



The Pennsylvania Beekeeper

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News 'n Views...

Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research is teaming with Franklin and Marshall College to do a study titled, **Landscapes for Honey Bees**. The study will need the help of Pennsylvania beekeepers. The landscape surrounding the apiary will be mapped and the type of forage identified. With enough data collected, there should be a pattern to identify what type landscapes yield better honey crops and perhaps have better survivability. Some limited studies have been done that suggest colony health is better in agricultural lands compared to forested land. However, to base conclusions on one study, in one geographic area may not be truly valuable. The hope of this study is to gather data from all regions of Pennsylvania, from forest, agriculture land, urban, suburban, marshy, mountainous and flat lands. A separate study with Ernst Conservation Seed will identify pollen nutritional value. Ultimately, a person could know what seed to plant for the most nutritious addition for their landscape. [Landscapes for Bee Project](#) [Center for Pollinator Research](#) has officially launched. For more detailed information go online to

they are adding improved genetics with outreach events with some associations this season. The primary trait is the bee's ability to rid it's self of varroa mites. Stay tuned for more progress.

PSBA Legislative Committee members attended the April 17-20th convention of PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) at Hershey Lodge. Armed with information, we were able to make personal contact with many of your local leaders from across the state.

This was the second year to have beekeepers in the exhibitor hall. In addition to honey stix, Don Shump brought in 2 packages of honey bees and Matt Libhart brought a single frame observation hive for a day. Others remarked that PSBA had the most attended booth in the hall.

At times, there were two or three conversations going at the same time. The question was, 'why are the beekeepers here?' When it was explained that some townships have enacted bans or regulations on keeping bees, it became clearer. With rural townships the reaction was, 'why?' We were not prepared for the number of township officials that were looking for information of how to begin beekeeping. There were the personal stories of friends or family that kept bees or thinking of starting.

Once again, the whole effort was very timely with events that just happened to be going on in different townships. From zoning reviews, new permit inquiries and incidents that just occurred within days of this convention. In each case, the township official was in need of information and help. That is exactly what PSBA was offering. The most

(Continued on Page 3)

EAS 2016 will take place in Stockton, New Jersey from July 25-29th. If you are looking for cutting edge information, this is the place to be.

[2016 International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy](#)

Also coming up July 18-20 is the

at Penn State Campus, University Park, PA. If you can't make it to EAS, certainly make a point to support this event. PSBA is a proud sponsor.

It's just been two years since Jeff Berta and Mark Gingrich have stepped up to co-chair the PA Queen Improvement Program. The program was initiated a few years ago and needed the leadership and determination these guys have shown. A number of local associations and groups are actively working together to improve genetics for Pennsylvania. In order to operate most efficiently, they have created a separate non-profit group. From this they are able to seek grants and other funding. Teaming with the HHBBC (Heartland Honey Bee Breeders Cooperative, Penn State and Purdue University,

In This Issue

Presentation by Dr. Nieh	3
January Identification Reader	5
Jeremy's Corner	7
Officers and Membership Information	8
Upcoming Dates	9
PSBA Honey Queen Report	13
2016 Honey Bee Conferences	13
Nature Notes	15

News 'n Views (Continued from Page 1)

bee friendly model is the city of Philadelphia, where there are NO regulations for honey bees. That's the best model. If officials were compelled to write policy, we recommended Best Management Practices or Forest Hills ordinance, which closely models BMP. In all cases we recommended NO permit fees. Beekeepers already pour money into this endeavor for the benefit of all local agriculture and are regulated by the PA Bee Law.

Being able to assist at the front of a problem is much better than trying to pick up the pieces of poor decisions, poor policies, emotion and misconceptions. Simply the PSBA presence and cordial conversation will hopefully stay with these local leaders in case beekeeping issues come up in their township.

In addition to legal policies, we promoted pollinator friendly planting for green spaces and landscaping. Ernst Conservation Seed provided us with pollinator mix flyers so we could put sources in their hands. Other exhibitors in the business of landscaping, right of ways and writing ordinances, also took our information.

This event costs about \$2,000 for PSBA to attend. Is it money well spent? I believe it is. The opportunity to engage the decision makers offsets costly time and problems later. We spoke with supervisors from every area of Pennsylvania. I would like to recognize the PSBA members that volunteered time, changed plans, took off work, assembled materials and traveled to make this a successful venture: Steve Finke, Don Shump, Lori Stahl, Matt Libhart, Charlie Vorisek and PA Honey Queen, Sarah McTish. All gave Pennsylvania beekeepers a professional voice and appearance.

UPCOMING **PSBA Summer Picnic** and business meeting is **August 6th**. This will be hosted by Fisher Bee Farm, centrally located just west of Lewistown, near McVeytown, PA. Fisher Bee Farm, the largest commercial beekeepers in Pennsylvania, was recently spotlighted in 100th anniversary PA Farm Show book. Please plan to attend and watch for additional information. Bring a queen to swap!

All county/association presidents or representatives are encouraged to attend the business meeting. We try to stay up-to-date on plans, programs and issues. <http://agsci.psu.edu/apd>

Penn State Ag Progress Days _____ will follow **August 16-18th**. This is the second largest event for PSBA Promotions Committee each year. The PSBA **needs your help** to sell honey and to scoop and serve honey ice cream. This has fallen onto just a few people. fisherbee farm.com aaron@fisherbee farm.com They would greatly appreciate any help. Contact Aaron Fisher: _____ 717-242-4373 or Stu Mathias 717-991-9948.

A great lineup of presentations is coming to the Annual Fall Meeting and Conference. This year's conference will be in State College, November 11-12th at the Day's Inn.

This conference is open to all membership. Watch for details.

Charlie Vorisek,

President PSBA
president@pastatebeekeepers.org

Presentation by Dr. James Nieh

The presentation made by Dr. James Nieh at the PSBA Conference last November has been written up in the journal PLOS Biology. It describes how bees use sophisticated signals to warn their nest mates about the level of danger from predators attacking foragers or the nest. These stimuli are the most advanced form of alarm signaling found in a social insect.

A team of biologists at UC San Diego led by Dr. Nieh, working together with a team in China, found that an Asian species of honey bee can produce different types of vibrational "stop signals" when attacked by giant Asian hornets.

These signals have different effects depending upon type of danger and the context. A bee delivers a stop signal by giving another bee a brief, vibrational pulse, usually through a head-butt. "Surprisingly," noted Dr. Nieh, "this signal encodes the level of danger in its vibrational frequency, its pitch, and the danger context through the duration of each pulse."

Six years ago, Dr. Nieh discovered that foragers of the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, when attacked at a food source, will return to the nest and deliver stop signals to nest mates recruiting for the dangerous food source. These signals were known to inhibit recruitment via the famous waggle dance of the honey bee, but researchers did not know what triggered stop signals. "Stop signals are usually delivered by a sender butting her head into a recipient. Understanding that these signals can be triggered by danger and reduce recruitment for dangerous food therefore made sense," he explained.

Dr. Nieh next wanted to find out if other honey bee species also used stop signals. He and his collaborators at the Chinese Academy of Science and Eastern Bee Research Institute in Yunnan Province conducted their experiments at Yunnan Agricultural University using the Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana*, which is an excellent model for studying the effects of predator threats because it is attacked by multiple species of giant hornets, which pose a threat according to body size. They studied the world's largest hornet, the "yak-killer" *Vespa mandarinia* and a smaller, but still formidable hornet, *Vespa velutina* which attack foraging bees and bee nests. The

(Continued on Page 5)

Presentation by Dr. Nieh (Continued from Page 3)
scientists wanted to see if bees would produce stop signals in both situations.

“We hypothesized that bigger predators would pose a bigger threat and would change stop signaling, perhaps by producing more signals when attacked by a large predator,” Nieh said. “However, we were very surprised to find that these Asian bees not only produced more stop signals, they also produced different kinds of stop signals.”

Attacked foragers reduced their waggle dancing and produced stop signals that increased in pitch according to predator size. The larger and more dangerous predator triggered higher pitched stop signals that were more effective at stopping waggle dancing than the lower pitched stop signals triggered by the smaller and less dangerous predator.

In addition, guard bees and returning foragers that were attacked at the nest entrance produced longer duration stop signals to warn nest mates about the imminent danger outside.

“Our experiments showed that these different types of stop signals elicited different and appropriate responses. Bees attacked at food sources by bigger hornets produced a kind of stop signal that more effectively inhibited recruitment,” said Nieh. “Bees attacked at the nest entrance produced another kind of stop signal that inhibited foragers from exiting the nest and being exposed to the danger outside.”

According to Dr. Nieh, “this is the first demonstration of such sophisticated inhibitory signaling or alarm signaling in an insect.” Previously, such referential alarm signals had only been reported in vertebrates like birds and primates.

Adapted from a report on Catch The Buzz, April 4, 2016.

January Identification Reader

When my father-in-law died in 1996, the family convinced me to store his bee equipment in our nearly empty garage. We were the only ones who really had the space, and they suggested I might like to become a beekeeper myself, as I was a veterinarian and like animals.

The equipment consisted of six or eight boxes, a couple of smokers, a veil, a three-frame extractor mounted on the base of a kitchen chair, a hive tool, capping knives and a collection of several pounds of information on beekeeping from the Department of Agriculture from about 1935 to 1950.

That winter I opened the folder of beekeeping information and started to read. At the introduction to beekeeping seminar, between taking my kids to basketball games and working, I met encouraging beekeepers, and in the spring of 1998, I set up two hives, ordered two packages of bees, and a suit and veil. After all, I had all the equipment I would ever need, and a country setting where I could place the hives.

During that first season, I attended club meetings and found several mentors. Shockingly, my first two hives produced more honey than I expected, and I was hooked. I ordered a few jars, created a label, and gave my honey to friends and

family. The state inspector was encouraging, and suggested I buy a current book on beekeeping, and get rid of the old boxes, which had foul brood. In my workshop, I made a few more boxes and bought some wax foundation.

I ordered a few more packages of bees, befriended the postmaster, who would keep the office open for me to pick up my packages, set up a bottling system, and entered my honey in the local farm show. I bought a refractometer, learned about showing honey, and won a few prizes on the local and state levels. From raffles at our bee picnics, I won a few smokers and a couple of queens.

One wet spring, all my hives were flooded, so I elevated new ones on cement blocks. I made a few more hive boxes. I bought an extractor from another friend.

I planted wildflowers and trees the bees liked, and am still trying to control a stand of bamboo. The bees worked our vegetable and apple blossoms.

I made some mead. Naturally, this meant I had to buy some winemaking supplies and equipment.

With other beekeepers, I went to Panama and Costa Rico, where I learned about Africanized bees and how they were managed. I made a solar wax melter, and my friend Ralph taught me to make beeswax candles.

Friends and family looked forward to my honey, and I started to sell some to a small group of customers. I made honey bear favors for my son’s wedding, and for a class reunion. My farming aunt and uncle, proud of our family name, gave my honey as Christmas gifts. We traded for their watermelons and cantaloupes.

Last year, I started some nukes and bred a few queens. I now judge honey at the local level, and help with the bee tent at our fair, when I’m not caring for my 14 hives.

One of the best things about beekeeping is the friends I have made: a diverse, gregarious, buzzing, industrious and helpful group, much like the bees themselves. They have encouraged me to mentor others who want to learn about beekeeping, and it has been a privilege to see new beekeepers succeed and enjoy the process as much as I have. It’s been a great journey, and today with the weather unseasonably warm for February, the bees are buzzing.

David Harcum, Aliquippa

Directions to PSBA Picnic

From Mt. Union:

At the 522 and 22 merger (just outside of Mt. Union), continue on 522N, 22E for approximately 7 miles to Ferguson Valley Road. Make a left hand turn onto Ferguson Valley Road, travel approximately 1 mile Queen Bee Lane will be on your left.

From Lewistown:

Take the 522 South bypass at Lewistown, follow approximately 11 miles to red light in McVeytown. Continue straight on 522S/22W for 7 miles to Ferguson Valley Road. Make a right hand turn onto Ferguson Valley Road, travel approximately 1 mile Queen Bee Lane will be on your left.

Jeremy's Corner

1 + 1 = < 2

The paradigm through which we view the major challenges facing humanity, in which broad category I would include climate change, soil depletion, the availability of fresh water, continued population explosion, and the future of organisms like the honey bee which are vital to our existence, reflects a philosophical debate that has simmered over four centuries.

With the advent of the scientific revolution in the C17th, inspired by giants like Galileo, Newton, Kepler and Descartes, came an attitude called reductionism, the essential notion being that phenomena can best be understood by breaking them down into their component parts. Certainly this works effectively in many situations; for example, studying the molecular structure of materials so that we can better understand their physical attributes, or studying the genome of the honey bee to better understand the triggers that explain certain behaviors and diseases.

But some attributes of complex systems, and living systems in particular, are hard to understand through an inventory of their separate parts. One cannot understand consciousness, for example, by studying the molecular structure of the brain. Another often cited example is that table salt is composed of atoms of sodium and chlorine, neither of which by itself has any hint of a taste of saltiness. Nor, I would argue, can one understand the operation and behavior of a colony of honey bees by studying a worker bee, a drone or a queen in isolation.

The human brain, salt and a honey bee colony are examples of what is called *emergent properties*, i.e. something that 'emerges' when component parts come together in relationship to form a higher-level aggregate object with properties that cannot be predicted by a knowledge of the constituent parts alone. It's a form of synergy, and the result in honey bees is a superorganism, or complex system with functions determined by its individual parts, by the character of the whole that they compose, and by the relations of the parts to that whole.

The study of complex systems and their emergent properties is known as *holism*, from the Greek word *holos* meaning whole or entire, and was coined by the South African statesman and philosopher Jan Smuts in his book, 'Holism and Evolution,' first published in 1926. A good example of inherent holism is the science of ecology, another word with Greek origins that means literally, 'the study of our house.' Ecologists study the relationships between organisms and their environment, in particular how ecosystems emerge from the sum of their parts, whether living or inert.

By comparison, medicine historically has tended to be more reductionist. First year medical students are typically immersed in studies of chemistry and anatomy, and perhaps in their third year, introduced to actual patients. I recall on a visit to McGill University in Montreal in the late 90's, being

impressed by their emphasis on medical students working with patients from day one, on the grounds that they needed to see the latter from the outset as complex, emergent human beings (biological, social, economic, psychological and linguistic,) rather than as the aggregate of a bunch of anatomical parts.

Both reductionism and holism can be useful pathways to understanding provided we do not rely on one exclusively at the expense of the other. It is tempting to look for that silver bullet panacea that will magically resolve problems with climate change, health care or honey bees; indeed simple reductionist solutions are relatively easy to explain (and sell) and the public can relax in the belief that science will solve it for us, even though the sciences have their own ethical complexities and for centuries have been integral to the problem itself. One has to think only of the phenomenal development of the oil industry over the last one hundred years, made possible by developments in geology, physics and chemistry, all of the bi-products that have resulted from oil, not least plastics, and the repercussions for our environment and global climate. According to an article in The Guardian last year, ExxonMobil, the world's biggest oil company, was aware as early as 1981 of the connection between fossil fuels and climate change, and the potential for carbon-cutting regulations that could hurt its bottom line, seven years before it became a public issue. Despite this, according to Greenpeace, the firm spent \$30 million over the next 27 years to promote climate denial.

Shades of the tobacco industry and their denial of the relationship between smoking and lung cancer.

Holistic solutions are more difficult to explain in 30 second sound bites, but more importantly they invariably require changes in individual or societal behavior. Rather than being passive on-lookers, we become an essential part of the solution.

To apply these two models to climate change, for example, the reductionist school of thought sees it as resulting primarily from the technical problem of carbon emissions, so why not continue burning fossil fuels but somehow capture the carbon? If scientists can design huge machines that will suck excess carbon out of the atmosphere, we can maintain our current economy and way of life.

The holistic school of thought views climate change as it relates to complex disorders that plague our global ecosystem, including soil degradation, desertification, species extinction, decline of marine life, deforestation, overpopulation, fossil fuels and unlimited economic expansion. To the holistic thinker, climate change will continue to worsen until we either deal with all of the systematic causes or until it overwhelms the biosphere and with it, civilization as we have come to know it.

In the first scenario we can choose to change; in the second, change is forced upon us. We can be proactive or

(Continued on Page 9)

Jeremy's Corner (Continued from Page 7)

reactive, with very different consequences for each.

A honey bee colony is holistic - a eusocial superorganism. There have been several journal articles in recent months highlighting one finding in particular of the sequencing of the honey bee genome - individual bees have relatively few genes that code for immune response, fewer than the common house fly. That number may grow as research continues, but the explanation, as Jamie Ellis outlines in the March 2016 issue of the American Bee Journal, is that the colony is the unit of selection. Thus it is in the colony that the most significant immune responses occur, not in individual bees.

So we can study the genes of specific honey bees (reductionism) but immune response in this case is an emergent property, something that manifests itself when the component parts synergize to form a conglomerate and that cannot be predicted by a knowledge of the constituent parts in isolation.

Whereas only Beethoven, working alone, could compose any of his 722 various arrangements, it takes an average of two hundred support personnel to put one military pilot into the sky, or thousands of people working together to sustain astronauts on a space station. And in a good marriage, two healthy people bring the best of themselves to the relationship, so that like a good bee colony, one + one is more than two.

Jeremy Barnes



Representing PSBA at Cornucopia 2016, on April 12th were Lori Stahl, Jim Bobb, Honey Queen Sarah McTish, Vince Aloyo and Ellen Cudd. Cornucopia was held at the PA Capitol in the East Rotunda and sponsored by the PA State Council of Farm Organizations.



Upcoming Dates To Remember

Deadline for the June-July issue of The Pennsylvania Beekeeper is June 13th.

Backyard Beekeeping Classes

Beginner Bee Out-Yard Demonstration

Saturday, May 7, 12:30 p.m. at the Railroad Supervisor's Club, Baden. This is a hands-on workshop for Prospective or Beginning Beekeepers. Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com or visit the website beavervalleybees.com

29th Annual Short Course

Saturdays, May 7 and May 14 hosted by the Capital Area Beekeeper's Association. Part I: Saturday, May 7, 8:00 a.m. at the Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, Dauphin. Part II: Saturday May 14, 12:00 noon at Strites Orchard, Harrisburg. Cost: \$50 (includes a CABA membership and the Penn State Book, "Fundamentals of Beekeeping"). For additional information visit cabapa.org, or contact John Novinger, 717-365-3215, email jdnovinger@epix.net

Franklin County Beekeepers

Monday, May 9, 6:00 p.m. at the Swamp Fox Apiary, Chambersburg (weather permitting). Newbie Check and Summer Meeting. Topics to include: Feeding, dearths, supers, swarming, moving, splitting, combining, alternative equipment and robbing. If interested in attending, please contact Richard Paine at 717-375-2352 for additional information and directions.

Lycoming County Beekeepers

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall, Montoursville. For more information, contact Darryl Rebeck at 570-435-0445.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m., at the Northampton Community College, Bethlehem. Part 1: How to keep a Nuc and their advantages. Part 2: Organic Beekeeping. Visit LVBA website or contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 for more information

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. For additional information, contact Renee Czubowicz, 570-335-3091 or Dr. Maggie Miller, 570-877-3064 or visit the club's Facebook page or website: Lackawanabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Topic: Hive split preview; Catching a swarm; Bait hive "how to". Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634 or visit www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, May 14, 1:00 p.m. at the Apiary of John Fiore, Tunkhannock. Field Day – Topic: Split Hive presentation. Bring your veil, etc. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for information & directions.

(Continued on Page 11)

Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 9)

2 Cs and a Bee Beekeepers

Sunday, May 15, 2:00 p.m. at the Houtzdale Firehall, Houtzdale. Topic: Importance of Queens. For more information, visit their website: www.cbbee.org or email: secretary@cbbee.org

North Central PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Bldg., Coudersport. Topic: Swarming. For more information email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com or contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Master Gardener Rebecca Boylan will present pollinator gardens for honey bees. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

York County Beekeepers

Thursday, May 26, 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 honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Northampton Community College, Bethlehem. Legal issues for Beekeepers. Visit LVBA website or contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 for more information.

Franklin County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Twin Bridges Camp Ground Pavilion. Ice cream social (Bring your favorite ice cream, topping or snack). Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers

Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. For additional information, contact Renee Czubowicz, 570-335-3091 or Dr. Maggie Miller, 570-877-3064 or visit the club's Facebook page or website: Lackawanabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634 or visit www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Saturday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. at the Apiary of John Fiore, Tunkhannock. Check on the split that was made at Field Day in May. Bring your veil, etc. Contact James Wood at 570-934-1166 for information & directions.

York County Beekeepers

Saturday, June 11, at the David Papke apiary and farm. 3:00 p.m. Open Hive demos. 5:00 p.m. Picnic Dinner. Picnic and

Field Day featuring Alan Hayes, MD beekeeper and beekeeping gadget collector. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

Northwest PA Beekeepers

Saturday, June 18, 1:00 p.m. at Linesville. Bee Yard Experience. For more information, contact Deb Chilcott at 814-398-8520 or visit the website www.nwpabeekeepers.com

North Central PA Beekeepers

Saturday, June 18, at an apiary near Cuba, NY. For directions or information email northcentralpabeekeepersassoc@gmail.com or contact Joan Bradley at 814-697-7586.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 23, 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Skippack. Speakers: Dave & Audrey Harding, Topic: Marvelous Monarchs. Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Monday, June 27, at the Pavilion at Hereford Manor Lake, Harmony. Speaker: Frank Licata (PA State Rep for Mann Lake) "Making Overwintering Nucs" Contact Pattie Zyroll at 412-848-3506, email pattie.zyroll@elkem.com or visit the website beavervalleybees.com

Franklin County Beekeepers

Thursday, June 30, 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Building, Chambersburg. Summer Newbie Workshop. Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

North East PA Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 p.m. at 32 Comm St., Honesdale. Contact Charles Kinbar at 570-497-6402, email: purepa-honey@gmail.com for more information.

Susquehanna Beekeepers of NEPA

Friday, July 8 7:00 p.m. at the Claverack Bldg., Montrose. How the Harford Fair demonstration hive is prepared. Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634 or visit www.susquehannabeekeeping.com for updates.

York County Beekeepers

Saturday, July 9, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Bill Sprenkle's Queen Breeding/Production Apiary. Field Day. Visit the website www.ycbk.org for more details or contact Jeremy Barnes at honeybeewhisperer@gmail.com

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers

Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m., location TBA. Club picnic. Visit LVBA website or contact Brett Dyer at 484-553-2967 for more information.

Beaver Valley Area Beekeepers

Saturday, July 16, 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden. Club Picnic. Speaker: TBA – RSVP by July 10th to Sr. Lyn (lynszym@comcast.net). Grilled chicken and burgers supplied – please bring a covered dish.

Montgomery County Beekeepers

Saturday, July 16, 11:00 a.m., location TBD. Annual Picnic.

(Continued on Page 13)

Upcoming Dates (Continued from Page 11)

Contact Dan Boylan, dpboylan83@gmail.com or visit the website: www.montcobeekkeepers.org for more information.

EAS 2016

July 27-29, at the Richard Stockton University, Galloway, NJ. Short course to be held July 25-27, 2016. For additional information, visit easternapiculture.org

Franklin County Beekeepers

Thursday, July 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Building, Chambersburg. Fall Newbie Workshop. Contact Randy King at 717-328-9256 for additional information.

Northwest PA Beekeepers

Saturday, July 30, Ernst Seeds Field Day. For more information, contact Deb Chilcott at 814-398-8520 or visit the website www.nwpabeekeepers.com

PSBA Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 6 hosted by Fisher Bee Farm, McVeytown. They will be roasting a pig for the main course, guests are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or drinks to share. Also, please bring a lawn chair. The hosts will also be furnishing the plating, cutlery and napkins. The only organized activity is breaking bread with fellow beekeepers.

The Executive Board will be meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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 keynote speakers will be Mark Winston and Keith Delaplaine.

Honey Queen Report

Hello all!

April was yet another busy month as I traveled as the honey queen. This month, I attended five events throughout the state. I started off at the Garden Club Federation of PA Annual Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn. At this event, I worked with Steve Finke, PSBA Vice President, to promote the industry and honey products. I also had the chance to introduce myself and interact with the Garden Club members attending the conference. The next day I traveled to Harrisburg to attend Cornucopia, where I had the privilege to work with PSBA members and interact with members of the PA House and Senate. After these two events, my week was not over as I was back in State College the next day attending Ag Day at Penn State. Through Ag Day, I interacted with my peers to teach them about honey bees and beekeeping.

Over the next two weeks, I then attended two more events. The first was the PSATS Conference in Hershey. Here, I worked with PSBA members to educate township supervisors from around the state on beekeeping zoning ordinances. The second event was Eco Fest at Mifflin Park Elementary School. Through this event, I talked to students attending with their parents about why they think honey bees are important to them.

As my spring semester comes to a close at Penn State, I thought I would give a recap on everything I have done this semester as the 2016 Pennsylvania Honey Queen. Throughout the semester, I have attended 14 events and have reached over 4 million people. In addition, I have participated in four media interviews, visited seven counties and have given 12 elementary school presentations. At the beginning of my year, I set goals to attend at least 50 events, give at least 20 school presentations and visit at least 15 counties. After my first six months, I am well on my way to achieving this goals and look forward to what this summer will bring!

Have an event you would like me to attend? Contact Rachel Bryson at honeyqueen@pastatebeekkeepers.org or (717) 300-0146.

Sarah McTish

Pennsylvania and California Honey Bee Conferences

The theme for the PSBA Conference on November 11 and 12 at Days Inn in State College, is **Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping**.

Synchronistically, and inspired by the same stimulus (Mark Winston's editorial in the April 2015 edition of Bee Culture,) Marin County in California, is working to get some of the best bee minds on the planet together for a working conference December 11-13, 2016, titled **Bee Audacious**. Several aspects of this proposal might be of interest to PSBA members who can...

1) Buy a t-shirt or make a donation at booster.com to support conference expenses, including leader travel and accommodations, AV for panel discussion, post conference writings and more. The current booster.com campaign will run until May 15, 2016.

2) Mark your calendars for the panel discussion that will be live streamed at 7:00pm PST on December 14, 2016 and available through www.beeaudacious.com. (If you can make it to San Rafael, CA, you can see it in person at Dominican University of California.) The ten conference Thought Leaders (Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Jim Frazier, William Klett, Stephen Martin, Heather Mattila, Chas Mraz, Francis Ratnieks, and Neal Williams) will be presenting the ideas generated by the two-day gathering.

3) Feeling audacious? Half of the 90 participants will be selected from submitted registration applications. Seeking constructive, collaborative and thoughtful people who will bring experience from a wide variety of fields that produce impacts on pollinators and how pollinators are viewed by the general public. Applications available at www.beeaudacious.com and will be accepted through May 15, 2016.

For more information, email Bonnie Morse at info@beeaudacious.com

(Continued on Page 15)

Honey Bee Conferences (Continued from Page 13)

Meanwhile, back here on the ranch, we will be inviting/challenging each of the participants at our November PA conference to come up with one practical way in which we can make our beekeeping management practices here in the north-east more audacious.

Jeremy Barnes

Nature Notes

In May, many of us prefer **Camelot rain**, which falls only between 2 and 4 a.m. Just on the garden, not so much on us. Spring wild flowers in the woods give way to tiny **corn and soybean shoots** slowly changing the earth color of tilled fields to a carpet of green.

Trees have leafed out. The **inchworm caterpillars** of hundreds of species of nickel-sized moths hatch and feed on the new leaves. On a still day in the woods, we might hear the whispering rain of caterpillar droppings (called frasse) returning nutrients to the ground.



Yellow Warbler
(Photo by Mdf via Creative Commons)

Insect-eating birds return, many during the second week of May, to feed on the caterpillars. Some **Yellow Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroats** will stay and nest. Most of the twenty-some warbler species continue north.



Common Yellowthroat
(Photo by Dan Pancamo via Creative Commons)

Wood Thrushes have returned from Central America and sing a fluted “ee-o-lay” song from woods in the evening. Each vocalization by a wood thrush ends with a rattle or a buzz.

Flowers on towering **Tulip Poplar** trees open. When the tulip-shaped flowers fall to the ground, we might taste the **sugary nectar** at the base of each petal before ants find

it. Some plants invest tremendous energy to produce sweet-smelling nectar to attract the insects that will fertilize their flowers by carrying pollen from one blossom, or from one tree, to another.

May, and a bit into June, is the time when Pennsylvania **honey bees** make their crop for the year. Not too long ago, our bees made **light amber honey with a reddish tinge** from Tulip Poplar nectar. That seems to have changed. Locust trees may be the prime nectar-producer for our bees.

Evolution happens, not by a plan, but by trying everything. **Cowbirds** lay their eggs in the nests of other bird species. The host birds feed their hatchling, not noticing that the Cowbird nestling has pushed some of its nest mates out of the nest. We might see a sparrow stuffing food into the maw of a Cowbird nestling twice the size of its duped foster parent. (Many of us have children who are bigger than we are.)



Chipping Sparrow feeding Cowbird nestling. (Photo from <https://bybio.wordpress.com>)

Bright **Jupiter** is still high in the eastern evening sky, moving slowly up and to the left of **Regulus**.

“The Sun, though very bright, covers an incredibly small part of the sky. If you make a circle with thumb and forefinger and hold it out at arm’s length, the size of the circle that just surrounds the Sun is the size of a pea. You can try this safely at night with the full Moon, since the Sun and the Moon have the same apparent size in the sky. Most people guess that the Moon might be the size of a Ping-Pong ball, but it is much, much smaller.” From *Sky and Telescope Magazine* at <http://goo.gl/HjaeeK>

By Tim Sterrett

IF THE READER WHOSE MEMBERSHIP expires 11/16 and receives the newsletter at 5921 Main Road, Bedford, 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 June 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.

Honey Queen Brochures

The 2016 PSBA Honey Queen Brochures are now available! Cost is \$10.00 per hundred (plus shipping). Please purchase the brochures to help you increase your honey sales and support the honey queen program. To order, contact Stewart Mathias, 514 Early's Mill Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036, phone 717-533-2231.



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.



Russell Redding, Secretary of Agriculture and PSBA Honey Queen Sarah McTish took time for a photo at Cornucopia, held in Harrisburg on April 12th.

Photo submitted by Lori Stahl.

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