



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

May 2015
Volume No. 5

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

It took a while, but the warmer weather has finally reached some of the northern counties. I had reasons to travel from Erie, to Harrisburg, to Pittsburgh over a few days in April. The difference in season is pretty remarkable. Easily two to three weeks difference in plant bloom from southeast to northwest. Trying to anticipate blooms with orchard pollination can change with a couple nice or bad days. A little snow got thrown in there just to hear us complain.

April is the month that plans are confirmed for the next PA Farm Show in January 2016. Premium books are reviewed, changes made and judges lined up. It's the time we carry those complaints and problems back to the Farm Show Committee. All in all, it's a good exchange of ideas. With a few years experience as co-chair of the Apiary Department, I find the Farm Show Committee ready to help out as much as possible. In turn, they are appreciative of the professionalism that is the Pa State Beekeepers Association.

2016 will be the 100th PA Farm Show. If any member has historic pictures of the beekeepers and Farm Show, we would like to put together a slide show that will show above the honey ice cream stand. Visitors can absorb some history while in line for those famous waffles and honey ice cream. You may contact me by email: president@pastatebeekeepers.org

Please pay attention for other Farm Show information,

In This Issue

Annual Conference Speaker	3
Jeremy's Corner	5
Summer Picnic	7
PSBA Honey Princess Report	7
Officers and Membership Information	8
Upcoming Dates	9
March Identification Reader	11
Nature Notes	13
Farm Show Information	15-17
April Identification Reader	17
PSBA Honey Queen Report	19

including a new class for novelty comb honey. You'll want to get this started in your hive soon.

PSBA attended the April 19-21st convention of PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) at Hershey Lodge. Armed with information, we were able to make personal contact with your local leaders from across the state.

It was new to have beekeepers in the exhibitor hall. Our exhibit was between the PSATS Retirement Services (boring) and pothole repair (boring) and on the far back wall of a hundred exhibitors. Of course honey sticks were used as 'bait', which proved very effective. Often, there were two or three conversations going at the same time. The obvious question from many was, 'why are the beekeepers here?' When it was explained that some townships have enacted bans or regulations on keeping bees, it became clearer. With rural townships the reaction was, 'why?' Then there were the personal stories of friends or family that kept bees or thinking of starting.

What made the whole effort worth it were several very timely events that just happened to be going on in different townships. From zoning reviews, new permit inquiries and incidents that just occurred within days of this convention. In each case, the township official was in need of information and help. That is exactly what PSBA was offering. The most bee friendly model is the city of Philadelphia, where there are NO regulations for honeybees. That's the best model. If officials were compelled to write policy, we recommended Best Management Practices or Forrest Hills ordinance, which closely models BMP. In all cases we recommended NO permit fees. Beekeepers already pour money into this endeavor for the benefit of all local agriculture and are regulated by PA Bee Law.

Being able to assist at the front of a problem is much better than trying to pick up the pieces of poor decisions, poor policies and misconceptions. Simply the PSBA presence and cordial conversation will hopefully stay with these local leaders in case beekeeping issues come up in their township. One person said, 'I didn't know there was such an organization'. I replied, 'It's 110 years old'.

(Continued on Page 3)

News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

In addition to legal policies, we promoted pollinator friendly planting for green spaces and landscaping. Ernst Conservation Seed provided us with pollinator mix flyers so we could put sources in their hands. And we shamelessly took our information to other exhibitors that might be in the business of landscaping, right of ways and writing ordinances.

I would like to recognize the PSBA members that gave up time, changed plans, took off work, assembled materials and traveled to make this a successful venture: Steve Finke, Don Shump, Lori Stahl, Matt Libhart, Charlie Vorisek and PA Honey Queen Jessica Onstead. All gave Pennsylvania beekeepers a professional voice and appearance.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events. The PSBA Summer Picnic is August 1st at the Dundee Farm in Sewickley, Pa. That's just tad northwest of Pittsburgh along the Ohio River.

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

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

United States Honey Production Up 19 Percent

Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Taken from Honey (March 2015)

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

PSBA November 2015 Conference

Last month we featured Clare Densely, from Buckfast Abbey. The second of our guests in November is Marla Spivak, an entomologist at the University of Minnesota, whose research focuses on genetically influenced behaviors that confer disease resistance to entire colonies through the social interactions of thousands of workers. Her studies of hygienic behavior—the ability of certain strains of bees to detect and remove infected pupae from their hives—have enabled her to breed more disease-resistant strains of bees for use throughout the beekeeping industry, not least the “Minnesota Hygienic” line of bees. By translating her scientific findings into accessible presentations, publications, and workshops, she is leading beekeepers throughout the United States to establish local breeding programs that increase the frequency of hygienic traits in the general bee population. With additional investigations into the antimicrobial effects of bee-collected plant resins under way, Marla continues to explore additional methods for limiting disease transmission and improving the health of one of the world’s most important pollinators.

Marla is also well known for her TED talk (http://www.ted.com/talks/marla_spivak_why_bees_are_disappearing) and as a recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award in 2010.

Her topics in November will be The Benefits of Propolis to Bee Health and The Impact of Landscapes on Bee Health and Survivorship

In terms of our theme for November, Beekeeping as the Poetry of Agriculture, here is another poem on bees, author unknown:

Half a bee, philosophically,
Must, ipso facto, half not be.

But half the bee has got to be,
viz-a-viz, it's entity

But can a bee be said to be
Or not to be, an entire bee

When half the bee is not a bee
Due to some old injury?

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.

Jeremy's Corner

March 20 was the United Nations International Day of Happiness. At one end of the scale UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, observed that "The pursuit of happiness is serious business." At the other end was Keshav Shiwakoti, a former communist revolutionary from a small village in the high mountains of eastern Nepal, one of seven children, who grew up in stark poverty. He moved to Kathmandu in search of employment, learned English and became a high-end cook specializing in European cuisine. "The small, fleeting moments make me happy," he said, "like the child I just saw on the street being breast-fed by her mother, or watching my baby goats play. It's the joy in sunshine or rain. Sometimes I cry because I feel such great happiness."

Sarah van Gelder, writing in *Sustainable Happiness: Live Simply, Live Well, Make A Difference*, stresses that there is confusion as to what sustainable happiness looks like, sounds like and feels like, at least here in the USA.

In the 1920's business leaders worried that Americans had all the appliances and consumer goods they wanted and that if they spent time enjoying life rather than working more and buying more, the economy would stagnate. Thus the advertising industry joined forces with Freudian psychologists to link our universal desires for status, love and self-esteem with the new gospel of consumerism.

The postwar period was considered an economic success - growth as measured by GDP rose steadily and the gap between rich and poor diminished. But in the 1970's wages stagnated and purchasing diminished. The result was the proliferation of credit cards so that consumers could spend money they did not have to keep the economy moving. But buying 'stuff' has consequences. There is the burden of debt that goes with a bigger house or a new car, the 'buyer's high' (that initial exuberance that follows a big purchase, spikes and then disappears, but which can be addictive,) and the extra work hours needed to pay off the debt with less time for friends and family.

Advertisers tell us unrelentingly that shangri-la is one purchase away - plastic surgery, anti-depressants, a holiday home. Yet for the majority of the population, on limited incomes, the implication is that happiness is out of reach, that they are falling short of the good life, and that somehow it is their fault.

It needs to be stressed that the internet has created a historically unique situation. Never before has there been such easy, uncontrolled, unlimited access to so many different products and opinions; never before have marketers, as well as zealots, had access to such an audience. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the West, in combination with

potentially catastrophic climate change, is the recovery of enlightened values in the face of rampant technological advances driven more by profit than by civility. Curiously one of the most eloquent spokesperson for such a recovery is Monica Lewinsky in a TED talk titled *The Price of Shame*.

"Through our scientific and technological genius," argued Martin Luther King Jr, "we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools."

Van Gelder suggests that sustainable happiness is built on two pillars - a vibrant and fair society and a healthy natural world. It endures through good times and bad because it starts with the fundamental aspirations of being human. It cannot come from a quick fix and it cannot be achieved at the expense of others. It is available to everyone and because it begins by assuring that each of us can obtain a basic level of material security, after which more 'stuff' is not the key, it does not have to cost the planet.

And let's understand that Facebook does not build community; indeed a 2014 study of American college students showed that their level of empathy was on average 40% lower than their peers of the previous generation.

Sustainable happiness comes from loving relationships, thriving communities and meaningful work, which in turn stimulate positive emotions like love, gratitude, respect and appreciation. These are hardly new objectives; they have been the focus of most of the world's major religions for a thousand years or more, and I would suggest that they can be found in the process of managing honey bees, who offer some guidelines as to how to achieve them.

Nikiah Seeds, as cited in Mark Winston's book, *Bee Time*, relates three clear messages from the bees. First, the need to pay more attention to the environment that they, and we, live in; secondly, to be calm, to be still, to take a breath and slow down (what Dennis VanEngelsdorp has called 'the zen of beekeeping;') and thirdly, a hive is not a set of individuals so much as the consciousness of one collective group referred to as a superorganism

I don't want to anthropomorphize honey bees by describing them as happy, yet they exist best in a vibrant, shared community, and as they go about their work, which is life-creating, not so much as a leaf is harmed. By the act of pollination bees literally connect one generation of plants to the next and enhance the continuation of a healthy ecology.

(Continued on Page 7)

Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 5)

We too need to consider ourselves connectors, part of a chain that passes on civil values and a sense of belonging both to each other and to the generations to come.

We need consciously to become civilians again, rather than consumers. First, we can choose to do no harm, which might mean choosing not to publish, look at, read, support anything that demeans the inherent worth and dignity of other people. We can work to re-build meaningful communities within a more equitable society - more equitable both in an economic sense and in terms of the empowerment we all have to determine our own lives. We can protect the integrity of the natural world; it is an illusion to pretend that humans are separate and apart from the living world. Rather our future is tied to the fate of the planet: a healthy earth means clean water, wholesome food, a stable climate and the possibility of sustainable happiness and, dare I say it, thriving honey bees, for generations to come.

We can speak out against abuse in all of its forms, welcome the gifts of everyone in our community, and develop a mindset that cultivates basic human qualities like gratitude, appreciation, compassion and love while refusing to be controlled by fear and power.

Is it easy? Absolutely not. Is it likely to happen? The cynic will quickly say no, but it is more likely to succeed if these behaviors could be modeled by our current authorities, starting with those in positions of power, not least the politicians and the media. And if they refuse to lead from above we can lead from below, with individuals making decisions that collectively will change the world ... after all that is the way honey bees do it. We did it with tobacco and cigarettes and we can do it again.

How different it would be if children were to witness countless acts of loving kindness every day rather than the tirade of random acts of violence, verbal abuse and endless advertisements?

Honey bees remind us that only by working together with nature can we guarantee our prosperity and survival, and yes, our happiness, in humanity's largest hive, our planet.

Jeremy Barnes



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

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!!!!

PA Honey Princess Report

By Blair Hetherington

April was a great month of promotions for me! I had the wonderful opportunity to be involved in some great educational experiences this month. I was asked to attend Middle-West High School for a Mother-Daughter event on April 10. At this event, vendors and educational groups from the state were invited for an evening to spend some time with these lovely ladies. I got the chance to educate them on beekeeping at a state and national level, and how important bees are to our ecosystem and food supply. The girls received it well and I enjoyed meeting the students to talk to them one on one with their mothers.

Later in the month on April 14, I had the chance to go close to home for the Senior Expo at the Bloomsburg Fair grounds. At the event, I worked with the American Honey Princess, Hayden Wolf, to offer honey samples to guests in the attempt to show them how bees going to different pollen sources can really affect the taste of the honey they purchase. I also got the chance to inform the public on local beekeepers in the area and where they can go for pure product. Overall it was a great success!

As we get closer to summer the schedule is filling up, but we still have some days open. To invite Queen Jessica or me to your event, contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

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

1 Month		3 Months	
Full Page	\$33.00	Full Page	\$ 50.00
1/2 Page	22.00	1/2 Page	35.00
1/4 Page	19.00	1/4 Page	25.00
1/8 Page	15.00	1/8 Page	19.00
6 Months		One Year	
Full Page	\$85.00	Full Page	\$ 160.00
1/2 Page	50.00	1/2 Page	85.00
1/4 Page	33.00	1/4 Page	60.00
1/8 Page	22.00	1/8 Page	36.00

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 June-July issue of

The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **June 12th**.

Chester Co Annual Conference

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

North Central PA Beekeepers

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m. near Coudersport. Topics will be about different chemicals used and offered by companies, along with different methods of going chemical free. Discussion will also include how to recognize if your colony is about to swarm and what to do. For more information and directions, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email snowmobilj@frontiernet.net

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

Lycoming County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Montoursville Borough Hall, Montoursville. Contact Aaron Kolb at 570-323-8670 for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, May 19, 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

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 19, 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, May 21, 7:00 p.m., at the Lehigh County Ag Bldg., Allentown. Topic: Nucs and Splits. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Margaret Zittel – “Beekeeping Gadgets and Gizmos” Hear the how and when to use, pros, cons, costs, and where to get beekeeping gadgets and gizmos. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montc-obekeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. New beekeepers share their stories. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, June 1, 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

Every Tuesday in June, 6:00 p.m. Bee yard visits. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, June 11, 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, June 12, 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, June 13, 9:00 a.m. at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville. Visit the website: www.ChescoBees.org for more information.

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 Lehigh County Ag Bldg., 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.montcobekeepers.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.

(Continued on Page 11)

Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

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.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 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, 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.susquehanna-beekeeping.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.

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

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, Skippack 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 7 in this issue.

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

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.



March Identification Reader

Beekeeping for the past 20 plus years has been a great adventure; between the people you meet in the clubs and seminars - and the hobby itself. The first smell of the fresh cut pine wood to the filled smoker calming the bees, then the taste of the fresh honey harvest in early July.

It's all worth it, just a couple of stings. But to see and learn what God's creation of the honey bee does for this world.

Would I do this again? Yes. Maybe a little younger to help keep the hobby and profession going.

Like a lot of things YOUR new friends, new blood, ideas and leadership is always needed to keep YOUR life interesting.

I'm always amazed working with new and older beekeepers, the knowledge base for the Honey Bees. I have an average of a dozen hives, It's been a rough winter.... but the honey will taste great again in July!!

Best Wishes with YOUR Honey Bees

Paul Bradshaw
 Bethel Park, PA



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.

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

Nature Notes

A correction from April's Nature Notes: Corinne Mahaffey reminds us that worms do **not** drown. Worms are covered with a layer of mucus and can absorb enough oxygen from water to keep them alive. No one knows why worms end up dead on the sidewalk after a rain.

In early May, **migrant birds** flood up from the south (the US south, the Caribbean, and South America) to nest in the northern hemisphere. No one knows why they undertake such hazardous and wearying journeys twice a year. Abundant food for raising young? Longer days for finding food for raising young? Some sandpipers nest in the arctic where, in summer, the Sun does not set. This behavior probably began when the glaciers receded about 10,000 years ago.

About the same time the birds arrive, **inch-worm caterpillars** are hatching and munching on tender new tree leaves. A caterpillar that survives will spin a cocoon and become one of 12,000 (mostly tiny) species of Geometrid moths native to North America. Geometrid means earth-measuring, which is what they appear to be doing as they inch along.

The birds and the inch-worms both survive in a **delicate balance**. Too few birds means too many caterpillars. Too few caterpillars means too few birds survive and next year's generation of caterpillars has a grand time. Eliminating some of the caterpillar species **entirely** sounds like a good idea unless it eliminates some of the bird species, too. The web of life has many strands. If we cut too many of the ropes supporting the trampoline, our bouncing will be crazy and hazardous. Over millions of years, nature manages to wobble along in some kind of balance. We tinker with that balance at our peril.

Along the shores of Delaware Bay, **red knots**, chunky sandpipers, arrive by the thousands to fatten on newly-laid eggs of horseshoe crabs. The birds store fat, which will fuel their flight to the arctic where they nest. One red knot, banded in 1995 and now also wearing a numbered colored leg band applied in 2001, has made the round trip from wintering ground in Argentina to the arctic and back **twenty** times. People will be watching for this famous traveler along the shores of Delaware Bay in May.



Red Knot

Photo credit: Hans Hillewaert

By **weight** of grain produced, corn has replaced rice as the World's biggest grain crop. Corn, rice and wheat are all grasses. Grasses sustain human life. A grass appears on the table at almost every human meal.

Arcturus is halfway up the night sky in the southeast. By June, Arcturus will be nearly overhead as darkness falls. **Venus** is the evening "star." **Jupiter** is above and left of Venus. **Saturn** rises in the southeast later in the night.

By Tim Sterrett



Princess Blair, members of the Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley and American Princess Hayden provided great information on beekeeping during the Senior Expo.

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 1/16 and receives the newsletter at 98 Hollyberry Road, Macungie, 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 July 24, 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.



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.

New Farm Show Honey class

A new class has been added for the 2016 Farm Show. This was inspired by a frame that Capital Area Beekeepers had with their County Exhibit. The parameters are a bit open to encourage creativity. It can be single or multiple frames, so long as they fit a standard Langstroth hive. No extra points for 100th Anniversary theme, but the Farm Show committee would be excited to see that theme included.

NEW!

Class 34. Novelty Frame of Comb Beeswax comb honey on any foundation, mounted in an enclosed case. Must fit standard Langstroth hive and be removable frame design. Five process photos (4x6) may be included.

Scorecard for Novelty Frame of Comb

Design and execution	25 points
Container	15 points
Uniformity of appearance.....	20 points
Absence of uncapped cells, absence of Watery cappings, leaking cells or Crushed comb and cleanliness.....	20 points
Freedom from granulation and pollen.....	10 points
Effort of preparation	10 points



Collective Exhibit Pre-registrations

The Pa Farm Show committee is agreeable to allow the Apiary Department chairpersons to take a list on first come basis for Individual and County Collective Exhibits. As these projects often take more time than the on-line October registration allows, we want to assure all exhibit spots are filled. If you or your county association anticipate entering these exhibits, contact Charlie Vorisek at vbeefarm@windstream.net (814-350-0662). A list will be started on a first come basis and shared only with co-chairs Maryann Frazier and Lee Miller. Dutch Gold Honey will once again sponsor the first place County Collective Exhibit with a \$500 premium.

Pfund Colors at Farm Show

Entries in Extracted Honey will be checked with a digital Pfund color grader. That scale with corresponding colors will be listed in Premium Book.

Ziegler-Keeney Award at Farm Show

The Ziegler Award is has always been presented at the PSBA Annual Fall Meeting. This year that show will be discontinued for lack of space and limited entries. With the passing of Dennis Keeney, PSBA voted to continue the award and rename it the Ziegler-Keeney Award. This will be selected from the Best of Shows in the classes of Comb Honey, Extracted Honey and Beeswax. There is no additional premium paid. However, an elegant prestigious silver engraved plate is awarded and will be displayed during the Pa Farm Show.

NEW! Section 0009 SWEEPSTAKES
Class 53. Ziegler-Keeney Award – Selected from best of Class 47, Class 48 and Class 49. Plaque sponsored by PA State Beekeepers Association

Recipe

Honey Peanut Butter Filled Cookies

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup granulated sugar
¾ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup creamy peanut butter
½ cup honey
¼ cup vegetable shortening
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

¼ cup granulated sugar, in a small bowl, for rolling cookies

Filling for cookies: (Prepare before cookies)

2 (8 oz. each) cream cheese – softened
½ cup Creamy peanut butter
2 tablespoons honey
1 cup powdered sugar
1 cup (dry) honey roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, peanut butter and honey with mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add powdered sugar, beat just till smooth. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Cookie Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt; set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together the peanut butter, honey and shortening on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the egg and vanilla and mix until combined. Reduce the mixer speed to low and gradually add the dry ingredients, mixing until just combined. Give the mixture a final stir with a rubber spatula to ensure all of the flour has been incorporated.

Use a medium cookie scoop (about 2 tablespoons of dough) to scoop out dough and roll into a ball between the palms of your hands. Roll in the sugar and place on the prepared baking sheets about two inches apart. Using fork tines, press a criss-cross pattern into the tops of the cookies, flattening them into disks.

Bake until lightly golden brown, about 10 to 12 minutes. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then use a spatula to remove them to a wire rack to cool completely.

When cooled, spread 1/3 cup cream cheese mixture on bottom of 1 cookie, top with another cookie bottom side down. Press cookies together slightly so mixture just extends past edges of cookies. Roll edge of cream cheese mixture in chopped peanuts to generously coat. Repeat with remaining cookies. The filled cookies can be stored in an airtight container in refrigerator up to 4 hours (cookies stored longer will become very soft). (If cookies are not filled, they can be stored up to five days in an airtight container).

Honey Baked Goods Competition and Exhibit
PA State Farm Show 2015

April Identification Reader

I was very surprised to see my address appear in the April 2015 issue of the PSBA newsletter. To provide a little information about me, I have been keeping bees for a hobby since 1980. I currently have 14 colonies (lost one over the winter), all of which are doing very well in spite of the harshness of this winter season. I have eight colonies at my home address and five at Fairview Farms in Pineville, PA (three miles from my home). The farm requested the colonies to help with pollination of their peach crop. I have had bees there for 20 years. The farm market store sells my honey when I am able to provide them some to sell. There is a big demand in this area for local honey. Of late, my harvests have not been of sufficient size to meet the demand.

My honey harvests have ranged between 360 (a bad year) and 1000 lbs. (a good year). I sell my honey at modest prices to help offset the cost of the hobby, which I continue to enjoy as I have become older (74 on April 23).

Robert Cunningham, Jr, New Hope, PA

PA Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Onstead

Hello Everyone,

April was my busiest month to date. I was able to attend 7 events, in 4 different counties! Did you know that Pennsylvania has 67 counties total? So far I have visited 6 counties and have events planned in 6 more. I'm hoping that I will be able to grow this number of counties visited by the end of my reign.

For my first event of the month I travelled to Confluence to speak to the Confluence Lions club about the fascinating chemical properties of honey. I received such a warm welcome and am looking forward to speaking to other Lions Clubs in the future. The following day I visited the Somerset Kiwanis Club and presented on the Langstroth Hive. I love educating the citizens of our state on how this beekeeping staple was invented by a fellow Pennsylvanian!



For my third event, I was invited to a local nursery school to educate on bees during their "Insect Week." I read the students a book entitled *The Beeman* by Laurie Krebs, which gave them a little insight on what it's like to be a beekeeper as well as how bees create honey. After I was finished reading the story, the kids set to work creating some bee bookmarks and snacking on a honeycomb cereal snack. It was so great to sit down with local children and teach them all about how beneficial honey bees are to our environment.

In preparation for Earth Day I travelled to York to attend the Go Green in the City street fair. I had a fantastic time educating the 4,000+ visitors about honey bees as well as educating children about beekeeping garb in with my interactive "Dress Like a Beekeeper" display. It was so much fun to see the kids running around in a bee suit. You certainly don't get that opportunity every day! From York I then travelled to Hershey

to attend the 93rd annual Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Educational Conference and Trade Show. The PSBA set up shop to educate members of local municipalities on the best practices for handling honey bee legislation. We really got our organizations' name out there and many supervisors stopped for information and a free honey stick.

For my final events of the month I travelled to Waynesburg to educate young and old about the importance of honey bees. I first stopped at the Waynesburg senior center where I presented on products of the hive, while also demonstrating how to create lotion bars from beeswax. All of the seniors really enjoyed asking questions and sampling the freshly made lotion. I then travelled to Waynesburg University to participate in their Earth Day fair. I was able to set up a table with lots of educational resources as well as hand out honey sticks to interested passerby. It was so great to reach out to college age students, especially the day before Earth Day. I did my best to express how extremely important honey bees are to our planet.

Thank you all so much for your continued support. If you would like for me to visit your county please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146. Hope to see you all soon!

Best Wishes,

Queen Jessica



Queen Jessica shows kids how to dress like a beekeeper at York's Go Green in the City.

Recipe

Chocolate Covered Cookie Dough Bites

- 15 ounce can of garbanzo beans
- ¼ cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons raw honey
- Pinch sea salt
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- ¼ cup chocolate chips
- Chocolate shell – 1 cup chocolate chips

- Combine all ingredients, except chocolate, in a high speed blender and blend until smooth.
- Empty dough into bowl and fold in chocolate chips.
- Line baking sheet with wax paper.
- Use cookie scoop and make balls. Place on wax paper sheet. Freeze for one hour.
- Melt chocolate and coat each chilled ball into melted chocolate.
- Return to freezer.

Honey Baked Goods Competition and Exhibit
PA State Farm Show 2015

For Sale

Pollen
Collected the summer of 2014

\$10.00 per lb. plus shipping

Contact Glenn Crimbring
570-673-8201

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

MEADOW SWEET APIARIES, Pittsburgh PA

2015 NUCS – AVAILBLE EARLY-MID APRIL

Taking orders for Spring 2015: 5 Frame Deep Nucs
Pricing will be:

1-19, \$150
20 to 49, \$130
50 to 100, \$115
Over 100, \$105

There will be NO FRAME EXCHANGE.

Nucs will be in cardboard Nuc boxes
Pick up will be in Pittsburgh, PA or Sewickley, PA

Please contact Steve at 412.445.7872 or
via **email** at meadowsweetbees@gmail.com to order or for questions.