Las Vegas Plays Host to Yet Another Successful ABF Conference
“Luck Bee a Lady” Turns Out to Be the Big Payoff

An enthusiastic crowd of over 700 was on hand for the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada, Jan. 10-14. For those who attended the event there was never a shortage of things to do, people to see and sessions to attend.

The week kicked off on Tuesday evening in the tradeshow with a Welcome Reception complete with lots of food and drink. Vendors enjoyed this new opportunity to sit down and visit with attendees for the evening in their booths. Special thanks to the sponsors for the evening, as well as all of the conference sponsors for their continued support of the ABF and the annual conference.

The General Session began Wednesday with addresses from President Dave Mendes, Vice President George Hansen, Laurie Davies Adams, executive director of the Pollinator Partnership, and the President of Apimondia, Gilles Ratia. Mendes reflected on 2011 and noted that while it was one of the most challenging years for beekeepers, there was more interest in honey bees and beekeeping around the U.S., and that more people are coming into the business of bees than ever before. Pesticides, pathogens and nutrition are all factors affecting bee health today and there’s much to be done to resolve some of these issues in the coming years. But, Mendes noted that it seems as though more assistance is available and that beekeepers, regulators and researchers are working together more today than ever. Even the public is interested in helping with assisting bees and other pollinator problems. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has formed the Bee Team, which is working with beekeepers to help resolve some of the issues that are facing us today, which is very encouraging.

Mendes’ opening address was a great kick off to a steady stream of informative and insightful speakers throughout the rest of the conference general sessions, the Shared Interest Group meetings, the workshops and the Serious Sideliner Symposium, which was again conducted by Dr. Larry Connor. Many of the sessions were packed and standing room only. Representatives from the various U.S. bee labs, the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, the National Honey Board and True Source Honey were also present and provided key updates.

During the conference, the ABF membership elected President George Hansen of Colton, Ore., and Vice President Tim Tucker of Niotaze, Kans. Newly elected members of the ABF Board of Directors are: John Talbert, Josephine, Texas, appointed by the president; Jim Doan, Hamlin, N.Y., and Mario Jakob, Umatilla, Fla., elected by the Commercial Beekeepers Shared Interest Group; Dr. Malcolm Sanford, Gainesville, Fla., elected by the Package Bee and Queen Breeders Shared Interest Group; and Davey Hackenberg, Milton, Pa., and Patty Sundberg, Columbus, Mont., elected by the State Delegates Assembly. (See page 2 for a full list of the 2012 ABF Board of Directors).

(continued on page 3)
2012 ABF Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**
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Jim Doan (2014 – 1st term)
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Dr. Malcolm Sanford (2014 – 1st term)
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Becky Jones (2014 – 2nd term)
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Ph: 860.677.9391
E-mail: t.c.jones@snet.net

Directors Appointed by the President:
Gene Brandi (2013 – 1st term)
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Ph: 209.826.2881 • Fax: 209.826.1881
E-mail: gbrandi@sbcglobal.net

John Talbert (2014 – 1st term)
P. O. Box 6 • Josephine, TX 75164
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E-mail: john@sabinecreekhoney.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, Gunter, Talbert and Wooten, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.
At the ABF Annual Business Meeting, new resolutions were adopted, including:

- In light of the consideration of the USDA-ARS to close the Weslaco Honey Bee Research facility and reassign the scientists to other labs, the ABF requests that USDA-ARS maintain the work of the Weslaco Honey Bee Research Unit scientists.

- The ABF requests that the Environmental Protection Agency immediately approve the registration of APIVAR for varroa mite control, as the efficacy of some registered acaricides has been lost, and that APIVAR has been registered and used in Canada and the U.S. honey bee industry desperately needs varied and effective tools to maintain the health of its colonies.

- The ABF to provide support for the National Honey Bee Advisory Board in seeking independent legal counsel in regards to pollinator protection, in that the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and their primacy partners have failed to live up to their charge of “Prevention of Unreasonable Risk to Man and the Environment,” as this pertain to risk management and the application of pesticides affecting honey bees and where managed honey bee colonies are sustaining unreasonable damage from pesticide product usage, threatening the viability of the entire industry in the United States.

A full copy of the 2012 ABF Resolutions, including the ABF Continuing Objectives and the Continuing Resolutions is available upon request from the ABF office. They are also posted on the ABF Web site.

(continued on page 9)
In conjunction with the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, the Kids and Bees Program for the Las Vegas community was held at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino on Friday, January 13. We had such an overwhelming response from the homeschool community that we happily extended the hours of the program.

We had over 15 different areas for the public to learn more about bee biology, pollination, beekeeping, honey and so much more. We had a tremendous turnout and our closest estimation is that 450 to 500 people came to the event. Fortunately, they came at different times, such that we were able to accommodate everyone.

An unexpected benefit arose from this event. Local beekeepers were able to meet, network and begin a local beekeeping group. Rita Bowman sent an e-mail to interested folks to get the ball rolling: “It sounds like we are all pretty much on the same page – concerned about pollination and the environment, educating people about bees, enjoying the hobby of beekeeping and eating honey!”

Of course, this event could not have happened without our wonderful volunteers.

Our volunteers included: Teresa Bryson (2011 American Honey Queen); Allison Adams (2011 American Honey Princess); Lisa Schluttenhoffer (2010 American Honey Queen); Amy Roden (2010 American Honey Princess); Jayla Gillaspie (Florida Honey Queen); Lacy Dooley (Indiana Honey Queen); Lillian-Grace Misko (Missouri Honey Queen); Alyssa Fine (Pennsylvania Honey Queen); Kaylynn Mansker (Texas Honey Queen); Danielle Dale (Wisconsin Honey Queen); Rachael Seida (2008 American Honey Queen); Rachel Bryson (2008 American Honey Princess); Wanda Mansker (Texas); Carmen Conrad (Ohio); Jayna Gillaspie (Florida); Robin Pagenkapp (Nevada); Jose Torres (Nevada); Tammy Horn (Kentucky); and the folks at House of Bees and Dadant for loaning us equipment for the program. We are sorry if we missed anyone. It was a bit crazy!

This event is made possible through the support of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.

Kids and Bees Programs in the Schools

In addition to the exceptional event at the convention center, I was able to visit local schools throughout the week and present assembly programs followed by hands-on learning activities for smaller groups. Over 1,100 students buzzed about the benefits of our tiny friends.

Here’s what some of the students had to say:

- “My third uncle has a very, very old beehive from 1961.” Rylie, student
- “I thought bees where bad but now that I met you I know a lot about bees and the bees are important. I never knew we need the bees for our food.” Jayden, student

A Fond Farewell

It is with a sense of sadness that this will be my last Kids and Bees Program to coordinate and produce. I have spent much time developing the program over the years and now I need to pass on the torch. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to work with the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, members of the ABF, the Honey Queens and the many volunteers that have helped to make the Kids and Bees Program so successful over the last 17 years. Other states that have presented similar programs at state beekeeping conferences include Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas and Missouri. If you have any questions about the program or are interested in assisting with the program, please contact me at 512.627.0113 or kim.lehman@sbcglobal.net.

Here is the buzz about the event from the folks in Las Vegas:

“Thanks! That was one of the most educational field trips we’ve had in Las Vegas.”
Susan, Las Vegas parent

“I brought my kids to the kids and bees event and we had a wonderful experience. They came home telling everyone what they had learned about bees. The event was hands on and fun, yet so educational. We even talked to some local keepers and we are now planning for our own hive. I learned a lot as well, and was so inspired! Thank you!”
Anna Wroble, Las Vegas parent
“Heads will roll, and things are going to change.”

With that proclamation, I became president of the ABF. That was a joke, of course. Anybody who knows me at all knows that I would never willingly be involved in anything so dramatic. They would also note that I am not much of a dancer.

Before moving to a discussion of what we might hope to accomplish during my term, I will take this opportunity to write about David Mendes, our past president. It must be recognized that after his two years leading the ABF, we find ourselves once again in good financial condition, with membership doing a jig, up 30 percent from our low. David would never take sole credit for that circumstance, but any leader could only hope for such an outcome. David seems to thrive in this atmosphere. He can run a conference call while be-bopping a load of bees cross country, just above the speed limit, without missing a beat. He can waltz into a roomful strangers and in no time be in the middle of the action. I want to compliment David’s ability to be involved in so many things, virtually simultaneously. Thanks, David Mendes, for your service to the ABF.

Now the ABF has a president who is, by choice, not the center of attention. I am a commercial beekeeper of modest colony count. We run about 5,000 hives in West Coast pollination. Each year our hives on average are placed on five crops. Our honey yield is usually around the state average for Oregon, about 40 pounds. I am married. My wife Susan and I have two grown sons, Matt and Joe. They are both currently working in the business, with the intention that one or both will continue with the bees when I two step back into my studio. But, it is not a dance studio.

Like David, my office is on wheels. That has me prepared for being president, to a certain extent. I wrote in a column that the greatest innovations in beekeeping in my lifetime have been the cell phone and the credit card. It is lucky for me one has unlimited minutes and the other has strict limits. Now I am able to receive e-mails on my phone, too. This has some advantages and some drawbacks. I am absolutely awestruck by the volume of e-mail that some individuals are able to generate. It makes me tired to just think about it. I support complete discussion of issues, but in the end, decisions need to be made. And then it is time to move on. It will be my job to keep us doing the old soft shoe forward and not an incessant break dance.

As our membership grows, it is also changing. The number of commercial beekeepers is not moving much if at all, but the number of beekeepers overall is increasing. The percentage of our membership that is small scale continues to grow. The programs and policies of our organization are likely to change to reflect new needs and interests of our membership. The Serious Sideliner Symposium at our conference and participation in the special interest groups reflect this growing part of the ABF. I will continue to argue that our legislative efforts are a necessity for any beekeeper, no matter how many hives they have. Research, habitat restoration, pest control both in the hive and in agriculture, pest exclusion at our borders, the standard of identity for honey, to name a few, are all legislative/government controlled or influenced activities that have a huge real and potential impact on our ability to succeed as beekeepers. Even as our membership changes, the ABF’s legislative efforts need to remain a key part of our service to our membership.

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When I began thinking about what to say this first month I thought, “What did George Hansen do for his first article as vice president two years ago?” I discovered the past newsletter on the ABF Web site and there was his article, which was an introduction of him and I thought that’s a great place to start.

Prior to my beekeeping experience, I was in the exterminating business for 18 years, the last eight years running my own company. Most of my customers were property management companies that owned apartment complexes and office buildings in Kansas City, Lawrence and Topeka, Kansas. One of the pests that we were often called in on was problematic honey bees that had taken up residence in just about every part of a building that you can find a void large enough to nest in. Back in the late 1980s, there were lots of feral honey bee colonies and we would exterminate them because most beekeepers didn’t want to be bothered with extracting the colony and spending half a day or more rescuing a honey bee colony. In a very short time I became the man to call to get rid of problem bees, yellow jackets and wasps, because other exterminators didn’t like getting stung and wouldn’t spend the money for a bee suit. I didn’t like it much either, but I charged extra for each sting.

At some place in history I began talking to a beekeeper that was the neighbor of my wife Terry’s parents. His name was Jimmy Bishop and he was really interested in attempting to remove some of the bee colonies I was exterminating. We agreed that we would try saving, where possible, those that could be extracted from buildings. It worked very well for both of us, as he got the bees, the beeswax and the honey, and I got the money.

For several years we did dozens of these extractions over the spring and early summer months, when they had a chance to re-establish themselves in Jimmy’s boxes. On a hot summer day I pulled into his drive to pick him up to do a job in Kansas City and there were two hives in his front yard. When he came out of the house he said, “You see those two hives?” I said, “Yeah, what’s special about those two hives?” And he said, “They are yours.” My response was, “I don’t think so. I don’t need to be taking care of bees and, besides, you beekeepers are nuts. You’ve all been stung too many times and it has poisoned your brain.” He just laughed and said, “No, they are yours and you are going to take them to the farm and learn how to take care of them. After all the hives you’ve killed, you owe it to the species.” I laughed and said, “No…you’re crazy.”

Jimmy was, if anything, persistent and he finally coaxed me into taking the hives 160 miles away to the farm where we live now in Southern Kansas, right on the Oklahoma border. That first year was 1991, the two hives made 170 pounds of honey and I was hooked. My experience with the bees had made it easy in doing inspections and treatments and just checking in every few weeks that we visited the farm. I was constantly on the phone with Jimmy asking questions and spent many hours just watching them fly in and fly out.

In 1996, I sold my pest control business and since Terry had retired from Southwestern Bell, we made ready our home in Topeka for sale and in just a few months we were living on the farm. I bought some nucs that year and made a couple of splits and I was up to 21 hives by 1997. In May, the bees were healthy and in three different yards around the area. I couldn’t put honey supers on fast enough and spent the summer building frames and boxes and when it was all said and done I extracted almost 45 five-gallon buckets of honey. I think it was right at 130 pounds average.

I was in the business and I had it all figured out. Then along came our more normal honey flows of 50 pounds or less and the mites, nosema and viruses and we haven’t made 100 pounds since. I now operate about 300 hives, but normally we have to buy well over half the honey we bottle to meet the demands of the 40 plus stores we supply with honey. This year we had almost no honey crop in southeastern Kansas, which put some real strains on the budget, to say the least. We bottled about 75,000 pounds last year and it grows each month as people become familiar with our product.

I have been involved with the ABF for about 10 years since meeting Clint Walker and Pat Heitkam at a meeting in Kansas City and submitting to their pressure to join the fun. I was so impressed with their interest in a nobody (continued on page 15)
Government Relations Update
by Troy Fore, ABF Director of Government Relations

You may have noticed that this is an election year!

So far, most of us have been blasted with only campaign ads and news about the Republican presidential hopefuls. Soon, though, the candidates for lesser offices will be vying for your votes.

All the members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election/re-election this year, as are one-third of the Senators. Many state legislators and some governors will face the voters this year.

All these people have one thing in common – they want your vote. The other thing many of them have in common, I would venture to say, is that they know next to nothing about honey bees.

Here’s a golden opportunity for us to tell our story. These candidates are coming to your town. They will be at meet-and-greet events. Give them an opportunity to meet-the-beekeeper, to learn the importance of honey bees and their keepers, especially the extent of beekeeping in your legislative district, Congressional district, even your state.

Write up a brief letter to make your points and – if you can’t get a chance to speak to the candidate – put it into the hand of one of his/her aides. You can make a lasting impression.

Your state association could make up a fact sheet telling how many beekeepers you have, amount of honey produced in your state and your bees’ contribution to general agriculture through pollination. If it applies, don’t forget the production of queens and package bees – and even bee supplies, especially if you are home to one of the large suppliers. A few samples of honey could sweeten the appeal.

If the need arises, and if your honey operation fills the bill, you might consider hosting a meet-the-beekeepers event at your honey house or even in a beeyard.

Remember: we have to tell our story; no one else will do that. If I can help you on making any contacts, let me know.

Editor’s Note: If you believe that the ABF is heading in the right direction, please show your support with a donation. At the ABF Annual Business Meeting in Las Vegas, those present pledged $17,000 for legislative efforts. If you were not in Las Vegas or not at the business meeting, we still need your support! We must energize beekeepers to come together to work collaboratively on the many challenges that we face. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

During election year 2010, Rosa DeLauro, top Democrat on the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, visits with Connecticut beekeepers and gets a ball cap and a jar of honey from Ted Jones. ABF Director Becky Jones reported how the visit was arranged: “After I talked to her Washington, D.C., aide, I called her scheduler to see if she could come to the Field Day and just talk informally with the beekeepers…she spent about an hour talking, fielding questions, etc. with the group. The general feeling from the beekeepers was very positive.”
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 months of November and December 2011. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Joe Burns, Ga.
- Craig Byer, N.J.
- Norman Cary, Calif.
- Conrad Bee, Ohio
- Ray Green, N.D.
- Tony Hogg, Fla.
- Honeygold, Idaho
- Edward Karle, Mass.
- C.F. Koehnen, Calif.
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- Jay Miller, Idaho
- Eric Mills, S.C.
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- Strachan Apiaries, Calif.
- W.T. Wilson, Utah
- Wind River Honey Co., Wyo.

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.
SHOW YOUR ABF PRIDE!

You won’t want to miss out these great wardrobe essentials:

ABF Ball Cap – $10

A true classic! Made of 100% brushed cotton twill fabric, this ball cap features a low profile and self-closure with side buckle. One size fits all.

ABF T-Shirt – $15

Tagless for the ultimate in comfort, this pocket T-shirt is 100-percent, pre-shrunk cotton and features double-needle stitching throughout. Available in medium, large and extra large.

ABF Denim Shirt  SOLD OUT (items available July 2012)

With sturdy construction, a generous cut and soft garment washing, this 100-percent cotton shirt features double-needle stitching throughout, a button-down collar, adjustable cuffs and tuck-in tail. Available in mens’ medium, large, extra large; and ladies’ large or extra large.

They’re what every style-conscious beekeeper is wearing this year!
Contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875 or info@abfnet.org to place your order today.

(continued from page 3)

In addition to multiple networking opportunities, an always-crowded exhibit hall and yet another extremely well-attended Kids and Bees Program, the ABF crowned 2012 American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine from Pennsylvania, and Danielle Dale from Wisconsin was crowned 2012 American Honey Princess.

Plans are already in full swing for the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, which will be held at The Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa., Jan. 8-12, 2013. The latest conference information will be posted to the ABF Web site in the coming months. Be sure to make your plans now to attend!

Apimonida President Gilles Ratia spoke to a packed house on the future of the international beekeeping organization.
Top Honors Given During 2012 American Honey Show

ABF members Tim Tucker, of Niotaze, Kansas, and Charles Lorence, of Aurora, Illinois, took top honors at the 2012 American Honey Show. Tucker’s Extra Light Amber Honey won Best of Show – Honey, and Lorence’s Chunk Honey received Best of Show – Related Items.

The two were among 57 entries in the show, which was held during the 2012 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada. The entries were auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program. The winning entries were:

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<th>CLASS A – WATER WHITE HONEY</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR – Sioux Honey Association</td>
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<td>1. James &amp; Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL</td>
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<td>2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR – Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Judy &amp; Lloyd Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI</td>
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<td>2. James &amp; Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL</td>
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<td>3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPONSOR – Golden Heritage Foods LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL</td>
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<td>2. James &amp; Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL</td>
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<td>3. Glenda Wooten – Palo Cedro, CA</td>
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<td>SPONSOR – Pierco, Inc.</td>
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<td>1. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS</td>
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<td>3. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA</td>
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<td>SPONSOR – Ashurst’s American Honey &amp; Beekeeping</td>
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<td>1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA</td>
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<td>2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL</td>
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<td>3. James &amp; Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL</td>
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<td>SPONSOR – Burleson’s</td>
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<td>1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA</td>
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<td>2. James &amp; Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL</td>
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<td>2. Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, MT</td>
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<td>1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL</td>
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<td>2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH</td>
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<td>3. Anna Trapani – Clarksburg, NJ</td>
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<td>1. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, WI</td>
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<td>1. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS</td>
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ABF Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to the Beekeeping Industry During Annual Conference

Each year during the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, the ABF takes the time to recognize a member for his or her "outstanding and significant contributions to the leadership of the ABF and the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry" with the presentation of the ABF President's Award. Past recipients of this award include such long-term members as Gene Brandi, Binford Weaver, Liz Vaenoski, Randy Johnson and others. These individuals all possess a deep respect and passion for beekeeping and the honey bee, and the 2012 recipients of this prestigious award are no different – Laurence P. Cutts, of Chipley, Fla., and Donald Schmidt, of Winner, S.D.

Donald Schmidt
by George Hansen, ABF President

As a long standing member of the ABF and as a past president, Don Schmidt has always supported the causes of the organization. While an officer he exemplified the ideal of the citizen advocate for the industry. He spent a tremendous amount of time in the halls of government working for the benefit of the beekeepers. Always levelheaded and organized, he has accomplished a lot for us in past Farm Bills, trade issues and recently in the area of GMO policies.

Recently retired from beekeeping, Don and his wife, Lucille, have run bees for honey production in South Dakota. He and his brothers took over their father’s operation, and Don eventually bought out his brothers. At the time he became ABF president, the honey loan and price support issues were critical, as were Chinese anti-dumping later on. Don has always been a leader in industry issues and a deserving recipient of the ABF President’s Award.

Laurence P. Cutts
by Dave Mendes, ABF Past President

The ABF President’s Award is given to ABF members who have demonstrated “outstanding and significant” contributions to the beekeeping industry. Laurence Cutts fits this description. As a third-generation beekeeper he grew up with bee venom and honey in his blood. When his father tried to send him to college so he could make something of himself, he returned home within a few months telling his dad that he had “learned all they could teach him.” His father decided to put him digging ditches for the next several months thinking this would make Laurence reconsider going back to school. No such luck! The beekeeping industry has been the beneficiary of this decision.

Laurence worked in the family beekeeping business and expanded the queen and package production delivering bees to the Eastern United States and Canadian Maritime Provinces. The introduction of the tracheal mite in 1984 changed his life as the Canadian border was closed. When the chief apiary inspector position became available in Florida, Laurence was hired and kept this job until his retirement in 2005. These were turbulent times.
for U.S. beekeepers, as we dealt with the introduction of tracheal mites, varroa mites and small hive beetles.

Florida was “lucky” to deal with each of these pests first. The rest of the country was fortunate that Florida had an intelligent and sensible apiary inspection program that pioneered the challenges of state quarantines and hive eradication programs. As a commercial beekeeper in Florida, I was very glad that we had the full cooperation of our Department of Agriculture to help us work through these problems. Laurence was instrumental in coordinating cooperation between beekeepers and the research community. As Florida’s chief inspector, Laurence travelled all over the country and the world to share information. Florida continues to be a leader in honey bee research.

Since his retirement from the state, Laurence has continued to help the beekeeping industry by teaching beekeeping classes locally and support the activities of the ABF and Florida State Beekeepers Association (FSBA). He has been president of the FSBA several times and regularly attends and supports ABF conferences. The ABF Honey Queens have marked him as an easy sell for sweepstakes tickets, and Laurence has entertained many ABF banquets as auctioneer or with one of his original songs. His smile is contagious and he is always willing to share his beekeeping knowledge and skills with others.
The Trustees of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees honored two persons for service to the Foundation and the beekeeping industry during the Las Vegas conference.

Dr. Marion Ellis, photo at right, was presented a Founder’s Award for his scientific and educational contributions. A researcher and extension specialist at the University of Nebraska, Dr. Ellis has been a Foundation Trustee since 2003. The award was presented by Foundation Executive Director Troy Fore. In accepting the award, Dr. Ellis expressed the gratification he received assisting the Foundation programs for young people.

In the photo below, Trustee George Hansen presents an award to Kim Lehman of Austin, Texas, who has been coordinating the Kids and Bees Program for the Foundation for 17 years. The Trustees asked Hansen to present Lehman with one of his encaustic paintings of a beehive. She, too, commented on her joy in introducing children to bees and honey.

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

Craig Byer, N.Y.
Jason Conrad, Calif.
Tony Hogg, Fla.
E. Randall Johnson, Idaho
Edward Karle, Mass.
Jay Miller, Idaho
James Mills, S.C.
Micheal Risk, Mich.
Mario Rodriguez, Calif.
Valeri Severson, Calif.
Anna Stedina, Idaho
Bruce Steele, Calif.
Jeffrey Stone, N.C.
Donna Thoma, Wis.
John G. Thomas, Texas
Stan Umlauf, Calif.
W.T. Wilson, Utah
From the Vice President (continued from page 6)

beekeeper with just 60 or so hives. It has been great meeting so many people from around the world and establishing lifelong relationships with incredibly interesting people. I discovered that all beekeepers aren’t crazy, or perhaps I just don’t notice since I caught the disease, as well.

To be honored with the opportunity to serve this federation as vice president is the highpoint in my life as a beekeeper. I appreciate the faith the members of the ABF have placed in my abilities by electing me to this position and I will do the best I can to fill the shoes of those before me.

I look forward to working with ABF President George Hansen, the ABF Board of Directors and our excellent management staff to build a stronger membership and help meet the needs of the industry in the coming year. I will be asking some of you for help and guidance on this journey, so thank you in advance. And thanks to you all for being such wonderful friends over the years.

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!

ABF “Conversation with a Beekeeper” Webinar Series

The ABF Education Committee has been hard at work developing new ways to keep members engaged and informed in between ABF annual conferences each year. To this end, the new online educational Webinar series titled “Conversation with a Beekeeper” was introduced back in October 2011 and was a resounding success!

The purpose of these educational sessions is to connect ABF members on a national level with industry leaders and experts. If you would like to be a guest speaker or recommend someone for the task, please contact Robin Lane, ABF executive director, at robinlane@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875.

ABF members that were unable to attend the October session featuring Jerry Hayes can download and experience the presentation at their convenience. Just visit the ABF Web site at www.abfnet.org and click on the “Education & Events” tab, “Conversation with a Beekeeper Webinar Series.”

New sessions are in the works! Keep an eye on the monthly ABF E-Buzz newsletter and the ABF Web site for more details.
On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome our 2012 American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine of Pennsylvania and our 2012 American Honey Princess Danielle Dale of Wisconsin to the ABF family. These two women will have a busy year representing us at promotional and educational events. They are ready and eager to promote in your states; both have expressed their enthusiasm for expanding the American Honey Queen and Princess’s reach into states we’ve not visited in many years and continuing our ongoing goal of reaching at least 30 states through promotions.

The American Honey Queen Program exceeded our 30-state promotional goal in 2011. I thank 2011 American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson and 2011 American Honey Princess Allison Adams for an extremely successful year of promotions. Combined, their promotions spanned 31 states, and they garnered over $350,000 worth of free publicity for the beekeeping industry. Their work was remarkable, and 2011 marked the program’s first year venturing into the world of Facebook.

In 2012, the American Honey Queen Committee is eager to continue a strong promotional record, and we again will strive to reach 30 unique states for promotional visits. We would also like the Queen and Princess to visit states where we have not visited in several years. Some of these states include Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont, South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota, Arkansas and Oklahoma. If you have an event, such as a county or state fair, large farmers’ market, garden show, honey festival or store promotion, please contact me to arrange to have Queen Alyssa or Princess Danielle participate in the event. We would be pleased to work with you to arrange for additional events, such as school visits, civic group presentations and media interviews, for such a visit.

The ABF conference is always a very busy time for the Queen Committee. I thank every member of the American Honey Queen Committee for their hard work at this conference and throughout the year. Their work makes the program run smoothly each year and makes it as successful as it is. I also extend the committee’s gratitude to every attendee of the conference who purchased raffle tickets from the queens, participated in the American Honey Show, bid on and purchased honey from the American Honey Show, Quiz Bowl and banquet auctions, and who assisted the program in any way at the conference. Your support will allow Alyssa and Danielle to promote in more locations throughout the country.

As you will read in their articles, Alyssa and Danielle have already hit the ground running on their promotions, having just completed their media training session in late January in Iowa and Wisconsin. I extend a big thank you to Louann Hausner for helping to make the training session productive for the Queen and Princess! I also send special thanks to Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt (2006 American Honey Queen) and Lisa Schluttonhofer (2010 American Honey Queen), who also served as trainers at this year’s training session. Through Skype (online video chat), Jolene and Lisa conducted training on social media, blogging and online video creation with the Queen and Princess. Using Skype allowed for more thorough training on these media, and we believe that Alyssa and Danielle will make tremendous progress utilizing many forms of communication this year.

Alyssa and Danielle have several promotions scheduled in the upcoming months, and they are ready and eager to visit your state soon and to reach the goals that they have set for the year. Please contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with the Queen or Princess. You may contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Alyssa, Danielle and I look forward to a successful year of work for the ABF and the beekeeping industry.
Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

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

- Kristin Molanda, Texas  
  *(In Honor of Sally Roy and Peter Nelson)*
- Catherine Courter, N.Y.  
  *(In Honor of Craig Intinarelli)*
- Stan Umlauf, Calif.
- Robert Koehnen, Calif.
- Becky and Ted Jones, Conn.

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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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Ext. 3220 with credit card
Greetings beekeepers! My name is Alyssa Fine and I have been selected to represent you as the 2012 American Honey Queen. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about myself and how excited I am to travel across the United States promoting the importance of the honey bee in our everyday lives.

I was raised in the small town of Monongahela in southwestern Pennsylvania. My father was a small scale beekeeper before I was born, so I grew up with a strong beekeeping background. It was not uncommon for my father to visit my classrooms in his bee suit and amaze my classmates with the inner workings of the hive. Over time, that hobby grew into a sideline family business, and today we manage approximately 100 hives throughout our area. My role in the business is to develop beeswax and honey cosmetics. I am a 2010 graduate of Penn State with a degree in Agribusiness Management, and my goal is to work with my family to expand the business and really become more involved in the beekeeping aspect, as well.

I was thrilled to be selected to represent the beekeeping and honey industries this year, but I knew that I would not be fully prepared for this position without proper training. From January 26-31, I traveled to Milwaukee, Wis., and Davenport, Iowa, to begin that training process alongside 2012 American Honey Princess Danielle Dale. During the week of training, Anna Kettlewell covered many methods of promoting honey bees and beekeeping. One of our first training tasks was an overview of social media outlets. Via online video messaging sessions with Jolene McNutt and Lisa Schluttenhofer, we learned how to update our Facebook page and children’s blog. Social media tools allow us to connect with hundreds or even thousands of people at one time. Danielle and I also plan to utilize the video web site, YouTube, to post short videos throughout the year that expound upon aspects of beekeeping that might be hard to describe during a presentation.

In addition to social media, we covered a wide array of presentations, cooking demonstrations and media interviews. Danielle and I practiced our basic school presentations before critiquing the information that we had covered, and determining which facts we needed to add and which were acceptable to cut for a shorter amount of time, as well. With Anna’s help, we now have solid presentations that can be delivered in 20 minutes or shortened and lengthened accordingly. Danielle and I also prepared each delicious new recipe featured in our brochures. You can see our recipe brochure on the ABF’s web site on the Honey Queen Program page!

During our media interview training, we discussed with Louann Hausner how we need to be prepared for interviews.
Before jumping into this idea, Danielle and I were asked to develop three key messages that relate to the beekeeping and honey industries. My favorite key message states, “Every person has the power to protect the honey bee.” This statement leads the interviewer to ask in what ways we can help, allowing me to describe ways in which people of all ages and backgrounds can protect and provide for the honey bee and ensure its survival. Media interviews were challenging, but I will practice these skills again and again throughout this year.

At the end of training, Danielle and I put all of our learned skills into practice when we visited three schools in the Quad Cities area. One of my presentations was to fourth graders studying insect biology. It was a pleasure to give them some insight on a specific insect while also teaching them why honey bees are so vital to agriculture. We finished up the week in Milwaukee visiting two schools where I reached another 220 students through five presentations.

At the conclusion of training, I am confident in my role as 2012 American Honey Queen. I am anxious and excited as I look forward to my first month of promotions. If you’d like to invite Danielle or me to your event, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com for more information. You may also visit our blog at www.buzzingacrossamerica.com or “like” us on Facebook by searching for the American Honey Queen Program page. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you. I look forward to meeting you on the road!
Hello fellow beekeepers! It is a great honor to have been selected as your 2012 American Honey Princess. I’m excited to travel nationwide this year and promote the beekeeping industry to the absolute best of my ability.

I grew up in the small town of Sparta, Wis., and am a sophomore at Western Technical College in LaCrosse, Wis. I plan on obtaining a bachelor’s degree in marketing or communications. I am also a third-generation beekeeper and beekeeping is in my heritage on both sides of my family. I received my first hive when I was 12 years old, and I have had several hives every year since then. It has been a long time dream of mine to be a national representative for the American Beekeeping Federation, because I love to teach the public about the importance of honey bees and the beekeeping industry. Since I, too, am a beekeeper, I am invested in the future of this organization. I would like to thank the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association for all the opportunities I was given to promote the industry as the 2011 Wisconsin Honey Queen and for sponsoring me. I also thank my family for all of their support in this new endeavor. I look forward to the opportunity to promote honey and beekeeping across the United States with Queen Alyssa.

Shortly after the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Las Vegas, my official travels began. From January 26-31, Queen Alyssa and I attended a training session in Milwaukee, Wis., and Davenport, Iowa, to prepare for the productive year of promotions we have ahead of us. During training we practiced school presentations, cooking demonstrations and we spent much time preparing for media interviews. We were also trained through Skype (online video conference) sessions with members of the American Honey Queen Committee to make better use of the American Honey Queen and Princess blog (www.buzzingacrossamerica.com) and the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page. We also developed three goals that we will strive to accomplish this year for the ABF.

One of my goals is to present to at least 25 civic organizations. Civic groups, such as 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, homemakers groups, Lions Clubs and church clubs are great additions to any promotion, and I would love to present to these groups in your state. Another
combined goal Alyssa and I have is to expand our YouTube channel by creating educational videos for the public to view, most notably children who would visit our blog. My third goal is to give at least 35 media interviews this year. I look forward to working with you to accomplish these goals!

In addition to learning about media relations, including how to effectively use our key messages in every interview, Alyssa and I spoke in the Quad Cities region during our stay. We presented to four different schools in Davenport and Bettendorf, reaching over 150 elementary school students. We taught them about the importance of the honey bee for pollination, beekeeping in the United States and Iowa, and the products of the hive. In Wisconsin, we presented in individual classrooms and in assembly settings, which allowed us to adjust our key messages to fit the audience. I would like to thank Anna Kettlewell and Louann Hausner for hosting Alyssa and me and preparing us to be the best representatives possible for the beekeeping industry.

There is still time to get your promotion requests in for this year! Alyssa and I would love to help you in any way that we can this year. Please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to schedule an event with us. Also, be sure to “like” our Facebook page to follow Alyssa and me as we promote across America. We would like to have over 500 Facebook fans by the end of the year! Thank you again for the opportunity to be a spokesperson for this industry.
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From the President
(continued from page 5)

Most of us want to know practical things to improve our beekeeping and look to organizations like the ABF to provide some of that information. We are working to provide Web-based beekeeping instruction as a benefit for our members. And watch for our second “Conversation with a Beekeeper” Webinar sometime soon. At a time when membership is falling in clubs and organizations of all kinds, from bowling leagues to PTAs, our membership is doing a pirouette. To continue to shimmy, we will need to keep up the contacts with state beekeeping associations, and to offer more and more practical benefits to the beekeeping community.

Currently, the Board is working on the committee goals. The Conference Committee is beginning program plans for the 2013 conference in Hershey, Pa. We have a proposal for changing the election procedure for ABF board members and officers to mull over and then decide if we wish to pursue the concept. I have asked Vice President Tim Tucker to work with his membership committee to generate ideas to strengthen the State Delegates Assembly. First contacts with the American Honey Producers Association on a future joint conference have been made. It takes two to tango.

I am in California placing the last of my bees in almonds tonight, February 10, and will be in Washington, D.C., working on the Farm Bill and Department of Labor policies next week. Those are two big dances on opposite coasts. So, my mobile office rolls on. Hope all is well with you and your bees, and I hope to get back in my studio soon, but not to dance.
Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of November and December 2011:

10 Years
Laurence Cutts, Fla.
Susan Hansen, Ore.
Cecelia Patterson, Iowa
George Townley, Minn.

15 Years
Vincent Vazza, Ore.

20 Years
Roger Hoopingarner, Mich.
Vicki Hull, Minn.
Donna Thoma, Wis.

25 Years
Alan Baldwin, Wis.
Jerilyn Honl, Minn.
B.W. Lemmons, Idaho
David Shenefield, Ind.

30 Years
Wesley Waring, Minn.

35 Years
Gene Brandi, Calif.
Robert Clark, Wash.
Troy Fore, Ga.
Don Kohn, Wis.
Eric Mussen, Calif.

40 Years
Lucille Schmidt, S.D.
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The “Luck Be a Lady” North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow held in Las Vegas, Nevada, was a big success. It was great to see so many people attending. We were really happy to have Carol Shaw, ABF Auxiliary past president, join us. A lot of information was shared and friendships renewed.

Well, I’m sure a lot of the beekeepers are in full swing trying to keep their bees healthy for pollination duties. Others are just waiting for spring to arrive. We have had wonderful winter weather in Montana and appreciate it after the terrible winter we had last year.

I am pleased to announce that we had quite a few entries for both the baking contest and the photo contest. Start thinking about new recipes and taking photos for next year’s conference in Hershey, Pa. Here are a couple of winning recipes for you to try and enjoy.

### Persimmon Coconut Cake Bar with Coconut Cream Cheese Icing

*by Heather Warneke*

- 2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. HONEY
- 1 1/4 c. oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 c. persimmon pulp
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 c. nuts
- 1/2 c. coconut

Beat sugar and oil well. Add well-beaten eggs, then persimmon pulp and rest of ingredients in order. Bake in greased 9x13 pan in 350-degree oven for 25 to 35 minutes or until knife in center comes out clean. Makes 12.

### Nutty Noodle Snacks

*by Ellen Sundberg*

- 1 c. HONEY
- 1/4 c. undiluted evaporated milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 (3 oz.) can chow mein noodles
- 1 c. chunky peanut butter
- 2 tbs. flour

Mix together all the ingredients except noodles. Fold in noodles. Chill dough for 30 minutes. Drop by tsp. full onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

### ABF Auxiliary Officers

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PUBLICATIONS

American Bee Journal ............................................. 217.847.3324
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Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace?
Contact Robin D. Lane, CAE, ABF executive director, at 404.760.2875 or robinlane@abfnet.org.
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