In my last column I asked members for ideas to grow membership in the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). I was pleased to get several responses...maybe someone does read this stuff! One theme that came up in some of the comments was that beekeeper friends did not join ABF because they already belong to a local or state organization and what was the point of joining a national group. This got me thinking that it may be time to elaborate on what is “different” about ABF that you will not get from a local group.

I have been a lifetime member of the Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) and the Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA) for many years and attend their annual conventions as much as possible. I also frequent my local bee club meetings when I am home. From this experience I can share with you some significant differences between these groups.

The best source for basic beekeeping information often comes from your local group. It is your neighbor beekeepers that can tell you the most about local honey plants, best bee management for your area and where to find bee supplies locally. I encourage most new beekeepers to become active with their local group.

At the state level, there is often less emphasis on basic beekeeping but more information on current beekeeping research and ideas. Most state groups also participate in the “politics of beekeeping” at the state level. Two big political issues in Florida currently are zoning regulations prohibiting backyard beekeeping and food safety regulations for small-scale honey bottling. The FSBA creates committees to work toward development of legislation or regulations that solves these problems for Florida beekeepers. Many other states are dealing with some of these same issues. It was with the help of FSBA that Florida enacted the first standard of identity for honey. FSBA has also been instrumental in support for our wonderful honey bee extension service at the University of Florida and over $300,000 of honey bee research annually over the last several years. I am very proud to be a Florida beekeeper. We may lead the nation in beekeeping problems showing up first (tracheal mites, varroa mites, small hive beetle), but Florida also leads in the efforts to solve these problems.

At the national level, the “politics of beekeeping” enters a whole new world. The ABF spends much of its resources each year working on legislative issues. We must maintain a presence in Washington, D.C., when EPA, USDA, the Senate and House develop and manipulate policies affecting U.S. beekeepers. Without a voice in Washington, we would not continue to have a budget to support the ARS bee labs in Beltsville, Baton Rouge, Tuscon and Weslaco. We would not have money in the Farm Bill (reauthorized every five years) for other honey bee research or disaster-relief programs. We would not be invited to testify before Congress to offer a beekeeper’s perspective on the problems facing our industry. The largest single role of a strong national beekeeping organization is to “speak up” for beekeepers. This is a job that no local, state or regional beekeeping group can or will handle.

“At the national level, the ‘politics of beekeeping’ enters a whole new world. The ABF spends much of its resources each year working on legislative issues. We must maintain a presence in Washington, D.C., when EPA, USDA, the Senate and House develop and manipulate policies affecting U.S. beekeepers”

In addition to our legislative work, the next most significant function of the ABF is to coordinate and host an annual conference that brings together the “best and the brightest” in the beekeeping world. This is a conference designed for all beekeepers, large and small, to come together and learn from a
## Directors Representing State Delegates Assembly:

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<td>570.850.7492</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Daveybuffybee@gmail.com">Daveybuffybee@gmail.com</a></td>
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Number in parentheses next to Director’s name indicates the year the Director’s current term ends – and whether in their 1st or 2nd term.

Directors Miller, Rouse, Ruby and Talbert, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.
It is amazing how much a dead pig changes everything. My son, Matt, and I were placing bees into hybrid carrot seed pollination in Central Oregon a while back. This is a grueling task, even under the best of circumstances. The fields are called one by one to maximize the timing of bee activity around male and female varieties and, of course, spray and irrigation schedules. The logistics of getting bees out of a honey flow in the Willamette Valley, checked for queenright and strength standards, transported across the Cascade Mountains three hours away, then scattered in fields isolated from each other to avoid pollen contamination between varieties, is not easy. Moving in early and staying after bloom is not an option.

And then there are the other things that come with the territory. Lost sleep, highway closures due to forest fires and wrecks, pipes blocking access to fields, rough roads and extremely limited offloading space are common, not to mention the irrigation running where the field was promised to be dry. On about the tenth night in a row navigating these conditions, Matt and I were in adjacent fields, each of us dealing with different problems. Matt was pulling in to an open space next to the field, promised to be dry and free of obstructions. But the water was running and pipes lay everywhere. Three in the morning, Matt maneuvered on what he hoped was solid ground; churning with four-wheel drive to a place he had hoped he could offload the bees. Suddenly, in his lights, he saw a large animal lying in his path, barely visible in the tall grass. He swerved to miss it and ended up hopelessly stuck in the deep mud he had been trying to avoid. The animal turned out to be a large, dead pig – very large and very dead.

We have all been stuck before. Unload the truck, get the trailer out of the way and find something big enough to pull you out. Thank goodness for forklifts. But, before we could do anything else, the pig needed to be removed downwind. The forklift did this without us having to actually touch anything. We were lucky. In a few days it would have taken a scoop.

We are recovering from the sleep deprivation. The irritations and anger over the middle-of-the-night difficulties a long way from home, are waning. A lot of beekeepers have left this kind of work because of the conditions. It’s hard on the bees, hard on the equipment and hard on the beekeeper. I am wondering if I need to put a clause in my contract with the seed company dealing with the terms and conditions for the removal of dead animals.

On the legislative front, the standard of identity for honey percolates along as an issue. Last month, I testified before a legislative agriculture committee in Oregon, which is going to develop a standard for our state. At last count, at least 28 states have in place or are considering some form of a standard for honey. And still, the FDA stonewalls our industry’s repeated requests to set a federal standard.

Currently, there is a new letter being written by Senators Thune and Casey requesting FDA action. We should all be asking our senators to sign on to the letter to give it more clout. This standard is needed as a first step in what will be a long effort to enable Customs to prosecute fraud, and give the courts clarity in determining contamination and adulteration cases.

Our industry is in peril. The price of honey paid by packers is in jeopardy because some product is being offered at far below market prices. There is no pure honey available anywhere in the world for those prices. And yet, product is being offered, which is called honey, at prices far below market. The legitimate honey packers will not be able to compete if this continues, and there will be a diminished demand for pure honey, which will, in turn, drive prices down to the producer.

The refusal by the FDA to establish a standard, one that most of our trading partners already recognize, is the dead pig in our path. Before we can effectively take actions to protect our product, our livelihood, we must deal with this obstacle. The situation has festered too long. Contact your senator. Let’s hope we can set the dead pig to the side with a forklift before we need a scoop.
Judge Upholds Identification of Chinese Honey by Trace Metal Analysis

In what is known as a Franks Hearing, a judge in the Western District of Washington at Seattle ruled that the findings of the CBP laboratory were sufficient probable cause to grant a valid search warrant, and the evidence collected was deemed admissible in court. A Franks Hearing is used to confirm or refute the truthfulness of a search warrant and the information used to acquire such a warrant.

“The Franks Hearing is an important step in validating trace metal analysis to determine country of origin,” said Ira Reese, executive director of CBP’s Laboratory and Scientific Services. “This sets important precedent in future anti-dumping cases.”

CBP tests for country of origin based on the trace metal content of agricultural products as determined by a process known as Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry. Samples received are tested to determine trace metal content and compared to a database for specific country and agricultural items of interest to determine if the country of origin is the invoiced country, and if not, whether it is a country subject to anti-dumping duties.

(Adapted from a CBP news release.)

ABF Joins Industry in Transshipment and Adulteration Fight

The ABF has joined with American Honey Producers Association and National Honey Packers and Dealers Association in filing statements for two Congressional hearings related to trade. In the nearly identical statements, the industry group drew attention to the problems associated with honey imports from China.

The May 20 hearing of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee was focused on Customs Trade Enforcement. The Senate Finance Committee hearing on June 23 was directed at the U.S.-China Trade Relationship.

In the statement the industry said, “The ever-evolving and complex schemes devised to enter honey into the United States without paying the U.S. antidumping duty on Chinese honey imports are mind-boggling.” They and Scientific Services’ use of trace metal profiles in analyzing agricultural product for country of origin.

The case began when CBP’s Savannah, Ga., laboratory received a number of samples of honey imported into Seattle claiming to be from either Thailand or the Philippines. Led by Savannah Laboratory Director Carson Watts, samples were tested and indicated that the honey matched the trace metal profile for honey from China.

Based in large part on the laboratory reports, federal agents secured a warrant to search the importer’s premises. Defense attorneys in the honey transshipment case challenged the validity of a search warrant that was based on the laboratory analysis.
applauded “the efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for their dedicated efforts to combat the illicit trade in Chinese honey,” then detailed the scope of the problem and the impact on the U.S. honey industry and recommended some changes in for the committees to make as they consider a Customs Reauthorization Bill.

In addition to changes in the bonding and cash deposits required on some imports, the group asked for more attention to enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty laws and the development of a database of individual characteristics of honey produced in foreign countries to facilitate the verification of country of origin markings of imported honey.

The honey group said all this would be profitable for the federal government by collecting $900 million in uncollected duties they estimate is owed to the U.S. Treasury on honey, mushrooms, crawfish and garlic imports.

Sen. Schumer Draws Media Attention to China Honey Trade

A statement released by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) has drawn the attention of multiple media outlets to the issue of “honey laundering” relative to honey imports from China.

In a statement released in conjunction with his appearance before a hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) on June 9, Schumer called on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to crack down on “honey launderers.”

“This is just one more example of China playing by its own rules to the detriment of every else,” said Schumer. “Instead of simply selling their product in a fair and competitive way, the Chinese are using illegal, backdoor deliveries and mislabeling their product to accomplish their goal. Today I am calling on the federal government to issue a stinging rebuke to these practices, and once again level the playing field.”

In a letter to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, Schumer expressed concern that FDA “has yet to issue a national standard of identity for pure honey. Such a standard would be a critical tool in promoting truth in labeling, and provide a basis for enforcement actions by State and Federal agencies against those responsible for imports of mislabeled or adulterated honey.”

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The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of June and July 2010. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

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Call: 202.224.3121
Ask for your senator’s office and request to speak to the agricultural aide.

E-mail: To locate and e-mail your representatives and senators, visit senate.gov or house.gov.
American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter – July/August 2010

ABF Member Recognizes Pollinator Protection Caucus During 2010 National Pollinator Week in D.C.

Editor’s Note: The following remarks were made on behalf of the ABF by Barry H. Thompson of Thompson Apiaries LLC, in North Potomac, Md., at the NAPPC/ Häagen-Dazs Hill Staffers Session. The session was held during National Pollinator Week in June. There were about 200 staff in attendance and another 300 or so came later for the pollinator-dependent flavored ice cream. There were a number of impromptu questions posed in the hallways afterwards, giving Thompson the opportunity to suggest to Barbara Boxer’s (D-Calif.) staffer, for example, the need for funding for apiary inspectors in California and the avoidance or repeal of beekeeping-unfriendly statutes in urban settings.

The beekeepers of America and the organizations that represent them applaud members of Congress for their establishment of the Pollinator Protection Caucus, in recognition of the critical importance of pollination to agriculture and the problems that attend pollinator decline.

Insect pollination is essential to the nation’s orchards and farms, large and small. Pollinators represent billions of dollars in value annually to U.S. agriculture. Pollinator decline and the potential insufficiency of pollinators to meet current and future needs are concerns for the entire country, not one area or one industry.

Native pollinators have been adversely impacted by changes in farming practices and the wide-spread use of pesticides and herbicides. Conservation measures aimed at the restoration of these pollinators in locations where that may be accomplished can benefit managed pollinators, such as honey bees. This is no “either/or” situation.

Honey bees, America’s premier pollinator, are beset by mites, bacteria and viruses, pesticides, and the probable combination of effects that result in the disorder commonly called Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. Scientific research is yielding valuable information that may be used to effectively address these problems. But, we’re not there yet, and research must continue and be expanded.

The beekeeping industry is an economic driver beyond the pollination of the nation’s most valuable and favorite foodstuffs. Beekeeping provides significant numbers of jobs across a spectrum of interdependent activities, such as:

- The management of bee colonies for honey, beeswax and propolis
- The rearing of thousands of queen bees each year
- The production of packages of bees to replace colony losses and enable expansion
- The manufacturing of beehives and equipment for extracting and packaging honey for market
- The transportation of honey bee colonies to pollinate crops as divergent as citrus in Florida, cranberries in Maine, apples in Pennsylvania, blueberries in New York, almonds in California, and sunflowers and canola in the Dakotas

There are constituents across the United States, increasing rapidly in number, as public interest in environmental issues at large and pollinators, in particular, burgeons. Local classes for beginning beekeepers recently have seen more and more young adults, many of them women, who wish to take up “urban beekeeping.” There are honey bees even at the Obama White House. “Bee friendly farming” has become a theme for American farmers.

The more awareness there is regarding pollination and the more focus that can be brought to defining concerns and to seeking solutions, the more likely we are to be able to ensure the production of food and fiber by American farmers. Activities such as the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus are a signal effort in achieving these goals. We in the beekeeping and pollinator community thank you.

ABF General Fund Contributions

The following ABF member contributed to the ABF General Fund during the months of June and July 2010. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

Kona Queen Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii
American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter – July/August 2010

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Foundation Funds $25,000 in Varroa Research

Two varroa mite research projects have received funding totaling $25,000 from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.

The Foundation Trustees utilized contributions received mainly from the beekeeping industry to make the grants. Quality proposals were received from several other researchers, and the Trustees expressed regret that the limited Foundation resources prevented their funding all the worthy projects.

The projects being funded in this round of grants are:

- Drs. Zachary Huang and Zhiyong Xi, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University. Research project: “Exploring Using RNAi as a Method for Controlling Varroa Destructor”

In addition to funding research projects as funds become available, the Foundation supports several ongoing programs, including the 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest, scholarships to graduate students in apiculture, and the Kids and Bees programs.

Contributions toward the Foundation’s programs may be directed to the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, P.O. Box 1445, Jesup, GA 31598. For more information about the Foundation, call 912.427.4018 or access the Web site at www.honeybeepreservation.org. Contributions may also be made via the Web site. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) research and education foundation; contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

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I am a member of the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association and the Texas Beekeepers Association. These are large organizations on the local and state levels whose primary objectives include supporting beekeepers and educating the public on bees. Given those associations, I assumed the above question to be true. However, all I really knew was that my fellow beekeepers, my family and I were honey bee friendly. My quest began to find out if my community was “For Bee or Not For Bee?”

In order to determine if my community is honey bee friendly, I created a survey and distributed it to my friends, 4-H members, beekeepers, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Extension Agents and a large e-mail parent’s network through my dad’s company. One hundred thirty-five were returned, providing input from a variety of people and geographically representing the North Central Texas Area, my community. The survey consisted of four main themes: Landscape, Pest Management, Local Laws and Restrictions, and General Honey Bee Questions. This essay presents results consistent with my belief that my community is “For Bee” and indeed honey bee friendly.

Editor’s Note: Read more of Shelby’s first-place essay on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Web site at http://honeybeepreservation.org/2010/05/2010-4-h-essay-contest-winners-list/.

(continued from cover – From the President)

wonderful cast of speakers and from each other. I strongly encourage anyone who has not attended a national conference to make the effort to come to Galveston this January. 2011 will be a very special conference since it will be a joint meeting of the ABF, the American Honey Producers Association, the Canadian Honey Council and a special delegation of Mexican beekeepers. Excitement has been building in the bee industry for a follow up to the very successful 2008 joint conference in Sacramento, where over 1,200 beekeepers came together. There is a good chance that Galveston 2011 will draw more people and provide more chances for beekeeper fun and education.

The ABF effort to grow our membership continues to seek out ideas for additional services and functions that our members want. We are currently investigating options to expand our beekeeper education and certification through a master beekeeping program. The serious sideliners component of our conference has been very popular with small-scale beekeepers. The ABF does not wish to compete with local or state beekeeper education programs, but rather is looking to complement these efforts on a larger scale.

Please encourage your beekeeper friends to join ABF to support the work we do for “all” beekeepers. Our goal is to grow the ABF into the type of organization that all beekeepers want to be a part of and we need your help to be successful! Please continue to share with me your ideas, concerns and even complaints about the ABF. Give me a call at 239.340.0625 or send me an e-mail at davidmendesn@aol.com.
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ARS Weslaco Bee Lab Welcomes New Research Leader

The USDA Research, Education, and Economics Agricultural Research Service recently announced that Dr. John Adamczyk has been appointed as the new Research Leader for the Honey Bee Research Unit at the ARS Weslaco Lab. He has served as the Acting Research Leader for the Honey Bee Research Unit since 2007.

Dr. Adamczyk has almost 20 years of research experience in insect physiology, toxicology, molecular biology, systematics and plant resistance. He has authored well over 100 publications, over half of which have been published in refereed journals. He routinely receives invitations to present the results of his work at major scientific forums, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Adamczyk is recognized by his peers as a major international player and leader in crop pest management research. He is also regarded as a valuable source of expertise and council on issues related to modern and environmentally-sustainable control of major agricultural pests and pests of honey bees.

Since his arrival at Weslaco, he has brought dedicated, optimistic and progressive management to two of the Research Center's four Research Units. He has also refocused programs, motivated scientific personnel, rebuilt neglected/deteriorated relationships with key customers and stakeholders, and facilitated greatly enhanced soft- and hard-money support of the Research Unit programs. Above all, he remains committed to the needs of the beekeeper.
Queen Committee Report

By Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to share the Queen Committee’s sincere appreciation for all of you who have hosted or will host the Queen and Princess in the upcoming months. We’re now entering our busy season for promotions, and Lisa and Amy are excited to travel the nation on ABF’s behalf.

Lisa’s particular blog is geared toward children and has been particularly useful as she visits schools. Kids can visit her site to learn more information about honey bees, ask questions that may have been missed in a school visit, and find new sites to visit for beekeeping information (such as abfnet.org or honey.com). In future years, we will have this additional outlet for the program to provide information to consumers of honey.

We are still accepting invitations to your 2010 promotions for Lisa and Amy. Please help us reach our various goals this year. Lisa has a particular interest in school visits and meetings with legislative officials, and Amy’s focus is on civic-group presentations and media interviews. Both representatives have been outstanding in their media relations this year, and we are excited to see more positive press from both of them in the next few months. Please contact me as soon as you can if you have a promotion that would benefit from Lisa or Amy’s visit!

Amy is also contributing to this effort. You can check out the blog at http://buzzingacrossamerica.blogspot.com/. Lisa’s work for class credit will help the Queen program kick off its increased use of social media outlets. A few members of the Queen Committee will put together a format and guidelines for future American Honey Queens and Princesses to blog about their travels and provide useful and follow-up information to consumers of honey and students to whom they speak in schools.

2010 ABF Membership Directory Correction

The ABF inadvertently omitted the California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA) from the “Classified Directory” section of the 2010 ABF Membership Directory (page 83). We apologize for the oversight.

California State Beekeepers Association
5307 Jeppson Court
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castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com
www.californiastatebeekeepers.com

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of June and July 2010:

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Jerome Bydalek, Neb.
Lacey Guna, Calif.
Donald Smiley, Fla.

20 Years
Alicia Ellingson, Minn.
Debbie Ellingson, Minn.
Holly Ellingson, Minn.
Carlene Magee, Mass.

25 Years
Larry Lindokken, Wis.
Dwight Stoller, Ohio
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From the Honey Queen

By Lisa Schluttenhofer, 2010 American Honey Queen

For many Americans, summer means slowing down, vacationing and relaxing. This is not the case for beekeepers or the American Honey Queen! In the last few months, I have been extremely active promoting our beekeeping industry, and, as my school year at Purdue was ending, new and exciting promotions were just beginning.

In the months of April and May, I gave 30 school presentations reaching a total of 832 pre-school through fourth-grade students in the Lafayette/West Lafayette area (near Purdue University). At each program, I talked about life inside the beehive and why honey bees are beneficial to people. For most presentations, a child had the opportunity to try on the bee suit or helmet and veil; they are always excited to hear that keeping bees can be a hobby or career!

On May 3, I travelled to Ohio to spread the word about the honey bee's importance to 119 agriculture students at St. Marys Memorial High School, in St. Marys, Ohio. The students had questions about honey bee diseases and challenges facing the industry. It is important to talk to high-school students; many of the future agriculturalists were amazed to learn that honey bees are an essential part of agriculture, pollinating one-third of our food supply.

At the West Central Indiana Beekeepers Association Spring Field Clinic on May 8 at Purdue University, I provided tips on “Marketing Your Honey.” In my own beekeeping operation, I create specialty honey and beeswax products. At the clinic, I spoke about how value-added products and visually appealing displays can make a huge difference in honey sales.

On Monday, May 10, I had an interview with Indiana AgriNews. The weekly agricultural newspaper devoted an entire section to the beekeeping industry! This article and other newspaper interviews over the past few months have generated over $5,000 in free advertising for American beekeepers. Furthermore, Web site publicity valued at approximately $942 has communicated the message of beekeeping because of my visits in April, May and June.

When I headed to the Michigan and Indiana border May 13-15, my school days continued. Jerry and Carol Shaw of Granger, Ind., arranged for me to speak at three elementary schools, reaching 335 students. I also spoke at the Michigan Beekeepers Association meeting about the Honey Queen Program and promoting honey as a wholesome and natural product. I was interviewed by a reporter from the Farmers’ Exchange at the event. I extend a big thank you to Jerry and Carol for their hospitality and Danny Slabaugh for inviting me to be a guest speaker at the meeting.

The next week continued to be very busy as I returned to my former elementary school, Granville Wells, in Jamestown, Ind., for Pioneer Days and other presentations. The fourth graders learned about beekeeping in the Pioneer Days and modern times! I even dressed in period clothing for this particular presentation. That same week, I was the guest Queen Lisa shared the message of honey bees in pollination during a live interview with WTVQ in Lexington, Ken.
speaker at the Junior Farmers 4-H Club meeting in West Lafayette, Ind., where I spoke to 31 members about honey bees and beekeeping as a hobby. Arranging 4-H club speeches is a great idea for a Honey Queen promotion and encourages beekeeping among young people.

On May 26, I returned to West Lafayette to give a “Living and Learning” presentation for the residents of Westminster Retirement Community, many of whom are past Purdue faculty and staff. The attendees were interested in the beekeeping industry’s current events, especially Colony Collapse Disorder. Retirement communities love to have interesting and unique programs, so this is an easy way for you to present in your community. These centers are also a great way for the Honey Queen or Princess to reach out to senior citizens who frequently use honey.

For my next trip, I travelled to Kentucky for a very successful week of promotions. While in the Bluegrass State, I spoke to 1,330 students in Lexington, Cynthiana, and Paris, Ken. At many of the urban schools, it was the first time the students had ever learned about honey bees. This week brought me much closer to my goal of speaking to 5,000 students, and I have now talked to students in every grade!

In addition, I promoted at the Paris-Bourbon County Library with a cooking demonstration and educational presentation. I gave a live morning television interview on “Good Morning, Kentucky” in the WTVQ Lexington studio. During this interview, I explained the importance of honey bee pollination of crops in Kentucky and nationwide. After learning about creamed honey provided by Rick Sutton for the interview, the anchor was anxious to try it. I extend my thanks to Rick for providing me with honey for this interview. The Bluegrass Beekeepers Association in Lexington also invited me to speak about the Honey Queen program at their monthly meeting; for many of the 76 members in attendance, it was their first encounter with the ABF and Honey Queen Program. This trip to Kentucky brought a lot of attention to the beekeeping industry!

After returning home, I presented at a “Brown Bag Lunch” at the Frankfort-Clinton Public Library. Several potential “new-bees” in the audience were interested in learning how to get started in beekeeping, and everyone loved the honey punch from my recipe brochure.

Often, the children at schools have many more questions than I have time to answer. As a result, I developed an educational blog for the students to visit after my presentation. “Buzzing Across America,” designed for upper-elementary students, has information about various honey bee topics, cooking with honey recipes, information about my travels, and practical tips on how they can help the honey bee. Be sure to visit the site at buzzingacrossamerica.blogspot.com.

It’s hard to believe, but the next few months should be even busier! I will meet with Indiana government officials and make return trips to Ohio and Kentucky. After that, August fairs and festivals in New Jersey, Indiana and Washington are rapidly approaching. I would love to promote in your area. For information, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or via e-mail at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. I’ll “bee” seeing many of you at events this summer and fall!
The summer started with a two-day visit to northeast Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. During this promotion, I visited four schools reaching over 600 students in elementary, middle and high school. During my first day of school visits, I made stops in Menominee, Mich., and Peshtigo and Marinette, Wis. The fourth graders at Blesch Intermediate School in Menominee were fascinated that if we did not have honey bee pollination, we would not be able to eat pizza. Peshtigo Elementary School students were thrilled to learn that the honey bee is Wisconsin’s state insect and the cranberry, pollinated by honey bees, is Wisconsin’s state fruit. If your state insect is the honey bee, this can be a great reason to arrange for honey bee presentations to local schools in your state that require learning state symbols. During my last visit of the day in Marinette, the seventh graders were interested in learning more about beekeeping as a hobby.

On the second day of my promotion, I travelled to Escanaba, Mich., for two radio interviews and two school presentations. In my first radio interview with WMGX Radio/Mix 106.3, I had a 15-minute segment to discuss the buzz about honey bees. They were very interested in hearing about Colony Collapse Disorder and the impact it has on beekeepers, as well as what they can do to help support local beekeepers. This was my first experience with a listener call-in. Radio programs with call-in features are a good opportunity for Honey Queen promotions; the Honey Queen or Princess can offer a service to listeners by answering their specific questions, while promoting the honey and beekeeping industry.

The second radio interview was also 15 minutes with Craig Worpel of WYKX Kix Country 104.7 FM. We discussed the importance of honey bee pollination in Michigan being valued at $1 billion per year. This number doubles Michigan’s fruit and vegetable industry value. Between these two radio interviews, I generated $1,200 in free publicity for the beekeeping industry. My day concluded with two assembly presentations at Lemmer Elementary School, where I reached 396 students in grades K-5. Thank you to Mike and Anita Folgert for being my hosts during this promotion.

I returned to Wisconsin for summer school and more Honey Princess promotions. On May 28, I visited Chappell Elementary School in Green Bay, Wisc. I gave two classroom presentations to 44 third graders. The students enjoyed learning a song that I have created about honey bees to help them remember honey bee biology and understand that they are here to help us all through pollination and the various products they provide us.

June 12 brought the Illinois State Beekeepers Association summer meeting held at Jim and Karen Belli’s farm in Wadsworth, Ill. This was a great opportunity to hear more about Colony Collapse Disorder from Dr. May Berenbaum, chairman of the entomology department at the University of Illinois. Thank you to Jane Collins for...
giving me the opportunity to speak to the beekeepers about my experiences as the American Honey Princess, how they can utilize the Honey Queen Program and the benefits of becoming an ABF member.

This year has given me so many great opportunities and I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the months to come. Both Queen Lisa and I would love to have the opportunity to visit your state and help you promote your honey, as well as the beekeeping industry as a whole. We are here for YOU! A great way to create a promotion is by finding one event whether it includes (but not limited to) a fair, festival or farmers market at which you either sell honey or promote beekeeping and build off that. Once you have a main event, you can contact local 4-H clubs, senior groups or a variety of other groups to schedule appearances and speeches. Be creative! We would love to visit every state. To schedule an appearance from either Queen Lisa or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

Princess Amy speaks to the Illinois State Beekeepers Association about the ABF and how members can utilize the Honey Queen program.
Now that the really warm weather has come, the honey flow in our area is going strong and beekeepers are busy putting on supers to obtain honey. In our area, the honey gathering flowers and fruit blossoms were about one or two weeks early, so it was a rush for some beekeepers to get the supers on to collect the nectar.

Indiana was one of the states selected to participate in the USDA survey to provide a background of honey bee pests and diseases in the United States. The Indiana state bee inspector has started collecting samples from bee hives from different parts of the state. The analysis will determine which bee viruses and nosema species are present in the sampled apiary and will screen for exotic honey bee species or sub species. The results will be available in eight to 12 months.

Just a reminder again about the pictures for the photography contest and the honey baking contest. Keep these two contests in mind during the summer months. Try out some new recipes and take some pictures. The rules for these contests will be coming in the next two issues of the ABF Newsletter. The recipe featured in this issue is the first-place winner from the “Cookies” category in the Cooking with Honey Contest at the most recent ABF conference in Orlando.

**Date Pin Wheels**

by Alice Rekeweg, Decatur, Ind.

**Filling:**
- 8 oz. pitted dates, finely chopped
- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup HONEY
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 cup chopped nuts

In a medium saucepan combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil and reduce heat. Simmer for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool until it thickens. Add 1 cup chopped nuts.

**Cookie dough:**
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup HONEY
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/8 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. vanilla

In a medium bowl, combine flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter, HONEY and brown sugar with an electric mixer on medium speed until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in egg and vanilla. On low speed gradually add the flour mixture until well mixed. Chill dough until easy to handle.

Divide dough into thirds. Roll dough between pieces of waxed paper into rectangle so it is one fourth inch thick. Spread one third of the date mixture on top. Roll up dough. Use wax paper to help roll it up and also wrap it in. Repeat with remaining dough and filling. Freeze two to 24 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut rolls into one fourth inch slices while still frozen to help keep their shape. Place slices one inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet for five minutes and transfer to wire rack to finish cooling. Makes approximately five dozen.

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