



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

February 2012
Volume No. 2

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

A Note To My Friends...

I am not sure if it is the mild winter or the fact that I am getting older, but we are getting very close to bee season. This is a terrible time of year for a beekeeper. Even though the weather is slowly working toward spring, it is still too early to really look into the hives. But as the days get longer, the bees can be seen more and more often flying in search of early food sources and it is hard to wait to break open the boxes. This year will be different than others as last fall prevented many colonies from collecting enough stores to make it to the spring food supply. If your colonies are light of stores be prepared to offer your bees some emergency carbs to get them through. Fondant is a good emergency food and can be added to the top bars of the colony without much disruption. As brood rearing ramps up this spring the colony must consume more and more food to keep the increasing brood nest warm so make sure they are ready. Starvation is one thing our bees should not die from.

Have you heard the good news from Vegas, our own Queen Alyssa is now the 2012 American Honey Queen. Congratulations Alyssa and way to go. I talked with Alyssa during this past year and was always impressed with her poise and sense of humor. Good luck this next year as you promote honey bees across our great nation. It is such an honor to have two American Honey Queens in succession. This is a real tribute to our former program chair and 2011 beekeeper of the year, Linda Hackenberg, and our new and very energetic chair and former PA Honey Queen, Rachel Bryson. Thank you ladies for your leadership and direction to guide this very successful program.

We have a conference call scheduled for March 21 from 7PM – 9PM to discuss ongoing Association business. The call in number is 814-863-2330. Please have a representative from your club phone in and give us input on what direction our club should take. We have 30 slots open so there should be plenty of room for everyone.

I hope everyone is planning for spring as it is right around the corner and the bees will not wait for you so be ready for them. Get your equipment put together and get out to one of those meetings that are planned all over the Commonwealth to help new beekeepers as well as the experienced ones.

As usual, I am late writing my article for Yvonne and

Debbie to put the newsletter together so I will keep it short this time and hope you will consider doing something to help the PSBA this year.

Warren Miller, PSBA President



Pennsylvania Reigns at American Honey Queen Competition!

Alyssa Fine, 2011 Pennsylvania Honey Queen, was selected as the 2012 American Honey Queen on Saturday, January 14 during the American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow in Las Vegas, NV. Danielle Dale, 2011 Wisconsin Honey Queen, was selected as the 2012 American Honey Princess.

Alyssa and Danielle, along with four other state queens representing Missouri, Texas, Indiana and Florida, did a fantastic job throughout the five day convention. Each contestant participating in the Honey Queen Reception and Quiz Bowl, gave a marketing presentation on Beeswax, educated the public during the ever popular Kids 'n Bees event, participated in an interview, assisted with several auctions, and spoke with the many attendees at the convention.

As the American Honey Queen, Alyssa will travel throughout the United States promoting the beekeeping and honey industries by attending schools, fairs, festivals and participating in media interviews. Congratulations Alyssa!

Farm Show 2012

Pennsylvania beekeeping got a lot of public exposure at the 2012 Pa Farm Show. With the new apiary exhibit and Learning Center location, between the Maclay Street entrance and the butter sculpture, there was a constant stream of visitors. The Learning Center greeted visitors with the huge 6-foot high bee photos as a backdrop. These high-resolution photos taken by Bill Mondjack, simply shout the fascination and poetry of the honeybee. Mild weather allowed record crowds. As more parking was needed, Pa Dept of Agriculture across Cameron Street allowed workers to leave early much of the week so that visitors could use that parking lot. It was a great opportunity to showcase beekeeping in Pennsylvania.

The Learning Center sported a new atrium with two observation hives attached. Both hives stayed healthy and allowed the public to view hives of bees as they should. The hives and atrium were setup at a 'kid's eye' level. The Learning Center has become our greatest points of interaction with the public. In all, over 30 volunteers manned the center. Much of the time there were 4 volunteers answering and teaching about honeybees. Lots of handouts were available. We went through 13 boxes of bee supply catalogs, donated by five companies. About 2,000 PSBA brochures were handed out. We handed out queen brochures and paper finger puppets, with honey facts and fliers of beginner courses.

Our Learning Center was part of the Farm Show Detective game. Twenty-two commodities were designated with a lamp post and sign. Kids had maps to help find their way around the Farm Show and learn about each commodity. Each 'center' would ink-stamp the kid's map. Completion of the map would qualify the participant for daily prizes or a grand prize of a year's supply of ice cream. Turkey Hill sponsored this game. Our volunteers stamped hundreds of maps...but not without first quizzing the kid's to tell something about honeybees. It was a great interactive game and the unofficial favorite stop was the Apiary Learning Center.

Another eye-level interaction was just a few feet from the Learning Center. Four large canvas banners covered the unfinished backs of the honey baked goods section. In all, they were 32 feet long and 24 inches high. Three of these banners had kid's pictures of bees and beekeeping. They were the project of two elementary art teachers in the Conneaut School District of Crawford County. The initial idea was to have something at a kid's level, kid's interpretation and something kids could relate to. The 4th banner was because we weren't sure how much room we had. It was added, with a sky-line, clouds and grass. The rest of the Farm Show week kids and celebrities added thumb-bees to the canvas. For many it was the ice-breaker and welcome to the Farm Show. It was a chance to be a 'participant and proved to be a total success.

The first weekend of the Farm Show is a media-frenzy. With the honey bees front and center, and so close to the public it made an easy story. Cameras and microphones greeted

our volunteers and honey queens. Stories appeared on local television and newspapers. One interview with RadioPa, went statewide. The honey demonstration, headed by Tom Jones and Jim Hoover, once again aired live on PCN. It was a great opportunity to bring beekeeping the public.

From the Learning Center, visitors were encouraged to purchase honey at the commodities booth and try some honey ice cream at the Food Court. Sales were brisk at the honey stand all week. Many days had record sales over previous years. Strong and steady lines were the order of the week in the Food Court. With the direction of Stu Mathias and Scott Baxter, the sales of honey waffles and honey ice cream went very good.

It must be mentioned that all this effort and the money generated benefit the PSBA Honey Promotions program. This funds the travel and expenses of our Pa State Honey Queen and Princess. These girls are arguably our best continuous relationship with the public. The girls are enthusiastic, eager to learn, professional and anxious to educate across the state.

Charlie V
1st Vice-President

Be sure to view Farm Show pictures and other stories on the PSBA website at pastatebeekeepers.org. Thanks to the diligent and timely work of Webmaster Ken and Tawny Hoover, this site is another benefit of not only PSBA members, but to worldwide visitors of Pennsylvania beekeeping.

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Nature Notes

For some of us, February is the **lowest point** of winter. We are not skiers or snowboarders. Although we can see that days are getting longer, February still seems gray and dark. The weather is miserable, too: sleet, freezing rain, and snow!



What can we do about February? (Go to Florida!) Bring in **branches of forsythia**, crush the bottom inch or two of each stem and set the stems in water in a cool, dark place for several days. Then set them where their yellow flowers can light up a warm room. Flowering may take a couple of weeks. Fruit tree branches can also be persuaded to bloom when brought indoors.

Step outdoors on one of February's many sunny days to enjoy white **snowdrop** blossoms and the yellow flowers of **winter aconite**. These alien, non-native plants get a lot of attention from our alien, non-native honeybees on days when the temperature rises above 45 degrees F.

Pennsylvania's **great horned owls** and **bald eagles** are nesting now (and not complaining about the weather.) Why do they nest early? Raising large young birds and letting them learn to hunt on their own takes time. **Canada geese** are big, too, but geese are gregarious and forage in large groups except when they pair off for nesting. Owls and eagles spend most of the year on their own.

In the evening, **Venus** is brilliant high in the west, **Jupiter** is overhead, **Orion** is in the Southeast, and **Sirius** is below Orion. **Mars** rises later in the evening.

By Tim Sterrett

A View from Honesdale

Hello Fellow Beekeepers:

This article may not reflect the views of PSBA. Spring is just around the corner and I would be remiss if I didn't comment on what is in store for us. Again I would remind all beekeepers in Pennsylvania NOT to order bees from the Southern States. The bees from the bee mills of Ga, Alabama, Fl, etc. are for the most part Italian bees that have been rushed through because of strong demand. A lot of them are not mated properly. Also we have the possibility of introducing Africanized bees to our area. The wise choice would be for you to secure from northern states over wintered local bees, preferably Dark Bees, Russian, and Carolinian, or if you can find them AMM. There are several Pa. beekeepers that offer their over-wintered stock. Also click onto the Ontario Beekeepers Website. They have an abundance of over wintered stock. You can't procrastinate – reserve your bees now. I know it's hard to know if your bees will over winter. Based on previous years our losses are from 30% to 50%. Figure on losing a third and you will be pretty close. I am in the process of trying to set up a program for a bee that I believe will rid us of the tremendous loss of capital on bees and medication. I will keep you informed as to the success with my program.

I wish you a good year,

Charlie Kinbar
2nd Vice President, PSBA

Special Farm Show Edition

We will be publishing an additional newsletter in February. This Special Edition will include articles and photos on the success of the Farm Show along with articles including "Jeremy's Corner", 2011 PSBA Honey Queen's "Final Article", December's Identification Reader, recipes and more. Also included will be a form to complete if you are interested in having our 2012 PSBA Honey Queen, Jessica Long, to your beekeeping meeting or event. Watch for this special edition!

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

February, 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, Jan. 28, 2012:

Q: *I read your column in the PA. Beekeeper monthly and I would appreciate any help you can give me. I'm entering my 3rd. year of beekeeping and I've heard about splitting/dividing hives to make increases. What, if any hints/help can you give me to do this?*

Thank you, Mike

A: Hi Mike,

Increasing your colony numbers or replacing deadouts by making splits/divides is not only good colony management but it can help to prevent swarming. It is cost effective compared to purchasing packaged bees and it's something any beekeeper

can easily accomplish. All of this is true ONLY if you plan on splitting a very strong colony.

As you know everyone has their own 'best way' to do this and there is much written about it with varied techniques, but I'm going to give you my way.

If you want to split a colony AND still have the parent colony produce a considerable amount of honey I personally would feed them some kind of protein supplement at this time of year (Jan.-Feb.) to help boost brood production.

First I pick my strongest surviving colonies and give them pollen supplement or pollen substitute patties right on the top bars where the cluster is located, with a super of honey on top of them. I want these colonies to have a surplus amount of honey because as they increase brood they will use much more honey, not only to feed brood but also to generate the much needed heat. Remember they must maintain a temperature of between 93-94°F in the brood area. This is started in January. I use two deeps for brood chambers plus an extra medium super of honey. During the month of February they are taking the supplement patties and consuming stored honey. When the weather warms up a bit I provide thin sugar syrup, this simulates a nectar flow and stimulates egg laying. I continue to feed them protein supplement patties and 1:1 sugar syrup until they fill the majority of my two brood boxes with brood. This usually takes place by early April. At this point I find the queen, place her in the bottom brood chamber, remove the top brood chamber with the honey super, give it a bottom board and move it to another yard. The bottom stays where it is and I give it a new lid. Each colony is given an additional deep with drawn comb. At this time of year there is nectar available but if the weather is raining for days I will continue to feed 1:1 syrup for a short time.

Like I said, there are many ways to do splits. I've had good luck with this procedure, it works for me.

Bill Mondjack

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(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

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3 years 52.15	

The Small Beekeeper's Journal	The Speedy Bee
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**Please send 6 weeks before subscription runs out
as we send them in once a month.**

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Full Page	\$23.00	Full Page	\$ 40.00
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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

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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.

----- ✂ ----- Clip here ----- ✂ -----

Application for New and Renewal Membership Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association

- \$1.00 Junior Membership (under 17) annual dues
 \$20.00 annual dues \$25.00 family dues \$200.00 Lifetime Membership
 I understand the dues entitle me to the Newsletter and all other benefits of membership.

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Make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
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Upcoming Dates

**Deadline for the March issue of The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is February 27th.
Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA**



Friday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. at the home of James and Ginny Wood. Planning meeting. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information.

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 11, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Westmoreland County Extension, Greensburg. Contact Beaver County Extension at 724-774-3003, website: <http://extension.psu.edu/beaver>, for more information.

2012 Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

February 17 & 18 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Pittsburgh North, Cranberry Township, PA. Featured speakers to include: Jerry Hayes, Dan O'Hanion and Diana Cox-Foster, Ph.D. For more information, contact Penn State Extension of Beaver County at 724-774-3003.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m. at the Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville. Email info@thebeeyard.org for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Center, Allentown. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Berks-Schuylkill Beekeepers

Basic Beginners Beekeeping Seminar

Saturday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Schuylkill Ag. Center. For more information, contact Bill Clements at 610-678-7630.

Basic Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at The Gathering Place, Mt. Joy. For more information or to register, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911

Beekeeping for Beginners – Virtual Webinar

Starting in March the Penn State Cooperative Extension is conducting a virtual class. For more information and registration visit the website:

<http://agsci.psu.edu/beekeeping-for-beginners>

34th Annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop

Friday and Saturday, March 2 & 3 at Wooster, Ohio. Sponsored by the Tri-County Beekeeper's Association of North Central Ohio. The online, pre-registration will close Feb. 18th. For more information, visit the website:

www.tricountybeekeepers.org

Chester County Beekeepers Annual Seminar

Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Westtown School. Ross Conrad and Mike Thomas will be the speakers for the advanced seminar and Mark Antunes will conduct the beginner's seminar. Contact Charlie Karat at 610-998-1407, email: ckarat54@gmail.com for more information.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery. "Early Spring Splits and Swarm Prevention" – Speaker to be determined. For more information, contact Mark Antunes at 484-955-0768 or email: honeyhillfarm@verizon.net.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Building, Montrose. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for more information.

Burgh Bees Beekeeping 102

Saturday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Penn State Extension of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh. Cost \$90.00 includes lunch and the required text book. Space is limited, please register early. Contact 412-473-2540 for more information or to register.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. at The Gathering Place, Mt. Joy. Lancaster County Honey Producer's Banquet. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 14 @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.

(Continued on Page 11)



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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, March 15, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh County Ag. Center, Allentown. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m. at the Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville. Email info@thebeeyard.org for more information.

Berks-Schuylkill Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 21st 7:00 p.m. at the Berks Ag. Center. "Producing Comb Honey" by Herman Danenhower. For more information, contact Bill Clements at 610-678-7630.

SABA Beekeeping Seminar

Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY. Sponsored by the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association. Speakers: Maryann Frazier and Randy Oliver. Contact Anne Frey at 518-895-8744, email: annef@capital.net or visit the website www.adirondackbees.org for more information and registration.

2012 PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 21st. Hosted by Burgh Bees (new Pittsburgh area association) Location to be announced. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

PSBA Annual Conference

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

Attention Counties: Please submit your 2012 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

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.

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.

Announcements

New Beekeepers Handout

Craig Cella is in the process of putting a list of equipment that a new beekeeper needs to get started along with names of dealers and package bee sources to be used as handouts at beekeeping events. If you would like to be listed in the handout and would help support the cost of printing please contact: Craig Cella, 867 E. Winter Rd. Loganton, Pa. 17747 Phone 570-725-3682

Hive Equipment Irradiation Sterilization

Now is the time to think about making sure your dead out equipment or any used equipment you are buying is safe for new bees this spring. To sterilize your dead out and suspect equipment, sign up and take part in this program.

This is a proven, effective, and safe way to rid your boxes, frames, and old comb of American Foul Brood, Nosema, and all other pathogens and infectious agents that will make your bees sick or kill them. If you are interested in taking part in the hive equipment irradiation sterilization event to be held in March, please contact Mark via e-mail at honeyhillfarm@verizon.net



Spring Bee Packages

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April 15th

3 lb. package w/queen - \$80.50
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2012 PA Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Long

Hello everyone! My name is Jessica Long and on November 11, 2011 during the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association's Convention, I was crowned your 2012 Pennsylvania Honey Queen. After talking to Alyssa Fine and Teresa Bryson, both past PA and now American Honey Queens, I am looking forward to the experience of attending fairs, schools, civic meetings, and many other events this year to promote the beekeeping industry.

Even though my reign didn't officially begin until February 1st, I was given the opportunity to attend the 96th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show in Harrisburg for five days. During my time at the Farm Show, I spent time working in the three PSBA's booths. I enjoyed selling honey from all around Pennsylvania in the Market Place and in the Food Court. Also in the Food Court, I helped sell and serve our famous honey waffles and honey ice cream. Even though I think it was the coldest place in the whole complex, everyone volunteering made it the warmest environment to be in. I really enjoyed showing the unmarked queen and talking about what was going on in one of the two beautiful observation hives that were located in the Learning Center. By Friday I had no voice at all from talking about honey, honeybees and why they are so important, but it was all worth it to have the opportunity to educate a large number of people in one week. During the slow times at the farm show I passed out honey recipe

brochures and answered many different types of questions, including "What are the honeybees doing in the observation hive" to "How can I start beekeeping."

On Tuesday I had the opportunity to meet with Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey and although he was on a tight schedule, he made time to capture a quick photo with me. Thursday afternoon, the PSBA's daily honey extraction demonstration was televised on the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN). During the broadcast, I had the opportunity to introduce myself, invited the public to our three locations throughout the complex, explain the products of the hive, and help answer audience questions. Throughout the one-hour live broadcast, we were able to increase the public reached during the Farm Show by an estimated 2 million people, which is the viewership of PCN.

On January 25, I traveled to the Hollidaysburg Area Library for a local Home School group presentation on the different types of honeybees and beekeeping. There were 25 children and 15 adults at the presentation, who were all interested and excited to learn about beekeeping and the products of the hive. The children were interested in learning how the bees work inside of the hive while the parents were more interested in learning how honey can be used to sooth a sore throat instead of using medicines.

I am excited to begin my year as your Honey Queen and traveling the state to educate the public, but I need your help to make this year all that it can be. When you know of an event going on or have a school in your area that you would like me to speak at, please contact Rachel Bryson at 717-643-0010 or brysonrachel@yahoo.com. Please let her know as soon as you can so we can book the date for your event.

I look forward to representing an industry that we all care dearly about throughout the year and will be seeing you!

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Jeremy's Corner

"A series of psychological studies over the past twenty years," Nicholas Carr writes in his book, The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to our Brains, "has revealed that after spending time in a quiet rural setting, close to nature, people exhibit greater attentiveness, stronger memory and generally improved cognition." The reason, he argues, is that when our brains are not being bombarded by external stimuli, not least in the form of rapid sound bytes from electronic media, they can relax.

In 1908 a team of University of Michigan researchers subjected some three dozen people to a rigorous series of tests designed to measure memory and the ability to stay focused. Half of the testees then spent an hour walking through a woodland park while the rest walked through a busy downtown street after which both groups were re-tested. The first group significantly improved their performance in both areas – recall and attentiveness – while the second group showed no change.

The experiment was repeated with a second group of subjects using photographs of either calm rural scenes or busy urban ones, with the same results. "Spending time in the natural world," wrote the researchers, "seems to be of vital importance ... to effective cognitive functioning."

And it's not only deep thinking that requires a calm, attentive mind. It's also empathy and compassion. As Antonio

Damasio, the director of USC's Brain and Creativity Institute explains, our higher emotions emerge from processes that are inherently slow. Our brains react quickly to physical pain but the more sophisticated mental processes of empathizing with physical suffering unfold much more slowly.

The price we pay for the power of technology is alienation, and the more distracted we become the less we are able to experience the more noble emotions like empathy and compassion. Everything happens so fast that there is no time for reflection.

When he was in York last year Tom Seeley commented that with the emphasis on molecular biology and genetic-based research we are in danger of losing the focus on observation, which for centuries has been the basis of scientific discovery and of which, of course, he is a spectacular example. Observation takes time, not only to survey but also to reflect, and the collection of data is onerous. Behavior, a vital aspect of any life form (think waggle dance, swarming, the queen's retinue) cannot be measured in the DNA. This is not to deride molecular biology; it is a plea for balance and in particular, the peacefulness and restfulness that sophisticated mental processes require.

Yet there are few if any tranquil spots on the Internet where observation and contemplation can work their magic.

If we are not to become the victims of frenzied technology

(Continued on Page 17)

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The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association represents the interests of the members of Pennsylvania. State dues of \$20.00 per year entitle members to the newsletter published ten times per year at Canton, PA, plus other benefits. Anyone 17 and under may become a junior member @ \$1.00 per year state dues.

All correspondence should be addressed to:
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Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 15)

we need to preserve those 'sleepy hollows' which provoke the meditative thinking which Martin Heidegger describes as 'the very essence of our humanity.'

At the state picnic in late July last year a small group gathered upstairs in the barn to discuss how best to keep records of the new PA Queen Rearing initiative, which has been inspired by Warren Miller. Reference was made to the Beetight system which includes an app for an iPhone, iPod and Android by which one can upload photos, view apiaries on a map and identify hives by scanning barcodes, all while working in the apiary. It works even without a network connection, synchronizing when one is next online.

Jim Bobb's response was that the only result of using an iPod phone in an apiary is a cell phone covered with popolis.

For me the apiary is my sleepy hollow. It is where time stands still. I can get lost among the bees, observing, thinking, meditating, and most importantly, finding the peace and quiet to balance the tumult of technology. The last thing I want to do is to bring electronic technology into the apiary.

Hopefully I provide something of value to the bees; they in turn give me more than they will ever know.

Jeremy Barnes.



1966 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Judith Sitlinger is pictured above with 2011 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Alyssa Fine while at the 2012 Farm Show.

Attention SE PA beekeepers and clubs:
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Are Honey Bees pollinators and beneficial insects? Or insect pests to be exterminated and destroyed?

By: Charles Breinig

Editors Note: This article was run in 2 parts. The conclusion is below with Part 1 printed in January's issue.

Interesting facts:

1. Did you know that Honey Bees are strict vegetarians, eating only plant products (pollen and nectar), and never land on meat?
2. Did you know that Yellow Jackets are carnivorous wasps, and are a nuisance at picnics where they gather meat?
3. Did you know that 15% to 30% of the Honey Bees you see flying are collecting pollen, (varying from 50-300 flowers per load, and making 1-50 trips a day to do so)?
4. Did you know that the other flying Honey Bees are collecting nectar (100-1500 flowers per load), and making 1-29 trips per day?
5. Their Trips last from 5-15 minutes.

That is a lot of pollination!

To conclude: Honey Bees are beneficial to local community gardens and fruit trees, and pose little risk to the health, safety

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and welfare of the public. They are not aggressive like other bees and are not a pest. Honey Bees are kept in managed hives and are not a random infestation. There are constant news articles about the national threat to our food supply, due to Bee colony losses. But having local beekeepers is just as important to local flower gardeners and vegetable gardeners, as having water and compost. Local Beekeepers are an insurance policy against devastating losses by large commercial growers, and provide unique opportunities to maintain and ensure genetic diversity. The public is not aware of how many local beekeepers there are in their neighborhoods, because Beekeepers are good at shielding the hives from public view. Any time I see a Honeybee, I know there is a beekeeper near by. There are many residents whose first reaction on learning of a neighboring beehive is fear. Outlawing Beekeeping because of that unfounded fear, would negatively impact the health and enjoyment of other residents who are gardeners and have wonderful **organic** vegetable garden, great wildflower gardens, and **chemical-free** fruit trees that yield bountiful harvests. Also, impacting consumers seeking out local honey because it is **healthier** than store bought. Preserving local Beekeeping is vital! Let's uphold this valuable avocation!

Update: Soon to be Beekeepers, Mr. and Mrs. Schaffer, shared the good news about Plymouth Township's position on beekeeping. They asked the code officials to allow them to meet with the Township Council during their monthly work session; where they shared a 15-minute presentation. The purpose was to request reconsideration of an interpretation of the current code to allow beekeeping in residential areas of Plymouth. With the advice of the Vince Aloyo of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association, the Schaffers planned a presentation for the Council. The Schaffers, along with Joel Eckels, Anne Javscas, Charlie Breinig and Jim Bobb attended the meeting and shared information in their allotted 15 minutes.

Joel Eckels shared photos of his brother and himself working their hives in Philadelphia without veils, with their faces right up against the frames watching the bees. Obviously the pictures showed that beekeepers have no reason to be afraid of the Honey Bees, even when they are disturbing the hives and removing frames of Honey Bees for inspection. Joel also testified that Philadelphia is a much more densely populated area, and has many hives in much closer proximity to neighbors. Pictures from a home on a 50' wide lot in Jenkintown Borough (with 3 hives) was also shown, as additional evidence of safe Beekeeping on small lots.

Jim Bobb, a Montgomery County Beekeeper, and Chairman of EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society) testified on the temperament of Bees and having permanent observation hives in very public areas like Longwood Gardens (The Longwood Garden Treehouse, is a favorite for families; the beehive entrance directs bees away from the tree, but they fly all over the area).

(Continued on Page 21)

Are Honey Bees Pollinators... (Continued from Page 19)
A beehive in such a public place demonstrates that they are not dangerous.

Anne Javscas, head of the Plymouth Meeting Friends School told about having hives on the school grounds, and the problems they faced with stings from yellow jackets, which were attracted to kids eating lunch outside; yet not one sting from a Honey Bee. Asked how she knew if the stings were from yellow jackets and not Honey Bees, she explained that Honey Bees sting only once and leave the stinger in the skin. Jim pointed out that Honey Bees are vegetarians and are not attracted to the student lunches.

The Schaffers are happy to report that the Plymouth Township Council voted unanimously to meet with staff to see if the interpretation could be reevaluated. They waited a few weeks for the Township to formulate an official position on beekeeping. The decision was that beekeeping is permissible in the Township. The only requirement is to register with the Township by obtaining a \$25 permit; just as dog owners would need to do.

Sources of Additional Information:

1. Do you have Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD)?
Dennis vanEngelsdorp (the Acting State Apiarist for the PA Department of Agriculture) thinks that we might.... and that it may be contributing to CCD....
"Make Meadows Not Lawns" is one of his quotes, and it would make a great bumper sticker. He remarks that 11% of all pesticide use in the US goes to maintaining our lawns, which are sterile fields as far as the bees are concerned -- no pollen sources in evidence!
See his You-Tube video at **The Taste3 conferences:**
[2007 video- The Joy of Bees](#)
[2008 video-Where Have the Bees Gone](#)
2. **Movies**, on the importance of Bees: [Vanishing of the Bees \(Movie Trailer\)](#) and [Pollen Nation \(Movie Trailer\)](#)
3. Animal Planet's "Overcoming One's Fear of Bees" shows you can feed honey bees in the palm of your hand. <http://animal.discovery.com/videos/my-extreme-animal-phobia-man-scared-of-bees.html>
4. **Websites:**
 - a. <http://www.helpthehoneybees.com/> Häagen-Dazs
 - b. <https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/> Mid-Atlantic Apicultural Research and Extension Consortium
5. **News Articles:**
 - a. CNN, "Disappearing Bees Threaten Ice Cream Sellers"
http://money.cnn.com/2008/02/17/news/companies/bees_icecream/

- b. **National Geographic, "Bee decline May Spell End of Some Fruits, Vegetables"**
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/10/1005_041005_honeybees_2.html
- c. **FOX NEWS, "Following Honeybee Disappearance, Bumblebees Begin Vanishing Act"**
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.299982.00.html>
- d. **NPR (National Public Radio) "Bee Deaths, Loss of Navigation Cause Concern"**
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9972616>
- e. **IANR (Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources), University of Nebraska "Help Disappearing Bees by being Sustainable, Having Diverse Resources"**
<http://ianrnews.unl.edu/static/0807301.shtml>
- f. **New York Times "Honeybees Vanish, and Scientists Race for Reasons"**
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/24/science/24bees.html?pagewanted=all>
- g. **60 Minutes "What's Wrong With The Honeybees?"**
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/25/60minutes/main3407762.shtml>
- h. **BBC "Disappearing Bees Puzzle Experts"**
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/somerset/6587069.stm
- i. **The Independent (Britain) "Why are honey bees disappearing, and what can save them?"**
<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/the-big-question-why-are-honey-bees-disappearing-and-what-can-be-done-to-save-them-813971.html>



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