

The 2017 PSBA Beekeeper of the Year is well known to Pennsylvania beekeepers – not only at the local and state level, but he also has a presence nationally and internationally. His semi-annual overseas travel always includes a beekeeping component – from attending Apimondia in 2009, to connecting with commercial beekeepers in France, seeking out beekeepers in Wales and visiting Buckfast Abbey, making a personal study of bee houses in Slovenia (one of which he designed and built in his own backyard), to assisting Maryann Frazier on a research trip to Africa. Nationally, he has written letters and articles for the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines and attended EAS and American Beekeeping Federation Conferences, the Pennsylvania Pollinator Protection conference, sometimes representing PSBA.

Surely as a PSBA member you are familiar with his “Corner” in the state newsletter. You may not have been familiar with what past President Charlie Vorisek has commented, that “Behind the scenes, he has been an active partner and leader in planning the annual meetings for several years.” But you may remember several of the speakers he was instrumental in inviting: Bret Adey, Heather Matilla, Megan Milbraith, Marla Spivak, Elizabeth Capaldi, James Nieh, Claire Densley (from Buckfast Abbey), Mark Winston, Keith Delaplane.

And how about some of these names: Tom Seeley, Ross Conrad, Kim Flottum, Kirsten Traynor, Debbie Delaney, Samuel Ramsey – those are some of the speakers he arranged to speak at his local association, York County Beekeepers, which has become an active, thriving association with over 160 members and where he served as president for eight years. And all of this accomplished with his characteristic humility and humor.

Yes, we're speaking about Jeremy Barnes – a passionate beekeeper, dedicated to his craft, appreciative of its art.

Let me finally share with you what Maryann Frazier had to say about our Beekeeper of the Year: “Jeremy is a significant force in the Pennsylvania beekeeping community! He has so many talents that he has devoted to bees and beekeepers, from his elegant way with words to his ability to build and manage strong organizations. He has a gentle but very persuasive nature and approach that allows him to recruit people and accomplish much. Above all, Jeremy strives to be and IS an exceptional teacher. So many people have benefited from his devotion to education as well as the depth and breadth of his knowledge. Being in Jeremy's company is always both educational and delightful. We are so very fortunate that this man, who has lived and worked in so many interesting places in the world, has landed here with us in Pennsylvania.”