseness – 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic – 10%.
4. **Individual essayists should not forward essays directly to the Foundation office.** Each state 4-H Office is responsible for selecting the state's winner and should set its deadline so state judging can be completed at the state level in time for the winning state essay to be mailed to the Foundation office before March 1, 2012. No essay received after March 1 will be considered.
5. Each state may submit only one entry.
6. Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
7. The National Winner will be announced by May 1, 2012.
8. All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned. National winning essays will be posted at: <http://honeybeepreservation.org>.
9. Email the winning state entries to: [info@honeybeepreservation.org](mailto:info@honeybeepreservation.org). In the subject line: Beekeeping Essay. All entries received will be promptly acknowledged; if you have not received an acknowledgment after 3 business days, please resubmit.

Deadline for the contest entries at the state level is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact your local extension office for more information.

**Editor's Note:** Please distribute this to your local 4-H club to promote the interest of beekeeping in youth.