



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

June-July 2015
Volume No. 6

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

I always find it frustrating and fascinating how fast the season changes from cold spring to full bloom here in the northwest portion of the state. Some overwintered colonies have come through very strong and are aching for pollen and some new food. Southern replacement bees were a bit shocked by the temperatures and lack of forage and anxious to accept sugar syrup. Most of April and May the temperatures remained cool and the clusters didn't give up many foragers in order to keep the larvae covered. A few spurts of warm days allowed more foragers out, but never enough to produce any surplus honey. And so there's this balanced 'race' to get colonies strong and healthy by the end of May. That's when the locust will bloom and if-we-are-lucky the honey flow will kick off. By then the hives are ready to swarm when the brood boxes start plugging with wet honey. It's a constant balancing act. In our area the locust have not bloomed for 2-3 years. Other years we would get a late frost that burned the blossoms before they open. This year was a gift. This was probably the nicest locust blooms in 10 years. Every tree was full. Some rain magically missed a day or so into the bloom. Even in a good year, it's a fast bloom. So... we got almost a week of locust bloom. Not long, but long enough for my hive on the scale, to gain over 40 lbs. in 4 days before a storm and return to 50 degree overcast and string of rainy days.

The '14-'15 winter loss survey conducted on the PSBA website showed a 43% loss for Pennsylvania. Although this loss is still high, with the extreme and continuous cold a higher loss might have been expected. The similar extremely cold winter of '13-'14 showed a 41% loss. Interestingly, 50% of the responses came from non-PSBA members. The survey was promoted by email and social media. About half surveyed had treated for mites. Starvation, too small cluster and 'Other' were considered the most common reason for loss. It is a little hard to draw absolute conclusions for losses, however it does help us to pay attention to what we are seeing. I've been told over the years that we should take our losses in the fall. In other words, combine those weaker colonies and food supplies to make a single stronger colony going into winter.

The national loss survey conducted by Bee Informed Partnership showed a 23% winter loss. The interesting statistic was a 27% summer loss. This portion of the survey has been done for the past couple years. Without a longer track record, it leaves questions. What is normal? What defines a summer loss? Is it a hive that failed to recover after the winter survey in April, hives that were combined for whatever reason, clear dead hive, failing queen? Without knowing a little more information, it seems difficult to draw an overall conclusion of what the numbers are telling.

The PSBA Summer Picnic is August 1st at the Dundee Farm in Sewickley, PA. That's just bit northwest of Pittsburgh along the Ohio River. Bring a queen for the queen exchange.

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The PA Queen Improvement Project is still alive. I will attest that the chairpersons, Mark Gingrich and Jeff Berta, are overwhelmed between moving this project forward and continuing their own personal lines of income. At present, they have set up the project as it's own entity. This frees them to source funding, grants and otherwise handle money as they see fit.

As they 'copy' me on emails, this season's artificial insemination at Purdue has been delayed with weather and immature drone stock. The window of opportunity for

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News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

optimum breeding is relatively short and labor intensive. Nevertheless, they are trying to work with interested groups. NWPBA was able to graft from two queens at Jeff's apiary in order to make queen cells for the give-away field day. They are collecting a \$5/cell donation that will go back to the PA Queen Improvement Project.

PSBA will be serving up Honey Ice Cream at Ag Progress Days August 18-20 at Penn State, at State College. Any and all help is needed with scooping ice cream. Please contact Aaron Fisher at aaron@fisherbeefarm.com

2016 will be the 100th PA Farm Show. If any member has historic pictures of beekeepers and Farm Show, we would like to put together a slide show. Please scan and forward to Charlie Vorisek, vbefarm@windstream.net

A great lineup is coming to the Annual Fall Meeting and Conference in Lewisburg, November 13-14th at the Country Cupboard. Included are Marla Spivak, Clare Densely (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Neih. This conference is open to all membership. Watch for details.

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA

president@pastatebeekeepers.org

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

We regret that there is no article this month. If you have a question you would like to send to Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, please email it to him at: billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com with the subject line being WWBD, and he will respond with an opinion as 'what he would do' if the problem or situation was his.



In order to reflect the interests of all facets of Pennsylvania beekeeping, articles submitted for publication may on occasion express ideas contrary to the philosophy of the P.S.B.A. or a majority of its members.

PSBA State Beekeepers Picnic

The annual PSBA Picnic will be held Saturday, August 1, 2015. This year the picnic is hosted by Burgh Bees and will be held at the Dundee Farm, 528 Scaife Rd., Sewickley PA 15143. Watch for "BEE" signs pointing to entrance(s) and parking locations!

Come enjoy great fellowship with your neighbor beekeepers! Our hosts are planning to roast a pig and will provide all paper products. All guests are asked to bring a side dish/desert or drink to share and their own lawn chairs.

Executive Board Meeting at 10:00AM
 Gathering 12:00 noon
 Eat around 1:00pm

A Queen Swap will take place (details to follow soon!) and a short educational program is being planned. The PSBA 110th Anniversary T-Shirts will also be available.

Visit the PSBA website for directions at <http://pastatebeekeepers.org>

We hope to see you at the 2015 PSBA Picnic!!!!

Area Hotels for PA State Beekeepers Picnic

A variety of hotels can be found within a 15-20 minute drive of the picnic. To the North are quite a few hotels in the Cranberry Township area. To the south is Pittsburgh proper and also nearby is Moon Township/Pgh International Airport area. Moon and Cranberry are a quick 15-20 minutes to the picnic plus easy access to I-79/I-76 corridors. SOME hotels are listed below – the list is by no means a recommendation and beekeepers are encouraged to research their own accommodations.

- [Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Pittsburgh Neville Island](#)
- [La Quinta Inn Pittsburgh Airport Moon Township](#)
- [Hampton Inn Moon Township](#)
- [Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh North/Cranberry Woods](#)
- [Fairfield Inn Pittsburgh-Cranberry Township](#)
- [Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Cranberry](#)
- [Candlewood Suites Pittsburgh-Cranberry](#)
- [Holiday Inn Express Pittsburgh-Cranberry](#)
- [Motel 6 Pittsburgh Cranberry](#)
- [Super 8 Mars/Cranberry/Pittsburgh Area](#)
- [Pittsburgh Marriott North](#)

Steve Repasky

May Identification Reader

Back when I started keeping bees, beekeeping was a lot less complex. You didn't have to worry about mites, beetles, viruses, pesticides, and CCD. Back then the topic of discussion at the bee meetings was American and European foulbrood. If your bees didn't bring it back to your hives and you didn't pick up some contaminated equipment and use it, you were pretty much home free. When was the last time you heard foulbrood discussed at a recent bee meeting? You didn't have to feed sugar syrup or patties, in the fall, because the bees foraged for nectar and pollen and loaded up the hive for winter. Winter losses were minimal and almost non-existent. Oh my, how things have changed.

I became interested in beekeeping as a teenager, but lived in a small borough at the time and didn't have a good place to put a hive. I bought the book "First Lessons in Beekeeping" from Sears, Roebuck & Co. and read it cover to cover many times. I read the beekeeping section of the Sears "Farm and Ranch" catalog carefully studying all the bees and beekeeping supplies that Sears sold then.

As time moved on I put my beekeeping adventures on hold, went to college, got married, and was drafted in the Army. After those life-altering events, I once again got beekeeping fever. In 1984 I contacted Fred Rich, in Montgomery County, and he allowed me to work with him for a few days in his bee yards. He was a good mentor and I think, at that time, he had been keeping bees for over 50 years. I bought 2 hives and equipment from him (he was a Root dealer) and off I went. My daughter, who was 10 at the time, was real interested in the bees until she got stung on her first or second hive visit and that was the end of beekeeping for her. A year or two later, my son and I attended the beekeeping short course at Delaware Valley College.

I'm just a hobby beekeeper who feels like each year is my first year keeping bees. If anyone knows what books the bees are reading, I'd like to know because they sure aren't reading the same ones I am. I received a lot of help over the years and made some lasting friendships. As I said before, Fred Rich got me started with hands on knowledge you can't find in a book. Dennis Keeney was a good friend who helped me over the years. Dennis's passing was a great loss to the Pennsylvania beekeeping community. Gene Taylor provided me with bees, queens, and advice over the years and we made several trips to Dixie together to "pick up the girls". Gene is a good friend and quite a character, but that is a whole other topic and we won't go into that here. Those of you that know him understand what I mean.

A significant amount of money is being spent on honey bee research but I question whether beekeepers are receiving a good return on that investment. In my opinion, it appears that scientists churn through massive amounts of data reporting on problems that the beekeepers are already aware of. But the beekeepers still have to find solutions to their problems on their own.

Years ago, I went to bee meetings that were attended by a dozen or so members and I was, pretty much, the youngest one there. I wondered what would happen to beekeeping when the old beekeepers passed on. Well, that question was answered with the arrival of CCD and the media attention given to honey bees. I recently attended a Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Meeting and there must have been around 60 people in attendance. It is encouraging to see so many new beekeepers. Now one of the discussion topics at bee meetings is the prevention of over regulation by local governments.

Best of luck with your bees! May your supers be packed full of honey this year.

Cliff Kerchner,
Macungie, PA

PSBA November 2015 Conference

In the past two months we have featured Clare Densely from Buckfast Abbey, and Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota, as our guests. Our third guest is Dr. Dewey Caron – Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept. Horticulture Oregon State University.

Dewey, a native of Vermont first became interested in biology and insects as a Boy Scout - he did the beekeeping Merit Badge with a neighboring dairy farmer who also had apple trees and bees. He is a product of the Honey Bee program at Cornell University (PhD in Entomology with Dr. Roger Morse). Professionally he spent 40+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee research at Cornell (1967-69), University of Maryland (1970-1981) and University of Delaware (1981-2009).

Dewey retired in 2009 and moved to Oregon to be near grandchildren, but continued as a volunteer extension bee specialist for Oregon State University. He has been active in EAS since 1967 not least as board chair for 8 years (1991-99), as President (1986), and as EAS Foundation Chair (1999-2009).

Since moving to Oregon Dewey has been president (2010) and is now on the executive Board of WAS. He is active in Spanish speaking overseas extension development programs since 1981 and has extensive beekeeping experience with Africanized bees. After the PSBA conference he will travel to Bolivia (where his wife is originally from) where he keeps Africanized bees in addition to his 5 backyard colonies in Oregon.

Dewey's topic will be "What can Beekeepers do to Improve Colony Survivorship?" What are those PA beekeepers who have better survival rates doing that improves their bee success rate? He will focus on what beekeepers with 1-10 colonies, which overwinter experience double the losses of the commercials, are doing for colony stewardship that can help reduce their losses.

Nature Notes

Last words on **earthworms**, sidewalks, and water: Corinne Mahaffey points out that no one knows for sure why worms crawl up on sidewalks. They do not drown in rain.

“Dr. Dennis Linden, Cindy Hale, and other worm experts say that worms do NOT surface to avoid drowning. In fact, they come to the surface during rains (especially in the spring) so they can move overland. The temporarily wet conditions give worms a chance to move safely to new places. Since worms breathe through their skin, the skin must stay wet in order for the oxygen to pass through it. After rain or during high humidity are safe times for worms to move around without dehydrating. It is true that, without oxygen, worms will suffocate. But earthworms can survive for several weeks under water, providing there is sufficient oxygen in the water to support them.” <<https://www.learner.org/jnorth/search/WormNotes3.html>>

Corn is leaping up from the ground and will soon be “as high as an elephant’s eye.” **Thunderheads** form as warm humid air rises into the cold upper atmosphere.

Our birds are finishing up **nesting**. Some, like **bluebirds** and **mourning doves**, may be double-brooded, raising a second and maybe a third set of young. This hints at the survival rate of young birds. To maintain a **stable population**, a pair of birds should raise **how many young** to maturity during their lifetime?



Photo: Fir0002/
Flagstaffotos
Yellowjacket
(*Vespula germanica*)

Yellowjackets are building spherical paper nests. Some nests are out in the open; most are in the ground or in the hollow wall of a building. A fertilized queen that survived winter will start a nest and lay eggs that become workers. The first workers enlarge the nest and forage to feed the queen and more wasp larvae. **Polistes wasps**, with narrow wasp waists, build flat, single layer comb nests sometimes attached to the ceiling of a porch or entryway. Both yellowjackets and polistes wasps are **beneficial** insects, catching flies and other insects to feed to their larvae and pollinating flowers. The yellowjacket we encounter most often arrived from Europe about a hundred years ago and established itself here. This yellowjacket species (*Vespula germanica*) defends its nest vigorously and shows up at picnics. A recently-arrived polistes wasp (*Polistes dominula*) has a black and yellow-patterned abdomen and,

when provoked, is more aggressive than the polistes wasp species that have been here for millennia. Want to learn more about yellowjackets? Try this link: <<http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT82762500/PDF>>



Photo: Joseph Berger,
Bugwood.org
Polistes Wasp
(*Polistes dominula*)

Long days mean **late sunsets**. **Venus** and **Jupiter**, the evening “stars,” appear to be close together. Venus is on our side of the Sun; Jupiter is much farther away and will soon swing behind the Sun. **Vega** rises late in the East. Above Vega is the distorted “H” of **Hercules**.

Tim Sterrett



In terms of our theme for November, Beekeeping as the Poetry of Agriculture, here is another poem on bees, this one by Robert Langston (and note the gender error!):



THE BEE

Away in the meadow,
 Amid the red clover,
 The funniest music
 Goes over and over:
 The honey-bee singing
 His song to the clover.
 The words, they are set
 To a rhythmical tune,
 A rumble, and bumble,
 And
 zoon!
 zoon!
 zoon!
 Zoon! goes the honey-bee, over and over,
 Humming his tune to the blossoming clover.

Subscription Rates
(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| American Bee Journal | Bee Culture |
| 1 year \$21.00 | 1 year \$25.00 |
| 2 years 39.75 | 2 years 48.00 |
| 3 years 56.25 | 3 years 69.00 |
| | (Regular Rates) |
| The Small Beekeeper's Journal | |
| \$12.95 | |
| (Regular Rate) | |

**Please send 6 weeks before subscription runs out
as we send them in once a month.**

PSBA Advertising Rates

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| 1 Month | | 3 Months | |
| Full Page | \$33.00 | Full Page | \$ 50.00 |
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| Full Page | \$85.00 | Full Page | \$ 160.00 |
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| 1/4 Page | 33.00 | 1/4 Page | 60.00 |
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President: Charlie Vorisek
15834 Linesville Rd., Linesville, PA 16424
(814) 683-5888 vbefarm@windstream.net

1st VP: Steve Repasky
3109 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226
(412) 445-7872 srepasky@gmail.com

2nd VP: Steve Finke
25 Dunkels Church RD, Kutztown, PA 19530
(610) 737-7676 steve@meadowviewbees.com

Sec.-Treas.: Yvonne Crimbring
2565 Southside Rd., Canton, PA 17724
(570) 673-8201 pabee1@frontier.com

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.

----- ✂ ----- Clip here ----- ✂ -----

**Application for New and Renewal Membership
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association**

\$1.00 Junior Membership (under 17) annual dues
 \$20.00 annual dues \$25.00 family dues \$200.00 Lifetime Membership
 I understand the dues entitle me to the Newsletter and all other benefits of membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ County _____

New

Renew

Make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
Send to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the August issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is July 26th.**

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, June 16, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research and Extension Center, Manheim. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, June 18, 7:00 p.m., at the Trexlertown Grange, Allentown. Topic: Honey Harvesting and Mite Treatments. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Run Landscapes, North Wales. Informative demonstration on how to build an attractive and ecologically stable outdoor water feature to provide a water source for your bees. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Kirsten Traynor from BIP is our guest. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, June 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Conservation District Education Center (Wetlands), Aliquippa. Joe Zgurzynski speaking on "Queen raising". Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com for more information.

Meadow View Beekeeping (Keeney Apiary)

Open House

Tuesday, June 30, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Bethel. See ad on Page 21 for additional information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 1, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at jared.jaffe@keystone.edu

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, July 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Preparations for the upcoming fairs. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, July 16, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at Lenape Park, Zionsville. Annual Picnic. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Sunday, July 19, 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine) Harrison Valley Pavilion, Harrison Valley. Family picnic and open discussion meeting. For directions or information email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research and Extension Center, Manheim. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, July 23, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Presenter: Maryann Frazier from Penn State University. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Saturday, July 25, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden. Annual Picnic, all are welcome. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Saturday, July 25, 12:00 p.m. at Sunnybrook Park, Danville. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, July 25 at Hallman's Grove Pavilion, Skipack Township. Annual Picnic. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 1 at the Dundee Farm in Sewickley. The picnic is being hosted by Burgh Bees. Join in the fellowship and Queen bee exchange. Look for article on Page of this issue.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, August 1 at the Harford fair grounds. Nominations for 2016 and fair cleanup. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, August 3, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

North East PA Beekeepers

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

Chester Co Annual Conference

Saturday, August 8, 9:00 a.m. at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville. Visit the website: www.ChescoBees.org for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, August 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at jared.jaffe@keystone.edu

Ag Progress Days

Tuesday, August 18, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This event is held at the Penn State University, State College. If you are willing to volunteer at this event, please contact Aaron Fisher at aaron@fisherbeefarm.com

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. location TBD. In the bee yard. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. at the Seldomridge's, Leola. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

National Honey Bee Awareness Day

August 22 – Check with your local association.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Mark Antunes “Overwintering Your Bees and Getting Ready for 2016”. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Presenter: Bonnie Raindrop on Pesticide Use and Control. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

North East PA Beekeepers

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

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at jared.jaffe@keystone.edu

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, September 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Chester Co Annual Conference

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville. Visit the website: www.ChescoBees.org for more information.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 p.m. at Bucknell University, Lewisburg. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. Speakers: Marla Spivak, Clare Densely (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Neih. Watch for additional information as it becomes available.

2016 PA Farm Show (100th Anniversary)

January 9-16 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Watch for information when closer to the event. If interested in volunteering, contact Aaron Fisher at 717-242-4373 or Stu Mathias at 717-533-2231 for more information.

View Presentation By Zac Browning

In May commercial beekeeper Zac Browning visited Penn State's Department of Entomology and gave an excellent presentation on honey bee health and the impacts of declining habitat. Zac is a 4th generation commercial beekeeper who has been very active politically and involved in habitat restoration and improvement for pollinators, especially on public lands. His excellent seminar; *Understanding the effects of Honey Bee Habitat Decline* was recorded and can be view by visiting this link: <https://meeting.psu.edu/p6gj71qi2jd/>

This would make a great program for any beekeeping meeting. Following is additional information about Zac.

Maryann Frazier

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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

Zac Browning (Continued from Page 11)



Zac Browning is a 4th generation commercial beekeeper and honey producer. He is a co-owner of Browning Honey Co., Inc. With his brothers, he operates over 25,000 hives for honey production and pollination in Idaho, North Dakota, and California. He has served the beekeeping industry as Chairman of The Honey Voluntary Quality Assurance Committee, as Trustee for the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and as a board member of the National Honey Board, True Source Honey, the Pollinator Stewardship Council, and a steering committee member for the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and the recently formed Honey Bee Health Coalition. He also serves on the EPA’s Pesticide Program Dialogue committee pollinator work group and was the North American beekeeper representative at SETACs Pellston global pollinator toxicology workshop (2011). Zac actively contributes to pollinator research and habitat conservation work, which is his passion. He is a co-founder of the Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Partnership. Zac is also a Legislative Committee member and past president of the American Beekeeping Federation.

industry as Chairman of The Honey Voluntary Quality Assurance Committee, as Trustee for the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and as a board member of the National Honey Board, True Source Honey, the Pollinator Stewardship Council, and a steering committee member for the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and the recently formed Honey Bee Health Coalition. He also serves on the EPA’s Pesticide Program Dialogue committee pollinator work group and was the North American beekeeper representative at SETACs Pellston global pollinator toxicology workshop (2011). Zac actively contributes to pollinator research and habitat conservation work, which is his passion. He is a co-founder of the Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Partnership. Zac is also a Legislative Committee member and past president of the American Beekeeping Federation.

for a taste of honey and were then treated to an observation hive viewing courtesy of Twin Oaks Bee Ranch. I had an overwhelming amount of people stop by and inquire on how to start beekeeping. It’s such a fantastic feeling to educate and encourage these individuals to take up beekeeping for themselves.

On Memorial Day I was able to ride in style in the Somerset Memorial Day parade. My Honey Queen banner was displayed proudly amongst many American flags as we drove to commemorate and celebrate those who have fought for our country. As I’m sure you can guess, this Honey Queen doesn’t throw out candy...she throws out honey sticks! The crowd was overly excited to receive actual honey and shouts of “I love honey!” reverberated throughout the crowd. I was so happy to provide this sweet treat to youngsters, especially since it is so much healthier than candy!

My final event in May took place at the Blue Diamond Camp in Huntingdon County. I was able to speak to two groups of campers about the three different bees in the hive as well as dress them up in traditional beekeeping garb. They really enjoyed taking apart and putting back together my miniature model of a Langstroth hive.

As always, thank you all for your continued encouragement and support. If any of you are interested in hosting either myself or Princess Blair or purchasing a raffle ticket for the quilted wall hanging, please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

Keep buzzing!

Queen Jessica

Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Onstead

Hello everyone!

I don’t know about you, but Memorial Day excited me for summer! I am so looking forward to visiting county fairs all over Pennsylvania as well as attending other summertime events and festivals. I was able to visit two new counties this month, and am looking forward to visiting more in the near future.

I started off the month of May by attending the Lewisburg Senior Health and Lifestyle Expo. Besides interacting with many people, I also had the opportunity to present on the wonders of the honey bee to a fairly sizeable crowd. This was also the first event where I was able to debut the beautiful quilted wall hanging that I am raffling off for this years Queen’s Raffle. I’m very excited to begin raising money to support this fantastic program as well as the endeavors of myself and future Honey Queens.

Next stop was the Bear Creek Festival in Schuylkill County. This truly was a fantastic event that revolved around celebrating all things environmental, outdoors, natural and agricultural in the county. Kids of all ages flocked to my booth



Close up of the “attic window” style quilt that is being raffled off by Queen Jessica.

PSBA Specialty PA License Plate



A PSBA beekeeper specialty PA license plate has been on topic for a couple years, with more ‘Likes’ in the past months. Matt Libhart, Lancaster County beekeepers, has been looking into the details of getting this done. Rather than attempt to rewrite conversation, I am sharing some pieces of email:

ML: *To get started we’d need the following:*

- *Design to appear on the plate*
- *Commitment from the PSBA to pay the approximately \$500 design cost once the application is approved. This cost goes to the Department of Corrections who produces the plates for their time in setting up our design in their systems and producing sample plates*
- *Various documents (letter of 501c determination from the IRS, copy of the bylaws, etc.)*
- *Designated representative to be the single point of contact with PennDOT. Initially that could be me, but I wonder if the officers might think it better in the future for this to be Yvonne. This is the person who would receive the applications and payment and then forwards that application with PennDOT payment to PennDOT.*

Commitment to order 300 plates once available.

ML: *The board and/or association need to decide on these three things before moving forward.*

1. How much are the plates? Plate cost per PennDOT docs is \$31 (\$25 one time fee + \$6 for the plate itself). this is in addition to annual registration renewal. The money gets paid to PSBA and then we pay PennDOT so PSBA can charge whatever it wants (the docs spell this out that the organization can charge more). There’s an approximate cost of \$500 just to develop the plate so charging a bit more to recoup that is probably the right way to go.

2. How do we record interest from the membership? Do we simply record names with their commitment to do the paperwork and pay once the plates are available or do we collect money now, put it in a fund PSBA won’t touch, and give the promise that if the whole thing falls through we’ll return the payments. The only reason I raise it is that PennDOT recommends that we have approximately 300 plates on the

initial order. I’ve simply found that sometimes people are easy to commit when it’s only words but then it’s hard to get follow-through when there’s actual paperwork and money involved later.

3. How do we decide on a design? Do we make one and the board decides? Do we make a few and have the membership vote? Do we open it up to the membership, collect entries and have a panel vote? etc., etc. If I was asked to commit to get one, I know I’d want to see the design first.

Also, the application for the plate specifies that someone in the association, assuming Yvonne, signs off saying that the applicant is a member in good standing. It also states at the bottom that the applicant agrees that if they’re ever not a member that they’ll return the plate, so according to PennDOT rules, it’s only for people who are members, not just anyone that wants one.

CV: *I think the idea of an up-front cost is good. \$40 seems fair. The webmaster has stated that when he started the website he did not agree to on-line money exchange. If there was a way to set it up so it was just click on a link, that would be a huge step. I’ve had people give me the same grief about renewing membership on-line.*

ML: *‘ If all PSBA needs is to add a button to allow people to pay dues, the secretary gets an email and then it’s their job to figure out who it is and mark them paid, that’s not very difficult from a technical perspective. The upfront work comes in setting up the PayPal account and connecting it to the bank. Once that’s done, the button on the website that takes you over to PayPal is pretty trivial.*

Anyone with thoughts and ideas (or willing to take on a role) for making the license plate project happen, may contact the president, president@pastatebeekeepers.org, or Matt, matthew@libhart.com

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA

president@pastatebeekeepers.org



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.

Jeremy's Corner

In his 2013 book, *The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel Brown describes the epic quest of nine Americans for an Olympic gold medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Each chapter begins with a citation from George Yeomans Pocock who, besides being a skilled builder of wooden racing shells and an innovative oarsman, was also a significant influence on the promotion and philosophy of rowing as a sport.

George came from a long line of boat builders. Born at Kingston Upon Thames in 1891, his father built racing shells for Eton College, where at the age of 15, he and his brother apprenticed, laboring with hand tools to maintain and add to the school's prodigious fleet of boats.

In 1910, George's father abruptly lost his job at Eton because "... he had developed a reputation for being too easy on the men who worked for him," and began casting around on the London waterfront for boat building opportunities. His two sons, not wanting to be a burden on their father, abruptly emigrated to western Canada where, in circumstances of significant hardship, they gradually developed a reputation, first in Washington State and then on the west coast, and eventually nationally, for their craftsmanship and the quality of their product.

In the early twentieth century the Intercollegiate Rowing Association's regatta at Poughkeepsie, NY, was a storied institution with up to 100 000 spectators and radio coverage that rivaled the Kentucky Derby, the Rose Bowl and the World Series. Indeed, in the 1950's in Southern Rhodesia, I recall vividly my father sitting in front of the old valve radio one weekend each March, listening to the Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race on the Thames. I had no visual images to refer to but his passion was contagious, and my heart would swell with pride when the boats went under Barnes Bridge!

Much of what George Pocock wrote about rowing applies equally to beekeeping, especially if one replaces words like *shell, oarsman and crew* with *hive, beekeeper and colony*, viz:

Having kept bees myself since a tender age and having been around bees ever since, I believe I can speak authoritatively on what we may call the unseen values of beekeeping - the social, moral and spiritual values of this oldest of chronicled activities in the world. No didactic teaching will place these values in a young man's soul. He has to get them by how own observation and lessons.

These giants of the insect world are something to behold. Some have been in existence for a thousand years, and each colony contains its own story of the centuries' long struggle for survival.

Every good mentor, in his/her own way, imparts the kind of self-discipline required to achieve the ultimate from mind, heart and body. Which is why most beekeepers will tell you they learned more fundamentally important lessons in the apiary than in the classroom.

Keeping bees is an art, not a frantic scramble. They must be managed with head power as well as hand power ... Your thoughts must be directed to you and the bees, always positive, never negative.

A colony is a sensitive thing ... and if it isn't let go free, it doesn't work for you.

Just as the skilled rider is said to become part of his horse, the skilled beekeeper must become part of the bees.

Why are the two disciplines so readily transferable? Surely there are many reasons but two come to mind immediately. The first is dedication. Just as the oarsmen, coach and boat builder were fully dedicated to an ultimate goal, in this case an Olympic gold medal, so are the bees dedicated to one paramount objective: the long term survival of the colony and thus the species, in as healthy a form as possible.

The second is trust. A critical turning point for the main character in the story, Joe Rantz, is when he learns to trust his teammates utterly and completely. Only then can the team row in complete harmony, as one unit, perhaps as a super organism. George wrote that "When you get the rhythm in an eight (i.e. eight man boat) it's pure pleasure to be in it. It's not hard work when the rhythm comes." Joe remembered it as the boat literally flying across the water and at the end feeling energized rather than exhausted. Bees too seem to trust each other as well as the greater whole. They trust each bee to fulfill her designated function, and they trust the needs and consensus of the colony as communicated through pheromones.

Daniel Brown, paraphrasing a conversation between George Pocock and Joe Rantz, describes the craft of boat building as like a religion. It is not enough to master the technical details; one has to give oneself up to it spiritually, to surrender completely. When one is done there is a feeling that one has left a piece of oneself behind, a bit of one's heart. "Rowing is like that," George said. "A lot of life is like that too, the parts that really matter anyway."

Jeremy Barnes

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

Recipe

Healthy Peanut Butter Balls

¼ cup honey
¾ cup ~~peanut~~ butter
½ cup coconut flour
Pinch of sea salt
Topping:
4 ounce ~~dark~~ coating chocolate
2 teaspoons coconut oil

- In medium bowl, mix peanut butter, honey and sea salt.
- Add coconut flour gradually until dough forms.
- Using a cookie scoop, drop dough onto pan lined with parchment paper.
- Set in freezer to set for 30 plus minutes.
- Melt coating chocolate with coconut oil.
- Dip dough balls in chocolate and return to cooking sheet.
- Store in fridge or freezer.

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