



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

April 2013
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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

“**Bees in the Hood**” is the theme of the 2013 Bee Culture calendar. This is a photo collection of hives on roof tops and close neighborhoods. I would draw your attention to the July and December photos, both taken by Jana Thompson of Pittsburgh.

Urban beekeeping has been going on successfully for many years. Many registered beekeepers in Pennsylvania keep hives in residential neighborhoods. The pollination value of these bees cannot be measured. Most cities adorn themselves with flowering trees, flower gardens, community gardens and balcony gardens. It's a moment of peacefulness and chance for people to connect to nature. All this green growth would be fruitless without the aide of insect pollination. Honeybees are a perfect compliment to urban gardening.

In recent years, some states have enacted legislation to benefit urban, suburban or otherwise close neighborhood beekeepers. In 2010, West Virginia passed an immunity law, giving beekeepers immunity from civil liability for ordinary negligence. Florida and Tennessee passed laws that allow the state to preempt zoning, permits and control of beekeeping within local jurisdictions. Other states are considering revisions as well.

Under current Pa Bee Law, the Pa Department of Agriculture (PDA) has the authority to inspect all hives in the state, regardless of where they are located, in a wide open field or rooftop in downtown Philly. It is the desire of the PSBA legislative committee, that PDA regard all beekeeping as an integral part of Pennsylvania agriculture. Already, 84% of registered beekeepers in Pennsylvania have 10 or fewer colonies. Each local jurisdiction seems to either have no policy, quickly wants to ban beekeeping or write regulations on-the-fly. Many are based in fear and not science or any knowledge in apiculture. Beekeepers are seldom consulted. Perhaps that is a result of our quiet nature.

The PSBA legislative committee is currently reviewing laws of those other states and considering those laws as models for similar legislation in Pennsylvania. Each of those other

states use some type of Beekeeper Compliance Agreement or Best Management Practices (BMP) as guidelines. With Florida and Tennessee, BMP are built into the bee law. In West Virginia, the beekeeper can choose to agree or disagree, to be exempt or accept liability. In these states, BMP will not change rural agricultural practices.

It's fair to say there are good and bad locations for bee hives. Not every location can have a hive. Swarm control is certainly needed. Some neighbors are extremely distraught and that must be considered. Even in rural locations, one should consider if there are too many hives for the local forage available. It's no different than too many cattle in a pasture.

Having BMP that reflect sound common sense practices is an important part of any law. These are guidelines that any responsible beekeeper already does or considers when locating bees.

Whether laws are written by local government or state, somebody will write a law. Beekeepers must have a voice in that process or stand by and accept what we get at every turn. PSBA has a great history of working closely with the department of agriculture and are routinely consulted with issues pertaining to beekeeping within the commonwealth. Rather than have a splatter of nuisance laws controlling urban

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beekeeping, our desire would be to have an agriculture-based authority setting the guidelines.

At present, an amended version of current Bee Law has been submitted to a member of the House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee. It is being reviewed. I would expect much of this process will be educating our legislators.

A suggestion was made a few years ago, that local beekeepers put a hive on the property of their legislators. Either through state, local associations or individuals, this would go far in education. PennApic currently operates hives at Governor Corbett's residence in Harrisburg. A few years ago, beekeepers in the governor's home township of Shaler worked to avoid restrictions on beekeeping there. The governor has consistently shown support for beekeeping and agriculture. We have 253 legislators to convince before he can sign his approval.

If you are or know of any beekeeper that has a 'real' job as an attorney, lobbyist or legislator, please contact me. Charlie Vorisek president@pastatebeekeepers.org

Charlie Vorisek,
President PSBA

Address Changed?

If you have changed your address (mail, email or temporarily away) please notify secretary Yvonne Crimbring. We have been receiving newsletters returned by the post office due to "temporarily away" or "incorrect address". This costs the association .55 per returned newsletter. Also please update your email address if you have made a change. These returns prevent you from receiving information pertaining to beekeeping and our association.

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES

3/14 and receives the newsletter at P.O. Box 94, Morris Run, 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 May 2013. 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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!!

But only from March 29th - April 15th, 2013
It's time to go online and complete the ANNUAL WINTER LOSS SURVEY!

This online national survey is conducted each year to quantify the colony losses suffered by US beekeepers over the winter. This continues past survey efforts of the Apiary Inspectors of America and USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Lab, which began in 2007.

Bee Informed Partnership (www.beeinformed.org) will be conducting the survey again this year. This group of dedicated honey bee professionals work with beekeepers year 'round and it is core to their grass roots approach to helping large beekeepers help the entire industry, but this survey is what many beekeepers look forward to and gets us in the news. It gives everyone, big or small, a chance to have their say, to stand up and be counted! A lot of work has gone into this year's survey and many miles have been driven by several of our team members to introduce the rest of the country to this survey. This year, they are trying to get the news out to the larger beekeepers and they are hoping for a much higher response from them – but PLEASE - tell any beekeeper you know to join in! They want to hear from all of us!

The more beekeepers who take the survey, the better and more accurate the data will be. This information will help ALL beekeepers. In the previous Winter Loss Surveys, Pennsylvania beekeepers have been leaders in completing the survey. Keep up the GREAT work!

[Sign up to participate!](http://beeinformed.org) Please go to <http://beeinformed.org> to reply.

But remember the time to participate is March 29-April 15, 2013.



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

We regret that there is no article this month. If you have a question you would like to send to Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, please email it to him at: billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com with the subject line being WWBD, and he will respond with an opinion as 'what he would do' if the problem or situation was his.

Honey bees in the news: The good, the bad and the ugly (Be sure to read the 'ugly')

The GOOD:

You are probably well aware of the antifungal and antimicrobial properties of propolis. Recently, researchers have demonstrated that a component of propolis (caffeic acid phenethyl ester; CAPE) can suppress the growth of human prostate cancer cells (<http://www.uchospitals.edu/news/2012/20120504-beehive.html>). The anticancer effects of CAPE were shown in both test tube assays and in mice given human prostate cancer cells. CAPE didn't kill the cancer cells but did stop their growth as long as the mice were treated. The researchers state "If you feed CAPE to mice daily, their tumors will stop growing..." Previously (2009) researchers from the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole demonstrated that extracts of three different types of propolis (one from Europe and two from Brazil) have anticancer properties. They demonstrated that the propolis-derived extract inhibits the growth of human neurofibromatosis-associated tumors when studied in a mouse model. They speculate that propolis extracts may prove to be effective against a variety of human cancers.

Earlier this year, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine announced that they have found that nanoparticle-coupled melittin (a component of bee venom) can kill the virus that causes AIDS. They are hoping that their discovery will lead to a vaginal gel that can prevent the spread of HIV (<http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/25061.aspx>).

The BAD:

Several recent articles have implicated systemic neonicotinoids as environmental toxins affecting honey bees. A recent paper by Krupke and co-workers demonstrated that honey bees near agricultural fields gather neonicotinoids by several means (for the free article, see: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0029268>) Similar to previous reports, they observed "extremely high levels of clothianidin and thiamethoxam" in dust during the planting of corn seeds. Later when the corn tasseled, the corn pollen collected by honey bees contained clothianidin. They also discovered neonicotinoids in the soil of nearby unplanted fields. Furthermore, the dandelions blooming near the neonicotinoid treated fields contained insecticide. They also detected clothianidin in pollen collected and stored by honey bees. In 2009, Girolami and co-workers (*Journal of Economic Entomology* 102(5): 1808-1815) reported that honey bees can obtain toxic doses of thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and imidacloprid from the guttation droplets that form on the leaves of corn plants grown from neonicotinoid treated seeds. (Guttation is a natural plant phenomenon causing the excretion of xylem fluid at leaf margins.)

Recently, an alliance of commercial beekeepers and environmental action groups have filed suit against the EPA to take action against the wide spread use of neonicotinoids. See: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2013/03/26/56057.htm> What can PSBA do to reduce neonicotinoid use?

The UGLY (coumaphos):

A very recent article by Palmer and co-workers (*Nature Communications* 4, Article number: 1634; doi:10.1038/ncomms2648, 27 March 2013) reminds us that we *beekeepers are part of the insecticide problem*. As background, we must understand that the neurotransmitter acetylcholine is important for nerve function in both people and insects. The neonicotinoids are new (neo) nicotine-like (nicotinoid) compounds. This means that neonicotinoids stimulate acetylcholine receptors, this overstimulation resulting in disruption of insect nerve function. Coumaphos, an organophosphate, is a nerve poison for both mammals (including humans) and insects. Coumaphos is highly toxic by inhalation and ingestion, and moderately toxic by dermal absorption. See: <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/carbaryl-dicrotophos/coumaphos-ext.html>. In contrast to the neonicotinoids that directly stimulate acetylcholine receptors, coumaphos acts indirectly, but results in the stimulation of these same receptors. Palmer and co-workers demonstrate that the "neonicotinoids imidacloprid and clothianidin, and the organophosphate miticide coumaphos" have an *additive* effect. That is, beekeeper applied coumaphos increases the adverse effects of neonicotinoids on honey bees. As you know, low levels of coumaphos, the residues of beekeeper-applied coumaphos, have been found in nearly all samples of beeswax foundation (see the seminal article coauthored by several of our Penn State scientists: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0009754>) Are you still using coumaphos? Is there any way to clean up our beeswax supply?

Vince Aloyo,
Vice-president



The next *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* will be a May/June combined issue. The deadline for this newsletter is May 15th. Information on the PSBA Picnic and EAS will be included in the May/June issue.

Pennsylvania Honey Queen Report

Greetings everyone! I hope all of you had a great Easter and enjoyed some time with your family. March was not an extremely busy month for the program but I did manage to head to Manheim to speak with a group of students.

During the month, I spoke with a group of homeschooled students and their parents on the basics of the hive and beekeeping. Before my presentation began, the parents were extremely interested in beekeeping and asked if they and their children could become beekeepers as well. My answer, of course, was yes! Then I started my presentation for about 15 students who were very enthusiastic for learning. Some of the students had even been to the ABF convention in January. Almost every child tried on the bee suit and passed around the mock hive and smoker. After the build-a-bee craft, we finished up the presentation by eating muffins drizzled with honey! I loved the time spent teaching these children and talking to their parents about PSBA and how they can become involved in the beekeeping industry. I look forward to many more promotions this year!

This month the Honey Queen Program brochures were also completed! Pick up a brochure for many delicious recipes to enjoy and honey facts! Our schedule is filling up quickly;

don't miss out on the chance to have the Honey Queen or Princess at your event! To invite Princess Jessica or me to an event, contact Rachel Bryson, queen program chair, at brysonrachel@yahoo.com or 717-300-0146.

By: Elena Hoffman



Queen Elena with one of the homeschool students after her presentation.

Package Honey Bees

3# Package with a marked Queen

\$85.00

Available first week of April 4, 2013

Lee Miller

**3180 Ridge Road Extension
Freedom, PA 15042**

724-544-2900

History of Pittsburgh Wanted

Honey bees have been kept in the Pittsburgh area for hundreds of years, but there is little or no public information available.

Please email pictures, written accounts, and documents related to beekeeping in Pittsburgh and its suburbs before 1970 to:
Info@burghbees.com.

Burgh Bees would like to post some historical information on the Burgh Bees website:
www.BurghBees.com.

Subscription Rates
(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

American Bee Journal	Bee Culture
1 year \$20.25	1 year \$21.00
2 years 38.25	2 years 38.00
3 years 54.00	

The Small Beekeeper's Journal
\$12.95
(Regular Rate)

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

PSBA Advertising Rates

	1 Month	3 Months		
Full Page	\$23.00	Full Page	\$	40.00
1/2 Page	12.00	1/2 Page		25.00
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1/8 Page	5.00	1/8 Page		9.00

	6 Months	One Year		
Full Page	\$75.00	Full Page	\$	150.00
1/2 Page	40.00	1/2 Page		75.00
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1/8 Page	12.00	1/8 Page		26.00


2013 PSBA Officers

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

1st VP: Vincent Aloyo
736 Cathcart Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422
(610) 278-1621 vincent.aloyo@gmail.com

2nd VP: Jody Eberhart
110 Melville Rd, Ligonier, PA 15658
(724) 238-0678 Cell:(406) 690-1113
abn007jle@aol.com

Sec.-Treas.: Yvonne Crimbring
2565 Southside Rd., Canton, PA 17724
(570) 673-8201 pabee1@frontier.com



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.

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**Application for New and Renewal Membership
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association**

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ County _____

New

Renew

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

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the May/June issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is May 15th.**

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 10, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Jim Barber & Dick Chapin – Explanation of regulations for apiary entries at Harford and Roundtable on pest control.

Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166, email jimnginw@epix.net, for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve. Visit the CCBA website at www.chescobees.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville. For more information, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit <http://www.thebeeyard.org>

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. at the North Museum, Lancaster. Contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or email jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Creamery. Dr. Debbie Delaney – Managing Risk in Honey Production: from the hive to the pantry. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at 484-995-0768 or email honeyhillfarm@verizon.net.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Bldg., Allentown. Feeding bees – options and methods around the year. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Capital Area Beekeepers

Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. Contact Jim Hoover at 717-691-1413, email hooverdron@aol.com for more information.

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Sunday, April 21, 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Ward Firehall, Clearfield. Topic: Preparing for the honey flow. For more information, contact Helen Evans at 814-472-7637 or email secretary@ccbee.org

Burgh Bees

Sunday, April 21, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Homewood Community Apiary – 6900 Block of Susquehanna St., Pittsburgh. Brews N' Bees in the Burgh - Come out to sample some locally brewed beers made with honey by Butler Brew Works, Fatheads Brewery and Rivertowne Brewing...then suit up with an expert while they open a hive! Cost: \$25.00. For more information and to order tickets - <http://www.showclix.com/event/BrewsNBeesintheBurgh>

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Making Short Mead with Sherry Fergesen. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911 or email snewgeese@yahoo.com for more information.

Northwestern Beekeepers

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Social Hall, Edinboro. For more information, contact Tara Miller at beecharmer1@verizon.net

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com

Short Course for Beginning Beekeepers

Saturday, May 4 and May 11. For more information, contact Jim Hoover at 717-691-1413, email hooverdron@aol.com

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 8, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve. Visit the CCBA website at www.chescobees.org for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, May 11, 1:00 p.m. at the James Wood Apiary. Field Day with Topic: Splitting a hive. For more information, contact James Wood at 570-934-1166, email jimnginw@epix.net.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 14 Open hives at the Penn State Research Farm. Club Yard Sale and Plant exchange. Contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or email jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Bldg., Allentown. Bee-friendly Plantings. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m. at the Old Cambria Co. Extension Office Bldg., Ebensburg. Topic: Small Hive Beetle. For more information, contact Helen Evans at 814-472-7637 or email secretary@ccbee.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Creamery. Dr. David Tarpey – This nationally respected honey bee expert will speak via an internet connection about the African Small Hive Beetle. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at 484-995-0768 or email honeyhillfarm@verizon.net.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, May 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Plant – Bee Relationships with James Gillis. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911 or email snewgeese@yahoo.com for more information.

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, June 1, 1:00 p.m. at the James Wood Apiary. Check on split hives from Field Day. For more information, contact James Wood at 570-934-1166, email jimnginw@epix.net.

Chester County Beekeepers

June - TBD Annual Picnic. Visit the CCBA website at www.chescobees.org for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 12, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, June 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Topic: Apiary By-products with Frank Licata. For more information, contact James Wood at 570-934-1166, email jimnginw@epix.net.

Northwestern Beekeepers

Saturday, June 15. Bee Yard Experience. For more information, contact Tara Miller at beecharmer1@verizon.net

2013 EAS Conference and Short Course

Monday-Friday, August 5-9, 2013, at the West Chester University, West Chester, Pa. visit the [EAS website](http://www.easwebsite.com) 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.

Nature Notes

As the lawn greens up, we can remember that, for humans, **grasses** are the most important plant family. A grass appears on the table at almost every human meal. Wheat, corn, and rice are all grasses. Eskimo meals are an exception! The cultivation of grasses let farmers feed more than their own families and made it possible for people to live in villages, towns, and cities. Food came into the village from surrounding farms. The blacksmith and harness maker sent goods out to the farmer. Cattle are just grasses standing on four feet. Milk is grass in a bottle.

While our bees may get some pollen from corn, grasses are **wind-pollinated**. Many of us are allergic to grass pollen. Hay fever!

How much do our bees depend **ow**weeds for spring build-up? Yes, weeds are only flowers in the wrong place. **Dandelions** will brighten April by spotting lawns and fields with gold. **Yellow rocket** is a mustard family weed that likes rich, disturbed soil. That's why yellow rocket covers tilled and fertilized fields with a profusion of small yellow flowers on two-foot tall plants. Bees can produce water-white tasteless honey from yellow rocket. The young leaves of yellow rocket are harvested as a variety of **broccoli rabe**.



Tulip poplar trees grow across most of Pennsylvania. They are neither tulips nor poplars. These trees can grow to be more than three feet in diameter and produce copious nectar in flowers similar in shape to tulips. Try tearing a petal from a freshly-fallen tulip poplar flower and licking the sugary nectar from the base of the petal. Bees in SE Pennsylvania made their year's supply of honey during tulip poplar bloom. The amber honey, taken off around Labor Day Weekend, had a dark red tint. In recent years, bees have not been producing tulip poplar honey.

Do we have **rhubarb**, **lilacs**, and several **apple trees** around our homes? These three plants help locate old homesteads. Horses can carry **raspberry** seeds to new locations and, many years later, we can find raspberries growing in sunny spots along ancient lumber roads deep in a forest.

Robins are known for singing in the silence before a spring afternoon **rain**. The robin's song has been described as "Cheer-up, cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily!" **Chipping sparrows** with unstreaked breasts and rusty crowns forage on lawns and sing a trilled, single-note song.

Who built that **nest** the **birdhouse** in the yard?
Bluebirds- a neat grass or pine needle nest,
House wrens - twig nest,
House sparrows – messy nest with a few feathers,
Tree swallows – nest with a lot of feathers,
Chickadees – nest made of moss.
 Who built a **messy nest** of leaves on a shelf in the garage?
Carolina wrens.

In the wreath left on the front door or at the base of a plant in a hanging flower pot? **House finches**.
 A twig nest in a bush against the house? **Cardinals**.
 A flimsy nest of twigs on a head-high branch of an evergreen?
Mourning doves.
 In the forsythia bush? **Mockingbirds**.
 Inside a corner of a building or in the dryer vent? **Starlings or house sparrows**.

The **Big Dipper** is high in the northeast, standing on its handle. Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle to bright **Arc-turus**. We bid farewell to **Orion** as an evening constellation.

By Tim Sterrett

Jeremy's Corner

One of humankind's greatest attributes, and the one that explains much of our success over the past millennia, is behavioral plasticity. The term was first used by psychologist William James more than a hundred years ago to describe the ability humans have to change their habits almost as a matter of course - we change careers, diets, religions, locations, each of which requires that we make choices and adopt new behaviors.

This plasticity is the defining feature of our transformation from anatomically modern Homo sapiens to behaviorally modern Homo sapiens.

Neuroscientists are currently trying to explain how this plasticity developed; contemporary thinking is that it is genetic, that particular genes give us a neurotic sensitivity to the environment (witness, for example, the hustle and bustle as Hurricane Sandy approached, even from those not in harms way, or our preoccupation with the weather channels on TV,) and a heightened ability to adapt to new situations.

Other animals and insects do not display the same levels of plasticity. A honey bee and a honey bee colony are elaborate, finely tuned mechanisms but they are fixed, as if in amber, in the loops of their DNA and as such are incapable of fundamental change. The minority number of drones in a hive, focused on mating with a queen, will never acquire new responsibilities; the queen will always be an efficient ovipositor without developing any maternal instincts, forager bees will always dance in predefined patterns and other worker bees will respond in predetermined ways.

And the behavior of individuals is reflected in their societies. Some species of bees and some of ants have complex societies with elaborately coded behavior. E.O. Wilson described leaf-cutter colonies as "Earth's ultimate superorganisms" but they are incapable of fundamental change. Certainly by luck or superior adaptation a few species manage to escape their limits, at least for a while (think of the changing resistance of varroa mites to various chemicals introduced into the hive) but those changes are imposed from without rather than conscious changes from within.

Human societies are of course far more varied than their insect cousins, and it is continued plasticity, which has enabled us to move into every corner of the earth and to control what we find there.

And by many accounts that plasticity faces a new and vital challenge.

The bees, the bats and butterflies and fish and birds, cannot adapt to a rapidly changing environment and they die, or

'disappear.' Beekeepers are frequently asked, "Are the bees recovering?" and the longer response attempts to explain that the bees exist in an environment that we have largely created; that rather than look for quick fixes for the bees we need to think about redefining our concepts of quality of life and standards of living so that we can rebuild an environment that is hospitable to all species. With plasticity comes a responsibility for life greater than simply our own, and in this case it might mean voluntary restraint which, because it pushes against the natural biological hierarchy, is the highest order of behaviors.

The biologist, the late Lynn Margulis, argued that "The fate of every successful species is to wipe itself out." We have got a lot of things right, most recently the end of slavery, the emancipation of women and civil rights, and it is depressing to think that we could get so many things right and get this one wrong. We can land Curiosity on Mars but fail to pay attention to the earth. To have the potential and not to use it makes us no better than the bees.

Jeremy Barnes

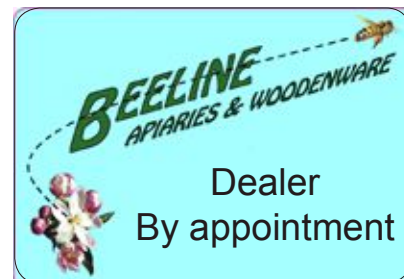


Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware Dealer

**Package bees for Spring 2013
\$75.00**

Tentative dates: April 13 & April 20

Nucs: \$100.00



**Myron Showalter
178 Milnor Road
Greencastle, PA 17225
717-598-8184**

Dadant & Sons, Inc. 150th Anniversary Celebration

On March 15 and 16, 2013 Dadant & Sons, Inc. of Hamilton Illinois, the world's largest supplier of beekeeping equipment, held a celebration to honor the occasion of their company's 150th Anniversary. This totally free event was advertised in their magazine, *The American Bee Journal* and brought out 785 beekeepers mostly from the Tri State area of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The company was founded in 1863 by Charles Dadant an immigrant from France who came to America to grow grapes and keep bees. The grape business didn't work

out so well for him but the business flourished. Today the company is still owned and run by 5th and 6th generation Dadants with several members of the 7th generation waiting in the wings although they are preoccupied with elementary school at the present time. The celebration was a two-day event with Friday allocated for folks to visit three of their plants in and around Hamilton. The metal plant in Dallas City, Illinois is where all of the smokers, extractors, and other metal items are made. The candle factory in Kahoka, Missouri, and the home office and plant in Hamilton, Illinois. Their wood products are made in Montana and therefore not on the tour. Photography was not allowed in any of the plants. On Saturday we were treated to an all-day bee meeting.



C. P. Dadant, Just one of the 7th Generation Dadants who came to the meeting.

The Metal Plant: Dallas City, Illinois.

My first stop on plant tour day was their metal facility. This is where 19 employees take 16 to 24 gauge stainless steel sheet metal then cut, shear, stamp, punch, roll, bead, seam and weld it into just about anything we beekeepers could want. They were in the process of fabricating a batch of 50 small wax melters. This inventory will last 1 to 2 years. It is more efficient to build a group of the same items all at once then warehouse them until they are sold. We were able to watch as they assembled smokers and learned that they use an actual tapered coil bed spring to make the bellows work. They also make smokers for the Walter T. Kelley Company. In addition to beekeeping equipment, processing equipment for a chocolate company is also made here.

The Candle Plant: Kahoka, Missouri

My next stop was the candle plant about one hour's drive from Dallas City, across the Mississippi River in Kahoka,

Missouri. At this location 45 employees turn out the prettiest and fanciest candles you can imagine. Their carved and painted religious candles are the nicest you'll find anywhere. OK, I admit that you either have to get married or die to get me in a church but these candles



Just a few of the candles made by Dadant and Sons, Inc.

are the nicest I have ever seen. The Catholic Church requires all of their religious candles to be at least 51% beeswax thus becoming Dadant's biggest customer and this makes for a very stable customer base. The plant uses 3 million pounds of paraffin per year in addition to a boat load of beeswax. The largest candle they make is 4" diameter x 58" long and sells for \$675.00. They also make many paraffin only candles for the consumer market.

The Home office & Plant: Hamilton Illinois.

My last stop on the Friday tour was the home office located on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The business has been in this location since it was moved there from the family farm in 1924. Next to the parking lot they maintain a small apiary that is used for research and development. The bees were flying the day we were there and I don't think anyone worries about them finding a water source.

This day was sort of like being on a road rally where you drive your car from place to place and stop at predetermined check points along the way. It occurred to me that for some unknown reason I was seeing the same faces at every stop. Somebody might think they were being followed. Not me, thank goodness, but somebody might.

On the guided tour we were shown some of the wax foundation machines where a sheet of wax is embossed with the familiar hex cell shapes and wires are embedded. We were taken to a room where 250,000 pounds of wax was stored awaiting processing into candles and foundation. We were also shown a machine that automatically assembles 7000 wooden frames per day. They run two 12-hour shifts on this machine and they operate another one just like it at their Montana facility. At one point we were turned over to Joe Graham, editor of *The American Bee Journal* who gave us a tour of their library. Here we could see arguably the largest and most complete collection of historical beekeeping books in existence. The library is also home to a large collection of smokers including many over 100 years old. Among this collection of significant books they have every edition of The Hive and the Honey Bee (originally published by Rev. L. L. Langstroth in 1853) and every edition of The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture (originally published as The ABC of Bee Culture by A. I. Root in 1877).

(Continued on Page 17)

150th Celebration (Continued from Page 15)

People who called in orders ahead of time for pickup like I did were directed to a Semi Trailer loaded with boxes that were just for pick up at this event. A single path down the center provided access. All of the orders were well organized and handed to waiting customers promptly.

Sullivan Auction Site: Hamilton, Illinois

On Friday evening we were invited to dinner at a spacious auction house in Hamilton, the food was quite good and with 6 serving lines the large crowd was served in relatively short order. Dinner was followed with a talk by the ever popular Dr. Jim Tew. Nobody can keep a group of beekeepers laughing like he can.



Saturday Morning began with coffee and a huge stack of doughnuts. The program included first class talks by, Randy Oliver, Jerry Hayes, and Jim Tew. Other

presentations covered marketing hive products, outfitting a honey house, raising queens and making nucs. They gave a lot of door prizes away throughout the day and an outstanding lunch was provided too. At one point Tim Dadant asked the crowd, “How many of you were here for the 100th”? This is no small feat considering that event was held in 1963. The gentleman sitting on my left raised his hand as did several others in the room. This gentleman’s name is Leroy Roberts and he has worked for Dadant since 1951. He told me that he has done every job in the plant that there is and has trained scores of employees. Today, at age 80, he works a 5-hour shift every day. I had been wondering about something so I asked Leroy this question: In 1971, when I began keeping bees, I would order bee equipment from the Montgomery Ward catalog. But like most things sold by Wards there were no manufactures labels on the items to identify who they were made by. Did Dadant provide bee equipment for them? His response was yes; they supplied not only Montgomery Ward but also Sears and Roebuck at the time.

The event ended when they gave away a Dadant Ranger Extractor to one lucky participant. The Dadant family was very grateful that so many beekeepers came to their event. They thanked us repeatedly for coming and for supporting their company over the years. It was as well organized a bee event as I have ever attended. Just in case you are wondering which part of this very unique celebration was my personal favorite, it was without question being allowed to see the Dadant Library.

By Allen Hayes, PSBA member

Honey Bee Addiction Disorder

1. You have stacks of beekeeping catalogs lurking in a corner of your home with page corners turned down and sticky notes protruding from the pages.
2. You subscribe to more beekeeping web pages and blog sites than you have time to read.
3. You lose sleep over that new piece of beekeeping equipment that you absolutely must have.
4. You spend more time with your bees than you do with your friends.
5. You veer off of the road when you see a hive in someone’s yard.
6. You keep working a hive even though you really have to go to the bathroom.
7. When in the apiary you forget to plan dinner, cook dinner, eat dinner.
8. You miss social gathering because there’s too much happening in the apiary.
9. You secretly order beekeeping supplies over the Internet and hope your spouse won’t notice the charges on the credit card bill.
10. Instead of having propolis under your fingernails, you no longer have fingernails.

If 5 or more of the above apply, you definitely have HBAD. And if my experience is anything to go by, you can talk to the girls all you like but it won’t make a bit of difference - this condition is beyond redemption.

Submitted by Jeremy Barnes

Recipe

Honey Rhubarb Compote

- 2/3 cup – honey
- 1 cup - water
- 4 cups - rhubarb, washed, trimmed, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon - vanilla
- 2 Tablespoons - cornstarch
- 3 Tablespoons - cold water
- Nonfat frozen yogurt or Honey Whipped Cream

Dissolve honey in water in large non-aluminum saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add rhubarb. Reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered, 15 to 25 minutes or until rhubarb is tender but still in distinct pieces. Stir in vanilla. Combine cornstarch with 3 tablespoons water; mix well. Gradually stir cornstarch mixture into rhubarb; cook and stir until mixture comes to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 3 to 5 minutes or until mixture thickens. Pour into serving bowl and refrigerate until cold. Serve with frozen yogurt or Honey Whipped Cream.

Taken from The National Honey Board, www.honey.com

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