American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER
November/December 2012 • Vol. 70, No. 6

BEE With Us in Hershey

Register Today for the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

Schedule-at-a-Glance

Tuesday, January 8, 2013	
Morning/ Afternoon	Board and Committee Meetings
Evening	Welcome Reception in the Tradeshow
Wednesday, January 9, 2013	
Morning	Opening General Session and Keynote
Noon	Tradeshow Opens
Afternoon	Shared Interest Group (SIGs) Meetings
Afternoon	American Honey Show Judging
Evening	Cookies & Entertainment with the Honey Queen Candidates
Thursday, January 10, 2013	
Morning	Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast/Meeting (optional)
All Day	General Session
All Day	Serious Sideliner Symposium
All Day	Tradeshow
All Day	American Bee Research Conference
Evening	Social and Networking Activity (optional)
Friday, January 11, 2013	
Morning	Breakfast – Hosted by Dutch Gold Honey & Gamber Container
All Day	General Session
All Day	Serious Sideliner Symposium
All Day	Tradeshow
All Day	American Bee Research Conference
Noon	Foundation Luncheon (optional)
Afternoon	2013 American Honey Show Auction
Evening	Open to Explore Hershey
Saturday, January 12, 2013	
Morning	Interactive Workshops
Afternoon	ABF General Business Meeting
Evening	ABF Annual Banquet (optional)
Sunday, January 13, 2013	
All Day	Beekeeping Field Trip (optional)

2013 is quickly approaching and now is the time to make attending the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow at the Hershey® Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania, one of your New Year's resolutions!

The excitement is building for the annual meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), which promises to be one "sweet" event you won't want to miss! And with an anticipated attendance of more than 600, this is sure to be the must-attend conference of the year – beekeepers from all over North America and beyond will gather to share ideas and develop new contacts. In addition, the 2013 conference will be a very special one because the ABF will be celebrating its 70th anniversary.

The conference agenda is filled with areas of interest to all beekeepers, including:

- Keynote speaker, May Berenbaum, professor and department head of entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Featured speaker, Dr. Rob Page, vice provost and dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and foundation professor of life sciences, Arizona State University
- Key legislative and industry updates
- Shared Interest Group meetings
- Serious Sideliner Symposium with a focus on "How I Do It"
- Research updates from the Tucson, Beltsville and Baton Rouge Bee Labs
- Interactive workshops
- The American Bee Research Conference
- 2013 American Honey Show
- 2013 American Honey Queen and Princess coronation
- Field trip to commercial beekeeping operations of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm and Hackenberg Apiaries

These are just a few of the educational and networking opportunities slated for the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Visit the conference website and

(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.

American Beekeeping Federation
NEWSLETTER
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Issued bi-monthly by **American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.**
Copy deadline is the first day of January, March, May, July, September and November for publications mailed at the end of the same month.

Interested in advertising? Contact Robin D. Lane, CAE, ABF executive director, at robinlane@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875.

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From the President – Are We Stuck?

by George Hansen, ABF President

George Hansen
ABF President

I was awakened the other night by rain on the roof. It had been a long time since I had heard that; more than three months without measureable rain. This dry season will have an impact, not just because it was dry for so long and honey crops were meager and late in many parts of the country. Stressed bees turn up with all kinds of unexpected problems downstream.

Rain. We needed it. We begged the powers to grant it. And now that it has started raining, we have to deal with mud and flooding. We don't have to worry about engines overheating anymore. Now we work around muddy yards and rising water. Getting a truck unstuck is an interesting challenge. It demands strategy and knowledge. I have to admit, I usually try all the small things I can think of to get out without help. The result, more often than not, is a truck worse stuck than before.

The next steps require an escalation of sorts – unhooking the trailer, throwing stuff under the drivers, maybe even trying to use the forklift to jerk on the front end. As things deteriorate, and the night wears on, various bright ideas result in something getting bent or worse, and the truck getting further mired. Why didn't I just call for help in the first place? The reason is complex. Part of it is I don't want to ask for help. I might appear to be weak or have to admit I had been stupid to drive the truck there in the first place. Another part is that I value sleep so highly (because I lose so much of it). I really hate to wake someone sleeping contentedly to come and relieve my suffering. But, more than that, all those little tricks and bright ideas to get unstuck without help, well, occasionally, if rarely, they actually work. It doesn't have to happen very often, and we are stupid for life.

Thinking of being fooled by circumstance, I remember one time in particular being satisfied with a particular management strategy that appeared to have really made a difference for us. We did this thing and our bees looked great. As is often the case, being busy, I hadn't really shopped this idea around. I thought it up by myself using all the skills and knowledge accumulated over a lifetime. Then, at the next coffee shop roundtable discussion, I triumphantly laid it all out in its glory. Across the table someone else commented, "My bees look great, too. But, I didn't do anything to them." I had no good reason to disbelieve this guy, or think that he wasn't telling the truth, other than he is a beekeeper and a fisherman who always seems to catch big fish, or so he says. This whole beekeeping thing is so maddeningly difficult and complex. It is so beguiling to blame some one thing, and think one thing will solve every problem. Of this I am absolutely sure – bees that are not cared for will die with great ease and regularity. You have to do something, but what things? In that respect we are all beginners looking for answers.

The membership of the ABF is growing. The percentage of our members that are small scale is growing. We are serving their needs with our webinars, and other unique benefits of membership, even as we continue our efforts to influence the big picture issues of habitat, pesticides and other government policies. The Serious Sideliner portion of the annual conference is popular and growing in participation. Our East Coast meeting in Hershey will bring many to the ABF that would never consider travelling to the West Coast, and have likely never participated in our governance.

Many longtime members from the West Coast will not travel to Pennsylvania at that time of year. It is going to be a great meeting, but some things will be different. Financially our organization is sound, but not flush. In particular, funding for our legislative activities is not meeting our current, let alone future needs. Our pool of leaders is small and in some ways overtaxed. Burnout needs to be worried about.

Some of our traditional activities keep moving on, but might be outdated in concept and application. The

(continued on page 18)

From the Vice President – Perspectives in Beekeeping

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

Tim Tucker
ABF Vice President

One of the interesting aspects of our human condition in life is time. It seems as we grow older the clock just keeps speeding up each and every month until another year is gone. I remember when I was much younger working for a couple of different companies, it would seem like an eternity for a year to pass to where I had some vacation time. The last month or two seemed to drag on for years. I do believe it was a much simpler world then and there was not as much to attend to. You might have gotten home and had a message or two on the answering machine, but you ignored them and you were off to the YMCA for a game of racquet ball before supper.

Now, because you're a beekeeper, you don't get home until 7:30, and after you fast forward through several TiVo'd shows, you check through 67 e-mails, like and respond to 14 Facebook posts, it's time to go to bed… that is unless it's time to move bees!

It is truly unfortunate that you can't buy time because beekeepers would be great customers. In our occupation there is always this matter of it's time to or it's not time yet to. We have our year segmented into different processes that are always a matter of the day of the month that it is. We send the bees to California, Texas, Maine or North Dakota, all when it's the best time. We order queens and make splits always by the XXth of March or April and treat by this date so we can super up by that one. We learn to follow a methodology that has proven to work based on timing and we are apparent servants of our calendars.

As this year of 2012 draws to an end, it is time for reflection and evaluation. I have to say that it has been a wonderful year working with our staff at Meeting Expectations and this group of officers and volunteers that have worked very hard to keep the ABF moving forward. It has been a pleasure to work with our president, George Hansen, and get to know him even better this year. There have been some great strides made in ensuring our future and building on work that has been done by our previous presidents. George is working on some changes that will better our system of selecting officers and make it more representative of the entire membership.

The industry, under his leadership, gathered together for an important meeting on the standard of identity for honey in Las Vegas, where all of the major honey packers were present. We have begun a process for more contact this year with the states delegates that will hopefully better establish lines of communication between activities going on at the national level and the states and local organizations. It is our intention that this constant contact and flow of information will grow in the coming years.

We started the year with a membership education series of webinars that will continue opportunities for beekeepers of all levels of skill. Just one of these monthly programs is worth the price of a membership for a small scale or sideline beekeeper.

The ABF, through its representation on the National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB), has supported an open dialogue with the EPA and the USDA through planning meetings this year that will help ensure that our bees are protected in regard to pesticides and that we have a voice when our bees are poisoned. I have had a great year getting to know and discuss topics with beekeepers from around the country in regard to the NHBAB and in traveling to several other states to meet people who I had heard of for years. I now have a face and an impression to go with the name.

We have gotten the Friends of the Bees moving in the right direction with our first research funding project, which will hopefully be chosen soon. Several research proposals have been submitted and I think we are close to selecting a project. Look for a new item coming out from the Friends of the Bee at the Hershey conference in January. It's an idea that we hope will really move this fund raising entity forward, as well.

We can talk of the work that Queen Alyssa and Princess Danielle have done this year, marketing honey for each and every one of you around the country. They have really racked up the frequent flyer miles! I hope to just keep

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Government Relations Update

by George Hansen, ABF President

While the Farm Bill stagnates in the lame duck session, the ABF is continuing a push to improve honey bee habitat on federal lands and conservation projects. Below is a portion of the letter being circulated for sign on from farm and conservation stakeholders. By the time you are reading this, perhaps the Farm Bill will have gotten legs. Certainly the list of organizations signing on this letter will have grown. Currently, the AHPA, NAPPC and Ducks Unlimited have joined us. You can definitely help in this effort by making your legislators aware of this issue and by asking for their support.

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Request for Actions to Increase Forage for Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The undersigned organizations recognize the urgent need to develop substantial habitat and forage for honey bees and other pollinators in the United States. We encourage you to strengthen USDA's commitment to habitat and forage for honey bees and other pollinators through conservation policies and programs.

It is in the economic interest of agricultural producers and the American public to ensure a healthy, sustainable population of honey bees and native pollinators. Pollinators are essential to the production of an estimated one third of the human diet and to the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. Insect-pollinated agricultural commodities result in significant income for agricultural producers and account for $20 billion in U.S. agricultural output yearly.

Critical habitat loss has presented a major challenge to honey bee health and colony numbers in recent years, posing a substantial threat to the pollination of our food supply. Honey bees, the pollinating "work horse" of modern agriculture, require a rich supply of nectar and pollen from blooming trees, shrubs and plants in order to thrive. Changes in farming practices, wide scale agricultural herbicide usage, urban sprawl, aggressive weed control measures, and altered land management policies have each significantly reduced the amount of sustainable habitat available for honey bees and other pollinators.

We recommend and support actions to focus on the following priority areas:

- Encourage maximum participation in conservation programs, continuing to work toward acreage goals outlined in the Farm Bill.
- Establish and maintain the maximum amount of habitat possible on the ground available. Protecting existing pollinator habitat and encouraging the establishment of new habitat should be a priority in all conservation programs and allowable management practices, including haying, grazing and weed control.
- Establish affordable pollinator-friendly seed mixes, including non-native legumes, which have been widely used in agriculture, at the larger scale needed for honey bees, to encourage wider use of such mixes on conservation lands and for cover crops.
- Offer cost-share assistance and incentives through EQIP and other programs to encourage larger-scale, pollinator-friendly plantings.
- Strengthen policies and programs to allow and encourage access for the placement of bee hives on CRP land, other ag conservation lands and federal lands.

We stand ready to work with USDA to achieve increased habitat and forage for honey bees and other pollinators.

Sincerely,
American Beekeeping Federation

If you believe that the ABF is heading in the right direction, please show your support with a donation to the ABF Legislative Fund. We must energize beekeepers to come together to work collaboratively on the many challenges that we face. You can donate online at www.abfnet.org or send your contribution to the ABF at 3525 Piedmont Road Building Five, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30305. Thank you for your contribution!

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 ❑ American Express ❑ Discover ❑ Check *(made payable to the ABF Legislative Fund)*

Credit Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Cardholder Billing Address: _____

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 September and October 2012. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

2JFarms, Texas
Walter Blohm, N.Y.
David Boise, N.Y.
Gene Brandi, Calif.
Craig Byer, N.Y.
Leslie Cantu, Fla.
Cary's Honey Farms, Calif.
Chadwick Bee Supply, N.H.
CSBA Ladies Auxiliary, Calif.
Jordan Dimock, Ore.
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Albert Gibson, N.M.
David Hackenberg, Pa.
Margie Haley, Texas
George Hansen, Ore.
John Hansen, Ill.
Eve Hardin, Ind.
Tony Hogg, Fla.
Edwin and Elaine Holcombe, Tenn.
Edward Karle, Mass.
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Jerome Kern, Minn.
Jonathan King, S.C.
Michael Kliks, Hawaii
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Richard Ramsey, Ill.
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Valeri Severson, Calif.
Peter Sliwka, Pa.
Fred Smith, Md.
Fawad Tabbsum, Ohio
Laurence Winter, N.Y.
W.T. Wilson, Utah

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.

2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

Shared Interest Groups Tentative Schedules (January 9, 2013)

Honey Producer/Packer SIG Agenda (Leaders: Dr. Joe Carson and Blake Shook)	
1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	Insights into Honey Bee Nutrition – Ramesh Sagili, Ph.D., Oregon State University
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	Queen Bee Situation in North American – Pat Heitkam
2:50 PM – 3:30 PM	Advances in HopGuard Application – Fabiana Ahumada, AgScience Consulting, LLC
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Break

Commercial SIG Agenda (Leaders: Jim Doan and Mario Jakob)	
1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	Pesticides - Mary Ann Frazier
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	Bee Reported Losses – Tom Steeger, EPA
2:50 PM – 3:30 PM	Food Safety – Speaker TBD
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Break

Small Scale/Sideliner SIG Agenda (Leaders: Charles Lorence and Becky Jones)	
1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	Hershey Lodge Honey Bees – Tom Moran, Sous Chef, Hershey Lodge
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	Hobbyist/Sideliner Marketing – Charlie Vorisek, President, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association
2:50 PM – 3:30 PM	Better Queens, Better Colonies – David Tarpy, Assistant Professor of Entomology and Extension Apiculturist, North Carolina State University
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Break

Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG Agenda (Leaders: A.J. Howery and Dr. Malcolm Sanford)	
1:30 PM – 2:10 PM	Principles of Breeding and How Workers Make Queens – Dr. Rob Page, Foundation Professor and Vice Provost and Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	Selecting the Bees that Bite Mites – Greg Hunt, Purdue University
2:50 PM – 3:30 PM	Queen Rearing & Selection Methods, Using the KISS Principle – Sue Cobey
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Break

Commercial/Package Bee & Queen Breeders Joint SIG Agenda	
4:15 PM – 4:55 PM	Russian Bees – Manley Bigalk
4:55 PM – 5:35 PM	Pending
5:35 PM	Adjourn

Honey Producer/Packer & Small Scale/Sideliner Joint SIG Agenda	
4:15 PM – 4:55 PM	The Importance of Drones – Dr. Larry Connor, Wicwas Press Owner, Author and Lecturer
4:55 PM – 5:35 PM	Current Trends for our Retail Market – Shane Gebauer, Brushy Mountain
5:35 PM	Adjourn

2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

Serious Sideliner Symposium Tentative Schedule

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

Thursday, January 10, 2013	
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome and Intros – Larry Connor, Symposium Coordinator
THE BEE BIZ	
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	$500 per Hive per Year – Greg Hanniford, OK
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Our Pollination Business – Ted and Becky Jones, CT
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Chasing Honey 101 – Tim Steward, NJ
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Overview: The Honey House – Blake Shook, TX
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	New Products – Rich Wieske, MI
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch (on your own)
INTEGRATING NUCLEUS COLONIES INTO AN OPERATION	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	The Nuc is the Future – Mike Palmer, VT
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Why Local Nucs? – Jim Heskell, VA
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Urban Nucs – Steve Repasky, PA
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Growth Through Nucs – Sheldon Schwitek, MI
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Scientific Considerations of Queens in Nucs – Dave Tarpy, NC
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Questions
BEVERAGE TASTING	
7:00 PM	Brewing with Honey (all are invited to contribute) – Gary Reuter
Friday, January 11, 2013	
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome and Intros – Larry Connor, Symposium Coordinator
THE QUEEN OF WE	
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Overview: Queen Rearing – Larry Connor, MI
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Club Queen Apiary – Leslie Houston, CT
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Queen Programs in Ontario – Les Eccles, ONT
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Raising Reproductively Healthy Queens – Devan Rawn, ONT
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Swarm Management – Steve Repasky, PA
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch (on your own)
IMPROVING THE LIFE OF THE SMALL-SCALE BEEKEEPER	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Overview: Mite Control – Dewey Caron, OR
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Bee Wellness Training – Pat Bono, NY
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Alternative Hives – Sam Comfort
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Beeswax Production Operation – Ginny Reuter, MN
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Questions

2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

Interactive Workshops Schedule (January 12, 2013)

Room	Time	Session
Trinidad	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Bee Disease Identification – Randy Oliver
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Commercial Mite Management without Synthetic Miticides – Randy Oliver
Wild Rose A & B	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Apitherapy – Speaker TBD
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Apitherapy – Speaker TBD
Cocoa 2 & 3	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Hosting Apimondia: Can We Bring it to the U.S.? – Dave Mendes and Tim Tucker
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Panel on Zoning Issues with Residential Beekeeping – Panel: Eli Glick and Charlie Breinig, Pennsylvania beekeepers; Facilitated by David Westervelt, Florida Department of Agriculture
Aztec	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Cooking with the Hershey Lodge Chef
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cooking with the Hershey Lodge Chef
Crystal A	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Urban Beekeeping: Community Hives, Neighbors, Swarms, Rooftops and Hyper-Local Honey – Panel: Adam Schreiber, Philadelphia; Steve Repasky, Pittsburgh; Facilitated by Jim Bobb
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Alternative Hives: Beeyond the Box – Sam Comfort
Magnolia A & B	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Beeswax. It's Not Just for Candles Anymore – Ginger Reuter
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Urban Beekeeping: Part Two – Panel: Gary Reuter, Mary Kettlewell, Jim Belli and Others; Facilitated by Charles Lorence
Cocoa 1	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Pollination and Transportation – George Hansen and Blake Shook
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Making Creams and Lip Balms with Beeswax – Grace Crawford
Magnolia C	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Keeping Russian Bees – Virginia and Carl Webb
	10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Instrumental Insemination of Queen Bees – Sue Cobey

2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Registration Rates*

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

- American Beekeeping Federation (ABF)
- Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA)
- Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA)
- National Honey Packers and Dealers Association (NHPDA)

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	REGULAR *(ends 11:59 PM EST on 12/12/12)*	ONSITE *(after 12/12/12)*
Family (Member)	$395.00	$445.00
Family (Non-Member)	$445.00	$495.00
Single Person (Member)	$285.00	$335.00
Single Person (Non-Member)	$335.00	$385.00
One-Day/One Person (Member)	$185.00	$235.00
One-Day/One Person (Non-Member)	$235.00	$285.00
One-Day/Family (Member)	$295.00	$345.00
One-Day/Family (Non-Member)	$345.00	$395.00

Note: Non-member rates include a one-year membership to the American Beekeeping Federation.

Family is defined as two adults. Children under 18 years of age admitted free.

2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Exhibitors

(as of 11/27/12)

A&O Forklift
Beekeeping Insurance Services
Betterbee
Bee Ranchers Supply
Blue Sky Bee Supply
Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Central Life Sciences
Combcapper
Cook & Beals
Country Rubes
Cowen Manufacturing
Dadant & Sons
Eco Hive Solutions Co.
Gamber Container
GloryBee Foods
Hive Sensors
Jester Bee Co.
KB Farms
Lebermuth
Mann Lake Ltd.
Mayflower E&T
Millerbees Mfg.
MISCO Refractometer
NMC-Wollard, Inc.
NOD
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2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Can't Miss Activities

2013 American Honey Show

The 2013 American Honey Show, which will be held on Wednesday afternoon when official judging will take place, will showcase the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes 12 classes for honey, four for beeswax and the gift basket class. After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.

ABF Auxiliary

The ABF Auxiliary plays a big role in the annual conference. From raising funds to support the Auxiliary and ABF programs to providing decorations for the annual banquet, the auxiliary is busy assisting in the success of the conference. The Auxiliary breakfast and meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Separate registration is required. Be sure to visit the Auxiliary table at the conference to purchase bee-motif items and learn more about their role.

ABF Silent Auction

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

Cookies & Entertainment with the Honey Queen Candidates and Quiz Bowl

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

Thursday Evening Social Activity

Join us on Thursday evening at the Hershey Lodge for a fun, friendly and hilarious night designed to help you get to know your fellow beekeepers a little better. We'll have dinner and a cash bar followed by interactive entertainment. This is your chance to relax, unwind and show your comedic side. With a little help from the professional comedian, you may be the star of the show. Separate registration fee is required.

Friday Morning Breakfast

Welcome to Pennsylvania! Dutch Gold Honey and Gamber Container of Lancaster, Pa., invite all ABF attendees to a buffet breakfast on Friday, January 11, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Hershey Lodge.

Sunday Beekeeping Fieldtrip

Interested in visiting a commercial bee farm (or two)? Curious to see how the "big guys" do it? We have just the opportunity for you. On Sunday, January 13, following the conference, we have organized a visit to Brushy Mountain Bee Farm and Hackenberg Apiaries (approximately 1-1/2 hours from the Hershey Lodge). From pollination to trucking to honey products, you'll be able to see first-hand the magnitude of running a commercial business. Along the way, we will stop for a hearty, country-cooked meal at the Country Cupboard Restaurant. We anticipate a full day for this adventure (10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), so please plan accordingly. Separate registration fee is required.

Call for Entries for the 2013 American Honey Show

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2013 American Honey Show. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies. For the official show rules/regulations and entry form, please visit the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com. For additional information, please contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875 or via e-mail at info@abfnet.org.

Foundation Awards Scholarships to Six Student Researchers

By Troy Fore, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees

Six young scientists studying apiculture will attend the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow and present their research, thanks to scholarships awarded by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. The $2,000 awards will enable the graduate students to meet other honey bee researchers and the people in the industry they hope to serve.

Erin Ingram is a master's degree student in Entomology at the University of Nebraska, advised by Dr. Marion Ellis. She is using new video tracking software to evaluate sublethal effects of pesticide exposure to honey bees. This research is important because the EPA does not take sublethal effects into consideration in their risk assessments of pesticides. Video tracking could be a cost-effective screening method for sublethal effects following pesticide exposure.

Kaira Wagoner is a Ph.D. student in Environmental Health Science at the University of Greensboro in North Carolina, advised by Dr. Olav Ruepell. She is investigating potential brood communication signals that adult bees may use to detect Varroa-infested brood and initiate hygienic behavior. She also is exploring if a bee's exposure to mites as a pupa increases its ability to recognize mite-infested brood signals as an adult bee. This research could lead to more specific field assays for hygienic behavior to assist in bee breeding for mite resistance.

Holly Holt is a Ph.D. student in Entomology at Penn State University, advised by Dr. Christina Grozinger. She is studying molecular, physiological and behavioral changes in bees after infection with disease. She has identified candidate genes that may signal disease status of bees to nestmates. She also is investigating how Nosema disease alters nutritional and hormonal metabolic pathways in adult workers and drones, and the effectiveness of RNAi to disrupt Nosema infection. These basic studies will help us understand how diseased bees can impact the stability and productivity of colonies.

Simone Tosi is Ph.D. student in Environmental and Food Science Technology at the Agricultural Research Council and University of Bologna, Italy, advised by Dr. Piotr Medrzcki. He is studying the synergistic effects of pesticides, nutrition and disease. His preliminary findings indicate that bees fed pollen from sites of high agricultural intensity have increased mortality and increased susceptibility to pesticides and Nosema compared to bees fed pollen from more natural areas. He is also studying the effects of brood nest temperature on toxicity to pesticides to inform risk assessments.

Mike Goblirsch is a Ph.D. student in Entomology at the University of Minnesota, advised by Dr. Marla Spivak. Mike studies how Nosema disease affects behavioral development and foraging in bees. He also is developing a honey bee cell culture system as a tool to study intracellular pathogens, such as viruses and Nosema, and how toxicological agents, such as pesticides, affect honey bees. Having an established honey bee cell line will allow researchers to develop diagnostic assays and test novel therapeutics against emerging bee diseases.

Zhiguo Li is a Ph.D. student in the Bee Research Laboratory at Zhejiang University in China. He will be spending 15 months conducting research as a visiting scientist in the USDA-ARS Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, Maryland, under the supervision of Dr. Judy Chen. He is researching the effects of Israeli Acute Paralysis virus on foraging behavior of bees. His preliminary results indicate that IAPV-infected bees do not return to the hive, which helps explain how this virus affects honey bee health.

The scholarships are funded by donations the Foundation receives from the industry.
For more information on the Foundation, see www.honeybeepreserveration.org.

Think Outside the Bee Box This Holiday Season!

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

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Foundation Donations

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

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Queen Committee Report

by Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

It's hard to believe that the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference in Hershey is just around the corner! It feels like yesterday that we were enjoying the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas. Since Las Vegas, our American Honey Queen and Princess have worked tirelessly for the ABF, and we are eager to share the results of their efforts during the conference and to welcome the 2013 American Honey Queen candidates! This year will mark the announcement of the 55th representatives from the American Honey Queen program.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that we have four candidates for the 2013 American Honey Queen and Princess positions. You can find their bios and photos on page 16. The American Honey Queen Committee is pleased to host these women at the conference. I thank them for their willingness to continue to represent their state at our conference.

The committee invites all conference attendees and guests to attend the various Honey Queen activities in Hershey. On Wednesday evening, the Queens will welcome conference attendees to the sweet city of Hershey with a dessert reception. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample the Auxiliary honey cookie contest entries, enjoy other dessert offerings, view the Queens' scrapbooks and catch up with your friends. Enjoy an entertaining quiz bowl and cheer on our candidates as we test their knowledge of the beekeeping industry! This event is open to all conference attendees.

The candidates will give presentations to the ABF Auxiliary members and guests on Thursday morning. These presentations give members (and the judges) an opportunity to see the candidates' presentation skills and creativity. This year, each candidate must give a three-minute presentation on the topic of "The Versatility of Honey." As promoters of honey, this presentation will allow candidates to explain, promote and celebrate honey in any presentation format they wish. At this meeting, Queen Alyssa and Princess Danielle will give insight on their travels this year and provide attendees with new and creative promotion ideas.

To show your support of the Queen Program, we encourage members to attend (and bid) at one of our auctions during the conference. You can also show your support by showing off your honey and beeswax in the American Honey Show. All auction proceeds from this annual event benefit the Queen Program. It is your opportunity to take home the best-in-the-nation honey to share with your family and friends. You can also support the Queen program by purchasing a raffle ticket for a beautiful handmade quilt, created by Karen Lorence of Illinois. Tickets may be purchased in advance or throughout the conference from Alyssa, Danielle or one of the state candidates. Even if you can't make it to the conference, you can purchase a raffle ticket through the Queens or you may contact me to place an order.

The Honey Queen and Princess will sell tickets for a beautiful quilt at the Hershey conference. Please contact Anna Kettlewell to purchase a ticket in advance.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Quiz Bowl auction or to the program itself, please contact me or see me at the conference. If you have an item to donate to the Quiz Bowl auction, but cannot attend the conference, please contact ABF's conference planner, Tara Zeravsky, at 404.760.8194 to obtain shipment information.

Alyssa and Danielle will continue to be busy with promotions right up to the conference in Hershey with a visit to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. While their schedules are full for the rest of the year, I encourage you to contact me at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to provide me with dates and details for promotions for our 2013 representatives. Thank you to those who have already submitted their 2013 requests. We look forward to an excellent Hershey conference and a successful 2013 promotion season!

2013 American Honey Queen Candidates

The 2013 American Honey Queen and Princess will be named during the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Hershey, Pa.

2012 Minnesota Honey Queen Emily Campbell

Emily Campbell is the 19-year-old daughter of Paul and Rebecca Zenke of Aitkin, Minn. She is a hobby beekeeper and freshman at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, where she is pursuing a degree in Animal Science with a Pre-Vet intent. Emily has experience as Region II FFA secretary, 4H camp counselor, 4H club president, Speech Team captain, Business Professionals of America national finalist, and Miss Aitkin Scholarship Pageant-Miss Congeniality. One of her goals is to introduce and manage two hives at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. In her spare time, she enjoys public speaking, beekeeping as a hobby, showing horses, reading, traveling and cooking.

2012 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Jessica Long

Jessica Long is the 21-year-old daughter of Gary and Jennifer Long of Sinking Valley, Pa. She graduated with honors from South Hills School of Business and Technology in 2011 with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration with focus on Marketing. While attending South Hills, she was a student tutor, student ambassador and secretary of Phi Beta Lambda, where she was named a Future Business Leader of America. Jessica is involved with Relay for Life as the Entertainment Committee chair and the team captain of her family's Relay for Life team. She is also very involved with her local fair. In her spare time, she enjoys beekeeping with her father.

2012 Texas Honey Queen Caroline Adams

Caroline Adams is the 19-year-old daughter of Ned and Caryl Adams of Plano, Texas. She began keeping bees six years ago through the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association and has thoroughly enjoyed it ever since. Caroline attends Collin College, where she is working toward her degree in American Sign Language. Besides beekeeping, she enjoys teaching violin and mandolin, playing traditional Irish music, English country dancing, serving at her church, cooking, sewing and spending time with her family.

2012 Wisconsin Honey Queen Sarah Rushfeldt

Sarah Rushfeldt is the 24-year-old daughter of James and Bonnie Rushfeldt of Dresser, Wis. She is studying nursing at Crown College in St. Bonifacious, Minn. Sarah is an active beekeeper with her own apiary of 100 hives and has been keeping bees since she was eight years old. Her hobbies include playing the violin, chess, soccer and traveling.

Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

The following individuals contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the months of October and November 2012. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Craig Byer, N.Y.
- Randolph Furbert, Bermuda
- Travis Habersaat and Kristin Molanda, Texas *(In honor of Sally Roy and Peter Nelson)*
- Edward Karle, Mass.
- Nick Lissaman, Calif.
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- Gus Rouse, Hawaii
- Allan Vehrs, Wis.
- Harlan Vehrs, Wis.
- Mae Vehrs, Wis.
- Harold Wilmerding, N.J.
- W.T. Wilson, Utah

Bee with Us in Hershey
(continued from cover)

select the meetings, workshops and optional activities that are right for you and register online today. And while you are registering for the conference, don't forget to make your hotel reservations at the *Hershey® Lodge* and take advantage of the discounted group rate of $119+tax per night.

With 40+ presentations from industry leaders, 14 interactive workshops and 35+ exhibitors, beekeepers won't want to miss a second of this conference. More conference details can be found on pages 7-11 of this issue. Also visit the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow website today at www.nabeekeepingconference.com for additional conference information and to register.

From the President
(continued from page 3)

potentials and pitfalls make my head spin. We can make lots of small improvements and additions to the current template. Maybe that is all it will take. Then again, are we just getting more stuck? At what point do we see that tinkering around the edges may buy time, but eventually we will need a tractor to get us out? In other words, has the ABF landscape changed enough that we need to look at some new structure? Just changing for the sake of changing won't guarantee success, but if we don't change, will we fail as surely as honey bees without care will fail?

It's a great ride. Hope we don't get stuck.

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!

Beekeeper Education & Engagement System

Welcome to the Beekeeper Education & Engagement System! The BEES network is a new online resource for beekeepers at all levels. The system is entirely internet based and aims to foster *an online learning community among beekeepers*. The structure of the BEES network is broken into three ascending levels of complexity (Beginner, Advanced, and Ambassador) and three general areas of content (honey bee biology, honey bee management, and the honey bee industry).

More information about the program can be found at:
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From the Honey Queen

by Alyssa Fine, 2012 American Honey Queen

Greetings, beekeepers! I cannot believe how quickly this year has passed. This is the last newsletter that I will write as your 2012 American Honey Queen. Based on my packed travel schedule, I anticipate that this final article will be the biggest and the best!

On August 21, I began another leg of traveling. My first stop was Flemington, N.J., where I stayed in the home of Fran and Stan Wasitowski, members of the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NWNJBA). The primary purpose of my visit was to work in the NWNJBA booth at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. The first order of business was to judge the honey show. I worked with Tim Schuler, state apiarist, to test the moisture levels of the honey entries using a refractometer. I spent time around the observation hive in the honey sales booth, answering questions about honey bees and beekeeping with other beekeepers. Many fairgoers are drawn to the booth to see the observation hive, but the crowd really comes over whenever a beekeeper enters the booth specially designed for open hive demonstrations. I assisted with these demonstrations, narrating the activity in the hive and answering questions from the audience.

There were many diverse media opportunities at this fair. Articles about my visit appeared in the local newspaper, plus I interviewed with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce for both their online radio station and their YouTube page. I also had a chance to give an interview with Kevin Inglin, webmaster for the NWNJBA website. You can view those videos on the American Honey Queen Program's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/AmericanHoneyQueen.

I was given some time to do some sightseeing while in the area, so on August 23, NWNJBA beekeeper Karin Weinberg accompanied me on a trip to New York City. I quickly contacted representatives from the NYC Beekeepers Association to request a tour of a rooftop apiary. Karin and I decided to try our luck at the Waldorf-Astoria, inquiring at the concierge desk if there was any vantage point of the hives in the hotel. A few phone calls later, I was given the go ahead to visit the rooftop apiary along with the hotel PR manager and executive chef David Garcelon. Those six hives, installed in mid-April, have the best view of the entire city. What an incredible opportunity!

My next stop was Minneapolis on August 26 where I stayed with hosts Cathy and Darrel Rufer. The primary purpose of my trip was to attend the Minnesota State Fair, where I worked with members of the Minnesota Honey Producers Association in the bees and honey portion of the Agriculture/Horticulture Building. I worked with Emily Campbell, 2012 Minnesota Honey Queen, to promote honey bees and beekeeping throughout the fair. We gave daily cooking demonstrations on the kitchen stage, using fresh, local honey extracted during daily honey extraction demonstrations on the same stage. We spent time in the honey sales booth, answering questions about honey and giving samples of varietal honeys from Minnesota and stood near the judged honey displays, giving brief presentations to the crowds that gathered around the many observation hives.

One of the most unique parts of this fair was the time spent at the FFA Stage. Every other day, Emily and I were invited to give a variety of interactive demonstrations. One afternoon, we distributed honey ice cream samples while answering the audience's questions about honey bees and beekeeping. On another occasion, we invited children to the stage to roll beeswax candles and look into an observation hive. A few times we provided a mason jar filled with heavy cream, passing it through the audience to be shaken into fresh butter.

I had a variety of incredible media opportunities during the fair. Emily and I were featured on a WCCO TV-4 television segment, and we appeared on KARE 11. We had a 10-minute interview on a radio station with 23 affiliate stations throughout the region, and we received a mention on Minnesota Public Radio, as well. In total, I generated over $23,400 of free media advertising on this trip, bringing me just over my yearly goal of $100,000!

On September 5, I began a promotion in the Redding, Calif., region as part of the Palo Cedro Honey Bee Festival. I stayed with hosts Pat and Bonnie Stayer and attended events scheduled by sponsors Shannon and Glenda Wooten. I visited five schools giving six presentations to 330 students. I participated in multiple radio interviews to encourage members of the community to attend the event. I gave six interviews, which were broadcast over seven stations, generating $6,760 of free advertising. One of the radio station interviews lasted nearly an hour, as Shasta Beekeeper Amanda Brewer and I spoke about

many aspects of the beekeeping industry. Palo Cedro can easily be considered the queen rearing capital of the United States, shipping over 125,000 queens in 2011 and generating millions of dollars in the local economy.

The main reason for my visit was to work at the Palo Cedro Honey Bee Festival. A busy weekend at this event can draw over 7,000 in attendance from the community. I worked at the Shasta Beekeepers Association booth to sell honey and answer questions near the observation hive. I also assisted with live bee-beard demonstrations, narrating the process and fielding questions from the audience. After much pleading, I was allowed to wear a beard myself on the last day. It was expertly applied by Shannon and Glenda, much to the delight of the crowd.

Queen Alyssa shows a frame of brood at the Honey Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association.

Next, I traveled to Hutchinson, Kan., on September 10 to stay with the Schmied family and work at the Kansas State Fair. I spent the week working alongside members of the Kansas Honey Producers Association (KHPA) at their booth teaching the public about honey bees and selling local honey and beeswax products. Many fairgoers were intrigued by the four-frame observation hive, and they had plenty of questions about the honey bees inside of it. There were a variety of honey products available, including flavored creamed honeys and a unique garlic-infused honey. Honey sticks were extremely popular with all ages, as always.

A few celebrities dropped past the booth during the week. ABF Vice President Tim Tucker stopped by to visit and observe my work. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback visited the Pride of Kansas Building and paused for a photograph with me. Jerry and Debbie Brown, owners of RevHoney, came by to drop off some products, and I briefly interviewed Debbie about the honey health drink that she helped to develop. You can find this interview online at the American Honey Queen Program YouTube page. Most interestingly, the KHPA booth was visited by a robot named Oscar. I met Oscar at the Florida State Fair this spring, and he was more than happy to continue our conversation about honey bees at the Kansas State Fair, too. As a life-sized animatronics robot, Oscar attracts plenty of attention, especially from children. Oscar prompted conversation with me around the observation hive, and together we worked to educate an entire audience about the importance of honey bees.

My next stop on September 17 took me to Yakima, Wash., where the Central Washington Beekeepers Association (CWBA) coordinated my activities for the week. I stayed with two host families during my visit – the Panattonis and the Jackmans. During my 12-day visit, I promoted extensively throughout the region while attending the Central Washington State Fair in the afternoons and evenings. Originally, I had been scheduled to attend a few local schools, but word quickly spread that I was in the area, and I began to receive requests for school presentations. By the end of my visit, I had visited 10 schools, where I gave 17 presentations to a total of 1,400 students. At the fair, I worked at the CWBA booth to sell honey, answer questions and assist with any demonstrations. I gave seven cooking demonstrations, making smoothies, honey salad dressings and even honey butter melted over fresh popcorn. Of course, my favorite was a beeswax lotion making demonstration with free take-home samples!

I had plenty of media opportunities during this visit. I gave three radio interviews with a local station, valued at $2,400. I also had an interview with a television host who asked me questions about the CWBA's upcoming screening of the "Vanishing of the Bees" documentary. This event provided a fantastic chance to meet some of

(continued on page 22)

From the Honey Queen
(continued from page 21)

the internationally renowned beekeepers, scientists and researchers behind the film as they would all be attending a post-screening banquet and conference.

My next stop was Baltimore, Md., where I attended a weekend event September 29-30. I stayed with the Williamson family while I worked at the nearby Oregon Ridge Nature Center during the annual Honey Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association. I helped out wherever I was needed during this event, including at the registration table, near the indoor permanent observation hive, or giving honey extraction demonstrations or open-hive demonstrations.

After a brief visit home, I set out on October 4 to attend the Fryeburg Fair in Fryeburg, Maine, where I stayed with hosts Carol and James Cottrill. During my visit, I worked in the Garden Center at the Western Maine Beekeepers Association booth, a booth primarily geared toward education. I answered questions about honey bees and beekeeping, and pointed out the queen in the observation hive. There were a total of four observation hives scattered around different locations on the fairgrounds, and I occasionally visited these other hives to work with some other beekeepers at the fair.

On October 10, I traveled to Perry, Ga., to stay with Kim and Morrison Guidry while I attended the Georgia National Fair. Payne organized a visit to Fort Valley State University where I gave a presentation to faculty and staff titled, "The Economic Impact of Honey Bees in the State of Georgia." I also spoke at a University of Georgia Cooperate Extension office about the benefits and ease of incorporating honey into an everyday diet. I also visited a private school where I gave a presentation to over 175 students and teachers. I met with City of Perry Mayor Jimmy Faircloth and members of City Council to discuss an upcoming ordinance concerning beekeeping within city limits. I spoke to these legislators primarily as an ambassador for the industry, telling them about the benefits of having honey bees in a neighborhood setting, mostly for increased pollination. I am happy to say that the ordinance protecting backyard beekeepers has recently passed and the City of Perry is now bee friendly!

Most evenings, I visited the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association booth at the Georgia National Fair where I worked mainly with the McCurdy family to sell honey and answer questions. I had the opportunity to attend the state's 4-H Challenge Bowl on the grounds because one of the question topics this year was beekeeping. The students used me as a last-minute resource and study guide prior to their competition. One evening, I was approached by a field producer for RFD-TV, a national agricultural television network, and she asked me to film a brief promotional commercial for the network. She also expressed an interest in producing a honey bee segment in the future!

On October 14, I traveled to Billings, Mt., to stay with hosts Patty and Lance Sundberg to attend the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE). I spent three days at the NILE teaching as part of the Agriculture Education program. Each day, busloads of fourth grade students came to the NILE to hear a variety of speakers. On average, I had fewer than 10 minutes with each group of students. In that time, I gave a brief information-packed presentation about honey bees, answered questions and gave the students time to look into the observation hive. I gave 57 presentations, reaching 2,000 students during the three-day event. The Sundbergs and I traveled to Bozeman to attend the Montana State Beekeepers Association annual convention later in the week. I was the first speaker on the schedule, so I told the beekeepers in attendance more about the American Honey Queen Program and the type of work I do throughout the United States. I helped out at the convention, including working the auction at the banquet on the last evening.

On October 20, I traveled to Pasadena, Texas, for the evening to attend the annual banquet for the Harris County Beekeepers Association. I stayed in the home of Ed and Elaine Michalik along with Texas Honey Queen Caroline Adams. We both gave presentations during the banquet; I spoke about my role as American Honey Queen and the way it serves beekeepers nationwide. Caroline and I assisted with the auction in the evening, all proceeds benefitting a youth beekeeping scholarship program in the county.

I'll still travel through the end of the year, with upcoming stops in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Quebec, New York and Illinois. It's been a tremendously busy year for me, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the ABF nationwide. Thank you to all the beekeepers who have supported the American Honey Queen Program, whether through donations or by offering time to organize an event or promotion. I am so grateful for the chance to serve you throughout the United States. I look forward to seeing you at the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Hershey, Pa., in January!

From the Honey Princess

by Danielle Dale, 2012 American Honey Princess

As the leaves quickly change color to shades of red and yellow, we enter into my favorite season, fall. These past months have brought me on a whirlwind tour across the United States and have given me memories and experiences that I will never forget.

August 22-26 brought me to Parkersburg, W.V., for the annual West Virginia Honey Festival. I had five media interviews, including TV, newspaper, and radio, which generated approximately $5,760 in free publicity for the industry. I addressed the Wood County Commissioners, speaking to elected officials about the importance of honey bee pollination to West Virginia and to the United States. I presented at the Parkersburg Farmers Market and to a retirement home, encouraging people to attend the Honey Festival. I had a great new experience with a store promotion at Foodland Super Market, making and passing out Honey Crispies. Having the Honey Queen promote your event through media, store promotions, and civic groups encourages more people to come and gets them excited. The festival itself was a big success and attracted nearly 5,000 visitors! Throughout the festival, I kept busy doing cooking demonstrations, I was an emcee for special events and talked honey bees with attendees. Thank you to Tom Riddle and Linda Walker for arranging my visit!

Princess Danielle was interviewed by TV channel YNN at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

The New York State Fair in Syracuse brought the month of August to an exciting close. I worked with the Empire State Honey Producers Association in their exhibit. Most of my time was spent distributing honey samples to fairgoers, giving presentations and working at the observation hive. I had the opportunity to speak with the New York Commissioner of Agriculture, Darrel Aubertine. I had a four-minute television interview with YNN, reaching over 500,000 people. Many people visited me to talk more about beekeeping or to buy honey because they saw my interview; this is proof that reaching over 500,000 people is effective advertising! I also presented to a group of 22 Girl Scouts, and to help them get their cooking badge, we made Honey Punch and a Honey Snack. I thank Pat Bono and the Empire State Honey Producers Association for arranging my visit, and Sharon and Jack Gramlich for being fantastic hosts while I was in New York.

National Honey Month began with a trip to the Maryland State Fair. Over Labor Day weekend, I worked with the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association promoting several varieties of honey from Maryland and the United States. This association does a fantastic job of getting people to fall in love with honey by providing samples of light and dark honeys for them to try, and they have created a huge customer base of people continuing to come back to the fair just for honey year after year! I also dipped beeswax candles for the fairgoers to see, while I talked to them about the benefits of using the candles. I worked at a display, which showed people how honey contributes to wellness inside and out. I thank Lloyd and Ruth Ann Snyder for being wonderful hosts for the weekend and members of the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association.

(continued on page 24)

From the Honey Princess
(continued from page 23)

My next stop was Ohio to promote the Lithopolis Honeyfest. I had a 10-minute interview on "Fairfield Today" in Lancaster and an interview on WFCO 90.9 FM. During both interviews, I encouraged people to come to the honey festival, and talked about the importance of honey bee pollination. In anticipation for the festival, I had several promotions in the area. I gave seven presentations to over 400 students, visited two civic groups and spoke to a 4-H club. The 4-H club had been considering beekeeping as a project, and having me give a presentation encouraged the students to start their new endeavor. I also had an interview on Fox 28 TV Good Day Columbus, which gave me a new experience applying a bee beard to Arnold Crabtree on live television. The day of the festival finally arrived, and over 9,000 people came out to celebrate honey bees. I kept busy throughout my day talking to visitors, I emceed the musical acts and judged the honey bakeoff. My favorite part of the day came later in the afternoon when it was my turn to do a bee beard! Arnold Crabtree and Barry Conrad applied the bees to my face as a huge crowd gathered to watch. I would like to thank my wonderful hostess, Anne Blackwell, and Carmen Conrad and Ginger Brenning for arranging my visit!

Next, I flew to Washington for two weeks of promotions. From September 9-16, I was in the Kennewick area for a week of school and civic group promotions with the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association. I gave 12 presentations in four schools. I had the opportunity to give PowerPoint presentations to science class students at a high school to show students that some beekeepers are migratory, and they may move their bees from one part of the country to another for pollination. I spoke to the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association about my travels and promotions up to date. I also spoke to several civic groups throughout the week, including a Kiwanis Club and retirement homes. Another highlight was my two radio interviews. The first was four minutes on KONA 610 AM, and the other was a weekly garden show on KFLD 870 AM. Throughout the 45-minute garden show, I extensively spoke about the importance of honey bee pollination to gardens and the major fruit crops in Washington. The show also took call-ins from the over 400,000 listeners; I answered questions ranging from the equipment that beekeepers use to how to start a hive. I thank David White and this very active beekeeping organization for arranging my promotions, and Lu Weese for being my hostess for the week!

My next week was spent at the Puyallup Fair in the Seattle area, September 16-23. The Pierce County Beekeepers Association does a wonderful job of promoting and educating at their booth. Their booth included two observation hives, a wall of educational posters, and informational pamphlets for people to take and learn more. I also had a three-minute radio interview on KKOL 1300AM. The radio station was focusing on entrepreneurship and business that day, and we spent much of the interview talking about the business aspect of beekeeping. I took time away from the fair one day to give a presentation to 25 middle school students in a cooking class. I thank John Timmons for inviting me to promote at the Puyallup Fair, along with Jeremy and Kathy Jackson for being fantastic hosts.

Princess Danielle hands out honey samples at the first annual Arizona Honey Festival in Scottsdale.

The first annual Arizona Honey Festival and warm weather welcomed me to the Southwest, September 23-

30. I spent the week promoting Arizona Honey Festival in Scottsdale. It was exciting to stay and promote with 1997 American Honey Queen, Emily (Anderson) Brown! I visited two schools and a retirement home, and encouraged people to come to the festival through two TV interviews on Fox News 10 and Good Morning Arizona in Phoenix. Throughout the interviews, Emily and I gave honey bees a positive image because of the overwhelming concern of Africanized bees. Over 5,000 people came to this two-day festival, where I gave presentations, rolled beeswax candles and sold honey with Emily. I extend my thanks to Emily for inviting me to this fantastic event!

From Arizona, I travelled to cooler weather in Massachusetts for the Topsfield Fair, and I spent the week working with the Essex County Beekeepers Association in their amazing bee building. Their building included honey for sale, displays of honey and beeswax products, four observation hives and beeswax candle rolling. During most days at the fair, the building was so packed with people that you couldn't easily walk from one end of the building to the other! My favorite part of the building was the candle rolling table. We rolled nearly 12,000 candles during my time at the fair for $1 per candle. During two mornings at the fair, busloads of students from local schools came to the fair as an excellent educational opportunity to learn more about agriculture. I spent time giving presentations to nearly 100 students. One morning of the fair, I had one of the biggest surprises of my 80-day trip. I walked into the bee building and there stood five former American Honey Queens and Princesses. I stood in the doorway wide-eyed and speechless, and soon realized that they had secretly planned a Honey Queen/Princess reunion at the fair. I thank Pete and Chris Delaney for arranging my visit and the members of the Essex County Beekeepers Association for allowing me to be a part of such a successful promotion!

My next stop brought me to the home of the 2008 American Honey Princess, Rachel Bryson, and the 2011 American Honey Queen, Teresa Bryson, October 8-14. Rachel arranged week of school and civic group presentations in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. Throughout the week, I gave 22 presentations to 1,900 students. At one high school, I gave presentations to agriculture classes and encouraged the students to apply for a scholarship that a local beekeeping club was offering to two teenagers. By the end of the day, several students decided that they wanted to apply for the scholarship. I also spoke at the Franklin County Beekeepers Association about my promotions up to date, and encouraged members to make the short trip to Hershey in January for the ABF conference. I also attended a fall festival in the Harrisburg area, where Rachel and I had a booth of beekeeping equipment, pictures and brochures and talked to families about the industry. Thank you to the Bryson family for being wonderful hosts and special thanks to Rachel for arranging my events.

I was welcomed to Texas with famous southern hospitality for the State Fair, October 19-21. The focus of my trip to the fair was to show the public the many great ways you can cook with honey through cooking demonstrations. I gave six cooking demonstrations throughout the weekend in the Food and Fiber building. It was a pleasure to work with Texas Honey Queen, Caroline Adams, Texas Honey Princess, Rebekah Jones, and five county Honey Queens and Princesses. I thank Shirley Acevedo and the Texas Beekeepers Association for inviting me to come to this wonderful event, and Dana and Patrick Harrigan for being fantastic hosts!

I look forward to upcoming trips to Mississippi, Wisconsin, Texas, New Jersey, New York, and Illinois before the end of the year. I will fill you in on these promotions in Hershey, and I hope to see you all there! Please continue follow Alyssa and me by liking the American Honey Queen Program Facebook Page, and help us get over 600 likes by convention! We are adding educational YouTube videos to our blog, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com. If you have kids or grandchildren, give them the opportunity to learn more about our sweet industry by directing them to the site!

As the year is quickly coming to an end, I can't believe where the time has gone! This year has been a dream come true for me, and has left me with experiences, friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I thank the American Beekeeping Federation, all the host families that allowed me to become part of their family and the beekeepers nationwide that have made this opportunity possible. Thanks to your support, Alyssa and I have traveled extensively nationwide and we hope that our efforts have brought greater awareness to the beekeeping industry. I am forever blessed by this amazing organization and I know these experiences will greatly benefit me wherever my future takes me.

2012 Third-Place 4-H Essay: The Results of Honey Bee Pollination in My Community – Honey Bee Impact

by Marina Graham, Age 13, Wash.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." – Albert Einstein. Are bees really that important to life on this planet? "Most plants that produce flower, fruit or seed are pollinated by insects," Mr. Wade Bennett, owner of Rockridge Orchard in Enumclaw explains. "The majority of this pollination is done by bees. In Enumclaw we have several species of native bumble bees. They do a wonderful job pollinating the bush plants, cane plants and flowers, but are not as productive for fruit trees." This particular job rests mostly on the wings of honey bees.

Washington State, my larger community, is known for its apples. Every year, Washington exports nearly 30 percent of our entire production to more than 60 countries around the world; the rest is used for domestic sale. Since this fruit is so important to my community, I want to take a closer look at how the honey bee impacts the apple tree. I'll start with an explanation on pollination.

Editor's Note: *Read more of Marina's third-place essay on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Web site at http://honeybeepreservation.org/2012/05/2012-4-h-winning-essays/.*

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From the Vice President
(continued from page 4)

reminding you all of what the ABF is doing for you not just every month but every week, every hour and every minute of your year.

With all of these positives in mind, I will say that reports are coming in from around the country of beekeepers loosing 30, 40, 60 percent of their colonies again. This is very early for these types of losses and when winter gets underway things are likely to get worse. There is talk of bees getting to California already that half or more of the load will not be pollinators for almonds. One trucking firm is reporting that they are under shipping by 100 loads this year. So, this winter is looking to be a questionable time again for our bees.

The days and years we live in as beekeepers are a time of crisis. It is time for you to ask yourself, "How can I be a part of the solution and how can I get involved?" We hope that you will come to Hershey and discover the answers there in January. I hope to see you there. And, lastly, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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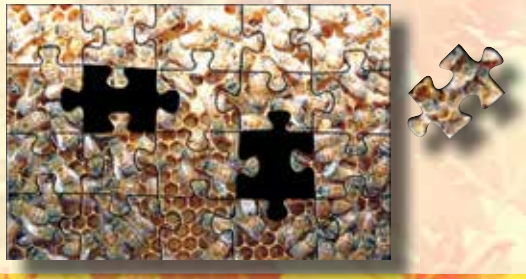

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25 Years
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From the Auxiliary

by Shelley Rodenberg, ABF Auxiliary President

Hopefully everyone has finished up all their fall work. We had our Montana State Beekeepers Meeting in the middle of October. The crops weren't very good for most of the beekeepers because of the lack of rain and the high temperatures this spring and summer. But, we all had a great time and everyone is looking forward to next year. That is one of the special traits most beekeepers have is being able to look forward to hopefully a better year or being very thankful for a good year.

We have a short time now before the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, January 8-12, 2013, at the *Hershey® Lodge* in Hershey, Pa. I hope you have made your reservations and are planning to attend the conference. I have heard that we have quite a few Queen candidates this year. We need to support them during this time and let them know how much we appreciate them promoting our industry.

Please stop by our Auxiliary table in the tradeshow at the conference. We would love to have some of you volunteer to sit at the table for a couple of hours. We encourage everyone to participate in the annual Baking Contest and the Photo Contest. The rules are in the past two issues of the *ABF Newsletter*. All women and men are invited to join our Auxiliary. I look forward to seeing you in Hershey!

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