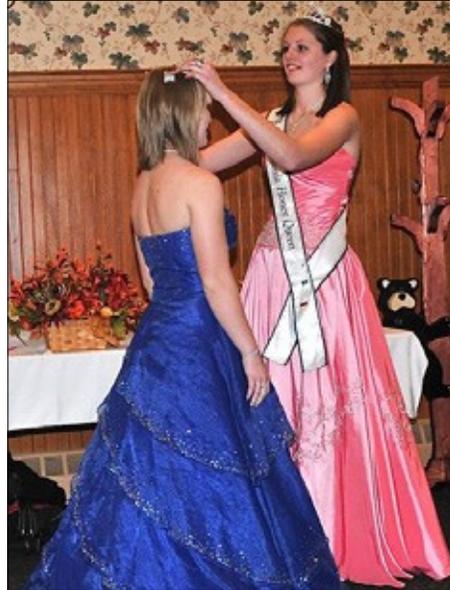




# THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

December 2012  
Volume No. 10

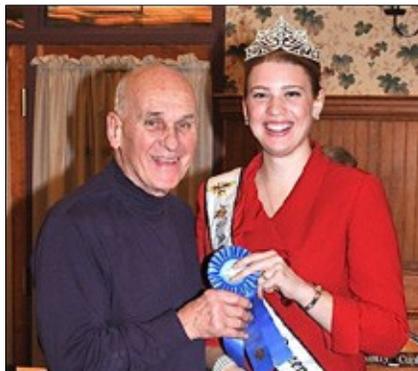
The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association



Annual Conference, Nov. 2012



Photos by Bill Mondjack



## News and Views...

I would like to introduce myself, Charlie Vorisek, as the incoming President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. I am humbled and honored to accept this position and look forward to representing this membership.

My story of beekeeping began 20 years ago when my oldest daughter, Carleen, wanted to be in FFA. I teased her about beekeeping. Neither of us knew anything about bees. We learned together. She embraced it. In 1997, she was one of four finalists in the National FFA Proficiency contest and won a trip to Costa Rica. Her younger sister, Shanna, continued this enterprise. Shanna's project book consistently ranked high in Pennsylvania FFA and in 2002 was honored with first place in the state.

Then they graduated. It was tax-exempt as an FFA project. Not having been stung enough, I decided to continue the business and make it pay for itself. I have spent my life in the tool and die industry. So it wasn't long before I was working 9-10 hour days at work and then all my off hours trying to raise bees. I took some small business classes and learned to run QuickBooks. All the wise advice along the way told me not to give up my day job. For certain, don't borrow money to do it. Something would need to give, because there aren't enough hours to do it all. In 2009 I got laid-off for the first time in my life. So I decided to see if I could push the beekeeping to a sustainable level. I weaned myself off unemployment and am still bumping along. I won't say it's easy. It's farming. Success is dependent on weather and everything else.

I operate about 150 colonies... about half of where I think I need to be for one person. I consider myself a 'full-time-sideliner'.

Along the way I helped resurrect the Northwestern Pa Beekeepers Association in 2001. It had fallen apart in the early '90's. I have served as NWPBA president for 10 years. My wife, Cathy, and I have been chairpersons of the Apiary Dept. of the Crawford County Fair for 15 years. As I followed my FFA kids to the Farm Show, I learned about the Pa State Beekeepers. For about the last 6 or 7 years, Cathy and I, have been helping at the Farm Show. With our daughter, Carleen, living in the Harrisburg area, we have two reasons to visit in January. Each year we have found ourselves more involved and always appreciated by membership of this association. The people and networking have been a positive experience.

The journey from hobby to full time beekeeping has been an education in much more than bees. It's taxes, small business administration, registration, food license, farmer, manufacturer, producer, processor, packer, marketing, researcher, scientist and legislator. Everyone wants to pursue their passion uninhibited by the government. Unfortunately, we must be involved with the process or someone else will run the process over us. We need to move forward with good science and not just because that's how somebody else does

it. Sometimes we can't wait on the science and need sound ideas now.

Some wise forefathers of PSBA formed this organization for the purposes of promoting scientific research, sharing information, reviewing legislation, promoting fellowship with county clubs and sharing with the public a true appreciation of the economic and ecological importance of the honeybee. These are the things I hope to continue. I look forward to serving and representing you as president of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association.

*Charlie Vorisek, PSBA President*

## 2013 Farm Show Registration:

On-line registration can be done <http://pda.state.pa.us/farmshowonlineregistration/>

The only snag is the on-line registration requires ~~vet~~ veterinary information. Of course we can understand that for livestock, but other commodities it would seem quite unnecessary. Regardless, just put in your favorite vet's info and move on.

**Attention Counties:** Please submit your 2013 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

## Lyme Disease Information

For those of you who missed the webinar presentation on Lyme Disease at the PSBA state meeting, you can view it at your leisure by visiting:

<http://extension.psu.edu/private-forests/tools-resources/webinars/previous/forestry-series/2010/lyme-disease-in-pennsylvania>.

### In This Issue

Minutes from General Meeting	5
A Note from Vince	7
PSBA Honey Queen Report	7
Officers and Membership Information	8
Upcoming Dates	9
What Would Bill Do	11
Nature Notes	13
Honey Queen Program	15
Honorary Life Membership Award	17
Beekeeping is Threatened...	17
Jeremy's Corner	19
...It Pays to Sting Back	21
Resolutions	23

### Minutes of the General Meeting

The PSBA General Meeting was held November 10, 2012 at the Best Western/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg.

President Warren Miller called the meeting to order.

Our veterans were acknowledged.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in our newsletter, *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper*. Seconded and passed.

#### Committee Reports:

Farm Show: Stewart Mathias reported on the Food Court Booth. Workers are needed for the Food Court, Learning Center and the Market Place.

Tom Jones explained the purpose of the Learning Center. This is a large attraction. More people are needed to fill all the exhibit spaces.

Charlie Vorisek said the prize money has increased for the County Exhibits and counties are encouraged to enter. There are spaces for 5 county exhibits.

Rachel Bryson, Chairperson of the Queen Committee introduced Alyssa Fine, the 2012 ABF Honey Queen who gave her report as reigning queen. Jessica Long told about her year as 2012 PSBA Honey Queen. Elena Hoffman, our 2013 PSBA Honey Queen introduced herself to everyone. We wish her a great year in 2013.

Rachel announced that \$1150 was raised at the auction Friday night and \$523 from raffle tickets for the Queen program.

On the legislative side, there was discussion on Act 106 of 2010. Act 180 of 2012 repeals some of the restrictions against the small beekeeper. Dick Chapin talked about the new Act. Susquehanna County was very instrumental in getting this passed. He thanked all who helped in any way.

There was also a lot of discussion on local municipalities who want to restrict beekeeping activities.

The Treasurer’s report was next. A motion was made to accept the report pending the audit. Seconded and carried.

Warren Miller is looking for someone to replace him as a delegate on the Penn State Ag Council. Linda Reich and Alyssa Fine will serve as delegates for 2013.

Tim Sterrett read the 2012 Resolutions. They will be printed in the PSBA newsletter. A motion was made to accept them. Seconded and passed.

The Audit Committee reported the books were in order and a motion to accept their report was made, seconded and passed.

Delegates to American Beekeeping Federation are Dave Hackenberg, Rachel Bryson and Jim Bobb.

Bob Shaffer and Charlie Vorisek presented Sharon McDonald with an Honorary Life Membership in the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers for her service to the beekeeping industry.

The 2013 summer beekeepers picnic will be August 10, 2013 at the Morris Arboretum hosted by Montgomery County.

A motion was made to give Montgomery County money towards the picnic, not to exceed \$700. Seconded and passed.

Officers were elected for 2013:

President: Charlie Vorisek

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Vince Aloyo

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Jody Eberhart

Secretary –Treasurer: Yvonne Crimbring

A motion was made to increase the Secretary-Treasurer’s salary to \$1750. Seconded and passed.

The following motions were read from the Executive Board meeting on Friday:

Motion made to authorize the officers to order “Give the Bees A Helping Hands” brochures in the amount of 10,000 as needed at a reasonable amount of money.

Motion was made to pay Charlie Vorisek for a banner used at EAS in August 2 PSBA signs for the ends of our 10x10 pop-up and a bill for canvas for the Learning Center in the amount of \$146.23.

A motion was made to support the following organizations in 2013:

American Beekeeping Federation	\$100.00
Eastern Apiculture Society	50.00
Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations	100.00
Penn State Ag Council	50.00
FFA Scholarship Fund	500.00
Association for Sustainable Agriculture	100.00

Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to adjourn

Yvonne Crimbring  
Secretary-Treasurer

**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES** 4/14 and receives the newsletter at 820 Southampton Ave, Wyndmoor, PA will send his/her name and an account of his/her beekeeping operation to the editor at 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724 by January 20 he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, *The Speedy Bee* or *The Small Beekeepers Journal*. When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.

## A Note from Vince...

I'm Vincent (Vince) Aloyo, your newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Thank you for allowing me to work for the benefit of PSBA. Although I am a long time member of PSBA, many of you do not know me; so allow me to introduce myself. I started beekeeping in the summer of 1966 after taking Dr. Roger Morse's beekeeping course at Cornell University. I simply fell in love with honey bees and have kept one or more hives ever since, even while serving in the Army and during my postdoctoral time in The Netherlands. Although I have been a beekeeper for many years, I manage only a few hives. My main goals are to learn about honey bees and to teach others the art and science of beekeeping. To that end, I have been actively involved in local beekeeping clubs wherever I have lived. Since retiring, I have begun teaching beekeeping at the college level at Delaware Valley College and at Temple University. In addition, I teach introductory beekeeping and the science of queen rearing at the continuing education level. I hope to make use of my skills to assist PSBA.

On my way back from attending the Apimondia symposium on "Queen breeding, selection and honey bee health" in Quebec City (on which I will report in another newsletter), I visited Mike Palmer in Vermont to learn how he winters his bees. Because Mike lives in northern Vermont, only a few miles from the Canadian border, his bees experience a tough winter. In addition to producing honey (both liquid and cut comb), Mike also sells queens and nucs. He strongly advises that every beekeeper have a few nucs to replace winter losses, failing queens and, if not needed, to sell. Mike has good success overwintering nucs. Side by side, two of his 4 frame nucs are the same width as a ten frame hive. His overwintering procedure is as follows: He overwinters his nucs in a deep box which has either a movable feeder or solid, thin (3/4") divide separating the two queens. Above the deep he places two 4 frame boxes filled with honey. Thus each nuc has a total of 8 frames. Each nuc has both an upper and lower entrance. The two adjacent nucs are wrapped with a 78 inch length of tar paper. Mike seals the inner cover holes and places an inch thick layer of Styrofoam above the inner cover and under the outer cover. In the yard I visited Mike was wintering a mating nuc box above the overwintering regular nucs. The mating nuc is also provided with an upper and lower entrance and wrapped in tar paper. The Styrofoam insulation board is placed above the mating nuc. In the spring, Mike will move the mating nuc to a holding yard for division into mini-nucs to receive sealed queen cells.

This year, I am trying two different approaches to overwintering nucs, one of which is similar to Mike's method. I will let you know my results in the spring.



## PA Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Long

Greetings once again beekeepers! I hope that everyone had a very blessed Thanksgiving spent with your loved ones. On November 9 and 10, I attended the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Convention in Lewisburg. During the annual banquet I gave my three-minute marketing presentation on the versatility of honey, which I will be presenting during the American Beekeeping Federation convention in Hershey this January. Thank you to everyone who gave me very helpful ideas to make my presentation the best that it can be. I also gave a summary of my year so far, which included:

- 166 Presentations
- 16,164 Miles Traveled
- 4.4 Million People Reached Throughout my Year

At the beginning of my reign I set three goals for myself. My first goal was to do promotions in 30 different counties; I was able to visit 33 different counties this year. My second goal was to have 100 Facebook fans by the end of my reign.

The Facebook page is a great way to share pictures from promotions and let people know about recipes using honey. We now have 108 Facebook fans. If you have not "liked" our page, please visit it and like us! The last goal that I set for myself was to get two contestants for the 2013 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Contest. When I was at the Union County West End Fair, I met a very intelligent beekeeper and her name is Elena Hoffman. I had the honor of crowning Elena as our 2013 Honey Queen and I know that she will do a great job representing Pennsylvania beekeepers. I would like to wish her good luck as she travels the state.

On November 17, I attended the 2 C's and A Bee's Annual Banquet. It was really great celebrating this annual event with local beekeepers. I was given time to give a summary of my year to the association that sponsored and supported me through this whole journey. Afterwards, I sold chances to win the beautiful quilt benefitting the American Honey Queen Program.

As the end of my reign is getting closer, I am excited to attend the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference that will be held in Hershey this January. I will be attending and representing Pennsylvania beekeepers. In preparation for the American competition, I am selling raffle tickets to benefit the national program. The tickets, which are for a Queen-size quilt, are \$5 each and you do not need to be present to win. To purchase a ticket, please visit me at the Pennsylvania Farm Show or contact Rachel.

This year truly has been an amazing opportunity for me. I want to thank all of the PSBA members and all of the county associations for making this year possible. Once again, thank you for this opportunity over this past year!

Please contact Rachel Bryson at [brysonrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:brysonrachel@yahoo.com) or (717) 643-0010 to book your date for Elena Hoffman, our 2013 Honey Queen.



## Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the January 2013 issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is December 27<sup>th</sup>.**

### **North East PA Beekeepers**

Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepahoney@gmail.com](mailto:purepahoney@gmail.com)

### **Pennsylvania Farm Show**

January 5-12, 2013, at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, Harrisburg. If you are interested in volunteering your time or sharing your knowledge please contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231 or Sharon McDonald at [sailor.mac.bruce@gmail.com](mailto:sailor.mac.bruce@gmail.com)

### **2013 North American Beekeeping**

#### **Conference & Tradeshow**

January 8-12, 2013, at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania. [Read the announcement](#), final details can be found on the [ABF website](#)

### **Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley**

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 7:00 p.m. at the Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville. For more information, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit <http://www.thebeeyard.org>

### **Western PA Beekeeping Seminar**

Friday & Saturday, February 15-16, 2013 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Mars, PA. For more information, contact the Penn State Extension, Beaver County, at 724-774-3003.

### **2013 EAS Conference and Short Course**

Monday-Friday, August 5-9, 2013, at the West Chester University, West Chester, Pa. visit the [EAS website](#) for more information.

### **PSBA Summer Picnic**

Saturday, August 10, 2013 at the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA. The picnic is being hosted by the Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association. Watch for additional information.

### **PSBA Annual Conference**

Friday and Saturday, November 8 & 9, 2013 at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. Additional information will be posted on our website <http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org> as it becomes available.

## 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 [pabee1@frontier.com](mailto:pabee1@frontier.com) and include your name, mailing address, phone number along with current email address stating that you'd like to receive the PSBA newsletter via email.

## Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

There will be a Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar held February 15 & 16, 2013 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Mars, PA. up-to-date information about managing honey bees will be presented by speakers: Dr. Jim Tew, retired Professor and Honey Bee Entomologist, Ohio State University; Jennifer Berry, Coordinator of Apicultural Research, University of Georgia; and Dr. Larry Connor, Author, Owner of Wicwas Press.

A trade show featuring many major beekeeping supply companies will be held on site in conjunction with this seminar. Confirmed list of trade show vendors: Blue Sky Bee Supply, Betterbee, Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, Walter T. Kelley Company, Dadant and Sons – NY Office, Mann Lake, and Simpsons Bee Supply.

The cost of the seminar is \$50 for participants and \$30 for their guests and children under 18. Online registration is available. Deadline to register is February 7, 2013.

For a seminar brochure or to register online, please visit <http://extension.psu.edu/beaver> and click "Events", or call Penn State Extension, Beaver County, at 724-774-3003.



## 3 lb. Honey Bee Packages With a Marked Queen

Available first week of April 2012

**Contact: Lee Miller**  
3180 Ridge Road Extension  
Freedom, PA 15042

[jlmbeglad@gmail.com](mailto:jlmbeglad@gmail.com)  
724-544-2900

**W.W.B.D. (What would Bill do?)***December, 2012**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.

*Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper*

**Q: Received Oct. 23, 2012****Q: Bill**

*I am losing sleep over the question of whether or not to treat at this late date for mites.*

*I have been following my Dad's example in my first year... A 40 yr veteran and his treatments in upstate New York go on this week. He uses the strips that hang between the frames. I have to miss out on our winterizing class next month at the club hives and so I reached out to Steve. He suggested treatment might be better in the late summer after the nectar flow but I could treat now for the mites on the bees.*

*I don't see evidence of any mites but I have not done any of the tests nor do I have a screened bottom board.*

*I have two hives at Northampton Community College and they each have about 70 lbs for the winter of honey stores. I have been feeding but plan to remove the top feeder pails and the extra supers this week.*

*But I worry about using a product I am supposed to use a respirator for on my precious bees! At this late date in the season I worry about losing bees with any associated die off. But recognize if I don't treat I could have an outcome that is far worse.*

*Could you weigh in Bill on how you handle this thorny topic??*

*Sharon Zondag  
LVBA Club Member and 1st year beekeeper*

**A:** Hi Sharon,

I trust your Father knows much of beekeeping, with all of his experience, but I am surprised they are just treating for Varroa at this time of year in NY, and I am also surprised they are still using what I think you described as Apistan Strips. Research has shown the Varroa destructor has developed resistance to Apistan. Treating at anytime of the year will be effective (with the proper miticide) against mites but research has shown we want to knock down the Varroa counts earlier than Oct., sometime in late summer, so we can have at least two complete brood cycles develop into adult bees before winter that have NOT been parasitized by high numbers of mites.

As Steve stated: you can treat now and still knock down the phoretic mite counts if you use a miticide that is effective against the mites.

I understand your concern of using Formic acid because of the instruction to wear a respirator while applying it. I must advise you to follow the label directions although I admit I usually don't use a respirator. I have used MAQS (MiteAway Quick Strips) and I find it to be very effective against Varroa and Tracheal mites. I also understand your concern of losing some brood from the MAQS treatment. You will lose some young larvae when treating with MAQS. You may find some queens have already shutdown for the season, so if you do decide to treat with MAQS now it will be quite effective against any phoretic mites.

From what you've described, it sounds like your hives have a good amount of food stores to carry them through the winter months and if they have a good strong population to form a large enough cluster they should be able to keep themselves warm. It's hard to say what the outcome will be (survival rate), we all wonder if our hives will make it through the winter months. I guess you'll just have to wait and see when spring arrives. I treated most of my colonies on time (late July) but I treated one yard late (I have some concerns as to their survival.

Keep in touch Sharon and I wish you the best with your bees,

Bil

**Honey Roasted Nuts**

3 cups nuts  
½ cup honey  
2 Tablespoons butter or margarine  
½ teaspoon grated orange peel  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Combine all ingredients; mix well. Microwave at high (100%) in 600 to 700 watt microwave oven 4 to 7 minutes or until nuts are toasted, stirring halfway through cooking time. Spread nuts on foil to cool.

Taken from the National Honey Board; [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)

## Nature Notes

A lake's surface will **freeze** when the water temp drops to 32 degrees F. Cold water **sinks** to the bottom of a lake. So the lake water, cooled by cold air, gets turned over in autumn as the surface water keeps sinking, pushing warmer, less dense water to the top. In summer, a lake is heated by the sun. The warm water stays on the surface and a lake becomes stratified: warm at the surface, cool at the bottom. Fish may retreat to the bottom where cooler water holds more dissolved oxygen for them to extract from the water with their gills. In autumn, a lake gets stirred.

With colder water sinking, **the whole lake** has to be cold before it can freeze. At about 40 degrees F, the cooling water becomes less dense than the rest of the water in the lake. Colder than 40 F, water is even less dense and rises to the top. Water ice **floats**. And a layer of ice on the surface insulates the water below from cold winter winds.

**Snow** protects some animals and makes life tough for many others. **Mice** and **voles** live on the surface of the ground below the snow. A layer of snow gives them some protection from predators. **Deer** have never gone through a doorway or had a roof over their heads. Nor have they ever washed or brushed their coats of hair. They seem placidly to endure both wet and cold weather. Maybe deer have other things to think about. In the suburbs of southeastern Pennsylvania, deer bed down on the lawn and in the brush among the trees beside the driveway. While they stand up to acknowledge the presence of a human, they do not run away. Snow and cold must be a challenge for deer. At age 8, a white-tailed deer is old. Not many reach the age of ten.

Need a **flower fix** in December? **Dandelions** bloom all year along with **dead nettle** and **veronica**. Dead nettle produces a stalk of tiny magenta flowers that look like orchids. Tiny blue and white veronica flowers appear in lawns.

**Great horned owls** are hooting, ("Who's awake? Me, too.") establishing nesting territories **Red-tailed hawks** are perched along highways, waiting for a rodent to appear on the grass margins of the road. Red-tails are big with a prominent dark belly-band separating white breast and belly feathers. **Kestrels**, small falcons, were once easily seen in winter, perched on power lines near open farmland. They seem to be fading away. When the air "smells" like snow, feeder birds seem especially active, darting in for sunflower seeds.

In our evening sky, bright **Jupiter** is close to **Aldebaran**, above the belt of **Orion**, in the southeast. To the left of Orion's vertical belt is his shoulder, red giant **Betelgeuse** ("beetle-juice"). Betelgeuse is so big that the orbit of Earth, and even Mars, would fit inside the star. The morning "star" is **Venus**, low in the east.

Stars **twinkle**; planets do not. Through a telescope or even binoculars, the giant planets Saturn and Jupiter appear as tiny **discs**. Stars, immensely far away, look like **pinpoints** of light even through a telescope. The tiny, narrow ray of light from a star gets bounced around by dust and water vapor in the air, making the image appear to dance. Light reflected from a planet's disc is a wider beam and appears to shine more steadily.

By Tim Sterrett



## House Bill 2565 Passes Unanimously

HB 2565 exempts on-the-farm honey producers from food license and registration, provided they produce 100% of the honey offered for sale. The honey offered for sale must comply with the 1974 law referred to as the Honey Sale and Labeling Act. However...anyone is still subject to inspection. Someone getting sick on the product or complaint would most likely prompt an inspection. Otherwise, an on-farm producer will likely never see an inspector. The governor signed this legislation, titled Act 180 of 2012, on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. It will take effect in 60 days. So... in January 2013, small producers will not need a license or registration to sell their honey directly.

A small producer may sell at events that are less than 3 days (local town festival, craft show or holiday event, etc.) without license or registration. Or from a road-side stand at the farm where the honey is produced.

This legislation does not exempt license, registration and inspection for honey sold at a regularly scheduled farm market or to stores. Stores are required that their wholesalers meet food safety regulations. That includes honey. If you are a wholesaler, you are considered a business, not a hobby.

The Susquehanna Beekeepers Association, through their local representative, Sandra Major, initiated this amendment. Hats off to SBA! PA State Beekeepers Association fully supported and participated in hearings and communications regarding this amendment.

All related legislation and laws may be viewed on our website at [pastatebeekeepers.org](http://pastatebeekeepers.org)

*Charlie Vorisek, PSBA President*

## PA Honey Queen Program

### A Note from the Chair

Greetings Pennsylvania beekeepers! Another very successful promotion year is coming to a close for the Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program and we find ourselves preparing to start another. Queen Jessica has been a fabulous representative of the PSBA this year, promoting the industry through more than 160 presentations across the state.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Elena Hoffman as our 2013 Pennsylvania Honey Queen. Elena, 17, is from Millmont and currently attends Mifflinburg Area High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, is active with track and field, enjoys Chemistry and Biology, and was the recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence, in addition to keeping several hives of bees. We welcome Elena to the Honey Queen family and look forward to working with her this coming year.

Now is the time to book your event with Elena for 2013 promotions. The Honey Queen can promote at a wide range of events, include schools, fairs, farmers markets, civic groups, retirement communities, libraries and so on. Please contact me to arrange for a promotion.

In other news, the Queen Committee met during the PSBA annual convention in November and many decisions regarding the program were determined. A large change is that we will be asking for suggested donations from events inviting the Honey Queen to assist with program expenses. Also, in recognition of the work the Queen preforms for the PSBA throughout her year, the committee voted to institute a per diem for the Queen; she will now receive a small payment for each day of promotion. Other decisions made by the committee will be communicated to each local club through a letter in the near future.

As my final note, I encourage each of you to attend the American Beekeeping Federation convention in Hershey in January. This national convention brings together beekeepers from across the United States to learn from top researchers about the industry. It is a huge honor for the ABF to choose Pennsylvania as the site of the 2013 convention. Consider attending the convention even for just one day. In addition, the PSBA is sponsoring a dance following the ABF banquet the Saturday of the convention and we encourage you to attend.

Please contact me to arrange your 2013 promotions and we look forward to continuing to serve the PSBA and Pennsylvania beekeepers.

Rachel Bryson  
Chair, Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program  
(717) 643-0010 or [brysonrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:brysonrachel@yahoo.com)



2013 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Elena Hoffman, center, is joined by 2012 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Jessica Long, left, and former Pennsylvania Honey Queen and current American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine after the PSBA annual banquet.

## PSBA Banquet Highlights

Our Annual Banquet was held on Friday night, November 9 at the Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, with 136 in attendance. Dick Chapin gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed a wonderful buffet filled with delicious food.

Warren Miller introduced Cliff Sunflower, our entertainment for the evening. He performed his famous "Waggle-Tail Dance" with the help of the audience. It was enjoyed by all, both those who participated and those who were lucky enough not to get chosen.

Rachel Bryson, Chairperson of the Queen Committee introduced Jessica Long, our 1012 PSBA Honey Queen who gave an account of her past year's activities. Alyssa Fine, 2012 American Honey Queen, also gave her report. Both girls had a very busy year.

Jessica then crowned our 2013 PSBA Honey Queen, Elena Hoffman. Elena is a senior at Mifflinburg High School.

Mark Antunes was our auctioneer for the evening with \$1150 being raised for the Queen program along with \$523 from raffle tickets for two benches.

A drawing for door prizes was the final event of the evening.

Thank you to all who helped with the banquet in any way.

## Honorary Life Membership Award

Sharon McDonald was presented the Honorary Life Membership Award at the PSBA Annual Conference, held in Lewisburg. Sharon retired after years working in the Pa Department of Agriculture's Apiary division. Part of her work was doing a lot of field research, inspections, laboratory studies and beekeeper contact.

As Sharon retired a few years ago, she has continued to remain involved with the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. Sharon helps in setting up exhibits at the Farm Show. She also coordinates the volunteer list for the Learning Center and helps serve honey ice cream in the Food Court.

Public education has been one of the most important tasks of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association. Our new website does an excellent job of bringing Pennsylvania beekeeping to the public at large. It has strived to meet all areas of interest. Included is the contact point of the **BeeHelp** email, in order to help with general questions and help with bee related issues.

In January 2009, Sharon volunteered to be the person to respond to the BeeHelp emails. When Sharon responds to an email question, she always sends a copy to officers or other knowledgeable people that may be able to help with an answer. With the diverse nature of questions, Sharon has always strived to give a clear and accurate answer. As you might imagine, the range of questions can be extreme. Questions come from the average citizen to government agencies and attorneys. Questions have taken a full range. Questions from 'why did my bees die this winter', local ordinances, school projects, inspection requirements, bees in my tree, bees in my house, selling equipment, local honey sources, mite control and honey testing, bees in my attic and even finding a lemon-Jell-O recipe that grandma used to make.

Sometimes it takes nerves of steel in responding to some questions.

How would you answer this one?

**Dear Sir / Madam: I have lots of bees on flowers in my yard, do you usually come and take them? Thank you**

Is that a prank question or for real? Kinda makes you want to pop-off a smart answer or scream! But Sharon's response is always polite and educational.

In all, Sharon has responded to well over 400 emails. That averages almost one per day over 4 years, for the months of May thru Sept. Her knowledge, professionalism and patience is a continuing tribute to our organization of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association.

We recognize Sharon McDonald as the Honorary Life Membership recipient.

(And someday Sharon hopes to have bees of her own.)



Photo by Bill Mondjack

Sharon McDonald received the Honorary Life Membership Award at the PSBA Annual Conference in Saturday, Nov. 10. Charlie Vorisek, left, and Bob Shaffer, right, made the presentation.

## Beekeeping is Threatened

in Montgomery County, Plymouth Township. As of the November annual PSBA meeting, it is unknown what direction the township will go with regulations regarding honeybees. Some of the best voices from PSBA, Penn State and Pa Dept. of Ag have made the case in support of beekeeping to the local government. Irrational minds and baseless horror scenarios have managed to take precedence.

This type of reaction has played out in different communities across the state. Each time, a concerted effort from local beekeepers, Penn State and Pa Dept. of Ag is needed to steer local officials towards allowing this craft.

These continuous battles prompted the development of a 'Best Management Practices'. With input from PSBA and Penn State a voluntary BMP was established by the Pa Dept. of Agriculture. This is a basic, common-sense agreement that hives will be managed in a way to be least intrusive to neighbors and public. It would be desirable if any community or local government were considering legislation regarding honeybees, that they include BMP as the guideline. It's not a perfect paper, but can be adjusted without legislative action.

It is important that all beekeepers be vigilant at the local government level. We have some fine examples of inter-city beekeepers working to permit beekeeping. These need to be models to establish legislation to protect beekeeping in all areas of the state.

I urge every beekeeper to meet your local officials and legislators. Give them your trust, so when they have a question about beekeeping, they will turn to you.

*Charlie Vorisek, PSBA President*

## Jeremy's Corner

The power and the majesty of Glacier National Park was both invigorating and exhilarating when Mary and I were fortunate to visit for two days in July. In part the amazement came from the preconception created by the term 'glacier', which suggests icy, frigid, arctic-like. Instead the Park is warm, green, verdant and inviting, rich with waterfalls and colors, hidden lakes and enchanting trails, magnificent vistas and feats of human engineering. Rather than chilling the spirit Glacier National Park warms the spirit.

You know that I looked for honey bees throughout the park, without success. I also googled beekeeping associations in Whitefish and Kalispell equally unsuccessfully.

But Timothy Egan's book, The Big Burn, which describes the first major wild fire involving a national park, presented itself instead.

As in 2012, the summer of 1910 was excessively hot and dry, resulting in dry vegetation, which was set alight by lightning and by hot cinders flung from locomotives. By mid August there were 1,000 to 3,000 fires burning in Idaho, Montana, Washington and British Columbia, covering some three million acres which burned over two days and led to the deaths of 87 people, including 78 firefighters. It is believed to be the largest, although not the deadliest, fire in recorded U.S. history.

A system of national parks had been the dream of President Theodore Roosevelt, supported by his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot. The national forests, they argued, belonged to the ages. The proposal inspired immense opposition from the mining and agricultural industries in particular, castigated by Roosevelt as 'robber barons and plunderers of the public domain' who used their considerable influences to solicit support in Washington. By the time of the great fire the forestry budget had been squeezed so tight that on average a single ranger was responsible for more than 300 000 acres of forest.

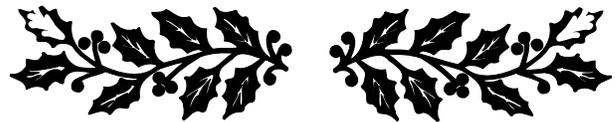
When the National Parks Service was created in 1905 it attracted some of the best young minds in the country, fresh out of the Yale School of Forestry (derisively called 'Teddy's Boy Scouts') but no one had anticipated or experienced a fire such as that of 1910 and neither the rangers nor anyone else knew how to control it, which in turn gave further fuel to the mining and agricultural industries who argued that academia was no preparation for the realities of environmental conservation and preservation.

To the enemies of the Forest Service the fire was a chance to kill the crusade of conservation, made easier by the fact that the previous year Roosevelt had left office to go to Africa and Europe, leaving the presidency in the hands of the befuddled William Taft.

The battle seemed to be won, but fast forward to July, 2012, and the lines of vehicles waiting at the gate to pay \$25 to enter Glacier National Park. The occupants of those cars, trucks, motor bikes and camper vans presumably took the existence of the park for granted, not realizing that this magnificence exists only because a handful of men and women persevered with their passion in the face of significant hostility which thought in terms of dollars rather than of nature, which measured short term financial gains at the expense of long term environmental losses.

Fast forward another 100 years to 2112 and I wonder what ideas that appear radical today will seem obvious in retrospect because a small handful of people believed in them sufficiently to fight and persevere? Hopefully honey bees will be on that list.

Jeremy Barnes



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### One for PA Beekeepers, or It Pays to Sting Back!

Two years ago a food safety law was passed in Pennsylvania regulating food processing facilities. Extraction and packing of honey by hobby beekeepers was included in Act 106 of 2010. Some of us received notice of an application form for a license to sell honey, along with an annual \$35. Assessment and a heavy fine for non-compliance. The questions on the application went far beyond the old standards for clean extracting facilities. Many of the questions were inappropriate.

The law was discussed at our PSBA winter conference in November 2011, and soon after that our Susquehanna Beekeepers Association decided to sting back. President James Wood appointed an ad hoc committee, and we enlisted support from our state officers, including President Warren Miller and 1st Vice President Charlie Vorisek. A brief article in the PSBA newsletter of June-July this year entitled "New Law Impacts You and Your Beekeeping" brought positive responses from around the state, and we were ready to go.

Representative Sandra Major took up our cause and, with 27 other legislators cosponsoring, developed a remedy. At a House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing at the York Co. fairgrounds on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, Jim Pinkerton, Lancaster County Association, representing Lori Stahl, Chairman of our PSBA Legislative Committee, spoke for the bill. Committee members were impressed with the importance of honey bee pollination and challenges we face. The bill passed in both houses unanimously and was signed by Governor Corbett on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

The new law, Act 180 of 2012, although not covering all that we hoped for, is a very good one. It exempts hobby beekeepers from Act 106 of 2010. Various interpretations so far conclude that it does not exempt sales at retail stores or farmers markets, but leaves room for interpretation regarding agricultural fairs where the local association is the sponsor. Basically, we are returned to the 1974 Honey Sale and Labeling Act... "in which 100% of the regulated products offered for human consumption are produced or processed on the farm on which the retail food facility is located. A retail food facility that is exempted from the license requirements under this section shall remain subject to inspection and all other provisions of this subchapter."

Many Americans continue to be opposed to over-regulation in our free enterprise system which is based on natural rights and constitutionally limited government. Some of us spend a lot of time educating the public about honey bees and encouraging new beekeepers in schools, home school groups, adult education, field days, scouts, 4-H clubs, etc. Act 180 of 2012 helps rather than hinders our efforts. This old beekeeper

wishes to thank especially Rep. Sandra Major, her staff, and co-sponsors; Charlie Vorisek; James Wood; and fellow committee members Jim Barber and John Brunner; not forgetting our Creator from whom we were given unalienable rights as free people.

Richard Chapin  
[oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com](mailto:oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com)



Photo by Bill Mondjack

2012 PA Honey Queen Jessica Long, left, and former PA Honey Queen and current American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine were presented Wooden-carved plaque as a small token of our appreciation for the promoting of our industry.

## For Sale

### Dadant Wax Foundation

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### Dadant Foundation

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## Contact John R. Frey

90 Ridge Road  
York Springs, PA 17372

Phone 717-528-4630

## 2012 PSBA RESOLUTIONS

### BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. PSBA ask the secretary to write letters of special thanks to **Warren Miller, Maryann Frazier, and Yvonne Crimbring** for preparations made for our 2012 meeting.

2. Thanks to **Warren Miller** for his two years of leadership as our president.

3. We thank **Ken and Tawney Hoover** for Web Page Help and **Karen Roccasecca** for overseeing the **Apiary Inspection Program**.

4. The PSBA secretary be asked to write a letter **to all speakers** thanking them for their presentations **and** for working **for the improvement** of the bee industry.

5. The PSBA secretary be asked to write a letter of thanks to **Country Cupboard/Best Western** for working with us to make this year's meeting a success. And we thank **Linda and Dave Hackenberg** for all their work as the **Site Committee**. PSBA thanks 2012 Honey Queen **Jessica Long** and congratulates the **2013 Pennsylvania Honey Queen**, **Elena Hoffman**.

We thank **Rachel Bryson** for her work on the Queen Committee.

6. **Wow!** We thank Pennsylvania's **Alyssa Fine**, the **American Honey Queen**, for her outreach this year.

7. PSBA thanks all **PSBA Officers** and

**Committees** for helping to make our **State Beekeepers Organization** a continuing success.

8. We thank **Mark Antunes** for his service as **auctioneer** and **Cliff Sunflower** for helping us work off the big meal we consumed at the banquet.

9. PSBA thanks **Debbie Morse** for her help at the registration desk.

10. PSBA thanks **William Houtz** of **Brushy Mountain**, **Marlene Haney** and **Angie Aucker** of **Beads and Bobbins**, **Jason Hashman** and **Carl Hausknecht** of **Dadant**, and **Earl King** of **Walter Kelley Company** for being vendors at our 2012 meeting. Thanks to **Craig Cella**.

11. PSBA thanks **Stu Mathias, Scott Baxter, Tom Jones**, and all the others who have made our participation in the **Farm Show** and **Ag Progress Days** a success.

12. PSBA thanks **Lee Miller** and helpers **Jody Eberhart, Charlie Vorisek, Tim Miller, and Steve Finke** for their work on our Apiary Products Show.

13. **Thank you** to the groups **at Harrisburg** and **in State College** for continuing to provide **leadership in, and backing for**, honeybee research.

14. And **thank you** to all the newspapers, magazines, and TV stations that have continued to produce materials making beekeepers look good.  
For PSBA,

Tim Sterrett