



# The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

April 2015  
Volume No. 4

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

## News 'n Views...

March was a relief from the brutal cold of February. It seems a bit strange to remark how warm it is when the temperature gets up to 20 degrees. I don't ever recall the temperatures going into single digits and sub zero for the best part of three weeks in a row. As my beekeeping experience goes, the single digit temperatures can kill a colony in a few days, if they can't stay in contact with honey. The only glimmer of hope was that some days followed with no wind and nice sunshine. So, perhaps inside the hive, the clusters could break enough at the peak of the day to reach food and sustain themselves.

Probably every beekeeper got the "how's the bees doing?" questions. 'Who knows' was my answer. How anything could survive the -20 and -30 degrees (not wind chill) is well beyond me.

When the temperatures finally broke warm enough for cleansing flights, there was still snow covering the bottom deep boxes... which were setting on top of cement blocks and landscape timbers. Perhaps that drifted snow helped insulate. Some hives looked like pyramids with snow on the covers.

As I am writing, I have only been able to get around to each hive once. Just peek to see who's alive. It seemed they are either dead or boiling with bees, rarely anything marginal. I shifted boxes of honey from dead-outs to live hives.

I have been able to see that some dead hives were lost early,

due to varroa mites. Among the debris on the bottom board are easy to see, mites. Others starved within inches of honey. Some never slowed brood production and ate everything.

It appears my losses are holding at 45% of full size hives. I lost about 90% of my double nucs. There's a combination of factors, management and winter prep to consider. I wanted to say they probably couldn't keep a big enough cluster to stay warm. But that theory was busted when two guys pulled into my drive yesterday with two duck boxes they retrieved out of a marsh, with live bees in both. Go figure.

The Apiary Advisory Board met at the Department of Agriculture in March. Acting Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding joined our meeting. He was engaged, interested and spent some time with us discussing issues.

The application for Food Safety registration of honey houses continues to have some requirements that are cost prohibitive, not relevant or not worth the effort. The license itself is not expensive (\$35), but jumping the hoops can cost hundreds or thousands more. We all care about safe food. But realistically, much of the regulation has no more impact on the quality of honey than prior to the regulations. It has been a deterrent to honey that could be on the market.

PennDot did not have a representative at the meeting. The advisory board is continuing to seek consideration of reduced roadside and median spraying of wild growth that has pollinator food value.

With the incoming administration and agriculture budget in question, the advisory board lobbied for an adequate state budget to continue current level of bee inspectors. The current budget will end June 30<sup>th</sup>.

A good portion of time was spent discussing current PA Bee Law. A senior advisor to the House Ag Committee, with 22 years experience in Ag law, consulted with the board. Can Bee Law be amended to support urban beekeeping? Is such

### In This Issue

Keeney & Ziegler Apiary Update	3
PSBA Honey Queen Report	5
Annual Conference Speaker	7
Officers and Membership Information	8
Upcoming Dates	9
What Would Bill Do?	11
Emily Fisher Obituary	13
Nature Notes	15
Jeremy's Corner	17
Recipe & Honey Bee poem	19

(Continued on Page 3)

News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

a law doable in Pennsylvania? What are the merits or shortcomings? The consensus, after understanding how similar laws have faired, is it's success is highly doubtful. Local governments in PA want to maintain local control. Broad language giving the state overall control of anything doesn't go well, gets challenged in the courts and has been overturned.

Bee Law will be reviewed, in part because some language is out of date.

Since it appears doubtful that Bee Law could be amended to provide state control in urban and suburban areas, the alternative is to work with each local government individually. That's a huge task. Successful zoning will help convince others. Steve Repasky, president of Burgh Bees, has utilized the Voluntary Best Management Practices to create bee-friendly ordinances in four Pittsburgh area townships. Establishing working models will lay the foundation for more favorable zoning. We continue to look at Philadelphia, which has NO regulations for honey bees. The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild has stepped up to keeping this working relationship with the city. Their beekeepers strive to maintain safe and responsible hive locations.

PSBA will make a second appearance at the annual PSATS (Pa State Association of Township Supervisors) convention at Hershey Lodge in April. This year we have an exhibitor space, where we can talk and engage township officials for three days. This is a pro-active approach to beekeeping issues. Rather than wait for you to call with an ordinance problem, we hope to sway ideas and negative opinions with science and practical solutions. An emphasis will be made opposing permitting fees or other such additional costs. A team of 5 PSBA members will cover the three days.

Be sure to participate in winter loss surveys. PSBA is conducting one. Pennsylvania has been one of the highest respondents to the national Bee Informed Partnership loss survey. With the high response numbers, more detailed data can be divided out for our state. It doesn't matter if you only have one hive...all the numbers help to evaluate trends and patterns.

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

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.

**Keeney & Ziegler Apiary Update**

By Steve Finke, Meadow View Beekeeping, LLC. with input from the Keeney family

As you probably know, we lost a pillar of the beekeeping community last October when Dennis Keeney passed away after what seemed to many of us a jarringly brief battle with an aggressive cancer. Dennis owned and managed Keeney & Ziegler Apiaries; continuing a beekeeping and queen rearing business begun in 1903 by William E. Ziegler and expanded by his son (and Dennis' uncle) Paul S. Ziegler since the 1930s. Dennis worked with Paul after college until 1987, when he took over management of the apiary. Many in the region knew Dennis and his mother Ruth Keeney, who has assisted with the business for many years. Keeney & Ziegler Apiaries, based in Bethel, PA, maintained hundreds of honey bee colonies in and around Berks and Lebanon Counties and provided a variety of beekeeping services and products, including pollination services, locally raised Italian queens, and nucs and package bees in the spring. The apiary location also sold honey and other containers as a distributor for Gamber Container, Inc., and provided both local raw and regional processed honey for sale, as well as related products such as honey stix and honey candy.

Since Dennis's death in October, the Keeney family, aided by several area beekeepers, has continued to maintain the business; arranging care for the bees and the fall honey crop, and continuing the Gamber Container distributorship and honey sales while planning for a transition and sale that would allow both the location and the business to continue to support the beekeeping community. The queen yard was moved to Florida in the fall, and placed in the care of another beekeeper. The local colonies were winterized, and most moved in stages to Florida for the coldest months. At this point all of the honey bee colonies are now committed, with the majority changing hands following spring pollination. A Florida-based beekeeper with Pennsylvania roots (Mark A. Negley) who is purchasing the bees, has taken on the assignment of fulfilling the majority of the 2015 pollination contracts with the Apiary's bees, and will be maintaining them during summer months at many of the bee yards that housed them in the past. The remainder of the business has been functioning largely as before, with the sale of Gamber containers and the 2014 honey harvest being sold out of the Bethel facility, as the family has sought a buyer for the Apiary business and its assets.

In that regard, Del Keeney, Dennis' brother and the executor for his estate, and I are pleased to announce that an Agreement of Sale has recently been signed between the Dennis C. Keeney Estate and my company, Meadow View Beekeeping, LLC based in Kutztown, PA. The Agreement includes the bulk of

(Continued on Page 5)

**Keeney & Ziegler Update** (Continued from Page 3)

the remaining assets of Keeney & Ziegler Apiaries including the two properties (the apiary and the adjacent residence) and the majority of the assets related to the apiary; including several of the vehicles, the honey house, the honey processing equipment, the woodenware, and the current inventories of honey and containers. Assuming no unforeseen issues, the sale will take another 45-60 days to close.

From my perspective, I can say that I am saddened by the circumstances but happy to have the opportunity to continue the apiary in its present location. I plan to continue the Gamber Container distributorship and the honey sales and the queen yard largely as it has been operating in recent years. I believe the Keeney family is also pleased to have a buyer who plans to maintain the beekeeping tradition at the Bethel facility. This heritage and positive reputation was developed over many decades under Paul Ziegler's and Dennis Keeney's management. I hope I can grow into the very large shoes that Paul and Dennis left there.

You may not see much outward change at the apiary as I work through the process of "learning the ropes" at the facility. The local phone number won't change and the Keeney family has even approved my use of the Keeney & Ziegler honey labels, which I appreciate. The honey will be processed in the same facility as I rebuild the apiary and replace the bees that have been sold. A portion of Dennis' queen breeding stock will also provide the same queen genetics into the future. Gamber Container is also aware of the sale and is happy to see their distributorship continue in that location with the new owner. If you need anything that you were getting from Keeney & Ziegler Apiaries, please continue to call and we'll do our best to accommodate you. Ruth will continue to be on site until closing for those who wish to see her.

Together, the Keeney Family and I would like to thank you for your continued business and ask for your patience and support as we go through this transition. If you have any questions, please contact me, Steve Finke, at 610-737-7676 (my cell #) or Del Keeney at 717-514-4020. The apiary can continue to be reached as usual for container or honey sales at 717-933-8565.

**From the PSBA Honey Queen**

Hello all!

It's finally spring! Although snow flurries are still on the forecast, the sun is beginning to show its face every once in a while in Somerset County. I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm weather.

Earlier this month I headed to Harrisburg for my first ever visit to our state's capital building. I was both nervous and excited because I wasn't 100% sure what to expect. However the Cornucopia event greatly exceeded my expectations. The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers booth really stood out during the event as a crowd favorite. All of our state legislators appreciated the honey bears that we handed out. Many commented on how they look forward to stopping by our booth every year and how much they enjoy sweetening their tea with honey or drizzling it on their morning cereal. Toward the end of the night I had the opportunity to meet Lieutenant Governor Stack as well as the newly elected Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding. All in all it was so great to meet with our state representatives and discuss important issues concerning beekeepers and honey bees.

My next adventure came in the form of a vacation. Although I left my "kingdom" of Pennsylvania I still proudly represented the PSBA while I was in Florida. While traversing numerous flea markets, I chatted with several local beekeepers and bought more than my fair share of local Floridian varieties of honey. My cupboard is now stocked with Tupelo, Orange Blossom, Kumquat, Palmetto, Gallberry and Florida's Holly. I also met a future Florida honey queen named Selene. Little Selene helps her father manage their 300+ hives and bottles and sells her "Sweet Selene" honey. It is so exciting to see the future generation of female beekeepers!

My second event of the month was a lovely open house hosted by Summer Smiles Honey Farm located in Stoystown, PA. I was able to set up shop in their fantastic honey house that was chock full of educational resources. Aside from hives, bee suits and smokers they also had two observation hives as well as numerous educational posters on the wall, one of which was designed by our 2009 Honey Queen, Maya Althouse. The honey queen's legacy lives on! Throughout the night I handed out lots of information as well as educated many about queen bees and how they populate the hive.

Looking forward, the final weekend of the month I will be attending the Meyersdale Maple Festival. A good friend of mine won the title of Pennsylvania Maple Queen. I have already informed her that I support her reign; however honey tops maple syrup every time. Hopefully I don't wind up getting myself into a sticky situation with those fighting words...

(Continued on Page 7)



**PSBA Honey Queen** (Continued from Page 5)

Just a reminder, as summer draws nearer our schedules are filling up fast! I would love to attend any of your upcoming meetings or events. If interested in hosting either myself or Princess Blair please contact Rachel Bryson at [honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org) or 717-300-0146.

Best Wishes,  
Queen Jessica



Representing the PSBA at the Summer Smiles Honey Open House.

**Clare Densely, Guest Presenter at PSBA Annual Conference**

One of our six guest presenters for the November conference is Clare Densely, beekeeper at Buckfast Abbey in Devon, England.

After graduating with a BA HONS in Fine Art, Clare taught secondary school for thirteen years, during the course of which she got her first colony of bees. Disillusioned with the bureaucracy of the state education system and yearning to be closer to nature, Clare set up a market stall at which to sell home made skin care products based on foraged and home grown plants and products from her bees- lip balm, hand cream, eczema ointment - a venture that lasted for ten years.

In 2008, and on the advice of the local bee inspector, Clare

was appointed assistant to the bee department manager at Buckfast Abbey. The emphasis was on honey production from some 400 hives, and Clare quickly realised that the management was both laborious and counterproductive to the bees' natural rhythms.

Meanwhile in 2010 the monks decided to cut down on the number of hives with an emphasis on education rather than a profit-making department (which it never was.) "They had long ceased to be involved with the bees on a practical level," she wrote, "but liked the honey."

The manager, Dr. Deafer Benham, was resistant to the idea whereas Clare and her colleague, Segundo, were enthusiastic and ended up inheriting responsibility for it.

In her own words, "I love working at the Abbey. As well as the beautiful surroundings and the task of looking after the bees, the job seems to be mine to create. We have cut down the number of hives to around 30 or so. The honey they produce goes to the monks. We run courses, host visits, run a community apiary, and engage in some modest research. Our philosophy is that of gentle bee keeping; understanding the colony as a superorganism and working with that concept as much as possible.

"We are not natural beekeepers. We accept that there is a compromise when we take responsibility for a colony's health and survival but we are respectful and try to cooperate with the bees' needs as much as we can.

"We don't breed the "Buckfast bee" here anymore. I am happy working with mongrels although we do rear our own queens and are running a queen-rearing course this year. My ideal bee is more modest than Brother Adam's ideal. I prefer a more self-sufficient colony which is easy enough to handle but able to defend herself if needs be. I like propolis and would never consider breeding it out of them because it is important for their health."

Clare's topic for our November conference is Romancing the honey bee- our complex relationship with *Apis mellifera* and the authentic poetry of the hive.



**IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP doesn't expire (Lifetime member)** and receives the newsletter at 5953 Stony Hill Road, New Hope, 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 24, he/she will receive a years free subscription to either *Gleaning in Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal*, or *The Small Beekeepers Journal*. When you respond, please specify your choice of magazine.



## Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the May issue of  
*The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is **April 28<sup>th</sup>**.



### Lycoming County Beekeepers

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Montoursville Borough Hall, Montoursville. Contact Aaron Kolb at 570-323-8670 for more information.

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Lehigh County Ag Bldg., Allentown. Swarms, Preventing and Capturing presented by Ron Bogansky. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

### Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. at Aucker's Apiaries, Millville. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit the website: [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. Topics: Spring work, swarm prevention, making splits and all the other spring concerns of a beekeeper. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) or visit the website [www.lancasterbeekeepers.org](http://www.lancasterbeekeepers.org)

### Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Mark Antunes – Mark will present technique and strategies for swarm prevention and retrieval in your apiary. A question and answer time for the 2015 Queen Cell Program also. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montcobeekkeepers.org](http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org) for more information.

### York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Guest speaker: Steve Repasky on Swarms and Swarm Collection. Visit the website [www.ycbk.org](http://www.ycbk.org) for more details.

### Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. at Tom McCormack's, Aliquippa. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email [pattie.zyroll@elkem.com](mailto:pattie.zyroll@elkem.com) for more information.

### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Course

Saturdays, May 2, 8:00 a.m. in Dauphin and May 9, 12:00 noon in Palmyra. For more information, contact John Novinger, 717-365-3215, email [jdnovinger@epix.net](mailto:jdnovinger@epix.net) or watch for article in the March issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper*.

### Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Saturday, May 2, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the PA RR Supervisor's Club, Freedom. Outyard Demo. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email [pattie.zyroll@elkem.com](mailto:pattie.zyroll@elkem.com) for more information.

### Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at [jared.jaffe@keystone.edu](mailto:jared.jaffe@keystone.edu)

### Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com) for updates.

### Chester Co Annual Conference

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. at the Stroud Preserve, West Chester. Visit the website: [www.ChescoBees.org](http://www.ChescoBees.org) for more information.

### North Central PA Beekeepers

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m. near Coudersport. Topics will be about different chemicals used and offered by companies, along with different methods of going chemical free. Discussion will also include how to recognize if your colony is about to swarm and what to do. For more information and directions, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email [snowmobilj@frontiernet.net](mailto:snowmobilj@frontiernet.net)

### Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

### Lycoming County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Montoursville Borough Hall, Montoursville. Contact Aaron Kolb at 570-323-8670 for more information.

### North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: [purepa-honey@gmail.com](mailto:purepa-honey@gmail.com) for more information.

### Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: [www.monroecountybeekeepers.org](http://www.monroecountybeekeepers.org) for more information.

### Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m. at Bucknell University, Lewisburg. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: [info@thebeeyard.org](mailto:info@thebeeyard.org) or visit the website: [www.thebeeyard.org](http://www.thebeeyard.org)

### Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast Ag Research and Extension Center, Manheim. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim Pinkerton at [jim@gatheringplacemj.com](mailto:jim@gatheringplacemj.com) or visit the website [www.lancasterbeekeepers.org](http://www.lancasterbeekeepers.org)

### Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m., at the Lehigh County Ag Bldg., Allentown. Topic: Nucs and Splits. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email [sjfinke@msn.com](mailto:sjfinke@msn.com) for more information.

(Continued on Page 11)

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

**Montgomery County Beekeepers**

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skipack. Speaker: Margaret Zittel – “Beekeeping Gadgets and Gizmos” Hear the how and when to use, pros, cons, costs, and where to get beekeeping gadgets and gizmos. Contact Dan Boylan, [dpboylan83@gmail.com](mailto:dpboylan83@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.montc-obeekkeepers.org](http://www.montc-obeekkeepers.org) for more information.

**York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)**

Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. New beekeepers share their stories. Visit the website [www.ycbk.org](http://www.ycbk.org) for more details.

**PSBA Summer Picnic**

Saturday, August 1 at the Dundee Farm in Sewickley. The picnic is being hosted by Burgh Bees. Join in the fellowship and Queen bee exchange. We will print as information becomes available.

**Ag Progress Days**

Tuesday, August 18, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, August 19, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, August 20, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 This event is held at the Penn State University, State College. If you are willing to volunteer at this event, please contact Aaron Fisher at [aaron@fisherbeefarm.com](mailto:aaron@fisherbeefarm.com)

**PSBA Annual Conference**

Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. Watch for additional information as it becomes available.

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

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



**Mail vs. Email**

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

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

April 2015

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

As one of our EAS Certified Master Beekeepers in Pennsylvania, I was asked by PSBA President Charles Vorisek if I would continue writing this column in the P.S.B.A. monthly newsletter. The idea being to answer questions that may arise from our members and to help fellow beekeepers become more proficient in their craft. I agreed to do so as long as I have questions to answer.

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

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

*Bill Mondjack, EAS Master Beekeeper*

**Q: Received: March 3, 2015**

*Bill,*

*I had an interesting occurrence with my bees this fall. I had a very productive hive the previous year and harvested a bounty crop of clear beautifully colored honey. This fall when I harvested the honey from this same hive which appeared to be healthy and thriving, the honey was dark and thicker than expected and the yield was only about 30% of the previous year. I fed them sugar water in the summer and fall with a small amount of Mann Lake’s Pro Health supplement in the sugar water, the same as was done the previous year. What can be done to restore the hives production of premium, abundant honey this year? It has been a cold winter thus far and there is still a foot of snow on the ground in early March. This past January, I wrapped the hive in a comforter with a tarp on top and will not go out to wake up the bees until the weather warms up, which may be a few weeks away, the way this winter is going. Is there anything that should be done in the early spring to improve this summer’s quantity and quality of honey to harvest this fall?*

(Continued on Page 13)

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

All correspondence should be addressed to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724. Phone: 570-673-8201 Email: [pabee1@frontier.com](mailto:pabee1@frontier.com)



W.W.B.D. (Continued from Page 11)

*Thanks for your comments and most enjoyable column in "The Pennsylvania Beekeeper" nearly every month.*  
Bill Kirsch

**A:** Hi Bill,

Thank you for your complement, I'm glad you enjoy the column. I would like to know if last year was the first year for this hive. You said the hive was very productive and you harvested a bounty crop of clear beautifully colored honey. You also mentioned you fed them sugar syrup in the summer and fall. My thought is: if you fed them continuously throughout the summer and fall they may have stored and evaporated the sugar syrup and you may have extracted this "clear colored honey". You stated the honey this year was only about 30% of the previous year and was dark and thicker. My thought is, your bees may have discovered a crop of Buckwheat or some invasive Japanese Knotweed. Honey gleaned from both of these plants is usually darker and Buckwheat is usually very viscous and it could have been a short nectar flow or the bloom may have been rained out, providing less.

To the best of my knowledge, other than maintaining a strong, healthy populous colony the only thing that can be done to increase your honey harvest is to plant acres of crops that provide the bees with a good nectar source or relocate your colonies to an area where they can access a good nectar flow. My opinion is: you cannot really restore the hives production of premium, abundant honey. The quality of honey is mainly attributed to the nectar gathered by the bees, whatever nectar the bees find and bring back to the hive governs the color and flavor of the finished product – Honey. Honey is a natural product produced by honey bees, not manufactured in a factory like maple flavored table syrup.

If you are located where your bees can obtain a good nectar source the only thing you can do in early spring to improve this summer's quantity of honey to harvest is to give the colony a "Jump-Start" by feeding them pollen or pollen substitutes or supplements in early spring. I've fed colonies pollen supplement patties in February and March, making sure they have enough stored honey to feed on. As soon as the weather warms enough to feed syrup feed thin sugar syrup along with supplemental pollen patties. This boosts brood production a few weeks earlier than the natural sources are available so you will have a hive boiling over with bees when the big nectar flow starts. The more workers (nectar gatherers) you have in the colony the more nectar gathered, producing more honey.

Sounds like you treated your colony with care this winter; I believe wrapping provides protection from wind chill.

I wish you a successful year with your bees Bill and a bountiful honey harvest.

Bill Mondjack

## Emily Fisher Obituary

Emily Elizabeth Vogt Fisher, of Granville, closed the final chapter of her earthly life on March 31, 2015 at her home, passing into heaven at the age of 93 years old. She was born January 22, 1922 in Middleburg, PA, and was the daughter of Louis G. and Beatrice G. Owen Vogt.

Emily was preceded in death by her husband, Merle P. Fisher, whom she wed on April 16, 1941. They were married for 69 years.

She was also preceded in death by her son and daughter-in-law, W. Dyson Fisher and his wife Linda, her grandson, Justin Henry, her son-in-law, C. Craig Camp, her two brothers Carl and Dale Vogt, and a foster brother William Reigle.

She is survived by her siblings: Louis O. Vogt and Lois Vogt Ziegler, and her children: Louis Fisher and wife Esta of Lancaster, Lucinda Fisher Whistler and husband Gary of Carlisle, Mary Fisher Henry and husband Marvin of McVeytown, Lois Fisher Cole and husband Wayne of Mechanicsburg, M. Timothy Fisher and wife Vale of Lewistown, Ruth Fisher Varner and husband Bill of Lewistown, Sarah Fisher Hill and husband Mark of Granville, Rebecca Fisher Gerhart and husband David of Mountville, and Daniel Fisher and wife Jennifer of Lewistown.

She has 22 surviving grandchildren: W. Scott Fisher, K. Wade Fisher, Melissa Fisher Forsythe, B. Andrew Fisher, Holly Fisher Coppersmith, J. Aaron Fisher, Emily Fisher Cherry, Bradley Whistler, Barry Whistler, Nicole Whistler Beck, Jennifer Henry Sheaffer, Jeremy Fisher, Matthew Fisher, Jason Varner, Gail Varner Flasher, Benjamin, Zachary, Joshua, and Abigail Hill, Brock Gerhart, Drew Gerhart, and Janika Fisher. Emily was blessed with 26 great grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

She had been a member of the Fort Granville Grange since 1936. Since moving to Granville in 1943 Emily was an active member of the Granville United Methodist Church and at times served as president of the United Methodist Women, superintendent of the Sunday school, and leader of the youth.

Emily retired from the Arrow Shirt Factory. Also she retired from a motor route for Sentinel delivery. Emily also provide personal care for some children and elderly.

Emily was active in her community being a 4-H leader for cooking and sewing for over 30 years. She had been a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Malta Home and the Granville volunteer firehouse ladies auxiliary.

(Continued on Page 15)



Emily Fisher Obituary (Continued from Page 13)

Emily was actively involved in all aspects of her husband’s beekeeping business: from being a member of the Pa State Beekeepers Association, to packing honey, to farm show exhibits, to trips to and from Florida, to assisting with Girl Scout visits and various duties in the honey house in addition to mother/wife duties rearing 10 children.

Her most important vocation in life was being a wife and a mother to her 10 children. She was always giving of her time and talents especially to her family, friends, and community. Extra children and company were welcomed at any time!! She was an excellent seamstress, cook, baker, and gardener... canning hundreds of quarts of food each year. She loved all kinds of flowers and enjoyed sharing them as well as starts of favorites from her flower beds to anybody who was interested.

In death Emily continues to give by donating her body to medical science and training.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to: Granville United Methodist Church, PO Box 90, Granville, PA 17029; Flasher Children Education Fund, Juniata Valley Bank, 1 E Market St, Lewistown, PA 17044; Justin Henry Scholarship Trust, PO Box 301, McVeytown, PA 17051; American Diabetes Association, PO Box 544, Ambler, PA 19002-0544; American Lung Association, 3001 Old Gettysburg Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Granville United Methodist Church, 1346 N River Rd, Granville, PA 17029 with Pastor Mark Hill and Pastor Ted Corcelius officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Barr Funeral Home, 120 Logan Street, Lewistown is in charge of the arrangements. Visit www.barrfh.com for online condolences.

Nature Notes

Spring may be late but it never gets left behind! Sunny warm days will bring an explosion of leaves and flowers.

Goldfinches at the bird feeder are showing more gold and losing their drab winter colors. Chipping sparrows, with unstreaked breasts and rusty caps, return to forage on grassy areas under evergreens. House wrens, barn swallows, and chimney swifts return in April

What are all those worms doing on walkways after a rain? During a soaking rain, worms come to the surface to keep from drowning. Crawling onto a walkway probably puts part of their tubular bodies above the water line. Many do not make it back into the ground. Why do robins and other small critters pass up this feast? Charles Darwin wrote a book about

earthworms, saying that we should value them for plowing the ground and turning leaves and litter into fertile soil. About one third of our earthworm species are not native to North America. Introduced earthworms have colonized parts of the great north woods, eating leaf litter that has, since the retreat of the glaciers, been important to forest health. When worms digest this protective layer of decaying leaves, they change the ecology of the forest.

White-tailed does give birth to fawns when blackberry buds open to provide a healthy food source for nursing deer.

Spring beauties, dog-toothed violets, hepatica, trillium, and bloodroot all bloom in April. Google can teach us what each one looks like. The locations of many spring wildflowers are kept secret to protect them from being dug out of the ground. By and large, spring wildflowers cannot be moved, so transplanting is not an appropriate description of this flower-napping.



Trillium nivale. public-domain-image.com

Mourning cloak butterflies (dark wings with gold edges) winter over as adults (not in cocoons) and fly on warm early spring days. Spring azures, sky blue and nickel-sized, also are early fliers.

Full Moons rise just after sunset. By staying in one spot, we can see the Moon moving upward behind a network tree branches. What we are seeing is the turning of the Earth. Yes, the Moon moves around the Earth a bit each night, but the Moon is moving toward the horizon as it rises. We are watching the motion of our planet, as the Moon appears to creep upward through branches.

Why does the full Moon look so big when it rises? Turn away from the full Moon, bend over, and look at it between your knees. Changing your perspective spoils the optical illusion that makes the Moon appear to be larger.

The Big Dipper stands on its handle in the northeast. Follow the arc of the handle down and right to Arcturus and then “speed on to Spica.” High in the south is bright Jupiter, reflecting sunlight back to us. Below Jupiter is Regulus, the dot at the bottom of a backwards question mark. The backwards question mark, the fluffy head of Leo the Lion, is up and left from the dot. Super-bright Venus is the evening star in the west.

Tim Sterrett

## Jeremy's Corner

According to economic historian Gregory Clark, in the 3600 years between 1800 BC and 1800 AD there was minimal, if any, improvement in material conditions in Europe and Asia. Then came the Industrial Revolution. Driven by the explosive energy of coal, oil and natural gas, it inaugurated an unprecedented two century wave of prosperity that today we are calling the Anthropocene Age, a geologic chronological term for an epoch in which human activities have had a significant global impact on the earth's ecosystems. Indeed we now believe we can not only change but can control our environment for the benefit of human kind.

As a hobbyist beekeeper I don't easily get bored; the constant joy comes from seeing the incredible beauty of life in finite detail. The perpetual challenge is twofold - not to be overwhelmed by the amazing complexity and diversity of the apis world, and to string together all of the roles and functions evident in a colony so that they make sense. It's the jigsaw analogy I have used before.

A hive is like a continuous game of 3-D chess. There are an innumerable number of moves at so many different levels. A competent beekeeper is one who can see the actions to make at the right time and integrate them with the natural instinct of the bees so that the continuity of the hive is ensured.

Kirk Webster cites the Japanese farmer and writer, Masanobu Fukuoka: "Farming (or in our case beekeeping) is the cultivation of better human beings." In other words the only measure of good beekeeping is to leave the land better than one found it, with greater fertility and productivity caused by more efficient pollination in a toxic free environment.

Unfortunately this is foreign to our Anthropocene cultural of exhausting a resource in the belief that we will find more, of farming for money rather than for the long term vitality of the soil or purity of the water and air, of using chemicals to increase productivity and kill 'weeds' as well as the insects on which our long term food source depends.

It is this culture which has, for the first time in 10 000 years of civilization, put our long term survival on this planet at risk, not to mention the quality of life we take for granted. This is the culture of more, of faster, of personal ambition and sensation and novelty, none of which one finds in a bee hive. The bees remind us not only that there are other ways of being that pre-date humans by millions of years, but also that everything is connected, and we lose that connection at our peril.

We hear often that the future of planet earth as we know it is in jeopardy. I would suggest that it is the future of

humankind, which is threatened, that the earth will do just fine, that expressed as a percentage humans have been present for less than .0001% of the earth's existence and if we were to disappear both the earth and the bees would do just fine. Or in an even bigger analogy as described by Edward Wilson, the relationship of our earth to the size of the universe is equivalent to the second segment of the antenna of an aphid in the state of New Jersey. Sadly if the earth were to disappear the universe would not notice.

A honey bee colony is both a superorganism and a eusocial unit. Each bee is programmed to be specialized in one task at any one time, but the bees together are brilliant - so highly coordinated that they resemble the cells and tissues of one larger organism. According to Edward O. Wilson, of the millions of species in this world, twenty are currently classified as eusocial, which means that they rear their brood across many generations (one queen can comfortably birth 6 generations in a year) and there is division of labor in that the same bees tend to the queen, raise the young, forage for food and look after the nest.

Of those 20 eusocial species, one is mankind and another is the honey bee. Most of the others are ants and termites.

If the world is one gigantic bee hive then none of us is a queen bee; rather each of us is a pollinator, and just as the work of the honey bees is to extend life - both of the colony and of the plants it depends on - into further generations for their long term benefit, so do we have a responsibility to keep cross pollinating our ideas, our values and our behaviors for the long term survival of a better world.

Jeremy Barnes

## Recipe

### Honey Salad Dressing (Version 1)

1 teaspoon paprika  
½ cup honey  
½ teaspoon powdered dry mustard  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ cup vinegar  
½ teaspoon celery salt  
1 cup salad oil

Mix dry ingredients. Add the honey, lemon juice, and vinegar. Slowly add the salad oil, beating until well blended.

Honey Baked Goods Competition and Exhibit  
PA State Farm Show 2015

### Honey Nut Apple Muffins

4 cup flour                      2 cup milk  
 2 tablespoons baking powder    ½ cup vegetable oil  
 1 teaspoon salt                      2 large eggs  
 ¾ cup honey  
 2 cups peeled and chopped apples  
 ½ cup chopped walnuts or hazelnuts

**Topping:**

1 cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed  
 ¼ cup flour  
 ½ cup sugar  
 5 tablespoons butter, melted

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Mix flour, baking powder, and salt together in large mixing bowl.

In medium bowl, beat together eggs, honey, milk, and oil. Stir in apples and nuts. Add egg mixture to dry ingredients and gently mix just to combine. Do not over mix. Fill well-buttered muffin tins about ¾ full.

Combine topping ingredients in small mixing bowl and distribute over the batter. Bake in preheated oven 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in middle is dry and tops are lightly browned. Makes about 2 dozen.

Honey Baked Goods Competition and Exhibit  
PA State Farm Show 2015

### The Honey Bee

Ted Hughes

The Honey Bee  
 Brilliant as Einstein's idea  
 Can't be taught a thing.  
 Like the sun, she's on course forever.

As if nothing else at all existed  
 Except her flowers.  
 No mountains, no cows, not beaches, no shops.  
 Only the rainbow waves of her flowers.

A tremor in emptiness

A flying carpet of flowers - a pattern  
 Coming and going - very loosely woven -  
 Out of which she works her solutions. Furry goblin midgits  
 (The beekeeper's thoughts) clamber stickily  
 Over the sun's face - gloves of shadow.

But the Honey Bee  
 Cannot imagine him, in her brilliance,

Thought he's a stowaway on her carpet of color waves  
 And drinks her sums.

# Stony Springs

## Apiaries

Cogan Station, PA  
570-998-9464

### NORTHERN BRED STOCK

Taking orders for 2015 Packages due in the last week of March

We are committed to hygienic and mite resistant lines that are winter hardy.  
We utilize a chemical free natural selection breeding program and isolated mating yards.

- PA Certified Breeder Northern Queens and Nucs
- Members of Northern State Queen Breeders Association
- Top Quality Queens and Nucs Available May thru September
- 2015 Northern Nucs \$110.00
- 2015 Northern Queens \$25.00
- All Nucs are 5 Frame Deeps