



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

June-July 2014

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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News 'n Views...

The PA Honey Bee Advisory Board met with the PA Department of Agriculture in May. Issues included review of the voluntary Best Management Practices that were approved last year. We have not heard much feedback from the field on any problems with this document. It has been used successfully with some zoning in the Pittsburgh area. It is intended to be a common sense guide for keeping honey bees in all types of locations.

A good discussion of food safety requirements was had with Dr. Lydia Johnson, director of the PA Dept. of Ag. Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services. Some requirements for establishing a honey house or bottling room seem to be overreaching.

One requirement is the local sewer authority must sign off on the application. This can often raise undue concerns and expensive testing. As we explained, washing hands, honey buckets or extractor has less impact than a load of laundry or bath. Interestingly, this information has been requested by EPA and is little concern to PDA. This will be reviewed as well as water testing. Testing for bacteria is understandable and done throughout food safety. Testing for nitrites is much more expensive and concern within food products. With honey, as with some other food processes, water does not enter the food. In fact, water of any sort is a bad thing in honey. Requiring nitrite testing is an added expense with no apparent rationale. This will be reviewed as well.

Another topic was promoting pollinator friendly plantings along highway medians and right of ways. Unfortunately,

the PennDOT representative was not able to make the meeting. There seems to be interest in this idea. PennDOT has guidelines they must adhere to, in the interest of public safety. Not safety regarding insects, but rather what else may lurk within attractive vegetation. Other states have adopted similar programs, so the groundwork has been started. A recent bill, Highways BEE Act: **H.R. 4790** was introduced by Reps Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and Jeff Denham (R-CA) on May 30 and is strongly supported by the Pollinator Partnership (P2). Hastings and Denham are co-chairs of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus (CP2C). Encouraging that both a 'D' and 'R' have sponsored this legislation.

The PA Honey Bee Advisory Board meeting went well. We hope to meet more often, in order to keep issues in motion. I reminded myself again, that the 'powers' often don't know there is a problem because they are overwhelmed with other problems. And friendly dialogue goes much farther than a random 'nasty gram'.

UPCOMING PSBA Summer Picnic and business meeting is **August 9th**. This will be hosted by Fisher Bee Farm, centrally located just below CENTRE county, in McVeytown, Pa. Fisher Bee Farm, the largest commercial beekeepers in Pennsylvania, was recently spotlighted in Lancaster Farming journal. Please see the notice in this newsletter for additional information.

All county/association presidents or representatives are encouraged to attend the business meeting. We try to stay up-to-date on plans, programs and issues.

Ag Progress Days will follow **August 12-14th**. This is the second largest event for PSBA each year. The Promotions Committee is always looking for honey to sell and helpers to scoop and serve honey ice cream. Contact Aaron Fisher: aaron@fisherbeefarm.com 717-242-4373 or Stu Mathias 717-991-9948.

We are looking for a club/association/business to host the **2015 PSBA Summer Picnic**

Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich have stepped up to co-chair the PA Queen Improvement Program. The program was

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News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

initiated a few years ago and has struggled to gain ground. A number of local associations and groups are actively working to improve genetics for Pennsylvania. Jeff and Mark would like to bring much of this effort and information to some common collective base. They hope to post regular articles in this newsletter and social media.

TIPS: I would like to offer a couple beekeeping tips that I stumbled onto. I don't think I've seen these in print. They may be totally useless, but make some sense to me.

Plastic Queen Excluders are inexpensive, light and pack nicely. But seems the bees don't like to cross them as quickly as wired excluders. Opening is the same? Yes. However, they do not have a 'rim' as wired excluders. Often they lay tightly on the top bars below. I began laying short twigs over the top bars in order to give the bees some cluster space and room below the plastic excluder. This simple magic gives more room to go through and work with the bee's herd behavior. Now I'll keep my plastic excluders.

Burr Comb and cross comb can be downright aggravating. Drone comb jammed between boxes and they just hate that plastic foundation. During my battle with mites, I started with the green drone foundation as an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) control. Seemed so much work and mess to draw, lay, cap, freeze and put back in. I altered some full deep frames using a Randy Oliver tip. Horizontally split with foundation in top half and open in bottom. Bees will fill the open bottom with drone comb, which can be cut out when capped and discarded with the mites that occupy it. I got lazy and dropped a shallow frame between two drawn deep combs. Wa-la! They still made drone comb and keep it straight and rarely attach the sides and bottom. Just cut it off the capped drone comb once a month and start over. The side benefit I wasn't expecting is very little burr comb between boxes. And the plastic foundation is drawn perfect, almost every time. I bought 1,000 sheets of unwaxed plastic foundation and saw few problems. Seems the bees want/need to answer nature's call to continue the species. They must make drone cells somewhere. Works for me.

Charlie Vorisek

President

PSBA

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 2/15 and receives the newsletter at P.O. Box 156, Birchrunville, 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 August 10th, 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.

2014 PSBA Summer Picnic

The 2014 PSBA Summer Picnic will be held at the Wade Fisher Bee Farm, 3950 Ferguson Valley Road, McVeytown PA 17051



The PSBA Executive Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. with lunch to follow at 12:30 p.m. The Fisher Bee Farm (FBF) will be roasting a pig for the main course, guests are asked to bring a side dish, dessert and/or drinks. Also bring a lawn chair. FBF will have plating, cutlery and napkins on hand as well.

The picnic will be on Fisher Bee Farm's primary apiary and honey extracting facility. So, tours will happen as needed through the day.

Location is right beside a nice creek that anyone is allowed to play in, if so desired. We also have a small zoo of a farm for anyone wishing to see live animals.

No organized activities are planned, just breaking bread with fellow beekeepers.

Directions from Mt. Union:

Where 522 and 22 merge (Just outside of Mt. Union), continue on 522N, 22E for approximately 7 miles to Ferguson valley Road. Make left hand turn onto Ferguson Valley Road, in approximately 1 mile Queen Bee Lane will be on your left.

Directions from Lewistown:

Get on 522 S bypass at Lewistown, follow approximately 11 miles to red light in McVeytown. Continue strait on 522S/22W for 7 miles to Ferguson Valley Road, Make right hand turn onto Ferguson Valley Road, in approximately 1 mile Queen Bee Lane will be on your left.

Submitted by Aaron Fisher

(See map on Page 19)

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 .57 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.

W.W.B.D. (What would Bill do?)*June-July, 2014***By: Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, Lehigh Valley, PA.**

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was asked by PSBA President Charles Vorisek 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: May 20, 2014*Bill,*

I have an issue with a hive on which I'd like your opinion. I have a hive, which was a dead out over the winter and which I repopulated with a package this spring. A month after repopulating the hive, there are no eggs and no brood, but at the same time there are no signs that the queen was lost as a laying worker hasn't taken up the mantle of making the hive into a drone bomb. I just went through the hive looking for the queen and didn't find her, but I squished 3 bees I thought had the elongated abdomen of a queen hopeful that I can install a new queen tomorrow. I'm generally fairly competent at finding queens, even unmarked ones- they just stick out to my eyes, so I'm not sure how this hive could have made it this far, and suppressed the development of a laying worker without a queen. I'm wondering if you have any insight on the situation. What would Bill do?

-Matt Bobiak

A: Hey Matt,

Thanks for your question, it's a good one. I hope my answer will satisfy you. After reading your question my first thought was: "Why did you wait so long (a month) to discover there were no eggs and no brood?" but after talking with you I learned you had checked on its progress, or lack of, two weeks after hiving the package and saw no signs of a laying queen. You mentioned you "squished 3 bees you thought had elongated abdomens". I wish I could have been there with you when you examined this hive. When squishing the worker bees did you see any eggs protrude from them in the process? Did you

see any signs of multiple eggs deposited on the side-walls of the cells? Several eggs deposited in each cell and usually attached to the sides of the cells is usually a sign of a laying worker, her abdomen is not as long as a queens and they usually can't reach all the way down to the bottom of the cell to deposit her egg as a mated queen would do.

If the colony did not have a mated laying queen I cannot tell you why they did not designate a worker to take her place since there were no queens' pheromones to prohibit this from taking place. Sometime I cannot understand why colonies do what they do, I am not a scientist but I'll tell what I would do if this were my hive.

If this hive was mine I would have given it a new caged queen no later than 2 weeks after seeing no sign of a queen and eggs.

At this point in time, a month after repopulating the dead out with a package that shows no sign of having a mated queen but also no definite signs of having a laying worker I would install a nuc from one of my strong hives or a newly captured swarm.

If this hive would have definitely had a laying worker I would NOT install a caged queen as they would release and kill her. I would take the hive off its stand, walk it a couple hundred feet or yards away, shake all of the bees off the frames and return the hive back to its original location and give them a caged queen. The belief is, the field bees will find their way back to the hive but the laying worker or workers will not. I've done this myself with success. If you choose not give them a caged queen you could also requeen it with a nucleus colony or swarm as mentioned above.

Just my thoughts,

Bill

Q: Received: June 5, 2014*Hi Bill,*

I have 2 hives that are kind of mean. I want to re-queen them and I thought now might be a good time. I was thinking of pulling a couple of frames of eggs from a nice productive hive and making a queenless nuc with them. Once they make queen cells I would wait 1-1/2 weeks and kill the mean queens. I would then wait 24-48 hours and introduce the ripe queen cells into the queenless colony and let nature take her course. I think it's a sound plan but I wanted your opinion. I remember you telling me that once we got into June the brood was no longer going to bring in honey – they won't leave the hive until after the honey flow is over, so removing queens or brood won't hurt the harvest.

Thanks,

Paul

A: Hi Paul,

Yes it's a good idea to re-queen the mean colonies as soon as possible and this time of year will work fine, it just may be a bit more difficult to find the queen with the colony being very populous. I heard guys talking about making up a nuc

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W.W.B.D.(Continued from Page 5)

and letting it produce a queen. It sounds like a decent idea but actually it's not the best way to produce quality queens. One of the most important things to consider when producing queens is: the more nurse bees and the more plentiful the food sources, the larger and more successful queen production you will have.

It would be better to pull the queen along with 4-5 frames of brood/food from the chosen hive (the one that has good genes/qualities). Keep that queen in the nuc temporarily and let that hive produce several new queens, which they will do with the resources of young nurse bees and a bountiful food supply. Keep an eye on this colony and when you have several large queen cells remove these frames with the queen cells and make up a few nucs with them. You can then choose to let one of the new cells in the hive OR put the old queen (in the nuc you made up) back into the hive. Letting one or more of the cells in the hive would be a very good idea because you would be re-queening the hive at the best time of year, providing a brood-break (mite control) and you will have young queen going into winter.

Just my thoughts,

Bill

If Momma Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy

The 2014 PSBA Conference in November will focus primarily on queens, their function in and importance for the well being of the hive. We are in the process of finalizing the speakers and will introduce you to them each month via this newsletter.

First is Dr. Heather Matilla, Associate Professor of Biology at Wellesley College, who studies the organization of animal societies, insect communication, and the evolution of cooperation, using the honey bee as a model.

Her current research examines ways that honey bees use communication to organize their group activities. Through field work and genetic studies, she is exploring how and why genetic diversity within a honey bee colony enhances the productivity of a colony's foraging effort.

Dr. Matilla spends a good deal of time throughout the year traveling to speak at scientific conferences (such as the International Society for Behavioral Ecology and the IS for the Study of Social Insects) and to beekeepers as to how their queen management practices affect the productivity of their colonies.

Dr. Matilla will give two presentations on the second day of the conference, Saturday November 15, at the County Cupboard Inn in Lewisburg.

PA Honey Queen Report

Hello Beekeepers!

During May I had the opportunity to speak to a wide variety of students, from first graders to sixth grade science classes.

To finish out April thought, I attended Ecofest at Mifflin Park Elementary School on Saturday, April 26, where I made beeswax candles with students while educating them about honey bees. May kicked off with the West Manheim Elementary School's Science Fair, where students were able to see an observation hive and sample honey sticks. On May 17th, I traveled to the annual Farm to Table Day at Fox Chase Farm in Philadelphia, where I spoke to learners of all ages about products of the hive.



Queen Kaylee speaks to children and adults during EcoFest about the beeswax candles they will be making.

The last week of May was filled with school presentations. I spoke to Central Dolphin Middle School's sixth grade science classes, Hershey Primary School's 3rd and 4th grade classes, and the first grade class at the Scott School in Harrisburg. All of the students were very engaged, and many were interested in getting involved in beekeeping. I look forward to more school presentations in the upcoming weeks!

As the summer begins and promotion requests continue to flow in for 2014, don't miss out on your chance to invite me to your event. To invite me to an event, contact Rachel Bryson, queen program chair, at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

Kaylee Kilgore

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.

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the August issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is July 21st.**

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 26, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Guest speaker: Charlotte Hubbard, humorist and beekeeper. Contact honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com for more information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, June 30, 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Conservation Wetlands, Aliquippa. "Making Splits for Overwintering." For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email: pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 2, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 9, 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, July 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. How to: Facts about queen rearing. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for additional information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

& Burgh Bees

Saturday, July 12, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Gary Sekinger's home, Sewickley. Picnic. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email: pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, July 15, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research and Extension Center, Manheim. Contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Saturday, July 17, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Louis M Moore Park, Bethlehem. Picnic and plant swap. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Capital Area Beekeepers

Friday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Election of officers, program to be announced. For more information, contact Linda Purcell at 717-566-6327, or email linda.sweetbee@gmail.com

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, July 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Guest speaker, Joe Lewis "Beekeeping 2.5". Contact honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, July 26, Summer Potluck Picnic at the historic Harrington House in Bryn Mawr. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.pastatebeekeepers.org

montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, August 6, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@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.

Ag Progress Days

August 13 through August 15, 2014 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, Pennsylvania Furnace. See ad on page 19 for contact information to volunteer at the PSBA Booth or for details visit www.agsci.psu.edu/apd

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, August 13, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net

National Honey Bee Awareness Day

Saturday, August 16th. Check with your local association, as there are multiple associations hosting special events.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Aucker's Apiaries, Millville. For more information, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit www.thebeeyard.org

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Ebersole's home in Lancaster. Picnic. Contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, August 21, 7:00 p.m., Lehigh Gap Nature Center, Slatington. Black bears & Bees, Pa. Game Commission WCO (TBD). Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, August 21, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 3, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 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, September 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for additional information.

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Kutztown University. Movie Night, showing: "More than Honey". Picnic and plant swap. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit www.thebeeyard.org

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, September 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Conservation Wetlands, Aliquippa. "What's happening in your bee yard." – Question & Answer. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email: pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. Additional information will be posted on the PSBA website and printed in the newsletter as it becomes available.

Nature Notes

June 2014

June skies can fill with **thunderheads**. Weather is caused by the **uneven heating** of the Earth's surface by the **Sun**. Where the ground is hot, **warm air rises**. Air flows in to fill the space being left by the rising air and we feel a breeze. In winter, huge puddles of cold air slide southeast over us from the Arctic. The southeast sliding is caused by the Earth's rotation.

In Summer, warm columns of air can reach up **30,000 feet** from the ground. As the rising air cools, it drops its **moisture**. On the kitchen table, air that touches the cold iced tea glass leaves its moisture on the outside of the glass.

Rising air **slowly turns** just as water headed for the sink drain turns. Sometimes, the slow turning is visible on the bottom side of big puffy cumulus clouds. This turning is caused by Earth's rotation. On the Great Plains, this slow turning can accelerate until a tornado forms.

Airplanes avoid the rising columns of air in big cumulus clouds. The warm air in the biggest cumulus clouds rises and punches through a layer of colder air, giving the cloud top the torn-off or **anvil shape** of a thunderhead. For thunderheads

to form, the air near the ground has to be hot and the air at 30,00 feet has to be cold. In Winter, the ground is cold, so thunderstorms are mostly a summer phenomenon for us.

Water droplets can be carried up with the rising air. They freeze and fall only to be carried up again. If this up and down cycle happens enough times, the **hailstones** that eventually drop out of the cloud can be large enough to cause damage.

The rising and falling of air molecules can also lead to **lightning**. No one knows for sure how lightning is generated inside thunderheads. The resulting electrical discharge, the lightning bolt, heats the air, and the sudden expansion of the heated air makes a shock wave that we hear as **thunder**. (Thanks, Larry Lewis, for suggesting summer clouds as a topic.)

Remember the newly-hatched **inch-worm caterpillars** that migrating warblers were eating? Many caterpillars survive and on still days we might hear their tiny droppings raining down onto the forest floor. Caterpillars droppings (just processed leaves) are called **frass**.

Turtles lay their eggs on land.

This suggests that all turtles were once land creatures. Their eggs cannot survive in water. In June **snapping turtles** leave the water.



to lay their eggs on land, often traveling a hundred yards to find a sunny (warm) spot to dig a nest hole for eggs. **Toads** along with **wood** and **leopard frogs** return to water to lay their eggs. These animals have adapted to live on land when the weather is warm but their eggs have to develop in water.

The **Mockingbird** (gray with white patches on wings and tail) has been called the **American nightingale**. In June we find out why. Mockingbirds may sing at night in June. For the first half hour, the serenade is enchanting: a sweet song in the darkness. Then the magic wears off. Singing mockingbirds tend to repeat phrases **three times**. The **brown thrasher**, a brown robin-size bird with a long tail, repeats phrases **twice**. Thrashers nest in brushy woods edges and may venture out onto the lawn to forage for insects.

Arcturus is overhead as darkness falls. By late summer **Vega** will be overhead. In the southern sky, creamy, non-twinkling **Saturn** is below non-twinkling dusty red **Mars**. **Venus** is the morning "star."

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY (from TheWord.A.Day website):
 "I cannot stress often enough that what science is all about is not proving things to be true but proving them to be false."
 -Lawrence M. Krauss, theoretical physicist (b. 1954)

By Tim Sterrett

2/16/14

Ref: Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Constitution and By-Laws

Proposed amendment to By – Laws.

The intent is to combine some committee functions and reflect newer technology when applicable.

Underlined words are added text. Lined-through would be deleted.

ARTICLE V Section 1

There shall be the following Standing Committees:

- ~~a. Bears and Plants~~ h. Membership
- b. Beekeeper of the Year i. Promotion
- c. Farm Show Booth j. Publishing
- ~~d. Farm Show Commission~~ and Membership
- e. Honey Foods k. Research
- f. Legislative l. Scholarship
- ~~g. Library~~
- m. Annual Meeting and Banquet x. Pa Honey Queen
- x. Nominating x. Auditing
- x. Honeybee Advisory

ARTICLE VI

Section 4 The Secretary-Treasurer shall recommend budgets, from the Fund, for officer expenses and discretionary expenses.

Following document are Duties of PSBA Standing Committees. This has been re-arranged to follow the order as listed in the By-Laws. This proposal would combine some duties of deleted committees into existing committees.

Duties of PSBA Standing Committees

~~a) Bears and Plants— This committee has a divided job. One- to look after beekeeping interests in regards to bear laws and game commission policy as related to bears and beekeeper- regulations, etc. Two— Also to encourage planting of honey plants where possible. To advise of plants suitable to Pa. and helpful to Pa. beekeepers.~~

b) Beekeeper of the Year – To find and present each year the name of a beekeeper that meets the criteria stated by PSBA rules.

~~c.d.) Farm Show Booth, Farm Show Commission— Attend the annual Farm Show Committee meetings and if need be make suggestions regarding commercial exhibit premiums, space and etc.~~

~~e.) Honey Foods— Manage the baked goods contests and— auctions. Also care for refreshments at any official meeting. Committee may delegate this duty to host counties.~~

f.) Legislative Committee – Meet with legislators and pay attention to any governmental actions, bear laws and game commission policy related to beekeeping. Review and recommend Encourage legal policy affecting favorable to our industry. Meet with Dept. of Agriculture in regards to problems in beekeeping and bee Inspection program. Also get, if possible, any brief or other papers that can be secured. This committee may need to request the Association to provide funds to purchase any brief that may be available.

g.) PDA Honeybee Advisory Committee – Should consist of two commercial, two hobby, two sideline beekeepers, PSBA president and Penn State Extension representative. This committee should cooperate with the Legislative Committee. Meet annually with Dept. of Agriculture in regards to policy,

(Continued on Page 15)

The PSBA needs your Help!

WE WANT YOU



Volunteers needed to scoop and serve honey ice cream at our 2 annual events, Farm Show and Ag Progress. The proceeds from the events go directly to support the Pennsylvania Honey Queen program.

Pennsylvania State University
Ag Progress Days
State College PA
August 12 – 14, 2014

The 99th Pennsylvania Farm Show
Harrisburg PA
Watch for 2015 Dates

For more information please contact
Aaron Fisher
aaron@fisherbeefarm.com
717-242-4373

Constitution and By-Laws (Continued from Page 13)

problems in beekeeping and bee Inspection program. Also to encourage planting of honey plants where possible. To advise of plants suitable to Pa. and helpful to Pa. beekeepers.

g.) Library Committee— This committee is to collect places and dates of all legal actions related to beekeeping. Also get, if possible, any brief or other papers that can be secured. This committee may need to request the Association to provide— funds to purchase any brief that may be available.

h.) Membership Committee— Help to build and maintain our Association membership.

i) Promotional Committee— To look for ways to promote honey and the beekeeping industry.

.)Queen Committee = Manage the selection and activities of the Pa Honey Queen and Princess. This committee should cooperate with the Promotional Committee.

j.) Publishing and Membership Committee— Newsletter, website, social media, press releases and advertising. Help to build and maintain our Association membership.

k.) Research Committee: Recommend research studies to the Executive Committee, as well as means of funding research or volunteer services of data collection.

l.) Scholarship Committee: Recommend worthy recipients of scholarships or donations, to the Executive Committee

m.) Annual Meeting and Banquet - Finds the sites for annual meeting and summer meeting. Secure guest speakers and recommend agenda. Manage the baked goods contests and auctions. Also care for refreshments at any official meeting. Also in event of a regional or national organization meeting consider where it might be held. Committee may delegate this duty to host counties

) Nominating Committee— Prepare a list of nominations to present to the delegate body at the fall meeting.

) Auditing Committee— Will audit books of any officer or member of the Association handling Association funds.

Rev.CV 2/16/14

May Identification Reader

My introduction to honey bees began in 1974 in Forest, Ms., by a good friend Jams Autry. His two sons were too small to help him with his bees so he asked me if I was interested in helping him. Neither of us knew much about the workings of a bee hive but my interest was sparked and I became a beekeeper.

Gathering swarms, removing hives from trees and buildings added to my hives and when I moved home in 1976, I brought 5 hives back in the bed of my Toyota truck. I had the good fortune of meeting Dave Hackenberg at our church and ordered 10 nucs from him after melting all my equipment down due to American foul brood. I asked Dave if I could maybe work off the price of the nucs and so began my real schooling in learning the aspects of beekeeping! From trips to Florida, New York and Maine, to learning where 1200 to 1500 hives were from Canton to Millerton, Pa., driving his many trucks with him shifting from the passenger seat and getting into about every bad situation you can imagine moving bees, I have learned much! Over the 15+ years working part time for Dave, I used my earnings and slowly built up my equipment and hive numbers.

I ran about 80 hives until retiring 2 years ago when I increased to about 140 hives at present. I am mostly in honey production, but rent out about 60-80 hives for pollination in several orchards and produce fields. I have collected pollen and build about 50 nucs each year for sale and replacement of winter loss. Over the last 30+ years, I have seen many changes in the bee business from losing most of my hives to tracheal mites until menthol was found, the appearance of varroa mites adding extra expense in treatments, to seeing the average honey crops go from 100+ lbs. to less than 50 lbs. and higher winter loss of hives.

With all the challenges of keeping bees, I have never lost the fascination of what the bees can do! I have seen goldenrod crops average 75 lbs. per hive in 6 weeks, 4 hives produce over 1000 lbs. of honey one dry summer, to 28-29 lbs. of pollen off 30 hives per day, and just enjoying learning the different sources of honey from all the different sources of honey from all the different trees and plants. The pleasure of keeping bees has never faded and as Dave always said, “Next year will be better”.

James E. Boob, Millmont, PA

The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers’ Association represents the interests of the members of Pennsylvania. State dues of \$20.00 per year entitle members to the newsletter published ten times per year at Canton, PA, plus other benefits. Anyone 17 and under may become a junior member @ \$1.00 per year state dues.

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Jeremy's Corner

In August last year Mary and I visited the glorious Gothic cathedral in Strasbourg, France. The term 'Gothic' was given by the succeeding era, the Renaissance, which saw these architectural behemoths as ugly and barbaric whereas to us they are imposing, spectacular, and awe-inspiring - literally, as they were meant to be.

These sacred structures are rich with allegory. For example, the European cathedrals all face east so that the rising sun shines through a magnificent rose window high on the eastern facade, the center of which is the Christ figure itself. Entering from the west, into darkness, the supplicant is suddenly blinded by the light. The message is obvious.

Similarly, in a population that was essentially illiterate, the stained glass windows, art work on the walls and sculptures told a story, the Christian story. It was the classroom of the masses.

In his inspirational book, *The Cathedral Within*, Bill Shore uses cathedral building as a metaphor for how our society can marshal resources to best help children. Certainly there were some critical architectural inventions in the medieval period (pillars and vaults supporting the roof so that the wall space could be filled with stained glass windows, for example) but more important was an understanding of the human spirit that allowed traditional materials to be used with new designs to create something lasting and magnificent.

For the architects and builders the cathedral was not a fringe benefit of their work; rather it was the core purpose. Faith and inspiration were the essential ingredients of the whole design. Those who began the project knew they would not see the final product; rather they believed in it so deeply, so resolutely, with such authenticity, that it resonates in our hearts even today.

The building itself required a sharing of strengths and resources of materials, skills, labor and finances drawn from across Europe. "Somehow," writes Bill Shore, "it had been both communicated and understood that it wasn't just that building a truly great cathedral would require everyone to share their strength, but rather that everyone sharing their strength would result in a truly great cathedral."

And I have to say one is struck by how the locals who have grown up in the shadow of these edifices take their presence for granted, walking alongside them without a second glance.

Just as the Gothic cathedrals were an analogy for the Christian journey and the human spirit, as well as visions

of hope and comfort for the late medieval people who lived in such overwhelming, harrowing conditions, so are they an analogy for our current times and the choices we face. Climate change, for example, is much in the news, with the underlying message that our current life style is unsustainable. We need to redefine our expectations and our definition of 'progress;' we need to combine traditional materials with new designs drawing on the strengths of all, knowing that we will not live to see the ultimate benefits.

The future cannot be a fringe benefit of our work; rather it has to be the core purpose. We need faith in sustainable practices and the human spirit, we need a conviction so deep, so resolute, so authentic, that it drives all of our daily actions and choices. And we need to share our strengths and resources so that we can build 'a truly great cathedral,' our planet.

At one level, this is what honey bees do every day and it is interesting to read the above with a colony in mind. They have a vision that is constant and has lasted for millions of years. Tom Seeley has shown that given choices of potential homes the bees will invariably choose the most suitable habitat, which means that they must have an ideal against which to measure each home that they investigate. He describes too how, operating under pressure of time, they report back to each other on the surface of the swarm, investigate what others enthuse over, and use a quorum to make a decision that will determine their future survival.

I doubt that any individual bee measures her work rate against that of her sisters; it is her contribution to the greater whole, the over-riding vision, that is vital. And the final result of that combination of inspiration and intuition is the green cathedral that we call a hive.

Honey bees realize too that diverse resources need to be integrated into an architecture if it is to function and survive, and that all of the materials are needed, whether it be nectar,

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pollen, propolis and water, or the various house duties of the young worker bees integrated with the bounties of the older foragers. There is a recognition that everyone has value to add, everyone has a strength to share, even the drones.

My guess is that the same attributes apply to a successful beekeeping association. And just as the public too often takes the gifts of the honey bee for granted, so too we can easily assume that a good meeting or rewarding council somehow just happens.

Whether it was the architects and laborers of the Middle Ages, the honey bees or each of us who has responsibility for the quality of this planet, the devotion to a task that might seem over-whelming must span an entire career because the challenge cannot be accomplished right in less than that time.

Jeremy Barnes

Copies of previous issues of Jeremy's Corner can be found at honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com

Additional directions to the Fisher Bee Farm, the location of the PSBA Summer Picnic.



Address **3950 Ferguson Valley Rd**
McVeytown, PA 17051

