



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

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The Official Organ of the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association

News 'n Views...

By the time you read this, the 2016, 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show will be in progress or completed. A tremendous effort of planning and volunteers come together to support the PA State Beekeepers' Association. This year we have commemorative '100th Farm Show' name tag ribbons for all the volunteers. We'll see if 150 are enough. The effort would not be complete without help from Capital Area Beekeepers Association members managing key roles in planning and setup. Many thanks go out to these people.

A Farm Show Special Edition newsletter will cover high-lights of the Farm Show and ABF convention. If you receive the newsletter by email, the photos are in beautiful full color.

The unusually warm winter is one of those 'good-thing' - 'bad-thing's. Good, in that even marginal colonies have a chance to survive this winter. Good that they are continuing to raise some new brood and bees that will extend their strength through cold periods. Bad that new brood equals using more food. Everyone will want to be assuring extra food is on the hive so they don't starve in Feb, March or April. I have pondered how this warm is much different than some lower states and how they manage. For myself, it's always knowing that our northern state can experience sub-freezing and extended cold periods. If the cluster must tighten for a week or more of extreme cold, they can starve with food just inches away.

With the warm winter, beekeepers need to be mindful that other bugs, pests and molds are surviving as well. This is a recipe for more pesticide use when growing season gets underway. About 3-4 years ago, an easy winter saw Army Worms get out of control in Pennsylvania. Growers want to save their crops, so serious large scale spraying took place. There is little time for warning. This is a time to understand their predicament and keep communication open concerning hive locations. One grower called me before spraying for Army Worms and I was able to remove nearby hives.

Renewal Applications for Apiary Licenses will be arriving in the mail. Although it is not well advertised in the application... renewals can be done on-line using credit card payment.

Every registered beekeeper can access their information on the Department of Agriculture website. Go to <https://www.paplants.state.pa.us> Then Logon/Register" on the menu. Your PaPlants ID and PIN are printed on your renewal form. If you do not have your renewal form, you can contact the department at 717-787-4843 or via email to obtain your PaPlants ID and/or PIN.

Registration helps each time we address legislators/regulators. In the past 4-5 years, registered beekeepers in Pa have grown from 2,000 to 4,000. Managed colonies have grown from an estimated 40,000 to 60,000. This does not mean things are all 'rosy', only that more concerned people have invested in helping honey bees.

A note from the Annual Meeting: Yvonne will retire from Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Chair and Newsletter editor-publisher at the end of 2016. Secretary-Treasurer is the 'elected' position. Membership Chair could possibly be separated and most certainly the Newsletter publishing. The Executive Board will consider suggestions, sources or volunteers from the membership.

Presently, this newsletter is mailed (snail-mail) to about 700 members. 300 are emailed. We encourage as many as possible to receive the PSBA newsletter by email. Email is faster, cost-effective, easily filed and in color. A supplement, the "Waggle" is an occasional news/information email letter that *only* email members can receive. Send your Newsletter for email request to secretary, Yvonne Crimbring at pabee1@frontier.com

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In August, past-president of PSBA, Lee Miller was hospitalized with encephalitis. Encephalitis is a brain/spinal cord inflammation often caused by virus. He underwent 6 weeks of induced coma. His road to recovery has been understandably slow as brain injuries are. He may return home soon... a combination of progress and health insurance push. He continues to have a condition called Aphasia, which scrambles memory and speech. Doctors indicate recovery from this can take 12-18 months.

Among many activities, Lee Miller has been Chairman of the Farm Show Apiary Exhibit for over 25 years. As a co-chair, I learned and have been part of the many aspects and duties required to maintain what is considered one of the premier honey shows anywhere. This year I am learning the details that Lee did behind the scenes as I attempt to fill his shoes. Thanks to a team of PSBA volunteers and Farm Show staff, the Farm Show Apiary Exhibit will continue without any noticeable interruption.

Any cards and words of encouragement can be sent to his home address: In care of Jane Miller, 3180 Ridge Road Ext, Freedom, Pa 15042

All counties and associations: Please forward updated 2016 information, such as officers, contact information, beginner classes and meeting schedules to Yvonne Crimbring, PSBA Secretary-Treasurer, email pabeel@frontier.com and Ken Hoover for the PSBA website, email: webmaster@pastatebeekeepers.org

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA
president@pastatebeekeepers.org

PSBA Conference 2016

The 2016 PSBA Annual Conference will be held at the Days Inn in State College on November 11 and 12, and we are requesting input on two areas in particular:

1. The possibility of running a 'short course' for newer beekeepers on the morning of Friday, Nov 11. This is in response to those who feel that the conference caters excessively to experienced beekeepers.
2. Topics that you would like to see in a break out session, such as 'Building a Honey House,' or "Talking to Children about Bees."

Please send your ideas and comments, as well as any relevant feedback on the 2015 Conference, to Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com ; mailing address: 1722 Union Church Rd, Seven Valleys, PA 17360, phone: 717-428-1144.

The Benefits of Propolis to Bee Health

Marla Spivak

A summary of a presentation at the State Conference last November.

The hemolymph of the honey bee does not produce antibodies, so how do bees defend themselves against pests and pathogens? Certainly there are levels of individual immunity (mechanical barriers, innate and inducible defenses, and proteins which are antimicrobial peptides) but collectively the bees show grooming and hygienic behaviors, and an antimicrobial defense expressed in the collection of resin, which was the focus of this talk.

Resin is a sticky exudate produced typically by pine and spruce trees, but also cottonwoods, as a defense against herbivores, pathogen and UV. It contains a complex and diverse mixture of antimicrobial compounds and is scraped off of the trees by the bees with their mandibles before moving it to their hind legs. In a feral hive the bees combine resin with wax to make propolis with which to surround the hive entrance as well as varnish the walls. In a managed hive any gap of 1/16" is filled with propolis, (e.g. where the walls of a Langstroth hive join, or under and around the ends of a frame as it sits in the hive.) Gaps of 1/4" or more are filled with wax.

Marla posed a number of questions. If resin foraging requires considerable energy from the bees and offers no direct individual reward, why do they do it? Do honey bees with a propolis envelope inside the nest have less disease? Are some resins more antimicrobial than others, and do the bees self-medicate with chosen resins?

She described experiments in which propolis was either painted on the inside of boxes or propolis traps were taped on the inside of boxes for bees to deposit a natural envelope. Bees in these hives had a significantly lower immune gene expression throughout the summer, thus did not have to invest as much energy in baseline immune function, and thus the effort involved in resin collection was justified. It was noted that propolis loses some of its antimicrobial activity over the winter and the bees will cover the envelope with new propolis collected in the spring.

What about as a defense against pathogens? Certainly colonies with a propolis envelope showed fewer signs of chalk brood, which is fungal, but what about a bacterial pathogen like AFB? One to two day old larvae are susceptible to AFB, which they contract orally via brood food contaminated with AFB spores, and one mechanism of resistance is antimicrobial activity in that food. Experiments showed that seven day old nurse bees that had been exposed to both propolis and AFB spores had higher immune gene

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The Benefits of Propolis...(Continued from Page 3)

level expressions, brood food from these colonies had a higher inhibitory activity against AFB and that levels of the disease were lower in colonies with a propolis envelope.

The answer to the question as to whether bees increase resin foraging after the colony is challenged with fungal or bacterial pathogens, is that the number of resin foragers does significantly increase for the former, but not the latter, for reasons that are presently unclear. And after the chalk brood (fungal) challenge, bees increased resin collection from trees they were already visiting (e.g. cottonwood) rather than visiting new sources, even though, for example, the highest antimicrobial resin comes from the white spruce, which the bees do not collect. Perhaps it is *too* toxic?

The practical implications for beekeepers include roughening the interior wooden sites of hives bodies, taping propolis traps to the inside walls of hive bodies, or adding 1/16" grooves to follower boards, all to encourage the bees to build a significant propolis envelope around there colony.

Jeremy Barnes

Introduction to Beekeeping Class to be Held at LCCC

The Lehigh Valley Beekeepers' Association will hold a 4 session "Introduction to Beekeeping" class at Lehigh Carbon Community College, 4525 Education Park Drive, Schnecks-ville, PA 18078 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM on Wednesday February 3 & 17 and March 2 & 16, 2016. The 2016 class will be held in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) building in rooms 103 & 111.

If you are considering becoming a beekeeper or just want to learn more about the hobby consider registering for these classes. Registration fee is \$60.00 for adults and youth under 16, accompanied by a registered adult, are invited to attend at a fee of \$10.00. Adults who register and pay before January 16, 2016 will receive a \$5.00 discount off their registration fee. The instructors will be experienced Association beekeepers including several who are Certified Master Beekeepers.

For more information go to the LVBA website at www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org or contact class coordinator Blaine Holden at blaineholden@hotmail.com



IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 3/17 and receives the newsletter at 148 Independence Rd, Aliquippa, 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 February 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.

Nature Notes

Now that we have passed the Winter Solstice, daylight lasts a bit longer each day as the sunrise and sunset points move apart and the Sun is a bit higher at midday. Longer days trigger hormone changes in some animals and perhaps in some plants, too. **Tufted titmice** which look like small gray cardinals, start singing "peter, peter, peter" a spring, mating season song.



Tufted Titmouse (Photo by Basar, Creative Commons)

Great horned owls and **bald eagles** will be on or around nests by the end of January. Big birds need a long time to raise big youngsters before next winter arrives.

Winter aconite(yellow) and**snowdrops**(white) should be in bloom by the end of the month. They spread sweet perfume on still days and attract insects looking for sugar (nectar) and pollen (protein) at the end of a long flower dearth.



Winter Aconite and Snowdrops (Photo MichaelinA2, Creative Commons)

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Nature Notes (Continued from Page 5)

From Wikipedia: “The **Keeling Curve** is a graph which plots the ongoing change in **concentration of carbon dioxide** in Earth’s atmosphere since 1958. It is based on continuous measurements taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii that began under the supervision of Charles David Keeling. Keeling’s measurements showed the first significant evidence of rapidly increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Many scientists credit Keeling’s graph with first bringing the world’s attention to the current increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.”...

“The measurements collected at Mauna Loa show a steady increase in mean atmospheric CO2 concentration from about 315 parts per million by volume (ppmv) in 1958 to 401 ppmv as of April 2014. This increase in atmospheric CO2 is due to the combustion of fossil fuels, and has been accelerating in recent years. Since carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, this has significant implications for global warming. Measurements of carbon dioxide concentration in ancient air bubbles trapped in polar ice cores show that mean atmospheric CO2 concentration has historically been between 275 and 285 ppmv during the Holocene epoch (9,000 BCE onwards), but started rising sharply at the beginning of the nineteenth century.”...

[What changes at the beginning of the nineteenth century? The **Industrial Revolution** begins in Europe. Factories **burn coal** to produce iron and build the Modern World. Before 1800, no trains, motor vehicles, skyscrapers, power plants, all-electric homes, air conditioning.]

“Due in part to the significance of Keeling’s findings, the NOAA began monitoring CO2 levels worldwide in the 1970s. Today, CO2 levels are monitored at about 100 sites around the globe.”...

“On May 9, 2013, the daily mean concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere measured at Mauna Loa surpassed 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time since measurements began in 1958.” Google “keeling curve” for the full article with footnoted citations.

As many people have pointed out, humans are huffing and puffing through a climate experiment, which could have bad consequences for everyone on our planet. The good news is that we have modified our behavior before and we can do it again. “But now we can see the shape of a sustainable, low-emission future quite clearly — basically an electrified economy with, yes, nuclear power playing some role, but sun and wind front and center. Of course, it doesn’t have to happen. But if it doesn’t, the problem will be politics, not technology.” (Economist Paul Krugman in the New York Times, 12-25-2015)

Orion with his belt of three bright stars dominates the evening sky. High in the east, the **Twins, Castor and Pollux**, stand out by themselves. **Jupiter** is the bright object in the west before sunrise.

By Tim Sterrett

THINGS THE BEES HAVE TAUGHT ME

Nature is awesome: sometimes ruthless,
sometimes fragile, sometimes cruel
but always wondrous and intriguing

The importance of balance and harmony
The all cannot exist without the one ...
... and the one cannot exist without the all

The rewards of being truly present
To relax and breathe
What is transformed when fear disappears
The power of observation

The need to commit and to persevere

The ability of a group to achieve
a common objective ...
... and to do so without elected leadership

How a myriad of small contributions can build something
big and beautiful

When you find a good source of nourishment, share it

Defend your home and family - everything else can be
achieved without threats or aggression

Through the act of pollination bees continue the cycle of
life in such a way that not so much as a flower
or a leaf is destroyed

Bees don’t care about my gender, race, political persuasion,
ethnicity, level of education... they do care how respectful
and gently they are treated.

Jeremy Barnes

Beekeeping Seminar

A Beekeeping Seminar (For beekeepers with at least a few years experience) will be held Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Gunzburger Bldg., Coudersport. This Seminar is sponsored by the North Central PA Beekeepers' Association. The speaker is Frank Licata from Mann Lake. Topics include: Queen Rearing, Apiary Increase, nucs, splits and combining hives; Bringing your apiary into spring; Honey Bee nutrition; Creating a sustainable apiary. Cost: \$10.00 for club members, \$15.00 non members. Registration and fee paid deadline is February 29th. Please mail checks (made payable to the club) to Joan Bradley at PO Box 635, Shinglehouse, PA 16748. For directions or information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the February issue of

The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is **January 28th**.



We will also be publishing a special edition in February on the 100th PA Farm Show and the ABF Convention. The deadline for the special edition is February 5th.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, January 20 7:00 p.m., at the Lehigh Cnty. Ag. Bldg., Allentown. Topic: Bees ON a tree! Presenter: Greg Kuebler – “A different kind of bee tree”. Contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 or visit [LVBA website](#) for more information

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Topic: Preparing the apiary for Spring. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montc-obeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. at the York County School of Technology, York. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at

15th Annual Honey Bee Expo

Saturday, January 30, on the WVU Campus in Parkersburg, WV. This year’s keynote speaker will be EAS master beekeeper and author, Stephen Repasky. Also scheduled to attend will be Dr. Greg Hunt and Christian Givens of Purdue University. Cost will be \$20.00 if pre-registered by January 13th or \$25.00 at the door. Contact (304) 437-1221 or visit movba.org/2016_honeybee_expo.htm. Many vendors will also be present.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Introduction to Beekeeping

Wednesdays, February 3 & 7, March 2 & 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville. See the article on Page 5, visit the [LVBA website](#) or contact Blaine Holden at blaineholden@hotmail.com.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m., at the LCCC, Schnecksville. Contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 or email organichoneybees@peoplepc.com for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, February 11, 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, February 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg, Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

North Central PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Bldg., Coudersport. For directions or information, contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Western PA Beekeeping Seminar

February 19 – 20, 2016 at Doubletree Hotel Pittsburgh/Monroeville Convention Center, Monroeville, PA. **(This site is new as of 12/21/15)** Speakers include Dr. Jeff Harris, Dr. Diana Sammaturo, and Dr. Christine Grosinger. To download a brochure or to register visit [Penn State Event website](#). To receive a brochure by mail, call Penn State Extension Office, Beaver at 724-774-3003.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Topic: Queen Breeding and Genetics. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montc-obeekkeepers.org for more information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 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.

Beekeeping Seminar - North Central PA Beekeepers

Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Gunzburger Bldg., Coudersport. Speaker: Frank from Mann Lake. (For beekeepers with at least a few years experience) See article on Page 7 or contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586 or email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

Wayne County Beekeepers

Monday, March 7, 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, March 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District, Stroudsburg. Visit the website: www.monroecountybeekeepers.org for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., at the LCCC, Schnecksville. 2nd & 3rd year beekeepers. Presenter: Brett Dyer. Visit LVBA website or contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 for more information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, March 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, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins, Program Chair at 570-967-2634 or check on www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

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 Delaplaine.

Jeremy's Corner

"History can be written in Paris," said President Francois Hollande recently. Sadly he did not have in mind the terrible coordinated attacks by ISIS, which were unforeseen when he spoke; rather he was referring to the French Revolutions of 1789, 1830, 1848, 1871 and 1968, and the COP21 meeting of world leaders on climate change.

The irony is that in all of those revolutions the critical actions came not from the monarchy, or the presidency, or the Estates General, or the French parliament, but from the streets. Indeed, and in terms of COP21 in particular, we might well ask if realistically the climate crisis can be saved by bureaucrats in long meetings using jargonistic language surrounded by piles of documents and arguing from hidden agendas, without pressure from and the support of the general public, not just in France but globally.

Many revolutions have been motivated by a populace frustrated by the refusal of officialdom to take the lead. In the twentieth century in this country, for example, there were the Suffragette activists, the civil rights movement and the anti-tobacco campaign, to name a few. In the latter (if one can have a latter of three,) just twenty years ago, the predominant wisdom was that the cigarette manufacturers had too much money and too much influence in Washington DC for there to be any real prospect of change. And yet change we did, because men and women in the street voted with their wallets and with their feet.

The move from what the Greeks called *chaos* (meaningless and formless) to *cosmos* (ordered and beautiful) is seldom straightforward. The bloodshed and violence that erupted after the calling of the Estates General at Versailles in 1789 was followed by the military ego of Napoleon Bonaparte, an autocracy far worse than the Bourbon monarchy (as were Lenin and Stalin compared to the Romanovs,) who was in turn followed by a restoration of the monarchy, three more republics and a second empire before arriving at the current Fifth Republic declared by Charles de Gaulle in 1958. And yet each of these steps preserved something of value from the previous regime, culminating in the moral code that President Hollande has called on as the French respond to the attacks of November 13, 2015.

Progress, therefore, is hard to predict. Think back 26 years, to January, 1989, at which time anyone who had the temerity to suggest that the Berlin Wall would be down before the year end without opposition from the East German security forces, or that within five years Nelson Mandela would be released from his cell on Robben Island and would be elected peacefully as President of South Africa, ending officially the police state known as *apartheid*, would be dismissed as

being an unrealistic daydreamer.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and despondent, yet who can foresee what might happen in the next five years in the face of persistent remonstrance from below?

In terms of climate change, popular activism began in earnest in 1999 when concerned people from across the world blockaded the WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle, and it culminated in the 400 000 person People's Climate March in New York city in September of 2014 and the formation of the People's Climate Movement. The bureaucratic response has been for summits to meet in seclusion behind closely guarded doors, which suggests an attempt by the elite to insulate themselves from the masses, yet ironically demonstrates the power that protests have.

Just as oil companies have exerted enormous global power in the climate arena, so have agri-chemical companies in the field of bionics. It is extraordinary to realize that they know that what they are doing is devastating the environment, yet they do it anyway so long as the figures in the balance sheet can be written in black. And we allow it.

Certainly many people are working to change this paradigm through science, education and beekeeping, not least here in Pennsylvania; it's a heroic age equivalent to those climate activists in the 90's whose achievements are yet to be fully recognized.

Consider the state of beekeeping just ten years ago. Most local associations were small, (there were 13 people at the first county association I attended, almost all male and elderly,) there was little communications between counties, and there was knowledge of varroa but not an awareness of the devastation it would cause. Certainly the publicity surrounding CCD helped to wake up the general populace to the point that today there are large national and international networked associations, the public is both informed and concerned, and our state meeting in November attracted some of the best researchers in the nation willing to share generously of their expertise.

Looking back at the climate movement there has been important land marks these last few months. In September, for example, the California legislature ordered the state's pension fund, worth almost half a trillion dollars, to divest from coal companies. And the decisive victory of Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party in Canada represents in part a repudiation of Stephen Harper's wretched record on climate issues. Hopefully the agreement arrived at in Paris in December is one of the biggest landmarks of all.

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But these environmental changes, whether against the escalating use of fossil fuels or the threatened health of honey bees, are unlikely to be maintained by the traditional leadership in isolation. As the harmonious, predictable systems in the biosphere disintegrate, we the beekeepers must be an integral part of the forces that are driving the transition to a more equitable, wholesome world. And we have an advantage. As Clare Densely expressed it in her inspirational presentation in Lewisburg last November, the public perceives us as “mysterious and magical, practical and skillful, knowledgeable and full of wisdom and inherited folklore. We are gentle, brave, fearless, protectors of the environment and saviors of the planet.”

We cannot change the decisions of the past, but we can choose to make different choices in the future. Perhaps the next meeting in Paris to make history will be of associations that are organic in the best sense of the word; they won't be secret or bureaucratic and they will design a world of which our children will be proud. In the interim, in the words of Michael Pollan, we continue to vote with our forks three times a day.

Jeremy Barnes

*This column was inspired by an essay in the December, 2015, issue of Harper's by Rebecca Solnit titled **Power in Paris**.*

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.

December Identification Reader

My beekeeping experience began in 1964 as a young teenager. I received a call from Joe Perry asking me if I would like to work for him assembling bee equipment. I accepted the position at 50 cents per hour, which made me feel rich! As time went on, I began to work for his brother, Bill Perry and continued to work for him through high school and college. After college I started working full time for Bill and continued to do so for many years. During these years I also had the opportunity to connect with some of the patriarchs of PA beekeeping (Merle Fisher, Paul Ziegler, and my cousin Ed Anderson).

I started my own career in beekeeping with a swarm I captured in 1974, which unfortunately died that winter. In the spring of 1976, after getting married and buying a small farm, I started 25 nucs while in Florida with Bill Perry. Whatever money I made from these bees I reinvested back into the bees expanding to about 175 colonies over several years. I then bought bees and locations from 2 retiring beekeepers in NY and eventually expanded my operations to about 550 hives. Since that peak number, my present hive count is about 300. I raise my bees primarily for honey production and do very limited pollination services. I sell a limited amount of bottled honey to friends and neighbors and wholesale the bigger part for others to process and bottle.

Beekeeping has changed a lot from 50 years ago when there were virtually no bear problems – no mites – no hive beetles – no colony collapse disorder; however American Foulbrood was a more common problem. Many things are still the same as I continue to make all my own nucs, raise my own queens and build my own equipment. I also continue to load and move my beehives by hand, rather than using pallets and forklifts.

I have truly enjoyed the past 51 years with the bees, working outdoors, and meeting some fine people. I look forward to quite a few more years doing the same.

Phil Reid

5 Frame Nucs - \$125
Huff's Honey Farm
 Trout Run, PA

Spring 2016
 Tentative Pick up Dates: April 16th and May 23rd

Visit our website or call Josh for more details.
www.huffshoneyfarm.com 570-916-9086
 Quantity Discount: Orders of 100+ Nucs available at \$100/Nuc