



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

October 2014
Volume No. 9

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News 'n Views...

PSBA Annual Meeting is just around the corner, November 14 and 15. Plan to attend. This event is open to membership and non-members as well. The program committee has been diligently working to bring interesting and informative speakers to this conference.

The largest beekeeper in American, Brett Adee, will be one featured speaker for both days. Brett operates about 80,000 colonies in 10 states. His experiences give insight for operations of all sizes.

Dr. Megan Milbrath and Heather Matilla will be joining to share their studies in sustainable beekeeping, nuc building and quality queens "Sustainable" is something we would all like to achieve.

If possible, join the banquet on Friday night. Always great food at the Country Cupboard, good fellowship, crowning of the Pa Honey Queens, Beekeeper of the Year and promotions auctions. Humorist Charlotte Hubbard will be guest speaker.

Last month I was cautiously anticipating a 'real' honey flow in the northwest region. The season has been painfully without much honey production. Well, at last something good to say. The goldenrod flow came in strong and fast. Locations with

Knotweed did well. Most supers are packed out tight. It was a lot of work getting those boxes out when they were empty. Now my arms and back are feeling it. The pains of growing this honey business have me asking if there's an easier way to pick those boxes off. I think this is where I find somebody else to do it ☺ As I write, I'm about half done getting supers off my 150 colonies. Mine are spaced out on 17 locations and more still out on pumpkin pollination. It's a race with a few nice days to do it. I'll be more at ease when everything is stacked inside.

I have about 30 nucs going into winter. Last winter was harsh on my single 5-frame nucs. So, this time around they are 5 over 5 and some 'Mike Palmer' 4 over 4 framers. It never ceases to amaze me how much sugar syrup these nucs will take. I keep thinking, 'They've GOT to be full', but they drink down another quart. All these nucs contain queens that I grafted from my best survivor, behavior and production colonies. A couple nucs contain queens from our summer picnic queen swap.

Stay tuned as Pa Queen Improvement Project gets underway before next season. Co-Chairs, Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich are working to bring direction and expectations. This is a work-in-progress. Several associations around the state have started their own queen programs. This is a good thing. More and more people are becoming proficient with raising queens that will survive our northern winters and deal with mites and pathogens with a minimal amount of help. The more these genetic traits are shared among beekeepers, the better the survivability. Jeff and Mark are joining our (Pa) efforts with other state programs. We will need participants.

Efforts from the state association continue on other fronts. Bringing some better sense to the Food Safety requirements to sell honey is one. We all understand and want safe food. Honey is no exception. Presently, some of the requirements have little or no impact with the process of delivering honey to market. However, the requirements are burdening hurdles that promise to cost more than the effort is worth. We will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture to help

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An Intriguing and Enticing Annual Meeting

There are a few changes to the structure of the program for the annual meeting this November, e.g. the Executive Session is still on Friday morning at 9:30 but the Business meeting will be on Friday afternoon, following a presentation by Bret Adee. The business meeting will be more concise and focused. This leaves all of Saturday for bee-oriented presentations and discussions.

The detailed program can be found on Page 15 and it includes two presentations by Bret, who will describe what is involved in managing some 80,000 hives and what the take-home lessons are for smaller beekeepers (which is all of us!). Heather Matilla from Wellesley College will also present twice, first on the difference a well mated queen has on the colony and secondly to describe the effects of nutrition on the performance of worker bees.

Megan Milbrath from Minnesota will describe the use of nucs to raise queens from survivor stock, Maryann Frazier will outline an easier method of grafting queens, Jeff Bertha and Mark Gingrich will describe progress on the PA Queen Breeding program, Craig Cella will share his experiences on building a better bear fence, Ken Hoover will outline a courtesy apiary inspection program and Karen Roccasecca will report once again on the state of the bees in Pennsylvania.

Then, of course, there is the Friday night Banquet with guest speaker Charlotte Hubbard from Minnesota, the auction, the Queen Honey Bee coronation, along with the vendors and most importantly the real business of the weekend - those vital conversations that happen over breakfast and around the coffee urn.

The cost of this program, excluding the Banquet dinner, is \$20.00 that includes both days (Registration fee for one day is \$15.00). Where else can you find such a wealth of knowledge and the opportunity to share your passion with like-minded folk? It's quite remarkable really and it would be wonderful to see you there.

PSBA Meeting General Information Banquet

The Annual Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Country Cupboard Friday evening, Nov. 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the Banquet (which includes a buffet dinner) is \$25.00 for adults, \$11.00 for ages 11-12, \$8.00 for ages 6-10, 5 & under, free. These prices include tax and tip. Please make your reservations with Yvonne Crimbring, (570) 673-8201, **before Nov. 7th**.

Door prizes are being given out during the banquet and we are looking for donations. Anyone wishing to donate door prizes,

please send them to Dave Hackenberg at 1466 Crossroads Dr., Lewisburg, PA 17837 or bring them with you to the meeting.

The Country Cupboard Inn is located on Rt. 15, 3 miles north of Lewisburg. When coming in from the East or West - take I-80 to Rt. 15S exit and travel south approximately 10 miles.

PSBA Apiary Products Show

Don't forget about our Apiary Products Show* where your best honey and beeswax can win a ribbon. This is a friendly show that is great for new-bees and show veterans alike. Look for the show rules and class descriptions on Page 13. We will take entries Friday afternoon, Nov. 14, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. No late entries will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. Friday. Winners will be announced and presented with ribbons on Saturday afternoon. *There will be no Baked Goods Contest this year.

Need a Place to Stay?

If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Country Cupboard Best Western, 524-5500. Be sure to mention you are with PSBA. Make your reservations early!! They will be holding a block of rooms for PSBA until October 23rd at the cost of \$112.99 plus tax (per room). Other places to stay include: Country Inn Suites, 570-524-6600; Hampton Inn-Lewisburg, 570-522-8500; Days Inn University, Rt. 15, Lewisburg, 523-1171; Econo-Lodge, Rt. 15 South, Lewisburg, 523-1106; Comfort Inn, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-8000; and Holiday Inn Express, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I80 & Rt. 15) 568-1100. For Bed and Breakfast accommodations: Brookpark Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, 523-0220 and Pineapple Inn, Market St., Lewisburg, 524-6200. All above phone numbers are in the 570 area code.

Attention: Bee Culture Subscribers

We recently received a letter from Bee Culture stating that due to recent postal increases they have had to discontinue the discount program. However, they were able to reduce their overall base rates. To renew your subscription, you can go to their website, www.beeeculture.com and place your order or mail-in or call-in your orders. I will still mail your subscription if sent to me, just know that you will need to include a check for the regular rate.

Mail vs. Email

The Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association is sending out the newsletter via email instead of through the USPS to those members who are interested. If you would like to receive "The Pennsylvania Beekeeper" by email, please contact Yvonne Crimbring at pabee1@frontier.com and include your name, mailing address, phone number along with current email address stating that you'd like to receive the PSBA newsletter via email.

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

October 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 Association 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: Sept. 25, 2014

Hi Bill

I was hoping for your advice. After you extract your honey, what do you do with the honey supers? Do you store them till next spring “wet with residuals” with proper moth and mouse controls? Do you let the bees clean them up and then store them and if so how? Placed back directly on top of the hives or out in front of the hives a few yards back or even further back? I have done all in the past. However, the past two seasons I have gone out at dusk and put the boxes on top of the deeps for them to clean. I reduce the entrances. Well, two years in a row it has the next day caused my bees to act VERY differently. Granted our flow here in upstate NY is dwindling with the goldenrod over and only some aster left. I went to remove the clean-up supers after 2.5 days and they are very aggressive toward my intrusion and basically spastic. It almost looks like robbing however they are not killing each other. They come pouring out of the hive as soon as I open my outer and inner covers with much vengeance towards me. It was cool last evening at 55 when I removed them and this morning all 4 hives were fanning the entrance. Again, it was the same exact scenario last year and around the same time of year in the season.*

I cannot guarantee the exact honey supers were placed back on the original hives I removed it from; could this scent difference be annoying to them? What do you think causes

this described phenomenon? Thanks for any input. If I’m vague with anything give me a call or email and I can clarify.

Garth Kmiecjak

A: Hi Garth,

Thanks for your question. As you know beekeepers have their own way of doing things and every beekeeper thinks he or she is doing it the right way. There are several choices in handling your honey supers after extracting. I’ve heard of some beekeepers storing them wet, right after extracting but I would not recommend that because it just promotes robbing and other problems. I’ve also seen beekeepers stack a bunch of wet supers on a small trailer and park it in the back of the apiary. This creates a feeding frenzy with the bees and I don’t really care for this in my apiaries. I personally do not store wet supers, I like to stack them on hives for the bees to clean out, and they do a remarkable job of gleaning every drop of honey from the combs. I’ll take about 5 or more supers and stack them on some colonies that could use the benefit of a little extra honey. I stack them on top of the inner cover with an outer cover on top. In just a few days the bees have them cleaned perfectly.

You mentioned that your bees were “Spastic” when you removed the supers from the hive in the evening with temps being about 55°. I like to add and remove my ‘supers for clean-out’ from the hives during mid-day when most of the field bees are out. I’ve also experienced some bees “buzzing” me when I remove the supers but I attribute this temperament to the nectar drought they may be experiencing. Usually a good ‘smoking’ seems to drive them back and I can work in comfort. If I experience a lot of bees in the supers I blow them out with my blower before putting them in the truck.

I think it is only important to keep track of supers from individual hives if you have encountered disease problems in the past. I do not believe there is a residual scent in each super. In my opinion your described phenomenon is normal. Bees react directly to weather conditions, (temperature, soil moisture, length of daylight) and nectar flow. This is not an uncommon phenomenon Garth, I’m sure many beekeepers share your experience.

I hope I’ve helped,
Bill Mondjack



Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the November-December issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **November 29th**.



Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Friday, October 10, 6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet at the Fullerton Fire Co., Whitehall. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, October 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Wood's home. Officers/directors meeting. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 or visit their website www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for additional information.

Chester Co. Beekeepers

Saturday, October 11, 9:00 a.m., at the Stroud Preserve, West Chester. Visit the Association's website www.ChescoBees.org for more information

York County Beekeepers

Saturday, October 11, 5:00 p.m. Annual Banquet at the Winterstown Fire Hall. For more information, contact Jeremy Barnes, honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

Lycoming Co. Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Montoursville Borough Hall. Contact Darryl Rebeck at 570-435-0445 for more information.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Coudersport. Discussion will be on "How did your bees do this year". For more information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586, email: snowmobilj@frontiernet.net

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, October 16, 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.montcobeekopers.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email: info@the-beeyard.org or visit www.thebeeyard.org

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. at Dutch Gold Honey, Lancaster. Honey Round-Up: Discussion on winter preparation, a gadget competition, and honey tasting. Contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com for more information.

Beekeeping 101 (Beginning Beekeepers course)

Saturdays, October 25 & November 1 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension of Allegheny Co., Pittsburgh. Visit the Burgh Bees website: Burghbees.com (events) for additional information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, November 1, 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the Plains Mennonite Church, Hatfield. Fall Banquet. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobeekopers.org for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, November 1, 6:00 p.m. at the South Montrose Community Church. Annual Banquet with guest speaker Maryann Frazier. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 or visit their website www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for additional information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, November 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden. Fall Banquet. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email: pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

North East PA Beekeepers

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

2 C's and a Bee Association

Saturday, November 8 at the Keystone Restaurant, Ebensburg. Annual Banquet and Election of officers. For more information, contact their secretary at secretary@ccbee.org or 814-472-7637.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Wayne County Park Street Complex, Honesdale. Contact Orna Clum at 570-677-7268 or email oclum@comcast.com for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

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

Chester Co. Beekeepers

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at the West Chester Borough Hall. Visit the Association's website www.ChescoBees.org for more information

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. Additional information is posted on the PSBA website and printed in this newsletter.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For more information, email: info@the-beeyard.org or visit www.thebeeyard.org

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Bldg., Allentown. Topic: Solar Wax Melters. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, December 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.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, December 6. Holiday Potluck Party – to be announced. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

2015 Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 10-17 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. If interested in volunteering, contact Aaron Fisher at 717-242-4373 or Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231 for more information.



Nature Notes

White-throated sparrows and dark-eyed juncos appear every autumn from their northern nesting grounds to glean seeds from under the bird feeder. White-throats have gray breasts and white throats. Our resident song sparrows have streaked breasts. Juncos are gray and flash white outer tail feathers when they fly.

In autumn, yellowjackets are raising queens for next year. The queens will mate with drones and disperse to hide for winter. Those that survive will start new colonies next spring. Worker yellowjackets are driven to find carbohydrates (sugar) and protein (meat) to feed queen larvae. To keep them from taking an interest in us we can avoid perfumes and try not to smell like something meaty and dead! The aggressive yellowjackets we encounter are almost all *Vespa germanica* a European species that appeared in eastern North America in the late Nineteenth Century and spread west.

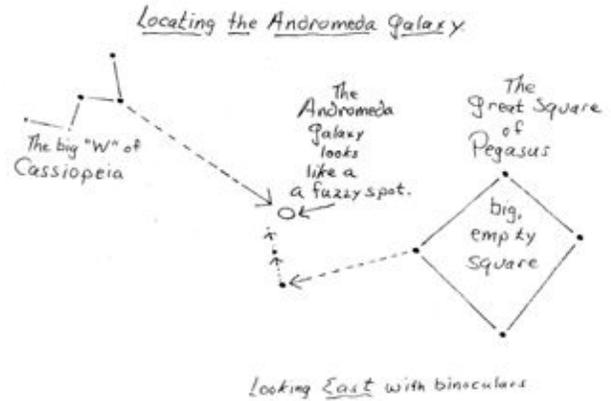
Once upon a time, Pennsylvania beekeepers did not need to treat for mites, so they extracted honey around Labor Day in September. The bees then gathered enough nectar before frost time to make stores for winter. Winter feeding of bees was an unusual activity; bees that ran out of honey in late winter were fed. Today, many beekeepers extract in July so they can treat for mites before the winter population of bees is produced. Many autumn hives have little or no honey in them and will be fed their winter stores by the beekeeper.

October is the best month for seeing the **Andromeda Galaxy**. The Andromeda Galaxy is a rotating disc of stars, planets, dust, and gas similar to the Milky Way, our home galaxy. **The Andromeda Galaxy is the most distant object visible to the naked human eye**. The Andromeda Galaxy is about **two million light years distant**; the fuzzy spot we might see is light that has been traveling across space toward us for about two million years.

Seeing the Andromeda Galaxy is not easy. Choose a dark,

clear, Moonless night. October's full moon is on October 8, so avoid the days around this date. Use the finder chart and binoculars to find the fuzzy spot (the bright white center of the Galaxy). Method One: Imagine a line across the diagonal of the Great Square. Extend that line out to the left, and down a bit, to a bright star. Then up to a dimmer star and up again, and a bit left, to a dimmer star. The Galaxy is the fuzzy spot above this star.

Method Two: Find the big "W" of Cassiopeia and, with binoculars, follow a line out from the right hand bottom of the "W" to a fuzzy spot.



For a colorful Galaxy finder chart, try <http://www.space.com/7426-starhopping-101-find-andromeda-galaxy.html>. The **real challenge** is seeing the Andromeda Galaxy with the naked eye. A **dark sky** is needed. Find the Galaxy in binoculars and then try to see it naked eye. The fuzzy spot may be easier to see with averted vision: look just to the side, not directly at, the fuzzy spot.

The fuzzy spot we see is the **bright center** of the Galaxy. Hold a hand at arm's length flat against the sky to get an idea of the size of the Galaxy in our sky. Time exposure images through big telescopes let us see the whole disc. Galaxies contain billions of stars. Our universe contains billions of galaxies.



Image Credit: Andromeda Galaxy (with h-alpha) by Adam Evans - M31, the Andromeda Galaxy (now with h-alpha) Uploaded by NotFromUtrecht. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andromeda_Galaxy

By Tim Sterrett

PSBA Apiary Products Show Rules

These rules follow the general format of the Apiary Products Show at the statewide Farm Show in Harrisburg, EXCEPT entries should not be labeled with exhibitor's name and address. This is to eliminate any possible bias in judging if names were to be identified, since our judge is likely to know some of our exhibitors. Instead of labels, exhibitors will be provided numbered tags to identify their entries. If you wish, you may bring labels and apply them after entries have been judged.

- 1) Entries will be accepted at the PSBA Annual Meeting on Friday, Nov. 14th from approximately 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 2) All apiary products exhibited must have been produced in Pennsylvania and must have been produced by the exhibitor during 2014.
- 3) Exhibitors may submit only one entry per class, but they may enter as many classes as they wish.
- 4) An entry must fulfill all of the requirements of the class in which it is exhibited. (see class descriptions, below).
- 5) All entries will be handled and placed on the show table by the honey show committee.
- 6) The judges may open and sample any exhibit. Moisture readings will be taken for all extracted honey and these will be recorded on your scorecard. Honey with a moisture content above 18.6% will be disqualified.
- 7) The show committee will provide a score card for each entry which contains a record of the judge's scores. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three places in each class.

COMB HONEY CLASSES

- Class 1. Comb Honey** (3 sections, either 3 square sections or 3 Cobana rounds, no labels).
- Class 2. Cut Comb Honey** (3 12-ounce sections, no labels).
- Best Exhibit of Comb Honey**

EXTRACTED HONEY CLASSES

The color divisions for classes 3, 4, and 5 are approximate. The show committee and/or judge may shift an extracted entry to another class to provide more consistent color ranges in each class.

- Class 3. Light Extracted** (Extra White to White, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).
- Class 4. Medium Extracted** (Extra Light Amber to Light Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).
- Class 5. Dark Extracted** (Amber to Dark Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).
- Class 6. Creamed or Finely Crystallized** (in glass, 3 jars, each 1 pound or less, no labels).
- Best Exhibit of Extracted Honey**

BEESWAX CLASSES

- Class 7. Commercial Block** (single piece of pure beeswax not less than 3 pounds).

- Class 8. Molded or Designed** (not less than one pound of pure beeswax, i.e. ornaments, fancy candles, bar cakes, sculptures, etc.).
- Class 9. Dipped Candles** (one pair made from pure beeswax).
- Class 10. Molded Candles** (one pair made from pure beeswax).

HONEY IN A FRAME CLASS

- Class 11. Medium Frame of Capped Honey** (enclosed in a case)

Reminder: Breakdown on the last day of the Farm Show is at 5:00 p.m. not 1:00 p.m.. No Exceptions! This is a change from the Farm Show Directors

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.

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.

The 99th Pennsylvania Farm Show
Harrisburg PA
January 10-17, 2015

Pennsylvania State University
Ag Progress Days
State College PA
August 18-20, 2015

For more information please contact
Aaron Fisher
aaron@fisherbeefarm.com

PSBA Annual Meeting
Nov 14-15, 2014
Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA
"If Mama Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy"

Friday Morning

9:30 – 11:30 PSBA Board Meeting

Friday Afternoon and Evening Program

12:00 Registration opens

12:30 Vendors Open

1:00 Welcome and comments
– Charlie Vorisek, PSBA President

1:10 State of beekeeping in PA
– Karen Roccaseca; PDA

1:40 Dr. Meghan Milbrath
- Sustainable Beekeeping: Using Nucs to
Raise Local Queens from Survivor stock

2:30 Bret Adee - Big Beekeeping; Big Challenges

3:00 Break and visit with vendors

3:30 Business Meeting

6:00 Banquet

Welcome : Charlie Vorisek
Buffet Dinner
Guest Speaker: Charlotte Hubbard
"BeeHolden"
Beekeeper of the Year Award
Honey Queen Reports
Crowning of PA Honey Queen for 2015

Auction

Saturday Morning Program

8:00 Registration
Vendors Open

8:30 Maryann Frazier - Think you can't graft?
Try this!

9:15 Bret Adee - Large and Small:
Techniques that can help us all

10:15 Break and visit with vendors

10:45 Heather Matilla -Well Mated Bees
Make a Difference to Colonies

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch - On your own

Saturday Afternoon

1:30 Announcement of honey show winners,

1:45 Heather Matilla - Lifetime Consequences of
Poor Nutrition for Worker Performance

2:30 Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich:
PA Queen Breeding Program

3:00 pm Break outs
Craig Cella: Building a Better Bear Fence
Ken Hoover: Courtesy Apiary
Inspection Program
Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich: Participating in
the PA Queen Breeding Program

Closure

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.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724. Phone: 570-673-8201 Email: pabee1@frontier.com

Jeremy's Corner

I have long been proud of my sense of direction. It is probably a guy thing but I am confident that I can find my way most anywhere, especially if I have had a chance to glance at a map beforehand. Having to stop and ask someone for directions feels like a personal failure; Mary is the one who has to get out of the car and ask the appropriate questions. The only exception, or so I thought until recently, was riding the underground, or subway, or tube. Here I lose all sense of direction and, emerging at the surface after a couple of stops, I struggle mightily to get reoriented, which had led me to believe that, like a honey bee, my sense of direction is tied to the sun. Once above ground I will look for clues to figure out for myself the next step forward.

In August Mary and I were in England for a family wedding and took the opportunity to visit Buckfast Abbey, home of Brother Adam and the Buckfast bee. I hadn't realized until recently that my father's village of origin (now almost a city) is less than half an hour's drive from the abbey. After a wonderful visit (more of that in a later column, especially why there are no Buckfast bees at Buckfast Abbey) we made our way cross-county via Glastonbury, planning to stay overnight in Oxford so that Mary could visit, for the first time, some of the famous colleges.

England has a major traffic and parking problem and as we approached Oxford the traffic slowed up significantly. I was driving, concentrating on staying on the right (i.e. left) side of the road. Mary was navigating, using a large AAA atlas and finding a route to take us away from the worst of the back-ups. Eventually we crawled into the outskirts, found a hotel, parked our bags and set off to walk into the town center to find somewhere suitable to eat.

I began walking the wrong way. Totally the wrong way. Going west when I needed to go east. I could not get myself oriented. Something was wrong. I contested Mary's gentle coercion but sure enough, she was right - the town center appeared exactly where I least expected it.

Looking at a map in a store window the reason became apparent. We had planned to enter Oxford from the south, which was the route I had looked at on the map beforehand, but in our attempts to avoid the traffic we had entered from the west. Mary knew this because she had the atlas on her lap as we twisted and turned.

That one factor, that one unknown, had thrown me completely.

The question therefore is, when we start beekeeping, what is the route map we have in our heads? What gets us disoriented, and what leads to that sudden realization

when we can distinguish 'west' from 'east,' when the center appears suddenly but gratifyingly in front of us?

The emphasis of the Buckfast Abbey apiary has moved from queen breeding to education, and the head beekeeper, Clare Densely, who offers a number of classes, suggests that a n-
bee maintains his or her hives for five years before taking a more advanced level class. In part this is so that the beekeeper understands the many inter-relationships and nuances of the amazing lives and behaviors of honey bees. But it also provides the time and space in which one can find a definite direction, a route map with a clear goal in mind, amid what initially appears as a chaotic bevy of bees.

No doubt everyone has a different story but for me it was three years into my beekeeping career when someone, and I can no longer recall who or where, said that honey bees, unlike wasps, are passive not aggressive. That they will defend their home and their kids if they feel threatened, but in most instances they are too busy, too focused, to worry about the likes of me.

It was the proverbial light bulb, a paradigm shift, a turning around in the right direction. The way I managed bees shifted, any residues of fear dropped away, and I like to think that the girls know that, even as they feel the need to remind me when I get over-confident.

What was that moment for you? Or to ask it another way, what did you have to find out for yourself, which, if someone had told you early in your career, might have made the art and skill of beekeeping a whole lot more rational a whole lot earlier?

What was your Oxford moment? Because having become reoriented, knowing again where I was going, I was relaxed, ready to explore, ready for another adventure, and this city in particular, like beekeeping, was well worth the journey.

Jeremy Barnes

Previous copies of Jeremy's Corner can be found at honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com

For Sale

Spring and Summer 5-Frame Nucs

Available for pickup in
Lewistown, PA

Call for availability and pricing.

800-736-6205

Ask for Aaron

Honey Queen Program Update

By Rachel Bryson

It's hard to believe another year has passed for the Honey Queen Program and we will soon be welcoming our 2015 representatives. I hope you will all join us at the PSBA convention in November to learn of all the work Queen Kaylee has accomplished for the PSBA this year. Make sure to attend the annual banquet Friday evening, Nov. 14, to hear from Queen Kaylee, see the selection of the 2015 Queen and Princess and support the program through our annual auction.

Preparations are already underway for the 2015 promotion year, but I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all of you some future plans for the Queen Program. We are always looking for ways to expand the educational outreach of the program regarding the beekeeping industry. One large initiative you can expect to see is a PA Honey Queen Program website. This site is under development and once complete will be accessed through the PSBA website. Our goal is to have this site include general information on the Honey Queen Program, educational resources for teachers, a children's activity section, photos and videos of our representatives at work, an event request form and much more. Look for this new site to be launched in January.

Another incentive the Queen Committee is working on is to encourage our local clubs to develop local Honey Queen programs. Our state Queens provide a tremendous service for the industry and there is a growing demand for educational presentations from the Queen. The development of local programs will allow additional representation of our industry, leading to a better-educated public. The state committee is more than happy to visit any local clubs who have an interest in developing a local Queen program. We are more than willing to share our materials, assist with the creation of these programs, train the local committee and train the local Queens. While the state committee would love to see several local Queen programs developed, we in no way are mandating these programs on any local club.

If you would like more information on the website or are interested in possibly developing a local Honey Queen program, please contact me at rachelbryson12@gmail.com or 717-300-0146. I look forward to seeing you all at the Convention!



Reminder: Breakdown on the last day of the Farm Show is at 5:00 p.m. not 1:00 p.m.. No Exceptions! This is a change from the Farm Show Directors

Volunteer To Help at the 2015 Farm Show

Please Complete and mail

Yes, I am willing to volunteer my time at the 2015 Farm Show on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association

I prefer to assist at:

- The Food Court
- Dipping ice cream
- Waiting on customers
- Both
- Other, please specify _____

- The Marketplace
- The Learning Center

Please circle if you can help with set-up in December (Date to be announced)

YES NO

Please circle your preferred dates and times:

Jan.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			AM		PM		All Day	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Comments: _____

Please list products and amounts you will bring to the Farm Show.

In order to receive your name tag and parking pass, please return this form by December 1st to: Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036