ABF Members Join Together to Support “Honest Honey Initiative”

Effort Launched to Protect U.S. Honey Consumers and Customers

Four North American honey marketing companies and importers – Golden Heritage Foods, LLC, Burleson’s Inc., Odem International, and Dutch Gold Honey – recently launched the Honest Honey Initiative and pledged to help protect the quality and reputation of the U.S. honey supply, as well as the sustainability of U.S. beekeepers and honey businesses. The initiative seeks to call attention to illegal sales of honey in circumvention of U.S. trade laws, a practice that the organizers estimate cost the United States up to $200 million in uncollected duties in 2008 and 2009 combined and threatens a vital segment of U.S. agriculture.

The group unveiled a Web site, www.HonestHoney.com, an educational resource providing information about where honey comes from and ways consumers, honey companies, food manufacturers and retailers can take action to eliminate illegally imported honey.

“When honey is imported illegally, no-one can be confident of its true source and quality. Some products are not 100 percent honey and have other quality issues,” said Jill Clark of Dutch Gold Honey, Lancaster, Penn. “We’re asking people who buy and love honey to find out more about how the honey they enjoy is sourced. By raising awareness of unfair trade practices and taking the Honest Honey pledge, we hope to protect consumers and manufacturers who use honey, and to preserve the fair honey trade.”

While many Americans purchase packaged honey, an even broader population enjoys honey in such products as cereals, breads, cookies, crackers, breakfast bars, meats, salad dressings, barbeque sauces, mustards, beverages, ice creams, yogurts and candies.

“Pick an aisle at the grocery store and you’ll probably find at least one honey product there,” said Clark. “It’s a product that is added because of its wholesome, pure quality and taste, which is all the more reason why this issue is important.”

“I’m glad that efforts like Honest Honey are educating people, because the quality of honey does matter – it matters to consumers and it matters to our nation’s bee industry,” said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, a honey bee researcher at Pennsylvania State University. “Illegally imported adulterated honey simply adds yet another problem to an already hurting bee industry.”

“We estimate that millions of pounds of Chinese honey continue to enter the U.S. from countries that do not have commercial honey businesses,” said Clark. “For example, countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines and Mongolia raise few bees and have no history of producing honey in commercial quantities, yet have recently exported large amounts of honey to the United States.

“Honey has earned a special place in people’s hearts and minds as a wholesome, natural food. We want to protect that reputation and quality,” said Clark.
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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.**
I typically do not have much trouble writing this column. I have been writing a column as vice president for the past two years, and I usually find some bit of beekeeping news or current ABF activities and fill this slot with my thoughts or perspective. I have to admit that this month I have had a more difficult time deciding what “message” I have to share with you.

I have been thinking quite a bit lately about the direction of the ABF. A little over a year ago, the leadership at the ABF made a big decision to take steps to “grow” this organization. We hired a management company with experience in marketing organizations similar to ours. We chose to focus Troy Fore’s efforts more on legislative priorities to enhance our ability to “get things done” in Washington. We have “rebuilt” our Web site to offer more information. We organized a fantastic conference in Orlando. We have certainly been very busy and I am pleased with our progress thus far.

However, in light of all of these efforts, a growth in our membership numbers remains to be seen. Maybe we need to be more patient? Maybe we need to try something new to encourage more beekeepers to join the ABF? Maybe I need to ask for assistance from you, our members, to suggest things that you think would help?

Last year, I visited France to attend one of their national beekeeping conferences. I was amazed to find out that there are three national beekeeping organizations in France, one with 5,000 members, one with 7,000 members and the third even larger. The ABF is the largest national beekeeping organization in the United States and our membership has been hovering around 1,000 members. I have often heard an estimate that there are roughly 2,000 commercial beekeepers in the United States and 200,000 small-scale beekeepers. Based on these figures, it seems reasonable that the ABF has plenty of room for growth.

So, here is my pitch (and I hope many of you are reading this)…

Please help us identify what things would encourage you (and other beekeepers) to become more involved with the ABF. We not only wish to have more members, we also would like “more involved” members. This is a difficult time to keep honey bees alive and healthy. This is also a difficult time for beekeepers. Whether you have thousands of hives or just a few, it is devastating to watch your bees die. Many beekeepers are having trouble with their bees and don’t know where to go for help. This is the role for beekeeping organizations, whether local or national, to bring beekeepers together to work on solutions to our problems.

I believe a strong national beekeeping organization is needed in the United States. If you agree, please help make the ABF that kind of group. I welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions. There are no bad ideas! Please give me a call at 239.340.0625 or send me an e-mail at davidmendesn@aol.com.

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My bees are into their third cycle of pollination this year already. Mine is a pollination business. The bees are seemingly always on the go. Between every stop, the hives have to be reconfigured and, especially this year, fed repeatedly. What a string of wet and cool weather we have had! Our growers seem to think they have set fruit and seed, but the bees have simply not had enough warm dry weather to thrive. In western Oregon, we are now entering into the time period when we would expect to make some honey, but the forecast is still pretty gloomy. Hopefully, by the time you read this, everything will have changed.

Troy Fore and I made a trip to Washington, D.C., last month and, as it turned out, right in the middle of the most active time of hive placement in my bee year. Unlike many crops, pears must have bees placed just as the blossoms open. The sugar content of the nectar in many pear varieties is very low, and the competing bloom will suck the bees out of the orchard if the timing isn’t right. Growers generally like to have a lot of white showing before they have the bees brought in and, equally important, the pollenizer varieties must have ripe pollen so the bee activity isn’t wasted. Then we hope the naive bees making their flights over the first few days will set the fruit before they find the maples, apples and dandelions over the hill. Needless to say, I spent a lot of time in the halls of Congress coordinating bee placement on the other side of the country.

The ABF has a very full legislative agenda, wanting to push for appropriations of Farm Bill honey bee research and to continue to lobby to try to influence the FDA to put in place a federal standard of identity for honey. We had a visit at USDA FSA to discuss the federal disaster relief program (ELAP) and dropped in at AMS to discuss the referendum for the U.S. Honey Board. We also met with the lawyer representing a key group of industry organizations (including the ABF) asking APHIS to close the borders to Australian bees. The ABF has passed a resolution the last several years to close the borders to these importations until it can be demonstrated they do not pose a threat.

The political atmosphere in Washington in an election year makes some things very difficult to achieve. There may very well not be an agriculture appropriations bill this year and the likely scenario is a continuing resolution that will keep spending at last year’s levels. That would mean no additional research funds for honey bees, even though those programs have been passed in the Farm Bill. We did argue that the President’s budget includes $500,000 for research into synergistic effects of chemicals and pathogens on honey bees, and there seems to support for including that this year.

In the effort to establish a federal standard of identity, we are moving beyond letters and encouragement aimed at the FDA to now attempting to mandate this standard, perhaps as an amendment to the Food Safety Bill currently moving forward in the Senate. There is broad industry consensus and cooperation on getting this done. Every avenue and influence is being explored at this time.

I am now trying to follow up with some of the valuable contacts that were made on this trip, especially concerning standard of identity, moving forward with the next Farm Bill, and maintaining the constructive relationships we have with Natural Resources Conservation Service with their conservation and habitat programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program. I have an ongoing communication with the Department of Labor to establish special procedures for migratory beekeepers using the H2A Foreign Labor Program.

Going back to a theme in my last column, I need to continue to point out that the legislative activities of the ABF are funded almost solely through donations. We have a monthly payment for our lobbyist in Washington to watch out for our interests on a daily basis. As well we have the cost of maintaining a government relations person on staff to make the contacts, write the letters and maintain the ABF presence on all these issues. Additionally, there is the occasional trip to D.C. and the cost of those trips is significant, but hardly the main cost of our efforts. I am a volunteer, and I have a family and a business to run. There is no way that our legislative activities can be carried on solely by ABF officers and volunteers like me. We, as members, must make that decision to support the ABF Legislative Fund or abandon any reasonable hope of influencing government decision making. If you haven’t already, please contribute to the fund.
Government Relations Update
by Troy Fore, ABF Director of Government Relations

Notice of Availability of a Draft Pest Risk Assessment on Honey Bees Imported from Australia

A recent USDA-APHIS assessment of the risk the importation of Australian honey bees pose to U.S. honey bees is available for your study. The Federal Register notice of the availability and the pest risk assessment are available on the home page of the ABF Web site at www.abfnet.org under “USDA News & Notes.”

We encourage ABF members to read the assessment and make their views known to APHIS. Directions on submitting comments are in the Federal Register notice. The stated deadline is May 14, 2010, but an APHIS official has said informally: “There will be no problem with us accepting your comments after the date listed in the Notice.”

A prime consideration on the Australian imports is the Asian honey bee, Apis cerana, which has migrated into Australia from Papua New Guinea and is spreading across northern Australia. At least that’s what is being reported on Australian news Web sites, as well as on official government Web sites.

However, the APHIS assessment flatly states: “[Apis cerana] has not been introduced into mainland Australia.” In the past, proponents of the imports have argued that the A. cerana incursion was limited and hundreds of miles from the Australian package bee and queen breeding area. According to news reports, as of April 17, the monitors had found 86 A. cerana swarms. U.S. beekeepers may be wondering how many have escaped detection.

In Orlando this January, the ABF membership adopted the following resolution addressing honey bee imports:

WHEREAS, there is concern that imported honey bees may contain known and unknown honey bee pests and diseases; and,

WHEREAS, ABF has requested that USDA-APHIS immediately suspend all live honey bee imports into the United States, including both queens and honey bees, until further research can demonstrate that these imports hold no harm for U.S. honey bees; and,

WHEREAS, ABF has joined in a coalition of beekeeping organizations seeking to end these honey bee imports and has contributed funds toward the coalition’s legal expenses; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ABF Executive Committee is authorized to continue supporting the coalition in its efforts to end these honey bee imports.

The Pollen Substitute for Honey Bee Production. Available from:
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Legislative Fund Contributions

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

2J Farms, LLC, Idaho  Abel Apiaries, Fla.
Alaska Heavenly Honey, Alaska  M. Anderson, Texas
Gamber Container, Inc., Penn.  James Griffith, S.D.
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South Florida Bees-N-Honey, Fla.  Waller Apiaries, Wis.
Ziehlis Clover Hills Honey, Wis.

How to Contact Your Congressional Representative

Representatives

Write: The Honorable ______________
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Call: 202.225.3121
Ask for your representative’s office and request to speak to the agricultural aide.

Senate

Write: The Honorable ______________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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.
You are probably aware that this is an election year. Candidates are swarming around like A. cerana in Australia (sorry, just couldn’t resist). All House of Representatives seats and one-third of those in the Senate are up for grabs.

A lot of candidates will be clamoring for your attention – and vote. This presents ripe opportunities for you to tell the story of beekeeping at rallies, town halls and in one-on-one meetings. Making an effective contact is as simple as 1 – 2 – 3.

1. **Show up.** You have to take the time to go to the event. That’s 90 percent of the effort.

2. **Be prepared.** You need a paper to put in the hands of the candidate or an accompanying aide. Make up a list of your concerns about beekeeping. Use the legislative priorities letter we recently mailed to you or the Government Relations Update column from the March/April ABF Newsletter. Or, see the Legislative Priorities posted on the ABF Web site at www.abfnet.org under the “Legislative Activities” tab. You can clip your letterhead and business card to any of these with this message: “I am concerned about the future of beekeepers. Please look over the attached.” Be sure that whatever you hand out includes your complete contact information.

3. **Be brief.** Usually, you will have only a few seconds to make your point. While you are getting your hand pumped by the candidate, say something like: “I’m a beekeeper (add the name of your town if not local). Here’s some information about my concerns.” If the candidate is running for re-election, you should say: “Thanks for helping beekeepers in the past. Keep up the good work.” If you have issues with the candidate about immigration, healthcare, etc., put those aside. This day, you are representing beekeepers.

As always, if you get an opportunity for an extended visit with a candidate and feel that I can assist you in preparing, contact me at troyfore@abfnet.org or 912.294.5465 (cell phone).
Retraction

In the November/December 2009 issue of the ABF Newsletter, we included in the Government Relations Update column an article regarding adulteration and transshipment of Chinese honey.

The article referred to “a honey packer – one of the most-respected honey labels in America in terms of purity and care for what's in their packages...” The article went on to state that this packer was importing a Chinese product labeled as “bee feed” and re-selling it as something else.

To the extent readers of that article believed this reference was to Sioux Honey Association of Sioux City, Iowa, we apologize. The column did not identify Sioux Honey and was not intended to identify Sioux Honey.

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Beekeepers go about their business, making allowances for a farmer who favors frequent insecticide sprays, or the county road department that mows roadsides, or neighbors who know little or nothing about bees. But, how do all these factors add up? Is your community bee-friendly?

That was the question for the 2010 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest, sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. Essayists were to survey their communities to see what is being done, or could be done to help honey bees. Are there classes to attract new beekeepers – or laws that prohibit beekeeping? Entries were received from 22 states.

The top essayist, Shelby Kilpatrick, 16, of Copper Canyon, Texas, did just as suggested: she created a survey form and circulated it around her community, drawing 135 responses. She concluded her essay, titled, “For Bee or Not For Bee,” saying, “There is no doubt that my community is ‘For Bee’ and wants to be even more bee!” She plans to “reward survey responders with educational tips enabling them to become more honey bee friendly.” Shelby is a beekeeper herself and a member of the local and state beekeeper groups. Her first place prize is a cash award of $750.

The second place essay came from Sean Huss, 15, of Spencer, Ind., who receives $500 for his efforts. Sean is also a beekeeper and was named “Young Beekeeper of the Year” for 2009 by the Indiana Beekeepers Association. He developed a definition for a bee-friendly community and decided that his fits the bill. His definition is a community “that (1) does not discourage beekeeping and has no legal restrictions to keeping bees; (2) contains good bee habitat – a diverse range of native plants and wildflowers and cultivated crops, fruits and vegetables that can be used by bees as sources of nectar and pollen; (3) has people who care about the environment and limit their uses of pesticides; and (4) has good sources of help and education for farmers and beekeepers.”

There was a tie for third place. Abby Lyons, 11, of Dwight, Neb., and Ann Barlow, 14, of Milford, N.H., each receive $250. Abby decided that her community is bee-friendly, while Ann resolved to help her community improve. Abby is a beekeeper and Ann’s 4-H club has bees, giving all four national winners first-hand exposure to honey bees. Each state winner, including the national winners, will receive a copy of a book about beekeeping.

The essay topic for 2011 is “U.S. Honey: A Taste for Every Preference.” The 4-H’ers are encouraged to investigate the local/regional honeys of the United States and see how they differ in taste and color. Students interested in writing should contact their local 4-H offices for contest details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.

2009 4-H Beekeeping Essay Winners

Shelby Kilpatrick, Texas – First Place
Sean Huss, Ind. – Second place
Abby Lyons, Neb. –Third Place (tied)
Anna Barlow, N.H. – Third Place (tied)

State Winners

Rachel Ricchiuto, Calif.
Kyle Spillane, Del.
Mary-Thomas Hart, Fla.
Jessica Jackson, Idaho
Brooke Lee, Ken.
Sarah Theall, La.
Merry Johnson, Miss.
Kalee Emery, N.J.
Tevyn Driever, N.M.
Liam Sayward, N.Y.
Matthew Griffis, N.C.
Eric Glaze, Ohio
Sandie Shelton, Ore.
Dalton Driver, Tenn.
Jacob Wright, Vir.
Tynan Gosset, Wash.
Tori Fletcher, Wy.
2011 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest Announcement and Rules

Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

AWARDS (Cash Prizes to Top 3 Winners):
1st Place – $750 • 2nd Place – $500 • 3rd Place – $250

Each state winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping or honey.

TOPIC: “U.S. Honey: A Taste for Every Preference”
The taste and color on honey varies according to the flowers where the nectar originates. Each different type of plant will yield honey with a different taste. The same plants, growing in different soils and climates, can yield different honey. The 4-H’ers are encouraged to investigate the local/regional honeys of the United States and see how they differ in taste and color. Is a honey dark with a rich flavor, or light in color and mild-tasting? Actual access to the honey for tasting is not required – just find out about some of the characteristics and write about them.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40 percent of the score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list. Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

2011 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST RULES:
For 2011, only essays submitted electronically will be accepted. For official rules, contact the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., Troy Fore, executive director, troyfore@honeybeepreservation.org or visit www.honeybeepreservation.org. The states’ entries must reach the Foundation before March 1, 2011.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the month of April 2010.

- Robert Webb, Calif.
- Debra Kelly, Wis.
- Mark Anderson, Texas
- Jeffrey Nelson, Md.

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www.honeybeepreservation.org
Meet the ABF Board

The ABF Board is comprised of a diverse and experienced group of individuals dedicated to the betterment of the beekeeping industry. Learn more about your leadership team in this installment of the “Meet the ABF Board” column, and be sure to keep an eye out for more Board member profiles in upcoming issues of the ABF Newsletter.

Joan Gunter
Towner, N.D.
ABF Director
Representing the State Delegates Assembly

Although Gunter Honey was in existence long before I came into the picture, it soon became an addiction I just can’t break. I can’t imagine my life without bees now. My husband, Dwight, and I grew up a short 20 miles from each other, but didn’t meet until we were in our later years of college. One of our first dates was to a bee yard. I must have passed the test because I find myself still there today and loving it.

Gunter Honey is located in Towner, N.D. We are commercial beekeepers who migrate south every winter. Dwight and I travel to Lumberton, Miss., where we make splits (nucs) and raise queens. We send a few hives to California to pollinate almonds, but our main income is from honey production.

I have a degree in education and love to implement that into the programs in which I am involved. I speak to local groups and organizations in our area and even the occasional classroom. I have enjoyed traveling with the Honey Queens and Princesses helping them do the same. I enjoy working with new beekeepers and hobbyists in hopes that they will continue in the industry and help it grow.

I have been involved with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) for over 20 years. I have served as an officer in the ABF Auxiliary and have been a strong supporter of the American Honey Queen Program. My latest venture is to do what I can politically to help bring the industry together. I believe that as a united front we will have more power to pursue important legislation, such as adopting a standard of identity for honey and finding a better way to test for adulteration in honey.

As the chairman of The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, I would encourage donations to help with ongoing research projects that have been set up by the Board of Trustees. Money is always needed to maintain these programs and possibly help develop new ones.

Beekeeping has become a fascinating way of life for my family; however, it is not an easy one. Just keeping bees alive and strong has become a huge challenge. The ABF has been there by supplying beekeepers with a wealth of knowledge in battling all of the problems we face in our industry today. I am proud to be a member of an organization like this and look forward to continuing my work with the Federation for many years to come.

Gus Rouse
Captain Cook, Hawaii
ABF Director
Representing Directors Representing Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG

I was born in San Jose, Calif., and raised in the Northern Sacramento Valley. I am a fifth generation orchard farmer and I was determined to stay in agriculture. My great grandfather and grandfather were charter members of Sunsweet Corporation, a farmer’s co-op.

In 1974, I went into the bee business with my brother and sister-in-law. We soon ran bees in California, Nevada and Oregon. After honeymooning in Hawaii in 1978, I met the Powers and Weaver families, and soon had a job at the new Kona Queen Co., which they had started. After six years under their wings, I was taken on as a partner and in 10 more I bought the business.

I have served on the ABF Board since 1999 and I am currently representing the Queen and Package SIG. I have also served as the Nominations Chair for the National Honey Board.

I had the pleasure to be taught the fundamentals of genetics and queen breeding, as well as artificial insemination of queen honey bees, by Harry Laidlaw. I have been fortunate to travel to Apimondia in Poland, China, Switzerland,
Canada, Ireland and Australia. My wife, Sandy, and I have four daughters who stay as far away from bees as possible. When I’m not busy with the business, I enjoy cycling, ocean kayaking, tennis and skiing.

I have a strong interest in working with the government to improve our industry and businesses. We have opened borders to queens, changed the way queens are delivered by the post office, secured major funding for honey-bee-related issues and helped sponsor many research projects. This is the industry that supports us all.

I always like to make sure ABF conferences are enjoyable events, where business can happen, but also the great networking that is possible when surrounded by other beekeepers, scientists, government officials and friends. I think great things are possible for the ABF if more people would allow themselves to be involved and more people would help fund the ABF efforts on their behalf. The ABF is a great community and beekeeping is an honorable profession. Participate!
Losses of managed honey bee colonies nationwide totaled 33.8 percent from all causes from October 2009 to April 2010, according to a survey conducted by the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Beekeepers identified starvation, poor weather, and weak colonies going into winter as the top reasons for mortality in their operations. This is an increase from overall losses of 29 percent reported from a similar survey covering the winter of 2008-2009, and similar to the 35.8 percent losses for the winter of 2007-2008.

The continued high rate of losses are worrying, especially considering losses occurring over the summer months were not being captured, notes Jeffrey Pettis, research leader of ARS’ Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s principal intramural scientific research agency. The survey was conducted by Pettis and past AIA presidents Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Jerry Hayes. The three researchers said that continued losses of this magnitude are not economically sustainable for commercial beekeepers.

The 28 percent of beekeeping operations that reported some of their colonies perished without dead bees present — a sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) — lost 44 percent of their colonies. This compares to 26 percent of beekeepers reporting such dead colonies in the 2008-2009 winter and 32 percent in the 2007-2008 winter. Beekeepers that did not report their colonies having CCD lost 25 percent of their colonies.

As this was an interview-based survey, it was not possible to differentiate between verifiable cases of CCD and colonies lost as the result of other causes that share the “absence of dead bees” as a symptom. The cause of CCD is still unknown.

The survey checked on about 22.4 percent of the country’s estimated 2.46 million colonies. The survey reports only winter losses and does not capture colony losses that occur throughout the summer when queens or entire colonies fail and need to be replaced. Those summer losses can be significant.

A complete analysis of the survey data will be published later this year. The abstract can be found at http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/news/losses-2009-10. More information about CCD can be found at www.ars.usda.gov/ccd.

Source: Kim Kaplan, USDA-ARS
Officials from the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA), Sioux Honey Association, the Western States Honey Packers and Dealers Association, and the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association met April 26, 2010, in Chicago for a roundtable discussion of honey-industry issues. There was agreement that:

- The standard of identity petition is of great importance to all five groups. The groups agreed to communicate on efforts related to standard of identity. That could be expanded to other issues as needed.
- Bob Bauer, executive director of the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association, will investigate if there’s a vehicle through the Department of Commerce to conduct an investigation of the top three countries involved in circumvention. Richard Adee, member of the AHPA Executive Board and leader of its legislative team, will seek legal counsel to investigate this subject as well.
- The groups were interested in the National Honey Board’s ongoing research into testing procedures; some information on that study will be available within a few months.

The group representing the ABF included Board members Dave Mendes, George Hansen, Zac Browning and Joan Gunter, as well as ABF member David Hackenberg.

“I think we had a productive meeting, particularly since all segments of the industry were able to agree to work together to address common concerns,” noted Dave Mendes, ABF president. “For me, it was very nice to meet some of the people whose names I had heard for years. I was very proud to be part of the ABF delegation, as we presented a very professional image to the other groups.”
United States Honey Production
Down 12 Percent

Released February 26, 2010, by the National Agricultural
Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board,
U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more
colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from
2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in
2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged
58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in
2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. Colonies which
produced honey in more than one state were counted in
each state where the honey was produced. Therefore,
yields per colony may be understated, but total production
would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if
honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were
37.2 million pounds on Dec. 15, 2009, down 27 percent
from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude
those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009
to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008.
U.S. and state level prices reflect the portions of honey
sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels.
Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the
quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the
2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some
2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some
revisions to the 2008 crop prices.

The complete NASS Honey Report is available at
www.abfnet.org under the “Education & Events” tab,
“Honey Facts.”

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the month of April and May 2010:

10 Years
Rodney Hurd, Fla.
Bill Mitchell, Mont.
Hubert Sadler, Fla.

15 Years
Anita Collins, Penn.
Jim Gross, Mass.
Morris Hinton, Ohio

20 Years
Paul Jackson, Texas

25 Years
M. Jane Burgess, Ken.
Paul Krepicz, Penn.

30 Years
Richard Parkinson, Fla.

35 Years
DeWayne Keller, Ore.
Richard Turanski, Ore.

65 Years
Robert Case, N.Y.
Kim Flottum, Ohio

ABF Recognizes the 2010 Partner Program Participants

Mann Lake
Hackensack, MN
www.mannlakeltd.com

Kona Queen Hawaii
Captain Cook, HI
www.konaqueen.com

Interested in becoming a part of the 2010 ABF Partner Program?
Contact Robin E. Dahlen, CAE, ABF executive director, at 404.760.2875 or via e-mail at robindahlen@abfnet.org.
Lisa Schluttenhofer and Amy Roden are persistent promoters for our industry. I don’t think a moment passes when they aren’t trying to find a new way or opportunity in which to promote our industry. Their enthusiasm is infectious; I encourage you read the kind words expressed by Stan Yeagley, president of the Mississippi Beekeepers Association, about Lisa’s recent visit to the Mississippi State capitol. You can read Stan’s comments at: http://www.mdac.state.ms.us/organizations/mshoneybee/Library/Newsletters/04-2010.pdf.

Lisa’s visit to the state capitol highlights a tremendous promotional opportunity for the American Honey Queen and Princess. Meetings with state and local legislators are excellent forums in which the Queen and Princess can discuss the importance of our industry with individuals who have an extensive network of contacts that can help spread the important messages of our industry. Legislators often publish regular newsletters or e-mail updates to their constituents, which can be a great opportunity to highlight the importance of our industry in various states. Lisa and Amy are particularly eager to make contacts with elected officials, so please consider scheduling such meetings during their visits to your states so they can continue to spread our industry’s important messages.

Amy has been making a significant impact during her travels, as well. During her trip to Illinois, she had the opportunity to speak to high school students in an urban area about using honey in daily cooking. When the teachers secured Amy’s visit, they redesigned their curriculum that week to revolve around using honey for their “Creative Cuisine” courses. Not only did Amy reach people who were learning cooking techniques, but she also had the opportunity to help train the teachers on the many uses of honey, likely securing the use of honey in future years at this school. A teacher commented during the visit that she had found different recipes for the week, but was considering not using a recipe that called for creamed honey, because she did not understand what creamed honey was. The teacher quickly changed her mind about using the recipe in class once she learned what creamed honey was during Amy’s presentation.

This visit was extraordinary, as it highlights a great opportunity that we can all seek out in our local promotions. Food classes, home economics courses, family and consumer living courses are available at many middle and high schools. There are also many food courses at technical and vocational schools and colleges. Experts in food products are desirable speakers, and the Queen and Princess are fully prepared to give demonstrations and speak about the wonderful properties of honey. I have encountered many people who are avid honey users who do not know some of the facts that we may consider “basic” facts about honey, such as its inability to spoil or the need to store it at room temperature. We have tremendous opportunities to teach people in a variety of settings about using honey for cooking and in their daily lives. I encourage you to consider approaching these venues for appearances for Lisa and Amy this year when they visit your states.

We are still looking for more promotions for our 2010 American Honey Queen and Princess, and we do want to visit as many different states as possible this year. Please contact me if you have ideas for events at which the Queen or Princess could appear. I would love to help you arrange a visit from Lisa or Amy and learn about the promotional ideas you have. Please contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 for more information on scheduling an American Honey Queen or Princess visit to your area.

Queen Committee Report
By Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

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ABF General Fund Contributions

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

F. Mullich
(in memory of Joe Miller, Garrett County General Services, Md.)

South Florida Bees-N-Honey, Fla.
These past few months have been flying by! During Spring break, Princess Amy Roden and I were buzzing across the United States. I started my trip in Minnesota at the University of Minnesota Beekeeping in Northern Climates Short Course, making a joint appearance with Amy. During our visit we learned so much about honey bee biology, diseases and pests, and beekeeping from Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter. We also had a booth with information about the ABF and the Honey Queen program for the 260 participants to learn more about our organization. During the short course, we stayed with Willie and Marilyn Gorham of Hudson, Wis. We are so grateful for the invitation of Gary and Marla, and the hospitality of our hosts.

From Minnesota I headed to Lumberton, Miss., from March 15-21 to work with Dwight and Joan Gunter, who had a great week of activities planned for me. I had the opportunity to meet with state government officials in Jackson, Mississippi Beekeepers Association members Stan Yeagley and D.L. Wesley, and State Apiarist Harry Fulton at the Mississippi State Capitol. Addressing the Mississippi House of Representatives was the highlight of the day; I spoke about the role of honey bee pollination in our food supply and their economic impact to the 117 members in attendance. After my speech, I presented the Speaker of the House with a beautiful basket of hive products. Meeting with the Director of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, David Waide, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Lester Spell and Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant also provided opportunities to promote beekeeping at the capitol. One of my goals this year was to increase the role of the Honey Queen program in government and legislation, and I would like to thank the Mississippi Beekeepers Association for securing such a rewarding promotion.

During my Mississippi promotion, I also presented to the ladies group at the Lumberton United Methodist Church, describing honey bee life and demonstrating how to make Honey Holiday Punch. A stop in Gulfport included a television interview and cooking demo on WLOX, where I reached approximately 35,000 viewers with the message of how easy it is to cook with honey. At the Pecan Company Store, a shop specializing in local products, I offered honey pecan ice cream sundaes. I would like to thank Dwight and Joan for an exciting week full of a wide variety of promotional opportunities, seeing the sights and assisting in their bee yards. This promotion was very successful and generated $8,481 in free advertising for the ABF through the WLOX television interview, Internet publicity, and articles in the Mississippi Market Bulletin and Mississippi Beekeepers Association newsletter.

After spring break, promotions in Indiana were next on the list. On April 5, I presented to three classes of enthusiastic preschool students at the Purdue Lab School. The 61 students were excited to learn about what honey bees do for us, and how approximately 1/3 of our diet depends on the honey bee. They were shocked when I equated this to missing an entire meal each day if we did not have honey bees to pollinate many of our fruits, vegetables and nuts.

On April 15, I traveled to the North East Indiana Beekeepers meeting in Fort Wayne, where I spoke to 52
Spring break in March provided an excellent opportunity for my first long, 10-day promotion when I visited four states: Minnesota; Wisconsin; Illinois; and Texas. My first trip was to Minneapolis for the University of Minnesota Short Course hosted by Gary Reuter and Dr. Marla Spivak. Lisa Schluttenhofer and I attended the University of Minnesota Short Course together. We are thankful for the opportunity to attend the short course, where we gained many new insights on how others present beekeeping information, as well as had quite a learning experience with the 260 students who were all interested in becoming beekeepers themselves. We also promoted the ABF during a breakout session for interested attendees to learn about everything the ABF has to offer. Thank you to Bill and Marilyn Gorham for being such great hosts during our stay, as well as Gary Reuter and Dr. Marla Spivak for giving us the opportunity to attend the short course.

My next stop was back in Wisconsin for classroom presentations in Janesville, March 15-16. Janet Kassel was a wonderful host and arranged a variety of promotions for me. During my two-day stay, I gave a total of six classroom presentations, reaching a variety of different age groups, and had two newspaper interviews. The first visit on March 15 was to St. William’s Catholic School, where I had the opportunity to speak with 65 students in grades first through fourth. On March 16, I gave three presentations to 70 students at Parkview High School in Orfordville. Two of my presentations were for agriculture-related classes and one was to a family and consumer education class. I also spoke to 55 daycare students at Angel Academy in Beloit, which gave me an opportunity to speak to a new age group. They were thrilled to learn how the smoker works! After my presentations at Parkview High School, a student who sat through my presentation interviewed me to gain more knowledge for the article he was writing for the Parkview Voice. The Janesville Gazette also published an article about honey, the beekeeping industry and my March 16 visit. Between the two articles, I generated $2,160 worth of free publicity for the ABF.

Then I was off to Chicago, March 17-18. On March 17, I had a great opportunity to give four cooking demonstrations at New Trier Township High School in Winnetka. Ninety-two students of Creative Cuisine learned how to make spiced whole wheat pancakes. The students learned about baking with honey properties, such as keeping baked goods moist for longer and the ratios for substituting honey for sugar. The teachers were thrilled to receive honey recipes and changed their weekly curriculum to incorporate honey in their classroom for their entire week! I then had a very successful day on March 18 when I visited Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Chicago. This was a new and wonderful experience presenting to students from a large city. I gave four classroom presentations, reaching a total of 111 students, including a bilingual class and special education students. During my visit to the kindergarten class, I taught the students a song about honey bees to help them remember that honey bees are here to help us live by pollinating many of the foods we enjoy eating. I thank David and Kathy Pino for so graciously opening up their home to me during this visit.

The last adventure was in Houston for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Harris County Beekeepers had a beautiful booth set up with a live observation hive, a display of Texas honey, a mannequin wearing the bee suit and veil, and even a “Bee-zebo.” Over 100,000 people attended this event each day I was there, and it was an experience of a lifetime to give many families an up-close view of many different aspects of beekeeping. The “Bee-zebo” that the Harris County Beekeepers have created is a hexagon-shaped gazebo where you can view the everyday activities of worker beekeeper. (continued on page 20)
members about the Honey Queen Program. This growing regional club is attracting new members to their monthly meetings. Thanks to Duane and Alice Rekeweg for inviting and hosting me!

Like many clubs around the country, the East Central Indiana Beekeepers club is flourishing with increased attention and interest in beekeeping. Nearly 200 new and experienced beekeepers were present at their April 24 Spring Field Clinic in Anderson. At this meeting, I shared how all beekeepers can and should be promoters of honey and beekeeping. Giving suggestions like having recipes available when selling honey and talking at your church group, son or daughter’s 4-H club, or other civic groups provided easy opportunities for even new beekeepers to talk about our sweet industry. Civic organizations are also wonderful places for a Honey Queen promotion; please consider inviting Princess Amy or me to visit your state.

As the school year ends, I will be presenting at several elementary schools in the area. During the summer months, I would love to visit your state. If you are interested in an appearance at a farmer’s market, festival, 4-H fair, summer camp or other event, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or via email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Have a great summer and I’ll "bee" seeing you!

(continued from page 18 – From the Honey Queen )

bees. Inside the screened gazebo were one hive of bees and several plants. The display showcases honey bees in action as they pollinate the flowers within the gazebo. All of the people in Texas that I have met have that true southern hospitality that you always hear about. I am thankful to have had such a wonderful opportunity to experience it with my hosts Ed and Elaine Michalik, my driver Don Angle, and the Harris County Beekeepers Association.

For the remainder of March and April, I participated in local Wisconsin promotions. On April 8, I spoke to the Tri-County Pork Producers Association at their 38th Annual Pork Roast Dinner, held in West Bend. Every year, the pork producers sell 1,500 tickets for this event. I had the opportunity to speak to every table about my role, and the honey and beekeeping industry. At the end of the evening, I gave a presentation highlighting the importance of honey bee pollination, the many different uses of honey (relating it to the honey-glazed ham we enjoyed eating) and beekeeping in the United States. This was a great venue to help reach my goal this year of reaching out to different civic groups and agriculture groups to really tie in the connection between beekeeping and all agricultural commodities. On April 16, I spoke to 65 fourth grade students in at Saukville Elementary in Saukville, and to 423 kindergarten through eight grade students at my former grade school, St. Frances Cabrini, in West Bend. On April 17, I spoke to 342 people at the Ozaukee County 4-H Variety Show as the educational entertainment for the night.

My year to date has been filled with numerous learning and teaching opportunities, and I look forward to seeing many of you during my adventures to come. To schedule an appearance from me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

(continued from page 19 – From the Honey Princess )

Secure your Summer and Fall queens now!

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Big Island Queens
A Division of Island Honey Bees, Inc.
HWA

(continued from page 18 – From the Honey Queen )

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<td>WW-900</td>
<td>9 1/8&quot;</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
<td>$1.74</td>
<td>CALL</td>
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<td>WW-915</td>
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<td>WW-920</td>
<td>6 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
<td>$1.65</td>
<td>CALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plastic Frames

- Food Grade Plastic
- 4.9 Cell Size
- Once Piece Design Requires No Assembly
- Impervious To Wax Moth Or Rodent Damage

Plastic Frames Waxed

<table>
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<th>Item #</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Color</th>
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<td>$1.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>PF-125</td>
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<td>$1.80</td>
<td>$1.52</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
<td>CALL</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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An Employee Owned Company
800-880-7694
www.mannlakeltltd.com

Prices are subject to change without notice and do not include shipping charges.
It seems that spring has come with all the beautiful spring flowers and trees blooming. It will be nice when the danger of frost is over and flowers can be planted in the flower beds.

After a trip to Georgia to replenish our bees, they are getting out to do their pollination and gather food for their hive. It is pleasing to hear their “buzz” as they go about their business.

The Auxiliary has reordered the 2011 calendars. If you would like to order some calendars to sell at your business or for your local or state beekeepers association to sell, please contact Lillian Kelley, 309 Ridge Creek Lane, Troutville, VA 24175. She will send them to you when they arrive from the printer.

I hope you are remembering to take those pictures for the photo contest. You can get many interesting pictures at this time of the year when the bees are out among the trees and flowers.

Also, don’t forget to experiment or try out some recipes using honey as the sweetener. You might just find a recipe that you want to enter in the honey baking contest. The recipe featured in this issue of the ABF Newsletter is the first-place winner from the “Bar” category in the Cooking with Honey Contest at the most recent ABF conference in Orlando.

Remember these contests are held at the annual ABF conference each January, which will be in Galveston, Texas, next year. We already have some new plans in the works for showcasing contest winners at the convention.

Chewy Date Bars
by Ellen Sundberg

- 1 cup HONEY
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/3 cups of flour
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 (lb) chopped dates
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Powdered sugar

BEE SUPPLIES

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Fax 217.847.3660, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341. Free catalog upon request or order online at www.dadant.com. Your one-stop headquarters for all your bee supply needs. The Dadant difference: Quality, service and value for 145 years!

Draper’s Super Bee Apiaries ........................................ 800.233.4273
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MISCELLANEOUS

ABF Auxiliary ............................................................. 701.537.5214
Secretary/Treasurer, Lillian Kelley, 309 Ridge Creek Lane, Troutville, VA 24175. The Auxiliary is asking for contributions for the American Honey Queen Fund of 2 cents per day for a year. This will make additional funds available for our American Honey Queen and American Honey Princess. Let’s help make this the best year in honey promotion.

Beehive Botanicals ..................................................... 800.233.4483
Beehive Botanicals has been buying Bee Propolis for over 35 years. Please send your hive scrappings or washed propolis to: 16297 W. Nursery Rd., Hayward, WI 54843. We pay all shipping charges. Call ahead if sending large quantities by common carrier.

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Fax 972-937-8711, Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Dutch Gold Honey, Inc ................................................ 717.393.1716

Leighton’s Honey, Inc .................................................. 863.422.1773
1203 Commerce Ave., Haines City, FL 33844. Bonded honey buyer.

MEL-O Honey, Inc ....................................................... 507.263.8599
Fax: 507.263.8611, 515 Cannon Industrial Blvd., Cannon Falls, MN 55009. Buyer/Packer—All grades of honey.

Honey Tree, Inc .......................................................... 800.968.1889

Sioux Honey Association ............................................. 712.258.0638
(home office) Fax: 712.258.1332, Box 388, 301 Lewis Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51102.

Tropical Blossom Honey Co ........................................ 386.428.9027
Fax: 386.423.8469, P.O. Box 8, 106 N. Ridgewood Ave., Edgewater, FL 32132. Please visit our Web site: www.tropicbeehoney.com. We buy honey and comb honey.

PUBLICATIONS

American Bee Journal ................................................ 217.847.3324
Hamilton, IL 62341. This magazine is full of interesting and informative articles on beekeeping. Association members may receive a 25% discount. Please see your association secretary for details. Send for a free sample copy. Visit our Web site at www.dadant.com.

Bee Culture .............................................................. 800.289.7668

The Speedy Bee ......................................................... 912.427.4018
Fax: 912.427.8447, P.O. Box 1317, Jesup, GA 31598-1317. TheSpeedyBee@TheSpeedyBee.com. Subscribe to The Beekeeper’s Newspaper and get the latest news affecting the beekeeping and honey industry. Free sample copy on request.

ORGANIZATIONS

IBRA ..................................................................... +44 (0) 29-2037-2409
Fax: +44 (0) 5601-135640, 16 North Road, Cardiff, CF1 3DY, UK. IBRA is the information service for beekeepers, extension workers and scientists. Members enjoy the benefits of belonging to IBRA, including Bee World. We need your involvement. Join IBRA - support this important information network, extend your beekeeping horizons.

Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace?
Contact Robin E. Dahlen, CAE, ABF executive director, at 404.760.2875 or robindahlen@abfnet.org.
The 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow will feature:

- A joint conference with the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council
- The American Bee Research Conference
- The Serious Sideliner Symposium
- One of the largest beekeeping tradeshows, full of the latest in beekeeping innovations
- Anticipated attendance of more than 1,200 beekeepers
- Optional activities perfect for networking and socializing with fellow beekeepers and industry experts
- Beautiful Galveston location, right on the Gulf of Mexico
- Something for everyone, from the new hobbyist to the seasoned professional

Additional conference details and registration available soon at abfnet.org.