



THE PENNSYLVANIA BEEKEEPER

December 2013

Volume No. 10

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association



Photos by Bill Mondjack

2013 PSBA Banquet



News 'n Views...

I would like to extend my appreciation of your support, as president of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, over the past year. As I have been elected for another year, I am once again humbled and honored to accept this position.

One of the many things I have learned is the rich history of PSBA. From the very beginning, PSBA has been an instrumental leader and voice for beekeepers in Pennsylvania. The historical partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State University, have kept beekeeping from being lost in the sidelines of agriculture. With the partnership and communications between PDA, PSU and PSBA, we have been able to influence the direction of regulations over the last 110 years. No regulation would be the best option, however in a world of transmittable diseases, pests and increased population it becomes necessary to set guidelines.

Currently, registered beekeepers in Pennsylvania are 94% hobbyists, operating 25 or fewer colonies. The term, "hobbyist", far underrates the value of this art. As I've mentioned to legislators, 'Independent Beekeepers' are the people that fill the voids with pollinators. They spend their own money, accept losses over and over, with no compensation and passionately do it again every year. The 'Independent Beekeeper' is trying new techniques, paying attention to details and taking risks that commercial beekeepers cannot always afford to do. Unlike any other "hobby", beekeepers make a positive contribution to the local environment and sustainable agriculture that no other hobby can do. We need to continue to keep the value of all beekeeping in front of the public and legislators.

The annual PSBA meeting and conference in November once again brought out beekeeper's desire to be able to keep honeybees without restrictive ordinances and being considered a nuisance. Stories of bizarre misconceptions by neighbors and township officials highlighted workshops and some hallway conversations. I am ever aware that we need to strike a balance between common-sense guidelines and overly restrictive legislation. 'Be careful what you wish for', as they say. I hope to work with the talented members of this association to navigate current legislation, our updated Best Management Practices and craft a means of keeping beekeeping available and safe everywhere in Pennsylvania.

Another thing I have learned over the years is that beekeeping and other agriculture has huge differences across Pennsylvania. From north to south and east to west, corner-to-corner, it is never the same. This season was no exception. Within a region, things are different from yard to yard. Most of my 15 yards produced well. Some did nothing. Some colonies made 5-6 supers and some never made any surplus. Overall, I personally finished the season with a 60 lb. average for 140 colonies. The majority packed up heavy for winter. I put together 60 nucs in July and most packed out heavy by the end of September. Wintering nucs on this scale is totally

new for me, so I won't even speculate how this will work.

I am going to spend some time mapping some locations in an attempt to determine a percentage of forage available and what might be considered 'risk' acres. I hope to share my data with Maryann Frazier at Penn State. A side meeting of a few west PA people inquired how we could offer advice to new beekeepers in choosing a hive location. We'd like to offer more than a textbook suggestion. Those still apply, but we need to consider surrounding forage in the first mile or more.

For those with an iPhone or iPad, there's an app called "Measure Your Land". It has the ability to measure acreage on satellite maps. Pretty slick. An upgrade will allow storing more data. So, map your neighborhood and figure out what your bees have to eat.

The PA Farm Show gets started the day after New Years. Exhibits will be accepted on Thursday, Jan. 2nd. The Farm Show opens to the public Saturday, Jan. 4th. PSBA operates in 3 areas of the show. In the food court selling honey waffles and honey ice cream. In the commodities hall, honey and hive products are sold at the Honey Market. And in the exhibit area, PSBA operates a Learning Station to educate the public. This is the largest exposure event of the entire year. If you can't help, at least come visit and support the PA State Beekeepers.

Charlie Vorisek
President PSBA

2013 Farm Show Registration:

On-line registration is now open for the 2014 Farm Show. Registration can be done at <http://pda.state.pa.us/farmshowonlineregistration/> It's not too late to exhibit. The site gets friendlier each year.

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Minutes from the PSBA General Meeting

The PSBA General meeting was held at the Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, on Saturday, November 9.

Charlie Vorisek called the meeting to order.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they have previously been published in the newsletter. Seconded and carried.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report pending audit. Stu Mathias presented the Honey Queen Promotion / Farm Show financial report, which a motion was made to accept. Both motions were seconded and carried.

Jody Eberhart, representing the audit committee, reported the books were all in order. A motion was made to accept the auditing report. Seconded and carried.

Charlie Vorisek gave a report on the Legislative Committee. The Best Beekeeping Practices have been reworked. These are not set in stone and are voluntary. He also reported that there are 2 bills in the House on using antibiotics in animals. Terramycin is used by beekeepers for treating American Foulbrood. The bills are sitting in committee and nothing will probably be done this session.

The Farm Show Committee, comprised of Stu Mathias, Tom Jones and Aaron Fisher, reported that volunteers are always needed. Farm Show 2013 was an excellent year for the PSBA.

It was announced the 2013 Beekeeper of the Year Award was presented to Jim and Brenda Aucker at the Banquet, Friday night.

Rachel Bryson reported that there are no honey queen candidates for 2014. 2013 Honey Queen Elena Hoffman and Honey Princess Jessica Aurand reported on their activities for the year. Elena will represent PSBA at the 2014 ABF Convention held in Baton Rouge, LA. Rachel reported that she has been pursuing her Masters’ degree in Public Relations. She is working on better communications between PSBA and its’ members. At present, there are 3 videos on U-Tube. PSBA is also on Facebook and Twitter.

Mark your calendars – The PSBA summer picnic will be held August 9th at the Wade Fisher Bee Farm in McVeytown. The 2014 annual conference will be November 14 & 15th at the Country Cupboard in Lewisburg.

The following motions approved by the Executive Board were read:

A motion made to support the following organizations in 2014:

| | |
|---|----------|
| American Beekeeping Federation | \$100.00 |
| Eastern Apiculture Society | 50.00 |
| Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations | 150.00 |
| Penn State Agricultural Council | 50.00 |
| FFA Scholarship Fund | 500.00 |

A motion made to purchase Jim Hoovers extracting equipment for the Farm Show. This must not exceed \$500.00.

A motion made to reimburse Charlie’s expenses for this year. Motion amended to pay President, Vice-President and Second Vice-President for reasonable travel expenses up to \$2,000.00. The Executive Board must approve any expenses above the approved \$2,000.00 limit.

A motion was made to look into the present insurance policy and see what the rider coverage includes.

The above motions were approved and a motion was made to accept them. Seconded and carried.

Under new business, a committee was formed to plan the program for our fall annual conference. The members are Maryann Frazier, Jeremy Barnes, Jody Eberhart and Rachel Bryson.

The following were elected to serve as officers for 2014:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Charlie Vorisek |
| Vice-Present: | Vincent Aloyo |
| 2 nd Vice-President: | Steve Repasky |
| Secretary-Treasurer: | Yvonne Crimbring |

Charlie announced that the PSBA has purchased learning prints for Mobile and Ag labs to be used in educating children about bees.

Looking into updating our PSBA Constitution was discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Yvonne Crimbring,
Secretary-Treasurer





2013 Beekeeper of the Year Award

Jim and Brenda Aucker were awarded the 2013 “Beekeeper of the Year” Award at the PSBA Annual Banquet, held Friday, November 8, at the Country Cupboard, in Lewisburg. They are commercial beekeepers from Millville, PA. The Auckers, however, are so much more than just “beekeepers”.

Photo by Bill Mondjack

Jim and Brenda have been members of the PA State Beekeepers’ Association for most of their time in the industry. As professionals, their livelihood depends upon their proven ability to handle all aspects of honey bees and beekeeping, ranging from pollination services to honey and other products of the hive.

Maintaining hundreds of hives is a task that most sideliners and hobbyists cannot imagine; yet the Auckers make it look easy, and somehow have time and energy to commit to their local beekeeping association.

In 1998, Jim and Brenda started a five-county beekeeping club, The Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley, which serves professionals, sideliners and hobbyist beekeepers throughout Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, and Snyder Counties. Under their keen leadership, the club has grown and thrived to nearly 100 members, with well-attended monthly meetings, educational activities, and presentations at state and county fairs throughout the area. For much of the last year, the club’s most significant challenge has been finding a meeting location with enough space for the standing-room only crowds!

The past several years have been a difficult time for honeybees and beekeepers, but the Auckers have consistently maintained a positive attitude towards the issues facing the industry. They have given unselfishly of their personal time and energy to provide training, education, and advice to anyone who wants to learn more about this amazing and important insect.

Over the past several years, under their expert guidance, the Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley has been conducting queen rearing workshops – from grafting and cell starters to finishers and mating nucs – so that the members have the ability to raise their own queens from survivor stock. The Auckers believe that the solution to the problems with mites, diseases, and pesticides is to selectively breed from stock, which has proven its ability to survive in spite of these dangers and in the cold northern climate.

This year, the club purchased two breeder queens from a VSH breeder. From these mothers, the club has raised nearly 500 queens that were distributed free-of-charge to any club member who could provide them with a good home. While the true test of the success will come following the winter, the results so far are very promising. Many of the members reported excellent honey production, temperament, and brood patterns from hives of the club-reared queens. (Visit: www.thebeeyard.org/our-amazing-queens/)



IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES 6/14 and receives the newsletter at 311 Thomas St., Bloomsburg, 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 January 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.

The PSBA needs your Help!

WE WANT YOU



Volunteers needed to scoop and serve honey ice cream at our 2 annual events, Farm Show and Ag Progress. The proceeds from the events go directly to support the Pennsylvania Honey Queen program.

The 98th Pennsylvania Farm Show
Harrisburg PA
January 4 – 11, 2014

Pennsylvania State University
Ag Progress Days
State College PA
August 12 – 14, 2014
For more information please contact
Aaron Fisher
aaron@fisherbeefarm.com
717-242-4373

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the January issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **December 27th**.



2014 PA Farm Show

January 4 – 11, 2014 at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepahoney@gmail.com for more information.

Beginning Beekeepers Class – Beekeeping 101

Three classes will be held on Monday, January 13, Wednesday, January 15, and Monday, January 20 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Classes will be held at the Penn State Extension of Allegheny County Pittsburgh. To register:

<http://burghbees.com/?product=beekeeping-101>

York Co. Beekeepers

Thursday, January 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Rhul Community Room, Penn State York Campus. Speaker: Jeremy Barnes “The Perfect Beekeeper Meets Varroa”. Contact Gail Leasure at 717-968-0911 or email Gail@geezbeez.biz for more information.

Burgh Bees

Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Carson City Saloon in the Southside, Pittsburgh. For more information, email burghbees@gmail.com

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 1, at the Soergel Orchards, Wexford. Registration deadline is January 25th. Visit the website <http://extension.psu.edu/beginning-beekeeping> or contact PSU Beaver Co. Coop. Extension at 724-774-3003 for more information.

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 8, at the Penn State Extension, Westmoreland Co., Greensburg. Registration deadline is February 1st. Visit the website <http://extension.psu.edu/beginning-beekeeping> or contact PSU Beaver Co. Coop. Extension at 724-774-3003 for more information.

4th Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium

Sunday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia. Speakers for the event are Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, authors of “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Beekeeping.” For more information or to reserve your space, visit www.phillybeekeepers.org

Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

Friday and Saturday, February 14 & 15, at the Four Points by Sheraton, Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA. The cost is \$50 for participants and \$30 for their guests and children under 18. Registration deadline is February 8. For additional information and registration visit [Western PA Beekeeping Seminar](#)

PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 9, 2014 at the Wade Fisher Bee Farm, McVeytown. Additional information will be posted on the [PSBA website](#) as it becomes available.

PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg.

Attention Counties: Please submit your 2014 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.

October Identification Reader

I started beekeeping in 1989 under the supervision of Ken Eastman, a Master Beekeeper and State Apiary Inspector. The first year I started with two hives and after spinning out the honey from those two hives, I was hooked on beekeeping. . . In the early 90’s I joined the Beaver County Cooperative Extension and came into contact with Lee Miller, a Master Beekeeper and Master Gardner. These two have been a sounding board for me. I also belong to the Beaver Valley Beekeepers, where ideas are in plentiful supply. I have had as high as 10 hives and at the present time I just finished spinning out 7 hives this year, and averaged about 40 lbs. per hive. I have had as high as 60 lbs. per hive and as low as 20 lbs., depending on the year.

This past year I had 5 hives out of 8 that were alive and well, bees, brood and honey in the deep supers at the end of March. On April 15 (Tax Day) I check and all the hives were dead. Bees were laying on the bottom board; there were some bees with their head in the comb that were dead. In all of the hives there were frames of honey, but the bees did not seem to want to move to it. For 2013, I started with 8 hives and lost one to my own fault, and the 7 that survived I plan on wrapping them with pipe insulation. Hopefully this will help them winter and stay warm enough for the cluster to move to full frames of honey.

In conclusion, beekeeping is not an exact science, but in my opinion, the work and the people you meet at your local bee club along with the great numbers of ideas that are brought forth in Bee Journals and personal contact, make all the work worth it. Just keep in mind, bees and mother nature are in control, you are the beekeeper and you can try your best, but don’t be discouraged if all does not go as planned.

Pete Bau, Aliquippa

Address Changed?

If you have changed your address (mail, email or temporarily away) please notify secretary Yvonne Crimbring. We have been receiving newsletters returned by the post office due to “temporarily away” or “incorrect address”. This costs the association .55 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.

PSBA Annual Banquet

The Pennsylvania State Beekeeper’s Association celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Honey Queen Program at our Annual Banquet, which was held Friday night, November 8th, at the Country Cupboard, in Lewisburg.

After a delicious buffet meal, Elena Hoffman, 2013 PSBA Honey Queen, performed a skit on “Urban Beekeeping”.

The PSBA “Beekeeper of the Year” Award was presented to Jim and Brenda Aucker, of Millville, Columbia County. Robert (last name?) read an account of their beekeeping accomplishments. Preston Boop told of their achievements in the Susquehanna Valley Beekeepers Association and how they are always ready to help anyone. Congratulations Jim and Brenda!

A beekeepers version of Jeopardy was the next event with Teresa Bryson, a former PSBA Honey Queen, as the moderator. Three teams consisting of present and past Honey Queens participated. A lot of time and effort went into this entertaining event and everyone had a good time.

Becky Gerhart and Linda Hackenberg were recognized as former PSBA Honey Queen Chairpersons along with Rachel Bryson, the current Honey Queen Chairperson.

The following former PSBA Honey Queens and Honey Princesses were present for the celebration and were recognized: 9/1975 & 1976 Honey Princess Sarah (Fisher) Hill; 1980 & 1981 Honey Queen Becky (Fisher) Gerhart; 2007 Honey Queen Rachel Bryson; 2010 Honey Queen Teresa Bryson; 2011 Honey Queen Alyssa Fine; 2011 Honey Princess Emily Bruckart; and 2012 Honey Queen Jessica Long. Also attending and recognized were 2013 Honey Queen, Elena Hoffman and 2013 Honey Princess Jessica Aurand.

Our final event for the evening was an auction with a total of \$1,675.00 raised for the Honey Queen Program. Thank you to Mark Antunes who was our auctioneer and kept the bidding going. A raffle was held with an additional \$643.00 proceeds for the Honey Queen Program.

Yvonne Crimbring



The PSBA celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Honey Queen Program at our Annual Banquet, held Friday night, November 8th, at the Country Cupboard, in Lewisburg.

The present and former PSBA Honey Queens and Princesses in attendance are pictured above. In the front row from the left: Becky (Fisher) Gerhart, Teresa Bryson, Emily Bruckart, Jessica Aurand and Elena Hoffman. The back row from the left: Sarah (Fisher) Hill, Jessica Long, Alyssa Fine and Rachel Bryson.

Photo by Bill Mondjack

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

We regret that there is no article this month. If you have a question you would like to send to Bill Mondjack, Master Beekeeper, please email it to him at: billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com with the subject line being WWBD, and he will respond with an opinion as ‘what he would do’ if the problem or situation was his.



Jeremy's Corner

Progress is a double-edged sword. On the one hand we have made tremendous advances in combatting the things that hurt us, damage our crops and blight our environment; on the other hand we have invented painful and immeasurable ways to harm our surrounds, and ourselves the ultimate of which is global climate change.

This dichotomy is evident in many spheres, not least agriculture. Modern agribusiness depends on extensive inputs; chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides are applied to the seeds, to the soil and to the plants themselves, and undeniably affect the food we eat, the air we breath and the water we drink at levels that we do not fully understand. An oft-remarked irony is that these chemicals, together with extensive monocultures, are killing the honey bees that the farmers rely on to pollinate many of their crops.

Similarly we hear *ad nauseam* that honey bees pollinate one third of what we eat. It's a misleading statistic, in that our diet is based largely on grasses (corn, wheat and rice in particular), which are not bee-pollinated. Remove those three and the percentage of our foods that are honey bee dependent rises significantly. Secondly, what the bees do pollinate is most of our commercially produced fruits and vegetables, which are top of the food pyramid. Without the bees these products become scarce (it's folly to think we can simply import all of what we need from Chile, Israel, South Africa...) and the cost rises considerably. Less fruits and veggies means reduced rates of wellness with incalculable increases in health care.

It requires a certain humility to recognize that sometimes the natural way is better than what we deem as progress. For example, nature is a self organizing and adaptive network of complex relationships. Disrupt one part and we disrupt the system. Recognized and honored, nature develops yet more life, more relationships that are both competitive and cooperate and are unimaginably diverse.

Nature works in cycles. There is no place to 'throw things away' in the cosmos; instead every kind of waste product nourishes another part of the system. And nature uses current energy, mostly from the sun, rather than fossil energy. Solar energy does not deplete the earth's resources and is infinite in its availability and potential.

We live in a culture in which it is easy to accept that we have the right to conquer, displace, and drain our natural resources, to believe without question that human acumen, together with modern technology, will take us on a guilt-free trip to a brighter future.

As we approach the limits of what life on earth can tolerate there is an increasing realization that there are other ways of being on this earth, other ways of interacting with nature. Fortunately there are an escalating number of resources, which offer humility rather than hubris, which provide inspiration as to how, together with like-minded citizens of this planet we call home, we can re-connect with the natural world in a way this is respectful and mutually beneficial.

In a recent and rather rare interview, Bill Moyers asked Wendell Berry (farmer, philosopher, poet and novelist) what he has come to understand as 'the natural logic of capitalism.' Wendell replied, "That you have a right to as much as you want of anything you want and by extension, the right to use any means available to get it. I've been talking for a long time about leadership from the bottom and I'm convinced perfectly that it's happening... The world is full of people now who see something that needs to be done and start to do it, without the government's permission, or official advice, or expert advice, or applying for grants or anything else. They just start doing it."

That sounds like many of the beekeepers I know.

Jeremy Barnes

Copies of previous columns can be found at honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com

#3 Package Honey Bees

For Sale

Available Monday, April 7, 2014

\$90.00

Contact: **J. Lee Miller**
3180 Ridge Road Extension
Freedom, PA 15042

724-544-2900

jlmbeglad@gmail.com

Nature Notes:

With leaves off the trees, we live under a bigger sky and enjoy **panoramic, pastel sunsets**. In December, the Sun makes a **short, low arc** across the sky. December sunlight reaches way into rooms.

We can look at the setting sun because its rays are dimmed by dust and water vapor in the air. At midday, the Sun shines down on us through about one thickness of atmosphere just as a knife cuts down through one thickness of orange peel. At a lower angle (sunset is the extreme), the Sun's rays have to make their way through a lot more atmosphere as though the knife were starting to peel the orange. In winter, the Sun is at a low angle. The good news is that the sun starts to make a longer, higher arc across the sky about December 21. Days begin to get longer. The bad news is that tweaking the thermostat higher does not immediately warm the living room. Days lengthen slowly, leaving January and February cold.

Flowers in winter? **Dandelions** and **henbit** bloom all year. Henbit (or deadnettle) has tiny pink to purple flowers that look like orchids. Neither one is native to North America. Weeds are tough; to thrive, they do things that other plants do not do.

At the feeder, chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers may be joined by a **red-breasted nuthatch**, a handsome visitor from the north with a white stripe over the eye.

Orion is always worth a mention. The three bright stars in a line are Orion's belt. Red giant **Betelgeuse** is his brighter shoulder. **Rigel** is his brighter knee. Planet **Jupiter** is the super bright object to the left of Orion in late evening.

"The Hubble Space Telescope site estimates there are hundreds of billions of galaxies in the universe. A recent German super-computer simulation estimates that the number may be as high as 500 billion, with many older than the Milky Way. Common observational wisdom among astronomers is that there are 17 billion Earth-sized planets in our galaxy. They don't yet know how many of these worlds are in habitable zones, but the implications of this discovery are astounding. Simply put: If there are 17 billion Earth-sized worlds in our galaxy alone, it's clear that the Universe has the potential to be teeming with life." <http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my_weblog/2013/06/500-billion-a-universe-of-galaxies-some-older-than-milky-way.html>

We do **not** want to meet anybody from another planet. They will have the technology to travel long distances in space and will not have come for fun. How often have human explorers been nice to the people they encountered? The visitors won't consider themselves aliens when they arrive.

In mid-December this year, planet **Venus** is visible to the naked eye in daytime. At midday, find Venus in binoculars, either by using a smartphone and the Google Sky app or....

Find Venus the old-fashioned way: As soon as Venus appears at dusk, measure its distance from the Sun in hand spans even if the Sun has just disappeared. Make an approximate measurement. Venus is this far from the Sun all day, more or

less on the same track the Sun takes across the sky.

At 2 p.m. in mid-December this year, Venus and the Sun are about the same height above the horizon with Venus appearing to trail the Sun low across the sky.

Focus the binoculars on the most distant thing you can see: an airplane, a cloud edge, and a distant tree. Do not ever look at the Sun with binoculars. Stand so that the Sun is just blocked by a roof, measure the hand spans, find Venus in binoculars. It will be a tiny bright point of light and may look like a milkweed seed drifting across the sky, but holding the binoculars steady stops its motion.

Move yourself and the binoculars so that Venus is just above a point (a roof corner, a pointed tree top). Lower the binoculars and find the point of light in the sky.

If you think this seems difficult, try showing Venus in the daytime to someone else! It can be done.

By Tim Sterrett

Honey Spice Oatmeal Cookie Mix

2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp. ground ginger
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1-1/2 cups Quaker® oats

(Quick-cooking or old fashioned), uncooked



To make mix: In large bowl, combine flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, cloves and nutmeg; mix well. Add oats; mix well. Transfer to resealable plastic bag, an unbreakable decorative jar with lid or other airtight container. Store in cool dry place.

Ingredients Needed to Complete Cookies: 1/2 lb. (2 sticks) butter softened (no substitutions), 3/4 cup honey, 1 large egg. To prepare cookies: In a large bowl, beat butter and honey with electric mixer until creamy. Add egg; beat well. Add half of cookie mix; beat well. Add remaining cookie mix; beat well. Divide dough into thirds; place each on a piece of plastic wrap and flatten to 1/2-inch thickness. Wrap tightly; chill at least 4 hours. Heat oven to 350°F. Remove one portion of dough from refrigerator. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten to 1/8-inch thickness with bottom of glass dipped in granulated sugar. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake 5 to 7 minutes, just until centers are set. (Cookies will feel soft. Do not overbake.) Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets; remove to wire rack. Cool completely. Store tightly covered.

From the National Honey Board

Traits of a Crazy Beekeeper

- 1.) In the fall you spend more on sugar than you do on the rest of the groceries combined.
- 2.) You have four hive tools, each of a different color. One is for opening the hive, the second is for removing frames, the third is for removing propolis and the fourth is for squashing small hive beetles.
- 3.) You put your pine needles in marked bags based on needle length and color so you can experiment as to which combination works best.
- 4.) You think it's a toss-up as to which creature is the most vile in the history of the Earth – skunk or possum.
- 5.) It takes you longer to get through the fence you constructed around your hives to keep out the bears, possum, skunks and raccoons than it does to actually work the hives.
- 6.) You use a Kubota to haul all of your equipment each time you go to the apiary.
- 7.) You paint the shutters on your house to match the colors of your hives.
- 8.) The carpets you lay in front of the hives to keep the grass down are better than the carpets in your living room ... and are changed more often.
- 9.) Your daughter knows that the best Mothers/Fathers Day gift is as much fondant as she can squeeze into the trunk of her car.
- 10.) You spend all of Christmas Day with your nose buried in the bee books which you received as gifts.

Jeremy Barnes



Southeast Pennsylvania SPRING PACKAGES

Available for Pickup Saturday, April 5* or Saturday, April 19*.

(* Actual date depends on weather.)

Order your packages now for pickup Saturday, April 5* or Saturday, April 19*. At 2:00 P.M. on the day of pickup, see a demonstration on installing package bees. Conveniently located in the exact center of Montgomery County near Valley Forge, Norristown, and Lansdale turnpike exits. Package includes 3-pound workers with Italian queen. For more information or to download a package order form, visit www.pabeekeeper.com, email packages@pabeekeeper.com, or call 610-584-6778.

Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale, PA 19446



Southeast Pennsylvania Hands-on Beekeeping Class

This course is scheduled for five Sunday sessions from February thru July at Worcester Honey Farm. Only 25 people for each group of classes will be accepted and advance registration is required.

The instructor is committed to present a knowledgeable and enjoyable, interactive, and intensively hands-on workshop. We are friendly and encourage you to contact us throughout the course for advice, help, or a sympathetic ear.

To reserve a spot or get more information, visit www.pabeekeeper.com and download a registration form, email HandsOn@pabeekeeper.com, or call 610-584-6778.