The 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow, January 10-14, is less than one month away. Have you made your plans to join your peers in exciting Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino? Registration is open and it will only take a few minutes to secure your spot at what promises to be THE conference of the year for beekeepers of all levels.

The conference agenda is packed with information that is vital to your success. The 2012 Conference Committee has lined up top industry leaders that are anxious to share their knowledge with you. From beekeeping beyond the basics to sub-lethal impacts of pesticides on honey bees, we believe this conference offers something for everyone.

Our keynote speaker, Laurie Davies Adams, is the executive director of the Pollinator Partnership and has over 30 years of experience in management and communications. As executive director of the Pollinator Partnership, she has overseen the initial organization and development of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), the 120+ member collaboration of stakeholders from Mexico, Canada and the United States that work for a variety of fields, including science, the environment, agriculture and private industry. NAPPC’s successes under Adams include the National Academy of Sciences NRC Study on the Status of the Pollinators of North America, the U.S. Postal Service’s “Pollination” stamp series, and the U.S. Senate and USDA proclamations creating National Pollinator Week.

Her presentation, “The 21st Century Hive: People, Partners, Pollinators,” scheduled for Wednesday morning, January 11, is sure to provide valuable insight into the nature of today’s beekeeper and the beekeeping industry.

We’ll also have updates from the various U.S. bee labs, the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, the president of Apimondia, the National Honey Board and True Source Honey. All presentations are scheduled to allow you the opportunity to get answers to your questions.

We’ve planned this conference with you in mind. From the educational sessions to the networking opportunities, we think you will find tremendous value in your participation. More conference details can be found on pages 8-15 of this issue. Also visit the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Web site today at www.nabeekeepingconference.com for additional conference information and to register.
### 2011 ABF Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**  
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11253 Rabun Gap Dr. • N. Fort Myers, FL 33917  
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E-mail: davidmendesn@aol.com

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  Ph. 701.537.5214 • Fax: 701.537.5375  
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- **Virginia Webb** (2012 – 1st term)  
  349 Gasty Road • Clarkeville, GA 30523  
  Ph: 706.754.7062  
  E-mail: mtnhoney@windstream.net

- **John Talbert** (2012 – 2nd term)  
  P.O. Box 6 • Josephine, TX 75164  
  Ph. 972.843.8084 • Fax: 972.843.8084 (SAME)  
  E-mail: jjtalbert@att.net

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  E-mail: psundberg@hotmail.com

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  75-315 E. Kakalina Pl. • Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
  Ph. 808.936.2194  
  E-mail: lahowery@gmail.com

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  P.O. Box 41 • Ottertail, MN 56571  
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  E-mail: dwapiary@yahoo.com

#### Directors Representing Honey Producer-Packer SIG:

- **Blake Shook** (2013 – 1st term)  
  15540 SH 78 • Blue Ridge, TX 75424  
  Ph. 214-886-6899  
  E-mail: blake@desertcreekhoney.com

- **Joe Carson** (2013 – 1st term)  
  P.O. Box 11028 • Anchorage, AK 99511  
  Ph: 907.727.8200  
  E-mail: Dr.JoeCarson@gmail.com

#### Directors Representing the Hobbyists/Sideliners SIG:

- **Charles Lorence** (2013 – 2nd term)  
  1634 Garfield Ave. • Aurora, IL 60506  
  Ph. 630.801.0979  
  E-mail: charleslorence@earthlink.net

- **Becky Jones** (2012 – 1st term)  
  55 Wolf Pit Road • Farmington, CT 06032  
  Ph: 860.677.9391  
  E-mail: t.c.jones@snet.net

#### Directors Appointed by the President:

- **Gene Brandi** (2013 – 1st term)  
  15346 South Johnson Road • Los Banos, CA 93635  
  Ph. 209.826.2881 • Fax : 209.826.1881  
  E-mail: gbrandi@sbcglobal.net

- **Davey Hackenberg** (2012 – 1st term)  
  799 Grange Hall Road • Milton, PA 17847  
  Ph: 570.850.7492  
  E-mail: daveybuffybee@gmail.com

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.
It appears that this will be my last newsletter column as ABF president. The past two years have gone by quickly and it is hard to imagine that it will be time to pass the torch in a few months. In some odd sort of way, I will miss writing this column. Even though there have been many occasions when I struggled to find the time to write, it seems that it was good for me to sit down and think about what message I could share with other beekeepers that may help us all to realize how connected we are. I have tried to share some of my personal experiences with my bees. I may operate thousands of hives and travel with them to many states, but I think the principles that help my bees stay healthy are just as appropriate to the backyard beekeeper.

Over the last few years I have had the good fortune to attend several beekeeping meetings at the local, state, regional and even international level. I have come to believe that beekeepers speak a universal language that transcends geographic, social and economic differences. We are all beekeepers. It does not matter how many hives you have or where you keep them. Rather, the experience of working with honey bees is a lifelong adventure that connects us together.

I get several calls a year from reporters that have questions about the problems facing honey bees. I remember one interviewer that commented that she was fascinated by the emotional connection that backyard beekeepers display for their bees. After learning that I handle several thousand hives, she questioned whether it was still possible to maintain this feeling for my bees. It was easy to explain to her that successful beekeeping is much more than a job; it is a calling that you feel in your heart. Most beekeepers that I know have experienced good and bad times with their bees. They get through the tough times because they love their bees and can’t imagine doing anything else.

I have been proud to serve the ABF for the past four years, first as vice president under Zac Browning and now as president with George Hansen as the vice president. I have been fortunate to work with such talented and intelligent people who have such a strong commitment to the beekeeping industry. I have learned a lot from both of them. I would encourage more members to get involved in a leadership position. Serving on the ABF Board of Directors has been a very valuable experience for me. I wish to thank the current ABF Board for their time and efforts to represent the beekeeping industry.

I hope many of you will be in Las Vegas for the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, January 10-14. We have a great meeting planned. See you there!
I probably won’t get much peace this winter. This is supposed to be a time to celebrate the harvest and to catch a deep breath before the next “go around.” Descriptive term isn’t it? I am doing a lot of travelling this fall. After a season of windshield time moving and managing bees, these airplane rides add to the miles and wear one down in a different way. I’ve never figured out what to do on a long plane ride, except to suffer.

In late October, between giving talks at fall bee meetings, I spent a week in Washington, D.C., primarily making visits to legislative offices concerning the 2012 Farm Bill. Now that the Super Committee has crashed and burned, all the work put into a Farm Bill that would fit that deficit reduction plan is lost. By the time this newsletter is published, the next debate will be raging.

The Senate and House agriculture committees composed a draft Farm Bill with mandated cuts to submit to the Super Committee, and now that new lower level will likely be the beginning point for further cuts. The whole 2012 Farm Bill has been reopened for negotiation. It is clear that all of agriculture will see belt tightening, but most of the cuts will occur in direct subsidy payment programs that do not impact beekeepers.

However, the proposed elimination of the NASS bees and honey report and the closure of the Weslaco Lab are examples of tightening budgets that do affect us. The 2012 Appropriations Bill passed November 18, 2011, has the Weslaco Lab closing, and ARS is proceeding under the assumption the Weslaco honey bee scientists and their work will be reassigned to other labs. It may take as long as six months to finalize lab assignments. The ABF has protested the discontinuation of the bees and honey Report, as it is widely used and is depended on by various government and industry groups.

The ABF and the AHPA submitted a joint letter outlining our priorities for the Farm Bill, and the two organizations continue to work together on a broad range of legislative issues. Bottom line, it appears that federal programs involving honey bee research, risk management, conservation, forage and habitat, honey loans, specialty crops and disaster assistance are to be spared elimination, but will likely face reductions in funding to some degree. We will have to see what the next round brings.

A different kind of challenge to the industry has surfaced due to the Andrew Schneider’s article in Food Safety News claiming that most of the honey on the grocery store shelf is not “honey” because it contains no pollen. The article itself is full of inaccuracies and is purposefully sensational, but that will be lost on the average consumer. The article seems to have legs; it is being picked up by a range of major media outlets. The danger is that consumers’ high regard for honey as a natural, healthy product will be tarnished by a broad stroke of skepticism, which would clearly impact all honey, domestic and small scale producers included. A special danger for the ABF looms, because our membership includes all segments of the industry, and the issue could divide our organization as it was divided on a different issue several decades ago.

The point at the center of this has to do with the term “ultrafiltered” on the one hand and, on the other hand, the filtering process used domestically by large packers for the last 60 years. Packers in the United States use a filtering system that removes particles of wax and bee parts, etc., to give honey clarity and shelf life. Pollen grains are about the same size as the other debris and are removed as well. The process does change honey from what it is in the comb. On the other hand, pollen in honey contributes to a cloudy appearance and acts as a catalyst for crystallization. Crystallized honey is a serious marketing problem, and no amount of labeling and explanation to the consumer has changed that over time.

(continued on page 5)
Compare that to ultrafiltering in the food industry, which refers to a specific process very different from the above. Mr. Schneider has adamantly refused to recognize any differences. To be clear, ultrafiltration of honey would involve adding water to the honey and running it through filtration at the molecular level under extreme heat and pressure. The water is then removed and the resulting product is not honey by any standard or measure, having no characteristic profile associated with honey. This process is to all accounts not used in this country. The downstream impact for this issue remains to be seen. I hope to see the ABF continue to be a constructive participant in the discussion, and that honey’s good name is not smeared in the meantime. The industry is considering its options.

There is plenty to worry about and no shortage of things with which to find fault. It is always comforting to be able to blame someone else for everything. An old timer named Harry, on whose land I kept bees for years, used to counter any complaint, whether about the weather or the government, by sighing and saying, “It’s a great life… if you don’t weaken.” It never failed to make me smile and to make old Harry giggle. Peace.
The scene shifts so rapidly in Washington that it is difficult to say anything with much certainty.

You had probably heard that USDA-NASS announced that it would discontinue the annual bee/honey production report along with a wide range of agricultural survey programs. Then, Congress passed the 2012 Agricultural Appropriations bill, giving the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) sufficient funding to continue some of these reports – those that receive the most support from their industries.

We were advised that beekeepers need to contact NASS and urge the agency to continue the bee/honey report. You can send an e-mail to Joseph Prusacki, NASS statistics division director, at Joseph_Prusacki@nass.usda.gov, explaining the importance of this report to you and to the industry. The same communication should be sent to your members of Congress and to the NASS field office in your state. To locate the NASS office in your state, go to http://nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/sso_directory.pdf.

The fate of the bee/honey report may be settled by the time you receive this newsletter and have time to reach to our appeal. Nevertheless, contact with NASS can be useful. With the climate we are facing in Washington, we will be faced with constant battles to preserve anything we are getting from the federal government (and state governments, as well).

We have also learned that USDA-AMS is cutting back and the monthly Honey Market News is on the chopping block. You are encouraged to make contacts with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on this one. Here are three e-mail addresses:

- Under Secretary Edward Avalos, ed.avalos@osec.usda.gov
- AMS Administrator Rayne Pegg, rayne.pegg@usda.gov
- Deputy Administrator for Fruit and Vegetable Programs Robert Keeney, robert.keeney@ams.usda.gov

There is almost no way we can stay up with developments such as these. We are constantly in the mode of reacting. However, we can make some headway by maintaining a steadily positive approach. We can do this by ensuring that people who will be making decisions affecting beekeepers are aware of the impacts of their decisions. We can start with our members of Congress, keeping in touch with their offices, both in or areas as well as in Washington. When an issue comes up that can affect beekeepers, they need to immediately recognize that beekeepers are an important part of their constituencies – not be surprised later when they get a complaint from a beekeeper.

As representatives of you, ABF members, the ABF Legislative Committee attempts to maintain contact with the Congressional staffers for the relevant committees, such as Agriculture and Appropriations. We try to keep them clued into our industry’s needs and positions on issues. Likewise, we are in regular contact with the agencies that directly impact our industry, such as USDA, FDA, EPA and the rest of the bureaucratic alphabet soup.

This is a never-ending process. New people are constantly coming on the scene that need to be educated about honey and bees. You may get a new Congressman in next year’s election. Your Congressman of 12 years may get new staffers. The work goes on.
Donate to the ABF Legislative Fund

Send your contributions to: ABF Legislative Fund • 3525 Piedmont Rd. | Bldg. 5, Ste. 300 • Atlanta, GA 30305

☐ $100  ☐ $ 500  ☐ $ _____________

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________
City:____________________________________________________________
State:_________________________ Zip:______________________________
Phone:__________________________________________________________
E-mail:__________________________________________________________

Gift may be made by:
☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Check (made payable to the ABF Legislative Fund)

Account#________________________________________________________
Exp. Date:________________________________________________________
Cardholder Name:_________________________________________________
Signature:________________________________________________________

Your credit card will be billed by the ABF, which will be transferred to the ABF Legislative Fund.

Legislative Fund Contributions

The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the month of October 2011. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

Gene Brandi, Calif.
Rob Buhmann, Mont.
E. Conrey, Colo.
George Hansen, Ore.
David Hayes, Iowa
Edwin and Elaine Holcombe, Tenn.
Honeyland, Inc., Mont.
Sallie Lincoln, Nev.
Charles Lorence, Ill.
Pierco Incorporated, Calif.
Tom Peterson, Fla.
Rick Post, Calif.
Lance and Patty Sundberg, Mont.
John Talbert, Texas
Stan Wasitowski, N.J.

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 www.congress.gov.
## Honey Producer/Packer Shared Interest Group; Leaders: Blake Shook and Dr. Joe Carson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Selling Innovative Products and Opening a Honey Farm Store — Dr. Clint Walker III, Walker Honey Farm and Dancing Bee Winery</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>GloryBee Honey Processing Facility — Dick Turanski, GloryBee Honey Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:05 PM</td>
<td>Marketing &amp; Products — Ted Dennard, Savannah Bee Company Owner</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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## Commercial Shared Interest Group; Leaders: Lance Sundberg and Tim Tucker

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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>The Role of Magneto Receptive Senses in foraging Honey Bees — Dr. Tom Ferrari</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>H2A Update — Kerry Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:05 PM</td>
<td>Pollen Flow in Soybeans — Reid Palmer</td>
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## Small Scale/Sideliner Shared Interest Group; Leaders: Charles Lorence and Becky Jones

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Melanie Kempers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>Using Nucs in Operation to Raise Queens, Expansion, For Sale and Overall Use — Dave Shenefeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:05 PM</td>
<td>Marketing the Beekeeper and Being a Good Neighbor — Greg Hannaford</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
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## Package Bee and Queen Breeders SIG; Leaders: A.J. Howery and Dan Whitney

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<tr>
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<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Queen and Breeder Queens Production at Glenn Apiaries — Tom Glenn, Glenn Apiaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td>Genetics of Grooming Behavior of Bees to Defend Against Varroa — Greg Hunt, Purdue University</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:05 PM</td>
<td>Rearing Queens and Bees in New Mexico and Michigan’s U.P. — Mark Spitzig &amp; Melanie Kirby, Zia Queens</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
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## Commercial/Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIGs

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td>Transfer Team Working with California Queen Breeders — Katie Lee, Honey Bee Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:55 PM</td>
<td>The Role of Ag Chemicals in CCD and CCM (Comprehensive Colony Malaise) — Dr. Clint Walker III, Walker Honey Farm and Dancing Bee Winery</td>
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<td>5:35 PM</td>
<td>ADJOURN</td>
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## Honey Producer-Packer/Small Scale-Sideliner SIGs

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td>Current Research - Dr. Diana Sammataro</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:55 PM</td>
<td>Nutrition, and How Dramatically it Affects Your Hives - Blake Shook</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:35 PM</td>
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American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter – November/December 2011

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2012 American Honey Show. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees’ abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies. For the official show rules/regulations and entry form, please visit the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com. For additional information, please contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875 or via e-mail at info@abfnet.org.

2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow
Serious Sideliners Symposium Tentative Schedule

Program may be attended as your interests dictate. The target audience is for beekeepers with 25-300 colonies, but there are topics and discussions suitable for small-scale and professional operations as well.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
Diversity in Beekeeping

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:15 AM Diversity in Beekeeping — Larry Connor, Symposium Coordinator

MANAGEMENT
8:30 AM Local Bees for Local Beekeepers — Jim and Pat Haskell, VA
9:00 AM Running a Club Apiary — Stephen Repasky, PA
9:30 AM Review of Honey Website — Blake Shook, TX
10:00 AM Refreshment Break
10:30 AM Leaving the Bees Behind in the North — Marty Brown, MI
11:00 AM Alternative Hive Designs — Sam Comfort, FL
11:30 AM Sam continues
12:00 AM Lunch

BEE BOTANY
1:30 PM Honey Bee Plants in the Garden — Sheldon Schwitek, MI
2:00 PM Planting for Honey Bees — Tammy Horn, KY

WOOD SHOP
2:30 PM Setting Up a Wood Shop for Making Bee Equipment — Ed Simon, MN
3:00 PM Refreshment Break
3:30 PM Developing and Selling an Equipment Item — Janet Brison, CA

QUEENS
4:00 PM A Model Queen Producing Apiary — Larry Connor, MI
4:30 PM Producing Queens and Nucs in Michigan — Mike Risk, MI

ROUNDTABLE ON QUEEN REARING
5:15 PM Break
7:30 PM BEE BOOK AUTHOR’S “READINGS”
Mead Tasting — Tammy Horn, Ed Simon, Larry Connor, Malcolm Sanford
Mead Tasting and Song — Sam Comfort, FL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
Diversity in Hive Products

8:00 AM Sign-In
8:15 AM WELCOME — Larry Connor, MI
HONEY — Honey Handling and Processing
8:30 AM Bottling and Marketing at Local Venues — Robert Burns and John Edmonds, KS
9:15 AM Growing Our Honey Packing in Facilities and Markets — Blake Shook, TX
10:00 AM Refreshment Break
10:30 AM POLLEN — Handling and Sales — Steve Tipton, KS
11:00 AM PROPOLIS — Secrets — Rich Weiske, MI
11:30 AM POLLINATION — Providing Rental Bees for Local Pollination — Becky and Ted Jones, CT
12:00 AM Lunch

1:30 PM BEEWAX — Candle Sales, Soaps and Creams — Becky Tipton, KS
2:30 PM Break
3:00 PM NATURAL BEEKEEPING FORUM — Larry Connor, Ringmaster, Sheldon Schwitek, Rich Wieske, Sam Comfort

Call for Entries for the 2012 American Honey Show

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2012 American Honey Show. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees’ abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies. For the official show rules/regulations and entry form, please visit the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com. For additional information, please contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875 or via e-mail at info@abfnet.org.
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 13, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Using Excel to Compute Loans &amp; Investments – Ralph Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM – 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Labor Laws – Ralph Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, January 14, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Planning and Goal Setting – Ralph Jones</td>
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<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>How to Conduct Successful Meetings – Ralph Jones</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Tim Tucker – Newsletter Development w/Photoshop Demonstration (utilizing different publishers)</td>
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<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Kim Lehman – Working with Kids and Bees</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Sleep Smart – Ron Fessenden</td>
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<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Apitherapy – Frederique Keller, President, American Apitherapy Society, Inc.</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Top Bar Hives: Taking Back the Means of Beekeeping – Sam Comfort, Anarchy Apiaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Small-Scale Bottling Regulations Panel – Facilitated by Chuck Lorence, Panel includes: Rich Ramsey, Illinois; Tim Tucker, Kansas, Chappie McChesney, Florida; Chuck Sowers, Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Starting New Beekeeping Clubs – Chappie McChesney</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Zoning for Backyard Beekeeping Panel – Facilitated by Nancy Gentry</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Analysis of the Changes to the H-2A Regulations as They Pertain to Beekeepers – Kerry Scott</td>
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<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Beekeeping for Prisoners – David Westervelt &amp; Don Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Varroa IPM: Nutrition, Virus Management, Monitoring and Biotechnical Methods – Randy Oliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Varroa IPM: Natural Treatments and Breeding – Randy Oliver</td>
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2011 Florida Honey Queen
Jayla Gillaspie
Jayla Gillaspie is the 18-year-old daughter of Tom and Jayla Gillaspie of Fort Myers, Fla. She began beekeeping with her father when she was 12 and now enjoys selling her own honey through Jayla’s Bees. Currently, Jayla is pursuing an accredited music degree through Edison State College and Verity Institute. In addition to her interest in music, Jayla leads Bright Lights, a ministry to pre-teen and teenaged girls, and has long been involved in the bus ministry at her church.

2011 Indiana Honey Queen
Lacy Dooley
Lacy Dooley is the 20-year-old daughter of David and Kristy Dooley of Rockville, Ind. Along with being co-owner of the family’s catering business, Lacy also works with the animals on the farm and with the carriage business. She enjoys watching her brother race his 600 mini sprint car, knitting, spending time with family and friends, cooking with honey and working with the bees! Her plans include expanding the apiary to make beekeeping a major part of the future of the farm.

2011 Missouri Honey Queen
Lillian-Grace Misko
Lillian-Grace Misko, 21, is the daughter of Cathy and Michael Misko of Centerview, Mo. Lillian is a junior pursuing a degree in public relations at the University of Central Missouri and Calvary Bible College & Theological Seminary. She directs the Praise Dance Team at her local church, is the president of the Baptist Student Union at UCM and teaches multiple dance classes at her university’s recreation center. Lillian has learned and experienced firsthand the exquisiteness of honey and beekeeping from her mother, a beekeeper for over 20 years.

2011 Pennsylvania Honey Queen
Alyssa Fine
Alyssa Fine, 22, is the daughter of Albert and Darlene Fine of Monongahela, Pa. She is a 2010 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) with a bachelor’s degree in Agribusiness Management and a Spanish language minor. Alyssa works with her parents and sisters to run The Fine Family Apiary, a family business, where she is instrumental in developing beeswax cosmetics. In her free time, Alyssa enjoys knitting, writing poetry and short stories, and listening to music.

2011 Texas Honey Queen
Kaylynn Mansker
Kaylynn Mansker is the 20-year-old daughter of Gary and Wanda Mansker. She lives on a small farm in Nevada, Texas, along with her four siblings. She began beekeeping four years ago and has learned so much from the family project. She enjoys taking care of the family farm, playing guitar, sewing and working bees.

2011 Wisconsin Honey Queen
Danielle Dale
Danielle Dale is the 19-year-old daughter of Rich and Lori Dale of Sparta, Wis. She is a sophomore at Western Technical College, where she is pursuing an Associate’s Degree. Danielle is a third-generation beekeeper. She started keeping her bees at the age of 12 and has since kept a few hives every year. In her free time, Danielle enjoys playing guitar, participating in her church youth group, hunting, watching Green Bay Packers games, cooking, traveling and beekeeping.
2012 American Honey Show
The 2012 American Honey Show, which will be held on Wednesday afternoon when official judging will take place, will showcase the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes 12 classes for honey, four for beeswax and the gift basket class. After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.

ABF Auxiliary
The ABF Auxiliary plays a big role in the annual conference. From raising funds to support the Auxiliary and ABF programs to providing decorations for the annual banquet, the auxiliary is busy assisting in the success of the conference. The Auxiliary breakfast and meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, from 8:30 AM to Noon. Separate registration is required. Be sure to visit the Auxiliary table at the conference to purchase bee-motif items and learn more about their role.

ABF Silent Auction
The Silent Auction has become a tradition of the annual conference. A variety of honey and bee-themed items will be available through the auction with all proceeds benefiting the ABF Friends of the Bee fund. To donate an item for the Silent Auction, please contact Robin Lane, ABF executive director, at 404.760.2875 or by e-mail at robinlane@abfnet.org.

Honey Queen Reception and Quiz Bowl
All conference attendees and guests are invited to attend the annual Honey Queen Reception and Quiz Bowl on Wednesday evening. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample the Auxiliary honey cookie contest entries, view the Queens’ scrapbooks and catch up with your friends. Enjoy an entertaining quiz bowl and cheer on the candidates as we test their knowledge of the beekeeping industry!

Thursday Evening Social Activity
The conference will include many great opportunities for networking and socializing and Thursday evening will be dedicated to attendee networking. We’ve planned an informal night of social activities to include bee-related movies, presentations on beekeeping around the world and open-forum discussion on topics imperative to all beekeepers. Light refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter – November/December 2011
2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshows Registration Rates*

If you are a member of any of the following organizations, you qualify for the Member Rate:

- American Beekeeping Federation (ABF)
- Nevada State Beekeepers
- National Honey Packers and Dealers Association (NHPDA)

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<th>REGISTRATION CATEGORY</th>
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*Note: Non-member rates include a one-year membership to the American Beekeeping Federation. Family is defined as two adults. Children under 18 years of age admitted free.

The 2012 Conference Committee would like to thank all of our conference sponsors for their support!

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- Walter T. Kelley Co.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please visit the conference Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com for more information.
Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

The 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow will be held at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Located just off the Las Vegas strip, this resort is home to some of the best shows and fabulous dining for all tastes. This all-suites hotel features:

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- And...the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

The ABF has negotiated a discounted group rate for all conference attendees of $109.00 per night single/double occupancy plus tax (currently at 12%). There is an additional charge of $30.00 per person, per night for occupancy exceeding two people. Room occupancy cannot exceed four people.

Secure your room today by visiting the 2012 conference Web site at nabeekeepingconference.com

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Foundation Awards Scholarships to Four Student Researchers

Four young scientists studying apiculture will attend the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow and present their research, thanks to scholarships awarded by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. The $2,000 awards will enable the graduate students to meet other honey bee researchers and the people in the industry they hope to serve.

**Marcelo Nicolás Agra**  
*National Institute of Agriculture Technology, Argentina*  
Marcelo Nicolás Agra is a doctoral student at the National Institute of Agriculture Technology working under the supervision of Dr. Maria Alejandra Palacio. His research has three objectives. The first is to characterize the molecular genetics of bee populations where African and European bees coexist. His second objective is to look for molecular markers for hygienic behavior and varroa tolerance. His third objective is to compare ProApi germplasm maintained in both a closed and naturally mated populations. He began his studies in 2009 and much of his research is ongoing.

**Cristina Botías**  
*Laboratory of Bee Pathology, Guadalajara, Spain*  
Cristina Botías is a Ph.D. student studying bee pathology under the supervision of Dr. Marino Higes at the Bee Pathology Department of the Regional Apicultural Centre (Guadalajara-Spain). Her work focuses on the microsporidium Nosema ceranae, both at the individual and colony level. Her research includes both basic pathological studies and evaluating three new drugs for treating Noema: Nosestat®; Phenyl Salicylate; and VitaFeed Gold®. She is currently writing her dissertation, and she has authored or co-authored 10 scientific publications.

**Michael Smith**  
*Cornell University, United States*  
Michael Smith is a Ph.D. student at Cornell University working under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Seeley. He began his Ph.D. studies in August 2011. He completed his M.S. studies at Princeton studying molecular biology. While a M.S. student, he became fascinated with honey bees and organized a beekeeping club at Princeton. He is currently conducting behavioral experiments on honey bees, and his research will focus on developing a better understanding of robbing behavior. His research will provide valuable insight into a little-studied behavior of honey bees that has great practical importance to beekeepers.

**Johan van den Heever**  
*University of Alberta, Canada*  
Johan van den Heever is a Ph.D. student at the University of Alberta working under the supervision of Drs. Jonathan Curtis and Steve Pernal. He has a strong background in analytical and organic chemistry, and his research addresses both the synthesis and efficacy evaluation of new compounds for the treatment of Nosema, as well as the detection of metabolites in honey following treatment. He has completed his coursework and candidacy exams and will soon be seeking a research position. Although still a student, he has authored or co-authored eight scientific publications on drug synthesis and metabolism.

The scholarships are funded by donations the Foundation receives from the industry. For more information on the Foundation, visit www.honeybeepreservation.org.
The honey bee uses different plants to create different honey; much like an artist uses different paints to create different pictures. Across America, miniature bee artists are gathering different nectars, forming honey with different colors, tastes and characteristics to paint our palates with exciting varieties from their palettes.

by Mikayla Ockels, Age 12, Delaware

Honey: for bees, for America, for the world. Whatever the flavor and color, honey puts sweetness on your toast and replaces sugar in your coffee. America’s bees churn out honey all season. But, just as every state varies, all honey is unique. There are many demands by the consumer – some want a thin, clear honey and others prefer a thick, dark honey. Luckily, consumers all over can satisfy their craving for any type of honey, solely because of the diversity of flowers. Different states have different flowers and different flowers make different honey.

Editor’s Note: Read more of Seth and Mikayla’s third-place essays on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Web site at http://honeybeepreservation.org/2011/06/2011-4-h-essay-contest-winners-list/

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the month of October 2011.

Molly Berridge, Texas
Frank Bodenberg, Penn.
Bob Brandi, Calif.
Rob Buhmann, Mt.
Malcolm Friedman, Wash.
Joan Gunter, N.D.
George Hansen, Ore.
Patrick Kuehl, Neb.
Nick Lissaman, Calif.
Steve and Sharon Park, Calif.
Rick Post, Calif.
James Rodenberg, Mt.
Albert Smaistrla, Texas
Chuck Sowers, Ore.
Joel Stradinger, N.D.
Harlan and Mae Vehrs, Wis.
Earl Villecco, N.Y.
Stan Wasitowski, N.J.
Shannon and Glenda Wooten, Calif.

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**Have You Caught the Buzz?**

Sent via e-mail monthly to all ABF members, *ABF E-Buzz* is a key member benefit and is published to inform members about ABF activities, as well as key happenings in the beekeeping industry. If you haven’t been receiving the newsletter, please be sure to contact the ABF office at info@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875 to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information.

Also, if you wish to contribute content to the newsletter, please contact Tim Tucker, *ABF E-Buzz* editor, at tuckerb@hit.net. We welcome your submissions!
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Milestones

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

10 Years
Charles Mraz, Vt.
Gilbert Vannoy, Calif.

15 Years
Esther Nelson, Wis.
Carol Shaw, Ind.

20 Years
Bob Miller, Calif.

25 Years
Paul Albano, N.Y.

30 Years
Robert Lee Allen, Ore.

40 Years
Howard Schwab, N.D.

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“Member of New World Carniolan Project”
As I compose this article in October, I am pleased to inform you that our American Honey Queen and Princess have promoted our industry in 27 states, with several more to come in the last couple months of 2011. Teresa Bryson and Allison Adams have been wonderful promoters for our industry this year. Both are eager to share their experiences with you at the ABF conference in Las Vegas in January.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that we have six candidates for the 2012 American Honey Queen and Princess positions. You can find their bios and photos on page 11 of this newsletter. The American Honey Queen Committee is pleased to host these women at the convention, and I encourage all of you to show your support to them. I thank them for their willingness to continue to represent their state at our convention. I also thank the two other state Honey Queens who represented their states this year, but could not participate at the American Honey Queen competition.

The committee invites all conference attendees and guests to attend the various Honey Queen activities in Las Vegas. On Wednesday evening, the Queens will welcome conference attendees to Nevada with the annual Honey Queen Reception and Quiz Bowl. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample the Auxiliary honey cookie contest entries, view the Queens’ scrapbooks and catch up with your friends. Enjoy an entertaining quiz bowl and cheer on our candidates as we test their knowledge of the beekeeping industry. This is a sure bet in Las Vegas – it will be a winning evening!

The candidates will give presentations to the ABF Auxiliary members and guests on Thursday morning. These presentations give members (and the judges) an opportunity to see the candidates’ presentation skills and creativity. At this meeting, Queen Teresa and Princess Allison will provide insight on their travels this year and provide attendees with new and creative promotion ideas.

To show your support of the Queen Program, we encourage members to attend (and bid) at one of our auctions during the conference. You can also show your support by showing off your honey and beeswax in the American Honey Show. All auction proceeds from this annual event benefit the Queen program. It is your opportunity to take home the best-in-the nation honey to share with your family and friends. You can also support the Queen program by purchasing a raffle ticket for a beautiful handmade quilt. Tickets may be purchased in advance or throughout the conference from Teresa, Allison or one of the state candidates. Even if you can’t make it to the conference, you can purchase a raffle ticket through the Queens or you may contact me to place an order. If you are interested in making a donation to the Quiz Bowl auction or to the program itself, please contact me or see me at the conference. If you have an item to donate to the Quiz Bowl auction, but cannot attend the conference, please contact ABF’s conference planner, Tara Zeravsky, at 404.760.8194 to obtain shipment information.

Teresa and Allison will continue to be busy with promotions through mid-December. While their schedules are full for the rest of the year, I encourage you to contact me at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to provide me with dates and details for promotions for our 2012 representatives. Thank you to those who have already submitted your 2012 requests. We look forward to an excellent Las Vegas conference and a successful 2012 promotion season!
Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

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

- Suzanne Alvary, Calif.  
  (In Honor of Wailen and Ann Bennett)
- James Rodenberg, Mt.
- George Hansen, Ore.
- Rob Buhmann, Mt.
- Blake Shook, Texas

Think Outside the Bee Box This Holiday Season!

Do you have a hard-to-buy-for beekeeper on your Christmas list? Do you have a friend or family member who loves bees and honey? Might we suggest making a donation in their honor to the ABF Friends of the Bee fund? For as little as $25, your loved one will have their name published in the ABF Newsletter and receive an FOB bumper sticker. Mention you saw this announcement in the newsletter and receive a second sticker free! Please call our offices at 404.760.2875 or e-mail us at info@abfnet.org to make your donation today!

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Where has the year gone? It seems like just a few months ago we were enjoying the sunny, warm weather of Galveston. The past several months have been filled with nonstop travel and promotions, taking me from coast to coast.

My first promotion in the middle of the hot August summer was in Kentucky for the Kentucky State Fair. From August 18-24, I worked with members of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association in their booth handing out samples of the different types of honey from Kentucky, explaining to people the many uses of honey, and speaking to the many students that stopped by about honey bees and pollination. I had three radio interviews at the Kentucky State Fair, reaching over 1,260,000 people, valued at approximately $1,040. During my interviews, I spoke about honey bee pollination, specifically the crops pollinated by honey bees in Kentucky, and the uses of honey, like an antibacterial for minor cuts, scrapes and burns. Thank you to the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association and Phil Craft for inviting me to promote at the fair.

Following Kentucky, I headed to West Virginia for the 31st Annual West Virginia State Honey Festival. The first two days of my August 24-29 trip were spent giving school presentations; I spoke to over 600 students and descriptions of what each bee does. At the fair, I answered questions about honey bees, pointed out the queen bee in the observation hive and handed out samples of honey butter. Honey butter is an easy snack, a great sample for the public and shows the ease of how honey can be incorporated in any diet. I also gave cooking demonstrations during the fair, making party franks and tropical juice quencher found in the American Honey Queen and Princess recipe brochure. Thank you to Chuck and Jeanne Sowers for inviting me to Oregon and arranging all of my promotions.

September found me in Oregon, where I attended the State Fair in Salem from August 29 to September 6. I worked in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association’s booth, which had wood cell shaped blocks so the children could stack them and see what it looks like on the inside of the beehive. The booth also included hand-drawn posters of the three bees in the beehive and descriptions of what each bee does. At the fair, I answered questions about honey bees, pointed out the queen bee in the observation hive and handed out samples of honey butter. Honey butter is an easy snack, a great sample for the public and shows the ease of how honey can be incorporated in any diet. I also gave cooking demonstrations during the fair, making party franks and tropical juice quencher found in the American Honey Queen and Princess recipe brochure. Thank you to Chuck and Jeanne Sowers for inviting me to Oregon and arranging all of my promotions.

Following the Oregon State Fair, I headed to California for the Palo Cedro Honey Festival, which celebrates the
longest running industry in Palo Cedro – beekeeping. Before the festival, I gave presentations to 500 students at local elementary schools and had seven radio interviews, reaching over 80,000 people and valued at $4,300. In my interviews, which ranged from two to 60 minutes, I discussed the many crops honey bees pollinate in California, like almonds, blackberries and star thistle, and the value of honey bee pollination in California. At the festival, I worked with the Shasta County Beekeepers, explaining to the public how worker bees make honey and the many uses of honey. There was also a bee beard demonstration each day at the festival. Bee beard demonstrations are a great way to show people how gentle honey bees are and they provide an excellent way to explain to people why honey bees are important. Thank you to Shannon and Glenda Wooten and Pat and Bonnie Stayer for inviting me and arranging all of my promotions.

After California, I headed north to Washington for two first-time promotions. My three-week trip in Washington started with the Puyallup Fair from September 13-20. I worked with the Pierce County Beekeepers Association in their booth. The exhibit included two observation hives, different varieties of honey, and an empty yellow jacket nest so people could learn the difference between honey bees and yellow jackets. I answered questions, helped people find the queen in the observation hives, gave cooking demonstrations and spoke to people about the importance of honey bees for pollination in Washington. Thank you to Bob and Nancy Pietila for hosting me and to John Timmons for inviting me to promote with the organization.

My next event in Washington was the Central Washington State Fair in Yakima. During my time in Yakima from September 20 to October 1, I spoke to over 1,300 students at local elementary schools. The students learned that we need honey bees to make ice cream. They also learned about the many jobs of the worker bees, like making honey, and what beekeepers do throughout the year. At the fair, I worked with the Central Washington Beekeepers Association in their booth.

(continued on page 26)
Each day, we gave an extracting demonstration in the beekeepers booth, where we extracted honey from three frames. Extracting honey is an easy demonstration that can be done at almost any promotion. It also provides an excellent opportunity to show the public how honey gets from comb to bottle, the many uses of honey and how beeswax can be used. I thank Bill and Maridean Bennett for hosting me and Brian Johnson for arranging my promotions.

October started with a trip to Massachusetts for the Topsfield Fair. At the Topsfield Fair, which is the oldest continuing fair in the country, I worked with the Essex County Beekeepers Association members from October 1-10. The beekeepers exhibit, which was an entire building about honey bees, beekeeping and honey, had many different parts. It included all of the honey, baked goods, candles, sewing, cosmetics and other beekeeping items that were entered to be judged. The building also had four observation hives where the children could stand on stools to get a better look at the bees. One of the most popular things in the exhibit was making beeswax candles. Beeswax candles are easy to make and are a great craft for children and adults. I also answered questions about why honey is not all the same color, why the queen in the observations hive has a white dot on her back and how honey bees make honey. I also spent three days teaching students visiting the fair about honey bees. The students learned about the three bees in the hive, the uses of beeswax and why pollination is important. They also made a craft, which is a great way to bring children and their parents into an exhibit at a fair and to start conversations about what they learned at the fair or school. Thank you to Chris and Peter Delaney for inviting me and arranging all of my promotions.

My next trip was to Montana, from October 16-22, where I had the opportunity to speak to over 1,800 students with the Ag in the Classroom program at the Northern International Livestock Exposition (N.I.L.E.). Ag in the Classroom arranged for the students to attend the N.I.L.E. and visit different stations to learn about agriculture. At the honey bee station, I spoke to the students about the three types of honey bees in the hive, the many uses of honey and pollination. Following N.I.L.E., I attended the Montana State Beekeepers Association convention to speak to around 75 members about the benefits of the Honey Queen Program, such as helping to educate the public about honey bees, and my promotions this year. Thank you to Lance and Patty Sundberg for arranging all of my promotions and hosting me.

In the next few months I will make stops in Mississippi, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia to give educational presentations and attend some state beekeeping association conventions to speak about the American Honey Queen Program.

As this is my final article before the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Las Vegas, I would like to thank all ABF members for your support throughout the year. Thanks to you, I will have reached my goals of visiting 25 states, reaching over 5,000 students through school presentations and speaking to legislators about the industry. I look forward to providing you with a review of my promotional work in Las Vegas!

Remember, Princesses Allison and I will continue to post updates on our promotions to our Facebook page and blog, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com. If you have not visited these sites yet, please do so in the next several months. Thank you again for all of your support and I look forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas in January.
Since my last article, the best and busiest season of the year continued with a number of exciting promotions! August 20 marked National Honeybee Awareness Day, and I was in Florida August 17-21 for a number of activities surrounding this special event. 2011 Florida Honey Queen Jayla Gillaspie and I participated in many activities to promote the Florida event. We gave a cooking demonstration at Hitchcock’s Foodway in Alachua. We also spoke at the Alachua County Beekeepers Association monthly meeting about the importance of investing their knowledge into the next generation of beekeepers and about what we do as spokespersons for the beekeeping industry. We also promoted the day through a visit to the Alachua Public Library, a 22-minute interview with STAR 99.5 radio in Gainesville, reaching about 6,500 people, and a reception for the screening of new bee film, Queen of the Sun. At the actual National Honeybee Awareness Day Celebration, attendees enjoyed learning about all aspects of beekeeping as they participated in workshops and bought bee-related items. Chappie McChesney and Jayla Gillaspie receive my thanks for such a fantastic promotion!

I visited the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair in Ringoes, N.J., August 24-26. I worked with members of the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association in their booth to sell honey and converse with fairgoers beside the observation hive. In front of the display tables was a screened booth, where I joined in giving several live hive demonstrations, much to the delight of the many fairgoers who gathered around to watch and ask questions! I also participated in the fair’s opening ceremonies, introducing myself and advertising the beekeepers exhibit. Thank you, Stan and Fran Wasitowski, for being such a delightful host family!

Next, I visited the Minnesota State Fair, August 27-September 5. I spent much of my time in the marvelous Bee and Honey exhibit – an entire wing of the Ag/Hort building devoted to honey bees – giving two or three daily cooking demonstrations and working with members of the Minnesota Honey Producers Association beside the three observation hives in the exhibit. I also spoke to large audiences through the media, giving a 12-minute interview on 1500 ESPN radio and a three-minute interview on WCCO TV, for approximately $5,000 in free advertising for our industry. I gave several presentations on an outdoor stage about pollination, honey production, honey varietals, and activities, such as a hive skit, face painting, honey butter-making, and beeswax candle rolling. I also promoted outside the fair, when I gave a presentation to a children’s group at Apple Jack Orchards in Delano and presented information on the importance of honey bees in agriculture at the “Pollinators: Concerns and Credits” field day at Seven Story Farm in Belle Plaine. I extend special thanks to Don and Kaye Olson and Darrel and Cathy Jo Rufer for being my wonderful host families! Also, thank you to Roger and Jan Olson, Dan Whitney, David Schaaf and Dave Ellingson for kindly escorting me around the fair.

I traveled to Ohio September 5-11 for a busy week promoting the Lithopolis Honeyfest. I gave five presentations to a total of 170 students at two local
schools and gave a program for the Westerville Sertoma club in anticipation of the festival. I had a 15-minute interview on 90.9 FM WFCO radio to tell the community about the Honeyfest and importance of honey bees and an interview on FOX 28 TV Good Day Columbus, generating nearly $4,000 of free publicity. During my television interview, viewers were introduced to several Ohio beekeepers and witnessed a live bee beard on Arnold Crabtree and a full “bee glove” on my hand!

The big day finally arrived and 9,000 people came to celebrate the honey bees’ sweetest gift at the Lithopolis Honeyfest. I welcomed visitors, served as an emcee, judged the delicious entries in the annual bakeoff and, best of all, gave a bee beard demonstration! Barry Conrad and Arnold Crabtree gave me a beautiful beard of bees as I stood above the crowd in a screened booth. As the bees were being applied, I described to the crowd how the queen’s pheromones made the process possible. Needless to say, this was an effective way to communicate! My thanks go to my hostess Anne Blackwell, and to Ginger Brenning and Carmen Conrad! My next stop was the Kansas State Fair, September 12-17, where I worked in the Kansas Honey Producers Association booth to sample and sell liquid honey, lotion bars, honey foods and a wonderful variety of flavored creamed honeys. The Kansas beekeepers had strategically placed a large state map on the wall beside the booth with lines connecting cities on the map with the contact information for the beekeepers that lived there, so fairgoers who wanted to buy honey or had an unwanted swarm could locate the beekeeper nearest them. It was nice to see so many repeat customers, tell them something they did not know about the honey they were buying and send them to the map for more! I thank the Kansas Honey Producers Association and the Schmied family for being such great hosts and arranging this promotion!

I talked to hundreds of people about the sweetest part of our industry at a series of three Wegmans grocery stores in the Newark, N.J., region, September 23-25. I worked with 2011 New Jersey Honey Princess Rebecca Muller and beekeeper Grant Stiles to sell and sample liquid and creamed honey, and to sell comb honey, chunk honey, pollen and beeswax candles to Wegmans customers. Grant and I set up a table with a large observation hive, honey recipe brochures and National Honey Board materials and got ready to sample! Sampling honey at grocery stores is a fantastic way to promote your product and honeybees in general; consider inviting the Honey Queen or Princess to help you. Interestingly, a large number of the customers were very concerned about the origin of the honey and wanted to make sure that it was pure honey. Many people are asking questions and are genuinely concerned about knowing the true source of their honey, which makes now a very opportune time

(continued on page 29)
for us as beekeepers to educate. I am very grateful to Grant Stiles for inviting me back to New Jersey for this first-time promotion!

I participated in the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Honey Harvest Festival, October 1-2, in Cockeysville, Md., where 2,250 people came to learn more about honey bees. Visitors enjoyed sampling and purchasing honey from three different beekeepers, learning about beekeeping equipment and watching candle making demonstrations. They also learned how honey comes from hive to table in the three demonstrations I gave each day. Two were open-hive demonstrations, in which curious adults and children accompanied me to the Nature Center apiary. Everyone gathered around the hive as I lit the smoker and explained the beekeeper’s job, then opened the hive and showed everyone the bees busy on the frame. I also gave an extraction demonstration in a fancy, clear-sided extractor, and offered fresh honey samples to the visitors. Demonstrations like this are definitely something the general public does not see every day and can be an extremely effective addition to a honey booth at a festival or farmers’ market, cooking class or other event. Many thanks to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center for inviting me and to Gene and Linda Williamson for their kind hospitality!

Next, I traveled northward to Maine for the Fryeburg Fair. From October 3-9, I worked at the Western Maine Beekeepers Association’s education booth. In their interactive display, I outlined the history of beekeeping in America, using the skep and log hive on one of the tables, and explained the purpose of the bee lining box, which beekeepers would use to find feral honey bee colonies. I also explained how we obtain liquid honey from the bees with the aid of a hand-crank extractor. I assisted in honey sales booths, working with an observation hive and teaching attendees about honey bees’ impact on agriculture. I extend a hearty thank you to Jim and Carol Cottrill and to the Maine State Beekeepers Association!

On October 15, I spoke about the Honey Queen Program at the Harris County Beekeepers Association’s 103rd anniversary banquet in Houston, Texas. 2011 Texas Honey Queen Kaylynn Mansker and I also visited Lutheran South Academy, where 160 1st to 5th graders were amazed to learn that honey bees pollinate many of their favorite fruits and vegetables! I am grateful to Don Angle for coordinating my visit and to the Hughes family for hosting me.

I am also looking forward to upcoming visits to Texas, Washington, Illinois and Louisiana before seeing you again in Las Vegas. I am forever grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve as your 2011 American Honey Princess, and I sincerely hope that, through our efforts, Queen Teresa and I have helped people to value the incredible products honey bees provide and to appreciate our hardworking honey bees. I extend a heartfelt thanks to my wonderful hosts, sponsors and the members of the American Beekeeping Federation. It has been an honor and blessing to serve you. Thank you!
From the Auxiliary
by Shelley Rodenberg, ABF Auxiliary President

Winter has arrived! Everyone is busy gathering their bees, checking them out and some are being shipped out. We are hoping ours do better this year. Hopefully all of you will be able to make it to the 2012 ABF annual conference, which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 10-14. There should be a lot of things to do and see. I’m already thinking of how nice it will be to get out of the cold and snow of Montana in January!

I hope everyone is thinking about and trying new recipes to enter into the cooking contest at the convention. The rules for the Honey Baking Contest are listed below:

**Categories:**
- Cookies
- Bars
- Candy
- Snacks

**Judging:**
- Outside Appearance: 30 maximum points
- Inside Appearance: 20 maximum points
- Eating Quality: 50 maximum points

Best of luck in your preparations for these contests!

And finally, you should have received a letter from the ABF Auxiliary if you have been a member in the last three years. Auxiliary dues are $10 and everyone is welcome to join. They may be paid and sent to:

Beth Hackenberg  
799 Grange Hall Road  
Milton, PA 17847

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