



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

August 2016
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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

PSBA Summer Picnic highlights will be included in the September issue.

News 'n Views...

The summer has been a blitz of activity. Seems like it was just snowing on April nucs and now it's time to be getting mite levels down as colonies ramp up for the fall honey flow and winter brood. I'm forcing myself to take time and do sugar rolls for mites. What looks good now can change quickly. Most of my winter losses can be attributed to mites. My challenge is finding something effective while having supers on. There never seems to be a large enough window of time when there isn't something trickling in. Most of the 'soft' treatments need to be repeated every seven days for three treatments in order to catch the phoretic mites as they hatch out. Since the EPA approval, I've ended up using oxalic drip. The only information that doesn't appear to plagiarize all the same stuff, is Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping. Armed with some knowledge, numbers and common sense, I treated in April-May, every time I opened to check queen rite, progress or swarming signs. Roughly once a week for a month, until honey started coming in. Rather than a syringe, I found a common spray bottle will dispense 1ml per trigger pull. The method is very quick. But does it work? I have not seen any bee or brood damage. At the end of July, my sugar rolls are 0-10 mites. Most often less than 6, with 3 or less being the target. I will repeat treatment at this July-August slower nectar flow. Then continue to monitor and treat as needed after the September honey comes off.

I bought a microscope to check the effectiveness of the 'leg-biter' bees. Looking at these nasty monsters up close is a great motivator to get rid of them.

I was able to attend the International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy at Penn State in July. I attended on behalf of PSBA as a sponsor of the conference. The conference brought attendees from Europe, Canada and across the United States. The topics and subject matter was all timely with much cutting-edge information. One of my take-away themes is the importance of keeping bees healthy at all stages with a balanced population from nurse to forager. Foragers are often job-specific for their short life. Gene Robinson's studies from year's ago and his "yellow 57". He watched a worker tagged "Yellow 57" for 3 weeks and it ONLY collected water...from the same water source.

And I've heard people say, 'wouldn't it be neat to microchip the bees?'...Well, one study did exactly that. Every bee in a 3-frame observation hive was micro-chipped and monitored.

The next International Pollinator conference will be at U.C. Davis, California, in 2-3 years. Penn State pioneered and spearheaded a great conference.

As a chairperson for the Farm Show, that process never seems to be finished. Some changes are coming for 2017. I have been guilty of resisting some of these changes. Maybe that's a good thing. Once I've come to understand the reasons, I am more comfortable with it. The Farm Show administration must keep their costs and hours of labor within a workable level.

One change will be a \$1.00 entry fee with each exhibit. When the livestock exhibits were faced with increased pen fees, they asked, 'why are they the only ones playing fees to exhibit?' Good question with no reasonable answer. Each year the Farm Show has accommodated the Apiary Exhibit. From custom tables for the Learning Center to the exquisite display case for the Ziegler-Keeney Award and hanging banners, these costs have been absorbed by the Farm Show.

Exhibit registrations require your social security number or business number to pay premiums. It is a PA 'law' before money can be paid out from state funds. Each year the administration spends far too much time trying to pay these premiums. This year had over \$28,000 worth that people did

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not submit a social security number. They will no longer pay any premium without the required tax information.

Beekeepers will **not** need to complete the color class of extracted honey upon registration. Color classes will be determined at check-in. If you have 2 colors, just two entries. The only downside is if both fall into the same color...then only one can remain. There is no accommodation for refunding \$1 at this time. I'll give you a dollar if you insist.

With some commodities, the state organizations are paying the entry fee. This is something we can discuss for future shows.

Before the end of this year, PSBA will need a newsletter editor. Yvonne will be stepping down as Secretary-Treasurer, Membership chair and Newsletter editor, after 40 years. With the help of her husband Glen and daughter, Debbie, the newsletter has been often taken for granted. They have done an excellent job for more years than some members have been alive. Memberships and newsletter can be separated into separate tasks. Secretary-Treasurer is an elected position.

We need persons or ideas to continue the newsletter.

The PSBA board will entertain any ideas, suggestions, nominees or volunteers to continue the newsletter. Yvonne and Debbie have offered to help the transition for whoever steps up. Suggestions for commercial printing would be considered. Perhaps primarily email with limited hardcopies.

The results of the winter loss surveys are being combined with the Penn State 'Landscape Study'. I was able to see some preliminary graphs of how this information can be used. When more people contribute information, the data is more accurate and beneficial. Each of you is a 'Citizen Scientist'. Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research has the technology, personnel and ability. What they need is the raw material and data coming in from the field.

Penn State is blessed with some of the world's best talent and they want to work with us.

The PSBA Annual Fall Meeting and Conference is coming quickly. This year the conference is more centrally located in the state at State College, November 11-12th at the Day's Inn.

Book your reservation soon!! This year's lineup of speakers and presentations rival the best available. A beekeeping 102 has been added for Friday morning, for anyone beyond beginner.

This conference is open to all membership. Watch for details.

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA

president@pastatebeekeepers.org

PSBA's Annual Conference November 11th & 12th

Plans are finalized for our annual conference at the Days Inn, State College.

The Beekeeping 102 Course begins at 9:00 am on Friday, the executive meeting begins at 9:30 am, and the Conference program begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m. followed with a banquet Friday at 6:00 pm. Presentations continue on Saturday, including some of the top researchers in the honey bee world, concluding at 3:00 pm. An Executive Meeting will be held Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Inn. County representatives are urged to attend the Executive Meeting (one representative per county). There will no registration fee for the Friday session for those representatives attending the Executive Meeting.

Otherwise the registration fee is \$45.00 for both days, \$25 for Friday only and \$35 for Saturday only. A member guest is \$30.00.

The fee includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday, Nov 12. There are a variety of eateries within a few blocks of the Inn for those who need lunch on Friday.

For those attending Beekeeping 102, the cost is \$25 for the 3-hour workshop, \$30 for those who choose to stay for the afternoon session of the conference, and \$50 for the full two days.

To pre-register, please complete the Registration Form on Page 17 and mail to Yvonne Crimbring at 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724.

The Annual Banquet will be held at the Days Inn on Friday, Nov 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the Banquet 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. 1st.

Donations of auction items and door prizes are requested, all proceeds to the PA Honey Bee Queen fund. Please send donations to Jeremy Barnes at 1722 Union Church Rd, Seven Valleys, PA 17360, or bring them with you to the meeting.

The Days Inn is located in the center of State College at 240 South Pugh Street, which is a block south of Beaver Street. There is dedicated parking on the south, west and north sides of the Inn.

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PSBA Conference (Continued from Page 3)

If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Days Inn for a group rate of \$109 per night + taxes. Phone 814-238-8454 and mention you are with PSBA to receive the special rate.

Editor's Note: Additional information on the Beekeeping 102 Course is on Page 19.



PA Queen Improvement Project – Eastern Pennsylvania

“PA Queen Improvement Projects” 2016, Outreach / Field Day – East, was held on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at Meadow View Beekeeping, LLC in Bethel, PA.



Photo by Lori Stahl

In all, there were in excess of 40 people that attended. It was a beautiful day that saw a high temperature in the low 80’s and featured bright sunshine with low humidity. There were (9) county clubs represented, many by their club’s presidents. We distributed (60) 48 hour Purdue cells and countless grafts taken from (3) overwintered Purdue daughters that I brought the day of the event. In addition, a colony that has overwintered (2) consecutive years in PA and an overwintered VP were available to graft from. The facility and refreshments were provided by Steve Finke. I was the organizer of the event.

Charlie Vorisek held a similar event the same day in Linesville, PA in the north western corner of the state. The PA Queen Improvement Project co-chairs are Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich.

Mark Gingrich

PSBA Annual Conference Speakers

The 2016 PSBA Annual Conference will be held Friday, Nov 11 and Saturday, Nov 12 at **The Days Inn, State College.**

Two keynote addresses are scheduled for the conference.

The first, at 2:30 pm on Friday, is by Mark Winston, entitled **Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping.**

Many of us have read, and refer consistently to, Mark’s *The Biology of the Honey Bee*, published in 1993, and more recently we have been inspired by *Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive*, published two years ago, and which incidentally was awarded the 2015 Canadian Governor General’s Literary Award for Nonfiction. Mark is one of those rare, highly respected scientists who communicates easily with the public. In that respect he occupies the same rarified atmosphere as Tom Sealey.

The second, at 10:45 on Saturday, is by Keith Delaplane, titled **Thinking Superorganismally: How Evolutionary Biology can make us Better Beekeepers and can Improve Bee Breeding**, and as such is complementary to the superb series of articles that have been running in the *American Bee Journal* for the last two years.

Keith was the feature of a spectacular interview by Jennifer Berry, published in *Bee Culture* in Nov. 2015. A professor at the University of Georgia in Athens, he has written over 75 research, extension and educational publications, authored three books, and has been an editor for several others – including the 42nd edition of ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture. He has presented hundreds of lectures to local, state, national and international political, academic, scientific and beekeeping audiences. Perhaps his most recent, and possibly unusual, honor was when Keith became a Member of the British Empire, a result of the impact he made while on sabbatical at the National Bee Unit, in York, England, in 2012-2013.

After November both Keith Delaplane and Mark Winston will be able to add the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers’ Association Annual Conference to their distinguished resumes!



Classified

Wanted to buy:

Gently used bottling tank. Also interested in gently used extractor and other equipment.
Call John, 412-576-3062

Jeremy's Corner

In May, Mary and I spent two weeks visiting beekeepers in Slovenia. Why there? In part because one out of every 210 Slovenians is a beekeeper, compared to 1:3250 in the US and 1:4100 in Pennsylvania. In other words the density of beekeepers is almost sixteen times greater in Slovenia than in the US, and beekeeping is an integral part of the landscape and of the culture. This was made evident by an area map at a bus stop in a small village in the foothills of the Alps, the legend of which included a symbol to show where local beekeepers and their products could be found within a twenty kilometer radius of the hamlet.

One of the reasons offered for this is that the Austro-Hungarian Empire, of which Slovenia was a part (or the Duchy of Carniola as it was then known) was never a colonial power, never had sugar plantations nor a cheap supply of sugar, and so preserved a long relationship with honey.

We spent a morning with Marija Sivez and her husband Dusan Zunke who, between them, run 500 colonies (or 'families' as they are called in Slovenia.) Over a delightful lunch that she had prepared for us, Marija explained a little of the country's recent history in the following way: her grandparents were born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and her parents in the new Yugoslavia that was created after the First World War. She and Dusan were born in the Second World War when Yugoslavia was occupied by the Axis powers, and because she was born in the western region, and he in the east, she had to learn Italian and acquire an Italian name, and he similarly but in German.

Her children were born in communist Yugoslavia, ruled by Josep Tito, and her grandchildren in the new independent republic of Slovenia created in 1993 which, in 2004, became part of the European Union.

So it is not all that rare for an elderly Slovenian to have lived in six different countries in his or her lifetime without every having to leave the village of his or her birth.

Incidentally, at the Slovenian Beekeeping Center, the Secretary General, Anton Tometz, described with much pride how, despite the turmoil the past century, beekeepers had kept in constant contact with their colleagues throughout Europe.

Despite this turbulent past, or perhaps because of it, we found the people of this beautiful country to be proud, gentle, kind and generous to a fault. It is almost as if the present age of peace and relative prosperity is appreciated all the more because of the tumultuous times that preceded it. And this is expressed in the sheer cleanliness and quietness of the

countryside, qualities that were reinforced on a walk along a gravel path to a waterfall when I saw a discarded cigarette butt and found myself feeling outraged, even violated.

Like many millions of people I have had my fair share of pain, failure and losses in my life. As a twenty year old I imagined working, retiring, and eventually dying, in the country in which I had grown up. I did not anticipate, for example, having to leave in the middle of a civil war and eventually working in five countries on three different continents. But I did, and in retrospect I see it as a rare opportunity. Like many Slovenians, I now treasure and seek kindness, gentility and generosity in contrast to the turmoil and upheaval of earlier life events.

In his book, "Second Wind: Navigating the Passage to a Slower, Deeper and More Connected Life," Dr. Bill Thomas draws a distinction between adulthood and elderhood. In contrast to "the mania for adultish independence and achievement," elders have a life experience and an awareness of their own mortality that provides wisdom, serenity and an ability not only to be at peace with themselves but also the skill to be peacemakers among others.

Thomas suggests there are three perspectives as one approaches the end of adulthood. The first, and most vociferous, are the Deniers, who proudly reject the changes that come with aging and posit a future where one can be forever young. Secondly are the Realists who admit they are changing but dislike the process and are committed to resisting them. The third and smallest group is the Enthusiasts, who openly acknowledge the difficulties that lie ahead but are eager to explore the new opportunities for growth that the passage of time provides.

Can these perspectives apply to a country and to honey bees? If so, perhaps what Mary and I experienced in Slovenia was a culture of Enthusiasm in which the painful past is accepted, current difficulties are accepted and there is an excitement about the future. And without wanting to be overly anthropomorphic, my guess is that most animals, insects and birds, including honey bees, live fully in the present (it has been suggested, for example, that for a dog there is no such thing as a good or a bad walk) which includes the necessity of preparing for the future, if not of individuals, at least of the species.

Certainly the three perspectives - Denial, Realism and Enthusiasm - provide the necessary paradigms as I start my eighth decade, together with a determination to be consciously more of a grateful Enthusiast. And the honey bees are an essential part of that determination, whether as an example, a comfort or an inspiration.

Jeremy Barnes

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the August issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is August 25th.**

PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 6 hosted by Fisher Bee Farm, McVeytown.
The Executive Board will be meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Burgh Bees

Sunday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. at Settlers Cabin Park – Apache Shelter. Annual Picnic. For additional information, email Bob@burghbees.com

Franklin County Beekeepers

Saturday, August 20, 9:00 a.m. Kingsland Apiary, Mercersburg. National Honey Bee Day, Picnic and Yard Sale. Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Saturday, August 20, 11:00 a.m. at the home of John and Joan Bradley, Shinglehouse. Annual Picnic. For directions or additional information, email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com or contact Joan Bradley 814-697-7586.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, August 25, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Katie Lee, Midwest Honey Bee Tech-Transfer Team, Topic: Varroa Management (presentation via Skype). Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, August 25, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Meghan Milbrath of Michigan will describe Sustainable Beekeeping Using Fall Nucs and Local Queens. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

2 C's and A Bee Beekeepers

Saturday, August 27, 10:00 a.m. at Mountz Memorial Park, Smithmill. Annual picnic and auction. Visit the website www.ccbee.org or email secretary@ccbee.org for more information.

Northwest PA Beekeepers

Saturday, August 27, Albion Fairgrounds, Albion. Annual Picnic. For more information, contact Deb Chilcott at 814-398-8520 or visit the website www.nwpabeekeepers.com

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. For additional information, contact Renee Czubowicz, 570-335-3091 or Dr. Maggie Miller, 570-877-3064 or visit the club's Facebook page or website:

Lackawanabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com or email lackawannabackyardbeekeepers@gmail.com

North East PA Beekeepers

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

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg.,

Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634 or visit www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., Kutztown University, Kutztown. Movie Night. Visit LVBA website or contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 for more information.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, September 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension in Coudersport. For directions or additional information, email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com or contact Joan Bradley 814-697-7586.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Maryann Fraizer, Topic: Addressing the public in regard to pesticides: What beekeepers should know. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Jeremy Barnes will describe beekeeping practices in Slovenia, not least the use of the A-Z hive. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. at the BC Conservation District Wetlands, . Speaker: Perry Arlia (President of Washington County Beekeepers Association) "Feeding and Nutrition through the Seasons. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com or visit the website beavervalleybees.com

Franklin County Beekeepers - Seminar

Thursday, September 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Building, Chambersburg. Do you want to be a beekeeper? See if you and your family would like to take up beekeeping, discusses, prices, equipment, tools and bees Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

North East PA Beekeepers

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

Franklin County Beekeepers

Thursday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg. Graduation, Banquet and Silent Auction with special guest speakers and authors of "Smart and Simple Beekeeping", Kirsten & Michael Traynor of Flickerwood Apiary. Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

York County Beekeepers

Saturday, October 8, 5:00 p.m. at the North Hopewell-Winterstown Firehall, Felton. Annual Banquet and David Papke will share 40 Years of Beekeeping. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. For additional information, contact Renee Czubowicz, 570-335-3091 or Dr. Maggie Miller, 570-877-3064 or visit the club’s Facebook page or website: Lackawanabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com or email lackawannabackyardbeekeepers@gmail.com

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634 or visit www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Northwest PA Beekeepers

Saturday, October 15, 1:-00 p.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro. Mead Making Presentation. For more information, contact Deb Chilcott at 814-398-8520 or visit the website www.nwpabeekeepers.com

2016 PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 11 & 12, at the Days Inn, State College. The theme is Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping and the keynote speakers will be Mark Winston and Keith Delaplaine. Guest speaker at the Banquet is Dr. Deb Delaney.



Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Meeting Report

This year’s annual short course and conference were held at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ, July 25 through July 29. One major theme that extended across all 5 days was queens and nucleus colonies (nucs). A total of 19 presentations by a variety of speakers emphasized the importance of locally raised queens and the value of nucs in your apiary in order to arrive at a sustainable apiary. The goal of most of these talks was to inform beekeepers how to eliminate reliance on Spring packages.

In the short course, I presented a lecture series on queen rearing using the Cloake Board method. Additionally, Jennifer Keller and I demonstrated grafting techniques. Monday Erin MacGregor-Forbes and Thursday Doug Vinson discussed non-grafting techniques for obtaining queens. Tuesday, Doug Vinson explained how summer splits help with Varroa mite control, and I discussed how I overwinter nucs.

Thursday, Dr. Heather Mattila was awarded the James I Hambleton award and presented a very informative discussion on how well-mated queens enhance the ability of a colony to thrive. She presented evidence that colonies with a queen who has mated with multiple drones are superior to colonies whose queen mated with a single drone. The Mattila talk was followed by Jon Zawislak who reviewed honey bee genetics by describing the genetic variation that occurs during egg

production by the queen. Dr. Jeff Pettis reviewed reasons for queen failure. An important reason is that sperm in the queen’s spermatheca can be killed when the queen is subject to extremes of temperature during shipping. Dr. David Tarpay reviewed optimal conditions within the colony for queen rearing. He stressed that the cell building colony requires 200 or more young nurse bees per queen cell for prime development. Additionally, he emphasized that a mating nuc requires about 1000 workers to adequately support the queen.

Friday, Dr. Tarpay was awarded the Roger A. Morse teaching award. In his acceptance speech, he further discussed how multiply mated queens improve the colony. He also advised that his lab (for a fee) would test queens on a variety of parameters. In the afternoon, Dr. Tarpay detailed research on qualities of a ‘good’ queen, including having greater than 300 ovarioles, having a high number of sperm in her spermatheca from 15 or more drones, and having a low virus levels. He concluded that “good queens make good colonies.” Also in the afternoon Billy Davis explained how he over winters nucs in northern Virginia: he uses two 5 frame medium nuc boxes to successfully over his locally raised bees and queens.

In addition there were 15 presentations concerning Varroa mite and their control. Unfortunately, due to my own teaching, I was unable to attend most of these talks. However, Samuel Ramsey from the Bee Informed Partnership showed in vitro data suggesting that Varroa mites reproduce on honey bee fat pads and not on hemolymph (bee blood) as is usually suggested. If confirmed, this finding may suggest a new treatment strategy.

Overall there were 115 different presentations and workshops (plus 6 apitherapy talks) during the five days, it was impossible to attend all of them. This report summarizes a few of the talks that I was able to attend. Next year’s EAS meeting which will be at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware July 31 to August 4th. I strongly urge you to attend next year to get new information, visit vendors and most importantly, talk bees with many beekeepers.

Vince Aloyo



2016 Beekeeper of the Year Nominations Requested

Nominations are requested for the 2016 Beekeeper of the Year Award. This award is presented annually to a beekeeper that the committee feels meets the guidelines as listed in the June-July issue. 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.

The presentation of this award will be held at the PSBA Banquet, Friday, Nov. 11 at the Days Inn, State College.

Nature Notes

As the **nectar flow** of April, May, and early June fades away, honey bees are likely to be more aggressive toward people who open a hive. Maybe more bees are **at home** with nothing to do. They may be trying **to protect** what honey they have from bees from other hives.

Worker bees carrying nectar or pollen can probably enter any bee colony. Bees with empty stomachs and no pollen showing are blocked by guard bees at hive entrances. Drones can enter any colony. Workers and drones carry Varroa mites from colony to colony.

The **odor** of honey from broken burr comb, or maybe just from an open colony, may excite bees from nearby colonies. When **robber bees** show up, defending bees become aggressive toward anything that moves. If, during inspection, a colony is under pressure from robber bees, the best things to do is close up the hive and reduce the entrances by partially blocking the openings with something. Reducing entrances, helps the bees defend their hive.

Treat for mites! Untreated honey bee colonies will die in three or four years.

This from Chris Biondi, owner of Tesla Bee Supply in SE Pennsylvania: “I treat for Varroa in August with Apiguard (thymol). Then I perform sugar rolls in late September to make sure the Varroa is under control. Last year, I saw “mite bombs” in one apiary in September. The hives had robbed out a neighboring hive or hives that were heavily infested, and brought back tons of mites. Treatment with oxalic acid vapor got them under control and the hives survived the (mild) winter.

“Also, I place a medium frame in the top deep of each hive. The bees build drone comb below it, and I scrape it off once the cells are capped then repeat the process as long as the comb is being built. The Varroa have an affinity for the drone larvae.

“And I use screened bottom boards on my hives to complete my Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy.”

Blooming in August? How about **ragweed**? Ragweed is a **wind-pollinated** plant. We have two varieties: tall ragweed with leaves like mittens with two thumbs and small ragweed with leaves more like carrot plants. Flick a finger against a ripe ragweed flower and watch the pollen fly off.

We also have **goldenrod**, a tall plant with bushy yellow, **insect-pollinated** flowers. Insects collect the sticky pollen from goldenrod.

Just before August begins, **katydids** will have begun calling

“katy-did” and “katy didn’t” in the evening. Katydids are **harmless** and one might be attracted to the porch light.



Katydid (By Andy McLemore via Creative Commons)

What causes the **Dog Days of Summer**? **Sirius**, the Dog Star follows Orion up and across the winter night sky. Sirius is the brightest star we can see other than the Sun. The ancients knew that Sirius was visible before dawn in summer, rising close to the Sun and moving across the sky near the Sun. The **extra light and heat** provided by **Sirius**, the Dog Star, causes the Dog Days of Summer. The ancients reasoned it out.

As darkness falls, **Vega** is overhead. **Arcturus**, which was overhead in early summer, has slid to the West. In the south, red/orange **Mars** is the brightest object. Above and a bit left is **Saturn**. Below, completing a triangle, is twinkling red/orange **Antares**.

Tim Sterrett



2017 Honey Queen Applications Available

The Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program is in the midst of a successful 2016 promotion year, but the time has come to start spreading the buzz about the 2017 Queen and Princess positions.

Your help is needed to keep our program strong. Information for the 2017 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. Contact Rachel Bryson at 717-300-0146 or email honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org to request an application mailed via USPS.

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.

Honey Queen Report

Hello all!

The past several months have been filled with many promotions. Looking back to May, my travels began at the Bear Creek Festival. This festival was geared towards teaching children about the environment. At my stand, I talked about honey bees and beekeeping.



Bear Creek Festival with Schuylkill County Fair Princess

The rest of May was filled with school visits. The first visit was with Rolling Ridge Elementary School in Erie, PA. Here, I talked to all of the second graders. The kids were very interested and excited to make bee head bands at the end of the presentation. The next week, I visited two elementary schools in the Wilson School District near Reading, PA. Between these two schools, I spoke to kindergartners, first graders and third graders. This was my first time presenting to children as young as kindergartners, but I was happy to see how interested they were in learning about the honey bee.

Rounding out May, I had spent two days at my own high school for the FFA program's Third Grade Tour. Third Grade Tour is a two-day event in which all the third graders in the district come to the high school to learn about agriculture. This year, the theme was plants, so I was asked to attend the event and run a workshop on pollination.

June was another busy month for me and the Honey Queen Program. I started off the month at Octorara High School in Chester County for their annual OABEST Expo, which showcases student accomplishments and provides an agricultural outreach opportunity for the community. At this event, I spoke to community members about why honey bees are important to us and had the opportunity to speak with PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding.

A few weeks later, I attended the Bee Happy Pollinator Festival at Tait Farm in Centre Hall. This event was focused

around pollination and the insects that pollinate. Through this event, those attending gained a better understanding of how pollination occurs and its importance to our food supply. Two days later, I gave two presentations to 4-H students at their Ag Science Day Camp. The students were enthusiastic when learning about honey bees and asked great questions.

Towards the end of June, I traveled to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, PA for their annual celebration of Pollinator Week. Here, I worked with Charlie and Cathy Vorisek to educate the public on honey bees and beekeeping. We held children's activities for local groups and I spent time by the observation hive answering questions.

I then travelled to Monaca for Sen. Elder Vogel's Kids Extravaganza. This was a fantastic event held at the Community College of Beaver County. I shared a table with local beekeeper Jim Hoffman. The kids really enjoyed the observation hive and the search to find the queen.

To end June, I spoke at the Craighead House in Boiling Springs, PA. The purpose of the Craighead House is to promote environmental awareness. I spoke to the group at the meeting were all very interested and eager to learn. They spent an hour asking questions.



During the month of July, I had the amazing opportunity to travel throughout many countries in Europe with my relatives.

The rest of the summer is already packed full of events and I'm looking forward to seeing what the fall has to bring. If you would like to invite me to your event, please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

Sarah McTish

Beekeeping 102

Brought to you by Deb Delaney and Jim Bobb

Friday, November 11, 2016

9:00 AM – Noon

(Immediately prior to the PSBA Annual Meeting, Days Inn, State College, PA)

Bee Anatomy – A Look at Bees from the Inside Out

Beekeeping through the Year with a List of Top Ten Goals, Tips, and Techniques

Keeping Bees Alive over the Winter

The cost is \$25 for the 3 hour workshop
\$30 if you choose to stay for the afternoon session of the conference, \$50 for the full two days.

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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.

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