It is mid-July, which means for me that pollination season is almost over. I am picking up hives that have just finished cranberry pollination in Massachusetts and sending them back to Florida. It has been a very busy pollination season, beginning in late January when we send hives to almonds in California, back to Florida to make splits, on to Maine blueberries in mid-May, to Massachusetts cranberries in mid-June, and finally home to Florida by the first of August. I often joke that 10 minutes after the bees finish one pollination season, we start preparing them for the next year’s adventures. Unfortunately, this joke is true. I am quite sure that it takes six months of preparation to get bees ready for almonds.

The ABF has been working to develop an educational program for beekeepers. A common request is for information on how to transition small beekeepers into the sideliner or commercial level. This is not an easy task. Every beekeeping operation must develop its own strategies to keep its bees healthy and productive. For my focus on crop pollination I have found that we must put plenty of inputs into our hive in terms of feed, new queens and new comb. We rebuild our entire operation late summer in August and September and then split everything again in the spring. So now that pollination season is over, we shift gears away from moving bees to working bees intensively. I am not sure that almond growers realize how much of a challenge it is to have big boxes of bees in February. Beekeepers who track their expenses carefully will notice that the costs to meet this goal have gone up substantially in the last few years. Please remember this when signing pollination contracts.

I have been asked several questions this summer about queen longevity. Many beekeepers that monitor their hives closely have noticed breaks in the brood cycle at various times in the spring and summer. Sometimes, if you look closely, you will find a mated queen in the hive and sometimes you will see queen supercedure cells in these hives. I have seen this quite often in my hives this year during pollination season. I have not been able to explain this phenomenon according to anything I have seen in past years.

The good news for me is that we will “fix” any queen problems as we rebuild our hives in Florida. If we were trying to make a honey crop into August or September in the Midwest, this would be much more difficult. Lost honey production during the fall is a hidden cost of raising good bees for spring pollinations. Fall requeening has become an important component to maintain strong pollination hives in the spring. Since we raise most of our own queens from our best stock, our goal is to continually improve survival traits in our bees. I think we may be seeing some progress on this front.

The fall is also the start of beekeeping conferences in many areas. I will attend the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting in Rhode Island in July, and there are several state conventions in September, October and November. I hope to attend the International Beekeeping Congress, Apimondia, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the end of September. And, of course, the ABF conference is in Las Vegas in January 2012, where I hope to see many of you. I strongly encourage you to attend as many bee meetings as you can.

Beekeeping is changing all over the world. The challenge to maintain healthy and productive hives has become much more difficult in recent years. But, in spite of all the problems, the number of beekeepers continues to increase and we can certainly all benefit from sharing information and learning from one another.

Fall requeening has become an important component to maintain strong pollination hives in the spring.
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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 Brandi, Tucker, Talbert and Wooten, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.

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ABF executive director, at robindahlen@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875.
Is the ABF listening to its membership? When signing up new members, most commonly we hear the question, “What do I get for my membership?” Maybe it is time to take a look at what we do and if it is really what our membership wants. To that end, below is a joke about not understanding clear hints.

Bob was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry.

She told him, "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in six seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE!"

The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale.

Bob has been missing since Friday.

Like Bob, I wonder if the ABF hasn’t understood the hints about what beekeepers want.

Small scale beekeepers make up the largest category of ABF membership. Legislative efforts and government relations are a large portion of the Federation’s budget. Membership revenues do not fund legislative activities, rather, donations and fund raisers cover these expenses. Most of the donations come from the smallest group of membership, the larger beekeepers. Is this a disconnect, a carryover from a previous time or do we need to reprioritize?

Before we decide that spending on legislative issues should be curtailed because of lack of support, I would like to point out some areas of legislative effort with the Farm Bill and other government programs that benefit the small scale beekeeper and might make one more likely to support the Legislative Fund, even in a small way.

**Research.** Most funding for USDA-ARS (Agricultural Research Service) originates in the Farm Bill. The four ARS Honey Bee Labs are doing basic and practical research on all of the pest/disease, nutrition and pollination issues that affect our bees. In addition, honey bee research at university labs is often funded by various government programs. This research is key to any beekeeper of any size.

**Pollinator Habitat Restoration.** The Farm Bill of 2008 directed the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop programs that support pollinator habitat for “managed and unmanaged pollinators.” Including honey bees in these efforts came as a direct result of our industry’s lobbying. This program provides funding for state, county and city projects. Almost for sure, there is a project of this type within flying distance of your bees. Protecting and developing pollinator habitat benefits beekeepers of all sizes.

**Disaster Relief.** Whenever a tornado, flood, fire or even CCD destroys beehives, the Disaster Relief (ELAP) program is available to help re-establish colonies. Some small scale beekeepers have used this program to get restarted.

**Standard of Identity for Honey.** Every beekeeper is affected to some degree, either monetarily or principally, when unscrupulous vendors demean our product by selling tainted, adulterated or mislabeled products. If we do not keep up the heat on this subject nothing will ever be done.

**Pesticide Issues and Honey Bee Pest Controls.** This is a huge issue for beekeepers, and we have the ear of the EPA to a certain extent to take in to consideration chronic problems caused by less than immediately lethal doses. If our voice is not heard constantly and loudly, then EPA will only have the chemical companies’ word to go on. In addition, controls for our pests must be registered as needed.

(continued on page 15)
I sent the following letter to the editor of Georgia Gardening magazine after reading the misleading article on the use of insecticides. The magazine appears to be published under different nameplates in other states.

Dear Editor:

I am compelled to write to correct errors of fact that appeared in an article in the July-August 2011 edition of Georgia Gardening. The article, “Using Systemic Insecticides for Garden Vegetables,” by Dr. Ayanava Majumdar and others, erred in declaring the systemic insecticide imidacloprid safe for honey bees.

This information is not only wrong and misleading to the gardeners you hope to inform, but it is also highly detrimental to the health of a key component of healthy home gardens—pollinating insects, especially honey bees.

The article features Bayer Advanced Fruit, Citrus & Vegetable Insect Control Concentrate (Bayer FCV) in which the active ingredient is imidacloprid. This active ingredient is the most popular in a relatively new class of insecticides called neonicotinoids. This group of insecticides acts on the central nervous system of insects as opposed to killing them on contact. Neonicotinoids have become the most widely used insecticides in the world in large part because of their apparent low toxicity to mammals.

Imidacloprid and other neonicotinoids have been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the syndrome that has been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of honey bee colonies over the past several years. For this reason, several countries have banned or severely restricted their use.

In a document relating to the registration of imidacloprid, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported: “Acute toxicity studies with honeybees show that imidacloprid is very highly toxic to nontarget insects… This is a concern for pollinators because imidacloprid is a systemic pesticide which has been shown to translocate into the nectar and pollen of crop plants grown from treated seeds. [In soil treatment tests with ornamentals] detectable residues were found in flowers and leaves as long as 540 days after application to the soil.”

As a result, EPA requires that products such as Bayer FCV carry what is called a “bee warning.” In fact, the Bayer FCV label itself states: “This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area. This product is toxic to wildlife and highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.”

Despite this, Dr. Majumdar and his colleagues wrote, “Imidacloprid is safe for nontarget insects such as bees…” This is all the more troubling since Dr. Majumdar is identified as State Sustainable Agricultural Research Coordinator at Auburn University. Very little fruit and vegetable growing can be sustained without the benefit of pollinators, especially honey bees.

Dr. Majumdar is also a contributor to the 2011 Alabama Pest Management Handbook, which describes imidacloprid as “toxic to bees.”

The thrust of your article is to compare the use of Bayer FCV to the use of the contact insecticides carbaryl (Sevin) and malathion. Both of these are deadly to honey bees; however, they offer one advantage to beekeepers that imidacloprid does not—the ability to avoid contact. The traditional ways of avoiding insecticide kills include spraying at a time of day when bees are less active (evening and night hours), not spraying while plants are in bloom, and avoiding spray drift. However, systemic insecticides are just that—systemic—always present. There is no avoiding them other than to avoid the area long term. Seed treatments have shown imidacloprid can migrate into the soil to be taken up by subsequent crops, even blooming weeds that might be visited by bees later.

I urge you to publish a prominent correction to correct the errors included in this article in all the magazines titles where it was published and to post the same correction in a prominent location of your Web site, statebystategardening.com. In addition, I encourage you to publish subsequent articles highlighting the benefits of honey bees and other pollinators to home gardens and describing how gardeners can help promote healthy honey bee colonies.
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The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of June and July 2011. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

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E-mail: To locate and e-mail your representatives and senators, visit www.congress.gov.
The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees is again offering scholarships of $2,000 each to five (5) graduate students in apiculture. This is the Foundation’s seventh year to award such scholarships.

The Foundation is a charitable research and education foundation affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The Foundation has benefited from a generous gift from the Glenn and Gertrude Overturf estate, and is sustained by ongoing gifts from ABF members and other supportive individuals.

The Foundation Trustees have chosen to use a portion of the grant to offer graduate student scholarships to foster professional development for young apicultural scientists. The purpose of the scholarships is to allow the recipients to attend the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Las Vegas, January 10-14. The recipients will have an opportunity to meet other researchers and beekeepers and to present their research at the meeting. The Board of Trustees looks forward to their contributions to the conference. The scholarships are available to all graduate students. Graduate students at universities outside the United States are invited to apply.

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until September 30, 2011.

Applicants should submit to the Board for consideration:

1. A cover letter from their advisor outlining the student’s progress toward their graduate degree, tentative graduation date, and any other information about the student and their research that would help the committee “get to know” the student.
2. A curriculum vitae, or resume, not to exceed two (2) pages.
3. A research proposal (not to exceed three (3) pages). This proposal should outline the specific research experiments the student is conducting for their degree. The proposal should clearly state how the research benefits bees and/or beekeeping. The proposal can describe research that the student is planning to perform, or the progress the student already has made toward that research. The proposal should begin with an introduction to the research problem, and should follow with clear goals and objectives that state the research questions and hypotheses. The student should then discuss the methods that will be used to answer their research questions, and the expected results or results to date. Recipients will be selected in November.

Applications must be submitted electronically to: Troy Fore, executive director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees; troyfore@honeybeepreservation.org.

If you have questions or need more information about the scholarship program, contact Marla Spivak, scholarship program coordinator, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees; spiva001@umn.edu.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the months of June and July 2011.

- Anita Collins, Penn.
- Randolph Furbert, Bermuda
- Patrick Heitkam, Calif.
- Benton Kastman, Texas
- Russell Levine, Calif.
- Bill Mares, Vt.
- Frank Morrisey, N.J.
- Nancy Gamber Olcott, Penn.
- Benton Kastman, Texas
- James Rodenberg, Mont.
- Fred Smith, Md.
- Harold Wilmerding, N.J.
For fun I decided to investigate if clover honey was the most preferred honey by conducting my own survey. I had 25 4H members, friends and family from the age of 7 to adult judge 5 different liquid honeys on color, smell and taste. I covered up the labels on the honey so people wouldn’t be influenced by the name of the honey’s nectar source. A honey’s color and taste varies depending on what type of nectar has been collected. The color and flavor of honey are linked; lighter honey is often delicate and sweeter in flavor, where darker honey often has a stronger taste. I chose clover honey and 4 others with very distinct color and taste differences that I thought people wouldn’t have tried before; these were orange blossom, sage, buckwheat and eucalyptus.


2011 First-Place 4-H Essay:
U.S. Honey – A Taste for Every Preference
by Rachel Ricchiuto, Age 14, Calif.

Preference—a greater liking for one alternative over another.

There are more than 300 unique kinds of honey in the United States. With this many choices people will definitely have very diverse preferences. In this essay I will be explaining about different “table honeys” and their forms, medicinal honeys and cooking honeys and why one might choose one variety over another.

Clover honey is what most people think of as being the typical honey flavor and color. It has a sweet mild taste and is a light amber color. It is widely used “on the table.” Most people buy honey in a liquid form but honey comes in many forms. Some of the other ways to buy honey besides the typical liquid honey are comb honey, cut comb and one of my personal favorites, whipped honey, which spreads like butter. For some people the texture of these other forms of honey affect the way the honey tastes in their mouths.

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Want to be a member of the ABF Buzz Club? It’s easy and rewarding! For the months of August and September 2011, the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) will hold an ABF Buzz Club membership drive, which will be open to all ABF active members. For every new member you bring to the ABF, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a $100 American Express gift card. The more new members you bring the more chances you have to win the gift card. *(Please see Rules and Regulations below.)*

The rewards do not stop in September! If you provide the ABF with five new members between August 2011 and January 2012, you will become a member of the ABF Buzz Club and will receive an ABF Buzz Club pin. As a member of the ABF Buzz Club, you will be eligible for the ABF Buzz Club Award, which will be presented to the ABF member who has generated the most new members in one year. The award recipient will be recognized during the banquet at the ABF annual meeting in January 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. *(Please see Rules and Regulations below.)*

Have a question or need membership applications? Contact Amanda Hammerli, ABF membership coordinator, at 404.760.2875 or amandahammerli@abfnet.org.

Thank you for your participation and let’s start buzzing!

**ABF Buzz Club Rules and Regulations:**

- For the new member to be considered eligible for the contest at no point should the new member have ever been a member of the ABF.
- The new member must be 18 years or older.
- The new member must completely fill out and return a membership application with full payment. The application must have the current ABF sponsoring member’s name written on the form. One new member per application.
- All membership applications and payment are due no later than September 30, 2011, at 12:00 a.m. ET. *Any applications turned in after September 30, 2011, will not be eligible for the American Express gift card, but are still qualified for the end-of-the-year ABF Buzz Club Award. The ABF Buzz Club contest winnings will only be awarded in the form of an American Express gift card.*
- The ABF Buzz Club annual award contest ends December 16, 2011. **All membership applications and payment must be turned in by 12:00 a.m. ET on December 16, 2011.**

Membership can be paid with cash, check, money order or credit card, and applications can be e-mailed to info@abfnet.org, or mailed or faxed to American Beekeeping Federation, 3525 Piedmont Road, Building 5, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404.240.0998 (fax).

*Must arrive on or before September 30, 2011, to be eligible for the American Express gift card drawing.*

**Must arrive on or before December 16, 2011, to be eligible for the ABF Buzz Club Award.**
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I send out the Queen Committee’s sincere thank you to all of you who have hosted or will host the Queen and Princess in the upcoming months. Teresa and Allison will have an eventful summer and autumn schedule of promotions thanks to many of you!

Teresa and Allison were active in many school-related promotions during May and June this year and their articles highlight many different outreach opportunities that you can employ in your areas. The late spring months are typically slower months for Honey Queen promotions, but we can always take advantage of educational appearances during this time. Keep this in mind for next spring in your area. Contact me for informational flyers that you can use when approaching elementary, middle and high school groups or civic, senior or adult groups.

Teresa and Allison, in addition to their travels, have worked diligently to maintain the Queen program’s educational blog, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com. Started in 2010, they are putting their own touches to this educational efforts geared toward younger audiences. This blog gives students an opportunity to ask the Queen and Princess questions that may not have been asked during a school presentation. They provide educational content and some information on their travels on a monthly basis in this medium. So far this year, the blog has been viewed by thousands of people in over 30 countries!

For those who use Facebook, the Queen Program further expanded its social media reach this year with a Facebook fan page. This page will provide real-time updates on the Queen and Princess's promotions this year and offer additional photos of their promotional work. It’s a great way to follow and support the program. Be sure to visit and “like” the page.

As the busy summer season approaches, we are working on the autumn and early winter schedules for Teresa and Allison. Both are willing and eager to do all they can to support the industry. They have particular interest in speaking in schools and with government representatives, so please consider incorporating these types of events in your promotions. You may reach me by e-mail at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or by phone at 414.545.5514. Best wishes in all your promotions!
Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

The following ABF members contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the months of June and July 2011. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Brian Fishback, Calif.
- Randolph Furbert, Bermuda
- Pam Furmon, Ohio (In Honor of the Wonderful Bees!)
- John Harrison, Miss.
- Howard and Miki Hohnsen, Ill.
- Susan McAllister, Calif.
- Frank Morrisey, N.J. (In Honor of Dawn Hawkins)
- Darryl Rebuck, Pa.
- Joseph and Ann Rossman, Ga. (In Honor of Bennie Lou Weaver)
- Gus Rouse, Hawaii
- Christopher Saad, Ill.
- John V. Sanborn, Mich.
- Harold D. Thieszen, Kan.
- James Wickerd, Calif. (In Honor of Jack Wickered)
- Louise Wright, Texas

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The honey bee today faces it’s largest challenge in its long history—its continued survival. Factors fighting against the honey bee include:

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- Challenging weather extremes that can affect honey bee health due to drought and floral degradation.
- Increased use of pesticides affecting all beneficial insects.

With your generous donation you can help protect the honey bee habitat, aid in the fight against Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), encourage government-sponsored research, assist in the battle against adulterated honey in the marketplace and help ensure the continued role of the honey bee in pollinating 1/3 of our food supply.

Become a friend of the bee with your donation of $25, $50 or $100. Donate today and receive a stylish Friends of the Bee bumper sticker…and help us tip the balance back in favor of the honey bee. Contact the ABF at 404.760.2875 for a donation form. Thank you for “bee-friending” the honey bee!

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As beekeepers across the country prepare for their busiest time of the year, our promotion season also approaches the busy season.

On April 30, I traveled to the University of Delaware to attend Ag Day. Ag Day is a community event that brings agriculture and the environment to life for approximately 3,000 visitors. At this event, I worked with the university entomology students and professors. I spoke to visitors at the beekeeping booth, answering a variety of questions and clearing up misconceptions about honey bees. Several products from the hive, including beeswax, were on display, providing another opportunity to educate the public about the wide variety of products that are produced by honeybees. Displaying products is a great conversation starter for farmers markets, fairs and civic groups.

A highlight of this event was showing people how gentle honey bees are by allowing them to hold drones. Children loved to see the drone bee walking on their hands and laughed with delight because the hairs tickled. Live hive demonstrations were held several times throughout the day by the university entomology students, allowing the public to see the bees at work. Live hive demonstrations are a great way to draw a large crowd to any beekeeping booth and explain how a honey bee colony works. These demonstrations provide a wonderful opportunity to explain why we need honey bees for pollination and to encourage people to become beekeepers. I extend a big thank you to Maya Althouse, a former Pennsylvania Honey Queen, for inviting me to Ag Day.

Following Ag Day, I jetted to Colorado for a school promotion from May 1-5 in the Denver area. I gave numerous school presentations and spoke to over 550 students during my stay. During one of my visits, I had the unique opportunity to work within various educational stations among which the students rotated. The stations included: an observation hive, where the students could watch the queen lay eggs; the equipment used by beekeepers, where students tried on a beekeeper suit and gloves; and a video area to watch “The Honey Files,” the National Honey Board’s educational video, which teaches about the three honey bees and their functions, pollination and honey. Using films in presentations can provide more information and attract more participants to any presentation. I spoke to the students at a fourth station, teaching them about the jobs of the worker bee, how honey bee pollination affects them and why honey bees are important. Rotating stations is a fantastic way to arrange presentations because the students can learn more about honey bees and beekeeping in shorter session, which holds their attention longer. Each station reinforces what the students learned at the previous station and provides hands-on opportunities, helping the students to remember the information.

While in Colorado, I had the opportunity to meet the staff of the National Honey Board. I toured the office and learned more about the function of the National Honey Board. The staff spoke to me about the many conferences and conventions they attend to promote the use of honey for beauty and as an energy boost for athletes. I also spoke with them about my role as the American Honey Queen and was inspired for my future promotions by their dedication to the industry. I encourage you to consider using the brochures and pamphlets that are available from the National Honey Board at your promotions (more information can be found at www.honey.com). These publications contain wonderful and easily understandable information on honey bees and beekeeping. Recipe brochures are also available, which are great to have for a promotion to give the public ideas on how they can use honey. Thank you to the National Honey Board.
staff for inviting me to meet with them. Thank you also to Theresa and Terry Dorsey for inviting me to Colorado and arranging all my promotions.

Between May 23 and June 7, I presented at many Pennsylvania schools and children’s groups in Waynesboro, Chambersburg, Gettysburg and Mercersburg. The students, ranging from kindergarten through seventh grade, were so attentive and asked amazing questions. I spoke to over 750 students during these presentations, teaching them how honey bees provide food, that beekeeping can be a career and the healing properties of honey. During one presentation with younger students, I made a craft with the students, given them the opportunity to “Make a Bee.” Having a craft is a good idea for younger children and making a bee will help them to remember what they learned. Crafts are also great conversation starters between young children and their parents.

The months continue to fly by with many promotions. For information on the events Princess Allison and I are attending, please visit the American Honey Queen blog at www.buzzingacrossamerica.com. On our blog, you can learn interesting beekeeping facts about each state, read monthly articles about beekeeping and honey bees, find some of our favorite honey recipes and follow our monthly travels. You can even find instructions for my “Make a Bee” craft!

I have upcoming promotions in Indiana, California, Minnesota and New Jersey, and I would love to come and promote in your state, too! Contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to invite Princess Allison or me to your event. I hope to see you as I go buzzing across America!

(From the Vice President...continued from page 3)

**Pest Exclusion.** What will our next pest challenge be and where will it come from this time? Does anyone really believe they can hide from introduced pests? Small scale beekeepers must realize they have a stake in the success of Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to exclude dangerous pests and species from the United States.

It is a fair question to ask, “If the ABF doesn’t make this legislative effort, won’t all this stuff happen anyway?” When I am in Washington, I am always impressed by the interest and attention we command. They are learning from us. They really do not understand our needs without our input. And, whereas other farm organizations can be our allies on some issues, none of them can or will carry all our issues for us. Think for just a second about the different positions from us that the major farm organizations might take on pesticide regulation.

The ABF’s legislative activities are a benefit of membership. Maybe we don’t go from 0 to 200 in six seconds, but I hope all members can see that supporting the legislative fund is to your advantage, no matter what scale your beekeeping is.
Hello, beekeeping friends! I hope this article finds you and your bees well and happy. I’ve certainly been busy sharing the wonder and vital importance of honey bees on behalf of the ABF since my last writing.

On April 29, 175 students and adults experienced what life was like for America’s early settlers on Pioneer Day at Lakeland Academy, a Montessori school in Union Valley, Texas. 2011 Texas Honey Queen Kaylynn Mansker and I set up an educational table with an observation hive, beekeeping equipment, hive products, honey bee photographs and honey straws, and welcomed children and adults to touch and see these bee things as we told them of the honey bee’s importance in the lives of the pioneers, and of the vital role they continue to play in our lives today.

In the month of May I focused on reaching some of the youngest consumers of honey by visiting a series of Texas schools in Murphy, Plano, Rockwell, Allen and Richardson. Between May 12 and 27, I gave 26 presentations at eight schools to a total of 665 students from kindergarten through 6th grade. It is always great to see the wonder on children’s faces as they learn about beekeeping—young people are fascinated by honey bees! This has been evidenced by the many questions the students have posted on the American Honey Queen and Princess blog page—take a look to see for yourself! Because of the renewed awareness of the importance of honey bees among the general public, now is a very opportune time to educate about these incredible and hardworking insects and recruit new beekeepers. Targeting youth can be a very effective way of doing this.

I also participated in two events with the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association, the club that first introduced me to beekeeping through their youth scholarship program. Their annual family picnic was held on May 14, where I assisted with the honey baked goods contest and spoke with beekeepers. I also attended their June meeting to give a report on my travels and role as American Honey Princess.

The Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) Summer Clinic was held on June 11, in Wills Point, Texas, where 135 TBA members and visitors met for a time of fellowship, listened to industry and association updates, and rotated through a series of educational stations manned by members. I worked with two other beekeepers by offering explanations and answering questions at the top bar hive station, and also had an opportunity to give the association a report on my recent and upcoming travels.

In addition to my many presentations, I received some Internet publicity in the last few months. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples posted announcements about my service to the ABF on his blog and Facebook page. Recently, the Honey Apricot Bread with Cream Cheese Spread recipe from our 2011 honey recipe brochure was featured as the “Treat of the Week” on Today’s Nest (www.todaysnest.com). Yes, it’s delicious—try the recipe yourself!

Are you on Facebook? If so, search for “American Honey Queen Program” and “like” our page! As always, thank you all very much for your continued support of the American Honey Queen program—it means so much. It is a great privilege to serve this remarkable association of fellow beekeepers and honey bee advocates!

I am anticipating a very busy summer and fall, including promotions in more than a dozen states…and your state could be one of them! Please consider inviting Queen Teresa or me to promote the beekeeping industry at your local event—we would be delighted to visit your area with the good word about honey bees and beekeeping. It is very easy to schedule an appearance. Just contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!
Migratory Beekeepers Get New H2A Rules

The Labor Department has issued “special procedures” that allow migratory beekeepers to move their H2A workers from state-to-state without having to register them in each state. The new procedures had been requested by the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF).

“This is great news,” said ABF Past President Zac Browning, who had been working for the change for several years. “The old procedure was a real hassle. This gives us much more flexibility in our operations.”

Under the old procedures, migratory beekeepers had to advertise for domestic workers and certify their need for foreign workers in each state where they needed workers. Now, they can make one certification and provide an itinerary showing where the workers will be used.

Browning and other members of the ABF Legislative Committee had maintained constant pressure on the Department to adopt the new procedures, which are similar to those already in place for other employers, such as custom grain harvesters.

For more information regarding the special procedures, visit the following link on the ABF Web site: http://www.abfnet.org/associations/10537/files/H2A_Beekeeper_Procedures.pdf.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the month of July 2011:

- **10 Years**
  - Mark Berninghausen, N.Y.
  - Rebecca Jones, Conn.

- **15 Years**
  - Diana Sammataro, Ariz.
  - Harold Thieszen, Kan.

- **20 Years**
  - Richard Hladilek, Wis.

- **25 Years**
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Summer has finally arrived. We have had a really long winter and spring in Montana. I’m sure some of the rest of you are also experiencing the effects of all the snow and water. We are dealing with CCD and the rebuilding of our numbers. That again for many seems to be a problem that hasn’t gone away. We have had plenty of moisture and are now hoping for sunshine.

I had the opportunity to see the documentary “Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?” It was interesting because it showed the practices of beekeeping in other countries.

With the annual ABF conference right around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about your entries for the annual honey baking contest, as well as the annual photography contest. Contest rules will be published soon in an upcoming issue of the ABF Newsletter.

I hope you are having a good year! Here is another recipe from our cooking contest this year for you to try and enjoy.

Honey Butter Cookies
by Alice Rekeweg

- 1 1/2 cups butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 3/4 cup HONEY
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips
- 3 1/4 cups flour
- 1 cup raisins
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Cream butter and HONEY. Add flour, salt and vanilla. Mix well and add pecans, chocolate chips and raisins. Drop a tablespoon of dough on baking sheet and form a flat, round cookie. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes until lightly browned. Recipe yields five (5) dozen 2” cookies.
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MISCELLANEOUS

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