



# The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

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Pictured above are some of the speakers at the 2015 PSBA Annual Conference. Left to right: Erin MacGregor-Forbes, Clare Densley, Karen Roccasecca, Dr. Dewey Caron and Maryann Frazier participated in the Panel Discussion on Saturday.



2016 PA Honey  
Queen Sarah McTish



Approximately 180 beekeepers attended the 2015 PSBA Annual Conference held at the Best Western/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Photos by Ken Hoover



Anne Svidergol, Emma and Gene O'Neil, Bernie Svidergol

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## News and Views...

The PSBA annual meeting and conference was productive and informative. This is always a great time to meet and network with beekeepers from across Pennsylvania. The guest speakers brought a tremendous amount of information to share. Another event of 'information overload' for myself. As much of my own experience is antidotal, I find these studies help me sort out what really works or not.

A number of business items were reviewed and discussed. Items included discussions with PennDOT regarding roadway mowing and plantings, Best Management Practices review, updating Pa Bee Law, definition of 'local', the Pa Queen Improvement Project, returning to PSATS conference in Hershey and initiating a 'Bee Friendly City Award'. Membership dues were left on the agenda from August. A brief discussion resulted in no motion for action; therefore membership dues will remain unchanged. The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild will tentatively host the 2016 Summer Picnic at a date and site to be determined. The 2016 Farm Show has been months in preparation. The many details and success are only possible because of the many volunteers willing to give some time and talents. A well deserved salute to the Capital Area Beekeepers Association. They put many feet on the ground in preparation and week of the Farm Show.

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I would like to mention a few things that PSBA has done in 2015. The executive board and committees largely operate without a lot of fanfare or notice. Considering every person is a volunteer, taking personal time and often spending their own money because they believe in the bigger picture, these are some notable activities.

January started with the 2015 Farm Show. Well over 100 PSBA members volunteer in the areas of the Food Court honey ice cream, Honey Market Place and Apiary Learning Station. Two note-worthy political stops were intentionally pre-scheduled to meet with beekeepers. Senator Pat Toomey attended the Honey Extraction Show and Governor-elect Tom Wolf made the Learning Station his first stop while visiting the Farm Show. The significance of the Farm Show is our ability to personally educate thousands of people, bring beekeeping to a personal level, sell member's honey and taste the wonderful honey, waffles and ice cream.

Cornucopia is a commodity event that engages legislators in the rotunda of the state capitol building. In March Lori Stahl, Queen Jessica, Vince Aloyo and his wife Ellen put a face on state beekeepers and reminded legislators that we are paying attention.

Again in March the Apiary Advisory Board met at the PA Department of Agriculture. Discussions were held

with Secretary of Agriculture Russ Redding, Food Safety administrator Lydia Johnson and House of Representative's legal staffer Kerry Golden. We laid out problems with honey house regulations that require nitrite testing and other application over-kill. We had opportunity to discuss the current Bee Law and realistic expectations of what is or is not possible. We are reminded to be careful what we ask for.

PSBA hosted a winter loss survey in April. PA beekeepers also responded well to the national loss survey, making it possible to glean more details from Pennsylvania results. For 3 days of April, PSBA participated as a vendor at Hershey Lodge for the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) convention. Don Shump, Matt Libhart, Lori Stahl, Steve Finke, Charlie Vorisek and Queen Jessica presented working solutions for local government regarding urban agriculture, beekeeping, Best Management Practices, zoning and codes. Contacts made at this event helped to get ahead of pending regulation issues. A hearing with pending ordinances was attended by Capital Area beekeepers, which ended with NO regulations. Another case in Millcreek Township Erie County went to a zoning appeal hearing after the beekeeper was cited for operating hives in a residential zone. PSBA officers, Steve Repasky and Charlie Vorisek testified as expert witnesses. The appeal was won and the beekeeper was allowed to keep the hives. A loss would have affected a number of other existing beekeepers as well as Asbury Nature Center, site of the PSBA 2010 Summer Picnic, which is home to an apiary.

In June, July and August the PA Queen Improvement Project conducted outreach to local clubs by assisting in making available mite resistant breeder queens, queen cells and queen exchanges. The genetic traits include winter survivor stock. This season reached more local beekeepers than previous years. The hopes of having winter-hardy and mite resistant bees will take many years. If successful, this project will benefit all Pennsylvania beekeepers.

August brought the PSBA Summer Picnic to Sewickley, Pa. and more queens exchanged. August is also 3 days at Penn State's Ag Progress Days in State College. PSBA honey ice cream and educational tables again put beekeepers in front of the general public.

In October, the Apiary Advisory Committee met again at the PA Department of Agriculture. This meeting was primarily a discussion with PennDOT officials regarding roadside management. Both sides learned a lot and are eager to find common solutions for utilizing roadside acreage for pollinators where it's feasible to do so.

(Continued on Page 5)

**News and Views...** (Continued from Page 3)

Local associations attended and manned many events and fairs across the state. Local clubs are what complete the PA State Beekeepers Association. Information and networking are the vision of what this organization is about.

The website and social media have expanded new interest in what we do. The 'Bee Help' point of contact on the website fielded over 140 questions and concerns.

PSBA was asked to be stakeholder on the board of Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research Advisory Board. Vice-President Steve Repasky will represent PSBA. Additionally, I, Charlie Vorisek, will represent PA Farm Bureau, as a stakeholder, on the same council.

The upcoming year will keep focus on the same issues as this year. In addition, PSBA will be reviewing the rules of the Food Safety Modernization Act and how those FDA regulations might affect honey production and selling. Also, a new sub-committee is piloting an award for the most 'Bee Friendly' city or municipality. Watch for details.

Why should beekeeping be involved with politics? As a saying goes, "If your not seated at the table, you might be on the menu". We are putting ourselves in a pro-active position. Once law is written, it is extremely hard to reverse.

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In closing, I would like to extend my humble appreciation in being re-elected as PSBA president. Per term limits, this will be my fourth and final year. I do my best to represent PA beekeepers. I attempt to strike a balanced position between ideological extremes, experienced, inexperienced and sound science. I am often pulled in multiple directions on any given day. Thank you for the vote of confidence.

*Charlie Vorisek,*  
President PSBA  
[president@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:president@pastatebeekeepers.org)

**Looking Back and Looking Forward**

The consensus was that the 2015 PSBA Conference was a success, with a series of excellent presenters and a balance of relevant topics, ranging from current scientific research (Marla Spivak on the role of propolis in the hive and James Nieh on how bees communicate the presence of predators outside the hive,) the wise and informational (Karen Roccasecca on the state of the bees, Maryann Frazier on talking to the public about pesticides, and Beth Capaldi on Neolithic beekeeping,) the practical (Erin MacGregor-Forbes on making nucs as a means of swarm management and varroa control, Dewey Caron on what we can do to improve colony survivorship,

and Marla on pollinator habitat) and the inspirational (Clare Densely on gentle beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey.)

The banquet was as delicious and as fun as ever, the highlight being the recognition and celebration of Maryann Frazier as the Beekeeper of the Year.

Summaries of some of the above presentations will be published in this and future newsletters, starting with Karen Roccasecca's report on bees and beekeeping in Pennsylvania, followed in January by Marla Spivak's discussion of the role of propolis in the hive.

Next year the conference will be held at the Days Inn in State College on November 11 and 12, and we are requesting feedback on two areas in particular:

1. The possibility of running a 'short course' for newer beekeepers on the morning of Friday, Nov 11. This is in response to those who feel that the conference caters excessively to experienced beekeepers; and
2. Topics that you would like to see in a break out session, such as 'Building a Honey House,' or "Talking to Children about Bees."

Please send your ideas and comments, as well as any relevant feedback on the 2015 Conference, to [honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com](mailto:honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com)



**Farm Show Apiary Exhibit Notes:**

Exhibit Entries must arrive at the Farm Show on Thursday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00AM and 6:00PM.

Pre-entry must be done on-line: <https://services.agriculture.state.pa.us/FarmShowOnlineRegistration/>

Premium Book may be viewed at: <http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us/files/Department22Apiary.pdf>

For Extracted Honey it is strongly suggested that you enter the color class below and above what you think it is. Honeys will be placed in color classes using a digital color grader. If two entries are in the same class, one will be set aside.

Exhibits may not be removed before 5:00PM on closing Saturday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>.

**There are openings left for Individual and County Exhibits.** Late entries are being accepted on-line. Contact Charlie at [vbeefarm@windstream.net](mailto:vbeefarm@windstream.net) for questions.

### The State of the Bees

In reporting on bees and beekeepers over the past year, Karen Roccasecca, the state apiarist, noted that the increase in the number of registered beekeepers was in excess of 500, which is a first, and of the 4000+ registered beekeepers, 84% are hobbyists.

Losses were 23% last winter and 60% if one includes recorded summer losses.

In 2014 there were 5,300 bee yards and 41,000 colonies, compared to 6,000 and 63,000 in 2015. The latter is an increase of almost 54%, which is remarkable. 100 registered beekeepers quit in 2014.

This year there were 17 bee yards infected with AFB (which is .28% of the total yards) and of the 27 confirmed samples, 21 were susceptible to Terramycin. As a matter of interest, Clare Densley noted that in the UK treatment of AFB by chemicals is not an option - destruction by burning is mandatory.

There were 24 samples of EFB from 11 yards, some of which looked very similar to AFB, which is a new feature. Karen asked if something is changing with EFB.

Hopguard II was approved and registered for use in PA on November 12 of this year, and besides the National Honey Bee survey and the on-going check for tropilaelaps, Karen described the monitoring survey for the Asian Giant Hornet, which can fly at 25 mph, can cover 60 miles in a day and can kill 40 bees per minute. She noted an incident where 30 of these hornets had eradicated a colony of 30 000 bees in a day by decapitating the bees and removing the larvae to feed their young.

Beekeepers are also asked to be on the lookout for the Spotted Lanternfly in that it attacks some 70-host plants and its eradication involves increased use of chemicals.



### PSBA Banquet

There were 180 attending the PSBA Annual Banquet held November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, which was the largest attendance that I can remember. The food was delicious as usual. Charlie Vorisek, our president, welcomed everyone. After dinner Charlie recognized our guests.

The guest speakers were Russell Redding, Pa, Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi

The Beekeeper of the Year was presented to Maryann Frazier, Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Entomology at Penn State.

Maryann then talked about reflections on her coming retirement.

Jessica Onstead, our 2015 Honey Queen gave a report on her activities to date. She is looking forward to competing for American Honey Queen in January at the American Beekeeping Federation meeting. Blair Hetherington, our Honey Queen Princess also a report of her activities as PSBA

Princess. Both girls have done an excellent job representing us.

Following the reports by Jessica and Blair, our 2016 PA State Honey Queen, Sarah McTish was crowned. Congratulations Sarah.

Mark Antunes, our auctioneer for the evening, who does an excellent job, auctioned off numerous items for a total of \$2100.00. This was followed by the Honey Queens auctioning off a quilt for \$385.00. Both of the proceeds were given to the Promotional Fund, which will be used for the PA Honey Queen program and the promotion of honey throughout the state.

Stu Mathias reported a total of \$5830.00 on the sales of hats, shirts and queen brochures.

Yvonne Crimbring  
PSBA Secretary-Treasurer

### PSBA Beekeeper of the Year Maryann Frazier

The PSBA 2015 Beekeeper of the Year award was presented to Maryann Frazier at the Annual Banquet held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. As the senior extension associate in the Department of Entomology at Penn State specializing in apiculture, Maryann is responsible for honey bee extension throughout the state and cooperatively across the Mid-Atlantic region. She teaches courses in beekeeping, general entomology and teacher education and is involved in the department's innovative public outreach program. She has worked closely with Chris Mullin and Jim Frazier on the potential role of pesticides on declining honey bee health in general and in 2010 co-authored a landmark paper on the presence of specific toxins in pollen and wax.

Maryann is also committed to international development, having worked with beekeepers in Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Costa Rica, and Panama and has been a long time philosopher, guide and friend for countless members of the PSBA.

Maryann will be retiring from her position at Penn State. Congratulations Maryann.



**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP** is lifetime and receives the newsletter at 145 Honey Bee Lane, Monroe Twp, 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 Janaury 1<sup>st</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.

#### Visitation and Card Shower

If you would like to visit or send a card to Lee Miller, former PSBA President, the address is Health South Harmarville, 320 Guys Run Drive, Pittsburgh, PA- Room 203.



## Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the January issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is December 28th.**

### **Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA**

Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Gleanings from the PSBA Conference. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com) for updates.

### **Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Saturday, December 12 Date & location to be announced. Holiday Potluck Party. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### **American Beekeeping Federation (ABF)**

January 5-9, 2016 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra, FL. The theme for this year's conference is Palm Trees & Healthy Bees. For additional information, visit their website: [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org)

### **North East PA Beekeepers**

Wednesday, January 6, 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.

### **2016 PA Farm Show (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

January 9-16 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Watch for information when closer to the event. If interested in volunteering, see the article on Page ? for contact information.

### **Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Thursday, January 28 at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Topic: Preparing the apiary for Spring. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### **WV 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Honey Bee Expo**

Saturday, January 30, on the WVU Campus in Parkersburg, WV. Held by the Mid Ohio Valley Beekeepers' Association along with the WV Extension Services. This year's keynote speaker will be EAS master beekeeper and author, Stephen Repasky. Also scheduled to attend will be Dr. Greg Hunt and Christian Givens of Purdue University. Cost will be \$20.00 if pre-registered by January 13<sup>th</sup> or \$25.00 at the door. Contact (304) 437-1221 or visit [movba.org/2016\\_honeybee\\_expo.htm](http://movba.org/2016_honeybee_expo.htm). Many vendors will also be present.

### **North East PA Beekeepers**

Wednesday, February 3, 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.

### **Western PA Beekeeping Seminar**

February 19 – 20, 2016 at Doubletree by Hilton, Mars, PA. Please see the following article for detailed information. Questions of this notice – please contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at [lynszym@comcast.net](mailto:lynszym@comcast.net) or 412-855-0710

### **Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Thursday, February 25 at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Topic:

Queen Breeding and Genetics. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### **2016 PSBA Annual Conference**

Friday and Saturday, November 11 & 12, at the Days Inn, State College. The theme is Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping and the key note speakers will be Mark Winston and Keith Delaplane.



## Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar

Please join us for the most up-to-date information about managing honey bees at the Western Pennsylvania Beekeeping Seminar to be held at the Doubletree by Hilton, Mars, PA on February 19-20, 2016. A trade show featuring major beekeeping supply companies will be held on-site in conjunction with this seminar.

Featured speakers for the seminar include Dr. Jeff Harris, Assistant Extension and Research Professor at Mississippi State; Dr. Diana Sammaturo, on the the authors of *The Beekeeper's Handbook* and Dr. Christine Grosinger, Professor of Entomology and Director of Pollinator Research at Penn State University. Breakout sessions: include bear fencing, winter management, cooking with honey, pest control, and more...

Registration cost is \$60.00 for participants and \$45.00 for their guests and children under 18. (Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult participant.) Registration is open and a link from the [Penn State Extension](http://Penn State Extension) website is available by selecting Upcoming Events, Beekeeping under Events By Course and clicking on the Western PA Beekeeping Seminar title. The deadline to register is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Visit the Western PA Seminar Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WPABeekeepers> or contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at [lynszym@comast.net](mailto:lynszym@comast.net) or 412-855-0710 for more information.

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](mailto:pabee1@frontier.com)

## Nature Notes

The Sun sets earlier, sinking behind the branches of leafless trees, giving commuters a show of pastel **sunsets**.

Beehives are sometimes **wrapped** in tar paper, or something similarly wind resistant, to help the bee cluster stay warm. Traditionally, Chester County (SE Pennsylvania) hives were not wrapped. Some hives would be given sugar in late winter if they ran low on honey stores. Today's honeybees, under environmental and parasite stress, are often fed in autumn and through the winter. Beekeepers need to be able to lift the lid to **monitor** the amount of feed on the tops of the frames of comb so the bees do not starve. If a hive is wrapped, the top of the hive should allow easy access for monitoring.

The Earth is slightly (about 23 degrees) **tilted** on its axis. In summer, the northern half of the Earth leans toward the Sun just enough to let sunlight strike the top of the world day and night. Now, during Northern Hemisphere winter, we are tilted away from the Sun. The southern half of our planet is enjoying summer.

December is a good time to check the **height of the Sun** in the sky around noon. Wow, the Sun is not high and its beams come through the window to reach way across the floor. If we trace the arc of the Sun across the Winter sky, we can see why the ground is cold. The arc is **low and short**. In summer, the arc is long and high. Right now, the Northern Hemisphere is cooling.

Birds seem to sense the approach of a **winter storm and mob birdfeeders**. The barometer usually falls before a winter storm as a low-pressure system slides over us. Birds may sense the pressure change.

**Bluebirds** are gently calling "purity, purity." On warm sunny days, they explore nesting sites as though Spring were around the corner.

On still nights, we may hear **great horned owls** calling "Who's awake? Me, too".

**Snow geese** are still traveling south in December. High flocks make a different, almost screechy, call from the familiar honk of Canada geese.

Flowers in December? **Dandelions** bloom all year around. Weeds are pioneers and grow where other plants cannot survive. What's growing in the pavement crevice? Probably a weed. Surviving in a flower garden is easy for a weed. **Ragwort** (yellow) and **dead nettle** (magenta and tiny) are blooming in harvested fields.



**Dead Nettle**

Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita, Università di Trieste - Progetto Dryades - Picture by Andrea Moro  
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**Orion** rises in the southeast. Later in the evening, Orion's dog follows him up into the night sky. Canis Major (Big Dog) includes **Sirius**, the brightest nighttime star we can see.

By Tim Sterrett

## Jeremy's Corner

History is littered with examples of words that have been used to manipulate feelings, solicit votes and distort reality. One of the most famous is the German term *Nationalsozialismus*, more commonly abbreviated to Nazism. The Nazi Party was founded as the pan-German nationalist and antisemitic German Workers' Party on January 5, 1919, and re-named the National Socialist German Workers' Party two years later by Hitler, knowing full well that it was nationalist in ambition but neither socialist nor focused primarily on the working class.

In my own experience during the civil war in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the 1960's and 70's, the guerrilla forces that were fighting to be part of the political process in their own country were known either as freedom fighters or terrorists, depending on which side of the fence one stood. More significantly, the white-controlled government argued that the insurgents were the front line of communism, which was good for emotional support from the threatened white minority who saw themselves as the bulwark of western values, but inaccurate in terms of the ideology of these forces who were motivated more by 'nationalism', a legitimate ambition that, as best I can recall, was never acknowledged by Ian Smith's propaganda machine. And to my shame I cannot recall anyone demanding proof of these alleged communist links, rather being content to accept them unthinkingly as the intensity of the war escalated and the need to justify the violence intensified.

As an aside, like most other long-lasting conflicts, the longer that confrontation continued the more the power moved to the extremes on both sides, and the more the intent moved from participation to revenge. An exception to this trend was South Africa, in which the peaceful succession of Nelson Mandela in 1994 was a stunning feat in the face of history, and can be attributed almost entirely to his own personal qualities, character and authority.

In this country I have been surprised at the extent to which the term *socialism* is a pejorative among older sectors of the population. My guess is that this goes back to the Cold War against the Union of Soviet *Socialist* Republics, and it was convenient to confuse socialism (which I would suggest is legitimate) with communism (which is not.)

This is of particular interest as an avowed socialist has entered the 2016 Presidential race, and in the light of a 2012 Pew poll which suggests that 49% of Americans under the age of 30 have a favorable view of socialism compared to the 47% who expressed a positive view of capitalism.

In the nineteenth century the social deprivations of the Industrial Revolution sparked civic uprisings focused on the relationship between the needs of the individual and the role of

government, and in particular a movement towards economic and social equality. Known originally as social democracy, it argued that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole, with the proceeds being returned to the community in the form of subsidized housing, education, elderly care and health benefits.

Socialists argued this would happen peacefully through the democratic process, and only the major industries would need to be nationalized (ie. owned by the nation) to pay for it. Communists argued that capitalists would never voluntarily relinquish control of their wealth, that it required a violent proletarian revolution, a short term dictatorship, and the abolition of all private ownership.

So the question becomes, if we governed on the basis of what we see in a honey bee colony, which of these two systems would it look like, if either?

First there would not be elections as we know them. The nominal leader of such a community would be chosen at a young age, would be specifically nurtured for her position, together with a few others, and upon maturity would assert herself in the face of any rivals and would be allowed to exercise her role as long as she was productive and successful. If not the community would make arrangements to replace her. Her role would not be to make decisions for the citizenry but to provide an on-going population for the continuation and expansion of the species.

Another very small section of society would be entrusted with seeing that, in terms of survival of the fittest, the species would continue as vigorously and as fervently as possible. Only a fraction of this small caste would achieve their ultimate objective, the majority would die unfulfilled, and in the event of a dearth of resources, they would be jettisoned so that the larger society could survive, knowing that the 'leader' could produce more on demand once the resources were again available.

The majority of the society would consist of a multi-functional working class who create the conditions in which the leader can operate, clean house and keep it safe, do the grocery shopping, prepare food to nurture the next generation and preserve stores for times of need. Each of these workers could do all of the above depending on age, available resources and the needs of the community, because it is the health and survival of the populace which would be their guiding principle.

Democracy is derived from two Greek words, *demos* (people) and *kratos* (power) and one could argue that a honey bee colony is a democracy in that the majority have the power;

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## Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 13)

they make the decisions, instinctively, to replace the leader, eject the males, collect pollen rather than nectar, even whether some should leave home in search of a new abode, and if so, who goes and who stays. It also reflects the socialist side of the spectrum, with "the means of production, distribution, and exchange owned or regulated by the community as a whole," and everyone sharing the proceeds.

A more interesting term might be *communalism* (and please note spelling - communalism, not communism) which refers to a system that integrates communal ownership within highly localized independent communities.

It was evident in the early Christian churches and later in the Plymouth Colony with its policies of land use and profit-sharing. In 1621 in New England common ownership was the basis for the contract agreed upon by the venture and its investors, even if it was seen as temporary, with a division of property and profits scheduled to take place after seven years.

Although each family controlled their own home and possessions (ie. their 'colony,') corn (ie. nectar and pollen) was farmed on a communal plot of land with the harvest divided equally amongst the settlers.

Unfortunately the secular planters resented having to share their harvest with families whose religious beliefs so sharply conflicted with their own and within three years each family was temporarily assigned its own plot of land with the right to keep what was harvested from that plot, and as such religious differences led to a more competitive, divisive, capitalist system.

Pilgrims, turkey and honey bees ... now *there's* a topic of conversation for the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Jeremy Barnes

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



## Recipes

### Honey-Citrus Cake

#### Cake:

3 cups all-purpose flour  
 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 ¼ teaspoon salt  
 1 cup butter (softened)  
 ¾ cup sugar  
 4 eggs  
 ¾ cup honey  
 2 tablespoons grated orange rind  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 1 tablespoon rum  
 ½ teaspoon orange extract  
 1 cup sour cream

#### Glaze:

3 tablespoons honey  
 ½ cup powdered sugar  
 3 tablespoons orange juice  
 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Heat oven to 315 degrees F. (Yes, this is correct. Cake will scorch at higher temperature.)

Grease pan and set aside.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In larger bowl, beat the butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs and beat until well blended.

Add flour mixture and remaining ingredients. Blend on low speed until the flour is incorporated. Increase speed and blend until mixture becomes fluffy. Scrape bowl often.

Spoon into pan. Bake for 55-65 minutes until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Allow cake to cool for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, sift powdered sugar and combine all ingredients for glaze in small saucepan. Heat over medium heat, stirring frequently, until sugar has dissolved.

Invert cake onto cooling rack and cover with warm glaze.

### Dark Chocolate Honey Fudge

2-12 ounce packages of milk or semi-sweet chocolate chips  
 1-14 ounce can of sweetened condensed milk  
 1/3 cup of honey  
 1/2 cup of chopped walnuts  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Butter or spray a 9 inch square baking dish.

Melt chocolate chips, milk and honey over medium heat in a 2 quart saucepan, stirring constantly, just until chips are melted. Do not overcook or chocolate will scorch.

Remove from heat and stir in nuts and vanilla extract.

Cool. Cut into 2 inch pieces. Store in airtight container.

## We Need Your Help! Volunteer at the 2016 Farm Show

We need your help at the 2016 Farm Show, January 9-16. Volunteers are needed to help at the Honey Booth, located in the Food Court, the Honey Stand, located in the Marketplace along with the Learning Center, located in the Large Exhibit Hall. If you could **give a half-day** or more it would be appreciated.

*Interested in working in the Food Court at the PSBA Honey Booth where waffles and honey ice cream are sold? Contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231.*

Stu Mathias and Aaron Fisher are looking for beekeepers willing to donate or sell honey and/or honey products that will be available for sale at the Honey Stand and the Honey Booth. Please contact Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231 or Aaron Fisher at 717-242-4373, email [aaron@fisherbeefarm.com](mailto:aaron@fisherbeefarm.com) We only sell Pennsylvania honey and honey products.

*If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Honey Stand, located in the Marketplace, please contact Tom Jones at 717-243-0356.*

Sign up to **share your knowledge** of the honey bee with the public at the Farm Show. We have located front and center this year, side by side with the butter sculpture in the middle of the large exhibit hall. Again this year, an atrium is being included in the apiary exhibit. People are excited and eager to learn about the trials and tribulations of this efficient pollinator and you can be a part of this by **simply volunteering** a few hours of your time. Contact Stan Poleshuk at 717-433-2830, email: [spoleshuk285@comcast.net](mailto:spoleshuk285@comcast.net) to volunteer.

Proceeds from the sales at the Honey Booth and Honey Stand goes back to the PSBA Promotional Fund and is used for the PA Honey Queen program and the promotion of honey throughout the state.

Don't forget to show off this year's honey harvest by participating in the Farm Show Apiary Products Show.

**Please contact the persons listed above ASAP to receive your parking pass and name tag.**



### Southeast Pennsylvania SPRING PACKAGES

Available for Pickup Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> or Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

(\* Actual date depends on weather.)

Order your packages now for pickup after 12:00 pm on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> or Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. At 2:00 p.m. on the day of pickup, see a demonstration on installing package bees. Conveniently located in the exact center of Montgomery County near Valley Forge, Norristown, and Lansdale turnpike exits. Package includes 3-pound workers with Italian queen. For more information or to download a package order form, visit [www.pabeekeeper.com](http://www.pabeekeeper.com), email [packages@pabeekeeper.com](mailto:packages@pabeekeeper.com), or call 610-584-6778.

Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale, PA 19446

### Southeast Pennsylvania Hands-on Beekeeping Class



This course is scheduled for five Sunday sessions from February thru July at Worcester Honey Farm. Only 25 people for each group of classes will be accepted and advance registration is required.

*The instructor is committed to present a knowledgeable and enjoyable, interactive, and intensively hands-on workshop. We are friendly and encourage you to contact us throughout the course for advice, help, or a sympathetic ear.*

To reserve a spot or get more information, visit [www.pabeekeeper.com](http://www.pabeekeeper.com) and download a registration form, email [HandsOn@pabeekeeper.com](mailto:HandsOn@pabeekeeper.com), or call 610-584-6778.