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The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

As I write during this last week of February, we are experiencing a third consecutive week with sub-zero temperatures. In the northwest, there is about a foot and a half of packed snow everywhere. Across the state, temperatures have spent time in the single digits or lower. As I go about my business stops, everyone asks, 'How are the bees?'. I wish I knew. I am confident they can survive, provided they are healthy and can stay in contact with stored honey. But if my observation hive is an example of what's going on outside, the cluster doesn't want to move. Perhaps they have some brood cells started that I can't see. If so, they won't abandon it. Some workers move to the stored honey, which is about 6-8 inches away, feed and return. My hope is the warmer (10-20*) days are allowing the bees in outdoor hives to reach food. A quick check three weeks earlier still looked promising. Time will tell.

The state membership (you) deserves recognition for being the state with the best response rate to the annual Bee Informed Colony Loss survey. As that survey begins this year, your participation is valued. The survey expanded from just winter loss, to the entire season. Including summer losses helps paint a more complete representation of annual losses. I know, tracking summer losses is not something I do very well. If a colony is failing, I requeen, combine or do whatever it takes to save from a complete loss. Because Pennsylvania had such a good response, Bee Informed Partnership was able to separate only Pennsylvania data. Various data was charted for Varroa Mite control, feeding, pollinated crops, IPM and

winter preparations. This type of data may be useful as you decide how to manage your hives. You can find this report at <http://beeinformed.org/results/pennsylvania-management-survey-reports-2013/> We hope to do an independent winter loss survey within our Pa membership. Not that we want to duplicate, but we can compile those numbers quicker than the national survey. So, study your summer notes and count your survivor colonies for the surveys in April.

The VOLUNTARY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA will have been in place for two years, in May. This was a re-write of the previous Beekeeper Compliance Agreement. The BCA was geared more for the anticipation of Africanized Honeybees in the Commonwealth. Local municipalities using it as a reference tool, would often add language and create something more restrictive in zoning. The Best Management Practices includes contingency for Africanized, aggressive bees, but is otherwise a guide to 'common sense' practices. It was intentionally written to minimize absolute restrictions for things like number of hives per acre or distance from adjoining property, knowing that local officials often add that type language. Best Management Practices remains a voluntary tool and can be referenced if a local municipality is looking for guidance to write zoning. http://pastatebeekeepers.org/pdf/BestManagementPractices_062513.pdf

The Apiary Advisory Board continues to evaluate BMP and is interested to know if it is used, how it is used or any section that may need review.

One of the most troubling trends are municipalities that insist on added fees or permits to have bee hives. Such additional fees are not required of other pets, hobbies or activities. We remain opposed to such fees for many reasons. Not the least of which is the very cost of beekeeping and it's benefit to the entire surrounding community.

As I watch some of the social media on the Internet, it's exciting to see local groups and associations sponsoring great beekeeper events across the state. I attended the Western PA

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News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

Beekeeping Seminar just north of Pittsburgh in February. This was sponsored by Burgh Bees and Beaver Valley Beekeepers. Guest speakers were Jerry Hayes and Larry Connor. Jerry moved from Florida State Apiarist to head-up Beeologics, a research branch of Monsanto. Although there is a climate of mistrust between many beekeepers and this seed producer, keeping an open dialogue is important. It shouldn't be lost that this seed producer relies on honeybees to pollinate plants for the seeds they want to sell. Jerry also replies to letters in the "Classroom", as a regular column in the American Bee Journal magazine.

Registered beekeepers in Pennsylvania increased by 500 in 2014. That number has grown around 1,000 in the past two years. Beginner classes are filling at each offering. Another major bee equipment supplier has opened an outlet in Pennsylvania. Brushy Mountain Bee Supply opened a few years ago in New Columbia and Mann Lake opened this past year in Wilkes-Barre. It's great to see beekeeping growing.

As we move ahead in 2015, PSBA will be paying close attention to state-wide issues. With a new administration and new budget, we will recommend maintaining the level of bee inspectors of at least one per region. The ability to maintain urban and suburban beekeeping remains a top priority along with Food Safety regulations.

Enhanced pollinator support coming down from the Federal Government will be an opportunity to help maintain marginal ground in pollinator friendly plantings. Highway medians, edges, utility right-of-ways and green spaces all need to be considered to help dwindling forage.

PSBA will be a 'vendor' at the April convention of Pa State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) at Hershey Lodge. Armed with information, we hope to persuade more local governments into bee-friendly regulations. The most bee friendly model is the city of Philadelphia, where there are NO regulations for honey bees. That's the best model. The Philadelphia beekeepers must be commended as they regulate themselves to keep this a safe and enjoyable benefit to that city, the home of Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth, the inventor of the modern bee hive. That's a great tribute.

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA

president@pastatebeekeepers.org

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.

PA Honey Princess Report

By Blair Hetherington

Greetings all bee enthusiasts! February was a month of firsts for me. That's right, I'm talking about school presentations. I was very lucky to get the chance to attend the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture conference in State College.

My opportunity was to teach K-2nd grade about pollination and the importance of bees. This demonstration proved to teach me more than the kids. Though the students had a fantastic time learning about the importance of pollination for their food source and how bees pollinating different plants can change the taste of the honey, I learned that honey tasting is not exactly the easiest thing to do with elementary students! Let's just say things got a little messy.

Overall I felt my presentation went well. I learned that sometimes asking young children if they have any questions leads them to not ask a question, but instead tell you the highlights of their day. This includes: what was eaten for breakfast, what time Mom and Dad made them go to bed the night before, and how well they can swim without floaties!

I thank the students for giving me the chance to learn about how much knowledge they had and to gain experience for my next school visit. I look forward to next few months of school visits! If you would like me or Queen Jessica to attend any of your events, please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.



Princess Blair with her new friends after her presentation at the PASA conference.

Beekeeping: the Poetry of Agriculture

Plans are underway for a conference that you will not want to miss.

The dates are Friday 13th and Saturday 14th of November, and the venue will once again be the Best Western Country Cupboard in Lewisburg.

The theme was inspired by a comment in the September 1953 issue of *Gleanings*. We know that successful beekeeping is both an art and science, a synthesis that was expressed by Ada, Countess of Lovelace, the only legitimate daughter of the Romantic poet, Lord Byron. Her mother, horrified by her former husband's behavior, worked hard to steer her daughter away from poetry towards science, and Ada came up with a compromise she labeled "Poetical Science."

Writing in *Paradise (to be) Regained*, Henry David Thoreau observed that "There are certain pursuits which, if not wholly poetic and true, do at least suggest a noble and finer relation to nature that we know. The keeping of bees, for instance." More recently, E.O.Wilson wrote that "the most successful scientist thinks like a poet - wide ranging, sometimes fantastical - and works like a beekeeper."

In his most recent book, *Bee Time*, Mark Winston records that "Bees are poetry offering a vista of the world as seen through their hexagonal lens, inspiring imagination and expressing the most personal of desires... We in the sciences dwell deeply in data and can lose sight of the imaginary. Life is best engaged in its full spectrum rather than having to choose between the emotional and intellectual sides or our nature. Science demands proof whereas the artist works happily in ambiguity and feeling, but these different ways of being in the world too rarely co-exist."

And because actions are as important as words, here is a poem inspired by Rupert Brooke's *The Old Vicarage Grantchester* (1912)

CAN THERE BE HONEY STILL FOR TEA?

Close your eyes and think of spring:
Swallows swooping on the wing.
Cherry blossom pink and white,
Nesting birds a cheerful sight,
Mountain mint in hedge's shade,
Bluebells carpet woodland glade,
Dappled sunlight warms and cheers,
Fresh green leaves with dew-drop tears

Picture balmy summer day:
Buzz of bees and smell of hay,
Apples ripening on the trees,
Butterflies flutter on the breeze,
Poppies nodding in the corn,
Bright red jewels to greet the morn.
Tiny field mice scamper here -
Kestrel gives them cause for fear

Now let autumn come to mind
And all around you you will find
Berries, fruit on bush and tree,
Feasts for creatures wild and free.
Squirrel seeks the nuts she'll need
When winter comes with icy speed.
Snuffling ground hog cannot stay;
He seeks a winter hideaway

Ope' your eyes and change the scene:
No sign of things which once had been.
There is a pallor in the air,
The fruit trees everywhere are bare.
No bluebird's song, no blackbird's trill,
The woods and fields are sad and still.
The flowers are gone, the grass is bare,
There's desolation everywhere.

In vain small hungry creatures search
For food, where starving sparrows perch;
No nuts or berries as before,
Gone is Nature's lavish store.
Our tables too hold Spartan fare
Without the bees' industrious care.
We did not save the little bee...
Can there be honey still for tea?

Future issues of the newsletter will feature the speakers who will be presenting at Lewisburg in November.

Jeremy Barnes



Nature Notes

March will surprise us with **winter aconite**, **snowdrops** (both late this year), **daffodils**, **soft maple bloom**, **green grass**, and, most likely, a **snowstorm**, too. Red and silver maple bloom signals the end of winter for our honey bees. Soft maples are a dependable early pollen source. Bees need protein (pollen) now to nourish the larvae that will collect the honey crop in May. **Red** and **silver maples** are soft maples with low-quality softwood not prized for lumber or firewood. **Sugar maple** is a hard maple prized for furniture-making and firewood, too.



Red Maple Flowers

Daffodils are not native to North America, but many people like them in spite of their alien roots. The narcissus family (which includes daffodils) is native to southwest Europe. Daffodils were being cultivated in Europe before the 1600s.

Miles-long, undulating skeins of **blackbirds** (grackles, redwings, and cowbirds) head north from Delaware marshes. A noisy flock may descend into a woods and turn over leaves on the ground, hunting for animal life. **Woodpeckers** drum on anything that resonates, demonstrating their (rattled brains and) fitness for breeding. **Tufted titmice** sing a loud “peter, peter, peter.”

Robins on the lawn scoot across the grass to pose sideways to each other, showing their handsome profiles and (of course) fitness for breeding. Male robins have black heads and contrasting brown/gray backs. Females have heads and backs the same gray/brown color.

Wood frogs (brown with a dark raccoon mask) will travel to vernal pools where they gather and **quack** in a breeding frenzy. Vernal pools dry up in summer (“vernal” = “spring”) and may harbor fewer turtles and fish, which might feed on the frogs, eggs, and tadpoles. How do wood frogs find vernal pools? Perhaps just by moving downhill. Or by listening for

other wood frogs quacking. What percent of the wood frog population ever finds a vernal pool?

Maybe our roads will be patched with new asphalt. Not many of us would choose to return to the “good old days” of unpaved roads.

Orion will soon leave our late evening sky. March is a good time to step out into the late evening in a dark place. Strung out across the southern sky from right to left are the **Pleiades** star cluster, then yellow **Aldebaran** in the “V” of Taurus, the Bull, then **Orion**, then **Sirius**, the Dog Star (our brightest night time star) and, finally, super-bright planet **Jupiter**. An about face will show the **Big Dipper** standing on its handle. Quite a show. **Venus** is low in the evening sky in the west.

Tim Sterrett



Beekeeping Seminars

North Central PA Beekeepers Association is giving 2 seminars on Saturday, April 1st in Coudersport. The morning will be a beginning beekeeper seminar, the afternoon will be on other topics, to be announced. Pre-registration is required. Fee \$5, payable in advance. A small lunch is included. Exact times and location to be determined. For more information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or snowmobilj@frontiernet.net or Sheila Gabreski, Penn State Extension at 814-274-8540.



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.



IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 7/16 and receives the newsletter at 1166 Tidewood Drive, Bethel Park, 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 April 24th, 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.

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the April issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **March 28th**.



North Central PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension, Coudersport. For more information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email snowmobilj@frontiernet.net

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit their website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, March 12, 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, March 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Speaker, Dr. Dewey Caron, University of Delaware. . Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Chester Co Annual Conference

Saturday, March 14 at the Merion Science Center at West Chester University, West Chester. Speakers: Dr. Thomas D Seeley, Michael Palmer and Dr. Dewey M Caron. Visit the website: www.ChescoBees.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. 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, March 17, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, March 19, at the Seipstown Grange, Fogelsville. "Show & Tell" and Swap Meet. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Southern Adirondack Beekeepers (SABA) Seminar

Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the HVCC TEC-SMART Extension Building, Malta, NY. Guest speakers are Allen Dick of Alberta, Canada, Meghan Milbraith of Munith, Minnesota and Dr. Wyatt Mangum. For additional information visit the SABA website www.adirondackbees.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speakers: Scott Famous and Vince Aloyo – Overview of the Queen Cell Program with discussion of accomplishments, success stories and statistics from 2014. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobekeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Dr. Meghan Milbraith, from Minnesota, is the guest speaker. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Burgh Bees

Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 p.m. at the Cannon Coffee, Pittsburgh. Potluck social – Discussion Topic will be Installing Nucs and Packages: What to expect weeks 1-4. Contact Steve Repasky at 412-445-7872; email srepasky@gmail.com for more information.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, April 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, April 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Master Gardeners, Pollinators and Pollination. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Beekeeping Seminars

Saturday, April 11, in Coudersport (exact times and location to be announced. Morning: Beginning Beekeeping Seminar; Afternoon: Other Topics. For more information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or snowmobilj@frontiernet.net or Sheila Gabreski, Penn State Extension at 814-274-8540.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Lehigh County Ag Bldg., Allentown. Swarms, Preventing and Capturing presented by Ron Bogansky. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. at Aucker's Apiaries, Millville. 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, April 21, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. Topics: Spring work, swarm prevention, making splits and all the other spring concerns of a beekeeper. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Mark Antunes – Mark will present technique and strategies for swarm prevention and retrieval in your apiary. A question and answer time for the 2015 Queen Cell Program also. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Guest speaker: Steve Repasky on swarm capture. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. at Tom McCormack’s, Aliquippa. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com for more information.

28th Annual Short Course

Saturdays, May 2, 8:00 a.m. in Dauphin and May 9, 12:00 noon in Palmyra. For more information, contact John Novinger, 717-365-3215, email jdnovinger@epix.net or watch for article in the March issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper*.

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. As information becomes available it will be printed.

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. 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.

Attention Counties: Please submit your 2015 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

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

March 2015

By: Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, Lehigh Valley, PA.

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was asked by PSBA President Charles Vorisek if I would continue writing this column in the P.S.B.A. monthly newsletter. The idea being to answer questions that may arise from our members and to help fellow beekeepers become more proficient in their craft. I agreed to do so as long as I have questions to answer.

First let me say I am NOT a scientist; I am a beekeeper just like you. As all of us know, if you ask 3 beekeepers the same question you will most probably get 5 different answers, so I would like to approach this matter as a Q & A posting as I do with many of our members in the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn., unless I decide to write about a timely issue.

If you have a question you would like to send in, please email it to me at: billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com with the subject line being WWBD, and I will respond with my opinion as ‘*what I would do*’ if the problem or situation was mine.

Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper

Q: Received: Feb. 9, 2015

Hello Bill,

I thought I’d throw this question at ya:

I know starting nucs with a queen cell is a good way to break the v-mite’s breeding cycle. If I wanted to requeen a hive with a laying queen, not a cell, what is the minimum time to keep the hive queenless, before introducing a laying queen, and still break the mite cycle? Good luck with your wintering scheme.

Best, Dave

A: Hi Dave,

I would not leave a colony queenless for more than a few days (3). Within that time span the colony realizes it has no queen and will start preparations to produce new queens on their own. When I requeen a colony I put the new queen in as soon as I remove the old one. You can wait a day if you wish. This is a personal decision and there is much discussion on the subject.

The only way to break the mite brood cycle is to break the bee brood cycle, meaning, wait till all capped brood is hatched (open) and there is no more brood, then all varroa are phoretic, all on bees and exposed, not reproducing because there is no pupae in the hive.

Bill

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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: pabeel@frontier.com

W.W.B.D. (Continued from Page 11)

Addition: Since I answered Dave directly through email he replied to me and included a photo of his hives, well prepared for winter. Thanks Dave.

Below is a pic of my home yard. After wrapping four hives together with felt paper, I put an aluminum windbreak around them.



I only posed that question for your readers. I see nothing for WWBD and felt bad. Thanks for the quick reply, and again, good luck with your bees.

Best, Dave

Q: Received: Feb. 27, 2015

My hive was doing fine up till the sub-freezing temps and they all froze to death. Are you seeing alot of hives not making it through the temps? Also is there anything you would recommend I try next year to try and avoid this, other than move to the Carolinas?

Kevin

A: Hi Kevin,

I've been hearing of losses this winter as I do every winter. It has been extremely cold this winter but bees can survive. Winter doesn't (usually) kill bees, just as Wax moths don't kill bees. Many times losses like this stem from hive weakness although there may be several reasons why a hive perishes. The main concern is to have a large population of 'healthy' bees going into the winter cluster with enough honey above them to carry them through the cold winter months. To accomplish this we have to knock down the mite population at its peak, which is when the honey bee population is also at its peak. I suggest treating for mites during July and no later than August so the queen can produce at least 2-3 generations of bees before she shuts down brood production for the season. These last couple brood cycles should be healthier as they were not heavily parasitized by mites. A large healthy cluster of bees will live longer throughout the winter months and with enough honey stores (within close proximity) should

survive through the winter into spring.

If we don't control the mites we may have a large cluster going into winter but they are not healthy bees and will not live as long thus causing the cluster size to diminish to the point where they cannot keep themselves warm no matter how much honey they have.

Usually by this time of year the queen is laying a small brood pattern and the bees will cluster tightly around this to maintain the heat needed (93-94°F). If the cluster is not large enough to contact honey it generally will not leave the brood and will starve/freeze at this location.

As you know Kevin there are a ton of suggestions from beekeepers on maintaining beehives. My main concern is their health, so keeping a close eye on the general condition of the colony is important in my opinion. Along with the basic suggestions of installing mouse guards and an upper entrance (vent), I would suggest a wind break to protect the hives from extreme cold, good exposure to the sun and if you choose you can wrap the hives. I like to place an insulation board between the inner and outer cover, this prevents the moist air given off by the bees from condensing on the inner cover and dripping back down on the cluster causing them to freeze.

I always recommend the MAAREC website as an excellent reference. Here's a link to their fact sheet titled: Fall Management. https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/FALL_MGM.PDF

I hope I've answered your questions Kevin,

Bill



28th Annual Short Course

The Capital Area Beekeepers' Association is offering its 28th Annual Short Course on Saturday, May 2 & 9, 2015.

Part I: Will start at 8:00 a.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mt. Road, Dauphin, PA

Part II: Will start at noon at Dave Anderson's Apiary, 7081A Colebrook Road, Palmyra, PA.

The cost of the Short Course is \$40 which includes a CABA membership.

For additional information, please contact John Novinger, 717-365-3215, email jdnovinger@epix.net



PA Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Onstead
Hello everyone!

While entering into the second month of my reign I was able to spend February educating many in the Somerset County area about the wonders of beekeeping. I first paid a visit to Siemen's Lakeview Manor, where I presented a short educational speech and a cooking demonstration to a room full of hungry onlookers. After my demonstration, many reminisced about past cooking endeavors while they enjoyed my honey applesauce cake as well as some homemade honey vanilla ice cream. One woman in particular stands out in my mind because she began a conversation about how her husband had been a beekeeper. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, and I was glad that I was able to reach out and spend some time with the residents.

The following week I was invited to speak at a Pennsylvania Famers Club meeting in Rockwood, PA. For close to an hour I explained the inner workings of the hive, bee biology and interesting facts about the honey industry. Everyone enjoyed my colorful PowerPoint as well as the bee suit, smoker, and miniature Langstroth hive that I brought as a visual aid. After my presentation I was approached by the Rockwood School FFA teacher who expressed her interest in beekeeping. She asked many questions about how to get started and hopes to start a classroom hive. In the future, I'm hoping to have the opportunity to visit the school again and speak with her students.

On Valentine's Day I travelled to Pittsburgh to attend the Western PA Beekeeping Seminar. I was able to introduce myself to the crowd as well as touch on what the Honey Queen program has to offer. I then spent the day interacting with those in attendance at the PSBA booth. In the afternoon, I had the opportunity to visit with the vendors as well as attend two very interesting seminars. The first seminar touched on the value added products that can be created from the hive. The second was a honey cooking demonstration where I learned how to make heart shaped honey lollipops. I also got to taste test honey raspberry lemonade, homemade honey granola and honey pumpkin bread. After the seminar I loaded up my car with PSBA brochures and t shirts and headed out into the snow to journey back to Somerset.

The following week proved to be a crazy flurry of activity. Unfortunately due to extremely cold temperatures, school was cancelled on a day I was scheduled to have four school presentations. I'm hoping that I will be able to make that time up later in the year. I then set my sights on presenting at the Somerset Exchange club's weekly meeting. I was able to explain the secrets of honeys eternal shelf life to the room

of business professionals. After I was finished presenting they asked me many questions including where to buy local honey. I was so happy that I was able to inspire them to buy from local beekeepers.

As always I would love to attend any of your upcoming meetings or events. If interested in hosting either myself or Princess Blair please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

Best wishes,



Queen Jessica

Queen Jessica talks about the queen bee during her presentation at Siemen's Lakeview Manor.

For Sale

Spring and Summer 5-Frame Nucs

Available for pickup in
Lewistown, PA

Call for availability and pricing.

800-736-6205

Ask for Aaron