



THE

PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

PSBA's Annual Meeting November 11th & 12th

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. 7th.**

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 Danenhowe, 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.

A complete program will be included in October's issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper*.

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 15th. 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, I-80 & 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.

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A Note to My Friends...

I sit here writing this note at the end of Labor Day weekend and cannot believe where the summer has gone. We had a great time at Ag Progress Days this year and besides a brief shower on set-up day, the weather was great. We sold out of ice cream in the early afternoon of the final day and there was plenty of help to clean things up. It has been difficult to get help at this event and the local criminal justice agency has helped us in this area for the past few years. You see there are a few young folks that when given the freedom of college life do not always make the right decision and must repay society with a little community service. These kids are a great help to the PSBA and quickly fit in and the ice cream is served. I feel a bit of closeness with these kids not only because without the benefit of a little bit of luck in my life I would have been in their shoes, I also started my career after college as a County Probation and Parole Officer and met many misguided youth that needed another chance. These guys and gals always leave with a smile on their face and thank us for their time. Believe it or not I always enjoy giving them a hard time when they are there and none of them has ever lacked a sense of humor.

I also had the honor of escorting Queen Alyssa to the Government Day luncheon and we were able to get her picture with Governor Corbett and Secretary of Ag Grieg. If you have not seen this young lady in action you are missing something special. Alyssa has great people skills and has spent this past year logging many miles and speaking to many groups about our honey bees and does this with much poise and class. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Stu Mathias which allow this great tradition to continue and continue to grow over the years. I am not sure if you realize it, but, the work Stu does year after year has promoted PA beekeeping further than any of us can imagine. Thank you Stu for everything you do for us at the PSBA. Of course Stu has his small army of workers that are just as reliable as he is and are there for us. Wil and Dave quickly come to mind but there are many more folks that help keep this ship upright and moving with direction into the horizon.

I hope everyone enjoyed a successful season this year and were able to take advantage of the nectar flows even though they seemingly occurred in a different time frame than normal. Although normal does not even seem to be normal anymore. I just finished my second extraction session for the season and was able to fill all of my buckets so I am truly grateful for the bountiful harvest. I have noticed the past two years I have not produced a darker summer honey. For many years my second harvest, which is completed near the end of summer, produces a much darker honey than the early flows taken in June. I am not sure the reason, but the summer honey is only slightly darker than the spring honey which I believe to be predominately black locust blooms. I liked the darker summer honey as this would give a greater contrast on the shelf and this would help promote sales. However, it does seem that after a number of years of selling in the same locations

the customers have come to enjoy my honey no matter what shade it is.

I had the opportunity to go to the movie theater a few weeks ago to see a flick. My wife has been bugging me for decades to take her to the movies like the "old days". Well, "Queen of the Sun" came to a State College theater and I told her this was her chance. If you get an opportunity to see this documentary please do not miss it. It is well done and discusses the plight of the honey bees around the world. A very good show and it counts as an actual date.

Please look in this and the upcoming issues of the newsletter for details on our fall conference in Lewisburg on November 11 and 12. This promises to be a great event and we have some really good speakers lined up that will help you to become better at keeping your bees alive and healthy. Until next time keep your smoker lit and pop the lid to see what your bees are doing. The fall goldenrod flow is just starting in central PA and with a little luck my bees will be packing away the nectar for the upcoming winter.

Warren Miller, PSBA President

New Class of Honey for Contest and a Workshop Added

We have added a class of Honey in a frame at the PSBA meeting and at the PA Farm Show. We are looking for a medium frame of capped honey in an enclosed case for the class. We think that this is a way to show case that Pennsylvania has excellent honey and superior producers. Make a case and select a frame of honey as you extract this fall and bring it to the meeting. Also bring comb honey, extracted honey, crystallized honey, wax, candles, and molded wax entries.

We also plan to offer a workshop on apiary and honey judging. This is an opportunity for you to sharpen your skills or learn and help others learn to judge honey and honey products at your local fair. It will also help you prepare entries for the show. Plan to join us at the PSBA meeting in November. Entries are due on Friday by 5:00 PM.

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 11/11 and receives the newsletter at 144 Pine Hill Rd., Shinglehouse, 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 October 20th, 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.

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.

Across the State

A big thanks to the York County Beekeepers for a well done summer picnic. It was obvious a lot of time and planning went into this event. Of course it takes people to show up, to complete all the planning. The Friday night barbecue and Saturday picnic were both well attended. Mary and Tom Chronister hosted the barbecue. And I was quickly reminded that they had attended last year's summer picnic in Erie (6 hrs away) and were winners of our raffled print of "Not Beehaven". It was proudly on display in the dining room of their house. The food was great. The shared mead was very interesting. And the bee stories were fun and inspiring.

The Saturday picnic at Lower Allen Community Park was a great site. The air conditioned barn helped take some pressure from the heat. More good food, silent auction, honey tasting, noseema sampling... and that crazy hive tool-toss! How cool. Pitched at a horse shoe range, I was extremely impressed by the errant toss that stuck the hive tool into the wooden back stop! You couldn't do that if you tried. I'm hoping Ken Hoover has a picture of that to add to the photos already up on the website. (See some picnic photos at pastatebeekeepers.org.)

I keep learning how beekeeping is different across the state. It would seem that most beekeepers know beekeeping based on their local area, geography, micro-climate and floral sources. What works for me, would never work for other areas and vice-versa. I learned the honey flow at Dave Papke's (not far from Maryland) is basically done, for the season, by the end of June. It's a bonus to get any surplus later. Where I'm at in the northwest corner of the state, I rarely capture surplus in May. The over wintered bees are building up and have this 'swarm' mindset. Once they get past that 'swarm' impulse, they will finally settle down to making surplus, beginning in very late May. June is usually is a good honey flow, but not the end. If nothing else happens all summer, we will get our biggest honey flow with goldenrod in September. For myself, if I move my chess pieces just right, I can get a little honey from canola in July. (It simply has not yielded as much as the literature tells me, in my area...yet) Some clover almost all summer. Buckwheat (if I can find it) in August. Working around the swamps and streams in my area will yield purple loosestrife in July-August, Japanese knot weed in Aug-Sept and finally goldenrod until the end of September. Some locations do well in Aug/Sept on Boneset and Joe Pye weed. The aster will be on a few weeks longer, into October, but the weather is cooling and that honey may not get cured and capped. I seem to get just enough rain in the summer to keep things growing, where the rest of the state is just simply dry. This whole scenario can change in 20 miles. I noticed some mid summer rains reloaded the drying clover. As I run a few pollen traps, I can see increases in pollen. So, I know the plants are more than just pretty flowers. And I can certainly tell when they find corn. They can fill an entire trap tray in about 4 days. I have not noticed other bugs in the corn pollen

trays. Those tiny ants that seem to be trap residents are fewer. No wax moth larvae. Is it because it's coming in so fast or is something different with the pollen? Just a question.

Moving bees around, even locally, is a lot of work. Trying to find a location that I can easily drive to, out of field workers path, away from neighbors and mud holes adds to the challenge. I'm sure to jinx myself... but last year I was able to average 70lbs per hive on 92 hives. That's good for me. It's not the 100 plus averages I read about. But, as the state average is about 40 lbs per hive, some areas have a much harder time.

I spent some time raising queens from my survivors this season. If this translates into more live colonies next spring, maybe I can leave more hives on location

Charlie Vorisek, 1st Vice President, PSBA

A View from Honesdale

Hi Fellow Beekeepers,

As I am well into my last sojourn in God's little acre, all my heroes from my youth have been replaced with these individuals that, through their intellect and forbearance, have made what we now know about our little lady's almost second nature. Charles Butler, *The Feminine Monarchie*, written in 1609, said what we now know, that drones are male and the queen rules the hive. He, however, thought that the workers laid the eggs. Still great reading four hundred years later. Skip to 1860, the Rev Lorenzo Langstroth, correct bee space and removable frame hives, as apropos today and when he invented them. *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, with revisions, still the Bible of beekeeping. Dr CC Miller, *50 Years Among the Bees*, 1911, used slated racks, his invention. Great reading. And, of course, Karl von Frisch, Nobel laureate (1886-1982), a long life filled with triestes on a plethora of natural subjects. In the 1940's, with the bombs falling around him, Karl gave us *The Dance Language of Bees*. Do yourself a favor and read it, its unglauibich (unbelievable). I would be remiss in not mentioning a lady who I had the pleasure of meeting two years before her demise, Dame Eva Crane (1912-2007). She started IBRA, was a prolific writer and an expert in her time in all things relating to apiculture. You owe it to yourself to read her works. I like the *History of Beekeeping* and *Honey Gathering*, out of print and somewhat pricey (100 dollars) but well worth the read. And last but not least, Dr Tom Seeley, who through his book, *Honey Bee Democracy*, joins the aforementioned in granting to himself immortality. Just a few of my thoughts shared.

A great harvest, I wish to you all.

Charlie Kinbar, 2nd Vice President, PSBA

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Kelley double boiler/bottling tank, cover, stand, screens, mixing paddles, brass bottling valve, 220v. connections = \$295.00

Gary Becker, Aspers, PA 717/677-6630

PSBA in Cooperation with PDA and the CPR Establishes a Research Program to Benefit Pennsylvania Bees & Beekeepers

By Lori Stahl

The idea of a research fund was initiated at our 2010 summer picnic in Erie when the PSBA executive committee moved to create a new research fund and committed \$10,000 to the fund provided that PDA and the new Center for Pollinator Research (CPR) at Penn State would do the same... and they did! Moved by the spirit and the need to support practical research, the Montgomery County beekeepers, under the influence of President Mark Antunes, agreed to commit an additional \$1,000 and challenged other local associations to do the same. Rob Steffes and Dan Worst of The Beaver Valley Beekeepers are the first to meet Mark's Challenge.

The new cooperatively funded research program is known as the PA Pollinator Research Program (PPRP). A PSBA committee with the aim of identifying and supporting applied research that will benefit Pennsylvania beekeepers was formed and along with representatives from PDA and the CPR will evaluate proposals and administer the grants. The committee Designed and conducted a pilot survey to identify the research priorities of the PSBA & plan to conduct the next survey on the PSBA website in the near future. The results will be used to help develop the priorities for the next request for proposals and determine which should be funded.

Please Forward any research ideas you would like to see included in our survey to Lori Stahl lori@stahlgallery.com

Three proposals are currently being funded by the PA Pollinator Research Program. Wanyi Zhu a graduate research assistant working on a Ph.D. in Entomology will be looking at the effects of fungicides on honey bee colonies. The study is designed to examine effects of individual and combinations of fungicide on queen fertility and larval honey bee development and determine how these effects may translate into decreased fitness at the colony level. Michael Freiberg who is working on a Masters degree in Entomology will be investigating antiviral drugs to treat RNA viral infections to honey bees. In this study he is asking three main questions: does treatment with these drugs clear an RNA viral infection of honeybees? What effects do these drugs have on the mutation rate of the virus? And does drug treatment have an effect on the infectivity of the viruses? Gabriel Villar an Entomology Ph.D. student is researching the molecular and chemical ecology of honey bee mating behavior. In the proposed work funded by the PPRP, he seeks to identify the pheromones used by drones to locate and mate with virgin queens. There are clearly several honey bee sex pheromone components that remain to be characterized. The identification of these compounds may allow us to better replicate natural

mating conditions, which would facilitate breeding programs. Furthermore, it would allow us to characterize factors that may affect sex pheromone production in virgin queens, which could have consequences on mating success.

All three of these young investigators will be sharing the results of their work at our next annual PSBA meeting in November. See you there!

If You've Been Affected by Flood Damage...

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is providing compensation for honey bee losses due to the recent flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Please read the article and contact your County FSA office for more information and help filing a claim. All claims must be filed within 60 days of the event, so act quickly.

FSA Pennsylvania Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=pa&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

Click on the "County Offices" link on the left-hand side of the page to find your County's contact person.

Or you can contact our state's program manager to find out your contact person at:
Rebecca Csutoras, Program Chief, Pennsylvania State Farm Service Agency, 717-237-2129 (phone), 717-237-2149 (fax), email: rebecca.csutoras@pa.usda.gov

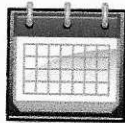
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**Contact Dan at
(717) 866-2122**

Upcoming Dates To Remember



Deadline for the September issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is **September 29th**.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. at Strickler's Farm, Mountville. Topic: Using those hive products. For more information, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911, email: jim@gatheringplacemj.com.

North East PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wayne Co. Chamber of Commerce, Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com

York Co. Beekeepers

Thursday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Community room, York. Speaker: Karen Roccensecca, Harrisburg. Topic: to be announced. Email Gail Leasure: snewgeese@yahoo.com or contact Jeremy Barnes at 717-428-1144 for more information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Conservation District Ed. Center (Wetlands), Aliquippa. Contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at 724-869-2151, email: Lynszym3@verizon.net for more information.

Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium

Saturday, October 1, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Temple University, Ambler Campus. Visit the website www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more details.

Franklin Co. Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 p.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg. Annual Banquet. For more information, contact George Hurd at 717-263-9226, email: grh5@psu.edu

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

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 for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Glenn Bachman at 570-722-3671, email: bkeeper@ptd.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 9th. 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 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

Montgomery Co. Beekeepers

Saturday, November 5, 4:00 p.m. at the Plains Mennonite Church. Fall Banquet. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at 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 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 Glenn Bachman at 570-722-3671, email: bkeeper@ptd.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 for more information.

PSBA Annual Conference

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

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 for more information.

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. Conference details will be available on the ABF Web site soon. www.abfnet.org

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

September, 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:

Received July 28th, 2011

Q: Hi Bill

I enjoy your section in The Pennsylvania Beekeeper. I am only at this new hobby for my second year. I have been noticing that both years around the middle of summer as the brood cluster in the upper deep hatches the bees then fill these 4-5 frames with honey. This leaves the queen no room in the upper deep. I fear this may slow the hive down too much prior to winter. Is it okay to take the center 3-4 frames out and replace with drawn frames to give her room to lay eggs? Then after a round or two of brood raising allow them to fill with honey in the fall? Why do the bees take away her egg room? How is it best to store those honey frames till next spring if I want to use them to start nucs?

Thanks for your feedback

Garth

A: Hi Garth, Answered by email - Aug. 3rd

I'm trying to picture your hives, wish I could actually see them. In my opinion your bees are acting normally. I would think you would have honey supers on the hives at this time but maybe you already extracted and downsized your hives. If you have honey supers on and IF there is still a nectar flow, I would think they would store any excess nectar up in the supers. If you do not have supers on and the hives just consist of two deeps then they have no choice but to push the queen down into the bottom deep and store nectar in the top deep. This is what we want the bees to do as we approach the fall season and prepare for winter. In my area (Lehigh Valley) we've been in a drought situation for the last month, my bees aren't bringing in anything to store.

If you pulled the center 3-4 frames out and replaced them with drawn comb for the queen to lay in, what is to keep the workers from filling these frames with nectar as they did earlier? If you want to store drawn comb till next year and you only have a few to store, put them in a freezer bag and keep them in the freezer. Feel free to call: 610-264-0494

Keep in touch, Bill Mondjack

Reply, received from Garth after I answered his question by email.

Thanks for your reply Bill,

I am just southwest of Syracuse, we have been very dry too for July. I do have two honey supers on both of my hives since mid June and only one hive has honey deposited in them and only one of the two supers. I am told our goldenrod is what they fill up with the most and that is getting ready to bloom. I did a test and put three drawn frames in the top deep and took out the center three because it was completely honey bound. I did this in my stronger hive. I just went in last night after waiting a week and they have eggs and larvae in them. This hive did not swarm but requeened on its own at the end of June and maybe that had something to do with them packing the upper deep with all honey. However my slower hive is appearing to do the same thing in spite of having two honey supers on top. It only has two frames with capped brood and the other 8 are honey and most is capped already in the upper deep.

I guess they do what they do for some reason, my hope is to get them through winter. I appreciate your personal reply I was going to be watching the flyer for your column so thanks. If I called I would have a thousand more questions so I appreciate the offer and if I get stumped I will call you.

Thanks again

Garth

A: To Garth's reply:

Hi Garth,

I'm guessing you are using queen excluders? Am I right? Many times when a queen excluder is used the bees will put honey in the brood chamber first before traveling through the excluder to the honey supers. If your hive re-queened itself, that also explains the filling of the brood frames with honey and little brood. During the re-queening process there is a break in brood production and as brood hatches, leaving empty cells, the bees, reluctant to pass through the queen excluder will fill these cells with freshly gathered nectar. I guess you receive the PA. State Beekeepers newsletter? I'm glad we could communicate. It's good for beekeepers to exchange stories.

Bill Mondjack

Second reply from Garth, Aug. 4th

Thanks again Bill

Yes, I am from Lancaster, Pa originally. A friend of mine down that way has been doing bees for a long

(Continued on Page 13)

W.W.B.D. (Continued from Page 11)

time and he sends me up the bulletins. He was the one that suggested to get your opinion on swapping frames. Yea I do use queen excluders. The requeening probably had some impact but even last year midsummer they got very honey bound in the top deep and I just feared it would slow down egg laying too much with just the bottom deep being used by the queen.

*Thanks again for the advice
Garth*

Jeremy's Corner

As a Boy Scout I was exposed to a lot of first aid theory and practice, and last week it came back to me in a flash. Walking down a main street in town I heard a horrendous thump, turned around and realized that an elderly man had been hit by a car. He was clearly in a bad way – broken leg, fractured skull, lots of blood ... but fortunately from my first aid training I knew exactly what to do. I bent over and put my head between my knees to stop myself from fainting.

Only the Boy Scout bit is true, but hopefully the rest provided a chuckle. What is humor? Why do we laugh? In most cases it is when we are taken by surprise, when an outcome is contrary to our expectations.

It's like the environmental scientists experimenting with a vehicle fueled by peanut butter. Apparently the gas consumption is excellent but the car sticks to the roof of the garage.

That 'surprise' is called a paradigm shift. A paradigm is similar to a pair of glasses through which we see the world, glasses which are put there by our background experiences – our parents, schooling, friends and experiences. And they have limitations. Sometimes our view is unexpectedly expanded, we gain a new insight, a new realization, see a new and vital piece of the puzzle, and our paradigm is said to have shifted.

Clearly the extent to which your paradigm shifts depends in part on the extent to which you are exposed (or expose yourself) to new and different stimuli. Thus Diana Sammatro wrote in the April 2011 edition of *American Bee Journal*, "The bees really open a lot of doors in very interesting ways. I would never have imagined just where they would take me."

Americans today are essentially an urban/suburban people both in residence and culture. Less than 2% of the population produces the majority of the food we consume and, if projections by the USDA are correct, we will soon be a nation that not only imports all of our fruits and vegetables but most of our staples as well – corn, wheat and soya beans. Such a scenario was inconceivable one hundred years ago.

It seems it is easier to import from China, Israel and South Africa than it is to change our chemical industrial agricultural paradigm, which would require addressing the fundamental issues causing the decline in our agricultural productivity.

The reduction in the presence of the honey bee is one of those symptoms, although it is in itself a symptom of much larger issues.

Not surprisingly, few of our urbanites know much about the food they eat, least of all the processes that are involved in its production. Sometimes, looking at a plateful of food, I'm awed by the fact that it is the end product of a process that began millions of years ago with the formation of the soil and the microbiotic elements that give it life and nutrition.

We live in larger homes, drive larger cars, consume more gas and food per capita than any people on this planet. Americans compose 5% of the world's population and, by some estimates, consume 40% of the earth's resources. That is a non-sustainable equation, a self-defeating paradigm.

America is also the only country in the world where the total debt of the average family (mortgage, car and college loans, credit card payments etc.) is greater than that family's total assets.

And in the midst of this cornucopia many Americans have a mystical reverence for nature based on dramatic TV footage or occasional visits to unspoiled nature parks. Not only do they oppose any proposal that threatens this idyll but they don't make the transfer from pristine nature to their own urban habitats and behaviors.

Rather than being based on sound ecology or reasoned understanding, our perceptions of the natural world are grounded in nineteenth century Romanticism, which was a reaction to the exploitation and industrialization that followed the Scientific Revolution. Emerson, Thoreau, Longfellow, Cooper and Muir expressed it in writing; Homer, Cole and Bierstadt put it on canvas, and National Geographic put carefully staged photographs of majestic nature on our coffee tables.

And because so few of us have kith and kin living on the land, we uncritically accept such Romantic portrayals and verify them in cruises to Alaska or coach tours to the fall colors in New England.

Writing in the March/April 2011 edition of *Tree Farmer*, Steve Arno and Carl Fiedler describe Walt Disney's 1942 animated feature film *Bambi* as capturing viewer's emotions and having a huge influence on our view of wild life. Similarly Jerry Seinfeld's *Bee Movie* with its anatomically and behaviorally incorrect portrayal of bees may well influence a younger generation's perception of these vital insects. Next year's planned release of a film of Dr. Seuss's story *The Lorax*, in which a forest of mythical trees is cut down by a greedy industrialist, is another example of the rush to the extremes without any consideration of the middle ground, the reality in which we live, eat and survive.

Hence the populace is influenced by the advocacy of the extremes, those who idolize nature or demonize technology in short sound bytes. But somewhere between the extremes of Yosemite and downtown Los Angeles there is a gap.

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Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 13)

Our modern world is here to stay; we are not going to return voluntarily to the frugal life styles of the nineteenth century. We have inherited a post World War II, even a post 9/11 world, with a deliberate emphasis on consumerism, which continues to material increase despite the environmental damage and pollution, which are inconsistent with our romantic ideals of nature. In public we advocate protecting the environment while in private we contribute to its decline.

The solution cannot be found in either of the extreme archetypes; indeed doomsday scenarios can make us feel helpless and leave us feeling fatalistic. Yet there are things each of us can do that make a difference, and urban beekeeping is a central part of this revised paradigm. Beekeepers, once perceived as mildly eccentric old geezers, are now seen as a vital part of the greening of the urban areas, with bees that are less impacted by chemicals and exposed to a greater variety of floral sources.

And this time it is no laughing matter.

Jeremy Barnes

Nature Notes

Successful bee colonies may be spreading a sweet, **old sneaker smell** into the air around them on still evenings as workers evaporate water from what nectar? Probably not goldenrod. Probably **asters**. Speaking of odors, **brown marmorated stink bugs** from Asia were first reported in Allentown, (southeastern) Pennsylvania, in 1998. Having arrived without any of the organisms (parasitic wasps, for instance) that keep them in check, their numbers have exploded. This species of stink bug is nuisance to homeowners whose houses (similar to a big tree with creviced bark but a lot warmer) may appeal to stink bugs as a refuge from winter. We have many species of stink bugs. Brown marmorated stink bugs puncture apples and peaches, causing a brown corky area to form in the sweet flesh of the fruit. They are a threat to the livelihood of fruit growers. People who have experienced stink bugs no longer complain about ladybugs or (orange and black) milkweed beetles in the house.

Hawks that live on small birds, snakes, or amphibians are headed south. During September, migrating **broadwinged hawks** watch for a migrating hawk to circle up in a thermal, a rising column of air warmed by an expanse of sun-heated, unforested ground. Broadwings fly to the thermal and rise in a gyre that may include hundreds of hawks, sometimes looking like pepper in the sky. From the top of the thermal, the hawks glide south, spreading out and searching for another thermal. In October, **sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks** (both feed on birds) move south flying with a distinctive flap-flap-flap-glide flight pattern. Many of them winter in Pennsylvania, often near bird feeders.

On cold September nights following the passage of a cold front, millions of small birds flying south are drifted

out over the Atlantic Ocean by strong northwest winds. The birds orient south using star patterns and keep heading south, eventually flying through the front edge of the cold front and ending up on the north coast of South America. The behavior was well-known from stories of flocks of birds landing on boats far out at sea and observation of other flocks flying towards shore in the early morning. This behavior has to have started by chance. What were land birds doing out at sea? Some survived the trip. Does overwater migration have any advantages? Steady winds and fewer predators are two. Overwater migration, a theory in the 1960s, was confirmed by time-lapse photos of airport radar screens that showed radar echoes from migrating flocks of birds.

Big **green darner dragonflies** and orange and black **monarch butterflies** also migrate. **Red and hoary bats** are migrating now. They are larger and chunkier than our common big brown bats and a lot bigger than our common little brown bats. Watch for bats against the evening sky. In many parts of the country, bats that roost or winter together in caves are disappearing because of White Nose Syndrome a fungus illness contagious only among bats, that kills them. Bats forage at the same time that mosquitoes fly. Bats and dragonflies help control mosquitoes.

Yellowjackets will soon be aggressively defending entrances to in-ground nests as they raise hundreds of queen yellowjackets. Foraging yellowjackets become pests as they search for sweets and protein to feed larvae. We can try not to smell like a flower or like dead meat and, perhaps, make ourselves less attractive to the foragers. The new queens leave the nest, mate, and hide for the winter. Each surviving queen starts a new colony next spring. **On average**, how many **queens** from one colony should **survive** to start a new colony? If, on average, more than one survives, we are soon **buried** in yellowjackets. If, on average, fewer than one queen survives, yellowjackets soon become **extinct**. On average, how many acorns from two parent oak trees should survive?

Queen **Cassiopeia** is in the northeast in late evening. In autumn, Cassiopeia looks like a "W" listing to the left. To the right of Cassiopeia is The Great Square of Pegasus, an (apparently) empty part of the sky marked by four stars, an empty square standing on one of its corners.

By Tim Sterrett

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 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.

Honey Queen Report

By Alyssa Fine

Greetings beekeepers! Another month has passed and I hope everyone is having a successful season with their hives. I love this time of year because as we transition to fall weather, the honey starts to darken. In my area, we get a lovely red shade thanks to an abundance of Japanese Knotweed.

I finished up July with a few events. On July 25th I visited the Lebanon Area Fair. In addition to chatting with 200 guests, I gave two cooking demonstrations throughout the day. I whipped up honey berry smoothies, but the crowd seemed to be more excited about my honey vinaigrette dressing, which is listed in my recipe brochure.

The next day, I flew to Providence, Rhode Island to attend the annual conference of the Eastern Apicultural Society with American Honey Princess Allison Adams. From the 26th through the 29th, I had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops and demonstrations, all while representing Pennsylvania's beekeepers. My favorite part of the conference was the Apitherapy Room, where I learned to make a honey ointment, applied Manuka honey to a wound, and even got to administer bee stings!

On July 30th, I returned to Pennsylvania to attend the Fayette County Fair in Dunbar. I gave a presentation with my father about beginning beekeeping and helped to sell honey while answering questions for about 200 guests.

August has been jam-packed with promotions. On August 3rd I visited the Hollidaysburg Public Library and gave three presentations as part of the summer reading program. I reached nearly 90 people during this event.

On August 4th I traveled to the Lancaster Country Club to speak to 35 children about honey bees. They were thrilled to see PSBA member Lori Stahl show up in a bee suit and open up her hives located on the Country Club lawn. Afterwards, we tasted varietal honeys and I quizzed the kids about honey bees so they could earn their snacks. That same day, I visited the Eastern Lancaster County Library in New Holland to speak to a group of 15 children and adults.

I traveled to the Goshen County Fair in West Chester on August 5th. I answered questions in the Ag tent and went on stage to auction a prize winning honey donated by Tim and Jenny Sterrett. I reached about 300 people through this event.

August 6th I set up a booth at the New Holland Farmers Market and answered questions at my observation hive for the 100 people who visited.

On August 9th I was back in the western half of the state in downtown Pittsburgh for the Carnegie Library's Market Square Reading Room. During the lunch rush, I set up my materials and answered questions about honey bees for the 50 or so people who came past. August 10th found me at the Butler Farm Show, where I worked with local beekeepers,

helping to answer questions throughout the afternoon, and took part in an extraction demonstration. I spoke with nearly 350 people that evening.

August 11th I visited the Mountain Area Fair in Farmington. I brought my observation hive and offered information and fun facts about honey bees to the 75 people who made it past my booth. August 12th I traveled to Reedsville for the Mifflin County Youth Fair. I set up a honey bee ring toss game and my observation hive to grab the kids' attention. Not one of the 200 kids who visited my station that afternoon left without a honey bee sticker or coloring book.

August 13th I visited Woods Run Library in Pittsburgh to speak with a group of 15 children and adults about the importance of honey bees. On August 14th I set up a booth at the Washington County Fair where I offered information about honey bees as well as a variety of local honeys for purchase. I spoke to nearly 350 people throughout the course of the afternoon and evening. August 15th I visited the Squirrel Hill Library in Pittsburgh to speak with 25 children and adults. The kids were especially intrigued by the observation hive and spent a lot of time looking into it with my honey bee magnifying glass.

August 16th through 18th I was at Ag Progress Days at Penn State's research center at Rock Springs. I worked alongside Princess Emily and American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson. In addition to taking honey ice cream orders and even scooping some myself, I had the opportunity to walk the grounds and even attend a luncheon with many local and state legislators. During the event, I had the opportunity to meet with PA Secretary of Agriculture George Grieg and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. I estimate that I reached at least 5,000 people during the three day event.

On August 19th I hit the air waves as I had a half hour radio interview with Dave Malarkey of Butler's WISR station. We spoke about everything from my experiences as PA Honey Queen to the healing properties of honey, and much in between! His broadcast had the potential to reach 35,000 people.

August 20th I traveled to Downingtown to attend Honey Fest, a weekend event that benefits the Polycystic Kidney Disease charity foundation. I provided information about honey bees and passed out honey bee stickers to all of the 100 or so people who visited my booth. August 21st I was in North Western PA with Cathy and Charlie Vorisek at the Crawford County Fair. I pointed out the queen bee in an observation hive in front of an extensive display of honeys. I helped Charlie during a honey extraction demonstration, and Cathy helped me to get on air for a fifteen minute radio interview with Linesville's WMVL station that reaches up to 40,000 listeners.

August 22nd I worked in the education booth at the Westmoreland County Fair. I had the opportunity to

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Honey Queen Report (Continued from Page 17)
spend time with 2009 PA Honey Princess Kelly Komar, who is now the president of her local association. What a privilege to work with her! I spoke to approximately 250 people throughout the afternoon. August 27th I traveled to the Hookstown Fair to work with the Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association in their education booth. I spent the afternoon selling honey donated by club members and answering questions about honey bees.

Whew! As you can see, it has been a busy month!

Well it's that time of year again- back to school season! If you have a child, grandchild, niece/nephew, neighbor, etc. who is in school, please consider passing along information about the PA Honey Queen Program to his/her teacher. Contact Rachel Bryson at (717) 643-0010 or email brysonrachel@yahoo.com to schedule a visit by the Honey Queen or Princess today!

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)

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