From the President – Bees on the Brain

by George Hansen, ABF President

My adult life has been organized around our bees. The first sunny day in weeks happens to be a holiday. Guess what we are doing on that day? The date for the last load of bees out of California happens to be our anniversary. Count on it. And mite levels hit critical numbers right when we see the last chance for taking a vacation before winter sets in. I already had it marked on the calendar.

That aside, spring is a special gift for beekeepers. It brings a new chance to do well, no matter the successes or disasters from last season. An explosion of bloom with warmer temperatures are just what the bees need to get going again and to get the beekeepers dreaming of good things. The beginning of school never got me excited like this. A new project or job is exciting, but it doesn’t happen like this, guaranteed every year. And big changes in our life also create worries about how things will unravel and test our abilities. Maybe beekeepers are just simple creatures easy to please, but it seems that a sunny spring day creates joy and satisfaction, not worries about all the things that can go wrong down the road.

Speaking of things going wrong, the honey industry has been hit broadside by the class action litigations against some chain stores in California and the packers supplying them with honey. The claim is that the product on their shelves is not honey since it does not contain any pollen. The basis for the claim is apparently language in the California state Standard of Identity. This is the same standard that the FDA rejected in the industry petition. There are at least 10 states having a standard with that same language. The unknown outcome of the litigation has packers wishing that the state standards would all go away.

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) has had as one of its longest standing, highest priorities to get a federal standard of identity for honey. Since the FDA has rejected our petition, the state standards are the next effort. Nancy Gentry has been the driving force in keeping the momentum for the state standards. In the end, the thought has been the FDA will have to unify the varying state standards in order to allow for interstate commerce.

It has to be noted that this litigation does not impact in any way the hundreds of producer packer ABF members who have no access to the filtration technology, nor do they desire to filter their honey beyond a good strainer. In fact the producers in the United States have generally been suspicious and angry about the practices employed by some packers in acquiring and packing honey. There is plenty of evidence that transshipped, fraudulently labeled, contaminated products are finding their way to the supply chain in the United States. There are indictments and convictions to prove that. It is silly and naïve to think beekeepers are going to give up the effort to establish some meaningful standards of identity to protect honey and its value in the marketplace.

This issue could split the coalition that signed the original petition more than six years ago. Politically, we need to re-form that coalition in order to move forward with an opportunity to require the FDA through legislation to establish a federal standard. Some language compromise needs to be found. The international

(continued on page 18)
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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, Gunter, Talbert and Wooten, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.
During my experience as a beekeeper and progression from a novice 20 years ago with two hives to a commercial beekeeper running over 300 hives, my experiences have changed my “perspective” on things. In concert with a growth in business, the times change along with our way of managing operations and daily chores. As we grow, we have to sometimes adapt our original opinions of how things have to be done. We grow, we recognize that our perspective has changed and we adapt. If we don’t, we find another venture to get into and ultimately mess up that, as well.

It is amazing what six different people will record in their individual memories of a single occurrence. We all see things and believe things to be factually correct based on what we “saw.” Our perspective, or what we think we experienced, is created by our ability to interpret what has happened based on our past personal experiences, which help us to interpret what we store in our memory. Since no two people completely share all the same personal experience, it is unlikely that any two will interpret events or data in precisely the same way.

As keepers of bees, we share much personal experience and we have much in common, but it doesn’t mean we will always agree on everything we experience. That is a good thing, as Martha would say, and it actually gives us a better understanding of things when we are planning for meeting today’s challenges together in a group. We benefit from a multiplicity of perspectives, which lends validity to our decisions.

The great thing about the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) is that we include everyone, with all levels of experience and varying history. In 2009, we even changed the name of our annual conference to the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow to include beekeepers of all levels of experience, as well as our researchers, scientists and apiary inspectors. We chose to invite everyone each and every year to our annual meetings and include all who wished to attend. You don’t even have to be a beekeeper to attend and enjoy our meetings! We thought it advisable to expand our horizons and better our experience by increasing our perspectives at our annual conferences.

Having been on the ABF Conference Committee a few times, I can tell you that it is not a small commitment. It takes a lot of time and planning to continue to pull off great meetings each year. The committee meets monthly or more occasionally and works out the details of everything from meals, conference room details, vendor accommodations, hotel and convention center contracts, speakers and off-site events. It is complex and Tara Zeravsky, senior conference manager, and the entire ABF team does a wonderful job, but it involves a group effort of six or eight volunteers who work very hard to ultimately arrive at major decisions, such as where we will hold the conference.

The decision to make Hershey, Pa., our next stop for the 2013 ABF annual meeting involved many points of consideration and the main issue was not weather or temperatures during January. In 2010, we were in Orlando and experienced freezing temperatures for most of the week, with things only being pleasant on Sunday when the conference was drawing to a close. There has been some talk of the 2013 location not drawing beekeepers who want to get out of the cold and go South to warm up. We consider site facilities and accommodations, along with accessibility to the location (from a travel standpoint) and surrounding points of interest, as well. The main determinant is where have we held conferences in the past 30 years and how do we make ourselves accessible to beekeepers.

This year we were on the West Coast, so we needed to go to the East Coast in 2013 and the following year the conference will be centered in the country again. We do this east to west rotation to make the conference accessible to all our members. The decision to meet in Hershey was because it is centrally located to thousands of beekeepers that may not have had a chance to attend a conference for most or all of their beekeeping experience.

There’s an industry comment that most of the bees are west of the Mississippi, but most of the beekeepers are east of the Mississippi and I think it is an accurate assessment. It is critical that we grow the ABF in the coming years to meet the needs of better servicing the industry. We are not financially able to do all the things we need to in order to
You likely remember that I keep after you about taking the opportunities that come your way to meet your Congressmen and Senators when they visit in your area. I had an opportunity to practice what I preach recently when Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) hosted a Farm Bill Forum right here in Jesup, Georgia.

Sen. Chambliss was chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee the last time the Republicans held the Senate majority, and he served as ranking member when the Democrats took over. He has since left the committee leadership positions, but he remains an influential member of the committee. He was hosting a forum in my town in Southeast Georgia, followed by one in the southwest part of the state.

Sen. Chambliss was clear to all at the forum that the days of “farming for the government,” as one farmer-participant put it, are gone. He noted, and agreed with, remarks made a day earlier by committee Chairwoman Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) to the effect that the era of direct payments to farmers is over. By extension, neither will we again see “honey producing for the government.” Most likely, the days of the honey marketing loan program are numbered, as well.

This will be the fifth Farm Bill that Sen. Chambliss has helped craft. He says it is proving to be the most difficult of all due to the budgetary issues. Even so, he expects the Senate to have its version of the Farm Bill done by “the end of May, at the latest.” He predicts slower progress in the House, with final passage pushing the Sept. 30 expiration of current law.

Also speaking on the forum panel were Bob Redding of the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation and John Maguire of the National Cotton Council. They both have strong constituencies in South Georgia. For the 2012 Farm Bill, they indicated that the cotton and peanut growers are looking more toward government-subsidized crop insurance programs than toward continued direct payments.

It was an opportunity for me to renew acquaintances with Redding and Maguire. I had worked with Redding on honey and bee issues as he served several Georgia Congressmen. I had become acquainted with Maguire as our paths crossed from time to time in Washington.

Interestingly enough, Maguire was aware that many beekeepers are tracing CCD to the neonicotinoid treatment applied to various crop seeds, including cottonseed. He volunteered to put me in touch with a scientist on his staff to discuss the issue.

Another unforeseen meeting at the forum was with Charles Hall of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. A bit of background here. About 10 years ago, a coalition of specialty crop interests began to make inroads in federal agriculture policy. Crops with farm programs were excluded from the “specialty crops” definition. Honey had a loan program, so we were excluded. I found that Hall is a leader in the national specialty crops movement, and I talked to him about the possibility that honey could be included at some time in the future. That could make new research dollars available to us.

When I approached Ben Mosely, Sen. Chambliss' legislative assistant who handles farm policy in the Senator's Washington office, he beat me to the punch, saying, “You are the bee guy!” He recalled our meeting two years earlier when he was working at the Senate Agriculture Committee level.

Then, for a letdown, I met the husband-wife team who work for Sen. Chambliss (her) and Sen. Johnny Isakson (him) in their Savannah regional offices. I say “letdown” because both of them began to display their familiarity with beekeeping by naming a couple of well-known people in the Savannah area who happen to be hobby beekeepers. Nothing wrong with hobby beekeepers, of course, but it was clear that I have a lot of educating to do to bring them up to speed on the scope of beekeeping in the United States.

There is always more that can be done.
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The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of January and February 2012. 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 and Maria Bell, Va.
- Zac Browning, N.D.
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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.
United States Honey Production Down 16 Percent in 2011


Honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010. There were 2.49 million colonies producing honey in 2011, down 7 percent from 2010. Yield per colony averaged 59.6 pounds, down 9 percent from the 65.6 pounds in 2010. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 36.8 million pounds on December 15, 2011, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2011 to 172.9 cents per pound, up 7 percent from 161.9 cents per pound in 2010. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2010 crop reflect honey sold in 2010 and 2011. Some 2010 crop honey was sold in 2011, which caused some revisions to the 2010 crop prices.

The complete NASS Honey Report is available on the ABF Web site at www.abfnet.org under the “Education & Events” tab, “Honey Facts.”
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best provide to all our members. We need a member base, based on our current dues, of 2,000 or more to get to a level where we might be able to even begin doing many of the things we need to accomplish.

The ABF Board of Directors, who ultimately approve the location of the conference, voted to make Hershey our next stop because we believed it would help make the conference available to more local beekeepers than we have seen for many years and ultimately grow our membership. It is also a great location where we will be the only group at the venue and, as a result, the single focus of the staff at the facility. It will be the best conference ever, if we all agree to make it so.

With our membership numbers we will always have people who have issues with the decisions the Board makes. If you are often in question of board decisions, you need to be involved in the process by investing your time and experience. We need more people volunteering to help with the committee assignments and prepare for being board members and ultimately leadership positions.

I would invite anyone this year that has any interest to help better the ABF to call George Hansen, ABF president, Robin Lane, ABF executive director, myself or any Board member and say, “I would like to get involved.” I can assure you it is a tremendous personal growth opportunity and it will change your perspective on how things are done and how decisions are made. That’s what makes us effective and is what will ensure our future success. Expand your perspectives…it’s good for you and good for the ABF.
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What might it take to directly transform the lives and economic stability of an entire African nation? For one Texan couple, they believe this may start with a couple hundred thousand honey bees and a dream.

ABF members Clint and Janice Walker of Walker Honey Farm in Rogers, Texas, recently became involved in a project that aims to help increase the standard of living for the people of Swaziland. The Walkers joined forces with other organizations involved in the Swaziland Partnership, a non-profit cooperative effort of churches and universities worldwide. Clint and Janice brought with them a wide variety of supplies and, most importantly, their expertise in the fundamentals of developing a thriving beekeeping industry.

The allure of directly helping others is what drew them to the project. “It seemed to be a project where we would be able to help people change their lives for the better,” Clint says.

The Swaziland Partnership, founded in 2007, is supported by Southern Nazarene University and Bethany Oklahoma First Church of the Nazarene. The project is currently in year four of a 10-year agreement to partner with the Southern Africa Nazarene University. The main goal of the partnership is to create a more self-sustainable economy in Swaziland, which is something that initially drew the Walkers to the project.

“I might teach them how to keep bees and they might make five gallons of honey, but if they don’t know how to run a business successfully, they won’t make any money out of their product,” says Clint.

In mid-March, Clint and Janice packed their bags and headed to Swaziland for two weeks. They brought with them around $1,000 worth of beekeeping equipment. Companies like GloryBee Foods and Mann Lake generously gave them discounts for supplies. They knew bringing supplies from the United States would give the people high-quality and less expensive products.

After arriving in Swaziland, the Walkers met up with fellow workers with the Swaziland Partnership. They attended meetings at the Southern Africa Nazarene University where they strategized the best ways to make the beekeeping project beneficial to the residents of the country.

They traveled to Siteki, where they cleared 400 acres of land that will be dedicated to farming efforts. Clint met with a fencing contractor in order to quote prices and the fences should be installed in April.

During the visit, Clint had the privilege of meeting a man named Luke Mswane, who is an electrical engineer, but has a passion for beekeeping. He is one of the few commercial beekeepers in Swaziland. Clint and the rest of the team will be buying bees from Luke to help fill the apiary. Luke will also be training the beekeepers that come through the program.

Clint believes that the educational component of this project is the most important. Partnering with the Southern Africa Nazarene University allows the students to farm on the land and learn important business principles at the same time.

The Walkers were able to supply around $1,000 worth of beekeeping equipment for the project.
“When a student comes to the college for a year, they can then go back to their village and start a business, hire people and change the economy of their local communities,” Clint notes.

Through the Swaziland partnership, the people of Swaziland will become more educated, raise their standard of living and become more self-sustainable. Along with teaching the people how to build an industry, Clint and Janice are also helping educate them about their greatest problem, the HIV virus.

The population of Swaziland has recently been in decline because approximately 40 percent of the population is infected with HIV, which is the highest infection rate in the world. There are about 60,000 orphaned children in the country because of the older generation dying from the disease.

“We’re hoping that through this program, we can help change their culture,” says Clint. “We don’t want to change the people, but we want to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. We’re educating them so that they can learn safer practices and decrease the infection rate.”

The Walkers are planning to return to Swaziland early next spring, right before the intense honey season begins. They are excited to continue to partner with the people there and learn more about the progress of the partnership.

Want to Help the Swaziland Partnership?

There are plenty of opportunities for individuals and companies to participate in this project, including donating bee supplies, helping to buy bees or pay for training, or helping to fund the micro-finance component. To make an in-kind donation, contact Clint@WalkerHoneyFarm.com or 254.983.2337.

If no IRS charitable giving deduction is needed, please send your contribution to:

Walker Honey Farm
ATTN: Swazi Bee Fund
8060 E. US HWY 190
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Queen Committee Report

By Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

Your American Honey Queen and Princess have worked hard in the first quarter of 2012 on our behalf. Through the end of March, Queen Alyssa and Princess Danielle have visited 10 states and are well on their way to visiting 30 states by year end! They have demonstrated tremendous passion for the industry, and their enthusiasm in media interviews and presentations is infectious. To date, they have been well received in all venues in which they have promoted.

I thank all ABF members who have quickly submitted their promotional requests for Alyssa and Danielle so early this year. Thanks to your support, both will have very full travel schedules from late July through November. We are still looking for great promotional opportunities in states like Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont, South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota and Arkansas this year. As you will read in their articles, Alyssa and Danielle can speak in many different venues, such as children’s groups, beekeeping clubs, church groups, radio interviews, television interviews, fairs and festivals, and the list goes on and on!

I look forward to hearing from more of you this year to schedule events in your state, particularly during the late spring and early summer, but also throughout the year. Please contact me about your promotional events at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

Pollinator Week (June 18-24) provides great potential for Honey Queen promotions in your state. Many states host events, particularly in urban areas, to educate the public about the importance of pollinators, including honey bees. Some states work with their legislators and governors to issue proclamations celebrating National Pollinator Week. Having a Honey Queen or Princess visit your state during this week can help publicize your educational events. Please contact me if your state is hosting an event or if you are providing an educational booth at an event during Pollinator Week. We would love to send Queen Alyssa or Princess Danielle to assist you in June!

We are still looking for new opportunities in states like Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont, South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota and Arkansas this year. As you will read in their articles, Alyssa and Danielle can speak in many different venues, such as children’s groups, beekeeping clubs, church groups, radio interviews, television interviews, fairs and festivals, and the list goes on and on!

I look forward to hearing from more of you this year to schedule events in your state, particularly during the late spring and early summer, but also throughout the year. Please contact me about your promotional events at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the months of January and February 2012.

Gloria Dickey, Texas
Michael Ebersole, Ariz.
Leslie Ellis, Colo.
Walter Els, Mo.
Jonathan King, S.C.
Russel Shaffer, Calif.
The following ABF members contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the month of January 2012. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Lisbeth Mack, N.C.
- William Winget, Conn. *(In Honor of Diane Kralj)*

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- Challenging weather extremes that can affect honey bee health due to drought and floral degradation.
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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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Greetings beekeepers! I’ve been on the road promoting the honey and beekeeping industries throughout the country. In February and March, I visited four states and attended a variety of venues spreading the message that honey bees are vital and need to be protected.

My first trip was to Florida, where I stayed with Linda and David Hackenberg and Bert and Caryl Kelley. On February 9, I landed in Tampa primarily to work with the Florida State Beekeepers Association at the Florida State Fair. I attended a meeting of the Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association (FSBA), where I was given the opportunity to speak to approximately 90 beekeepers about my role as the American Honey Queen and to invite them to the fair. The following morning, I was at the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Building at the fairgrounds bright and early to take part in the Fresh from Florida breakfast. This annual event showcases Florida agriculture as vendors serve up bite-sized breakfast foods to local and city officials. I worked with the FSBA to serve two varieties of honey-sweetened muffins with either orange or key lime honey butter. In between serving muffins and pointing out the queen inside the nearby observation hive, I chanced a photo with the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture!

The Dennis Lee Show has been performing at the Florida State Fair for more than 32 years, and as part of the act, which features classic rock and roll and lots of laughs, a Honey Queen is often invited to the stage to share some information about the beekeepers’ booth on the fairgrounds. I made it on stage twice Monday, offering a honey bear to Dennis and telling the crowd where they could purchase Florida honey. I even poured some honey directly into Dennis’ mouth (and accidentally on his face) to remind the crowd that honey is great for sore throats. I repeated the performance that evening and again on Tuesday afternoon.

February 14 was Honey Day at the Florida State Fair. All morning, I had the opportunity to work with Jayla Gillaspie, Florida Honey Queen. We spent four hours on stage with culinary chef David Arnold cooking up a variety of delicious meals that all shared a common ingredient – honey. No one in the audience left hungry after trying samples of gourmet dishes interspersed with Jayla’s and my recipes. That evening, I attended the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame induction banquet where Florida beekeeper Laurence Cutts became the first beekeeper ever to be inducted. It was an exciting night as Florida beekeepers celebrated Laurence’s accomplishments, which led to such an honor. I spent my last evening in Florida visiting an orange grove, a fitting end to my visit.

From Tampa, I traveled to Mississippi to stay with Dwight and Joan Gunter for a week of various promotions. My first event took place at Lumberton United Methodist Church, where I presented a cooking demonstration for the 20 people in attendance. A honey tasting station offered a variety of honeys, both regional and from as far away as North Dakota, and was a great way to highlight honey varietals to the public. The following day, I attended a meeting of
I spent one afternoon shadowing Dwight and Joan in their shop as they grafted larvae into plastic queen cups. I even had an opportunity to try my hand at queen grafting. It is much harder than it looks! I also travelled to the Gulf Coast to give a cooking demonstration on Biloxi’s WLOX television channel. During the 3.5-minute segment, I prepared the same recipe (a barbecued beef taco plate) as prior in the week, but to a much larger audience. Visit www.buzzingacrossamerica.com and click on the “Cooking with Honey” tab to find the recipe.

I also traveled north to the capital city of Jackson to work with the Mississippi Beekeepers Association for Honey Day. As a group, we were introduced to the Senate and presented a gift basket of honey bee products to the governor’s aide. Thanks to Representative Ken Morgan (who happens to be a beekeeper), I was given a few moments to speak to the House of Representatives regarding ways they can protect honey bees through legislative efforts, such as Mississippi’s Right to Keep Bees and Right to Farm bills. I also paid a visit to the Mississippi Farm Bureau and went on the air with Marshall Ramsey at SuperTalk Mississippi. During our 21-minute radio interview, we talked about everything from pollination to medical uses of honey and many topics in between. SuperTalk is broadcast over eight Mississippi radio stations, reaching thousands of listeners each day. My last stop in Mississippi was the Department of Agriculture, where I met Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith.

I traveled to St. Paul, Minn., March 2-4 to attend the University of Minnesota Beekeeping in Northern Climates Short Course hosted by Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter.

Princess Danielle and I stayed with hosts Bill and Marilyn Gorham in neighboring Wisconsin. Over the weekend, we attended the course as students, incognito; however, the 250 soon-to-be-beekeepers in attendance soon realized who we were on Saturday evening when we manned an educational table in our crowns and banners. We spent the evening promoting membership within the American Beekeeping Federation and describing our roles as Honey Queen and Princess. We distributed information about membership and conducted a drawing for an ABF baseball cap, t-shirt and a one-year membership. Princess Danielle and I learned many new beekeeping techniques specialized for northern climates such as our own during the weekend.

I then flew to Houston, Texas, to stay with hosts Ed and Elaine Michalik and work at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo March 7-12. This is the largest event of its kind throughout the entire world, attracting thousands of visitors to the area during its 20-day run. My first morning in Texas, Ed and I answered a swarm call in his neighborhood and successfully hived it. It now sits in his backyard and, as I write this article, the bees were already bringing in pollen to their new home.

That evening, Harris County Beekeepers Association (HCBA) President Don Angle took me to a combined Girl Scouts meeting of five troops. I spoke to the 30 girls and their parents in attendance about honeybees and beekeeping, and afterwards they tasted Chinese Tallow honey, a dark honey with a deep flavor. Later in the week, Texas Honey Queen Caroline Adams and I visited the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston. What

(continued on page 17)
I hope this article finds you and your bees in good health and that you are looking forward to the upcoming summer months! I have been preparing for the arrival of my packages of bees while staying busy promoting this wonderful industry.

During February, I was busy with promotions in my home state of Wisconsin. On February 7-8, I travelled to Stevens Point in central Wisconsin. I had the great opportunity to work with a special program called Farm to School. Every month, this program features a special local food or product in local schools, and they present information about the product to students. The product that they featured for in February was honey! I gave six school presentations at four elementary schools reaching 267 students. After each school presentation, the program provided the students with a sample of local honey. Consider looking into local agricultural programs in your state when you plan promotions for the Queen or Princess. These programs can open doors for us and enable us to speak to more people about the importance of honey bees. I extend sincere thanks to Donna Thoma for being a wonderful host while I was in the area.

For my next promotion, I visited nearby Mindoro to present to 33 Girl Scouts. The girls were excited to learn more about how they could become beekeepers and why honey bees are so important. The girls also enjoyed learning how to cook with honey as we made Holiday Honey Punch. I truly enjoy speaking to Girl Scouts, because I was one for 12 years and was a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient (the highest achievable award for Girl Scouts). I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to speak to Scouts all across the nation this year! It would be a great additional event to add when I visit your state.

My last promotion in February was speaking to the City Council in my hometown of Sparta. There were 22 people in attendance at this meeting, and it gave me an excellent opportunity to speak about the importance of honey bees and the beekeeping industry to my city officials. I also received a proclamation from my mayor for becoming the American Honey Princess. Finding opportunities for the Queen or Princess to speak to legislatures or other government officials make great additions to promotions, and these meetings are always beneficial to our industry.

March started with a trip to Minnesota for the University of Minnesota Beekeeping Short Course March 3-4. Queen Alyssa and I expanded our knowledge of the industry while talking to new beekeepers about the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The two-day course provided 250 beekeepers with the knowledge necessary for the first two years of their new hobby. During part of the first day, Queen Alyssa and I promoted the ABF, as we worked at a booth talking to the attendees about the benefits of being a member and by passing out information. Many of the beekeepers were very interested in the Federation. I thank Gary Reuter and Marla Spivak for graciously allowing Alyssa and me to attend the Short Course, and Bill and Marilyn Gorham for welcoming us into their home for the weekend.

From Minnesota, I travelled to Arizona for a week of school and civic group presentations in the Phoenix area. From March 5-10, I taught elementary school students about honey bees and beekeeping. The students and teachers

Princess Danielle spoke to the Sparta, Wis., City Council about the importance of honey bees in Wisconsin and the United States.
were equally excited to learn. During my stay, I also gave
presentations in three Boys and Girls Clubs. I often had
large groups of students, and they were eager to continue
to learn even in the after school hours. Boys
and Girls Clubs can be found in communities
all across the country, and they provide
another great place in which to promote the
industry. I also spoke to senior citizens in a
local community by utilizing PowerPoint to
discuss the industry. In Arizona, I reached a
total of 929 people through my presentations.
Thank you to Wayne and Ardell Lemar for
being wonderful hosts on this trip!

I am blessed to be a representative for the
beekeeping industry and look forward to
upcoming promotions. There is still time yet to
schedule events! We would be happy to help
you in any way that we can. If there is an event
that you would like to invite us to, please contact
Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com
or 414.545.5514. Also, don’t forget to “like” us
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From the Honey Queen
(continued from page 15)

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wonder about the connection, Honey Queens and outer
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into space where they continued to construct precise
honeycomb, even in zero gravity. Queen Caroline and I
were fortunate enough to tour the historic mission control
room from which that shuttle was managed.

The rest of the weekend in Texas was spent at the
Livestock Show, where we worked with the HCBA at
its exhibit. Queen Caroline and I pointed out the queen
inside the observation hive while answering questions for
the many excited visitors to the booth. A unique part of
the exhibit was a nucleus hive with a window cut inside
of it, and the hive was inside a screened room. If visitors
looked closely, they could see rubber bands holding the
honeycomb to the frames, because this hive was rescued
from behind the walls of a house! It was a great weekend
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I have been working in many different states, but I would
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standard has one option, namely to require filtered honey to be labeled as such. The existing language in the USDA Grade A Standard may provide some possible language as well.

Ultimately, this boils down to a choice for the consumer. An organic apple has to meet certain standards to be labeled such, but it still is an apple as is the non-organic option. Milk with all the fat removed is still milk, but must be labeled fat free. There has to be a solution for honey that is acceptable to all parties, and does not diminish the product. We are working to have a roundtable of industry groups this spring to find that language to present in legislation in the House and Senate.

By the time this column gets to you, some of what I am writing about will have changed. Certainly, the season will have moved on and the bees will have made their adjustments. For my bees, the first spring in California will be over and done with, and we will have transported our hives into a second spring in the Northwest. Along with the changes in temperature, bloom and length of day, there will be management challenges to keep the bees at the appropriate size and configuration for the next stop. All I know is that for all the decisions I have to make, I am not really in charge. My life is ruled by what the bees need and what the weather will permit. I suffer from bees on the brain.

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### Assembled Frames

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<th>Size</th>
<th>Item# Each</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
<th>Case of 10</th>
<th>Item# Each</th>
<th>Price Per Case of 10</th>
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<td>WW-896</td>
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<td>WW-916</td>
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<td>WW-926</td>
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<td>$3.45</td>
<td>WW-936</td>
<td>$26.50</td>
<td>WW-924 b</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td>CALL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Standard Wax Coated Plastic Frames

- Available with 100% US beeswax coating
- Food grade plastic
- 4.9 cell size
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- Impervious to wax moth or rodent damage

Free shipping applies to most orders over $100 shipped standard ground service within the lower 48 states. Prices and free shipping offer are subject to change without notice.

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<table>
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<th>Item# Each</th>
<th>30 - 180 Frames</th>
<th>210+ Frames</th>
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<td>PF-126</td>
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<td>PF-125 b</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
<td>$1.72</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of January and February 2012:

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Edith Shapira, Penn.
Allen “Al” Summers, Colo.

15 Years
Jordan R. Dimock, Ore.
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Steven Whited, Fla.
Stanley Wilson, Fla.

20 Years
James Griffith, S.D.
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Mark Sundberg, Minn.

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30 Years
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Well, spring has sprung! We have made it through the winter. Hopefully everything went well for your families and businesses. We had a mild winter and are hoping for moisture this spring.

Here are two more recipes from our baking contest for you to try. Remember to start thinking of baked items to bring to the conference next January in Hershey, Pa. This is also a good time of year to get some great pictures for the annual photo contest.

Have a wonderful and prosperous spring!

---

**Honey Peanut Butter Granola Bars**
*by Mary Kettlewell*

- 2 cups flaked cereal  
  *(such as Kellogg’s Smart Start)*
- 2 cups quick cooking oatmeal  
  *(not instant)*
- 1/2 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup mild HONEY
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp. peanut butter
- 2 tbsp. canola oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Lightly coat a 9-inch square pan with cooking spray and set aside. In a large bowl, combine cereal, oats, peanuts and chocolate chips. In a microwave-safe container, combine HONEY and peanut butter. Microwave on high for about one minute. Stir to combine. Add oil and vanilla and combine until fully incorporated and smooth. Pour mixture over the dry ingredients and stir until combined. Spoon into prepared pan and press down firmly to spread evenly. Cool and let set for about four hours before cutting into bars or smaller pieces. May be frozen for up to three months.

---

**Chocolate Chip Banana Bread**
*by Heather Warneke*

- 3/4 cup HONEY
- 1/3 cup butter (soft)
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups mashed banana
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 2/3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup nuts
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Mix HONEY and butter. Stir in eggs, add rest of ingredients. Bake in greased 9x5x3-inch pan at 350 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes. Remove from pan.

---

**ABF Auxiliary Officers**

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  Shelley Rodenberg  
  200 E. Johnson Street  
  Wolf Point, MT 59201  
  rodnberg@nemontel.net

- **Vice President**  
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  Troutville, VA 24175  
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MISCELLANEOUS

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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.

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Fax: +44 (0) 5601-135640, 16 North Road, Cardiff, CF1 3DY, UK. IBRA is the information service for beekeepers, extension workers and scientists. Members enjoy the benefits of belonging to IBRA, including Bee World. We need your involvement. Join IBRA - support this important information network, extend your beekeeping horizons.
We are pleased to announce that the 2013 ABF annual conference will be held at Hershey® Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

In addition to lots of chocolate, Hershey offers thrilling attractions, luxurious accommodations, breathtaking gardens, sweet deals and mouth-watering treats – Hershey has something for everyone! This chocolate-coated candy kingdom has grown from Milton S. Hershey’s company town to an internationally known community, complete with a world-class amusement park and resort complex. Throughout the community, visitors will find reminders of Hershey’s sweet heritage, from the heavenly smell of chocolate in the making to streets like Chocolate and Cocoa Avenues that are lined with Hershey’s Kisses street lights.

Known as Hershey The Sweetest Place On Earth®, Hershey, Pennsylvania, is a year-round destination with a wide array of attractions. Hershey was rated a top family vacation spot by Smart Money and FamilyFun magazines. So, bring your sweet tooth and make your plans to join us for the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Watch for details on the ABF conference Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com.