American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER
January/February 2013 • Vol. 71, No. 1

Happy 70th Anniversary, ABF!

Taking a Look Back at the ABF Through the Years

by Troy Fore, ABF Executive Director (1987-2009)

Relating the 70 years of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) is a difficult task. For the early years, I have had to depend, by necessity, on the printed materials available. Even for the 40 years that I have associated with the ABF (22 years as executive director), events have blurred. I felt that a chronology of sorts, organized by presidents, was perhaps the best way to approach this task.

For the early years of the Federation – through 1964 – I was fortunate to have had available the excellent compilation by Dr. Vern G. Milum, "History of Our National Beekeeping Organizations," and I have extensively drawn from his work to give a flavor of the early years. From 1965 to the present, I relied on the official minutes of the ABF and have been less verbose.

In 1942, the American Honey Producers' League, which was founded in Kansas City in 1920, folded, having fewer than 50 members, and less than $200 in its treasury. The annual convention was canceled due to a government request to reduce travel.

On Jan. 24-27, 1943, a "War Time Conference" was convened in Chicago by League President James Gwin. During the Chicago meeting, it was determined that the producers were to be organized under the name of National Federation of State Beekeepers' Associations. However, only a temporary framework of a constitution was drawn up, which was submitted to state associations for acceptance and election of delegates to the next meeting in 1944.

No officers were elected at the 1943 meeting, but H.J. Rhamlow, secretary of the Wisconsin Association, was retained as secretary of the Committee on Organization. It is to him that credit must be given for the initial success of the Federation.

1944 – Oscar H. Schmidt, Bay City, Mich.: The "Second Bee and Honey Conference" was held Jan. 11-13, 1944, in Chicago. This meeting was presided over by James Gwin; 19 affiliated states were represented.

Resolutions asked for a Federal appropriation to study Nosema disease; that benefit payments for pollination services be recommended to Agricultural Adjustment Administration; that sweet clover be plowed under after it reaches maturity; that the Bureau of Standards designate a uniform cap size for 60-pound cans; that the USDA continue to urge the saving and accumulation of beeswax; that the USDA give early consideration of a support price program for honey on a basis of 9 cents per pound; and gave complete affirmation that the beekeeping industry was behind the war effort to the fullest extent.

1945 – John W. Holzberlein, Grand Valley, Colo.: The Federation met again in Chicago in January 1945. Conference registration included 135 individuals, with a total attendance near 200. A budget was established to cover a paid secretary, a newsletter and traveling expenses. Annual dues were $5 for individuals. A Veterans' Rehabilitation Committee was appointed to aid returning veterans who might be interested in training in bee culture. By October, individual memberships stood at 438; states, 36; countries, 6.

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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, Sundberg, 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.

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1946 – John W. Holzberlein: Conference was held in Indianapolis. Business included discussion toward getting the federal government to remove the wartime control of honey prices. Membership: 854 individuals; 29 affiliated organizations.

1947 – Woodrow Miller, Colton, Calif.: Conference held in Tampa, attendance est. 600 from 42 states. Bee Breeder's Committee formed.

1948 – Woodrow Miller: Conference held in Salt Lake City, Jan. 14-16, total registration, 342. Resolutions: thanking Marketing Administration for purchasing 15 million pounds of honey; and requesting Federal Trade Commission to require all imported honey to be so labeled.

1949 – Roy Grout, Hamilton, Ill.: Conference held in St. Louis, second 1948 meeting, Dec. 12-15. Name changed to American Beekeeping Federation to indicate an over-all organization that could speak fairly and impartially for the entire industry. The constitution was changed to allow each member, whether through an organization or as an individual member, one vote for all officers, except the secretary-treasurer, who was selected by the Executive Committee. (This practice holds to present.)

1950 – Roy Grout: Conference held in Biloxi, attendance est. 300-400. Resolutions: asking USDA for incentive payments for pollination services in legume seed production; asking that honey be allowed in manufacture of alcoholic beverages; establishing a committee on standards of sanitation of honey houses; and asking FDA for official standard of identity for honey.

1951 – N.C. Jensen, Macon, Miss.: Conference held in Denver. Financial deficit of $4,000 from 1950 was made up by those attending the meeting. Resolutions: asking for draft deferment for beekeepers the same as in World War II; and approving a uniform set of standards for processing and handling honey. New constitution adopted with affairs managed by a Board of Directors with one member from each affiliated organization.

1952 – Glenn Gibson, Minco, Okla.: Conference held in Dallas. Resolutions: requesting a minimum price support for honey of 75% of parity; and asking for a Langstroth memorial postage stamp.

1953 – Henry A. Schaefer, Osseo, Wisc.: Conference held in San Jose. New constitution adopted to return the Federation to an organization of beekeepers. On April 4, 1953, incorporated as The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc., in the state of Minnesota. Robert Banker became the ABF's secretary-treasurer.

1954 – Henry Schaefer: Conference held in Baltimore. Dues: $1 for up to 50 colonies; $2.50 for 50-100 colonies; and 4 cents per colony for over 100 colonies.

1955 – Henry Schaefer: Conference held in Chicago, attendance est. 500. Resolutions: opposing restrictions on interstate movement of bees and equipment if accompanied by proper health certificates.

1956 – S.J. Watkins, Grand Junction, Colo.: Conference held in Biloxi. Resolutions: asking that Land Grant college students in training for vocational agriculture, extension and conservation be required to take courses in bee culture and pollination. 676 members reported.

1957 – S.J. Watkins: Conference held in Long Beach, Calif. Thirty-two states represented on Board of Directors. Resolutions: asking to have legumes included in the soil bank program. Granted $100 to Sports College of America.

1958 – S.J. Watkins: Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. Minimum dues raised to $3. Program included a special program for hobbyist beekeepers. Average support price for honey in 1958 was 9.6 cents per pound.

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1959 – Lawrence Budge, Malad, Idaho: Conference held in Tampa. Program themes: bee breeding, marketing, and a hobbyist program that drew good attendance. Resolutions: notifying Federal Trade Commission of abusive advertising by corn syrup refiners. Membership approaching 1,000.

1960 – Lawrence Budge: Conference held in Phoenix. Resolutions: asking for a study of the Acarine mite (honey bee tracheal mite) with the help of a European expert and having an American scientist sent to Europe; and that the voluntary check-off for the American Honey Institute be set at 2 cents per 60-pound can for both the producer and the packer. Membership 767 on Oct. 8.

1961 – Henry Hansen, Dakota City, Iowa: Conference held in Omaha. Resolution: asking USDA to find a more satisfactory method for the removal of honey than carbolic acid; and calling attention to severe losses of bees due to the indiscriminate spraying of pesticides. Minimum dues set at $5. Honey support price, 11.2 cents per pound.

1962 – Glenn Gibson, Minco, Okla.: Conference held in Biloxi. Attendance over 500. A resolution favoring a mandatory check-off for a market promotion program failed by a vote of 149 to 120. Resolutions adopted included seeking to have the term "American foulbrood" replaced with "Bacillus larvae." Voluntary check-offs raised $31,586.

1963 – Glenn Gibson: Conference held in San Antonio. Attendance est. 500. Resolutions: seeking adequate staffing and facilities for beekeeping research laboratories; and asking for a study of the incidence of nosema disease in colonies from which package bees are shipped.

1964 – Robert Banker, Cannon Falls, Minn.: Conference held in Minneapolis. Attendance 602. American Honey Show had 142 entries. Resolution: asking Congress for sufficient funding for the new USDA research facility in Tucson and that it be named the Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in honor of Sen. Hayden, recognizing his efforts for the beekeeping industry.

1965 – Robert Banker: Conference held in Atlanta. Resolutions: protesting needless destruction of honey plants in government brush eradication programs; requesting USDA to issue more specific directives on insecticide labeling that will assist beekeepers; asking USDA for more research into protecting bees from pesticides; and offering assistance to the Osborn Brothers of Buffalo, Wyo., in their effort for compensation for bee losses to pesticides in a federal program.

1966 – Roy S. Weaver, Navasota, Texas: Conference held in Chattanooga. Resolution: asking USDA to make provision for bee losses in USDA-sponsored and subsidized pesticide spray programs.

1967 – Roy S. Weaver: Conference held in Little Rock. Resolutions: seeking establishment of a honey bee genetic stock center; and asking that some of the honey provided to schools be in the form of creamed honey.

1968 – E.H. Adee, Sutherland, Neb.: Conference held in Niagara Falls. Resolution: directing leadership to propose legislation to Congress that would establish a national honey research and promotion program funded by a mandatory assessment not to exceed 1/4-cent per pound.

1969 – Frank Hrushka, Boyne Falls, Mich.: Conference held in Portland, Ore. This meeting was filled with controversy. The feeling was that the ABF leadership had failed to carry out the 1968 resolution noted above. The fallout was that Glenn Gibson was terminated as secretary-treasurer; Bob Banker replaced him. The Nominating Committee put Frank Hrushka up for president; E.H. Adee was nominated from the floor; Hrushka was elected. The American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) was subsequently formed with Adee as its president and Gibson as its secretary-treasurer.

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1970 – Hood Littlefield, Visalia, Calif.: Conference held in San Diego. Resolution: expressing a welcome to any member of the honey industry, not only beekeepers, to join ABF.

1971 – Hood Littlefield: Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. Resolutions: requesting Congress to sufficiently fund the Pesticide Indemnification Law; and requesting USDA to study the spread of Africanized bees in South America.

1972 – Hood Littlefield: Conference held in Orlando. Resolutions: seeking additional funds for research and the pesticide indemnity program; and asking EPA to closely monitor the use of pesticides that are injurious to honey bees.

1973 – Howard Foster, Colusa, Calif.: Conference held in Milwaukee. Resolutions: seeking research into better ways to depopulate colonies in the fall when new package bees are to be installed in the spring.

1974 – Howard Foster: Conference held in Hot Springs, Ark. Discussions included several approaches to combat the advent of high fructose corn syrup, both as a market competitor to honey and as an adulterant to products labeled as pure honey. The Honey Defense Fund was established to carry on this effort.

1975 – Morris Weaver, Navasota, Texas: Conference held in Boise. Resolution: requesting EPA to review chemicals being used by beekeepers to protect bees and equipment from pests and diseases to determine the effect newly-released regulations would have on their continued use.

1976 – Morris Weaver: Conference held in Philadelphia. Established the 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest. Adopted a revised Constitution and Bylaws.

1977 – Robert Ray, Tintah, Minn.: Conference held in San Antonio. Resolutions: three on the Beekeeper Indemnity Payment Program – requesting continuation of the program, suggesting an adjustment to program dates, and urging beekeepers to be circumspect in their use of the program and to report misuse.

1978 – Robert Ray: Conference held in Orlando. Robert Banker, who had served as secretary-treasurer since 1969, asked to be replaced. The Executive Committee named Frank Robinson as assistant secretary-treasurer, for a year's transition to replace Banker. Resolutions: recognized the danger to bees posed by micro-encapsulated insecticides; asked continuation of the honey loan program; and condemned "bee scare" movies such as "The Swarm."

1979 – G.C. Walker, Rogers, Texas: Conference held in San Diego. The connection of honey to infant botulism was reported.

1980 – G.C. Walker: Conference held in Dearborn, Mich. Attendance about 1,000. The registration fees for the 1981 convention were increased to $112.50 for early registrations and $17.50 onsite. Honey adulteration was a topic of much concern with three resolutions aimed at different aspects of the problem.

1981 – Binford Weaver, Navasota, Texas: Conference held in Seattle. A concurrent program for hobbyist beekeepers was well-attended, surprising many in the commercial ranks.

1982 – Binford Weaver: Conference held in Savannah. Registered attendees, 736. Several resolutions addressed chemicals beekeepers used and several addressed agricultural chemicals that affect honey bees.

1983 – Phillip Rossman, Moultrie, Ga.: Conference held in Honolulu. Amid considerable discussion, a resolution committed ABF to work for a national marketing order for honey.

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1984 – Larry Gunter, Towner, N.D.: Conference held in Minneapolis. This convention is remembered as the "big freeze," when wind chills hit 29 degrees below, and many attendees' cars refused to start at the end of the week. The Executive Committee decided that the ABF would again put on its own conventions, rather than the affair being conducted by the host state beginning in 1986.

1985 – Larry Gunter: Conference held in Tampa. The expected hearings and referendum on the National Honey Board dominated the conference meetings. The enabling legislation had passed Congress in late 1984. Later in the year, the Executive Committee decided to retain Meyers & Associates to lobby in Washington, D.C., a relationship that continues to the present.

1986 – Randall Johnson, Nampa, Idaho: Conference held in Phoenix. Considerable discussion during the conference centered on the quarantines several states had instituted against movement of colonies as a result of the discovery of tracheal mites. A resolution opposing the quarantines was adopted on a close vote after extended debate. The policy would be reversed at the 1987 Annual Business Meeting, again by a close vote after extended debate.

1987 – Randall Johnson: Conference held in New Orleans. A revised Constitution and Bylaws was adopted. A revitalized membership campaign had resulted in a 33-percent increase in memberships, reaching 2,001 at the convention.

1988 – Reg Wilbanks, Claxton, Ga.: Conference held in Houston. Africanized bees were the hot topic with four resolutions on the subject. At a meeting later in the year, the Executive Committee selected Troy Fore as secretary-treasurer to replace Frank Robinson who was retiring.

1989 – Reg Wilbanks: Conference held in Indianapolis. A busy year for ABF, as the Executive Committee had conference call sessions throughout the year to deal with the new Farm Bill, proposing regulatory remedies then legislation to end National Honey Board refunds, adjustment to the honey loan program, the spread of varroa mites, and the dissolution of the Honey Industry Council of America.

1990 – Bob Brandi, Los Banos, Calif.: Conference held in Las Vegas. A proposal by USDA-APHIS to allow honey bee importation from New Zealand prompted the ABF Board of Directors to call for ABF members and all beekeepers to import bees only through legal avenues.

1991 – Bob Brandi: Conference held in Mobile. With a renewal referendum on the National Honey Board (NHB) scheduled, a resolution urged "yes" votes on both continuation of NHB and on the discontinuation of the NHB refund provision.

1992 – Don Schmidt, Winner, S.D.: Conference held in San Diego. A resolution called for the deregulation of both varroa mites and American foulbrood on the grounds that both were now ubiquitous in the United States.

1993 – Don Schmidt: Conference held in Kansas City. Celebrated the ABF's 50th Anniversary and began discussions that would lead to the formation of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. Later, ABF joined AHPA in seeking a Section 406 investigation into honey imports from China.

1994 – David Sundberg, Fergus Falls, Minn.: Conference held in Orlando. Resolution: urged President Clinton to impose the remedies on Chinese honey recommended by the USITC. Later in the year, after he declined to impose strong remedies, ABF joined AHPA to work for antidumping relief on honey from China and Argentina.

1995 – David Sundberg: Conference held in Austin. Pursuit of antidumping relief dominated the convention and the business of the ensuing months. The keynote speaker was Rep. Kika de la Garza, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

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1996 – Bill Merritt, Sopchoppy, Fla.: Conference held in Portland, Ore. Issues of honey importing, labeling, adulteration and antidumping dominated the resolutions that were adopted.

1997 – Bill Merritt: Conference held in Norfolk. The first Kids & Bees Program was held with 572 children and parents showing up on a bitterly cold Saturday morning. The ABF Statement of Mission and Values was adopted.

1998 – David Hackenberg, Lewisburg, Pa.: Conference held in Colorado Springs. For the first time, a portion of the convention program was organized into Special Interest Groups (SIGs – later called Shared Interest Groups).

1999 – David Hackenberg: Conference held in Nashville. The first official meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees was held. A "tour day" visited the Walter T. Kelley Co. in Clarkson, Ky.

2000 – Clint Walker III, Rogers, Texas: Conference held in Fort Worth. A greatly revised Bylaws was adopted, changing the body formerly called "directors" into the Delegates Assembly and setting up the SIGs as units (along with the Delegates) to elect Directors.

2001 – Clint Walker III: Conference held in San Diego. Issues relating the antidumping action and legislative issues dominated the conference, including how to pay the associated legal and lobbying costs.

2002 – Pat Heitkam, Orland, Calif.: Conference held in Savannah. Wilbanks Apiaries hosted the attendees in a tour to their operation in Claxton, Ga. At the conference and throughout the following year, controversies swirled over the NHB with the ABF fighting AHPA attempts to scuttle NHB.

2003 – Pat Heitkam: Conference held in Kansas City. Discussions continued on the future of the NHB, and, during the year, ABF worked on developing a replacement board, funded by packers and importers.

2004 – David Ellingson, Ortonville, Minn.: Conference held in Jacksonville. New concerns arose about challenges in the sweetener market, both as direct competition to honey and as adulterants to honey.

2005 – David Ellingson: Conference held in Sparks/Reno. Resolution: ways to enforce honey label laws, ensure the quality of honey being marketed, and secure a legal definition of honey.

2006 – Daniel Weaver, Navasota, Texas: Conference held in Louisville. More than 100 small scale beekeepers attended a concurrent program dubbed the "Serious Sideliner Symposium."

2007 – Daniel Weaver: Conference held in Austin. The first reports were heard of what would come to be called "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD). Tour to Walker Apiaries in Rogers, Texas, coincided with a winter storm, torrential rains and snow.

2008 – Zac Browning, Idaho Falls, Idaho: Conference held in Sacramento. A joint meeting of the ABF and the AHPA saw a turnout of about 1,000 attendees. Many presentations related to CCD.

2009 – Zac Browning: Conference held in Sparks/Reno. Issues with imported honey and imported bees abounded. The Directors engaged Meeting Expectations, Inc., of Atlanta, to manage the ABF, with Robin Dahlen Lane as executive director.

2010 – David Mendes, North Fort Myers, Fla.: Conference held in Orlando. In the keynote address, Yves Le Conte, a beekeeping scientist from France, focused on the European beekeepers' battle to keep their bees alive despite an onslaught of insecticides. ABF unveils new monthly electronic newsletter, *ABF E-Buzz*. ABF experiences a 20-percent growth in membership since change in management and ends year at 1,021 members.

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From the President – Past, Present and Future

by George Hansen, ABF President

George Hansen
ABF President

As we celebrate our 70th year, I want to talk about where we have been as an organization, who we are today, and take a look into the future to outline our challenges and opportunities. This will be a summary of the president's message that I presented at our opening ceremonies during the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Hershey.

When the ABF was first formed, it was a federation of state organizations. Over time, the "federation" has morphed into the idea that all members of the honey bee industry are welcome and we represent all their interests. We are the "big tent" under which all can fit. The idea that the ABF should only have beekeepers, specifically commercial honey producers, split the industry along the way. The ABF remains the broad federation of the honey bee industry and we accept members from all areas – producers, pollinators, sideliners, manufacturers, scientists, regulators and supporters.

The ABF was the key organization in the National Honey Board, and has continued support in all its manifestations. We formed and maintained the American Honey Queen Program. We have lobbied Congress on Farm Bill issues and worked with governmental agencies on labor, habitat and crop insurance issues. Over the years, the price of honey, the use of honey in commodity programs, as well as disaster relief programs have been the focus for the organization. More recently, pesticides, CCD, importation of bees and research funding have been priorities. Initially, the membership was made up of more commercial beekeepers and the leadership has traditionally come from that group. As the membership has grown, a larger percentage of members are sideliners. We now devote a significant part of our program at the conference specifically to that group, and elect two board members from the sideliners.

Today, the large majority of members are not commercial beekeepers. We have divided the focus of our program and outreach, as well as our governance, to Shared Interest Groups (SIGs). We now have a management firm (Meeting Expectations, Inc.) to perform our day-to-day operations. Our outreach is not only through this newsletter, but also the *ABF E-Buzz* electronic newsletter, the website, the ABF Facebook page, and occasional broadcast e-mail alerts to our membership concerning recent events and deadlines. We provide our membership with podcasts of pertinent information in the "Conversation with a Beekeeper" series. Our support for the National Honey Board is unwavering, and the American Honey Queen Program continues to send quality spokespersons around the country to promote our products and causes. Our membership continues to grow.

This last year, our legislative efforts were primarily on the Farm Bill, which has been mired in politics for some time. Both House and Senate versions contain our priority programs of continued research funding, as well as continuation of programs for disaster relief, honey loans and habitat. Although we were not able to keep the Weslaco lab open, the scientist positions and the funding for their work have been maintained completely intact, as they have been reassigned to the remaining labs. In addition, a major ABF effort to strengthen habitat in USDA conservation land projects has been initiated with sign on from an unprecedented number of agricultural stakeholders, from the Farm Bureau to Ducks Unlimited to Pollinator Protection (P2) and Croplife America, just to name a few.

Our efforts legislatively have involved a close collaboration with the American Honey Producers Association. Both organizations have come to the realization that we need to speak with one voice in Washington if we hope to get anything accomplished. Both organizations participate equally on the National Honey Bee Advisory Board in its interface with EPA on pesticides. A major victory for the entire industry was realized this last year when Apivar received emergency Section 18 registration in a string of states (and with more on the way). This happened because of the combined efforts of all parts of our industry, as well as other stakeholders dependent on bees for pollination.

Did I mention that our membership continues to grow? That is a challenge and an opportunity for the ABF. The industry is also confronted with major pesticide

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From the Vice President – Perspectives in Beekeeping

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

Tim Tucker
ABF Vice President

One of the goals for this year is to better communicate with our members and the potential members across the country. It is critically important that we formulate better ways to deliver the message that the ABF is still relevant and working in the interest of all beekeepers.

Most people are unaware of the fact that our State Delegates Assembly has a meeting once a year at the conference and what it is that we accomplish through this arm of our organization. This meeting is important for two reasons. The first is that we elect a good portion of our Board from the delegates assembly, electing two new members each year. Those Board members serve two-year terms, so four of our Board members are from this body. In the recent past, some of our meetings have not been representative of the country at large, so we need to work on expanding our attendance at the delegates meeting and improving this representation. The second reason the delegates assembly is so important is that the delegates represent the ABF to the states, as well as the opposite – relaying information from the states and local clubs back to the ABF. It is the best form of democracy to have good involvement of people from coast to coast who can provide a diverse spectrum of ideas and representation for the industry.

For those of you who represented your state as a delegate, we hope you found the luncheon format more to your liking. It seemed to go over well and most that we talked to felt it was a good improvement. If you weren't able to attend, we hope that you will begin your plans for attending our upcoming meeting in Baton Rouge, La., in January of 2014 and ensuring that your state has its representation in place. It is your voice and your opportunity to shape the policy and future of our organization.

During the course of the past couple of years the ABF has worked very hard to increase the real value of membership in some very important areas that we would like to keep at the forefront of those who might be considering becoming a member. The ABF continues to work hard to position itself as the leader in educational opportunities for today's beekeeper, whether small scale, sideliner or commercial. The ABF Education Committee has worked to bring webinar programs to the table each month now for nine months and it is our hope that we will have at least one per month. These offer a unique opportunity to expand your education and, as a valued member, it is our intention to improve and expand on these educational programs. These webinars continue to be a part of the ABF website, which provides 24-hour-a-day assistance to the beekeeping world with great information that is growing and expanding on a daily basis. In addition, the most recent recordings from the 2013 ABF annual conference in Hershey are already posted for your review.

And speaking of Hershey, this year's conference was very well attended with over 700 registered attendees. There were also over 400 kids in house for the Kids and Bees Program that had fun learning about bees and their importance as pollinators for our world food supply. It's always a great time seeing all the children, their parents and teachers. Many thanks to Kim Lehman and Sarah Red-Laird for their work in making this another successful year.

The ABF Membership Committee has arrived at a goal for membership expansion of five percent, which represents a growth from 1,204 members to a total of 1,265 members for the year. I think we can do that quite easily if we all work together to bring in just one or two people in each state. It's that simple. Just imagine what we could do if all of us would commit to bringing in one new member each! It is our hope that we can work with all of you and our states delegates to get information into state meetings and local clubs, as well. Our focus this year is to expand our reach and engage more beekeepers to see the value of an ABF membership and utilize the body of states delegates to a higher degree.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of the ABF! If you ever have any questions or considerations, please do not hesitate to contact me at tuckerb@hit.net or Robin Lane, ABF executive director, at robinlane@abfnet.org.

Government Relations Update

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

As I look back, it seems as though the past year has just flown by, much like the past decade, actually. Our recent meeting in Hershey didn't seem an entire year removed from Las Vegas and I keep feeling like someone is speeding up the clock on me. Maybe it's age or perhaps it's the speed at which things seem to be coming at you today, but something is making the years go faster and faster. There is little time, it seems, to get all of the things addressed that we need to and that is certainly the case with issues on the national level.

In talking with ABF President George Hansen the other day we were both amazed at how much was on the ABF's agenda this year. Some of these items are issues that are internal and deal with elections and bylaws and planning for upcoming conferences the next few years. There is no shortage of challenges that we face to keep things running smoothly while ensuring that our organization is moving in the right direction.

One of the big challenges that we continue to face is that our interests as an industry are greatly affected not only by state and local issues, but by issues of a larger stature that take place on a national and now international level. One of the matters being investigated currently is the question of whether or not the American beekeeping industry is interested and capable of hosting an Apimondia Congress here in the United States in six years. It is an undertaking that captured the attention of several dozen people who attended the ABF annual conference in January. A task force was formed to explore the feasibility of bringing an Apimondia to the United States. The costs of this will be large and it will take the entire industry working together with sponsors from outside of our industry (likely) to find the necessary funding. Securing funding is always the challenge for industry groups and the ABF is no different.

Our interests are being challenged on a daily basis at one level or another and it seems as though remedial efforts take many times the effort to accomplish. As things move slower at the national level they become proportionately more expensive and difficult to ensure that our interests are represented. This year will be no different and there is more on the table than ever. It seems that the current Congress is spectacularly adept at not getting things done. Gridlock and a split Congress have contributed to less getting done than at any time in the past 50 or more years. The Farm Bill has expired and they very nearly let the Highway Bill expire, which would have been a disaster. These issues mean more intensive work to address our interests in Washington and more time dedicated to the process. We still have many of the same issues to address we had last year and the list is growing.

- **Funding for CCD Research** – Funding for research has been authorized but not fully appropriated, so we need to continue to push for funds to further research in this area in an attempt to find solutions.

- **Pesticide Poisoning Issues** – In the coming years this issue will take a huge investment of time to help mitigate the exposure that our bees have working in the agriculturally intensive areas of our country. We continue to push for better testing of pesticides before they are brought to the market. It will take much effort in working with the EPA to bring the mandate they have to "do no harm" to the environment and our bees to provide workable solutions for the food production industry and the beekeeping industry. We are currently working with several groups to ensure that this year's corn planting season is as safe as we can make it for our bees. This one issue may take several years to arrive at risk mitigation measures that will prove out in better results when it comes to protecting our bees.

- **Pollinator Habitat** – There is no doubt that our acres of forage for honey production are shrinking. This is a huge problem for the long-term survival of our industry. Efforts to make CRP lands more assessable for bees and more bee-friendly when seeding these acres is critical. There is little doubt that if nothing is done we will simply be producing less honey in the future and that is not good for anyone.

- **Maintaining Funding for ARS Labs** – Weslaco has been deleted from the list of research facilities and the current mood in Washington is to cut spending. While there is no current drive to close other bee research facilities, it may just be a matter of time before the cost cutting knife may consider options that we would find deleterious to beekeeping and agriculture in general.

(continued on page 19)

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The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of November and December 2012 and January 2013. These donations enable us to carry out the legislative initiatives that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

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ABF Annual Conference in Hershey Proves to Be One Sweet Event

by Robin D. Lane, ABF Executive Director

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) kicked off its 70th anniversary year in grand style at the beautiful Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa., which played host to the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, Jan. 8-12. Over 700 enthusiastic attendees gathered for a week of education, networking and fun.

In honor of this special anniversary, each conference attendee was treated to a stylish ABF 70th anniversary lapel pin, which many wore throughout the week to commemorate this important milestone. Special thanks to the following ABF current and past presidents for their support of the lapel pin: **George Hansen; David Mendes; Zac Browning; David Ellingson; David Hackenberg; and Donald Schmidt**. ABF staff also developed a special anniversary photo presentation, which ran throughout the week and offered a trip down memory lane while placing the spotlight on the ABF's rich history.

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

The General Session began Wednesday with addresses from President George Hansen, the keynote presentation from May Berenbaum, professor and head of entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and featured speaker Rob Page, foundation professor and vice provost and dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University. Hansen used the kickoff of the ABF's 70th anniversary as an opportunity to highlight where the ABF has been as an organization, its current state, and a look into the future to outline challenges and opportunities (see Hansen's "From the President" column in this issue for more).

Hansen's opening address was a great start to a steady stream of informative and insightful speakers throughout the rest of the conference general sessions, the Shared Interest Group meetings, the workshops and the Serious Sideliner Symposium, which was again conducted by Dr. Larry Connor. Representatives from the various U.S. bee labs, the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, the National Honey Board, Project Apis m and True Source Honey were also present and provided key updates. Attendees were also able to participate in the annual American Bee Research Conference, which is

SPECIAL THANKS!

The ABF would like to take the opportunity to recognize the following dedicated members for their role in special activities that took place during the recent ABF annual conference in Hershey.

- **Patty Sundberg** – 2013 ABF Silent/Live Auction and ABF Sweepstakes coordinator
- **Mary Kettlewell** – 2013 American Honey Show coordinator
- **Anna Kettlewell** – American Honey Queen Program Committee chair
- **Tim Tucker** – ABF Membership and Marketing Committee chair and ABF membership booth coordinator
- **Shelley Rodenberg** – ABF Auxiliary president and ABF Auxiliary booth coordinator
- **Kim Lehman & Sarah Red-Laird** – Kids and Bees Program coordinators

Thank you all for helping to make these activities a resounding success for the ABF!

(continued on page 15)

Top Honors Given During 2013 American Honey Show

ABF members **Karen and James Belli, of Wadsworth, Ill.**, and **Carmen Conrad, of Canal Winchester, Ohio**, took top honors at the 2013 American Honey Show. The Belli's Extra White Honey won Best of Show – Honey, and Conrad's Honey Gift Basket received Best of Show – Related Items.

The two were among 80 entries in the show, which was held during the 2013 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Hershey, Pa. The entries were auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program. The winning entries were:

CLASS A – WATER WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Sioux Honey Association
1. Joe Dunham – Eagle River, Ark.
2. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.

CLASS B – EXTRA WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.
1. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, Ill.
3. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio

CLASS C – WHITE HONEY
SPONSOR – Golden Heritage Foods LLC
1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
3. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, Kan.

CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Pierco, Inc.
1. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarksburg, N.J.
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, Kan.
3. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.

CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Ashurst's American Honey & Beekeeping
1. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, Kan.
3. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.

CLASS F – AMBER HONEY
SPONSOR – Burleson's
1. Duane Rekeweg – Decatur, Ind.
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, Kan.
3. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarkesburg, N.J.

CLASS G – DARK HONEY
SPONSOR – GloryBee Foods, Inc.
1. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarkesburg, N.J.
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, Kan.
3. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.

CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY
SPONSOR – CompleteBee.com
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, Ill.
2. Gene Killion – Paris, Ill.

CLASS I – ROUND COMB SECTIONS
SPONSOR – Ross Rounds
1. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.
2. Gene Killion – Paris, Ill.
3. Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, Mont.

CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY
SPONSOR – Walter T. Kelley Co.
1. Gene Killion – Paris, Ill.
2. James Belli – Wadsworth, Ill.
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, Ill.

CLASS K – CUT COMB HONEY
SPONSOR – CompleteBee.com
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, Ill.
2. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.

CLASS L – CREAMED HONEY
SPONSOR – Mann Lake Ltd.
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
2. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarkesberg, N.J.
3. John Piechowski – Redgranite, Wis.

CLASS M – BEESWAX BLOCK
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2. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, Wis.
3. Duane Rekeweg – Decatur, Ind.

CLASS N – ARTISTIC BEESWAX
SPONSOR – Texas Insurance & Financial Services
1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.
2. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarksburg, N.J.

CLASS O – BEESWAX CANDLES
SPONSOR – Ellingson's, Inc.
1. Stan Wasitowski – Flemington, N.J.
2. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarksburg, N.J.
3. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio

CLASS P – ARTISTIC BEESWAX CANDLES
SPONSOR – *Bee Culture Magazine*
1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, Ga.
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
3. Anna & Angelo Trapani – Clarksburg, N.J.

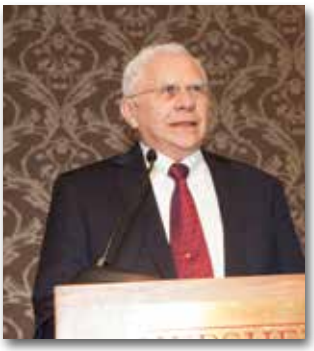
CLASS Q – HONEY GIFT BASKET
SPONSOR – Meeting Expectations, Inc.
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
2. Maggie Wachter – Urbana, Ill.
3. Polly Cleveland – Glen Rose, Texas

ABF Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to the Beekeeping Industry During Annual Conference

Each year during the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, the ABF takes the time to recognize a member for his or her "outstanding and significant contributions to the leadership of the ABF and the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry" with the presentation of the ABF President's Award. Past recipients of this award include such long-term members as Gene Brandi, Binford Weaver, Liz Vaenoski, Randy Johnson, Donald Schmidt, Laurence Cutts and others. These individuals all possess a deep respect and passion for beekeeping and the honey bee, and the 2013 recipients of this prestigious award are no different – **Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, of Holt, Mich.**, and **Kim Lehman, of Austin, Texas**.

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner

by George Hansen, ABF President



Dr. Roger Hoopingarner got his start in beekeeping as a boy scout 65 years ago. With that interest he went on to receive his B.S. degree from Michigan State University in Entomology and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His doctoral research was on the genetics and environmental factors in queen rearing.

After a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, he joined the faculty at Michigan State University's Entomology Department where he remained doing research, teaching and extension in insect physiology and apiculture for 38 years. His research interests involved fruit pollination, disease transmission, population dynamics and insecticide interactions with insects and animals.

Dr. Hoopingarner is a long-time and loyal member of the ABF. He created the Hoopingarner Award to honor the best speaker at ABF annual conferences and, more recently, has provided "Beekeeping 101" sessions for the ABF's "Conversation with a Beekeeper" online webinar series. Dr. Hoopingarner has always been a respected leader in industry education and a deserving recipient of the ABF President's Award.

Kim Lehman

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

Kim and her husband, Mark Wieland, live in Austin, Texas, where she works as a professional storyteller. A long-time member of the ABF, Lehman has overseen the Kids and Bees Program for 19 years and has also created the Bee Buddies program in cooperation with *Bee Culture Magazine,* where over 1,000 kids have become involved from all 50 states, four Canadian provinces and several other countries.

Thanks to the annual Kids and Bees Program during the ABF annual conference, anywhere from three to 500 children are invited in to learn about the marvelous honey bee. Kids from all over the country have enjoyed the program and for the first few years were introduced to Kim's pet pig, Blossom. Kim would dress her up in her bee outfit and she was enjoyed by all.

We have many people who devote much time to the ABF and outreach programs such as this and we do not always thank them for their commitment and dedication. So, we extend our deepest thanks to Kim Lehman for her many years of dedication with the Kids and Bees Program.

Annual Conference Wrap-Up
(continued from page 12)

organized by the American Association of Professional Apiculturists.

During the conference, the ABF membership re-elected President George Hansen of Colton, Ore., and Vice President Tim Tucker of Niotaze, Kans. Newly elected members of the ABF Board of Directors are: Michael Mason, Riverton, Ill., appointed by the president; Mario Jakob, Umatilla, Fla., elected by the Commercial Beekeepers Shared Interest Group; Jim Doan, Hamlin, N.Y., elected by the Small Scale-Sideliner Special Interest Group; Tim May, Marengo, Ill., elected by the Honey Producer-Packer Special Interest Group; Joan Gunter, Towner, N.D., elected by the Package Bee and Queen Breeders Shared Interest Group; and Gene Brandi, Los Banos, Calif., and Shannon Wooten, Palo Cedro, Calif., elected by the State Delegates Assembly. (See page 2 for a full list of the 2013 ABF Board of Directors.)

At the ABF Annual Business Meeting, ABF committee chairs shared updates on activities and initiatives from 2012, the 2013 American Honey Show award winners were recognized and several new resolutions were adopted. A full copy of the 2013 ABF Resolutions is posted on the ABF website. The membership also approved a membership dues increase for the Small Scale, Sideliner and Commercial levels of membership. The membership dues increase will be effective July 1, 2013, and additional information regarding this change will be coming soon.

In addition to multiple networking opportunities, an always-crowded exhibit hall and yet another extremely well-attended Kids and Bees Program, the ABF crowned 2013 American Honey Queen Caroline Adams from Texas, and Emily Campbell from Minnesota was crowned 2013 American Honey Princess. The week ended on a high note with a post-conference field trip to the Pennsylvania branch of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, as well as a stop at the beekeeping operations of Hackenberg Apiaries.

Plans are already in full swing for the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, which will be held at The Baton Rouge River Center in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 7-11, 2014. The latest conference information will be posted to the ABF website in the coming months. Be sure to make your plans now to attend!

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Cover Story
(continued from page 7)

2011 – David Mendes: Conference held in Galveston. This was the second joint ABF/AHPA meeting; 1,100 attended. A Customs Service agent challenged honey producers selling to packers to "have an open discussion with the packers or cooperative where you sell your honey" to see that all the imported honey they buy is properly sourced and labeled. ABF embraces social media and launches official Facebook page. "Conversation with a Beekeeper" online monthly educational webinars also introduced.

2012 – George Hansen, Colton, Ore.: Conference held in Las Vegas. Resolution: asking USDA to maintain the work of the Weslaco Bee Lab scientists at other bee labs, if the Texas facility is closed. ABF Research Committee launches a call for research proposals and the ABF Board chooses to fund a pilot project on using geographic information systems and spatial analysis to monitor honey bee health.

Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date in the ABF Membership Database?

If not, you're missing out on important communications from us, such as annual conference details, industry updates and alerts, and the monthly *ABF E-Buzz* electronic newsletter. Please call us at 404.760.2875 or send us an e-mail at info@abfnet.org to update your information today!

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Queen Committee Report

by Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome 2013 American Honey Queen Caroline Adams of Texas and 2013 American Honey Princess Emily Campbell of Minnesota to the ABF family. These two women will have a busy year representing us at promotional and educational events, as the program continues its 30-state goal for 2013.

The American Honey Queen Program met our 30-state promotional goal in 2012 and expanded our reach to Canada. I thank 2012 American Honey Queen Alyssa Fine and 2012 American Honey Princess Danielle Dale for their dedication and successful year of promotions. Combined, their promotions spanned 30 states, one Canadian province and the District of Columbia, and they garnered over $385,000 worth of free publicity for the beekeeping industry. In addition to successful promotions, Alyssa and Danielle expanded the program's use of Facebook and started an American Honey Queen Program YouTube Channel to provide increased education about beekeeping and the honey industry.

In 2013, the American Honey Queen Committee plans to continue a strong promotional record, striving to reach 30 unique states. We wish to visit states where we have not visited in several years, such as Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont, South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota, Arkansas and Oklahoma. If you have an event, such as a county or state fair, large farmers' market, garden show, honey festival or store promotion, please contact me to arrange to have Queen Caroline or Princess Emily participate in the event. We would be delighted to work with you to arrange for additional events, such as school visits, civic group presentations and media interviews, for such a visit. We also have unique opportunities this year with Caroline and Emily. Caroline is a student of American Sign Language and is eager to give presentations to the deaf community. Emily has a strong background with 4-H and FFA and is equally eager to speak to these groups. Please consider these options when they visit your state!

The ABF conference is always a very busy time for the Queen Committee. I thank every member of the American Honey Queen Committee for making the program run smoothly each year. The committee also thanks the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association for their generous gifts to the Queens during the conference. I also extend the committee's gratitude to every conference attendee who purchased raffle tickets from the queens, participated in the American Honey Show, bid on and purchased honey from the American Honey Show, Quiz Bowl and banquet auctions, and who assisted the program at the conference. Your support will allow Caroline and Emily to promote throughout the country.

Queen Caroline and Princess Emily trained by Skype with multiple Honey Queen Committee members in February.

Caroline and Emily hit the ground running with their media training session less than two weeks following the ABF conference. I extend my deepest appreciation to Louann Hausner, Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt, Angie (Olson) Lundeen, Alyssa Fine and Danielle Dale for helping to make the training session productive for the Queen and Princess! Each of these women provided valuable training and advice during our session. Throughout our training session, I became increasingly excited about how the 2013 promotional year will evolve! Caroline and Emily are eager to improve their skills and to work tirelessly for the ABF this year.

The Queen and Princess are ready and eager to visit your state soon and to reach the goals that they have set for the year. Please contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with the Queen or Princess. You may contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Caroline, Emily and I look forward to a successful year of work for the ABF and the beekeeping industry.

Government Relations Update
(continued from page 10)

- **Protecting Honey's Untarnished Image** – Our market is under siege from different perspectives and adulteration issues are at the forefront of our push to establish a Standard of Identity (SOI) for honey on a national level that will protect our business. If we continue to let honey imposters steal our market we will have difficulty surviving.

- **Disaster Programs, Crop Insurance and H2A Labor Programs** – We continue to work to make sure that these programs are available and easily assessable to the industry. If we are to have these programs continue on and provide workable options we have to continue to press for our interests.

In the past we have passed a pledge sheet at the conference during the annual business meeting. One of the problems with this is that we felt it may have caused many not to attend. The past two years we have chosen not to do this and that puts us in a hole without any obvious way to resolve the funding of our legislative issues. These trips to Washington are expensive and maintaining a presence there is costly, as well.

So, it is a yearly and almost monthly effort that we remind all of our members that these issues affect us all, whether we have one hive or 10,000 hives. While we have received pledges during January for over $8,000 and auction items sold during the annual conference raised a significant amount, we are still around $17,000 behind our budget for legislative issues for this fiscal year. Your past donations to the ABF Legislative Fund have been greatly appreciated and they have been spent as efficiently as possible. Many of these trips to Washington as of late have been funded out of pocket individually by our representatives and it is difficult to continue to ask those same people to keep shouldering the costs. We need your help and would appreciate any amount that you are able to contribute. Thank you in advance for your donation to the ABF Legislative Fund (you can easily donate online on the ABF website at www.abfnet.org) and your continued support of these key efforts on behalf of our industry.

From the President
(continued from page 8)

companies making significant contributions to help "solve" our problems. What are we to make of that? As we move into our next 70 years, how do we stay responsive to our changing membership? Who will be our friends and collaborators? What does the American Honey Queen program look like in the middle of the 21st century? Can we maintain and fund a viable legislative effort, as our membership leans so heavily to sideliners? What relevant information can we get to our membership and in what way? Where will ABF leadership come from? And, can we remain a federation, the big tent, or will the fracturing micro interests of this Internet age pull us apart again and again? Those are the questions that will define the next 70 years.

In a society described by Robert Putnam in his book *Bowling Alone*, organizations are dwindling as people are finding more connectedness with their TV than with actual relationships with like-minded people. From bowling leagues to PTAs, organizations are losing their members. If we are going to continue to grow, the ABF must remain relevant and connected to beekeepers and those in the industry. These relations, this connectedness will determine whether the ABF, both at a local as well as a national level, can meet the challenges of our problems.

Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

The following individuals contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the months of January 2013. These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

- Robert Allers, Va.
- Rob Buhmann, Mont.
- Jimmy Carmack, Ala.
- Linda Kaye Carmack, Ala.
- William Montgomery, Texas
- Judith Benoit Pugh and Russ Pugh, Calif. *(In memory of Paul L. Allers)*

From the Honey Queen

by Caroline Adams, 2013 American Honey Queen

Caroline Adams
2013 American Honey Queen

Hello, beekeepers! My name is Caroline Adams and I thank you for the honor of serving the American Beekeeping Federation as the 2013 American Honey Queen. I am so excited to work alongside you this year as I raise awareness about the vital importance of honey bees and our industry, and to increase the consumption of honey. I also look forward to serving with 2013 American Honey Princess, Emily Campbell. Emily is a fantastic representative and I know we will be an effective team. I am looking forward to a wonderful year and I hope to meet many of you during that time!

Queen Caroline and Princess Emily met with representatives of SHARP Literacy in Milwaukee to see their bee robot educational tool for students in grades 1-5.

I am from Plano, Texas, about 25 miles north of Dallas. I am a sophomore at Collin College, majoring in American Sign Language. One of my goals this year is to give beekeeping presentations in sign language to deaf groups. I have been keeping bees for about seven years and am currently a small-scale beekeeper. I love beekeeping, and it is a privilege to represent this industry on a national level.

My first trip of the year was to Wisconsin for media training, January 24-29, 2013. This intense week of training covered every aspect of media interaction, presentation and professionalism, which Princess Emily and I will use throughout the year. One of the primary features we focused on was interviews. As American Honey Queen I have a goal to give at least 50 media interviews this year while generating thousands of dollars of free publicity for our industry. Princess Emily and I spent hours practicing mock media interviews – learning how to work professionally with the media, while getting key messages across to our audiences.

While in Wisconsin, I gave school presentations at three local schools. Emily and I gave joint and individual presentations to 200 students in grades K-2. It is always exciting to share the world of honey bees and beekeeping with children and to see their fascination. As some of the youngest consumers of honey and our youngest audience, it is important to teach them about the vital role of honey bees and the beekeeping industry.

We also visited the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) for the showing of Bella, a 3-foot-long robotic honey bee. A student of MSOE created the honey bee for SHARP Literacy, Inc., as a tool for educating first through fifth graders about honey bees. The display includes a question-and-answer section, information about honey bee biology, a demonstration of a waggle dance and a fascinating video about how honey bees use the sun to navigate. It was wonderful to meet and visit with Lynda Kohler and Nandini Sihna of SHARP Literacy, Inc., and Tim DeLeo, who created Bella. You can learn more at www.sharpliteracy.com.

Throughout the week, we spent time learning how to effectively represent and promote our industry and the American Beekeeping Federation. A very special thank you goes to Anna Kettlewell and Louann Hausner for leading this training; their knowledge and commitment to the Honey Queen Program are incredible and I am so grateful for their willingness to serve us all. Also, thank you to former national representatives Angie (Olson) Lundeen, Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt, Alyssa Fine and Danielle Dale for sharing their knowledge and experience.

I am looking forward to several upcoming promotions in Florida, Texas and Connecticut. I look forward to meeting many of you as I travel throughout the United States this year! If you would be interested in having Emily or I attend your event, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514. We would love to work with you to further promote our industry!

From the Honey Princess

by Emily Campbell, 2013 American Honey Princess

Emily Campbell
2013 American Honey Princess

My name is Emily Campbell and I will serve as your 2013 American Honey Princess. I cannot express how honored I am to have this wonderful opportunity!

I am currently 19 years old and am attending the University of Minnesota-Crookston to pursue a degree in Animal Science-Large Animal Veterinary Medicine. I am originally from Aitkin, Minn., in north central Minnesota near Brainerd, where I keep bees as a hobby. My fascination with honey bees started when I was just 12 years old through the 4-H program. I entered projects in the entomology category (all relating to bees) for six years. Five of six years, I received Grand Champion honors at the Minnesota State Fair. It is pretty safe to say I was hooked on bees from my very first project!

I finally started my own hive during my junior year of high school. I connected with the North Central Minnesota Beekeepers group in Brainerd, which provided me with a mentor and all the equipment I needed to pursue my passion. I then represented the group as the North Central Minnesota Honey Queen, and then became the Minnesota Honey Queen. I never thought my interest in beekeeping would take me all the way to national spokesperson status! Although I am a first generation beekeeper, my interest in bees has sparked interest throughout my entire family. One of my main goals this year is to make it known that the demographics of beekeeping are more diverse than ever!

I have a deeply rooted past in 4-H and FFA. My grandparents operated a large-scale poultry farm in Aitkin, where I spent a good portion of my childhood years. 4-H and FFA were natural fits for me. Throughout high school, I served as everything from treasurer to president of local clubs. As a high school senior, I was even elected as a Region II FFA Officer. Without the experience I gained from these organizations, it is safe to say I wouldn't be as far in my beekeeping career as I currently am. Since both 4-H and FFA have so influenced my life, one of my goals this year is to speak to 2,000 FFA and 4-H members about the fascinating world of bees. It is the least I can do to give back to such wonderful organizations!

My travels as American Honey Princess began with American Honey Queen/Princess training in Wisconsin, January 24-28, 2013. Throughout the week, Caroline Adams and I were given a plethora of instruction on what to expect in the upcoming year. We both participated in extensive interview practices, where we covered everything from radio interviews to cooking demonstrations. The 2013 American Honey Queen and Princess recipe brochures focus on kid-friendly recipes. Throughout the week, we made every one of the recipes in the brochure and I must say that I am a big fan of them all. After such an intense week, I feel much more prepared to better serve the beekeeping industry! I can't put into words how excited I am to have the opportunity to educate people all year about something that I am so passionate about.

Princess Emily explains how bees make different colors and flavors of honey to students in New Berlin, Wis.

Caroline and I also put our new skills to use when we visited schools in the Milwaukee area. I presented to 228 children (kindergarten through second grade) during our stay. We covered the three types of bees in a hive and their jobs, the importance of pollination, products of the hive and the jobs a beekeeper does. I really enjoyed presenting to elementary school students – they always ask the best questions! Many of them were very impressed that the queen bee can sting multiple times. It was a great experience for me to have to put a complex topic into kid-friendly terms.

I look forward to meeting beekeepers from around the country and expanding my knowledge of honey bees this year. I am excited for future trips to Kentucky and New Jersey. If you are interested in scheduling an American Honey Queen or Princess visit in your area, contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or at 414.545.5514.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the months of December 2012 and January 2013.

Roger Allers, Va.
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From the Auxiliary

by Lillian Kelley, ABF Auxiliary President

The purpose of the ABF Auxiliary is to foster fellowship and provide support for the American Honey Queen program. The Auxiliary's fundraising activities include the silent auction and the sale of honey bee-themed items donated to us.

The 2013 ABF annual conference in Hershey was very successful for the auxiliary (in addition to providing for plenty of time to eat lots of chocolate). During the annual Auxiliary breakfast, our 2012 Honey Queen, Alyssa Fine, and 2012 Honey Princess, Danielle Dale, shared with us the activities involving their extremely busy year. The 2013 Queen candidates (Caroline Adams, Emily Campbell, Jessica Long and Sarah Rushfeldt) entertained us with their honey promotion skits, which were very entertaining. Thank you to those who joined the Auxiliary and support the Queen program. We appreciate all the items what were brought to sell at the Auxiliary table and the silent auction.

The Honey Baking Contest was a big hit and will continue another year. I encourage you to begin trying new honey baking recipes to enter in next year's contest. Until then, please take the time to try and enjoy some of the winning recipes.

The Photo Contest was also successful and we plan to add another category next year, which is "Pollination and Bees." Examples of this category could be bees on trucks and bees in orchards and groves. Please take those pictures throughout the year and bring them to Baton Rouge in 2014. In addition, the note cards were very well received and we plan to use this year's photo entries and will have note cards for sale in Baton Rouge.

Finally, I would like to thank our past president, Shelley Rodenberg, for her strong leadership and support of the auxiliary.

First Place: Double Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies *by Alice Rekeweg*

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 tsp. Salt
- 1-1/4 cups honey
- 2 cups flour
- 1-1/2 cups rolled oats
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 2 squares chocolate (melted)
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips

In a small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside. Cream shortening and honey thoroughly. Add eggs, melted chocolate and vanilla. Beat until creamy. Gradually add flour mixture while mixing. Blend well. Fold in rolled oats, nuts and chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes.

Second Place: Date-Filled Cookies *by Ellen Sundberg*

- 1/2 cups butter, 1 cup honey (cream until fluffy)
- 2 eggs (add and beat well)
- 2 tbsp. cream, 1 tsp. vanilla (mix in)
- 3 cups flour, 1/4 tsp. soda, 1/2 tsp. salt (add, mix and chill)

Roll dough thin and cut into circles. Make date filling; cool and fill cookies. The reason to cool filling is that hot filling with honey will boil out if hot.

FILLING

- 1 1/2 cups chopped dates
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice

Cook, stirring constantly until thickens. Cool and fill cookies.

ABF Auxiliary Officers

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