



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

October-November 2015
Volume No. 9

The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News and Views...

What a difference a few weeks can make. As I scanned hives at various locations the third week of August, things were looking grim. Drawn supers were untouched. Brood chambers were nearly dry. I was feeding hives on pumpkin pollination once a week just to keep them healthy. It never ceases to amaze me how fast a gallon of syrup disappears. Along came some rain that seemed to put life back into the plants at just the right time. In the course of two to three weeks our northwestern region has had a very good honey flow. This has been an exceptional September with cool nights, hot days and little rain to interrupt the goldenrod bloom. I'm so used to rain shutting it all down in the peak of the bloom that I am more than happy with this harvest. I purposely do not try to over-super in the fall. I start pulling honey as soon as the goldenrod is browning down. My thought is the major flow is done. Aster honey is noted for crystallizing quickly. So, I would rather the bees take what's left of the honey flow and pack it in the brood chambers for winter. If they are packing in a smaller space there's a better chance it will be cured and sealed before cooler temperatures take over the region. In past years, I would find wet uncapped honey in the spring that seemed to promote nosema.

Some of my pleasant surprises were the 'leg biter' queens I made and traded in the PA Queen Project. Some fell flat, apparently not getting mated properly, but the good ones are great. All these were late June/July starts as nucs. I was going to be happy if they got established in two deep boxes. They nearly all made two supers beyond the two deeps. I'll be anxious to see some of these survive the winter.

As good as the season seems to be finishing, there are a handful of hives that are failing. I know we had some late summer swarming and some late requeening. Those are often evidenced by the remains of queen cells still on a frame. A couple queens went 'drone-layer', which wasn't a total shock. I saw a number of queens that apparently didn't mate well, while raising queens earlier in the season. This seemed to be related to weather, which prevented the queens from getting out in a timely fashion. I got a thymol mite treatment on in late July and early August. This was to help keep the Aug/Sept foragers healthy.

In the end, nothing in agriculture is 100%. There will always be a percentage of failures that are beyond our best management and not easily explained.

The PA Apiary Advisory Board will meet with the PA Department of Agriculture on Oct 5th. Discussion will be with PennDot regarding roadside management, Food Safety regulations affecting small producers, Pollinator Stewardship Protection Plan (as directed by the Federal government) and review of Best Management Practices.

Get registered to attend the PSBA Annual Conference Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14th. This is open to all membership. A tremendous lineup of speakers are on the schedule at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. Speakers: Marla Spivak, Clare Densley (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Nieh. Additional information and registration forms are included in this newsletter and on the PSBA website.

Friday morning of the conference will be the Executive Board meeting. All local associations, with at least 10 PSBA members, are entitled and encouraged to send a representative to attend this meeting.

There will NOT be a honey show at this year's Annual Conference. Although it has been quite appropriate for a beekeeper meeting, it has lacked participation and taken space that could be better used for the conference.

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The Ziegler Award...now the Ziegler-Keeney Award will be presented at the PA Farm Show. The Farm Show is creating a special case to display this presentation.

The 100th Farm Show will be in January 2016. We are still looking for old Farm Show photos that can be used in a video loop near the Learning Station. We don't want your originals...copies are perfect. Frank Licata, of Mann Lake-Wilkes-Barre, has offered their services to produce the video. Please send any old pictures to Frank (frankl@mann-lakeltd.com) or myself (President@pastatebeekeepers.org)

Save that perfect frame of capped honey to enter into the Farm Show exhibits.

Would your club/association like to do a Farm Show County Exhibit? We are making a list ahead of on-line registration. This allows more time to plan and build. Presently, the list is Washington County Beekeepers, Montgomery County Beekeepers and Capitol Area Beekeepers. We have 5 spaces to fill. Every entry receives a premium. Top premium is \$500, sponsored by Dutch Gold Honey. This is a great way to showcase your club.

Charlie Vorisek,
President PSBA
president@pastatebeekeepers.org

Beekeeper of the Year Nominations

Nominations are requested for the 2015 Beekeeper of the Year Award. This award is presented annually to a beekeeper that the committee feels meets the guidelines listed below. If you would like to nominate a fellow beekeeper, please write a letter of recommendation and send to Stewart Mathias, 514 Earlys Mill Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036.

Guidelines for Beekeeper of the Year

The following rules are absolute:

1. Must be an active member.
2. Active membership for 15 years in the State Association
3. People that are employed in the honeybee industry, and whose full time job is funded by tax monies are excluded.

Judgements made by the committee:

- 1) The individual's role with the State Association;
- 2) The individual's innovations;
- 3) The individual's promotion of the industry;
- 4) Although members in county associations are desirable, it is not necessary;
- 5) Beekeeper score card (items for judgement by committee): Honey producer; Efficient operation; Queen Raiser; Showmanship of apiary products; Pollinator.

PSBA's Annual Conference November 13th & 14th

Plans are finalized for our annual conference at the Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. The program begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and includes our business meeting and election of officers, with our banquet Friday evening. On Saturday, presentations on the latest news and research will be continued. An **Executive Meeting** will be held **Friday at 9:30 a.m.** in the conference room at the Inn. **County representatives are urged to attend.**

There will be a \$45.00 registration fee (includes both days) to help cover the program expenses. The registration fee for Friday only is \$25.00 and Saturday only is \$35.00 (Member guest is \$30.00). There will be no registration fee for Executive Meeting representatives on Friday (one representative per county). To pre-register, please complete the Registration Form on page 19 and mail to Yvonne.

Banquet

The Annual Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Country Cupboard Friday evening, Nov. 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The cost of the Banquet (which includes a buffet dinner) is \$30.00 for adults, \$11.00 for ages 11-12, \$8.00 for ages 6-10, 5 & under, free. These prices include tax and tip. Please make your reservations with Yvonne Crimbring, (570) 673-8201, **before Nov. 7th.**

Door prizes are being given out during the banquet and we are looking for donations. Anyone wishing to donate door prizes, please send them to Dave Hackenberg at 1466 Crossroads Dr., Lewisburg, PA 17837 or bring them with you to the meeting.

The Country Cupboard Inn is located on Rt. 15, 3 miles north of Lewisburg. When coming in from the East or West - take I-80 to Rt. 15S exit and travel south approximately 10 miles.

Need a Place to Stay?

If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Country Cupboard Best Western, 524-5500. Be sure to mention you are with PSBA. Make your reservations early!! They will be holding a block of rooms for PSBA until October 22nd. Other places to stay include: Country Inn Suites, 570-524-6600; Hampton Inn-Lewisburg, 570-522-8500; Days Inn University, Rt. 15, Lewisburg, 523-1171; Econo-Lodge, Rt. 15 South, Lewisburg, 523-1106; Comfort Inn, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-8000; and Holiday Inn Express, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-1100. For Bed and Breakfast accommodations: Brookpark Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, 523-0220 and Pineapple Inn, Market St., Lewisburg, 524-6200. All above phone numbers are in the 570 area code.

PSBA Annual Conference

Nov 13 - 14, 2015

Best Western Inn/Country Cupboard
Lewisburg, PA

Friday, November 13

- 9:30 – 11:30 PSBA Board Meeting
- 12:00 pm Registration opens
- 12:30 pm Vendors Open
- 1:00 pm **Charlie Vorisek:** "Welcome"
- 1:10 pm **Karen Roccasecca:** "State of the Bees"
- 1:40 pm **Maryann Frazier:** "The Pesticide Problem: Talking to the Press and Public"
- 2:20 pm **Dr. Marla Spivak:** "The Benefits of Propolis to Bee Health"
- 3:20 pm Break
- 3:40 pm Business Meeting

Friday Evening

- 6:00 pm **Banquet at Country Cupboard**
Welcome: Charlie Vorisek
- Dinner
Recognition of Guests
Guest Speakers:
PA Secretary of Agriculture
Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi
Beekeeper of the Year Award
Honey Queen and Princess Reports
Crowning of PA Honey Queen for 2016
- Auction

Saturday, November 14

- 8:00 am Registration and vendors open
- 8:30 am **Dr. James Nieh:** "The Dangerous, Beautiful World of Honey Bee Communication"
- 9:20 am **Dr. Marla Spivak:** "Impact of Landscapes on Bee Health and Survivorship"
- 10:20 am Break
- 10:40 am **Clare Densley:** "Romancing the Honey Bee – Our Complex Relationship with *Apis mellifera* and the Authentic Poetry of the Hive."
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm **Erin MacGregor-Forbes:** "Artificial Swarming as a Management Tool and IPM Varroa Control"
- 2:00 pm **Dr. Dewey Caron:** "What Beekeepers are Doing to Improve Colony Survivorship"
- 3:00 pm **Panel Discussion:** Maryann Frazier, Karen Roccasecca, Clare Densley, Erin MacGregor-Forbes and Dewey Caron.

*To be included: **Cooking with Honey Demonstration** by the Honey Queen and Princess, for spouses and families.*



Mail vs. Email

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



Nature Notes

On warm autumn evenings, **katydid**s seemed sure about who did it. As evenings cool in October, their “Katy did” and “Katy didn’t” are slow and drawn out. After frost, the evening stage will be left to owls. **Screech owls** sing a low, wavering whistle on a single note. **Great horned owls** boom out “Who’s awake? Me, too.” Both species are seeking mates and establishing territories.

Juncos and **white-throated sparrows** move south for the winter and show up foraging on the ground under the bird feeder.

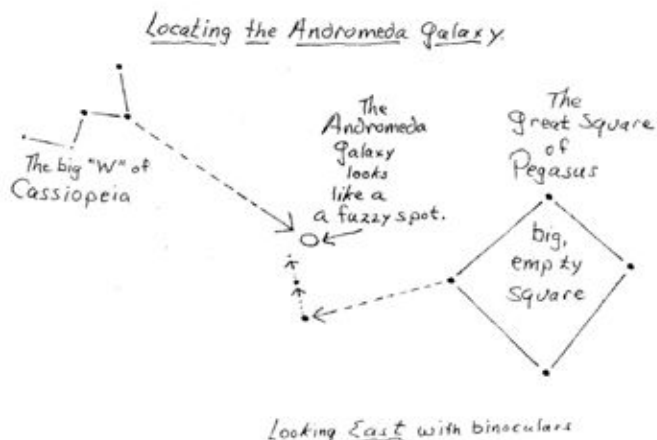
Three cheers for **chlorophyll**, the chemical that gives leaves their green color. Chlorophyll, in the presence of sunlight, turns air, and water into glucose. **Glucose** is the sugar that fuels life on Earth. The cells in our body combine glucose with oxygen releasing the energy that lets us be living organisms. In autumn, deciduous trees in the remnants of our once-huge, mixed hardwood forest, discard their green chlorophyll garments to reveal what lies beneath. Their underwear is a magnificent display of red, orange and yellow leaves.

In October, the lawn stops growing and we are mowing **fallen leaves**, shredding them into mulch. **Lady bugs** rise from the ground on still afternoons and fly, intending to find a crevice in the bark of a tree. Too many will encounter house walls and crawl inside to share warmth with us. Most of these are thirteen-spotted ladybugs native to Asia.

October is the best month for seeing the **Andromeda Galaxy**. The Andromeda Galaxy is a rotating disc of stars, planets, dust, and gas similar to the Milky Way, our home galaxy. The Andromeda Galaxy is the most distant object visible to the naked human eye. The Andromeda Galaxy is about two million light years distant; the fuzzy spot we might be able to see is light that has been traveling across space toward us for about two million years.

Seeing the Andromeda Galaxy is **not easy**. Choose a dark, clear, moonless night. October’s full moon is on October 27, so avoid the days around this date. Use the finder chart and binoculars to find the fuzzy spot (the bright white center of the Galaxy). Method One: Imagine a line across the diagonal of the Great Square. Extend that line out to the left, and down a bit, to a bright star. Then up to a dimmer star and up again, and a bit left, to a dimmer star. The Galaxy is the fuzzy spot above this star.

Method Two: Find the big “W” of Cassiopeia and, with binoculars, follow a line out from the right hand bottom of the “W” to a fuzzy spot.



For a colorful Galaxy finder chart, try <http://www.space.com/7426-starhopping-101-find-andromeda-galaxy.html>

The real challenge is seeing the Andromeda Galaxy with the **naked eye**. A dark moonless sky is needed. Find the Galaxy in binocs and then try to see it naked eye. The fuzzy spot may be easier to see with **averted vision**: look just to the side, not directly toward, the fuzzy spot.

The fuzzy spot we see is the bright center of the Galaxy. Hold a hand at arm’s length flat against the sky to get an idea of the size of the Galaxy in our sky. Time exposure images through big telescopes let us see the whole disc. Galaxies contain **billions of stars**. Our universe contains **billions of galaxies**.



The Andromeda Galaxy Image Credit: Andromeda Galaxy (with h-alpha) by Adam Evans - M31, the Andromeda Galaxy (now with h-alpha) Uploaded by NotFromUtrecht. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons - [httpcommons](http://commons.wikimedia.org).

Tim Sterrett

Upcoming Dates To Remember



Deadline for the October-November issue of *The Pennsylvania Beekeeper* is November 27th.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Bldg., Coudersport. For more information contact John or Joan Bradley, 814-697-7586 or email: northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Monroe County Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Honey Tasting. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Friday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., at the Fullerton Fire Co., Whitehall. Annual Banquet. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

New Beekeeping Classes

Saturday, October 17 (1st of 4 classes) held at the Penn State Extension in Coudersport. The remaining three classes will be held in the spring of 2016. These classes will cover the very basics in beekeeping. More information will be available after Sept. 1 Pre-registration is required before Oct. 2nd. For more information contact John or Joan Bradley, 814-697-7586 or email:

northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. at 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

Lancaster County Beekeepers

Tuesday, October 20, 6:00 p.m. at Dutch Gold Honey, Lancaster. Honey Round Up and Election of officers. For additional information, contact Jim Pinkerton at jim@gatheringplacemj.com or visit the website www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

North Central PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Bldg., Coudersport. For more information contact John or Joan Bradley, 814-697-7586 or email: northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speaker: Herman Danenhower; Topic: Comb honey production, including hive configurations & packaging options. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, November 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden. Fall Banquet. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506; email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

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

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, November 7, 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the Plains Mennonite Church, Lansdale. Fall Banquet. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, November 7, 6:00 p.m. at the South Montrose Community Church. Annual Banquet. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Saturday, November 7, 6:00 p.m. at the Keystone Restaurant, Ebensburg. Annual Banquet and election of officers. Reservations required. More information can be found at www.ccbee.org or email secretary@ccbee.org

Central Counties Beekeepers

Monday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Huntingdon. For additional information visit the website: centralcountiesbeekeepers.org

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. at The Park Street Complex, Honesdale. For more information, contact the Agricultural Extension Office at 570-253-5970 – EXT 4110.

Monroe County Beekeepers

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

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at jared.jaffe@keystone.edu

2015 PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14, at the Country Cupboard/Best Western Inn, Lewisburg. Speakers: Marla Spivak, Clare Densley (Buckfast Abbey), Dewey Caron, Maryann Frazier, Erin Forbes and James Nieh. Additional information in this newsletter or visit PSBA website.

York County Beekeepers (Tri-County Meeting)

Monday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Speaker: Clare Densley (Buckfast Abbey), England. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details.

Beekeepers of the Susquehanna Valley

Tuesday, November 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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Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., at the Trexlertown Grange, Allentown. Scale-up Beekeeping: What has to change as your colony numbers go up. Also election of officers. Contact Steve Finke at 610-737-7676 or email sjfinke@msn.com for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Central Counties Beekeepers

Thursday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office, Huntingdon. Annual Banquet. For additional information visit the website: centralcountiesbeekeepers.org

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Keystone College, Harris Hall, room 104, LaPlume. For additional information, contact Jared Jaffe at jared.jaffe@keystone.edu

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Lewisburg wrap-up meeting for new members, if needed. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, December 12, time & location to be announced. Holiday Potluck Party. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

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.

Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

February 19 – 20, 2016 at Doubletree by Hilton, Mars, PA. Speakers include *Dr. Jeff Harris*, Extension and Research Professor at Mississippi State, *Dr. Diana Sammataro*, one of the authors of *The Beekeeper's Handbook*, and *Dr. Christine Grosinger*, Director of Pollinator Research at Penn State University. Along with break-out sessions on winter management, bear fencing, cooking and disease and pest control, a special Beginning Beekeeping workshop will be offered on Saturday. Registration opens December 2015. Questions of this notice – please contact Lyn Szymkiewicz at lynszym@comcast.net or 412-855-0710

2016 PSBA Annual Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 11 & 12, at the Days Inn, State College. The theme is Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping and the key note speakers will be Mark Winston and Keith Delaplane.

2016 Honey Queen

Applications Available

By Rachel Bryson

The Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program is in the midst of an extremely successful 2015 promotion year, but the time has come to start spreading the buzz about the 2016 Queen and Princess positions.

The Queen Program provides an excellent opportunity for young women to gain professional experience with public speaking, presentation development, interviews and networking. Besides the tremendous resume and personal growth this program provides, the Honey Queen and Princess also afford an invaluable service to the beekeeping industry. Each year, these young women attend an average of 50 to 60 educational events, reaching more than 2 million people throughout Pennsylvania.

Your help is needed to keep our program strong. A flyer for the 2016 competition is available on the PSBA website. Please make copies and pass this information on to any young women you know who may be interested in the Queen Program.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Honey Queen Program and we look forward to serving you and the beekeeping industry for many years to come.



There are certain pursuits which, if not wholly poetic and true, do at least suggest a noble and finer relation to nature that we know. The keeping of bees, for instance.
Paradise (to be) Regained, Henry David Thoreau



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

Honey Queen Report

By Jessica Onstead

September was another busy month for me, buzzing all over the state educating the public about the importance of honey bees. My month started off with a bang by visiting Dutch Gold Honey in Lancaster. Ever since my crowning I was crossing my fingers that I would get to tour the plant, so I was very happy to experience all that Dutch Gold had to offer. It was



Visiting Dutch Gold Honey in Lancaster, PA.

amazing to see the huge barrels of honey from all over the world that were waiting to be bottled and sent out to consumers. Later that afternoon I visited the “Young at Heart” club, where I put on a presentation covering basic honey bee facts. The seniors really enjoyed my presentation and asked many questions. It was so great to see how they anticipated my coming with providing honey sticks for all of the attendees.

My next event was close to home at Mountain Craft Days in Somerset. I enjoyed spending the morning with Whitehorse Mountain Apiaries and talking to festival goers about bees and honey. Its amazing how excited people get about purchasing locally produced honey, especially when they have liquid, chunk, and comb honey to choose from. Beeswax candles and cosmetic products were other items that the crowds were especially interested in.

The following week I had the opportunity to set up an educational display at the Berlin Brothersvalley Community Fair, which was viewed by fair attendees the whole three days of the fair. Later that week I was stationed at my table to hand out honey sticks as well as answer questions about the objects on my table. The display garnered a lot of interest in the Honey Queen Program as well as beekeeping in general.

In honor of National Honey Month, Somerset Trust

Company in Somerset invited me to “bring my bees to the bank” as part of their monthly customer appreciation events. I had the opportunity to showcase my observation hive as well as hand out honey sticks and brochures to customers. Interacting with an observation hive is one of my favorite things to do as Honey Queen, so I was very happy to be able to show bank customers the inner workings of the hive.

My final event for September took me to the Angora Gardens in White Oak, where I put on a short presentation,



The Angora Garden's Junior Gardeners enjoyed creating a honey bee inspired craft.

cooking demonstration and supplied a craft for the Angora Gardens Junior Gardeners. The group really appreciated my presentation and many were copying the recipe for my honey berry smoothies. After answering a myriad of questions the junior gardeners and I created honey bee magnets by decorating a clothespin with markers, googly eyes and iridescent pipe cleaners. After the event I was approached by journalists from the Tribune Review. I was overjoyed to find that the article and my photo were then featured on the front page of The Daily News.

But wait there is more! A Honey Queen's duties go well beyond putting on presentations and visiting fairs and festivals. This month I was able to acquire space on a digital billboard located at exit 110 of the PA Turnpike. The message proudly declares that “September is National Honey Month” as well as encouraging viewers to “Buy Local Honey”. I also met with a sophomore currently studying at The University of Pittsburgh who wanted to interview me about bees, beekeeping and my role as the current Pennsylvania Honey Queen for a thesis she is writing for her nonfiction writing class. Trust me, anything can happen when you are a Honey Queen!

As always thank you all for your support. I still have a few months left of my reign so please contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekeepers.org or 717-300-0146 to invite me to your upcoming fair, club meeting or event. Looking forward to meeting you!

Best Wishes,
Queen Jessica

Jeremy's Corner

On Sept 24th Pope Francis addressed the assembled Congress of the United States. It was a superbly structured speech, delivered eloquently and gently by a wise and loving soul. It was not a sermon in the traditional sense so much as a moving reminder of the best of human values.

What might Francis have said to the bees (after all, he chose his papal moniker in honor of St. Francis of Assisi)? We get an inkling if we take a few extracts directly from his 55-minute presentation and change some of the nouns (e.g. *colony* for *country* or *nation*, *worker* and *drone* for *son* and *daughter*, etc.)

Imagine an elderly bee which has lost most of its hair and is dressed in a white cassock and zucchetto with slippers on four feet, leaving two front feet free to hold his notes, addressing an assembled throng of honey bees.

“Honorable Members of the Colony, Good Friends:

“Each drone and worker of a given colony has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. Your own responsibility is to enable this colony to grow. You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your bees in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good. A colony endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk.

**Let us seek for others
the same possibilities,
which we seek for
ourselves.**

“I would like to take this opportunity to dialogue with the many thousands of worker bees who strive each day to do an honest day's work, to bring home their bee bread – one step at a time – to build a better life for their families. These workers, in their own quiet way, sustain the life of society. They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create an organization, which offers a helping hand to those most in need.

“These bees, for all their many limitations, are able by hard work and self-sacrifice – some at the cost of their lives – to build a better future. They shape fundamental values, which will endure forever in the spirit of the hive. A colony with this spirit can live through many crises, tensions and conflicts, while always finding the resources to move forward, and to do so with dignity. Building a future requires love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity and solidarity.

“We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good. The challenges facing us today call for

a renewal of that spirit of cooperation. All activity is an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life.

“In recent centuries, millions of bees came to this land to pursue the dream of building a future in freedom. We are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners. Tragically, the rights of those who were here long before us were not always respected. Those first contacts were often turbulent and violent. Nonetheless, we must resolve now to live as nobly and as justly as possible, as we educate new generations not to turn their back on our “neighbors” and everything around us. Building a colony calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best.

“Let us remember the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This Rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated.

Let us seek for others the same possibilities, which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.

“This common good also includes the earth. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. I call for a courageous and responsible effort to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference. Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies, aimed at implementing a culture of care and at the same time protecting nature.

How essential the family has been to the building of this colony. And how worthy it remains of our support and encouragement. Yet I cannot hide my concern for the family, which is threatened, perhaps as never before, from without. I can only reiterate the importance and, above all, the richness and the beauty of family life. In particular, I would like to call attention to those family members who are the most vulnerable, the young. For many of them, a future filled with countless possibilities beckons, yet so many others seem disoriented. Their problems are our problems. We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together.

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Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 15)

In these remarks I have sought to present some of the richness of your *apis* heritage, of the spirit of the home of the honey bee. It is my desire that this spirit will continue to develop and grow, so that as many bees as possible can inherit and dwell in this hive."

Such words would have fallen on deaf ears (deaf antennae?) because these are lessons the bees have learned only too well and practice every day. We, on the other hand ...

Jeremy Barnes

Honey Princess Report

By Blair Hetherington

September was a quiet month for me. Just starting my junior year at Penn State, I've done lots of running around getting my semester going and getting moved into college. That being said, I peeled back slightly and had a calm month. I had a wonderful time going to the Juniata Fair and doing a presentation on pollinators and general beekeeping. I had many questions from the audience and even sparked some interest in farmers looking at getting into commercial beekeeping. What has really intrigued me are the opportunities to speak with adults on the beekeeping industry. I have had many great discussions on the future of agriculture and how bees can shape our industry.

As my reign starts to wind down, I'm getting my scrapbook together and lots of paperwork for the beekeeper's convention. I am eager to see you all again in Lewisburg in about a month. I am excited to also see the new faces of first year beekeepers!!



IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 9/16 and receives the newsletter at 600 Huston Rd, Radnor, 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 December 14, 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.



Beekeeping in Southern Delaware

By Robert Brooks Jr

Although I am still connected to Pennsylvania and have a shell of a business left in Perkiomen Valley Apiaries, Zieglerville, PA Anna and I moved to Southern Delaware almost two years ago. The move was not quick nor was my disconnect from beekeeping in Pennsylvania.

I started my commercial beekeeping operation way back in the 70s selling packages and equipment from my A frame house in Green Lane, PA before expanding to 1000 colonies. I still make the trip to pick up bees every April going on now for 50 years. I decided in the early 1970s to retire from a research career and at first I spent full time hunting and fishing but the full time aspect of that had me lose interest after a year or two and of course being in my early 30s no one I knew had the free time to spend doing what I was doing most were raising families and their wives were not especially supportive of them moving into my kind of life style. I invested time and money into building a really big building to begin beekeeping full time. I enjoyed growing the business and I spent time as the PSBA president building a strong relationship with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State. I had the idea to develop a beekeeping faculty position at the University and we beekeepers finally got a full time faculty position at Penn State at least for a while. With the help of the Associate Dean for Research, Chuck Kreiger, I moved to develop a regional support group of other surrounding state universities centered at our state University eventually it was overtaken by an ambitious new Associate Dean who saw it as his mission. In any case, I saw my long guidance and control needed to move to someone else and let it go where it would go as MARREC instead of arguing with the Dean about its mission and leadership. The worse thing I did as PSBA president was teach faculty members at Penn State how to access the PA Department of Agriculture research funds. The very first grant Entomology received from this PDA fund the Dean, Lam Hood refused to have a faculty member present so I did the presentation and Penn State Entomology received the money. Lam Hood became a friend and eventually he authorized the money for a full time beekeeping faculty position and Scott Camazine was hired.

I spent 10 years full time building the Perkiomen business and also a Senior Vice President for a North Jersey pharmaceutical business, Tamara. My main role was keeping that company in compliance with the Food & Drug Administration. The company was a contract manufacturer. We made over the counter tablets and capsules for many companies, cosmetic creams and lotions and more. I even freeze dried my raw Royal

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Beekeeping in S. Delaware (Continued from Page 17)

Jelly and formulated it to fill capsules I sold at Perkiomen along with my own pollen in capsules. The job only required my presence in North Jersey occasionally so I could spend most of my time at Perkiomen but the job represented my reintroduction into the pharmaceutical business.

My real disconnect from beekeeping came when Anna and I decided to build a house on the 20 acres we bought near Bethany Beach in Southern Delaware 150 miles away from our home in PA. I managed the building of our house, which took over 13 years spending a few days each week as general contractor and guiding building of the house. I had anticipated it would only take me 3 years but it is a monster place, not a McMansion but close and it is what Anna wanted and at least early in the building she was paying for it. So my absence at Perkiomen cost me a great deal of business and then there were mites! I never realized how much money it would take to build this big house but it was Anna's dream home and she wanted it all and as a physician working in the pharmaceutical industry she was making the income to pay for it.

In 2006 I was tempted to return full time to the pharmaceutical industry with a job offer and now I had even less time to work in my bee business, attend beekeeping meetings and everything else related to bees. The Korean Company Apimeds who was working on an interest of mine honey bee venom and needed someone to manage their business in the US. I accepted a loose arrangement, which I thought, would be nice part time income with a role to interface with vendors for the company and meet the compliance issues with the Food and Drug Administration. The company asked me to attend a meeting with FDA and to my surprise the FDA Division Director was an old friend. The meeting was organized by Apimeds CEO and two vendors, a Clinical Research Organization from Princeton and a regulatory consulting company from California that flew to the meeting in their own plane. After the meeting Apimeds CEO asked if I would accept a full time roll as a senior advisor to him and I accepted. He asked for my recommendations of how to proceed and I told him he needed to fire both of these vendors. As you can imagine they were not happy. To make a long story shorter in 2009 the company began clinical trials in the US beginning with a US FDA Phase II bee venom osteoarthritis clinical trial. My role expanded as the companies new Chief Operating Officer into managing everything for the company in the US. Next year I will have been with the company 10 years. We have a device for female incontinence approved and sold globally and we will complete a Phase III clinical trial just now underway for the honey bee venom product for osteoarthritis in May 2016. There is some question if the product will be advanced to file a marketing order or New Drug Application. The product has been approved in Korea for osteoarthritis since 2003 and has been used to treat 200,000 patients in that country. In the US

the company has submitted an Investigational New Drug Application (IND) for its honey bee venom product for the treatment of all forms of multiple sclerosis, which is and was the company's primary goal. This IND needs an Amendment and it is ready to launch into a clinical trial to be done in both the US and EU likely in early 2017. My role has taken me to Korea, defending the patent application at the US Patent Office, meetings with a wide range of marketing businesses and to all of the major investment banks in NYC. So, to all of you that know me this is what has taken me away from the things I did for PSBA and my beekeeping interests.

It took me a while to have bees on our property in Southern Delaware but I now have just 13 colonies. When I went to my first beekeeping meeting in Delaware maybe 5-6 years ago I met a sideline beekeeper with a pollination business and several hundred colonies here in Delaware. Pollination is a fairly big business in this state. I asked the beekeeper how big an extractor he had and he looked at me and said he did



not have an extractor. Surprised, I asked him why and he told me you couldn't make any honey in Southern Delaware and the bees were more like a dog, you had to feed them. Needless to say I did not want to hear that from him. Because of his size and experience I took his word for it along with another friend who had 30-40

beehives who supported his assertions. I halfheartedly kept a hive or two just for pollination in my mini orchard that is now a fruit producing 30 or so full grown semi dwarf trees.

A few years ago I decided to try and make some honey. You have to know at one point Perkiomen had 1000 hives I managed for mostly honey production. To my surprise I made a couple of supers of honey from each hive in Delaware. I did not use the plastic frames/foundation that have become so popular and easy to use. I firmly believe that they have a tremendous negative impact on honey production, wintering and more. Last year we made over 100 lbs. per colony. Anna handles the extraction process, and it's a process! This year I started 9 packages without intention since I had them as extras. I did not get the second deep boxes on them until 25-26 June and I guessed these hives would be all lost. I also supered several strong colonies at that time. I opened the hives in mid July and the second hive body/brood box was full of brood and honey with all the foundation completely drawn – ready for wintering and a surprise. We took off the full shallow supers and have honey. So far for me Delaware seems to be a great place to make honey but you know how it is – ask me in a few more years maybe my opinion will change!

A little update on Anna, she retired from Sanofi Aventis after 16 years with Rhone Poulenc, Aventis and finally the merger

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Beekeeping in S. Delaware (Continued from Page 18)

with Sanofi. After all those years with Sanofi and its predecessor companies Anna wanted to experience other companies so she spent a couple of years with Merck, Wyeth and she is on her third employment with Pfizer. In between one of them she worked as Apimeds Chief Medical Officer for both the Phase II clinical trial and our current Phase III clinical trial. As her roles and income grew I no longer was surprised. Her current role at Pfizer is a Global Clinical Lead for their most important oncology drug approved in February 2015. Anna is responsible for patients in 37 countries for a compassionate care study and a half dozen US Phase I extension studies as the Medical Monitor. Although she has an office in Collegeville, PA she mostly works out of her home office in Delaware where I am working out of my home office too. We are still getting used to this big house and we have frequent visitors from all over. It is kind of like we live and work in a park. We have no plans to stop working just yet because for both of us it is fun!! If you're at the beach in Southern Delaware please look us up.

Recipe

Yummy Honey Mustard Sauce

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons Worchester Sauce
- 2 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup honey

Directions:
Mix all ingredients together well in a bowl. Cover and chill overnight. Enjoy!

Honey Baked Goods Competition and Exhibit
PA State Farm Show 2015

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**Registration for the 2015 Annual Conference and/or Banquet
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association
Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____ County _____

- Conference Registration Fee*:** \$45 Both days (Nov. 13 & 14) per person
 or \$25 Friday only or \$35 Saturday only
 Guest (spouse, family member or significant other) \$30 Both days or Saturday only

Name of Guest _____

Friday evening Banquet: _____ # age 13 and over @ \$30.00 per person
 _____ # age 11-12 @\$11.00 each _____ # age 6-10 @ \$8.00 each _____ # age 5 & under: Free

Total amount submitted \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: PA State Beekeepers Association
Send to: Yvonne Crimbring, 5656 Southside Rd, Canton, PA 17724

*There will be no registration fee for Executive Meeting representatives on Friday
 (one representative per county)