I just recently returned from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the world beekeeping Congress of Apimondia was held September 20-25. I was very happy to see several U.S. beekeepers there (I estimate that more than 50 Americans were in attendance). I have not been to an Apimondia meeting since 1989 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. About three years ago the ABF Board of Directors agreed to sign up the ABF as a member of Apimondia. I was proud to serve as one of the ABF delegates at this meeting. An Apimondia congress is a bit like an ABF meeting on steroids, in that everything is bigger. Attendance in Buenos Aires was estimated at over 5,000 beekeepers, while the last conference in France in 2009 was twice that big.

Much of the meeting is organized around scientific presentations. The U.S. beekeeping experience was presented by Dr. Jeff Pettis, Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Dr. Tammy Horn. There was also a session room devoted to roundtable discussion given by people in the bee industry. I gave two short talks – one focused on large-scale migratory beekeeping practices and the other was a summary of U.S. beekeeping.

I sat in on roundtable discussions on the world honey market and new rules to restrict genetically modified organism (GMO) honey in Europe. Head phones were available to translate the presentations into seven languages. I was impressed with how well the multiple translations worked. There were some words (beekeeping terms) that were a real challenge for the translators and some cultural inflections that made me laugh. In one presentation, the speaker was trying to convey a great effort expended but the translator understood “hardly working” instead of “working hard.” Overall, it was amazing how many people either spoke English or had someone nearby that could translate for them.

Consistently, I was asked about CCD and other beekeeping problems in the United States. It seems that much of the world watches events in the United States closely. They know a lot about us from the pervasive U.S. media presence that spreads all over the world. I was glad for the opportunity to learn more about beekeeping in other parts of the world. I think U.S. beekeepers do a great job, but there are always new ideas that we can learn from others.

“My favorite part of the Apimondia meeting, similar to many ABF or AHPA meetings, is the opportunity to sit across the table and talk with beekeepers.”

My favorite part of the Apimondia meeting, similar to many ABF or AHPA meetings, is the opportunity to sit across the table and talk with beekeepers. Several Mexican beekeepers have attended the ABF meetings for the last few years and I had a nice chance to visit with them in Argentina. I met several people who I had only known by name from articles they had written for the journals or on the Internet. I had a chance to visit with several European beekeepers and scientists who have been working on nutrition or pesticide projects.

I also visited with South American beekeepers and found many of their challenges in beekeeping are the same problems we are having in the United States. I did not have the time to travel around Argentina, but it appears that conversion of wild lands to crop land has forced many of the larger honey producers to migrate to find better forage. Only a few years ago, they could count on average annual honey crops of 150 pounds. Now, even with migration, average crops have been cut in half. Crop pollination fees are now supplying more than half the income for U.S. commercial beekeepers. Australia is the only other country that I know of where beekeepers earn significant...
2011 ABF Board of Directors

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Davey Hackenberg (2012 – 1st term)
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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.
A Grimm Tale
Who would have thought ignoring an e-mail could lead to mayhem? The e-mail wasn’t even really to me. It was a general appeal to all the beekeepers in and around Portland, Ore. A television production crew was looking for used bee equipment to use in a scene for a show on NBC. At the time, I was living in a motel about 150 miles away from home overseeing some bee work on our hives in carrot seed pollination. I deleted the message. There was no way I could be of any help. There had to be someone else who had the time to fiddle with this and might get a kick out of it.

I try to protect my wife and family from some of the inconveniences of beekeeping. Let’s say I have learned my lesson. So, imagine my surprise when a week later my wife calls to ask what bee equipment it would be okay to loan to a TV production crew for an episode of the NBC program called “Grimm.” A very determined crewmember had called our house directly, and my wife bought in to helping them out. The day I returned home, a truckload of bee junk had been gathered. It was a pretty sorry load, most of it waiting for a burn day, but the property manager for the TV production crew was adamant that this was what was needed to have an “authentic” set. While in my yard, it appeared they had learned a valuable lesson about used bee equipment attracting lots of bees, especially in late summer.

These people were so earnest and respectful. They all thought bees are great, and believed that honey bees are wonderful, gentle creatures. On the other hand, they did not understand my comments to the effect that if all this stuff fell off the truck or burned up before it could be returned to me, I wouldn’t mind at all. The property manager had spent days trying to track this stuff down and he had many other scenes that needed props. He was frankly relieved he had found a willing supplier for the scene that might last one-and-a-half minutes. For me, when that truck was loaded and headed down the driveway, I was thankful we had been of help, and thankful it hadn’t taken more than an hour of my time.

A day and a half later they called again. They had a scene in which the actor playing the queen bee would be in an office. They thought it would be great if the office walls would be made of honeycombs. Did I have a few hundred square feet of honeycomb they could use? I said we didn’t have that kind of thing except in wooden frames. If they needed combs without frames, I would sell them any frames they destroyed, and they would have to do the work of cutting out the combs themselves. They came and hauled away several pallets of stored combs.

Later that day, another phone call is my son asking for the name of beekeepers that catch swarms in Portland. A friend of a friend of his had bees moving into some piles of boxes. I gave him a Web site and a name in particular. Glad to be of help.

Time passes and I get a call from the property manager, wanting to bring the combs back. “Done already, did it work for you?,” I asked. “Well, not really. We created a lot of excitement and I have to get the honey comb out of here. It is on the truck, may I come right now?”

Back at the TV set, it turns out they were filming the whole thing outdoors on a vacant lot in residential North Portland. And, unknown to them, there happens to be a beekeeper within a block or two with dozens of hives in his yard. Shortly after unloading the combs for a crew to build into their new queen bee office, the director, the actors and nearly the whole crew were in disorganized retreat. As the clouds of bees gathered, the remaining

(continued on page 13)
The House and Senate agricultural committees have begun work toward enacting a new farm bill, as they do every four to six years. The committees have asked the national beekeeping organizations what changes they would like to see in the new legislation.

At this writing, their “wish list” was being finalized. The following is a near-final version of the letter the American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association are jointly presenting to the committees. The two organizations encourage their individual members to use the requests they have compiled when making personal contact with their Congressmen.

On behalf of the U.S. honey production and crop pollination industry, the American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association respectfully submit this brief summary of priority items for the 2011 Farm Bill. During the process ahead, we look forward to working with you on these important matters affecting America’s honey producers, the beekeepers that pollinate over 90 different crops, and the growers of billions of dollars of U.S. farm production that rely on honey bee pollination.

For the 2011 Farm Bill, our industry’s priority issues are as follows:

**Marketing Loan Program for Honey.** It is crucial for Congress to continue the current marketing loan program for honey, which has served its intended purpose as an orderly and effective marketing tool and helped to ensure the survival of many beekeepers at minimal administrative cost to the U.S. Government. During the life of this program, no forfeiture of honey has occurred and no loan deficiency payments have been made. Based on increased production costs and prices over the past decade, and CBO estimates showing minimal financial exposure to the U.S. Government, Congress should maintain the current 69 cents per pound marketing loan rate for honey—as set in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (“2008 Farm Bill”).

**Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program for Honey (ELAP).** Through Section 901(e) of the Trade Act Amendment and Section 531(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act Amendment, the 2008 Farm Bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to expend up to $50 million per year to assist “eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish” in the reduction of losses due to diseases, adverse weather and other conditions that are not covered elsewhere. This new disaster program, commonly referred to as “ELAP” (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program), has proved to be especially valuable for struggling beekeepers whose colonies have been devastated in recent years by the major, still unresolved problem of Colony Collapse Disorder (“CCD”). We strongly urge the Congress to extend ELAP, which expires at the end of September this year.

**Continued Support for Sustained Bee Research and Other Essential Activities.** Continued bee research authorization at least at the 2008 levels is critical to the industry’s success and to insure adequate pollination of American agricultural crops. The “pollinator protection” provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill authorize a total of $20 million in new funding per year for critical honey bee research. These authorizations were largely in response to the numerous startling reports about the effects of Colony Collapse Disorder (“CCD”) that have highlighted the urgent need for increased and sustained honey bee research. The authorizations are also sufficiently targeted to help address other existing and future critical honey bee health research needs including formidable challenges from pests, mites, agricultural chemicals and pollution issues. As a point of reference for consideration of which honey bee research items to include in the 2011 Farm Bill, and at what funding levels, we would note that the 2008 Farm Bill specifically authorizes the following:

- $10 million for “research and extension” grants each year for honey bee survey, data collection, investigation, research, prevention, and health promotion activities through the USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (“CSREES”).
- $7.25 million annually in additional funding to increase the capacity and infrastructure of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (“ARS”) to address
CCD and other long-term threats to pollinators through necessary research and hiring of personnel. This total amount of $7.25 million per year is to be divided as follows among three key areas: (1) $3 million for ARS bee research laboratories; (2) $2.5 million for ARS research on honey and native bee physiology, and other research; and (3) $1.75 million for an ARS Area Wide CCD Research Program; and

- $2.75 million, for each of the five years covered under the Farm Bill, for the Animal and Plant Health Service ("APHIS") to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest and pathogen surveillance program.

In addition to the above authorizations, the 2008 Farm Bill created a “Specialty Crop Research and Extension Initiative.” Unlike the above authorizations which are subject to an annual discretionary appropriation, this specialty crop section provides mandatory funding for a number of research items related to specialty crops. The Secretary of Agriculture was required to make $30 million available for this purpose in 2008 and $50 million in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012, totaling $230 million over the life of the bill. No less than 10%, or $23 million, of such mandatory funding must go to "efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators.” We appreciate that Congress has made available significant amounts of this grant funding for university and private sector research on specific issues facing the beekeeping and honey sector. It should be pointed out that while honey bee projects are eligible for Specialty Crop Research and Extension Initiative funding, thus far honey bee projects have not been selected.

In short, there remains a critical and ongoing need for the various bee research authorizations included in the last Farm Bill. One other provision we favor extending would require the Secretary of Agriculture to submit an annual report to Congress on USDA’s progress in addressing CCD.

Protect Pollinator Habitat Through Continued Conservation Program Initiatives. Critical habitat loss is a major threat to the beekeeping industry and the health and viability of all pollinators. Land use changes in agriculture, urban sprawl, and frequent pesticide exposure has severely reduced the amount of suitable land available for bees and other pollinators. Conservation lands, especially Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands have provided a vital safe haven for Honey Bees to propagate, forage, and produce honey while not engaged in crop pollination. Other pollinators also utilize the conservation lands for foraging and nesting and foraging in an undisturbed, pesticide free landscape.

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage “the development of habitat for native and managed pollinators; and the use of conservation practices that promote native and managed pollinators” during the administration of any conservation program. It is crucial that USDA continues to support and fund the development of pollinator habitat through conservation programs. Furthermore, conservation programs need to remain fully funded at maximum acreage levels in order to provide necessary safe havens for the many pollinators needed to pollinate our nation’s food supply.

Crop Insurance for Honey. Congress first authorized crop insurance for honey in 2000. Following delays in implementation, such a program is currently being offered on a limited basis in about 25 states. Our industry believes Congress should continue to evaluate this pilot crop insurance program for honey in terms of its overall cost, effectiveness and level of participation.

Standard of Identity for Honey and Improved Honey Import Surveillance and Testing. There is currently no standard of identity for honey, unlike for many other food products. Consumers do not always know when they are buying pure honey, as opposed to deceptively labeled imitation sweeteners or adulterated blends. FDA has still taken no action on a formal petition, pending before it for more than five years, that proposes a standard of identity for honey. Congress should mandate, in the Farm Bill or otherwise, that FDA finally issue this standard. Congress should also consider other common-sense labeling measures that would inform consumers of the sources of honey. We support additional funding for FDA and CBP to help assure the safety and transparency of honey imports, especially from developing countries, and prevent circumvention and non-payment of duties owed to the U.S. treasury.

Environmental Regulation and Enforcement. The central role of honey bees in the environment and the farm economy should be emphasized in environmental regulation and enforcement, including in the review and approval of new farm chemicals and treatments and in the effective enforcement of rules against the misuse of

(continued on page 13)
Donate to the ABF Legislative Fund

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

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Legislative Fund Contributions

The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of August and September 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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William Merritt, Fla.
S&F Honey Farm, N.J.
Terra Bella Honey Company, Calif.

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.
With only a few months to go, the “Luck BEE a Lady” 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow agenda is taking shape. As you might have guessed by the event theme, the conference, January 10-14, 2012, will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

With anticipated attendance of more than 600 beekeepers, this conference promises to offer something for everyone. Multiple industry leaders have been invited to share their knowledge and practical experience during the conference and the response has been phenomenal. Industry experts will come together to provide up-to-date information on topics imperative to beekeepers at all levels, including:

- **The Costs of Following the Bloom: Nutritional Stress in Migratory Honey Bee Colonies** presented by Mark Carroll with the Tucson Bee Lab
- **Analysis of the Changes to the H-2A Regulations as they Pertain to Beekeepers** presented by Kerry Scott
- **An Update on Research at the Baton Rouge Breeding and Genetics Laboratory** presented by Tom Rinderer
- **Long Live the Queen! And Other Research from Beltsville** presented by Dr. Jeff Pettis
- **Beekeeping Beyond the Basics** presented by George Hansen
- **Serious Sideliner Symposium** facilitated by Dr. Larry Connor

The conference will be held at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino located just off the strip in Las Vegas. The ABF group rate is $109.00 (plus tax) for single/double occupancy.

The conference will begin on Tuesday evening with a complimentary welcome reception for all registered attendees, which will be held in the exhibit hall. Wednesday morning will kick-off with the Opening General Session followed by Shared Interest Group meetings, and then finish in the evening with the traditional Honey Queen Reception. The 2012 American Honey Show will also take place on Wednesday.

The expanded tradeshow will reopen on Wednesday afternoon and remain open during conference hours until 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Thursday and Friday will be dedicated to general sessions, as well as the always-popular and well-attended Serious Sideliner Symposium. Interactive workshops will take place on Saturday morning followed by the ABF Business Meeting and the ABF Annual Banquet, with the coronation of the 2012 Honey Queen and Princess.

The conference will include many great opportunities for networking and socializing. Thursday evening will be dedicated to attendee networking. We’ve planned an informal night of social activities to include bee-related
The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2012 American Honey Show, which will be held during the 2012 ABF annual conference in Las Vegas. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees’ abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies.

Also, the Honey Show Committee has announced that the theme for the Honey Gift Basket class this year will be “Super Bowl Party.”

The Honey Show 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.

Additional information, including official rules, regulations and entry form, can be found on the 2012 conference Web site at ABF Web site at nabeekeepingconference.com or by contacting the ABF office at 404.760.2875. Good luck!

Call for Entries for the 2012 American Honey Show
Gift Basket Theme “Super Bowl Party”

movies, presentations on beekeeping around the world and open-forum discussion on topics imperative to all beekeepers.

As you can see, the 2011 conference is packed full of education sessions, social and networking activities, and lots of opportunities to learn about new products and services. The tentative agenda and more details can be found on page 9-11 of this issue. Register now and take advantage of the regular registration rates, which will be honored through December 14, 2011.
# 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Tentative Agenda (as of October 7, 2011)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies&lt;br&gt;• Call to Order &amp; Welcome&lt;br&gt;• Presentation of Colors&lt;br&gt;• “Star-Spangled Banner” – led by American Honey Queen &amp; Princess&lt;br&gt;• Invocation&lt;br&gt;• Response to Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 9:45 AM</td>
<td>President’s Address:&lt;br&gt;• Dave Mendes, American Beekeeping Federation (ABF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 AM – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Keynote – Laurie Adams</td>
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<td>10:15 AM – 10:35 AM</td>
<td>ABF Legislative Update – Fran Boyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35 AM – 10:55 AM</td>
<td>Beekeeping Beyond the Basics – George Hansen</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:55 AM – 11:25 AM</td>
<td>Apimondia and Its Future – Gilles RATIA, President of Apimondia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25 AM – 11:40 AM</td>
<td>Mann Lake – Platinum Sponsor Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Introduction of 2011 American Honey Queen and 2011 American Honey Princess and the 2012 Honey Queen Contestants – Anna Kettlewell, Chairperson, American Honey Queen Committee, Badger State Apiaries, Greenfield, Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch recess (all are on own for lunch). Be sure to visit with the Honey Queen candidates and purchase your raffle tickets.</td>
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</table>

**Agenda is tentative and subject to change.**

*For the full conference agenda, visit nabeekeepingconference.com*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:25 AM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 8:50 AM</td>
<td>Dr. Jim Tew, Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 AM – 9:10 AM</td>
<td>Importation of Honey Bee Germplasm to Enhance Breeding Stocks and Re-establish Apis mellifera caucasica – Susan Cobey, University of California</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>National Honey Board (NHB) Marketing, Research and Infant Botulism Education – Bruce Boynton, NHB CEO, Firestone, Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 9:50 AM</td>
<td>The Costs of Following the Bloom: Nutritional Stress in Migratory Honey Bee Colonies – Dr. Mark Carroll, USDA-ARS Tucson Bee Lab, Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50 AM – 10:10 AM</td>
<td>Updates from the Tucson Bee Lab – Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, USDA-ARS Tucson Bee Lab, Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 AM – 10:40 AM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in Trade Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 AM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:25 AM</td>
<td>Possible Factors of Colony Losses – Gilles RATIA, President of Apimondia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 12:05 PM</td>
<td>California Almond Industry and Pollination – Dan Cummings</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>General Sessions resumes with announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35 PM – 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Long Live the Queen! and Other Research from Beltsville – Dr. Jeff Pettis and Dr. Miguel Corona, USDA-ARS Beltsville Lab, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 PM – 2:35 PM</td>
<td>CAP Update – Marla Spivak</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:55 PM – 3:25 PM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in Trade Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:25 PM – 3:45 PM</td>
<td>When Pesticides Interact – Dr. Marion Ellis, Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 PM – 4:05 PM</td>
<td>Levels of Imidacloprid in Pollen and Effects on Colony Health – Vera Krischik</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:05 PM – 5:05 PM</td>
<td>Pollination Panel – facilitated by Davey Hackenberg</td>
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** Agenda is tentative and subject to change.  
For the full conference agenda, visit nabeekeepingconference.com **
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012**

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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 8:50 AM</td>
<td>Keeping Bees on Their Own Six Feet – Marla Spivak</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 AM – 9:10 AM</td>
<td>Realizing the Vision: RNAi Protecting Bees from Pathogens and Pests – Nitzan Paldi, Beeologics, Inc., Miami, Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>An Update on Research at the Baton Rouge Breeding and Genetics Laboratory – Tom Rinderer, USDA-ARS Baton Rouge Lab, Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 9:50 AM</td>
<td>An Update on Research with the VSH Trait - Bob Danka, USDA-ARS Baton Rouge Lab, Louisiana</td>
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<td>9:50 AM – 10:10 AM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 AM – 10:40 AM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in Trade Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 AM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:05 AM</td>
<td>Presentation #1 from Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05 AM – 11:25 AM</td>
<td>Presentation #2 from Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:25 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Development of New Attractants for the Small Hive Beetle – Dr. Peter Teal, Chemistry Research Unit CMAVE, USDA-ARS, Gainesville, Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 12:05 PM</td>
<td>Value Added Products – Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farms, Rogers, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>General Sessions resumes with announcements</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:35 PM – 1:55 PM</td>
<td>Almond Pollination and Honey Bee Colony Density – Dr. Frank Eischen, USDA-ARS Weslaco Bee Lab, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:55 PM – 2:15 PM</td>
<td>2nd Presentation from the Weslaco Bee Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM – 2:35 PM</td>
<td>Project Apis m.: The New Paradigm in Bee Research – Christi Heintz, Project Apis m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:35 PM – 2:55 PM</td>
<td>Bee Friendly Initiative – Kathy Kellison</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:55 PM – 3:25 PM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in Trade Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:25 PM - 3:45 PM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 PM – 4:05 PM</td>
<td>Progress on Development of Novel Approaches to Control Varroa Mites – Dr. Peter Teal, Chemistry Research Unit CMAVE, USDA-ARS, Gainesville, Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:05 PM – 5:05 PM</td>
<td>Mite Control Panel</td>
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**Agenda is tentative and subject to change.**

For the full conference agenda, visit nabeekeepingconference.com
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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*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 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:

- Over 2,500 spacious guest suites offering more than 600 square feet of luxurious space in each room
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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
income from pollination fees. Many beekeepers I spoke to were intrigued about the possibility to charge crop pollination fees. I came away feeling thankful to be a commercial beekeeper in the United States.

As a representative of ABF and U.S. beekeeping, I was approached by the leadership of Apimondia with the question, “When will the United States host an Apimondia?” According to the Apimondia Web site, the last time the United States hosted a Congress was in 1967 in Maryland. Canada last held a Congress in 1999 in Vancouver. I learned that since Apimondia has most of its support and membership in Europe, the schedule follows one meeting in Europe and then one in another part of the world every two years. Last Congress was in France in 2009, Argentina in 2011, Ukraine in 2013 and South Korea in 2015. 2017 will likely return to Europe and 2019 is the next available slot for the United States to consider.

It is a very BIG job to host an Apimondia congress. It would require a dedicated group of workers for several years of commitment. I am willing to pitch the idea and even help out, but I am not so sure that I would like to lead such an effort. I promised to present the idea to the U.S. beekeeping community and see what happens. So far, the U.S. beekeepers asked about this have responded that they think this is a GREAT IDEA! What do you think? We will have the President of Apimondia, Gilles Ratia, at the next ABF annual conference in Las Vegas and he can further elaborate on the steps involved. I also welcome comments and volunteers. We will certainly keep you all posted.

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

crew sent out the call for a beekeeper to get the bees out of the boxes, which had eventually resulted in the series of phone calls and my son asking for the name of a swarm catcher.

Back at my warehouse, with the combs unloaded, and the whole story being told, the dots connect. I had two thoughts: one, if I had known they were going to be doing this outside instead of in a studio or warehouse, I could have saved them a whole lot of excitement; and two, very few people can even imagine the total havoc in an area when large numbers of honey bees get into a robbing frenzy. This TV crew will not soon forget and will certainly always wonder what went wrong to make the gentle honeybees go berserk.

With the combs returned, a sheepish property manager asked if I might have about 10 gallons of dead bees for them to use in filming. Seriously, I ignored this teachable moment and returned to my work.

The show is called “Grimm” and will air on NBC this fall. The episode is called “The Queen Bee.” It is not a documentary, but rather a crime/detective show based somehow on Grimm’s Fairy Tales. If you have complaints, don’t call me.

(Government Relations Update...continued from page 5)
current treatments. In the Farm Bill or otherwise, Congress should, among other things, mandate that sub-lethal effects on honey bees be considered in the regulatory process for new agricultural treatments, and it should take other actions to assure that honey bees are better protected in the environmental enforcement process.

Thank you for your consideration of our industry’s views on these priority items. Both of our organizations look forward with enthusiasm to working together with you and your colleagues as Congress starts to focus its attention on the 2011 Farm Bill. If you have questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

(Signed by AHPA President Mark Jensen and ABF President Dave Mendes.)
In Memoriam – Thomas Edward Burleson, Jr.

Long-Time ABF Member Passes at 75

Thomas Edward Burleson, Jr., died September 19, 2011, at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He was born November 20, 1935, to Thomas Edward Burleson, Sr., and Annie Laura Whipple Burleson in Waxahachie, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Lori Burleson Johnson. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nan Epton Burleson, and children: Gregory Burleson and wife, Carol; Timothy Burleson and wife, Tami; Ame Burleson Solomon and husband, John; and son-in-law Lee Johnson.

Burleson received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from North Texas University. Upon graduation, he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was stationed first in Amarillo and then near Washington, D.C., at Andrews Air Force Base, where he was promoted to Captain and became the chief refueling officer for the base. Among his duties there was refueling the Presidential aircrafts. In 1962, he was honorably discharged from military service and returned to Waxahachie to join the family firm of T.W. Burleson & Son, Inc., where he worked 49 years as the third generation in his family to produce and pack honey. During that time, he served as president of the National Honey Packers & Dealers and president of the American Honey Institute. As CEO of Burleson's Honey, Burleson led the industry by pioneering plastic, non-drip containers for honey.

Burleson’s civic activities covered a wide range of endeavors. He served as president and secretary of the Waxahachie Independent School District Board and president and secretary of the Waxahachie Lions Club. A faithful member of the First Baptist Church, among his many duties through the years he served as chairman of the deacons, chairman of the properties committee and supervisor of the construction of the Children’s Building. A landmark event in his life occurred in 1980 when he was awarded the Citizens for Progress Outstanding Citizens Award by the African American community in Waxahachie. He was the first Caucasian to receive such an honor.

Other involvements include participation in Historic Waxahachie, Inc., and the Classic Car Club. Burleson was active in Boy Scouts and received the Order of the Arrow Award. Noted for his high energy and indomitable spirit, he thoroughly loved life, enjoying hunting, fishing, camping, cooking, mountains of New Mexico and collecting antiques, including vintage cars. He was a generous person in both spirit and means, with a great sense of humor, which served him well as an excellent storyteller, host and friend. In later years, his greatest pleasure was his grandchildren.

The family requests that memorials be made to the First Baptist Church in Waxahachie or the American Heart Association.

Foundation Donations

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

Dewey M. Caron, Ore.  Jan Jackson, Texas  S&F Honey Farm, N.J.
M. Jessica Cox, Bermuda  Rebecca Jones, Conn.  Joe Traynor, Calif.
Marion Ellis, Neb.  Gerald Kuehne, Canada
Tom Glenn, Calif.  William Merritt, Fla.

by Kayla Ackerman, Age 11, Texas

Americans have enjoyed honey since 1622, when European settlers brought honey bees to the United States. In the United States, honey is available in over 300 unique varieties. Honey differs in color and taste depending on the plants from which bees obtain nectar, the soil the plant grows in, the temperature, and even rainfall affecting the plants’ growth. There are many sources of nectar for delicious honey flavors and the growing season, as well as soil, affects the honey. Light-colored honey has a mild taste while darker honey has a strong flavor. There are three categories of honey based on nectar: monofloral, predominately from one type of flower; polyfloral, from many wildflowers; and blended, at least two types of honey mixed together. Honey may be in many forms, and is graded based on USDA standards.


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Comments
As I write this article, we are more than halfway through our 2011 promotional year with Teresa and Allison. As of late August, our representatives have visited 20 states and have plenty more to visit during the upcoming autumn months. This exceeds our states-to-date figure at this time last year by three! We are much closer to reaching the program’s 30-state goal this year.

At the beginning of each year, the Queen and Princess set goals for what they want to accomplish for the ABF during their year of service to our organization. I am excited to provide you with a progress report on Teresa and Allison’s performances to date.

Teresa’s Goals and Results to Date:

1. Reach 5,000 students through school presentations. As of August 19, Teresa has reached 3,018 students and in seven states. She will quickly surpass the 5,000 mark during her fall promotions.

2. Promote in 25 states. As of the end of August, Teresa visited 18 states from coast to coast and is well on track to meet her 25-state goal. Her promotional work has been extensive and impressive! You can follow her and Allison’s travels on the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page.

3. Speak with at least 12 legislators about the industry. Teresa has already exceeded this goal, meeting with legislators and giving presentations to governmental bodies in Connecticut, Mississippi and Pennsylvania.

Allison’s Goals and Results to Date:

1. Help a state and county beekeeping association establish a honey queen program. To date, Allison has been a great advocate for the honey queen program and has supported many through her travels, serving as a mentor for other queens and encouraging state and local organizations to learn more about the program and how to utilize it in their promotions.

2. Draft an educational honey bee coloring book for honey queen promotions. As of August 4, Allison completed her rough draft of this document, which will benefit future American Honey Queens and Princesses in educational settings.

Please be sure to ask Teresa and Allison about the status of their goals when they come to your state!

The Queen Committee has begun preparations for 2012. Application packets for the 2012 positions were sent to state Honey Queen Program chairpersons in early August, and the application deadline quickly approaches in November. We are also taking requests for 2012 Honey Queen and Princess promotions, so please contact me as soon as you can so we can place your event on our master calendar. The sooner we hear from you, the more likely we will be able to accommodate your 2012 event. 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 August and September 2011. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Colin Chambless, R.I.  
  (In Honor of American Beekeeping Federation)
- Robert Cosgrove, Calif.  
  (In Honor of Busy Bee Scholarship – Saddleback College)
- Jacob Dittemore, Ind.  (In Honor of Jeff Dittemore)
- Lawrence A. DuBose, III.
- Roger Everett, Calif.
- Randolph Furbert, Bermuda
- Hawaii Beekeepers Association, Hawaii
- Lisa Lazarus, Fla.

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

- Parasitic varroa mites that not only affect colony numbers, but vector over a dozen viruses that affect honey bee health.
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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 the honey flow starts to slow and many of you begin to extract, I am preparing for a busy fall of promotions across the country. Let me update you on my recent activities.

On June 23, I gave a presentation to Sam’s Kids Day Camp in my hometown of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Sam’s Kids is a summer program for underprivileged children. I spoke to the children about the jobs of each bee in the hive, pollination and honey. We also made honey crispies, which are rice crispy treats made without marshmallows.

July 6 was the start of a four-day trip to Indiana for the 10th Annual Heartland Apiculture Society (HAS) Conference at Vincennes University, where I joined 381 people to learn about recent research in the beekeeping industry. I helped to sweeten the attendees’ experience by giving daily cooking demonstrations with Indiana Honey Queen Lacy Dooley and Indiana Honey Princess Alex Lesniak. Cooking demonstrations are a great tool for showing people how cooking with honey can be fast, while adding a wide variety of flavors to dishes. At the conference, I also participated in a quiz bowl, where two teams answered bee-related questions, and assisted with an auction to raise money for HAS, such that it can continue for another 10 years. Thank you to Duane Rekeweg and HAS for inviting me, and to Carol Shaw for arranging my cooking demonstrations.

Following HAS, I crossed the heartland to visit the California State Fair. I spent July 15-22 in Sacramento working with the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association in their honey booth. At the booth, I explained how worker bees make honey and the job of the queen and conducted honey tastings. Sharing even more wonders about the honey bee, I worked in the insect pavilion at “The Farm,” an exhibit dedicated to agriculture where children learn where milk comes from, understand why insects are important and see animals up close.

The insect pavilion included an observation hive, where I explained what goes on inside a beehive, such as the many jobs of the workers, how honey bees gather pollen, and the major role honey bees play in pollinating many crops, include almonds in California. In addition to the state fair, I spoke to the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association at their monthly meeting, providing them with information on my promotions to date and how to use the Honey Queen Program in their events. Topping off my trip, I was interviewed on “Good Day, Sacramento,” a morning television show that reaches approximately 200,000 viewers and was worth approximately $5,000 in free publicity for the industry. Thank you to Mil and Linda Sutter for hosting me, and to Brian and Darla Fishback for arranging my promotions and hosting me.

On July 23, I returned to Pennsylvania for the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association summer picnic. I spoke to 250 people about my role as the American Honey Queen and my promotions this year. I also met the new Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, George Greig, and spoke to him about the importance of honey bees in Pennsylvania.

Next, I headed to Minnesota on July 28 for a Pollinator Party in Minneapolis. The party was sponsored by the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Department and the University of Minnesota. It was a free event that provided information to the public about honey bees.
and native pollinators. Several educational stations were set up, each having information on a different pollinator or an activity for children. I worked at the station with an observation hive and an activity for children that explained how guard bees determine which bees they let into the hive. For the activity, there were four plastic containers each with a cotton ball inside. Two of the cotton balls had the same scent, while the other two were different. The children had to smell all four and decide which two smelled the same. The children learned that guard bees would only let the bee in that had the same scent as the hive. Activities like this are a great way to keep the attention of younger children while teaching them about honey bees. I also provided information to the public about how they could become beekeepers and what plants are bee friendly. Prior to the event, KARE 11 in Minneapolis interviewed me during one of their morning programs. This television interview, which reached over 150,000 people, was worth approximately $4,500 in free publicity. Thank you to Bill and Marilyn Gorham for hosting me, and to Gary Reuter for arranging my promotions.

Immediately after Minnesota, I visited New Jersey for the Warren County Farmers Fair. From July 29 to August 4, I worked with the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association at their fair exhibit. Their display included a bee cage, where live hive demonstrations were given each day, and educational information on honey bees and the industry, including the equipment used by beekeepers. I gave several cooking demonstrations, explaining to the public why honey comes in different colors. Thank you to Kevin and Sharon Inglin for hosting me, and to Karin Weinberg for arranging my visit.

I then flew completely across the county to Washington for the Clark County Fair August 5-10. I worked in the Bee Barn with members of the Clark County Beekeepers Association, answering questions about honey bees, pointing out the queen in the observation hive and teaching about the importance of honey bees for pollination. The barn included an observation hive, a display of different types of honey, candles made from beeswax and a display with a wasp nest. The display of a wasp nest is a great way to show people the difference between honey bees and wasps, and it helps them to better distinguish a honey bee from a wasp. The Bee Barn also had a bee cage for live hive demonstrations and I gave two of the live hive demonstrations, explaining how a hive works. Also at the fair, I was introduced in the grandstand twice every day and spoke to crowds of several thousand about the industry. I also participated in one radio interview and two television interviews, which reached almost 500,000 people with a value of approximately $5,000. Thank you to John and Mary Ann Morrison for inviting me and arranging my promotions.

On August 16, I was back in Pennsylvania for Ag Progress Days. Ag Progress Days is a large outdoor agriculture exposition near State College, Penn. I worked in the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association ice cream booth, where I spoke to people about the many uses for honey and beeswax. I also had the privilege to work with Pennsylvania Honey Queen Alyssa Fine at this event.

I have upcoming promotions in Kentucky, West Virginia, Oregon, California, Washington and Massachusetts. For the latest information on Princess Allison’s and my promotions and to view photos from our most recent trips, follow us on our Facebook page, “American Honey Queen Program.” Contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to schedule an American Honey Queen or Princess visit in your state. I’ll see you as I buzz across America!
Summertime is anything but slow for bees, beekeepers and the American Honey Princess! The busy season has begun with several exciting promotions.

I traveled to Warwick, R.I., to attend the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) summer conference July 25-29. I gave an introductory speech during the conference’s opening ceremonies in which I encouraged the members to utilize the Honey Queen program and participate in the ABF drawing. During the next few days, my main activity was promoting the ABF and encouraging others to join, which I did by setting up and manning a table in the tradeshow area with ABF newsletters, membership information and a drawing for ABF prizes.

I met and networked with the 452 people in attendance; it’s always a delight to connect with other beekeepers! I was also privileged to work with 2011 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Alyssa Fine as we assisted with various conference activities together, one of which was assisting in the judging room for the 2011 EAS honey, wax and photo show. I was also pleased to attend a few of the fantastic seminars and workshops myself and learn more about this incredible industry I am promoting. This was my first time to attend the EAS summer conference and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to attend. Thank you, EAS, for a wonderful experience!

I traveled to Indianapolis for the Indiana State Fair August 5-13, where I worked in the Ball State Ag/Hort Building with Indiana Honey Queen Lacy Dooley, Indiana Honey Princess Alex Lesniak and members of the Indiana State Beekeepers Association (ISBA). Lacy, Alex and I gave three cooking demonstrations daily on the main stage, reaching more than 2,400 people as we highlighted the versatility of honey in the kitchen, and then offered fairgoers free samples of the dishes we prepared.

After promoting many of the products sold by the ISBA in their booth beside the stage, I helped to sell them and offer samples of Indiana clover and spearmint honey. Visitors to the booth were surprised at the difference in flavor between the two, and especially at the bold, rich flavor of the spearmint honey (without the minty taste they were expecting). This gave me an excellent opportunity to talk to them about the more than 300 U.S. honey varietals and why they exist.

I also helped to recruit students for the ISBA bee school and show off the bees in the observation hive. One of our visitors was an Ivy Tech professor who asked if we would give a presentation to a group of students from the university and we gladly agreed. Lacy and I spoke to them about honey bee biology and CCD, the topics that were of primary interest. I also promoted both honey and beeswax in the Pioneer Building’s candle making booth with other Indiana beekeepers as I demonstrated to fairgoers how the pioneers dipped their own beeswax candles. Visitors to the booth were interested to learn about the usefulness of beeswax and enjoyed sampling (and purchasing!) three different fragrances of beeswax-and-honey lotion bars to experience the moisturizing power of these remarkable gifts from the bees. On one afternoon Lacy and I gave an hour-long beekeeping presentation in the Pioneer Building, and were pleased by the interested questions asked. In addition to all these activities, I had a radio interview with Live One radio on the “Middays with Mindy” show.

I am looking forward to a number of promotions in the next few months, including visits to Florida, New Jersey, Minnesota, Ohio and Kansas. This will be an exciting few months! Queen Teresa and I love to promote our sweet industry; the Honey Queen program is here for you. Start thinking about your 2012 promotions now! An easy way...
to create a promotion is to think of just one event (maybe a fair, festival or farmers’ market) where the Queen or Princess could talk with people about honey bees, show them an observation hive and help sell your products. Next, make a few phone calls to area schools, Boys & Girls clubs, libraries, 4-H clubs, senior centers, civic organizations, etc., to supplement the main event. Anna Kettlewell would gladly offer guidance and suggestions as you make these arrangements. To schedule an appearance, just contact her at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Thank you very much for your continued support. I hope to see you soon!

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**Milestones**

*Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of August and September 2011:*

**10 Years**
- Albert Bryant, Fla.
- Kevin Hackett, Md.

**15 Years**
- Todd Youngblood, Texas

**20 Years**
- Jill Clark, Pa.
- John Talbert, Texas

**25 Years**
- Robert Mitchell, Del.

**30 Years**
- Dee Keller, Ore.
- Harvey A. Powell, Miss.

**35 Years**
- Beth Walker, Texas

**40 Years**
- John Paton, Pa.
- Allan Vehrs, Wis.

**50 Years**
- David Sundberg, Minn.

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*Princess Allison addresses the Eastern Apicultural Conference in Rhode Island with Pennsylvania Honey Queen Alyssa Fine.*
As I write this the summer is drawing to an end. We are sure hoping it hangs on for a while longer. Our honey flow was about a month behind because of all the rain and cooler weather this spring. I hope the rest of you have a great honey crop and that all the bees can stay healthy through the winter.

We can now look forward to the ABF Annual Conference in Las Vegas, January 10-14, 2012. Start making your plans to attend the conference and bring your honey recipes and samples if you can. In addition, below are the rules for the annual ABF Auxiliary Photo Contest, which will be held during the conference:

**Four Categories:**
- Adults and Beekeeping
- Kids and Beekeeping
- Honey
- Bees and Nature (i.e., bees on flowers, bees on frame, hives in orchard)

**Requirements:**
- Submit two 5x7 photos for each entry (5x7 size before matting)
- At least one photo must be matted for judging (single matt only)
- 3x5 index card must be attached to back of photo with name, address and photo category

**Notes:**
- Photos must be submitted by noon on Wednesday of conference
- Photos can be submitted by proxy or mailed to committee member if unable to bring in person
- Amateur photographers only
- If any of these requirements are not met, photo will be disqualified
- Photos will not be returned
- Waiver for rights to photo will be signed at the conference

Please read over the rules carefully and make special note of the size of the picture and that one is to be matted with a single matt. Hope to see you in Las Vegas!
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MISCELLANEOUS

ABF Auxiliary................................................................. 701.537.5214
Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Hackenberg, 799 Grange Hall Road, Milton, PA 17847. The Auxiliary is asking for contributions for the American Honey Queen Fund of 2 cents per day for a year. This will make additional funds available for our American Honey Queen and American Honey Princess. Let’s help make this the best year in honey promotion.

Beehive Botanicals........................................................... 800.233.4483
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Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.................................................... 717.393.1716
Packer of Quality Honey.

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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