



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

A note to my friends...

I used to tell everyone that I could keep bees alive eleven months out of the year with March being the only month I have yet to figure out. Well I can tell you I figured it out this year. The three weeks of above normal temperatures this past month caused the blooms to show themselves three week earlier than normal and the mild weather allowed the bees to take advantage of the situation. In central PA we had so many early blooms overlapping my bees packed away some of the prettiest frames of pollen I have seen. Virtual rainbow splashed frames of pollen and other frames filled with fresh nectar just waiting to be mixed into the cocktail we call bee bread.

Pollen is the protein source our honey bees require during their development. This protein is comprised of twenty two different amino acids and each source of supply is made up of several different amino acids. Each different plant/trees flowers provide from one to several different amino acids, but no flower has all of them. This is why the rainbow colored frame of stored pollen is very important to the colonies health. All of the different colors of pollen provide different amino acids and this helps to supply the colony with a complete and balanced diet. It is kind of like you eating at the same fast food joint every day and ordering the same meal. Sure you will survive but you will not thrive. It takes all different types of food in your diet to get that balanced nutrition we need. Honey bees are not different.

It seems as though the bear population has not been reduced to the desired level our Game Commission was aiming for in our beautiful mountainous state. I was talking to the President of the Centre County Beekeepers, who happens to be a deputy game warden, and he broke the news to our club at the last meeting. I am ready for them this season. No, the gun is still in the closet, but I have some shiny new solar fences ready for action. I have a good friend in Ohio who has been a successful beekeeper for a long time and through his travel and experiences he has helped me get what I need to keep these bruins at bay. Roy Hendrickson is a commercial beekeeper from Chardon, Ohio who speaks at many beekeeping meetings and shares his knowledge. He made some suggestions on fences I am looking forward to trying out. I hope to

concentrate once again on helping my colonies grow not just keeping them one step ahead of Yogi and Winnie.

We had our conference call in March and I would like to thank those who were able to join in. It is important to have these calls and hear from all beekeepers around the State. The Constitution of the PA State Beekeepers states one of our objectives is, "to promote closer fellowship between beekeepers and between the County Beekeeping Associations." This is great advice for all to hear. We may not always agree with one another and we will never agree on the best way to manage our colonies. But I can guarantee one thing will never change as long as people keep honey bees in a box. That is the fact that the moment a honey bee flies out of that box it no longer matters who owns the box. Honey bees all have the same purpose and mission in mind as they complete their work, the perpetuation of the colony. They do not always agree and even collect different types of pollen on the same day. We may not agree but it should be every beekeepers mission to promote honey bees and their extreme importance to our society. I can assure you that after growing up as a wild kid in the country and then collecting myself enough to begin my career as a probation/parole officer for Centre County Courts right out of college, there has been more than one occasion in these many bee meetings I have had to bite my lip instead of saying what was on my mind. I know this may come as a shock to many of you as you may very well have already concluded I am the nicest guy you ever met. Well it is true my lip gets sore. I guess I have learned over the years that I don't know everything and neither do you. So let us just get along and agree to disagree and keep our honey bees in the focus.

Now get out there and get to beekeeping.

Warren



Survival Struggle

There have been some very encouraging stories of winter survival this spring. Conventional wisdom would say the unusually mild winter was a benefit to the bees. And if temperature were the only challenging factor for bee survival, I would certainly agree. On the other end of the spectrum, I heard stories of high losses. Some of these losses can be attributed to starvation. Colonies that started into winter with marginal honey supplies probably used it all by mid January. Warmer temperatures allowed the bees to be more active and brood rearing may have never completely stopped. Bees will use a lot of resources raising brood.

I did a combination of wintering schemes searching for what might work best. I tried to take my losses last November. The tail end of our season in the northwest was rainy and the honey production wasn't very good, leaving hives short on stores. I culled through 105 colonies. Anything that was weak with bees or honey got combined with stronger colonies. My logic being that the weak colonies were already doomed, so if I combined them and lost them anyway, the end result is the same. If some survived then that's a plus. In a few cases I combined 3 weak colonies (Queens included). I ended up with 85 out of the 105. And yes, some of the combined colonies did survive.

I left 10 colonies on outdoor locations in my area. I moved 20 south of Pittsburgh to my cousin's, to see if they would winter any different there. 45 were moved indoors where it is light-tight and the temperature was constantly between 42 and 48 degrees.

About mid January things were looking pretty good. A few losses to nosema and mites. (I did not treat anything for mites last season, so that didn't surprise me) Mid February showed a few more losses. I had added big candy blocks and some outdoor hives had completely consumed them. Then a bear got two locally, between snow storms in February. Lost 5 of the 20 below Pittsburgh. Again looked like heavy mite loads. Overall, I had losses, but that's not new for me.

I moved my indoor bees outside the first week of March, noting they had decent populations and should transition in good order. Once the weather allowed me to check brood, I didn't find signs there was much brood rearing happening in any hives yet. But the populations seemed good enough to get things started.

In the 2-3 weeks since the weather got warm I have continued to lose colonies. Good populations have dwindled to the point I put them into nuc boxes. This is a mystery point to me. Why do these populations fall off so quickly? This seems to happen every spring now. The older workers appear to fly out and not make it back. Have they simply run to the end of

their life cycle? Why can't they make 21 more days until the new brood hatches? Is there something in last fall's stored pollen that pushed them over the edge? Lots of questions.

So, my 85 are now 42. 50% loss...again. Make that 41. I got a call this morning that a bear made a main course out of a lone hive on at a neighbor's. They tried calling me last night. That must be what bumped me off the PSBA conference call.

Charlie Vorisek

Want to use an Atrium

If any PSBA member has an event and would like to setup an atrium, just like the one at the Farm Show, let me know. We have two in the east side of the state at the Eagle Scout's home. The PSBA owns these and they are for the use of our membership or any association. Email Charlie Vorisek at VicePresident@pastatebeekeepers.org to schedule an atrium.

2012 Honey Queen Brochures

The 2012 PSBA Honey Queen Brochures have arrived! They feature PSBA Honey Queen Jessica Long along with honey recipes, tips and facts. Cost is \$10.00 per hundred (plus shipping). Please purchase the brochures to help you increase your honey sales and support the honey queen program. The brochures are available for pick-up at the picnic in Pittsburgh; Glenn & Yvonne Crimbring's home, Canton, (570) 673-8201; or Stu Mathias's home. To order, contact Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036, phone 717-533-2231.

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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 pabeel@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.

A View from Honesdale

Hi Fellow Beekeepers,
This will be my last column as I have submitted my resignation as 2nd Vice President of the PSBA. I started my beekeeping career in 1989 and joined the NY Honey Producers Association. In the late 90's I met Dennis vanEngelsdorp at Cornell. When his funding was pulled at Cornell even though he wrote all the manuals which are still in use for the Master Beekeeping program, he told me he was coming to PA and asked me to join the PSBA. I came over and a few years later became a Bee Inspector. When I heard Dr. Medhat Nasr, while attending a NY State Fall Meeting in Saratoga in the late 90's, describe his new formic acid pads that he developed with David VanderDussen and how effective they were against *Varroa* I became an advocate. As a President of a NE Bee Club, I told the membership about it and said I would try to make it legal in the US. I ranted and raved every chance I got against the Federal Government's intransigence. I then said if they use it in Canada and also in Europe, I decided I would smuggle it into the US, which I did. I started getting calls from beekeepers all over the state on how it was done. Of course, I shared my nefarious methods.

I am a very direct person and say it the way it is. I have decided that at 72 years all my major battles are behind me. I have no ambition to lead an organization that's path is decided in ways I don't share. Therefore as what happens in October of every year to our drones, I deny myself the warmth of the hive. I will implement my straight up approach to beekeeping in my fiefdom, the NEPA Beekeepers. I wish you all bonne chance and je ne regrette rien.

Charlie Kinbar, purepahoney@gmail.com

What was the American Indian name for the European Honey bee?

rekce Byra Gyb ddti nbuS
yl Fd na nati h WehT
:re w n A

Things My Wife Makes Fun of Me For

- 1.) Keeping track of the value of my honey in the belief that this is one of the few hobbies that comes out on the plus side of a cost/benefit analysis.
- 2.) Spending a day at the local fair saying the same things again and again ... and enjoying doing so.
- 3.) Declining to wear a veil whenever I can get away with it, and not carrying an Epipen. Hey, I can see the one day eggs much better without a veil.
- 4.) Getting packets of pollen for Christmas – and truly appreciating the thoughtfulness.
- 5.) Looking forward to a morning of surrounding myself with insects who (she thinks) want to sting me.
- 6.) My brother-in-law's fondness of referring to me as a "wacko bee guy."
- 7.) Replacing damaged hive bodies every winter while being totally satisfied with the 15-year-old carpeting in the living room.
- 8.) Finding different creative ways to answer the question, "Do you ever get stung?" e.g.. "Only once a year, by the IRS"
- 9.) Looking like a drowned, filthy, swollen, red-faced rat after getting caught with a hive open in the rain.
- 10.) Being unable to go on a walk without peering at every large tree looking for a feral colony.

Jeremy Barnes

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 5/13 and receives the newsletter at 144 Bassett St., Clinton, 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 May 20, he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, *The Speedy Bee* or *The Small Beekeepers Journal* . When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.

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Owner



Nature Notes

Male **goldfinches** at the bird feeder have molted and grown new bright yellow and black feathers. **Robins** have built mud and grass nests. Is a robin listening for a worm when it holds still and tilts its head to the side? The bird is probably focusing one eye on the ground to see a worm or a bug.

In the birdhouse, the moss nest is **chickadees**; the messy nest with some big feathers is **tree swallows**; the neat grass or pine needle nest is **bluebirds**; and the stick nest which may be built on top of another bird's nest is **house wrens**. The messy nest of leaves on a shelf in the garage is **Carolina wrens**. The nest in a hanging planter or in the wreath on the door is **house finches**. The flimsy nest on an evergreen branch is **mourning doves**.

A noisy family of **crows** may build a nest near the top of an evergreen and cooperate to raise a brood of noisy young crows.

Blue jays will be cruising the woods and yard looking for eggs and nestlings to feed to their own young. The jays often have an escort of agitated parent birds harassing them.

Cooper's hawks nest near the tops of spruce trees in the suburbs. The birds alert each other with a single loud "gick" note and may announce us as we walk by with a "kek-kek-kek-kek" call.

Small sparrows with unstreaked breasts and rufous caps are **chipping sparrows**. They hunt for insects on lawns under shade trees.

Tanagers, orioles, and warblers, birds that eat only insects, fly south in autumn. They are returning now. Birds do a spectacular job of controlling insect populations, combing vegetation for creepy-crawlies. Looked at another way, we store our best and safest pesticide in the tropics for the winter. It returns on its own, eats bugs, constructs a factory (a nest), produces a new model for next summer (baby birds), and leaves enough insects to continue the cycle for many years. We tinker with this system at our peril.

Screech owls nest in cavities in trees. Their young will leave the nest and cling to branches while still dependent on their parents for food. Screech owl parents will move humans away from young owls hidden in trees by diving at our heads while whinnying loudly. People who have to walk in an area defended by screech owls can try carrying an open umbrella to keep the attacking owls up a bit higher.

Late in the evening, the **Big Dipper** is standing on its handle. Follow the **arc** of the curved handle east (to the right) to bright **Arcturus** and continue to (speed on to) **Spica**. Reddish planet **Mars** is high overhead by late evening. In June, **Arcturus** will be overhead as darkness falls.

By Tim Sterrett

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Mobile: 412-225-0930

25th Annual Short Course

The Capital Area Beekeepers Association will be conducting their 25th Annual Short Course the first two Saturdays in May. The course is geared toward the beginning beekeeper but will also benefit those with experience.

Part I, of the course, will be held on May 5 starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mt. Road, Dauphin. Part II will be held May 12 starting at 12:00 noon at Dave Anderson's Apiary, 7081A Colebrook Road, Palmyra. The cost for registration is \$40.00, which includes a one-year membership in the association. For additional information, contact Jim Hoover, 717-691-1413, email hooverdron@aol.com

Address Changed?

If you have changed your address (mail, email or temporary) 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 .50 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.

Subscription Rates

(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

American Bee Journal	Bee Culture
1 year \$19.50	1 year \$21.00
2 years 37.00	2 years 38.00
3 years 52.15	

The Small Beekeeper's Journal	The Speedy Bee
\$12.95	1 year \$17.25
(Regular Rate)	Quarterly Issues

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	\$23.00	Full Page	\$ 40.00
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6 Months		One Year	
Full Page	\$75.00	Full Page	\$ 150.00
1/2 Page	40.00	1/2 Page	75.00
1/4 Page	23.00	1/4 Page	50.00
1/8 Page	12.00	1/8 Page	26.00

2012 PSBA Officers

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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.

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**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 _____

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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 May issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is April 27th.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, April 11 @7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Building, Montrose. Speaker: Jim Barber on “Hiving a Package” and speaker: Kevin Baker on “Honey Plants”. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m. at the Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville. Email info@thebeeyard.org for more information.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. at the North Museum of Natural History and Science, Lancaster. Spring Management. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Center, Allentown. Speaker: Ron Bogansky on “Increasing Colony Numbers by Splits/Swarms”. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Capital Area Beekeepers

Friday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Show Bldg., Harrisburg. All are welcome. For more information, contact Linda Purcell, CABA Secretary, at 717-566-6327, email Linda.sweetbee@gmail.com

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State York Campus in the meeting room of the John and Judy Ruhl Student

Community Center Bldg. Speaker: Jeffrey Pettis, Beltsville Bee Research Lab. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911, email snewgeese@yahoo.com for more information.

Beaver Valley Beekeepers

Monday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. at the Wetlands, Beaver Co. Conservation District Ed. Center, Aliquippa. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

25th Annual Short Course

Saturdays May 5 & 12, sponsored by the Capital Area Beekeepers Association. Part I will be held on May 5 starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Dauphin Co. Ag. & Natural Resources Center, Dauphin. Part II will be held May 12 starting at 12:00 noon at Dave Anderson’s Apiary, Palmyra. The cost for registration is \$40.00. For additional information, contact Jim Hoover, 717-691-1413, email hooverdron@aol.com

Beaver Valley Beekeepers

Saturday, May 5, at the Baden, PA. New Beekeeper Outyard Meeting. For more information, contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery. “The History of Beekeeping” – Speaker to be determined. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at 484-955-0768 or email: honeyhillfarm@verizon.net.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 9 @7:00 p.m. at the Monroe Co. Environmental Education Center, Stroudsburg. Contact Bob Armstrong at 570-620-9421, email RJArmstrong1@verizon.net for more information.

Chester County Beekeepers

Saturday, May 12, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 15, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Lancaster. Apiary Development. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911.

(Continued on Page 11)



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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Center, Allentown. Speaker: Vince Aloyo, Topic: Queen Rearing, Cloake Board method. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, May 19, at Jim Wood's Apiary, Lawton. Field Day. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, May 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State York Campus in the meeting room of the John and Judy Ruhl Student Community Center Bldg. Speaker: Nature Photographer Stephen McDaniel. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-091, email snewgeese@yahoo.com for more information.

2012 PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 21st. Hosted by Burgh Bees (new Pittsburgh area association) The picnic will be held at the Chatham University, Pittsburgh. Watch for additional information in next month's newsletter.

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 9 & 10 at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. More information at a later date.

Pennsylvania Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Long

Hello fellow beekeepers! We could not have asked for a more beautiful month to get our bees through the winter, so far. This weather has also made it easier to travel across the state promoting the bee keeping industry!

To finish out the month of February I traveled to Cheswick on the 28th to speak to 90 students. Third graders at Acmetonia Primary School were all looking forward to learning about honey bees, so before my visit they prepared questions for me.

On March 1st, I gave two presentations to 465 students and 25 teachers at Jefferson-Morgan Elementary School. Everyone was excited for "Read Across America Day" and I was able to help celebrate this day by reading beekeeping book to the younger classes.

March 9th, I gave my first television interview on the Week-End Wrap Up with Blair County Commissioner, Terry Tommassetti. We talked about why honey bees are so important and how to become a member of a local beekeeping association. The 20 minute interview began at 9 am and was viewed by 40,000 people in the Altoona Area.

The next day, March 10, I attended the Burgh Bees Beekeeping 102 Class in Pittsburg. Along with 50 other people, I learned about what it takes to be a second year beekeeper. I had an opportunity to talk about the Honey Queen Program and my goals for the year during the class.

On the 13th, I gave a presentation at the Hollidaysburg Area Public Library. During the presentation I was able to do a bee craft with all of the children that attended. I also handed out the Honey Bee Catchers made by Cathy Vorisek. Since this was a smaller group I was able to answer everyone's questions.

My next promotion was on March 14th at Forest Hills Elementary School in Sidman. I gave one presentation to 142 students and 12 teachers. Once I told them that I had to go through an interview process to be the Honey Queen, they thought of every question involving, and not involving, honey bees.

The next day I traveled to Oxford to give my first cooking demonstration to the local Grange. I made Banana Pops for the Junior Grange. Banana Pops are bananas cut in half, covered with honey and topped with graham crackers. For the adult Grange I made Honey Poppy Seed Dressing and Honey Raspberry Tea, which was the most popular dish of the night.

March 18th I attended the 2 C's and a Bee's monthly meeting, where I had a chance to thank the members once again for being my sponsor. I would also like to thank some of the members that shared with me craft ideas for older children and adults, along with more promotional items. All of these items have been helpful already.

March 20th, I traveled to Punxsutawney where I gave three different presentations to preschool through high school age students at Punxsutawney Christian School. Although I presented to different age groups, a lot of their questions were similar like "When a bee stings you, does it die?" and "Why is there only one queen in the hive?"

My next promotion was where some of the best potato chips are made in Pennsylvania- Berlin. I spoke to the 80 third grades, who recently finished learning about honey bees and pollination. I received a beautiful daffodil basket with maple syrup and potato chips made right down the road as a thank you.

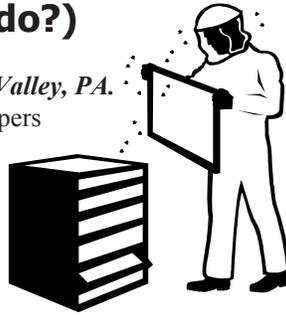
I am slowly reaching my goals but I need your help still. Please be sure to like the "PENNSYLVANIA HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM" Facebook page to get up-to-date on my most recent promotions. If you have an event coming up that you would like me to attend please contact Rachel Bryson at 717-643-0010 or brysonrachel@yahoo.com. Thank you for all of your continued support.

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

April 2012

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

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was approached by President Warren Miller to write a column in the P.S.B.A. monthly newsletter with the topic being a timely issue of concern or any question that may arise in beekeeping. The idea being to help fellow beekeepers become more proficient in our craft.



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

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

Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper

Here's a question I received & answered, Feb. 28, 2012

Q: Bill –

Centre County doesn't currently have a bee inspector. If it did, I wouldn't be bothering you with this question. I opened my hive during a recent warm spell thinking to give them a feed. I found them all dead. It looked to me like they had not really been in a very developed condition originally. There were only a few clusters dead bees in the two supers comprising the hive. There was about 15 or 20 pounds of uncapped honey in the tops of a few of the frames. There were some dead larvae in a couple of frames. A lot of the frames were a darker brown in color, but I did not see anything like the mess that attends foulbrood, which I had treated for in the fall. There were a fair proportion of frames that were still pretty new-looking; that is, not browned. I cleaned out the dead bees and set aside the frames that were very dark in color. It looked to me that the hive had been anemic in the first place and that they may have frozen to death in spite of having unopened honey available. The hive itself is a Styrofoam model that I got from Dadant.

1. *What do you think might have killed them?*
 2. *Is the honey safe to use or should I throw it away?*
 3. *Should I not reuse the supers and frames? If I reuse them, what would be the best way to clean them up?*
- Thanks for any advice and help, George Kleindorfer*

A: Hi George,

It's not a bother for me to answer your question. Although I cannot see your hive to determine the exact cause of death I have received quite a few emails describing similar conditions.

I have several questions to ask you: Is this a first year hive? Did you check on them throughout the autumn to see exactly what condition they were in? You mentioned you 'treated' for AFB in the fall. Did you treat with an antibiotic as a prophylactic or did you treat a hive with AFB? Were any dead bees 'head first in the cells'? How large was the cluster of dead bees? Was there a large pile of dead bees on the bottom board? When you found dead larvae did you check them for symptoms of AFB?

The dark brown combs are natural George. After each generation of brood is raised in nice light comb it gets slightly darker. After a larva pupates and transforms into an adult bee it leave behind a cocoon. The house bees clean the cell and sometimes coat it with a layer of propolis. This will darken the original light color of the beeswax and over time slightly reduce the size of each cell.

To answer your questions:

1. *"What do you think killed them?"* Without seeing any of the actual conditions...I am guessing the colony was not strong enough to make it through the winter. Even though this winter has been unseasonably warm, I believe the colony may have went into the winter with a smaller than normal cluster and could no longer keep itself from dying of exposure when the freezing temps continued. If you saw the cluster on 2 - 3 frames, it was too small. A good size cluster would cover 5- 6 frames. A colony can have plenty of honey stores but if the cluster is too small it cannot maintain enough warmth to keep from freezing.
2. *"Is the honey safe to use or should I throw it away?"* IF the honey is fully cured (capped) and not too wet (not over 18.6% moisture) you can use it for human consumption. If your hive does not have AFB you can give it to another colony.
3. *"Should I not reuse the supers and frames? If I reuse them, what would be the best way to clean them up?"* You can re-use all of your equipment with new bees ONLY if you are sure there is no sign of American Foulbrood disease. If you are sure they are disease free I would just shake the dead bees from the combs and give it to another strong colony. They will clean it up. If you are not sure about AFB symptoms find an experienced beekeeper close to you to help you check your combs for any signs. Typical signs are: punctured and sunken

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W.W.B.D. (Continued from Page 13)

cappings, dead larvae usually dark brown in color laying on the bottom of the cell and when stirred with a toothpick will 'rope' out of the cell about 3/4 to 1", if it is not dried. If it is dried, sometimes you will find the Pupal Tongue sticking straight up, from the bottom to the top of the cell, and finally the dried scale of AFB infected pupae is almost black and adheres to the bottom of the cell and cannot be removed. There is some very good info out there, with photos that will help you identify diseases at this link:

<https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/honey-bee-biology/honey-bee-parasites-pests-predators-and-diseases/diseases-of-honey-bees/>

If you think your colony may have AFB I would suggest you have all of your equipment that came in contact with it irradiated. For more information on equipment irradiation contact, Mark Antunes at: honeyhillfarm@verizon.net or give him a call at: 484-955-0768.

I really hope I have helped you in some way George,
Bill Mondjack

Burgh Bees Queen Rearing Workshop

This is a two day workshop to be held on Saturday, June 9th 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 10th 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain or shine!

This classroom and apiary based course offers advanced beekeepers detailed information on how to raise their own queens. Two thirds of the time allotted for this class will be spend doing hands on activities or in the Burgh Bees Community Apiary. The two primary method of queen rearing discussed will be the Doolittle Method (grafting) and the 'OTS' method (non-grafting). Students will be given their successful grafts to take to their own apiary.

Instructors for the workshop are: Steve Repasky, Master Beekeeper and Vice President of Burgh Bees; and Joseph Zgurzynski, Master Beekeeper and President of Burgh Bees.

The fee for the course is \$225.00 that includes two textbooks. Space is limited to 20, so please register early.

For more information, visit www.BurghBees.com or email info@BurghBees.com.

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: Mrs. Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Rd., Canton, PA 17724. Phone: 570-673-8201. Email: pabee1@frontier.com

Jeremy's Corner

An estimated 50% of new beekeepers discontinue within their first year and a further 25% within the next two years. Many suggestions have been proffered to reduce this attrition, including mentoring programs and more beginner courses, and yet I wonder if there is something more involved.

We all begin this wonderful pursuit for a variety of reasons, each of them valid, and most who choose not to continue do so in the spring, disillusioned by the loss of the colony or the stress of over-wintering.

Discussions with disenchanting nu-bees suggest a pattern related to Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Gardner postulates that not only do we have different ways of learning and processing information but these methods are relatively independent of one another, leading to multiple "intelligences" as opposed to one general intelligence factor.

Traditionally, of course, we measure intelligence very narrowly and label people accordingly. The limitations of 'verbal and non-verbal' intelligence were brought home to me some fifteen years ago when I had a non-traditional student in a college class. 'Joe' was in his early 30's and had been advised by his high school that he was not college material because he did not write easily and was not good at Math. He sat in the front of my class, asked if he could record each lesson and then arrived each morning armed with some remarkable, perceptive and penetrating questions, the like of which I was not used to receiving. Joe was an audio learner, and as he listened several times to each class when he returned home, these questions would emerge.

I discovered eventually that Joe is a superb guitarist who composes, plays and teaches jazz guitar.

This is a man with superb musical intelligence, but his audio learning style and musical brilliance had not been recognized at high school; he had to discover and nurture them by himself, and coming back to college with it's more traditional emphases was an immense act of courage.

I guess we all know stories like this – people who have succeeded in life despite poor performances at school. We also know those, sadly, who have never recovered from being labeled at school as 'failures.'

Howard Gardiner has to date identified nine possible modes of intelligence and believes there are many others. We all have them with one or two being more dominant.

The first three are the bases of traditional intelligence testing. Logical-mathematical intelligence has to do with numbers and reasoning and is expressed in recognizing abstract patterns, scientific thinking and investigation and the ability to perform complex calculations.

Linguistic intelligence involves words, spoken or written, and is seen in those who learn best by reading, taking notes, listening to lectures, and by discussing and debating about what they have learned, whereas spatial intelligence is the ability to visualize with the mind's eye. Artists, designers and

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Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 15)

architects come to mind, as do those with a love for jig-saw puzzles.

The core elements of bodily-kinesthetic intelligence are control of one's physical motions and the capacity to handle objects skillfully. Such people learn better by hands on, practical applications and are generally good at physical activities such as sports or dance.

Musical intelligence has to do with sensitivity to sounds, rhythms and tones, whereas Interpersonal intelligence is one's empathy with others, in particular a sensitivity to others' moods, feelings, temperaments and motivations, and the ability to cooperate in order to work as part of a group. Intrapersonal intelligence, by comparison, reflects one's introspective and self-reflective capacities. This refers to having a deep understanding of the self and is conveyed in philosophical and critical thinking.

Some proponents of multiple intelligence theory proposed spiritual or religious intelligence as a possible additional type. Gardner suggested instead the term «existential» intelligence, i.e. the ability to contemplate phenomena or questions beyond sensory data, such as the infinite and infinitesimal.

Which brings us to naturalistic intelligence, or the nurturing and relating of information to one's natural surroundings, such as by gardening and farming, and of course keeping honey bees.

I'm not aware of a way to measure this last form of intelligence but it can be observed. Larry Connors has described how, when he first introduces new beekeepers to a working hive, some lean in and others lean away. It is the former, he suggests, who will succeed long term. My intimation is that this latter group has a dominant naturalistic intelligence, which is unfailingly curious to anything involving the natural world.

When people come to visit Mary and I, most walk into the house and settle into the comfortable and inviting kitchen. But there are a few, a distinct minority, who insist on going outside, walking around the garden, even asking if they can see the hives. Only then can they relax and come inside.

As a personal example, I believe that I have more developed linguistic, bodily kinesthetic, intrapersonal, existential and naturalistic intelligences, but poor logical-mathematical, interpersonal and spatial intelligences with absolutely no musical appreciation at all. Try as I might I cannot learn a musical instrument, cannot read music, and if given the choice, would rather listen to a talk show on the car radio, no matter how bad, than a musical program, no matter how good. For a long time I blamed myself as somehow incompetent; now I accept that it's the way I am wired, and I focus on what I can do rather than bemoan what I cannot.

Thus I'm OK with the fact that I would rather send e-mails than make telephone calls, and if it has to be the latter, to keep them as short as possible. Mary is the exact opposite, and the monthly statements of our respective cell phones reflect it.

When I first began to keep bees the image was of a jigsaw puzzle – it was simply a matter of putting a small number of pieces together. Now it seems that there are a never ending number of pieces and they will never quite come together completely. Gradually unveiling that big picture is a challenge to, and a reward for, my naturalistic intelligence; I enjoy it, which in turn perhaps explains my motivation and perseverance.

Jeremy Barnes

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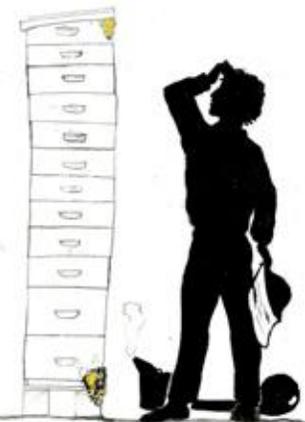
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