



# The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

September 2014  
Volume No. 8

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

## News 'n Views...

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, I would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to the Wade Fisher Bee Farm for hosting the 2014 summer picnic. The location is what will be the future home of Fisher's Pennsylvania facility near McVeytown. The scenery and weather were beautiful. The new building is up, but not quite ready for business. Aaron gave a tour and explained all the considerations engineered into the building, including the heated floor and gravity tanks. It will be great to see this place in operation.

Fishers provided the main course of one of their own farm-raised hogs. The day included lots of good food, honey beverages and social time. This step-back to a more basic picnic was very well attended, especially considering that it was not hosted by a local association.

One activity was spontaneously added with short notice... the queen exchange. The exchange only had time to be advertised by email and social media. A handful of hardy survivor queens were exchanged. Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich are co-chairing the PA Queen Improvement Program. The duties and expectations were a point of discussion. There is much to learn in coordinating across the state with local associations. The basic goal is establishing hardy survivor genetics, quality queens, and getting those passed around the state. Several local associations are doing this. Winter

survival is a problem in the northern states. Among all the challenges of winter, it would be best if the genetic foundation were solid.

Some Constitution changes were made regarding committees. Realigning and consolidating some activities were needed to keep up with changing times. The Publishing Committee will now include the newsletter as well as website and social media. The website has become a very useful tool. Our webmasters have been good at getting timely information posted.

The PA Honey Queen Committee has been added to the By-Laws. After existing for 60 years, it might seem appropriate to list it in writing. It will continue as a sub-committee of the Promotional Committee.

Renting bees for pollination can be an interesting experience. Orchard crops are usually pretty straightforward. Bees are in and out in a few weeks. I use a Pollination Agreement (contract), even if the grower doesn't readily sign it. He still gets a copy so he understands what the terms are. The agreement states things like when the bees will be in and out and minimum hive strength. The grower needs to know what he's getting for his money. The second part of the agreement is what the grower provides. Locations, access and allowable pesticide precautions are included. Generally, there aren't big problems with herbicides or fungicides, at least not in my experience. I know various pesticides are used. It makes me nervous, but I cannot say I have seen any short or long term effects on my bees. With all the concern with honeybee health, responsible growers are increasingly trying to use products and timing to decrease risk to the bees. I usually have a pesticide conversation with growers. Ultimately, I will make it clear, if there's a problem, there's no money back, no more replacement bees and no bees next year.

Some interesting experiences have been with grower's lack of knowledge. A vegetable grower, with 10 acres, much in vine crops, didn't know what a cucumber beetle was. Unlike another veggie grower that used Sevin. (Very deadly) A grower was initially upset that he didn't see bees all over his blossoms. When I checked, every blossom seemed to

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have a fruit... so the job was getting done. It doesn't take long for a few bees to touch every blossom.

As I put this article together, our northwest area seems to finally have a real honey flow started. (I don't want to say that too loud, I may jinx it.) It's an interesting combination of late summer blossoms and fall blossoms that are right on schedule. Loosestrife seems to be incredibly extended. Lots of Joe Pye Weed. I watched a nice growth of Jewelweed being worked from dawn to dusk every day. I didn't think it would produce that much nectar, to go all day. Knotweed is in full bloom. Goldenrod has started strong and should get two or three more weeks as the various varieties open in stages. Fortunately the weather forecasters were wrong and that rain went somewhere else. Perhaps the season will finish strong enough to make honey for winter and some to sell.

Our PSBA Annual Meeting is just around the corner, November 14 and 15. 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 Adey, will be one featured speaker for both days. Brett operates about 80,000 colonies in 10 states. He probably has more bee experiences than all of us combined. I'm excited that he can join us.

Dr. Megan Milbrath and Heather Matilla will be joining us 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 presentation and the promotions' auction. Humorist Charlotte Hubbard will be our guest speaker.

**Note: The Executive Board meeting is Friday morning, Nov 14. All local associations are encouraged to send a representative to this meeting.**

**The meeting report and business meeting/elections will be Friday afternoon, rather than Saturday.**

Don't forget to keep out those nice frames for the Farm Show. Bottle some for show. Use that beautiful wax. It's okay to show it off.

Start thinking about doing a 'county exhibit' or 'individual exhibit' at the 2015 Farm Show.

*Charlie Vorisek,  
President PSBA*

## Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Convention 2014

This year's EAS annual meeting, held at the Eastern Kentucky University, in Richmond, KY from July 28 to August 1, was full of exciting and informative talks and activities. As usual, the meeting was divided into a short course and the conference.

### Short Course

The short course had concurrent sessions titled Beginners, Advanced, Lab, Queen Rearing, and Apiary. Jennifer Berry taught a two-day queen rearing course that included both lectures and hands on instruction in the apiary. Due to the limited registration, many beekeepers could not participate. Another course with limited registration was the Honey Bee Lab that featured microscopic examination of honey bees, pollen and mites and Nosema.

### Conference

The conference began Wednesday morning with the welcome address given by EAS Chairman, Jim Bobb and this year's president Dr. Tammy Horn. The Keynote address was by Dr. Robert Danka, Research Entomologist, USDA, ARS Honey Bee Breeding Lab in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Danka discussed "Translating and Applying Research Results in the Real World of Beekeeping." Dr. Danka specifically discussed the development and dissemination of Varroa Sensitive Hygiene queens. The conference was also divided into several concurrent sessions entitled Beginners, Big Picture, Advanced Beekeepers, Cultural Topics, International Interchange, Lab and Apiary.

My wife Ellen Codd and I have summarized a few of the many worth while talks.

Planning is well underway for the 2015 EAS conference that will take place from August 10 to 15 at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. See: (<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>) Get or renew your passport, not needed to enter Canada, but required to reenter the United States!

Vince Aloyo  
Vice-president

**Nominations are requested for the 2014 Beekeeper of the Year Award.** This award is presented annually to a beekeeper that the committee feels meets the guidelines as listed on Page 17. If you would like to nominate a fellow beekeeper, please write a letter of recommendation and send to Stewart Mathias, 514 Earlys Mill Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036.

## An Intriguing and Enticing Conference Program

There are a few changes to the structure of the program for the annual conference 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 will be printed in next month's issue of the newsletter and it will include 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 fences, 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. 7<sup>th</sup>**.

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 in next month's newsletter. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## Honey report for Southeast Pennsylvania

Despite the unusually cold and snowy winter, many beekeepers are reporting above average spring crops. Perhaps the delayed spring allowed the colonies to increase their population to crop gathering strength. Colonies were gathering some nectar well into July, which is unusual for our region. Currently, we are in a drought conditions and consequently we are in a nectar dearth. Colonies without sufficient stores will need to be feed if rains don't materialize soon. August 29, I did a removal of a strong feral colony; this colony had no honey stores! Goldenrod should be blooming soon, but we don't usually make a crop from this plant. Hopefully, goldenrod will provide enough nectar to support fall brood production and perhaps winter stores.

Vince Aloyo  
Vice President

## PA Honey Queen Report

By Kaylee Kilgore

Hello beekeepers! I hope everyone is having a great summer, and that your bees are well. August has been a busy month for me! I have attended 5 events so far this month, with a few more to come.

My first event this month was August 6th at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pa. I worked with two local beekeepers at their stand where they were selling a variety honey products. I also had the opportunity to teach the public about bees while helping them find the queen in an observation hive, including explaining why we mark queens.

My next event of the month was the PSBA summer picnic on August 9, held at the Wade Fisher Bee Farm in McVeytown. The picnic was a great opportunity for me to meet and introduce myself for the first time to many PSBA members. During the picnic, I provided an update on my work for the PSBA. I had already attended 20 events!

August 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> I attended Ag Progress Days near State College. Along with American Honey Princess Elena Hoffman, we answered many questions from the public about honey bees, and helped sell honey sweetened ice cream and root beer. At the Government and Industry luncheon, we had the chance to speak to Secretary of Agriculture, George Greig, and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett.

On August 16th, I attended the National Honeybee Day event at the Wildlands Conservatory in Emmaus. It was a fantastic event, with an observation hive and extraction demonstrations for children, and information for adults about the importance of honey bees as pollinators, and how to maintain a pollinator friendly garden. I gave a cooking demonstration with honey banana smoothies, and described some of the benefits of cooking with honey.

Finally, I attended the Harford Fair in New Milford, where I worked with the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association at their "honey hut," where they were selling honey products. I helped answer questions about the observation hive, and helped customers choose what kind of honey to buy. I also met the association's youngest member, who is going into 6th grade this year. For such a young girl, she has a profound interest in honey bees, and her passion is inspiring.

As the summer comes to an end, don't miss out on your chance to invite me to your fall events. To invite me, contact Rachel Bryson, queen program chair, at [honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org) or 717-300-0146.

## Identification Reader

My first experience with honey bees was in 1949 when I was 13 years old on our family farm. Our neighbor was a beekeeper and I was amazed at what he was doing. He let me help and I have been fascinated with beekeeping ever since.

At first I had one or two hives. In 1964 we moved from our Armstrong County farm to a Beaver County two-acre lot. Then I started to get three or four hives but marketing honey was a problem. In the 1970s I joined the Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association. That was the turning point in my beekeeping. We shared success and failures as a club. They shared management tips on beekeeping and sales techniques that helped me grow my hobby.

The last 20 years I have had 25-30 hives in three different locations. All my honey is sold on the honor system at my house. I teach a beginning beekeeping class for the Beaver Valley club and at the Spring Seminar. At 78, I would like to continue as a beekeeping teacher forever.

Jim Hoffman

**IF THE READER WHO IS A LIFETIME MEMBER** receives the newsletter at 492 Cemetery Road, Berwick, 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 October 10<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.



Queen Kaylee met with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett during Ag Progress Days.



## Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the August issue of  
*The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is September 24.**

### **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](mailto:RJArmstrong1@verizon.net)

### **Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA**

Friday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Preparations for Winter. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 or visit their website [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com) for additional information.

### **Chester County Beekeepers**

Saturday, September 13, 9:00 a.m., at the Stroud Preserve, West Chester. Visit the Association's website [www.ChescoBees.org](http://www.ChescoBees.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@the-beeyard.org](mailto:info@the-beeyard.org) or visit [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### **Lancaster County Beekeepers**

Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. Discussion on winter prep and check the museum hive. Contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) for more information.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:JimBobb@Verizon.net) or visit their website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### **2 C's and a Bee Association**

Sunday, September 21, 2:00 p.m. at the Canoe Creek State Park, Hollidaysburg. For more information, contact their secretary at [secretary@ccbee.org](mailto:secretary@ccbee.org) or 814-472-7637.

### **York County Beekeepers**

Thursday, September 25, 7:00 p.m. in the Ruhl Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Show and Tell, Honey Tasting and Honey Exchange. Contact Jeremy Barnes, [honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com) for more information.

### **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](mailto:pattie.zyroll@elkem.com)

### **North East PA Beekeepers**

Wednesday, October 1, 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.

### **Monroe County Beekeepers**

Wednesday, October 8, at the Monroe County Environmental Center. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421 or email [RJArmstrong1@verizon.net](mailto:RJArmstrong1@verizon.net)

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com)

### **Lycoming Co. Beekeepers**

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

### **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](mailto:JimBobb@Verizon.net) or visit their website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.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](mailto:info@the-beeyard.org) or visit [www.thebeeyard.org](http://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](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) for more 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](mailto:JimBobb@Verizon.net) or visit their website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

**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](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com) for additional information.

**Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers**

Monday, November 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph, ? Fall Banquet. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email: [pattie.zyroll@elkem.com](mailto: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](mailto: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@ccbbee.org](mailto:secretary@ccbbee.org) or 814-472-7637.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

**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.



**Honey Queen Brochures**

The PSBA Honey Queen Brochures are now available! Cost is \$10.00 per hundred (plus shipping). Please purchase the brochures to help you increase your honey sales and support the honey queen program. The Promotional Fund also has paper weights with the PSBA logo for sale at \$10.00 each. To order, contact Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036, phone 717-533-2231. The brochures and paper weights are available for pick-up at Stu Mathias's home and at the PSBA annual meeting in November.

**IF MOMMA AIN'T HAPPY,  
AIN'T NOBODY HAPPY**

PSBA State Meeting, November 14 and 15

Our guest speaker for the banquet on Friday night is the beekeeper, author and humorist Charlotte Hubbard, who will be coming from Michigan for the event, traveling with another of our guest presenters, Dr. Megan Milbrath. Charlotte's most recent publication is *Dronings from a Queen Bee*, which was published two months ago, a charming series of essays that reflect on bees, beekeeping and life in general.



**Jeremy's Corner**

The following sentence is patently obvious yet needs to be written nonetheless. At no time in the last 10,000 years has humankind produced, used, and carelessly discarded such a ruthless combination of chemical and toxic substances as the present.

It's tempting to think that the last time the environment was ruthlessly toxic was after an asteroid collided with the earth some 65 million years ago, which led to what is referred to as the Fifth Extinction and which included an end to the age of the dinosaurs.

And yes, extinction is a natural feature of evolution because for some species to succeed, others must fail. Since life began, an estimated 99% of the earth's species have disappeared and, on at least five occasions, huge numbers have died out in a relatively short time. But despite such catastrophes the total number of living species has, until recently, followed a generally upward trend.

Today the extinction rate is increasing as a result of human interference in natural ecosystems combined with human behaviors, which are unquestioned and unconscious. We are steadily encroaching on the habitat of millions of species while fundamentally altering the environment, a trend eloquently described by Fulbright scholar and writer for the New Yorker, Elizabeth Kolbert, in *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*.

This decline will continue because evolution generates new species far more slowly than the current rate of extinction. More than 320 terrestrial vertebrates have become extinct since 1500, according to researchers at Stanford University. Surviving species have declined by about 25%, particularly devastating the ranks of large animals like elephants, rhinoceroses and polar bears. The U.N. Intergovernmental

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Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 11)

Panel on Climate Change Report of 2007 predicted that an increase of 3.5 degrees Celsius, which is within the range of scientific forecasts for 2100, could wipe out 40 to 70 % of the currently known species.

Everything we eat, drink, wear and drive is infused with a complicated variety of chemicals with impossible sounding names, like polysalinate 80 (in a jar of dill pickles,) calcium disodinate EDTA (in mayonnaise,) nonylphenol ethoxylates and phthalates (in shirts,) acesulfame potassium in sodas, and bisphenol A (in plastic bottles and the plastic in our vehicles.)

Do we really know what these are, what their long term consequences are, how they interact with elements in our bodies and our environment? A painful lesson from the bees is that the interaction between chemicals in a hive can increase their toxicity as much as one thousand times. They can also cancel one another out.

And then there is the power of advertising, the purpose of which is to make us feel dissatisfied and inadequate, that somehow if what we have is not faster, bigger, glossier or newer, we are in some way inferior and deficient. And many of the best minds in the country are paid a lot of money to make us feel that way and to persuade us to buy our way to fulfillment without consideration for the larger consequences. It is capitalism without morality, a free market without an environmental conscience.

A news segment recently on back-to-school shopping stressed that it all starts with the right pair of shoes, that the school wardrobe has to be built from the ground up, and emphasized the pressure many parents undergo from children who believe they need brazen sneakers that their parents cannot afford. Shoes? Really?

Personal disclosure - I do not have a smart phone, nor do I want one. I have lived my life relatively successfully without having immediate access to reams of data nor with allowing people who would never drop by unannounced to have unlimited access to my time and to expect immediate responses. Nor do I have a GPS - I actually enjoy reading maps, making choices as to my routes and learning about the countryside as I go.

Yes, I'm a curmudgeon. The above are conscious choices, in part a deliberate resistance to the bombardment of advertisers. I am satisfied as I am and with what I have, thank you, and greater materialism will not change that. I must be hell to buy for for birthdays!

This is what I understand by the frequent reference to honey bees as our canaries in the coal mine. It is more than only neonicotinoids, and loss of habitat and pests or parasites. Bees are super-sensitivite to an increasingly complex, toxic environment in which we all exist, in which we all live, drink and breathe without much in the way of alternatives. Is this depressing? I don't think so. Recently I was given a DVD called "Happy" (someone must have felt I really needed it!) which travels from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata (Calcutta) in search of what really makes people happy. The conclusions include that happiness is a skill, like golf, that can be honed with practice, that it means being authentic to oneself, that relationships with friends and family are important, that it comes from seeking new experiences and doing things that are meaningful. It is the last of these that struck a nerve with me. Keeping bees, like planting trees or shopping critically, is a meaningful act. It is something positive I can do in the face of large challenges, and feeling that one is a conscious part of the solution rather than an unconscious part of the problem is both satisfying and rewarding.

Jeremy Barnes

*Past copes of Jeremy's Corner can be found at  
[honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com](http://honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com)*

**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 99<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:aaron@fisherbeefarm.com)



## New Research on Flower Fidelity

Dr. Berry Brosi, Emory University

We have all heard that individual honey bees tend to visit the same kind of flower at a given time, a behavior common among pollinating insects. Because this behavior is partially driven by pressure from other pollinators (stay away from flowers your competitor is visiting), Dr. Berry wondered what effect the loss of one type of pollinator would have on flower fidelity behavior by other pollinators and importantly, on seed set by flowers.

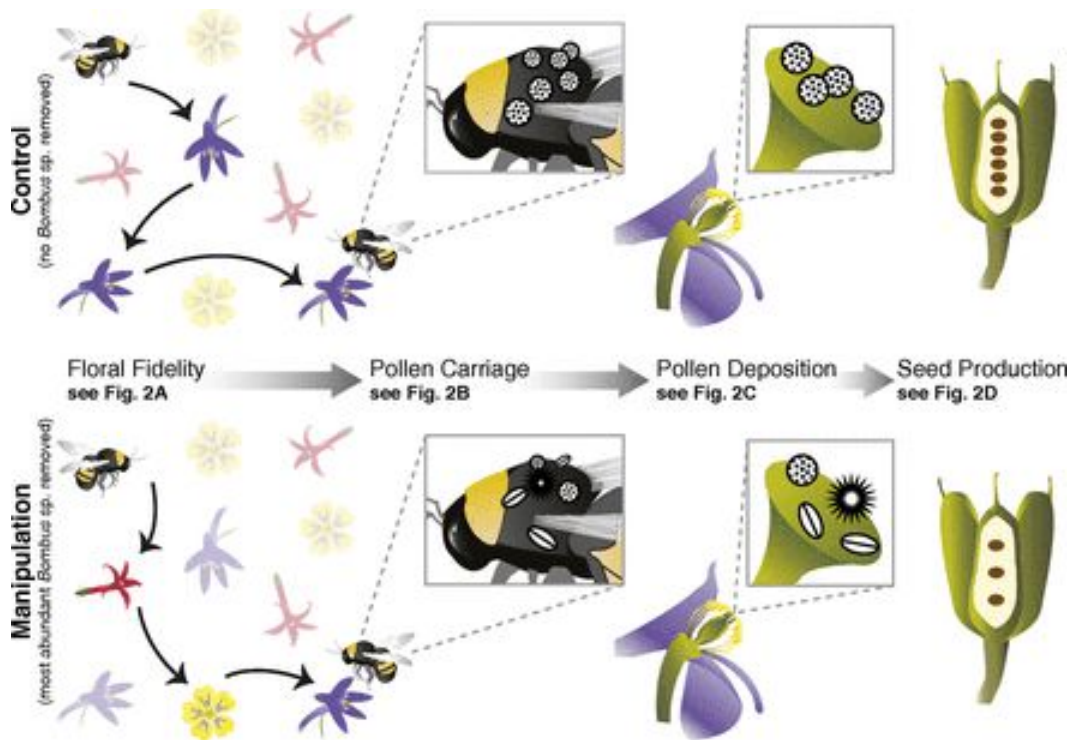
To answer the question, Dr. Berry abandoned Georgia summer for the Colorado Rocky Mountains (shows he’s smart!). He and colleague Heather Briggs set up test plots in mountain meadows in which they could temporarily remove one of several *Bombus* (bumble bee) species present. They then recorded the flowers visited by an individual of a remaining *Bombus* species, the kind of pollen present on the bee and the kind of pollen deposited on a specific flower, *D. barbeyi* (Ranunculaceae), in the meadow. Later they counted the seeds set by that flower. The same data were also collected

in a test plot in which no pollinators had been removed, a “normal” control.

The data showed that when all individuals of one *Bombus* species were removed, flower fidelity among the remaining *Bombus* species working in the test plot declined, so that individuals then carried pollen from several flower species. Seed set by the flowers pollinated also declined, likely due to the mix of pollen from several floral species rather than only the desired pollen type. This work makes it clear that the loss of even one pollinator species can reduce seed set in certain plants, even if other pollinators visit that plant. Clearly, this study has implications for seed production, be they seeds of wildflowers or pollinator-enhanced agricultural crops.

See the illustration below, taken from the scientific publication, for a pictorial representation of pollinator behavior in control and manipulated (removal of one *Bombus* species from the test plot) conditions, as well as the decline in seed set in the manipulated condition. If you’d like to read more, here is the link to the full publication of this work: <http://www.pnas.org/content/110/32/13044.full.pdf+html>

Ellen Codd



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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## Nature Notes

September is our **goldenrod** month. Goldenrod is “mostly native to North America” (Wikipedia). About a hundred species have been described but they can be lumped into three groups. The flower bunches can be flat-topped, flame-shaped, or divided into spikes. Goldenrod in the wildflower garden will spread unless controlled. Its **sticky pollen** is attractive to insects. Some goldenrods are attractive to honeybees; some seem not to be.

A **crab spider** hunts on goldenrod. Over millennia, the crab spiders with more yellow color were more successful hunting on goldenrod and produced more young than crab spiders of other colors. The result of this natural selection is the yellow crab spiders we can see still-hunting on goldenrod.

Tall, reddish purple **Joe-Pye weed** is another American favorite with gardeners and insects. Deer eat the tops off Joe-pye weed in spring, but the plant recovers to bloom a bit shorter than it might have been.

**Ironweed**, the bushy plant with deep purple flowers standing above the other meadow vegetation, is a third honeybee forage plant that we can salute this month. USDA calls ironweed “an excellent nectar plant.”

**Bird migration** has already begun. On clear, starlit nights, the **chip notes** of migrating flocks can be heard above open quiet places. Sharp birdwatchers can identify bird species by these chip sounds.

Our **Canada geese**, which split into pairs during nesting season, have reunited in noisy flocks, gathering on lakes in the evening. These birds are not Canadian; they were born in the USA. They are properly known as Canada geese, not Canadian geese. Geese from the far north migrate over us in big flocks high up in the sky. Sometimes they can be heard at night winging their way south far overhead.

We can thank **dragonflies and bats** for helping to control mosquitoes. Dragonflies are often found around bodies of water from which mosquitoes might hatch. Bats appear at dusk when mosquitoes are also active. The biggest dragonflies are green darners. The slowest flying are damselflies, which perch with wings folded over their backs. Dragonfly heads are mostly eyes and jaws. Dragonflies are harmless to us.

The **Summer Triangle** dominates our night sky. **Vega** is overhead, the brightest corner. Down from Vega is **Deneb**, the tail of Cygnus the Swan or the top of the Northern Cross. Out to the right (south) is **Altair**. Seen from a dark location, Cygnus flies south down the **Milky Way**. Also visible from a dark place is a itty-bitty constellation. Found just below a line drawn between Deneb and Altair, it looks like a kite with a tail. This is **Delphinus**, the Dolphin, also known as **Job’s Coffin**.

Tim Sterrett

## Guidelines for Beekeeper of the Year

The following rules are absolute:

1. Must be an active member.
2. Active membership for 15 years in the State Association
3. People that are employed in the honeybee industry, and whose full time job is funded by tax monies are excluded.

Judgements made by the committee:

1. The individual’s role with the State Association.
2. The individual’s innovations.
3. The individual’s promotion of the industry.
4. Although membership in county associations are desirable, it is not necessary.
5. Beekeeper score card (items for judgement by committee).

	Honey producer	Efficient operation
Queen	Raiser	Pollinator
	Showmanship of apiary products	



## 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## For Sale

### Spring and Summer 5-Frame Nucs

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# PSBA Picnic

Photos by  
Charlie Vorisek



**Bees,  
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and  
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could a  
beekeeper  
ask for?

