



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News 'n Views...

The 2015 Pennsylvania Farm Show was another success for the PA state beekeepers. The Farm Show is the largest opportunity to showcase honey and beekeeping to over 500,000 visitors. This is accomplished with help from an estimated 80-100 beekeepers, all pitching-in their talents and labor. A huge thanks goes out to the Capital Area Beekeepers Association. Their membership helps set up weeks before the Farm Show begins and carries on throughout the 8-day event.

The Honey Ice Cream stand got set up in the food court earlier in December. They were open for business on Friday before the official opening on Saturday, Jan 10th. Sales were good all week with some record days. At the end of the closing Saturday they didn't have much left.

The Honey Market was setup in its usual spot against the wall, in the Main Hall. Honey from beekeepers across the state, comes into the market place and is sold in one common location operated by the PA state association. Each contributor sells their products wholesale to the state association. Profits from these two areas go into the PSBA Promotions account. The Promotions account primarily funds the PA Honey Queen and Princess as they travel around the state. That account also buys advertising materials to promote the state association and some handout materials.

The Apiary Learning Station is located at the exhibit area, near the famous butter sculpture. This is a stopping point for the Farm Show Detectives. The Farm Show has maps to help visitors find many commodities around the complex. At each

'station' the map is ink-stamped. The maps are turned in for a chance to win some giveaways, including Turkey Hill ice cream.

The Apiary Learning Station is manned with 2-4 volunteers at all times from 8AM to 9PM. Anyone with questions about honeybees or beekeeping can get answers. An array of catalogs, brochures, beginner classes and information is available. Two observation hives are also on display. Each hive exits into an atrium where the bees can fly and exercise. Everything is at a kid's level for an up close view. This is arguably one of the most popular stops in the complex.

And if all that isn't enough, PSBA had daily honey extraction shows on the Culinary Connection stage all week.

The interest in beekeeping never seems to slow down. Answering the same questions becomes a challenge. We try to never forget that we are all ambassadors. Each volunteer came with freshness and enthusiasm. What a great group to be a part of.

Each year has its hiccups and bumps along the way. No exceptions this year. Those who help set up things at the Farm Show continuously strive to fix what went wrong and make a better show next time.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the PA Farm Show.

Once again, a Farm Show Special Edition newsletter will cover highlights of the Farm Show and ABF convention. If you receive the newsletter by email, the photos are in beautiful full color.

If you would like to receive the PSBA newsletter by email, send that request to secretary, Yvonne Crimbring at pabee1@frontier.com As our membership grows, the email version helps keep costs and labor of assembling newsletters down.

At the political level, a new administration is in the driver's seat. We welcomed Governor Tom Wolf as he made one of his first stops at the Apiary Learning Station at the Farm Show. He has named Russell Redding to be Secretary of Agriculture. We look forward to working with Sec. Redding. We worked with him during the Rendell administration. Sec. Redding has been serving as Dean of Agriculture at Delaware Valley

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College. He seems to always have a finger on the pulse of agricultural affairs.

Russ Redding headed up the transition team ahead of inauguration. PSBA was asked to contribute thoughts to some questions pertaining the Dept. of Ag. I submitted the following responses after having spoken with a transition team member at the PA Preferred Reception at the Farm Show.

Things that are working with PDA:

- 1). PDA has maintained budgeting to keep a minimum of one apiary inspector for each Region (7) with current administration, after dropping from 10 to 2, in 2010. The current inspector level is a bare minimum, but is working.
- 2) Apiary Advisory Committee has met with PDA the past two years with constructive discussions to address various issues unique to beekeepers. We would like to continue these meetings and discussions.

What has not worked?

- 1) We are concerned that some regulations resulting from Food Safety Act 106, continues to suppress honey producers from marketing their honey. Honey is a very safe food, with no track record of health risk, yet producers must now comply with expensive testing, sign-offs and things that have little or no impact that would make it any safer than always has been. These hurdles are more than the profit is worth for small producers
- 2) Pesticides continue to be concern to all pollinators. A means of testing for honeybee losses suspected to be killed from pesticides would go a long way in identifying products or application practices responsible.

Opportunities:

- 1) Oversee regulations and added costs being implemented by local governments on beekeepers. The state already has registration and inspection in place. Additional laws suppress the very group we are depending upon to maintain vital pollination.
- 2) PDA could take the lead with encouraging pollinator friendly plantings on electrical and pipeline right of ways and highway medians. Pollinator health is challenged by a lack of available forage.
- 3) PDA could take the lead on less cosmetic use of herbicides. Road edges are often sprayed and then later mowed. There is increased weed resistance to herbicides. The target plants are often beneficial to pollinators.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the transition team survey.

Charlie Vorisek,
President PSBA

PSBA Honey Queen Report

Hello Everyone! Greetings from snowy Somerset County!

I must say that my 2015 reign started out with a bang at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This was my first time ever visiting the Farm Show and it really was a fantastic experience. I arrived in Harrisburg on Friday in order to start preparing for opening day. I had the wonderful opportunity to observe the honey judging as well as set up a display promoting the honey queen program. With the assistance of former Honey Queen Alyssa Fine we were able to create a beautiful, eye-catching display that really got our program's name out there. We had many interested young ladies sign up to be contacted with further information about how to become a honey queen. Isn't that great?

Later that evening Princess Blair and I had the opportunity to network with many different people at the PA Preferred gala. Throughout the night we shook many hands and were introduced to then Governor Corbett and first lady Susan Corbett. We also had the chance to chat with other commodity group representatives and several members of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association.



2015 PSBA Honey Princess Blair Hetherington, then Governor Corbett and 2015 PSBA Honey Queen Jessica Onstead at the PA Preferred Gala held January 9th.

Opening day at the Farm Show was both exciting and hectic. Princess Blair and I started our morning by presenting a basket full of honey, beeswax and pollen to Secretary of Agriculture George Greig. We then had the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania beekeepers in the parade of agriculture located in the main farm show arena. It was a fantastic feeling to stand in front of the crowds representing such an

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PSBA Honey Queen Report (Continued from Page 3)

important industry. Later that day I had the opportunity to help with the PA Preferred Cookie, Brownie or Bar baking contest. Interestingly enough, the blue ribbon went to a brownie decorated with tiny sugar honey bees! After the contest it was great to be able to stand up on stage and invite the large group of people back to the three booths that the PSBA has at the Farm Show.



As the week wore on I had the opportunity to help out with several extraction demonstrations, one of which was broadcasted live on the Pennsylvania Cable Network. Afterward I stopped by the PCN booth to ask how many people view their Farm Show broadcasts. The number was a staggering, 1.8 million! When I wasn't helping out with extractions, you could usually find me at the observation hives. I've discovered that I have a true passion for teaching young and old about the inner workings of the hive. I was also overwhelmed by the number of individuals who were interested in starting hives of their own but didn't know how to start. I worked to encourage them to begin and many left our booth with their arms full of brochures about classes, equipment catalogs and lists of local beekeeping clubs.

Once I returned home from the Farm Show I began to look forward to my next event, Somerset's Fire and Ice Festival. Although nowhere near the size of the PA Farm Show, I did have the opportunity to network with a good number of people. The children who I talked to really enjoyed the "I love honey" stickers that I handed out as well as petting my honey "bee"-gle, Zelda. Since Fire and Ice is a very pet friendly festival I also handed out homemade peanut butter and honey dog treats with a recipe card. This was a unique thing to do because many only consider honey for their personal consumption, even though it a healthy treat for our furry friends as well.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Honey Queen Program. I would also like to

give a huge shout out to all those who mentored me during Farm Show week as well as all the volunteers who donated their time to the education center, honey ice cream booth or market place. I am overwhelmed by your hard work and kindness and I am so proud to not only represent but be a part of such a spectacular group of people.

I hope to see you all in the near future! I would love to come speak at one of your future events or group meetings. To invite me or Princess Blair to your event, contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatekeepers.org or (717) 300-0146.

Best wishes,

Queen Jessica

Recipe

Honey Banana Velvet Doughnuts



- Ingredients:**
2-1/2 cups flour
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1/2 cup honey
1 ripe banana
2 Tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
1/2 cup dairy sour cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
Fat for deep frying

Directions:
Sift together dry ingredients. Beat eggs until light. Add honey gradually and continue beating until well mixed. Beat in mashed banana, butter, sour cream and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture. (Dough should be soft.) Chill 2 hours or longer. Roll out on floured board about 1/4-inch thick. Cut with doughnut cutter. In deep fat heated to 370°F, fry a few at a time. (Fry the holes as well as the doughnuts.) Turn doughnuts when they rise to the surface and are brown on the underside. Fry until brown on both sides. Remove from fat and drain thoroughly. While doughnuts are still warm, coat with cimmamon and sugar or powdered sugar.

Taken from the National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Nature Notes

The Sun spends more time above the horizon in February, but our **shortest month** always seems to be the lowest level of winter. Warm February days tease us with a hint of spring. The small, white, drooping flowers of **snowdrops** and one-inch yellow flowers of **winter aconite** are out in warm spots, providing food for honeybees.



Snowdrops

(Photo Credit: FreeFoto.com)



Winter Aconite (Winter Aconite Photo: Martin Olsson)

Late winter can be a good time to bring in branches of **forsythia**, set them in water in a warm room, and enjoy early flowers. This Purdue website has info about **coaxing** winter branches to bloom: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/ho-23.pdf>

Year after year, honeybees have to make and store enough **honey** to keep them fed and warm through the winter. The bees winter as a colony, a soccer ball-size cluster of thousands of bees. In cold weather, the bees in the center of the cluster eat honey and generate enough heat to keep the colony from freezing. On warmer days, the bees trade places so everyone gets some food.

SE Pennsylvania's honeybees make most of their **honey crop** in May and June when **locust** and **tulip poplar** trees bloom. Colonies have already started raising the bees which will then help raise the bees that will collect that crop. February is a tough month for honeybees. They are feeding not only themselves but also the larvae of the bees which will expand the colony population in preparation for the honey flow. A healthy colony in May should have 60,000 to 80,000 bees. If the bees run out of food (honey), the colony will die. That's why beekeepers **lift lids** of hives to check on winter foodstores. Honeybees can weather cold temperatures if they have honey to eat.

By now, the **almanac** should be taped to the refrigerator or onto a kitchen cabinet where it can be easily seen. Our almanacs can record the dates of **blooms**: aconite, snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, red maples. **Bird activity** can be recorded: chickadees at a nest box, the return of tree swallows and barn swallows, crows carrying nesting material. Pretty soon, the almanac grows to several pages.

Robins are around all winter in SE Pennsylvania. They gather into flocks, change their diet, and feed companionably on fruit and berries that grow on sun-warmed hillsides. Robins are vegetarians for part of the year. On warm late-winter days, robins may spread across lawns to hunt for meaty worms.

Our evening skies change with the seasons. **Orion**, a favorite winter constellation with a belt of three bright stars, is higher in the sky. Bright planet **Jupiter** is to the left of **Sirius** and below **Castor** and **Pollux**. Planets do not twinkle; stars twinkle. The four biggest **moons of Jupiter** can be seen with binoculars, tiny specks of light close to Jupiter. Their **changing positions** from night to night as they circle the planet, led **Galileo** to publish the news in the **early 1600s** that the Earth was not the center of the Universe. **Copernicus** had written about a Sun-centered universe, which we now call the Solar System, in **1543**. **Aristarchus of Samos**, a Greek star-gazer, proposed a heliocentric (Sun-centered) universe in the **3rd century BC**. (Sad but true: none of us is the center of the Universe.)

Early-risers see bright Jupiter in the west.

Tim Sterrett

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.

Subscription Rates
(These are for PSBA members ONLY!)

<p>American Bee Journal</p> <p>1 year \$21.00 2 years 39.75 3 years 56.25</p>	<p>Bee Culture</p> <p>1 year \$25.00 2 years 48.00 3 years 69.00 (Regular Rates)</p>
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The Small Beekeeper's Journal
\$12.95
(Regular Rate)

**Please send 6 weeks before subscription runs out
as we send them in once a month.**

PSBA Advertising Rates

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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 .57 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.

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**Application for New and Renewal Membership
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association**

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

Name _____

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New

Renew

Make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
Send to: Yvonne Crimbring, 2565 Southside Road, Canton, PA 17724

Upcoming Dates To Remember



**Deadline for the March issue of
The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is February 28th.**

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 7 at the Westmoreland Co. Coop. Extension, Greensburg. Hosted by Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers Association. For additional information, call 724-774-3003 or visit the extension website: <http://extension.psu.edu/beaver>

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Saturday, February 7, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Gathering Place, Mount Joy, PA. Contact Jim Pinkerton at 717-653-5911 or visit the website: www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

5th Natural Beekeeping Symposium

Sunday, February 8, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Temple University, Broad St., Philadelphia. For additional information, visit the website: www.phillybeekeepers.org

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, February 13, Officers/Directors planning meeting PTBA. Contact Dave Taylor at 570-378-3728 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

30th Annual Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

Friday & Saturday, February 13-14 at the Four Points Sheraton, Pittsburgh North, Mars, PA. Speakers include Jerry Hayes and Dr. Diana Sammataro. Call 724-774-3003 or visit the extension website: <http://extension.psu.edu/beaver> to register or for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster. Dave Tarcy is the guest speaker. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Introduction to Beekeeping Classes (Started Feb. 4)

Wednesday, February 18, March 4, 18 + field trip day, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville. The classes will be taught by members of the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Association, some of whom are Certified Master Beekeepers. Contact Blaine Holden at 610-767-0306 or email blaineholden@hotmail.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, February 19, at the Lehigh County Ag Bldg., Allentown. Dr. Robyn Underwood will review her work at The Rodale Institute. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. at The Gathering Place, Mount Joy. Annual Banquet. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Mark Antunes – “Coming Out of Winter Strong”. Mark will present tips and strategies for making the transition in your apiary from winter to spring. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobekeepers.org for more information.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension, Coudersport. For more information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email snowmobilj@frontiernet.net

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit their website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Speaker, Dr. Dewey Caron, University of Delaware. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Chester Co Annual Conference

Saturday, March 14 at the Merion Science Center at West Chester University, West Chester. Speakers: Dr. Thomas D Seeley, Michael Palmer and Dr. Dewey M Caron. Visit the website: www.ChescoBees.org for more information.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Government Center, Lewisburg. For additional information, contact Jim Aucker at 570-458-6027, email: info@thebeeyard.org or visit the website: www.thebeeyard.org

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Attention Counties: Please submit your 2015 list of officers and meeting dates to Yvonne as soon as possible. Her mailing address and email are listed on Page 8.



Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 p.m. at the North Museum of Science and Natural History, Lancaster. For additional information and RSVP, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, March 19, at the Seipstown Grange, Fogelsville. "Show & Tell" and Swap Meet. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

Southern Adirondack Beekeepers (SABA) Seminar

Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the HVCC TEC-SMART Extension Building, Malta, NY. Guest speakers are Allen Dick of Alberta, Canada, Meghan Milbraith of Munnich, Minnesota and Dr. Wyatt Mangum. For additional information visit the SABA website www.adirondackbees.org

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speakers: Scott Famous and Vince Aloyo – Overview of the Queen Cell Program with discussion of accomplishments, success stories and statistics from 2014. Contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 JimBobb@Verizon.net or visit their website: www.montcobeekers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County meeting)

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Dr. Meghan Milbraith, from Minnesota, is the guest speaker. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

28th 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 or watch for article in the March issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper*.

PSBA Summer Picnic

Date and location to be announced in future newsletters or visit the PSBA website. As information becomes available it will be posted.

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 (100th 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.

PA Honey Princess Report

Who says being a Princess isn't tough work? This month I got the full view of the job in just one solid week! That's right, I'm talking about the Pennsylvania Farm Show!

From January 9th-17th, I spent almost every day buzzing around the Farm Show. Many days were spent talking to the public and selling great products the PSBA had for sale at the show. It gave me a great chance to meet all of the great folks that keep our association running strong. I also really enjoyed helping out at the food court booth and getting the chance to talk to the public one on one about our industry!

The thing that I was truly thankful for at Farm Show was all the chances and opportunities I received to do interviews and reach a larger audience. What astounded me most was nearly all of the reporters I talked to had little to no knowledge about beekeeping. It really gave me a chance to educate them from the start and give them facts to share with their viewers/readers.

The best part of the whole week was definitely being asked to be an Angel Food Cake judge! I got the chance to see a completely other section of farm show that I normally would not get the chance to see. As a child I started out just volunteering for the Vegetable Growers Association and would see the food court every year at most. This year I was everywhere from the large arena to being interviewed by the newspaper over the phone in the corners of the pens. Any back way I could get to the booths to help the association, I found and memorized so I could be everywhere at once.

Overall I am thankful for the chance I had to represent the association this month. I made many connections with the public and loved every minute of teaching people about beekeeping. I helped them to understand the importance of our industry as well as they helped me to learn and adapt my teaching styles of all levels of understanding beekeeping. I would especially like to thank all of the volunteers who gave up so much of their time during the week to help in the booth and help me learn a little more about their products. I look forward to working with them all in the future!

And don't forget, if you would like me to come to any events this year, contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146.

Blair Hetherington

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

Jeremy's Corner

My stroke box contains a cutting from the local newspaper of a column written by Leonard Pitts in 1997 in which he describes a television commercial featuring a man arriving for a basketball game. The stride of the latter is easy as he walks the gauntlet of fans, his smile secretive and knowing. He walks like a winner.

Yet in the voice-over he says, "I've missed more than 9 000 shots in my career. I've lost more than 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the winning shot - and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

The man is Michael Jordan who, in the words of Pitts, "shackled gravity and courted flight, who made the impossible seem routine and the merely difficult look easy." And, ignoring for a moment the fact that the commercial was for over-priced athletic shoes, Jordan was arguing that failure is why he succeeded. Failure is the price of excellence.

This is the time of year when, with our hearts in our mouths and with feelings of apprehension, we open the hives after a long winter. Most of us are going to find that some of the girls have not survived and I for one never quite get over the feelings of sadness that come with the sight of those little motionless, fuzzy butts sticking out of the cells in unison, often with a frame of capped honey only inches away, and the pile of blackened dead bees on the bottom board.

The truth is it happens to us all, and some would argue that it is an essential weeding-out process by mother nature. But it is often the first major obstacle faced by a new beekeeper. In terms of the Gartner-Hype Cycle we typically begin a process like beekeeping with eagerness and suspense, quickly reaching the 'peak of inflated expectations.' The bees that came with the package survived, the queen laid in a good pattern, the girls took all of the sugar syrup we fed in the fall ... and then they die. This 'trough of disillusionment' is where as many as 50% of new beekeepers decide not to continue. The heartbreak, the disappointment, is too much.

Those who continue cite two things for their decision to do so. The first is a mentor, a fellow beekeeper, who assures them this is the norm, that they are not a 'bad person' because their charges died. I'm struck by how readily Jim Tew, writing in *Bee Culture*, describes his failures without being shamed by them, as if to give us permission to fail as well. The second is a local bee association where new beekeepers can hear stories from experienced pros about winter losses, told without rancor or guilt. The message is "Welcome to our club - having lost a colony you are now truly one of us"

and there is support for the self-doubt that can understandably accompany these losses.

I would add a third - an ability to see failure as an integral part of success - and rather than become despondent, to see this as motivation for a revitalized effort with the renewed that comes from a challenging experience. Those who make this transition begin what the Gartner-Hype cycle labels 'the slope of enlightenment' which is when the real learning begins. It is gradual, it is real and it is experiential.

Pitts describes a scene from a Michael Jordan clip: "He fakes left, goes right, elevates to the hoop, finds a man in his path, spins in midair, throws the ball backwards over his head and scores." The crowd roars, the announcers are breathless, and the viewer wonders ... how?

I don't know what the beekeeping equivalent of faking, blocking, spinning and shooting are, but I do know that better beekeeping practice comes from constant work - reading the newsletter, the journals and the books, talking with one's peers, going to conferences, reflecting on the notes one makes in the bee yard... We talk about talent, we nod our heads to luck, but so often we ignore the most important things - the hard work, the unceasing push to be a little better than the day before ... and the many failures.

In Michael Jordan's case that moment was built on thousands of others that only he can know, those moments in which he paid his dues away from the cameras so that he can walk like a winner on his way to the locker room.

Jeremy Barnes

Previous copies of Jeremy's Corner can be found at honeybeewhisperer.simplesite.com

For Sale

Spring and Summer 5-Frame Nucs

Available for pickup in
Lewistown, PA

**Call for availability and pricing.
800-736-6205
Ask for Aaron**

Recipe

Honey Nut Apple Muffins

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

To p p i n g :

- 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



2015 PSBA Honey Queen, Jessica Onstead, is pictured above offering honey samples to visitors at the Farm Show held January 10-17 in Harrisburg.

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.
MCBA members in good standing free non-members \$5.00 admission.



IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP doesn't expire (Lifetime member) and receives the newsletter at 1698 Shale Pit Road, Beaver Springs, 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 March 15th, 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.

Bee losses of anywhere from 10 to over 40% have become common place and an issue of beekeepers everywhere.

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association presents Dr. Dewey M. Caron

He will speak on:

What beekeepers are doing to improve colony survivorship

How your bees doing so far this winter

What are PA beekeepers who have lower losses (better survival) doing to improve their bee success rate

What can we do this month

His focus will be on what beekeepers with 1-10 colonies are doing for colony stewardship that can help reduce their losses.

When

Thursday March 19, 2015 - 7:00PM

Where

Plains Mennonite Church
50 W. Orvilla Road
Hatfield, PA 19440

How much

MCBA members in good standing - Free
Non-MCBA members - \$5.00