



# THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association



The 2014 National Beekeeping representatives, Susannah Austin, American Honey Queen and Elena Hoffman, American Honey Princess.

Photo by Rachel Bryson

## News 'n Views...

Welcome to the 110<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association had its beginning at a meeting in Williamsport, Pa. on April 12, 1904. 50 years later, in 1954, the Pa Honey Queen program was begun. 2014 also marks 60 years for that program.

The 2014 Pa Farm Show began quickly this year. Some volunteers arrived the evening of New Year's Day to begin setting up and accepting exhibit entries the next day, Thursday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Volunteers at the Food Court honey ice cream stand had already setup that area the weekend before Christmas. Many of the volunteers come from the Capital Area Beekeepers Association. CABA takes the Farm Show personally. They understand distance and commitments don't allow others to participate as well as they might like to. So, each year the Capital Area Beekeepers step up to fill the gaps, put in long hours and put a shine on Pennsylvania beekeeping.

If I try to name all the volunteers that help during the Farm Show, I will certainly miss some. But I will mention a number of volunteers come from Lancaster, York, Philadelphia and Montgomery County beekeepers. Beekeepers from central, western and northeast Pennsylvania also made the trek and volunteered time.

With around 500,000 visitors, the Pa Farm Show is an important chance to promote beekeeping in Pennsylvania. With just 3,300 registered beekeepers in the state, most people have little or no first-hand knowledge about honey or beekeeping. The interest is alive and well with news media coverage of the past several years. At the Apiary Learning Station, it's often a 'beekeeping basics' lesson. The live observation hives flying into the open atrium is the closest people will ever get to the real thing. This is an excellent opportunity to bring it all together for the general public.

We will offer more on the Farm Show with a Special Edition newsletter.

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News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

As a new year begins, I would like to express my gratitude for the support I've received the first year as PSBA president. Some good things have been accomplished. Some things I could have been done better. And there's a list of things that still need to be addressed. None of these things are done alone. I appreciate the help of the other members and leaders. I've had the pleasure and opportunity to meet many of the 'movers' and 'shakers' this past year. The Farm Show also gives me an opportunity to swap ideas with beekeepers and other aspects of agriculture. The value goes far beyond selling ice cream and honey. Everyone takes away friendships, networking and sometimes new opportunities.

There are many issues ahead of us, from national and state to the backyard or rooftop beekeeper. We are a diverse group of backgrounds, desires and passions. As most independent people, we will never agree on all the solutions. Some solutions will never be accomplished completely. I have confidence the leadership team to pursue our best interests.

The winter temperatures will be a true test for our 'survivor' bees. In December, I already had one hive location flood when we had heavy rains on a heavy snow pack. I was e-mailed a photo of that location and asked, "Do those belong to you?" Eleven hives way out in the middle of a low flooded plain. Water clearly halfway or more up the first deep box. After the water receded 4 days later, I went in to inspect the damage. All eleven had moved into the top deep box and were still very much alive. Still 3 months to go, but not done yet.

Early January brought chilling sub-zero weather. During a warming period mid January, on a very still 40 degree day, over 30 of my single 5-frame nucs were busy taking cleansing flights. A week later it's back to single digit temperatures. It has been slow for me to gain confidence and trust wintering bees. Every year seems like I try something a bit different.

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A reminder, to receive an email newsletter, request this from Yvonne Crimbring [pabeel@frontier.com](mailto:pabeel@frontier.com) Pictures are in color. Emails and websites referenced are all 'hot links'. You can create a computer folder just for the newsletter and always have the latest copies at your fingertips.

I look forward to 2014.

*Charlie Vorisek  
President PSBA*



## Honey Queen Program Report

By Rachel Bryson

Hello all,

The new year has already been filled with many exciting moments for the Honey Queen program. To start, our 2013 Queen Elena Hoffman was selected as the 2014 American Honey Princess during the American Beekeeping Federation Convention in Baton Rouge, La. Elena will be joined this year in her travels across North America by Susannah Austin of Florida, who is the 2014 American Honey Queen.

A total of four contestants participated in the four-day competition. Joining Elena and Susannah were contestants from Texas and Iowa. All of these young women did an excellent job representing their states. You can follow Elena's travels this year by liking the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page.

Before heading to Baton Rouge, Elena represented the PSBA at the PA Farm Show. She assisted with preparing the honey displays before the show opened to the public, attended the Governor's reception and opening ceremonies, and working in our ever popular ice cream stand and learning center.

Our 2013 Princess, Jessica Aurand, also attended the Farm Show and worked in the learning center and ice cream stand. Photos from the Farm Show and ABF convention can be found on the PA Honey Queen Program Facebook page.

For those of you who were not able to attend the convention, I wanted to share Elena's total promotion numbers again (these figures do not include the Farm Show or ABF convention).

- Attended **23** events
- Visited **18** counties
- Traveled **4,044** miles
- Reached **2,034,560** people
- Total value of promotions - **\$149,882**

Congratulations to Elena and thank you to both Elena and Jessica for the outstanding work this year.

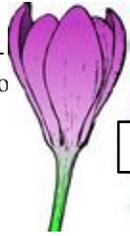
In other news, as some of you may know we did not crown a 2014 Honey Queen during the convention. However, the committee is still working diligently to find a candidate to serve as our 2014 Queen, so keep checking our Facebook page for updates on this search.

This year also marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Honey Queen Program. We are planning some special reunion activities at some of our events in celebration. If your group would be interested in hosting one of these reunions, please let me know.

While it is still uncertain if we will have a 2014 Honey Queen, I encourage you to continue contacting me with event requests. Thank you all for your continued support of the Honey Queen Program.

## Nature Notes:

The first **crocus** flower, probably on a south-facing, grassy slope, is a promise of spring. Why not plant some small (tough!) purple **Tommasini's crocus** bulbs? They thrive in lawns not treated with weed killer.



On sunny days, the white flowers of **snow-drops** and yellow **winter aconite** are open. They both bloom on short stalks, which may put their flowers closer to the sun-lit warm forest floor. Why bloom so early? To get the attention of foraging insects when not much is blooming.

**Forsythia** branches, set indoors in a vase or canning jar of water, should bloom in a couple of weeks.

In a swampy spot, **skunk cabbage** is poking up a purple spathe, which protects the flower inside. The plant is able to generate a bit of heat, making its flower more attractive to insect pollinators.

We hope our queen bees have gotten back to the business of laying eggs in the warm center of the cluster. If the bees are clustered right at the top of the hive, latched onto a block of life-saving sugar, they probably are not warming the queen on the center of a comb.

Stepping outdoors, we should hear the loud, sharp "Peter, Peter, Peter" of a **tufted titmouse**, a gray bird shaped like a small cardinal. **Goldfinches** at the feeder have started to replace drab winter feathers with golden/yellow breeding plumage.

Hawks and owls are generally solitary, but with breeding season approaching, **red-tailed hawks**, large soaring birds with light-colored undersides, may be circling each other in the sky or perched together in the vicinity of a nest tree.

Does **cold January** mean that the Earth is really cooling off? **Weather** is what we see out the window or toss off the driveway with a shovel. **Climate** is measured over decades and centuries. Humans began burning **coal** in huge amounts to fuel the Industrial Revolution in the middle of the 1800s. Burning coal combines carbon with oxygen to release energy (heat), water vapor, and carbon dioxide. Starting in 1958, measurements taken at the top of a mountain in Hawaii, above and away from cities and cars, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, have shown a steady rise of carbon dioxide in the air. Carbon dioxide keeps heat from escaping into space, forming a quilt over the warming Earth.

Would a wet January mean the end of the drought in the Southwest? Not many people argue against the historical evidence that **California** and the **Southwest** are in a long-term **drought**. Green **grass lawns** visible from airplanes descending toward Las Vegas and other Southwest cities will soon be only a memory.

Ice that forms a layer around twigs is a result of **freezing rain**. A rain drop (water) has to expand a bit just before it can freeze. Surface tension (which makes raindrops round) keeps the drop from expanding. The drop of water may cool below 32 degrees as it falls through freezing air. What happens when

a twig breaks the surface tension and lets the drop expand? It freezes suddenly. Road surfaces can seem dry but be covered with ice if supercooled water falls, touches the ground, and freezes. Freezing rain can form dry spots of ice on umbrellas.

**Orion** still inhabits the southern late evening sky. Above Orion, the **Pleiades** star cluster looks like a tiny dipper. A star cluster appears on the badge at the front and back of each Subaru because Subaru is the Japanese word for the Pleiades. Between Orion and the Pleiades is bright **Aldebaran**, the fiery orange eye of **Taurus the Bull**.

By Tim Sterrett

## "Youth in Beekeeping" Honey Bee Essay Contest - 2014

The Pennsylvania Backyard Beekeepers Association is sponsoring an essay contest for youth to win a free beehive complete with honeybees! Any young person up to the age of 17 may enter the contest. The essay is open to all subject matters concerning bees. But should include their interests in bees, and any future plans in beekeeping. Feel free to add your own creative spin to the essay. It should be handwritten, and not over 500 words in length.

All entries must be received by March 1, 2014. The winner (or winners) will be announced at the Association's spring workshop on March 29. You do not need to be present to win. The PennApic Board of Directors will judge the entries. Winners cannot be a family member of a board member. All essays may be used in the PennApic newsletter or website.

All entries must include name, age, parents name, address, phone number and email if applicable.

Entries are to be mailed to: PennApic, C/O Carol Cline, 39 Shirley Drive, Middletown, PA 17057 or email to [ccline46@verizon.net](mailto:ccline46@verizon.net)

**Watch for the Annual  
PSBA Special Edition  
Farm Show articles, photos,  
January's Identification reader  
plus much more**

**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES** 4/14 and receives the newsletter at 127 Park Ave., Mt. Joy, 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 March 20<sup>th</sup>, he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, or *The Small Beekeepers Journal*. When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.



## Upcoming Dates To Remember



Deadline for the February issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is **February 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### Introduction to Beekeeping Classes

Wednesdays, February 19, March 5 & 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

### Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 8, at the Penn State Extension, Westmoreland Co., Greensburg. Registration deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit the website <http://extension.psu.edu/beginning-beekeeping> or contact PSU Beaver Co. Coop. Extension at 724-774-3003 for more information.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium

Sunday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia. Speakers for the event are Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, authors of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping." For more information or to reserve your space, visit [www.phillybeekeepers.org](http://www.phillybeekeepers.org)

### Wax Rendering Workshop

Sunday, February 9, 1:00 p.m., location to be determined. This workshop takes you through the processes used to take your raw wax and render it so that it is useable for creating lip balms, candles or exhibit and judging. Visit the website: <http://burghbees.com/?product=wax-rendering-130> for more information or to register.

### Chester County Beekeepers Seminar

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m. at the West Chester Borough Hall. Visit the Association's website [www.ChescoBees.org](http://www.ChescoBees.org) for more information.

### Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

Friday and Saturday, February 14 & 15, at the Four Points by Sheraton, Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA. The cost is \$50 for participants and \$30 for their guests and children under 18. Registration deadline is February 8. For additional information and registration visit [Western PA Beekeeping Seminar](http://www.westernpa-beekeepers.org)

### Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Seipstown Grange, Fogelsville. Starting/Boosting Beehives in spring. Also Beekeeping Hardware Swap Meet. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. at the Gathering Place, Mount Joy. Spring Banquet, reservation deadline is February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) for

more information.

### York County Beekeepers

Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Ruhl Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Speakers: Four Nu-bees share stories from their first years of keeping bees after David Papke explains what is happening in the hives in February. Contact [honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com) for more information.

### North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 5, 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) for more information.

### Capital Area Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Wildwood Park, Harrisburg, Tom Jones will speak on the topic "Twelve Months of Beekeeping".

### Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Environmental Center. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email [RJArmstrong1@verizon.net](mailto:RJArmstrong1@verizon.net) for additional information.

### Advanced Beekeepers Class – Beekeeping 201

Saturday, March 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Penn State Extension of Allegheny County Pittsburgh. "What to Expect in Your Second Year and Beyond. To register: <http://burghbees.com/?product=beekeeping-201>

(Continued on Page 11)

## Italian Package Bees and Queens for Sale:

### Delivered to the Lehigh Valley

3 lb. Package w/Queen - \$96

Queens - \$23

Add \$3.50 for marked queens

Available for pickup on or about April 13

(Actual date may change due to weather)

See the order form at

[www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org](http://www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org)

or contact

**Bill Mondjack: 610-751-4483**

[billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com](mailto:billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com)

or

**Steve Finke: 610-737-7676**

[steve@meadowviewbees.com](mailto:steve@meadowviewbees.com)

Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

**Chester County Beekeepers Seminar**

Saturday, March 15, 9:00 a.m. at the Merion Science Center at West Chester University, West Chester. This seminar will include sessions for beginners and advanced beekeepers. Visit the Association’s website [www.ChescoBees.org](http://www.ChescoBees.org) for more information.

**Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Seminar**

Saturday, March 15, at the HVCC TEC-SMART Extention Bldg., Malta, NY. Speakers include, Dr. Jerry Hayes, Dr. Thomas Seeley and Michael Smith. For more information, contact Anne Frey at 518-895-8744 or email [annef@capital.net](mailto:annef@capital.net)

**Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley**

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

**Lancaster County Beekeepers**

Tuesday, March 18, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. Contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) for more information.

**Lehigh Valley Beekeepers**

Thursday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag Center, Allentown. Panel Discussion: General beekeeping questions. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

**Tri-County Meeting (Capital Area, Lancaster, York)**

Friday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Purcell Friendship Hall, Hershey. Dr. Deb Delaney, University of Delaware, will speak on “Why Genetics Are Important”. Contact [honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com) for more information.

**PSBA Summer Picnic**

Saturday, August 9, 2014 at the Wade Fisher Bee Farm, McVeytown. Additional information will be posted on the [PSBA website](#) and printed in the newsletter as it becomes available.

**PSBA Annual Conference**

Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg.

**Attention Counties:** Please submit your 2014 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

**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](mailto: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.

**Jeremy’s Corner**

A study out of Stanford University some 20 years ago examined why some doctors are sued more than others. We, the patient, cannot assess accurately their medical expertise. We look at the certificates on the wall, during the procedure we are often anesthetized, and on recovery, look to see how straight is the line of stitches. No, we evaluate doctors on their bedside manner. Doctors with good communication skills are sued less often than those without.

In December of 2013 the Center for Food Integrity (CFI) ([www.foodintegrity.com](http://www.foodintegrity.com)) argued that in an era when smart phones can take videos so easily, farmers need to run their operations as if someone is recording their activities. What, they asked, separates what they called ‘good actor’ v ‘bad actor’ farmers and how does this relate to the level of trust that consumers have in their products?

For the sake of this newsletter I am going to substitute beekeeper for farmer. As a beekeeper’s operation grows in size it starts to look to the consumer as ‘institutional’, and the more institutional it looks, the less the consumer believes they can trust the beekeeper. The larger the operation the more likely it is perceived as putting profit above public interest.

The values held by the beekeeper are more important to the public than his or her technical competence. We tend to speak to the public and answer questions in scientific and technological terms but consumers are primarily concerned with the availability, affordability and safety of healthy foods, in this case honey or the crops that honey bees pollinate.

And to address those values the beekeeper needs to have earned public trust and be transparent. Easier said than done, right? So the CFI polled 6000 people and discovered that ‘bad actors’ discounted public concerns, passed on the blame and were not consistent in their informational data. ‘Good actors,’ by comparison, focused on addressing perceived problems, did not hesitate to bring in other expertise and focused on larger issues like health and well being. Good actors, in other words, listened hard and addressed real concerns.

Good actors, or in our case good beekeepers, keep good records (which can be a valid source of their methodology if support is needed,) participate in honey bee related programs, have a good relationship with local expertise and accept responsibility when things don’t work out as we would like.

A report in Lancaster Farming, Dec 7, 2013, which is where I first read of this report, ends thus: “(Beekeepers) need to demonstrate and communicate an understanding of the ethical obligation to provide for the well being of (honey bees.) And they need to communicate that their commitment to doing what is right goes beyond their economic interests.”

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## American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Meeting

My wife, Ellen, and I attended the recent ABF meeting, held in Baton Rouge, LA January 7-11, 2014. I went as one of your state delegates. This was an exciting meeting with many informative talks and demonstrations.

First the business. The ABF is trying to involve more small scale and sideliner beekeepers. To that end, the ABF education committee has produced numerous webinars on beekeeping topics that are available to members. As part of a new initiative, the ABF will allow clubs to join and then show these webinars at club meeting. For 2014, ABF plans to produce a series of videos ranging from basic (such as how to light a smoker) to more advanced topics.

Since one of the functions of ABF is to lobby for legislation of benefit to all beekeepers, the organization has been actively involved in the Farm Bill, pesticide regulation, and conservation programs, among others. Please consider joining ABF, as its impact is dependent on the size of its membership.

Presentations: Of the many presentations, I will only report on two and Ellen on one. For several years, Dr. Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota has been investigating the benefits of propolis on honey bee health. It is well known that honey bees coat the walls of a tree nest with propolis. To mimic this behavior, Dr. Spivak and her students are attaching propolis screens to the inside walls of commercial bee hives, with the goal of encouraging the bees to coat the walls with propolis. Dr. Spivak and her students will then evaluate whether the additional propolis improves bee health, publishing the results when the studies are complete. Dr. Spivak wonders if we are doing our bees a disservice by smoothing the inside walls of a bee hive. See her review article, available as a free download: Simone-Finstrom and Spivak, Propolis and bee health: the natural history and significance of resin use by honey bees in *Apidologie* volume 41, pages 295-311, 2010. <http://www.apidologie.org/articles/apido/abs/2010/03/m09142/m09142.html>

Dr. Peter Teal of the USDA-ARS in Gainesville, FL showed a fascinating video of an observation hive collapsing with small hive beetles taking over the hive. From very careful, timed observations of the process, his conclusion is that some type of yeast infection in the pollen preceded the SHB take over. He showed that the yeast infection produced chemicals that acted as honey bee nerve toxins, killing many bees before the actual SHB attack. He is continuing to investigate this phenomenon.

As part of a panel discussion Drs. Spivak ([spiva001@umn.edu](mailto:spiva001@umn.edu)), Teal ([Peter.Teal@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Peter.Teal@ars.usda.gov)) and Jeff Pettis ([Jeffery.Pettis@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Jeffery.Pettis@ars.usda.gov)) appealed to beekeepers to contact them with their questions and concerns, as our problems help drive their research.

## Pollinator Habitat Partnership Opportunities with Pheasants and Quail Forever-Pete Berthelsen

At first glance, this talk looked a bit off target, one that might be interesting but not really related to honey bees.... Wrong! Completely wrong! Pete Berthelsen, Director of Pollinator Partnerships at Pheasants and Quail Forever, brought a well thought out message to his audience at the American Beekeeping Federation meeting in Baton Rouge: **form partnerships to achieve an increase in forage, crucial for honey bees, monarchs, native pollinators, song birds, pheasants, quail.**.... Pete's talk focused on each of these critters in turn, showing examples of habitat restoration/improvement focused on that species and the spill-over benefit for other species. In a growing litany, Pete showed how restoring native habitat through removal of invasive species, planting appropriate seed mixes, using fire periodically, etc. benefitted honeybees, monarchs, native pollinators, song birds, pheasants, quail, ..... You have the idea!

Loss of forage is a critical issue facing honey bees today, and the challenge of reversing this loss may seem daunting. But Pete's message is not to work alone! Engage songbird lovers, join with pollinator organizations, work with monarch enthusiasts and connect with pheasant and quail supporters. Together, all of us can make strides in restoring forage! Look not just at our own properties, although even small changes here can be a start. But look at land held by colleges, electrical power line and highway right-of-ways, nature preserve land covered with only grass. Form partnerships with the land owners/managers and organizations sharing your stewardship vision to move these barren acreages to forage for honey bees and others. Nature will surprise you by moving into the renewed habitat!

Ellen Codd

## Thank You

It was quite an honor to be selected Beekeepers of the Year. We're still not sure what we did was enough to deserve such an award but they had pictures so I guess we are guilty as charged. We don't do what we do to get recognition; we do it because we enjoy the honey bees. In these trying times of beekeeping, we want to succeed and have everyone else succeed as well.

We believe there is room for improvement in the stock we use in our beehives. That is what we are working towards, since we can't control the environment beyond our property.

We would like to thank Stu Mathias and Bob Shaffer for presenting this award. It is always good to see those guys. Also thank you to the members of the Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley for nominating us. Without their willingness to participate, we would not have succeeded. And a special thanks to all of the beekeepers, to numerous to mention, that we have met and worked with throughout the years.

Vince Aloyo

Jim and Brenda Aucker , Aucker's Apiary

Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 11)

Clearly none of the above is limited to farming and beekeeping. The late Stephen Covey, whose book "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" has been instrumental in my life, describes the difference between personality and character. While reviewing 200 years of literature on the subject of success, Covey noticed that since the 1920's the focus was on short term solutions, which can be attributed to personality techniques, such as maintaining a positive attitude. Prior to 1920 the literature was more character oriented. It emphasized the deeper, primary principles of success, such as integrity, courage, justice and patience.

To illustrate the difference he asks that you imagine being in, say Pittsburgh, and using a map to find a particular destination. You may have excellent map reading skills but they will be to no avail if your map is of Philadelphia. In other words you must have the right map (character, or primary skills) before the secondary skills (personality) can be effective.

As I write these words the world is mourning the death of Nelson Mandela, a man who personified a depth of character for which he initially suffered, and eventually triumphed, mightily. As President Obama said at his memorial service, he represented 'principles than need to be chiseled into law.' Mandela personified the difference between a statesman and a politician; we have too many of the latter and too few of the former.

Honey bees, as far as we are aware, do not have individual personalities, although a colony may do - aggression, for example. But bees do have a definitive character - a good work ethic, commitment to the well being of the community, patience and courage, to name a few. And an experienced beekeeper can learn much by simply listening to a colony - they communicate clearly and unambiguously. One evening in Alsace a beekeeper was opening some hives for my benefit one evening and after the third one he said it was time to close them up. "How do you know?" I asked. In response he held his hand to his ear.

Erik Delfortrie of Alsace is a good beekeeper and, like his bees, a good actor. He is also a man of character and one could sense it immediately on meeting him. Ultimately a contrived personality cannot hide character defaults. Thus we cherish the basic character traits of honey bees - their industry and work ethic, commitment to the greater society, patience, and relationship with the natural world, for instance - and accept the differences of personality that each colony displays.

Jeremy Barnes

## CCBA Annual Seminar

The Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA) Annual Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 15, in the Merion Science Center at West Chester University, West Chester, PA. Registration from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Seminar will run be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Advanced Session Speakers include Larry Connor, author and contributor to the *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture*, PhD, Don Coats, DVM, is a practicing small animal veterinarian. Dr. Coats translates his medical experience to hive management and honey bee disease assessment, using the art and science of microscopy to provide insight and scientific inquiry into the world of the honey bee; Katy Evans is a Graduate Researcher, University of Delaware Department of Wildlife and Entomology.

Beginners Session Speakers include Cindy Faulkner, a former President of the CCBA, holds a BS in Biology, a Master's degree in Toxicology and teaches the 'Introduction to Beekeeping' Course for the Chester County Night School; Keith Jardine started beekeeping in 1976 when a swarm arrived in his yard in South Africa. By the time he was sixteen, Keith was managing seventeen hives.

The cost for the Seminar is \$50; college students, \$35. Lunch is provided. Attendees under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

For additional information, visit the Association's website [www.ChescoBees.org](http://www.ChescoBees.org)

### #3 Package

## Honey Bees

### For Sale

Available Monday, April 7, 2014

\$90.00

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

724-544-2900

[jlmbeeglad@gmail.com](mailto:jlmbeeglad@gmail.com)