



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

May-June 2013

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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

In the northern regions of the state, the weather finally let beekeepers into their hives about mid April. There were almost no decent days to evaluate hives in March. It has been better for the fruit growers. The slow start has held off frosts and every day is farther from danger.

After the Farm Show in January, I had a chance to peek at my hives. I was looking at about a 10% loss. The end of February the loss was looking about 20%. March was cold, wet, rain, snow and wind. My next chance to evaluate was the second week of April. Hmm. I lost 45%. Not good. Not as bad as reports I have been hearing. Better than my 60% loss last year. And not as bad as it would have been if I hadn't put candy blocks on them in December.

One thing different, I was better able to assign a cause for my losses. Other years have been much more mystery for me. For instance, bees dead with a totally untouched deep box of honey. Hives with multiple clusters. (Why didn't they cluster together?) Bees that made brood right into October, with no surplus at all. I blame those things on genetics. Those bees didn't know winter was coming and ran full-tilt into cold weather and weren't able to survive.

Of my 45% winter loss, I determined the final cause of death: 23% was mites, 25% nosema, 23% starvation and 17% queenless. (Queenless may have been a result of the first 2 causes.) The remaining 12% was unknown or hives that allowed too much exposure to rain/snow.

Besides adding a candy block this past winter, I took away the top ventilation. Last spring I bought full double-deeps wintered a few miles from me. The bees were just 'cruising' with nice populations. That veteran beekeeper had solid inner covers, with just a 5/8" vent hole drilled in each box. Huh? No top ventilation? That's not what the books tell me. But, when I think about it, I've never taken bees out of a building or tree that had top ventilation. In fact, they propolis every crack and crevice. Even in an observation hive, they will propolize the screened vents.

A year ago, I was reading results of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) survey. Of the people that did some type of mite control, their loss rate was less than people that did nothing. I don't want to misquote the percentage, but it was significant. I was doing little to nothing or poorly timed mite

control. If I could gain just the losses due to mites, that would be worthwhile.

I decided that the question of pesticides, specifically neonics, is not going to be resolved anytime soon. I cannot field-test my losses to confirm or rule out chemicals. I cannot assume that is cause for my losses. I know of feral colonies right smack in large corn/soy locations. How does that make sense? So, I need to replicate as close as possible what feral colonies do. The best I can do is use the least intrusive (but effective) controls to address loss causes I can confirm.

My losses were 15% less than the years before. Was it management or just lucky? I still have room for better management. I plan to follow the protocol of good genetics, mite control, nosema treatment and nutrition supplement as needed. But until I can do it 3 years in a row, I don't consider it a success.

I will contend that what works in one geographic location may not work in another. What works in stationary locations or with limited movement and limited chemical exposure is not the same as migratory beekeepers running the gauntlet of unknowns. This is undoubtedly why beekeepers have such a variety of opinions.

*Charlie Vorisek,
President PSBA*

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

May - June, 2013

By: **Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, Lehigh Valley,**

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was asked by PSBA President Charles Vorisek (at the 2012 meeting) if I would continue writing this column in the P.S.B.A. monthly newsletter. The idea being to answer questions that may arise from our members and to help fellow beekeepers become more proficient in their craft. I agreed to do so as long as I have questions to answer.

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.

Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper

Q: Received April 8, 2013

Hi Bill,

I had 11 of 20 hives die out this winter. My 6 older established colonies died of mites, 4 died from being weak, and / or robbed out, and one had the roof blown off and exposed to elements...brick and all.

Being relatively new to beekeeping, I am learning the hard way. I now have a better idea on how strong a colony needs to be for winter, and I'll be replacing queens this year to knock down the mites to a manageable level. Guess I need two bricks too...

My question for you is: How do I handle all of the built out comb I have? So my dead colonies are not a total loss, I want to give my new bee packages a head start with the used comb. None of it is over two years old. The frames of honey are easy enough to take care of, but it is the frames that have dead brood or old pollen in them that I'm not sure what to do with. I froze them all, but don't know if the bees will clean them out, or should I hose them off before reusing?

If you've already answered a question similar to this, just send me the link and I will read up on it. Hate to have you duplicate effort.

Thanks for your help. I enjoy your contributions in the newsletter, and missed not reading anything the past two months.

Best, Dave

A: Hi Dave,

Thanks for writing. This has been an extreme year



for losses from what I am hearing and experiencing, I have also lost many. You say your 6 older established colonies died of mites. I gather from reading your email, you may not have applied any mite treatments. This is a personal choice among beekeepers but I do recommend you use some sort of mite control to increase survival.

I understand your concern of the valuable comb you have in the dead-outs. I don't think you have anything to worry about Dave, as long as you are restocking your hives with live bees this spring. My main concern before I put new bees into a dead-out colony is to carefully check the comb for any signs of brood disease. If you have dead brood, capped or uncapped, check for any evidence of AFB (*American foulbrood*). This is the ONE disease that you cannot cure and will continue on through its long lasting spores. If you are in doubt and think there is a possibility of AFB the safest thing to do is have your equipment sterilized by irradiation. If all of your combs are free of any signs of AFB feel free to restock with live bees this spring.

The first thing I do when going through a dead colony is remove any large amounts of dead bees from the hive to prevent excessive mold growth, then I gently tap the frames to shake out bees that may have died in the cells. No need to tediously remove bees from each cell as the new bees will do that and they will also polish the comb, readying it for the new queen to fill with eggs. I would not hose the comb Dave; this will just do more damage. The bees can use whatever honey/pollen they have stored from the previous year.

I hope I've answered your questions Dave,

Bill Mondjack

Q: Received Apr. 11, 2013

Bill, I was cleaning out a hive that I found dead a few weeks ago. Not sure when it actually died.

I'm seeing a gray/green moldy look on the dead bees. I believe "chalkbrood" describes a "moldy" look. Is that what I have? I've never seen anything like this before.

I'd appreciate any advice or comments you can offer.

Thanks, Blaine

A: Hi Blaine,

From what you described I wouldn't be worried about Chalkbrood. If there are dead bees in the hive they will grow mold and so will the surface of the comb. I would remove the excess bees and not be concerned about any bees that are dead in the cells. You can gently shake some out but when you re-install new bees they will not only remove the dead bees but they will also clean and polish the comb. To help you understand Chalkbrood I'll give a brief explanation of

(Continued on Page 5)

W.W.B.D.(Continued from Page 3)

the disease. Chalkbrood is a fungal brood disease, caused by a spore-forming fungus *Ascosphaera Apis*. All castes (Queen, worker & drone) can be affected by this disease. Dead larvae are chalky white and may be mottled with brown or black spots. Usually if you find a hive infected with Chalkbrood you will see black & white colored mummies lying on the bottom board and the front landing.

Bill Mondjack

Nature Notes

Wood thrushes have returned. These robin-size and robin-shape birds have rusty red heads and backs. Their white breasts and bellies are speckled with dark spots. The wood thrush's song is a rapid series of flute notes, the prettiest of our Pennsylvania bird songs.



Hummingbirds have returned, too. Hummingbird food does not have to be red. One tablespoon of sugar dissolved in a quarter of a cup of hot water makes enough to stock a feeder for several days. To deter wasps, try a feeder, which makes the hummingbird dip its tongue into the reservoir: no drip of sugar water here to tempt a wasp. Hang the feeder under the eaves or under a rain guard to keep rain from diluting the food. Hummingbirds return to Pennsylvania about the time people start mowing their lawns.

Chimney swifts are back from the Amazon Basin of South America. They spend the day flying, chattering, and chasing insects above towns and cities. Chimney swift nests are constructed of grass and twigs cemented together onto the inside wall of a chimney with saliva. Each pair of swifts occupies its own chimney. They ~~do~~ nest communally with many nests in a chimney as I have been writing incorrectly for thirty years.

During May, twenty-some species of colorful **wood warblers** will migrate through our commonwealth. Warblers glean insects from the new leaves of trees, helping to control the hordes of munching inch-worm caterpillars. Some warbler species nest in Pennsylvania; most nest farther north. Seeing these feathered jewels in tree tops is an annual challenge for birdwatchers. One of the warblers that nests in Pennsylvania is the **common yellowthroat**, yellow with a black raccoon mask, which sings "whitchety-whitchety-whitchety" from wet, brushy areas. Another is the bright **yellow warbler**, which sings "Sweet-sweet-sweet-a little more sweet" from wet or dry brushy areas.

To find an orange and black **Baltimore oriole**, listen for its loud whistled song near the top of a tall shade tree in a park, yard, or at a forest edge.

House wrens will build a nest in every available nest box

and may puncture the eggs of other birds. A pair of wrens will spend the nesting season carrying insects from our gardens to hungry nestlings in the nest box.

Mockingbirds have been called the American nightingales because they sing at night in May and June. People trying to sleep may be enchanted by a mockingbird's song for an hour or so.

Snapping turtles leave the water to lay eggs in a sunny patch of ground, sometimes a long way from water. Most of the turtles sunning themselves at the edges of lakes are painted turtles. Some turtles have red ear patches; these are **red-eared sliders**, native to the southern U.S. and Mexico. They are pet store turtles that have been released into the wild.

Poison ivy leaves are waiting to greet the unwary with a gentle touch. In general, poison ivy thrives in sunny places, but a woods that was once a pasture can have poison ivy in its shady interior. Staying on paths can be a wise move.

At the end of May, **Venus** and **Jupiter** will be bright and close together at dusk **in the west**. Above them, **Mercury** will be visible in binoculars.

By Tim Sterrett

Research Project Assistance Requested

Hello PSBA members!

Many of you may not be aware that I have returned to college to pursue a Masters' degree in Public Relations. I am nearing the end of my program, but need your help with one final project. My program requires all students to complete a professional project of their choosing. My project, approved by my college and PSBA officers, will be to create and implement a digital outreach plan for the PSBA. One of the goals is to increase participation at PSBA events and increase membership.

Your help is needed with the research side of this project. Within the next several months, a survey will be in the PSBA newsletter and available online through the PSBA website. Your participation in this survey would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you all in advance for your help with this project.

Rachel Bryson

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.

Pennsylvania Honey Queen Report

By: Elena Hoffman

Happy Earth day everyone, or rather, happy Earth month. There was no better way to spend time than to travel throughout Pennsylvania talking and teaching about how important honey bees are to the planet! In April, I went to two wonderful events!

April started off with a huge event in Philadelphia called the Philadelphia Farm and Food Festival. There was a great turn out at the event and I'd estimate around 3,000 people were in attendance. It was great to spend time not only manning my booth but also being able to spend time with members of the Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild. At my booth, I received many great questions about bees and how someone could become a beekeeper. I handed out many brochures to people also interested in becoming a member of PSBA to help them on their way to becoming beekeepers. I also was given the chance to speak briefly on PSBA and the Honey Queen Program at one of the Guild member's Beekeeping 101 presentations. It was a wonderful experience and I would recommend attending the festival next year if you're in the area!

My last event of the month was spent in Shillington Pennsylvania at Eco-Fest. There truly was no better way to spend the weekend before Earth Day than educating students,

their parents, and even some teachers on the importance of honey bees and pollination. I had a marvelous day exchanging my stamp on their Eco-Fest cards (this allowed them to move to the second floor of the school for other Earth-friendly games!) and "I Love Honey" stickers for them creating their own bee and telling me one fact they knew about honey bees. Many of the children and parents had plenty of questions and left my booth amazed at some of the information they learned. Even the principal kept returning to my booth to listen in on what new topic I was teaching about honey bees. It was a great day of promoting the industry, PSBA, the Honey Queen Program, and of teaching about honey bees!

My year as Pennsylvania Honey Queen is flying by quickly. As summer is approaching I encourage you to invite me to your fair or festival! Don't miss out on the chance to have the Honey Queen or Princess at your event! To invite me or Princess Jessica to an event, contact Rachel Bryson, queen program chair, at brysonrachel@yahoo.com or 717-300-0146.



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
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1/4 Page	9.00	1/4 Page	15.00
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Full Page	\$75.00	Full Page	\$ 150.00
1/2 Page	40.00	1/2 Page	75.00
1/4 Page	23.00	1/4 Page	50.00
1/8 Page	12.00	1/8 Page	26.00

2013 PSBA Officers

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

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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 July issue of

The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **June 22nd**.



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.

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

Central Western PA Beekeepers

Monday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Leicher Family Farm, Chicora. For more information, contact Barry & Dorothy Leicher at 724-445-2471, email leicherfarm@zoominternet.net or Robert McMillin, email rmmill@zoominternet.net.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research & Ext. Center, Manheim. Hive Opening (no official meeting). Contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or email jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, June 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Bldg., Allentown. A review of Hive Treatment Options. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, June 22, 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Ridley Creek State Park. Annual Picnic. Visit the CCBA website at www.chescobees.org for more information.

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Sunday, June 23, 2:00 p.m. at the Lew Smith residence, Bedford. For more information, contact Helen Evans at 814-472-7637 or email secretary@ccbee.org

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Dr. David Fletcher – An African Bee Story. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911 or email Gail@geezbeez.biz for more information

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Date and Location to be determined. Meeting will be held in the Clearfield area. Check their website at <http://www.ccbee.org/meetings.html> or contact Helen Evans at 814-472-7637, email secretary@ccbee.org

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 3, 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, July 10, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research & Ext. Center, Manheim. Hive Opening (no official meeting). Contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or email jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, July 18, 6:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center, Slatington. Annual Picnic. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Capital Area Beekeepers

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

Beaver Valley and Burgh Bees

Saturday, July 20, at Gary Sekinger's Barn, Sewickley. Summer Picnic. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com or info@burghbees.com

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, July 25, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Morrell Sipe – Beekeeping Around the World. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911 or email Gail@geezbeez.biz for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, July 27, 10:00 a.m. at the Harford Fairgrounds. Work day on honey house and nomination meeting. Picnic following, bring a dish to share. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166, email jimnginw@epix.net, for more information.

2013 EAS Conference and Short Course

Monday-Friday, August 5-9, 2013, at the West Chester University, West Chester, Pa. For more information, see articles and ad throughout this edition or visit the [EAS website](http://www.easwebsite.org).

PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 10, 2013 at the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA. The picnic is being hosted by the Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association. See page 13 for additional information.

PSBA Annual Conference

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

Jeremy's Corner

I spend a lot of money at True Value, the local hardware store. I don't begrudge it; I am known there by both face and name and feel more than just a customer. It's an inviting, helpful environment and every visit feels like a win:win situation; I feel welcome, I get what I need in terms of both advice and materials, and they keep my business. It's one of the many advantages of living in a small, semi-rural community.

True Value occasionally sends out gift certificates to its customers. Checking out of the store on a recent visit, I mentioned to Marion behind the counter that I had received such a certificate but had left it at home. She immediately gave me the gift (a first aid kit for the car) and said I could return the certificate on my next visit.

When I returned the next day, certificate in hand, the response of the young lady at the till (it was Marion's day off) was interesting. She was clearly surprised, perhaps impressed, which led me to believe that based on previous experiences there had been no expectation that the request would be honored. For me there was no question that I would respond in any other way; the agreement had been based on mutual trust and respect, qualities that are too important to be taken for granted or abused.

Stephen Covey distinguishes between personality and character. In the first chapter of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People he describes the development, in the second half of the last century, of the personality ethic, when the new genre of self-help books stressed appearance, technique and a positive mental attitude. Valuable as these are, they lack meaning unless they are based on primary principles such as integrity, humility, courage, patience and 'the Golden Rule.' Covey says we can get by using the personality ethic to help make favorable first impressions but these secondary traits have no prolonged worth in long-term relationships. "Eventually, if there is no integrity, the challenges of life will reveal one's true character. As Emerson once said, 'What you are shouts so loudly in my ears I cannot hear what you say.'" "

In the 150 years preceding the Second World War, Covey argues, character traits were stressed more than personality traits, and the key to success is to identify and integrate the former back into our daily behaviors and decision-making processes.

A 2012 study at the University of Illinois suggested that bees have different personalities, with some showing a stronger willingness to seek adventure than others. The researchers found that thrill seeking is not limited to humans and other vertebrates. The brains of honey bees that were more likely than others to seek adventure exhibited distinct patterns of gene activity in molecular pathways known to be associated with thrill-seeking in humans.

Rather than being a highly regimented colony of interchangeable workers taking on a few specific roles to

serve their queen, it now seems that individual honeybees differ in their desire to perform particular tasks and these differences could be due to variability in bees' personalities. This supports a 2011 study at Newcastle University that suggests honey bees exhibit pessimism, indicating that insects might have feelings.

And honey bees certainly display character traits such as courage, loyalty, perseverance and patience.

But there is a critical difference of course between honey bees and ourselves. The behavior of the former, as best we know, is entirely the result of their genetic makeup. Bees do not make conscious choices; rather they respond automatically to the chemical bouquets we call pheromones. We too have a genetic disposition but it is moderated by nurturing, first by others (e.g. our parents) and then by ourselves. Every day we make thousands of conscious choices, each one dictated by a moral value as expressed in our personality and character.

And that was the lesson of my visit to True Value. In an age that has come to expect no more than personality (saying the right thing is more important than doing the right thing) I had made a choice based on character (following words with action) and it felt good.

Copies of previous columns can be found at honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com

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**



Hosted By: Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

Date: August 10th, 2013

Time: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Place: Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

Directions:

PA Turnpike 276 East

Exit 333 Norristown

Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Plymouth Meeting and merge

Go 3.7 miles and turn left onto Northwestern Ave.

Go 0.5 miles and enter through the gates on the left across t

Events:

-  **Smoker lighting contest – bring your smoker and fuel**
-  **Open hive tour at the arboretum apiary**
-  **Urban hive crawl and mead tasting hosted by the Philadelphia Beekeepers at 9:00**
-  **Bring a dish to pass for the potluck**
-  **Raffle and exclusive Bee Club T-shirts for sale!**
-  **PSBA meeting including report by Pennsylvania State Honey Princess and Queen.**
-  **Free Arboretum Tours at 11:00, 2:00 or 3:30**

To RSVP and sign up for the urban hive crawl or arboretum tour

Contact: Priscilla (215) 564-2418 or ailtah663@gmail.com

Pot Luck Coordinator: Annabelle (215) 858-5373

(Additional Information on Page 19)

April Identification Reader

In the mid-nineties, we moved up to Tioga County, PA. We bought some land and put a trailer on it. I had always wanted an orchard so we started planting fruit trees on our new land. The next spring, I noticed that there were not many bees on our trees. In 1999, I bought 2 hives of honey bees from another beekeeper. Things went well for several years. We had lots of honey and fruit as the young trees were bearing more fruit each year.

We bought and grew bees till we had 15 hives. Then in 2 seasons, we were down to 1 hive and no honey. We asked what to do and bought 2 boxes of honey bees each year and put them in new hives.

Last fall (2012) we had 4 good hives with lots of honey left in them plus 8 frames for ourselves. That was the best season in a while. But now we only have 1 live hive and 2 boxes of honey bees coming in May.

If I did not like honey bees so much I just might give up.
Lewis Cretsinger, Morris Run, PA

Mite Survey

My name is Katy Evans, I am a graduate student at the University of Delaware under Dr. Deborah Delaney. I am currently working on a Master's degree and my project focuses on helping the local beekeeping community reduce and better manage mite populations and varroa vectored viruses in a non-chemical fashion. Specifically, I will be testing the efficacy of splitting and swarming of hives to keep mites below harmful levels while increasing the overall colony survivorship. If effective this strategy will be developed into an IPM practice for beekeepers in the mid-Atlantic region and it will greatly benefit the beekeeping community in that it will reduce the amount of time and costs beekeepers must spend on varroa control treatments and alleviate the need for additional control tactics. I will be hosting field days, training sessions, and creating web-based and printed material to share my data and IPM practices with the local beekeeping community. To better design the IPM practices it is important to know how many beekeepers currently treat for mites and I have composed a survey to find out the strategies beekeepers are using to control for mites. I have uploaded a survey to the UDEL sponsored survey website Qualtrics, https://delaware.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6Sxa0ON8nGm80Lj,

If you have any questions please feel free to contact and I will be happy to answer them.

I appreciate your help,

Katy

Katy Ciola Evans
Phone: (386) 216 2418
Email: kciola@udel.edu

A Tribute to Russell Wentz

Russell Wentz passed away Thursday, May 23, 2013.

Russell Wentz was born in York County three months before the outbreak of the First World War, and died in the same county three weeks before his 99th birthday.

Besides being consistently involved in many aspects of his community, Russell was also an educator, nurseryman and beekeeper. He got his first colony in 1946 after returning from military service in the Philippines and joined the York County Beekeepers' Association the same year. At its height his apiary consisted of more than 300 hives spread over three states.

He was secretary of the YCBA for 8 years and President in 1966 and 1967. He was part of the group that organized the first EAS meeting, was elected Vice-President one year later, and it was during this period that he authored a number of articles for "Gleanings"

Russell was extensively involved in the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association, following developments closely until his death; upon visiting him in his final years his first question was always, "How are the bees?" He was PSBA Treasurer for five years, President in 1974 and Pennsylvania Beekeeper of the Year in 1972.

In 2010, before he moved into an Elderly Care facility, he was still running 12 colonies, selling the honey on an honor system from his front porch. In 2012, aged 97, he gave a talk to his fellow residents on honey bees which, unsurprisingly, was very well received.

Among many of his talents Russell had a beautiful script and a love of crosswords. A gentleman in every sense of the word, everything he did reflected his passion and commitment. After visiting him in the elder care home his last words were invariably, "Please remember me to those who knew me." We remember Russell with affection, respect and admiration.

Jeremy Barnes

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EAS Introduces Two Keynote Speakers

The Planning Committee for the 2013 Conference & Short Course is proud to introduce not one, but two, keynote speakers for our annual event! Dr. Mark Winston, [Simon Fraser University](#) & Mr. Brian Snyder, [PA Association of Sustainable Agriculture](#)

The keynotes will be delivered on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 . . . but wait, let me take a step back for those of you who haven't been to an EAS Conference week before.

The format of this annual event follows:

- The "Short Course" normally spans Monday and Tuesday. In 2013, two tracks will be offered and there is an extra day for some of the course topics to overflow into Wednesday.
- On Wednesday, though, the Conference and Workshop Series begins with the keynote addresses and ends with a social gathering at a near-by picnic ground.
- If you're not too tired by quittin' time on Thursday, you should attend the annual Auction Dinner, which is a fundraiser for the research grants that EAS awards each year.
- Throughout most of the week, your favorite vendors of beekeeping supplies, books and gadgets will be on hand with their wares. In the same vendor area will be bee fabric for the quilters, bee art & jewelry and much, much more!
- And, oh yeah - there's a HONEY SHOW with prestige and prizes to be won. Admit it, you're proud of your bees' work! So bring it, enter it and show it off!
- By Friday, you will have met so many new and interesting people, you will want one last chance to get together with them before it's over - the Annual Banquet!

Pennsylvania's own Maryann Frazier is ably organizing the program for Wednesday through Friday. Invited speakers are confirming their intention to be with us and pinning down the titles of their talks and workshops. Check the [EAS website](#) often for confirmed speakers, lodging information and other updates.

There's so much to see and do in and around West Chester, PA that you may want to make it your family vacation! Spend a day or two touring together in Philadelphia, Valley Forge or Dutch Country. By Wednesday, they'll know their way around on their own and you can get back to the conference! Or stick around an extra day at the end and enjoy the [PA State Beekeepers Association Picnic](#), complete with a "hive crawl" and mead tasting, in a nearby urban area on Saturday August 10.

See you in August!

EAS Workshops & Short Course

On-site beeyards are part of the Conference & Short Course!

From basic lessons to advanced workshops, the apiaries are there for you! With help from able instructors, learn how to "read" a frame, find a queen, spot a great brood pattern, and identify supercedure & swarm cells.

The more experienced may learn about common hive problems and how to solve them (drone-laying workers, drone-laying queens, wax moths, hive beetles, *Varroa* mites, mice, etc.). Find out when and how to combine hives, split hives, how to replace queens, work a top bar hive and much more!



The Short Course has both a Basic and an Advanced Level.

Students may drift between levels and courses within each level, provided attendance does not exceed room capacity.

New this year: the Basic Level has an optional examination for Certification. Students wishing to receive the Basic Beekeeping Certification must pass both the written and field test.

AWESOME! Don't forget your gear! It is a hands-on educational apiary, so you'll be in the hives. **Bring what you normally wear in the beeyard.**

Unsolicited Testimonial:

What I found most appealing about EAS is that one can bounce back and forth between the beginner and advanced tracks depending on what one finds interesting. And the time in the apiary and lab - that is really a treat and sets EAS apart from most state meetings. EAS is probably the only bee meeting where one can choose among several lectures, instruction in the apiary or lab -- or even in the kitchen -- at any given time, depending on one's interests. I think the average beekeeper has no idea of the scope of concurrent educational opportunities from which to choose. It's a fabulous program!

-- Pam Fisher, President, Beekeepers Guild of Southeast Virginia

The Eastern Apicultural Society's annual Conference and Short Course are organized by a handful of volunteers in the host state. Numerous members of the **Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA)** are hard at work to bring you EAS 2013.

PSBA Picnic

This summer the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association's annual picnic will be held at the Morris Arboretum August 10, 2013 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.. The Morris Arboretum is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this is your opportunity to visit free of charge. Your admittance, a \$16/person value, has been covered by your hosts for the picnic the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association and the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association.

Don't miss this chance to view one of the most spectacular arboretums in the state. You will see:

The Big Bug Exhibit : These amazing 'bugs' are the creation of Long Island sculptor, David Rogers. Made mostly from found materials, primarily trees and plants that have fallen and died, each Big Bug is a unique creation with its own whimsical character. This exhibit will only be on view this summer.

The Garden Railway : *Around the World in an Afternoon!* This summer, Morris Arboretum's Garden Railway will transport visitors to the far ends of the earth. Spanning the globe, visitors will experience magical visits to The Great Wall of China (China), The Leaning Tower of Pisa (Italy), Hagia Sophia (Istanbul), Tikal (Guatemala) Maachu Picchu (Peru), Petra (Jordan), the Giza Pyramid and Alexandria Light House (Egypt), The Eiffel Tower (Paris), Arc de Triomphe (Paris), and Sphinx (Egypt).

The Tree Adventure Get a bird's eye view of the forest from 50 feet up, perched on a canopy walk high above ground level. Or scamper down onto the Squirrel Scramble, a huge hammock-like net where you can look down to the ground far below through the rope netting. Enter a Bird's Nest and sit on giant robin's eggs, just waiting to hatch. It's all part of Morris Arboretum's Tree Adventure exhibit, connecting us to the natural world, and themed to teach us that *we need trees and trees need us*.

The Many Incredible Tree Specimens : One of the most outstanding features of the estate that became the Morris Arboretum in 1933 is the collection of large and stately trees. These sovereigns form the fabric that weaves together the Arboretum. They represent the diversity of our plant collections by showing plants from North America, Europe, the Mediterranean, China, Japan, and Korea. Some of them are among the largest of their kind in North America. Others are exceedingly rare and may be among only a handful grown outside of Asia. Others are unusual horticultural forms. What all these awe-inspiring specimens share is a connection to our past, hope for our future, and a testimony to the beauty and longevity of trees.

The Picnic is being held at Bloomfield Farm located directly across the street from the arboretum. This area is not open to the public but picnic attendees will also be able to view the many attractions located here. They include: A large apiary with the most colorfully painted hives in Pennsylvania, a bee

garden enhanced by plantings by the Montgomery County 4-H Beekeeping Club, the official Langstroth Bench with the history of Langstroth carved on the panels and the arboretum's Langstroth library. You will also be able to tour a restored and working mill and the LEED® Platinum Certified Horticulture Center.

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending the picnic. We look forward to seeing you there.

See the picnic flyer, on Page 13, for more information and how to RSVP.



PSBA Honey Queen Elena Hoffman educating students, their parents, and even some teachers on the importance of honey bees and pollination at Eco-Fest held in April at Shillington.

Penn State Course Encourages Backyard Beekeeping

Penn State Beekeeping 101 course is an online beekeeping course for beginner and experienced beekeepers and those thinking about taking up backyard beekeeping.

The 10-module course combines video, multimedia, and interactive activities that participants can take at their own pace. The modules provide the knowledge needed to keep and manage a healthy beehive as well as produce honey and beeswax. Modules cover bee biology, bee behavior, hive management, diseases and pests, swarming and more.

For information about Penn State's online Beekeeping 101 course, visit <http://beekeeping101.psu.edu>.

**Pennsylvania State
Beekeepers Association**
presents **Eastern Apicultural Society**
2013 Conference and Short Courses
West Chester University of PA
August 5 - 9, 2013



The EAS is an international non-profit organization whose mission is education and conferences for beekeepers, master beekeeper certification and honey bee research grants.



The annual EAS conference consists of short courses at beginner and advanced levels, workshops, lectures, vendor and educational displays. More than 600 people attend the events each year!

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKERS:
Mark Winston - Canada
Thomas Seeley - US
Elliud Muli - Africa
Peter Neumann - Switzerland
and many others . . .

**THREE-DAY SHORT COURSE
WITH TWO TRACKS
courses**



**THREE-DAY CONFERENCE
WITH MULTIPLE TRACKS**

- Making Peace and Places for Bees**
- More Bees; Better Bees**
- A Forager's Challenge: Nutrition & Pesticides**
- Landscape Ecology: Honey Production & Pollination**
- Knowing Bees Better**
- New Solutions to Old Problems**
- Innovative Outreach & Partnerships**

SOCIAL EVENTS:
Wednesday Picnic
Thursday Auction
Friday Banquet

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