



# The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

September 2015  
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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

## News and Views...

Reminder to self... 'Do not complain about too much rain'. An older gentleman once said to me, 'a person cannot experience every weather scenario in one lifetime'. I think that's true. I also remind myself that honey bees have existed for thousands of years without me.

I'm skipping through some old bee magazines, trying to find photos that might be useful for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Farm Show in January 2016. A collection of magazines was donated from someone's attic a few years ago, as well as a collection that came along with some used equipment. Some magazines date back to the late 1800's. Along with Gleanings of Bee Culture and American Bee Journals, I have a couple issues of The Pennsylvania Beekeeper. An interesting feature in The Pennsylvania Beekeeper from July 1939, were some county reports. As I read the reports from Erie and Crawford County, I could have written it myself, "The honey flow has been very short and the reason for that is that there has been too much rain". "April and May were cold and rainy." From Lycoming County, "This has been one, in fact, of the worst years we have ever had for light honey, after what promised to be a bumper season as the bees were in good condition and had wintered over with a small loss and were at peak strength when the time came to gather nectar." I have found reading those old magazines helps relieve some of my stress and worry. Our previous generations shared their wisdom and experiences, but much of it we repeat and rediscover.

Get registered to attend the PSBA annual conference Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14. This is open to all membership. A tremendous lineup of speakers is on the schedule at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. Speakers: Marla Spivak, Clare Densley (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Nieh. Watch for more information and get registered.

Friday morning of the conference will be the Executive Board meeting. All local associations, with at least 10 PSBA members, are entitled and encouraged to send a representative to attend this meeting.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Farm Show will be January 2016. We are still looking for old Farm Show photos that can be used in a video loop near the Learning Station. We don't want your originals...copies are perfect. Frank Licata, of Mann Lake-Wilkes-Barre, has offered their services to produce the video. Please send any old pictures to Frank ([frankl@mannlakeld.com](mailto:frankl@mannlakeld.com)) or myself ([President@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:President@pastatebeekeepers.org))

If your club/association would like to do a County Exhibit, we are making a list ahead of on-line registration. This allows more time to plan and build. Presently, the list is Washington County Beekeepers, Montgomery County Beekeepers and Capitol Area Beekeepers. We have 5 spaces to fill. Every entry receives a premium.

I tossed out an idea to annually recognize 'bee friendly' municipalities. I am pleased to report a couple of people have stepped up to generate an overview plan. If all goes well, they will present this to the Executive meeting in November for consideration.

If you have a municipality, city or township that might be worthy, that nomination can be sent to myself for later consideration.

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There is still a number of PSBA 110th year T-shirts available. They are a bargain at \$10 each. We need to recoup the costs and get this project behind us. Proceeds go into the promotions fund. They are available through the website, [sales@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:sales@pastatebeekeepers.org) What's left will be at the November meeting. Some sizes and colors may be limited.

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

## November Conference Speaker

The last of our guest presenters is Erin MacGregor-Forbes, an EAS Master Beekeeper based in Portland, Maine. Until recently she was President of the Maine Beekeepers' Association, and as from August she is President of EAS, having succeeded Jim Bobb. As a presenter she is energetic, informative and very easy to listen to, not least when talking about Artificial Swarming as a Management Tool and IPM Varroa Control. Erin describes artificial swarming as a management technique, which works with the bees' natural habits to combat numerous honey bee pests, and diseases, increase honey production, and decrease the need for chemical intervention in the colony. She will discuss how and when to execute this technique, and what the beekeeper can expect to see in the colony as a result. Erin believes that increasing colony health and vigor without chemical intervention is possible only with good colony management skills, and that artificial swarming is a keystone technique that beekeepers can use to improve the health and sustainability of their apiary.

There will be two guest speakers at the banquet. The first is the State Minister of Agriculture; the second is Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi, director of Bucknell University's highly acclaimed animal behavior program. She has shown, for example, that even though bees' brains are tiny, they can learn by doing, and can process and store complex information. If you were fortunate enough to hear her presentation at our conference three years ago, you will know how delightful, amusing and engaging she is.

The program this year will include a "Cooking with Honey" demonstration for spouses, as well as a special breakfast meeting for those involved with the PA Honey Breeders initiative, and of course there is our own virtuoso auctioneer, Mark Antunes, and the crowning of the Honey Queen for 2016.

Every year we request feedback on the conference and 2014 was no exception. The presenters themselves received very positive reviews. Requests for future topics included ideas

for a mentoring program, a best practices review, advice on the practicalities of selling honey and honey-related products, descriptions as to how to make products using bees was, a list of regional flower sources, natural beekeeping, and asking a master gardener and farmer to provide their views on the use of agro-chemicals.

These may well not be addressed directly this year, but they will be added to the list as we plan for subsequent meetings. Indeed two of the requests were for (a) topics with more practical applications, and (b) beginner-oriented programs. It might be worth considering having a break out session as part of the conference, in which the topics are all practical, e.g. Building a mentoring program, making bees was candles, how to market honey, etc.

As for (b) the issue of the background expertise assumed for each presentation is a difficult one. My guess is that the majority of attendees have some significant beekeeping experience behind them and they would not attend what we might call Beekeeping 101 topics. But there are also increasing numbers of newer beekeepers attending the state meeting. At EAS the first two days of a five day conference are oriented more to newer beekeepers, and we might consider adding a separate session for nu-bees, either on Friday morning when the executive meeting is taking place, or on Sunday morning.

I recall vividly my first few years, when I came away from all meetings, both local and state, feeling a little confused, somewhat overwhelmed, and very humble. I kept with it, and after initially understanding 10% of what was said, I now grasp at least most of it. The growth curve may have been easier with less challenging topics initially, but I do wonder if it would have been as effective in the long term.

Several suggestions have been incorporated into this year's meeting, e.g. a question-and-answer session with the speakers to end the conference as well as something for spouses, and we are discussing with the hotel management the feasibility of elevating the speaker and screen so that they are visible from the back of the room, and a lapel microphone.

Several people requested a larger room. We have acknowledged that the Best Western Country Cupboard, after many great years, does not have the space to accommodate our growing numbers, and the 2016 conference will be held at the Days Inn at State College, which has the necessary facilities at competitive prices, and which is centrally positioned both in the town itself and in the state.

There was a request for handouts at the beginning of each presentation to facilitate note taking. Good as this would be it is probably not going to be feasible logistically, and there was a plea to have sessions begin and end on time, challenging as that can sometimes be!

Thank you to those who returned the evaluation sheets, and hopefully you know that your ideas and suggestions are respected and taken under serious consideration.

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

September 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](mailto: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, EAS Master Beekeeper

#### Q: Received: Aug. 19, 2015

Hi Bill,

Blaine Holden suggested I check with you on a question about MAQS®. I put 1½ in my hive with 2 deeps and ½ on a nuc with 5 frames. I left them on for 10 days (Aug. 5-10). When I went to check on them, I was surprised that it looked like nothing was done with them (they were propolized). Were these successful in preventing mites? Should I put them in again? I have them in a plastic bag now.

Thanks for your advice,  
Lois



#### A: Hi Lois,

The photo you included is typical of what they (MAQS) look like after a treatment. The pads will evaporate and look a bit dried and the bees do try to propolize them but yours

were not covered with propolis. If you read the directions for application they recommend two strips (pads) to treat a full colony, to be placed between the brood chambers and recommend an additional honey super on top to provide adequate space for expansion and it is a 7 day treatment.

You mentioned: you were surprised that it looked like nothing was done with them, and you asked if they were successful in preventing mites and if you should put them in again.

MAQS® are applied as a treatment to kill mites not to prevent them and it is not recommended to do a second treatment. The only way to determine if the treatment was successful would be to perform a mite check before and another after the treatment. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for application. No need to save the spent pads in a plastic bag, dispose of them as directed.

I'm sure you did fine Lois and have nothing to worry about. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Take care and I wish you success with your beekeeping adventure,

Bill Mondjack

### Beekeeper of the Year Nominations

**Nominations are requested for the 2015 Beekeeper of the Year Award.** This award is presented annually to a beekeeper that the committee feels meets the guidelines listed below. If you would like to nominate a fellow beekeeper, please write a letter of recommendation and send to Stewart Mathias, 514 Earlys Mill Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036.

#### Guidelines for Beekeeper of the Year

The following rules are absolute:

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

Judgements made by the committee:

- 1) The individual's role with the State Association;
- 2) The individual's innovations;
- 3) The individual's promotion of the industry;
- 4) Although members in county associations are desirable, it is not necessary;
- 5) Beekeeper score card (items for judgement by committee): Honey producer; Efficient operation; Queen Raiser; Showmanship of apiary products; Pollinator.



**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 8/15** and receives the newsletter at 19 Church St., Factoryville, PA will send his/her name and an account of his/her beekeeping operation to the editor at 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724 by October 24<sup>th</sup>, he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, or *The Small Beekeepers Journal*. When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.





## Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the October-November issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is September 28th.**

### Central Counties Beekeepers

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Huntingdon. Annual Picnic. For additional information visit the website: [centralcountiesbeekeepers.org](http://centralcountiesbeekeepers.org)

### 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](mailto:jared.jaffe@keystone.edu)

### Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, September 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Winterizing your bees. How to get ready for the cold months ahead. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit the website: [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research & Extension Center, Manheim. Discussion on wintering and feeding techniques. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) or visit the website [www.lancasterbeekeepers.org](http://www.lancasterbeekeepers.org)

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Kutztown University. Beekeeping Movie. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

### Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, September 24, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skipack. Speaker: Jeremy Barnes; Topic: Toxic House Syndrome. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Conservation District Education Center (Wetlands), Aliquippa. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email [pattie.zyroll@elkem.com](mailto:pattie.zyroll@elkem.com) for more information.

### Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, October 5, 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, October 7, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepa-honey@gmail.com](mailto:purepa-honey@gmail.com) for more information.

### Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at [jared.jaffe@keystone.edu](mailto:jared.jaffe@keystone.edu)

### Central Counties Beekeepers

Thursday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Huntingdon. Baked Goods & Show-and-Tell Event. For additional information visit the website: [centralcountiesbeekeepers.org](http://centralcountiesbeekeepers.org)

### York County Beekeepers

Saturday, Oct. 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Winterstown Fire Hall, Winterstown. Fall Banquet. Visit the website [www.ycbk.org](http://www.ycbk.org) for more details.

### North Central PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Bldg., Coudersport. For more information contact John or Joan Bradley, 814-697-7586 or email: [northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com](mailto:northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com).

### Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Honey Tasting. Visit the website: [www.monroecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.monroecountybeekeepers.org) for more information.

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Friday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., at the Fullerton Fire Co., Whitehall. Banquet. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

### New Beekeeping Classes

Saturday, October 17 (1<sup>st</sup> of 4 classes) held at the Penn State Extension in Coudersport. The remaining three classes will be held in the spring of 2016. These classes will cover the very basics in beekeeping. More information will be available after Sept. 1 Pre-registration is required before Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information contact John or Joan Bradley, 814-697-7586 or email: [northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com](mailto:northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com).

### Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. at Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit the website: [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. at Dutch Gold Honey, Lancaster. Honey Round Up and Election of officers. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) or visit the website [www.lancasterbeekeepers.org](http://www.lancasterbeekeepers.org)

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**Upcoming Dates** (Continued from Page 9)

**Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Herman Danenhower; Topic: Comb honey production, including hive configurations & packaging options. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

**Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers**

Monday, November 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden. Fall Banquet. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email [pattie.zyroll@elkem.com](mailto:pattie.zyroll@elkem.com) for more information.

**North East PA Beekeepers**

Wednesday, November 4, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepahoney@gmail.com](mailto:purepahoney@gmail.com) for more information.

**Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Saturday, November 7, 4:00-9:00 p.m. Fall Banquet with the location and speaker to be announced. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

**Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA**

Saturday, November 7, 6:00 p.m. at the South Montrose Community Church. Annual Banquet. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com) for updates.

**Central Counties Beekeepers**

Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Huntingdon. For additional information visit the website: [centralcountiesbeekeepers.org](http://centralcountiesbeekeepers.org)

**Wayne County Beekeepers**

Monday, November 9, 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, November 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Annual Banquet. Visit the website: [www.monroecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.monroecountybeekeepers.org) for more information.

**Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers**

Thursday, November 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](mailto:jared.jaffe@keystone.edu)

**PSBA Annual Conference**

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

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

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

**Western PA Beekeeping Seminar**

February 19 – 20, 2016 at Doubletree by Hilton, Mars, PA. Speakers include *Dr. Jeff Harris*, Extension and Research Professor at Mississippi State, *Dr. Diana Sammataro*, one of the authors of *The Beekeeper's Handbook*, and *Dr. Christine Grosinger*, Director of Pollinator Research at Penn State University. Along with break-out sessions on winter management, bear fencing, cooking and disease and pest control, a special Beginning Beekeeping workshop will be offered on Saturday. Registration opens December 2015. Questions of this notice – please contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at [lynszym@comcast.net](mailto:lynszym@comcast.net) or 412-855-0710



**2016 Honey Queen Applications Available**  
By Rachel Bryson

The Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program is in the midst of an extremely successful 2015 promotion year, but the time has come to start spreading the buzz about the 2016 Queen and Princess positions.

The Queen Program provides an excellent opportunity for young women to gain professional experience with public speaking, presentation development, interviews and networking. Besides the tremendous resume and personal growth this program provides, the Honey Queen and Princess also afford an invaluable service to the beekeeping industry. Each year, these young women attend an average of 50 to 60 educational events, reaching more than 2 million people throughout Pennsylvania.

Your help is needed to keep our program strong. A flyer for the 2016 competition is available on the [PSBA website](#). Please make copies and pass this information on to any young women you know who may be interested in the Queen Program.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Honey Queen Program and we look forward to serving you and the beekeeping industry for many years to come.

The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association represents the interests of the members of Pennsylvania. State dues of \$20.00 per year entitle members to the newsletter published ten times per year at Canton, PA, plus other benefits. Anyone 17 and under may become a junior member @ \$1.00 per year state dues.  
All correspondence should be addressed to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724. Phone: 570-673-8201 Email: [pabee1@frontier.com](mailto:pabee1@frontier.com)

## Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Onstead

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe that the end of August is upon us. It's beginning to look and feel a lot like fall, and honestly I'm not sure where the summer went! I did a lot of driving this month and was able to visit five new counties. Looking forward, I am still challenging myself to visit as many counties as possible. So if you are interested in hosting me during an upcoming event or meeting, please feel free to contact Rachel.

My first event of the month was the PSBA summer picnic, which was hosted by Burgh Bees in Allegheny County. It was so nice to meet up with people that I haven't seen since last year's fall conference in Lewisburg. Aside from enjoying some delicious food, the picnic conversation revolved around the topic of queen rearing as well as concluding with the annual queen swap.

Later in the month I travelled to Centre County to spend two days at Ag Progress Days. I split my time between the PSBA honey ice cream and root beer stand as well as the education booth. In order to compliment the observation hive, there were also full hives located a short distance away that could be used for demonstrations. It was great to see people suited up in veils crowded around the hive anxiously waiting to see inside. It was a great testament as to how docile honeybees are. Surprise, surprise...nobody got stung! During my second day I attended the Government and Industry Day luncheon where Princess Blair and I mingled with state legislators. We saw many familiar faces included Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, previous Secretary of Agriculture George Greig, many state senators including Senator Vogel and Stefano, as well as other commodity queens.

The following weekend was quite the world tour for me. From Somerset County I travelled to Chester County to visit the Colonial Gardens for their annual butterfly festival. I was so happy to represent the honey bee during this celebration of pollinators. The gardens were a beautiful backdrop for the educational presentations and butterfly releases that went on throughout the day.

Later in the afternoon, I hopped back into my car and buzzed up to Lehigh County where I spent the afternoon with the Lehigh Valley beekeepers during their National Honey Bee Day celebration. I really enjoyed this well put together event. Guests had the opportunity to observe bees in an observation hive, experience an extraction demonstration as well as get their hands on lots of beekeeping equipment. I was so happy to be a part of the celebration as well as be on hand to help educate and answer questions.



A big thank you to the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers for hosting me during their National Honey Bee Day Celebration!

For my final event of the month I headed due north to Crawford County to participate in the Crawford County Fair. It was so great to be able to point out the queen bee as well as answer questions in front of the HUGE observation hive that was on display. Since the apiary exhibit was part of the "Fair Detective Program" we had a lot of interested kids (and adults) stopping by to ask questions. I also met up with the guys at Cool 101.7 Meadville who hosted me on their radio show not once, but twice! I was able to share several facts about honey bees as well as discuss the economic importance of these pollinators. Later in the afternoon I helped out with an extraction demonstration. I love it when there is an opportunity for the public to experience how honey gets from the comb and into a jar. It certainly isn't something you see every day!



As always thank you all for your support. I am looking forward to keeping busy the rest of the year so please contact Rachel Bryson at [honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org) or 717-300-0146 to invite me to your upcoming fair, club meeting or event. Looking forward to meeting you!

Best Wishes,  
Queen Jessica

## Nature Notes

September might be a good time to notice rainfall. Autumn is often dry unless we are drenched by a tropical storm. We always need rain. **Aquifers**, the underground lakes we depend on for much of our drinking water, need recharging from rainwater that seeps down through soil and rock. Sewage plants and expanses of pavement deliver water to streams and rivers. That water goes to an ocean. Rainfall on a forest is more likely to seep into the ground. Cold November rain is on the way for us in the east!

Long Island, NY, is a 100 mile-long ridge left by an ice sheet, a mass of ice, that kept melting and dropping the sand and gravel frozen into it. The sand ridge is about fifteen miles wide, steep on the north side that was up against the ice and gently sloping on the south edge. Under it is a pool of fresh water surrounded by salty ocean water. This pool is thousands of years old.

Under New Jersey's Pine Barrens (between Philadelphia, PA, and Atlantic City, NJ) is the **Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer** aquifer. The largest North American reservoir of fresh groundwater is the **Ogallala Aquifer**, a huge underground lake lying under parts of eight midwestern states. Annual rainfall replenishes only about 10% of the Ogallala water we extract for drinking, industry, and agriculture.

Before the trees turn red and yellow, **asters** splash color along garden and wood edges. **Whorled wood asters** with spidery white flowers, bloom in the woods in late summer. Asters have dime to quarter-size flowers with rays of narrow petals around a yellowish center. In wet places, the small orange flowers of **jewelweed** dot the landscape. Jewelweed seed pods swell to become explosive touch-me-nots, flinging seeds away from the parent plant.



**Jewelweed**

Photo: Creative Commons (<https://jahschem.wikispaces.com/natural+products>)

Hawk migration starts this month with **bald eagles** and **broad-winged hawks** heading south. Broadwings are unusual in being gregarious during fall migration. When broadwings see a hawk circling up in a thermal, a rising column of air, they fly to the thermal, gathering sometimes in the hundreds in a

slowly-tuning rising gyre of birds called by birdwatchers a kettle. From the top of the kettle, broadwings glide south in a spreading stream in search of another thermal.

Millions of songbirds head south in September. In the dark, over open areas like playing fields, we may hear the chips of night-flying migrants. The chips may help keep flocks together.



**Blackpoll Warbler**

Photo: by Cephas - Creative Commons

Adult **blackpoll warblers**, about the size of chickadees, leave the coast of New England on the northwest wind following a cold front and fly non-stop to the north coast of South America. Overwater migration may offer steadier winds and less pressure from predators.

**Canada geese** have flocked together again after nesting and honk as a sign of autumn while they fly to a nighttime roost on a local lake.

**Monarch butterflies** drift through the garden feeding from a variety of flowers as they make their way to Mexico. While monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweed family plants, the adults sip sugary nectar from many different flowers.

Warm evenings fill with a cacophonous symphony of stridulating **katydids**, **crickets**, and **grasshoppers** trying to attract a mate but not a hungry predator.

**Cassiopeia**, a big "W" tilted on its side, is in the northeast after dark. To the right of Cassiopeia is the big empty **Great Square of Pegasus**, the flying horse. The Great Square is standing on one of its corners. **Saturn** and **Antares** are the evening "stars." Planet Saturn, about 750 million miles away, is to the right, appears brighter, and does not twinkle. Light reflected from the Sun takes about an hour to get from Saturn to Earth. Antares, a star, is to the left and does twinkle. Light from Antares, 10,000 times brighter than the Sun, takes about 550 years to travel to Earth.

By Tim Sterrett

## Honey Princess Report

By Blair Hetherington

I had a fantastic month being Princess!! August was full of LOTS of travel. I would say so far being at the fairs is one of my best memories. I love getting the chance to meet each of the local county beekeepers one on one and learn more about the process of beekeeping. Sometimes I find it challenging to speak about beekeeping when most of my experience is through a book, but our association members have really taken the time to work with me and show me photos of their successes and downfalls over the years to help me better educate the public.

On a sillier note, I was given the opportunity to go to the Delaware County 4-H fair where we opened up the hive to explain to people how the bees work. Forgetting that bees are not fond of the color black, I was stung in the eyebrow



while giving the demonstration, but I kept chugging right on through as to not scare the public into thinking bees were frightening. Fun fact of my reign, putting Windex on bee stings actually does reduce swelling (family and I are assuming it is the ammonia in the mix that takes away the bump).

I would like to personally thank the Freeman's of Twin Oaks Apiary in Schuylkill County and Dave's Apiary for being so welcoming and sweet to me all week of the Schuylkill County Fair. Both took the time to teach me much more about our lovely hobby and shared some great bear stories with me. Thank you to Julie and Rick for taking such great care of me all week and making my reign all the more sweet.

On a final note, I also had the great chance to visit the Harford fair and meet our northern keepers. There was a fantastic turnout for the youth of the county and thankfully Farm Bureau brought a great darts game, showing youth how bees pollinate numerous crops and had great fact sheet for students to take and learn more about how pollinators affect our crops and food supply.

I look forward to visiting the Bloomsburg Fair next month and the last bit of time I have left with the association. Thank you all for the fun I've been experiencing thus far!

Don't forget, if you would like to invite me or Queen Jessica to your event, contact Rachel Bryson at [honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org) or (717) 300-0146.

## PSBA's Annual Conference November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Plans are finalized for our annual conference at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. The program begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and includes our business meeting and election of officers, with our banquet Friday evening. On Saturday, presentations on the latest news and research will be continued. An **Executive Meeting** will be held **Friday at 9:30 a.m.** in the conference room at the Inn. **County representatives are urged to attend.**

There will be a \$45.00 registration fee (includes both days) to help cover the program expenses. The registration fee for Friday only is \$25.00 and Saturday only is \$35.00 (Member guest is \$30.00). There will be no registration fee for Executive Meeting representatives on Friday (one representative per county).

### Banquet

The Annual Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Country Cupboard Friday evening, Nov. 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The cost of the Banquet (which includes a buffet dinner) is \$30.00 for adults, \$11.00 for ages 11-12, \$8.00 for ages 6-10, 5 & under, free. These prices include tax and tip. Please make your reservations with Yvonne Crimbring, (570) 673-8201, **before Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Door prizes are being given out during the banquet and we are looking for donations. Anyone wishing to donate door prizes, please send them to Dave Hackenberg at 1466 Crossroads Dr., Lewisburg, PA 17837 or bring them with you to the meeting.

The Country Cupboard Inn is located on Rt. 15, 3 miles north of Lewisburg. When coming in from the East or West - take I-80 to Rt. 15S exit and travel south approximately 10 miles.

### Need a Place to Stay?

If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Country Cupboard Best Western, 524-5500. Be sure to mention you are with PSBA. Make your reservations early!! They will be holding a block of rooms for PSBA until October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other places to stay include: Country Inn Suites, 570-524-6600; Hampton Inn-Lewisburg, 570-522-8500; Days Inn University, Rt. 15, Lewisburg, 523-1171; Econo-Lodge, Rt. 15 South, Lewisburg, 523-1106; Comfort Inn, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-8000; and Holiday Inn Express, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I80 & Rt. 15) 568-1100. For Bed and Breakfast accommodations: Brookpark Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, 523-0220 and Pineapple Inn, Market St., Lewisburg, 524-6200. All above phone numbers are in the 570 area code.

# PSBA Annual Conference

Nov 13 - 14, 2015

Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard  
Lewisburg, PA

## Friday, November 13

- 9:30 – 11:30 PSBA Board Meeting
- 12:00 pm Registration opens
- 12:30 pm Vendors Open
- 1:00 pm **Charlie Vorisek:** “Welcome”
- 1:10 pm **Karen Roccasecca:** “State of the Bees”
- 1:40 pm **Maryann Frazier:** “The Pesticide Problem: Talking to the Press and Public”
- 2:20 pm **Dr. Marla Spivak:** “The Benefits of Propolis to Bee Health”
- 3:20 pm Break
- 3:40 pm Business Meeting

## Friday Evening

- 6:00 pm **Banquet at Country Cupboard**  
Welcome: Charlie Vorisek
- Dinner
- Guest Speakers:  
PA Secretary of Agriculture  
Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi  
Beekeeper of the Year Award  
Honey Queen and Princess Reports  
Crowning of PA Honey Queen for 2016
- Auction

## Saturday, November 14

- 8:00 am Registration and vendors open
- 8:30 am **Dr. James Nieh:** “The Dangerous, Beautiful World of Honey Bee Communication”
- 9:20 am **Dr. Marla Spivak:** “Impact of Landscapes on Bee Health and Survivorship”
- 10:20 am Break
- 10:40 am **Clare Densley:** “Romancing the Honey Bee – Our Complex Relationship with *Apis mellifera* and the Authentic Poetry of the Hive.”
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Erin MacGregor-Forbes:** “Artificial Swarming as a Management Tool and IPM Varroa Control”
- 2:00 pm **Dr. Dewey Caron:** “What Beekeepers are Doing to Improve Colony Survivorship”
- 3:00 pm **Panel Discussion:** Maryann Frazier, Karen Roccasecca, Clare Densley, Erin MacGregor-Forbes and Dewey Caron.

*To be included: **Cooking with Honey Demonstration** by the Honey Queen and Princess, for spouses and families.*

**Mail vs. Email**

The Pennsylvania State Beekeeper’s Association is sending out the newsletter via email instead of through the USPS to those members who are interested. If you would like to receive “The Pennsylvania Beekeeper” by email, please contact Yvonne Crimbring at [pabee1@frontier.com](mailto:pabee1@frontier.com) and include your name, mailing address, phone number along with current email address stating that you’d like to receive the PSBA newsletter via email.



Jim Stein, Aaron Fisher, Mark Gingrich, Steve Repesky and Jeff Berta discussing queens at the PSBA Summer Picnic.  
Photo by Ken Hoover