American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER
May/June 2013 • Vol. 71, No. 3

From the President – A Thousand Cuts

by George Hansen, ABF President

George Hansen
ABF President

Most everyone who has anything to do with honey bees agrees we are close to a point where things seriously fall apart. What we don't know is exactly how close we are to that point. We run pretty hard and push our bees to maximize their potential. Many think we can go forward keeping disaster at an arm's length for a while, that there is still money to be made in this industry. Others say we have already started the descent with little hope of catching our fall. Most of us probably take a view somewhere in between. It seems to me the sober reality is we just don't know for sure. In my personal business, we have flirted with disaster each of the last few years. In the fall, the bees have been depleted. They were so weakened and vulnerable that reviving them sufficiently for winter in order to be ready for almond pollination is challenging. There is just so much one can do in late August and September to grow bees under the best circumstances. When the bees are already shaky, one has reason to feel a little desperate. But, each year we have managed to get through. This past year was the biggest scare yet, and now we are making decisions again for this year to see if we can mitigate our problems.

We want our bees to be healthier under the sound assumption that healthier bees will be better able to fight off what ails them. Better feed, better forage, better queens, a better cycle of work for the season. This spring has reminded me of how well bees can do when they get what they need. I know that the weather in many parts of the country has been terrible, but we have had a beautiful spring here. Starting in February and March in the almond orchards, the weather was steady and conducive to good bee growth. It has just kept going for us in the Northwest. We are significantly behind in rainfall this calendar year, and that may come back to haunt us later. But, for now, the sun shines and we have good bee conditions while the countryside remains lush. The bees have responded beautifully.

My decades of experience with bees have shown me a very interesting irony. We talk about relieving stress on bees to give them a better chance, but bees can handle certain stresses very well. And what might appear to be small injuries can sometimes turn out to be the cause of a colony failure. For example, a truck wreck or a bear attack will cause pretty dramatic damage with crushed bees and parts of the hive spread across the landscape. But, if the queen and enough bees survive, they will cluster and rebuild the colony, given sufficient resources. Some weeks later, you might not be able to know anything happened. There are, however, some stresses that bees do not handle well and do not easily recover from. For example, if any one of many possible things interfere

Here's another interpretation of Colony Collapse Disorder.

with the life cycle of the bees, such that the average life span of the bees in the hive is shortened by a day or two, the colony will eventually dwindle and perish.

A lot has been made lately of the argument that the bee kills we used to expect from spray were far worse than any effect we might see from systemic pesticides. I am not sure why we need to find that comforting or acceptable. A change, even if it is an improvement, is hardly an acceptable endpoint if problems continue. There is a significant body of peer reviewed science

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Directors Brandi, Sundberg, Talbert and Wooten, along with the officers, comprise the ABF Executive Committee.

American Beekeeping Federation
NEWSLETTER
May/June 2013 • Vol. 71, No. 3

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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From the Vice President – Perspectives in Beekeeping: Thinking Globally

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

Tim Tucker
ABF Vice President

There is no doubt that the ABF North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow is the biggest event in the beekeeping industry in the United States each year. We invite all beekeepers, beekeeping organizations and anyone involved in the beekeeping industry to be a part of this great networking and educational event.

Bringing all these people together has proven to be very successful, especially when we met jointly with the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) several times in the past. The ABF has hoped to unite all of the parties involved in the many aspects of beekeeping for the ease of providing the best experience to our membership and all beekeepers throughout North America. There is little doubt that working together does indeed benefit us all. During our meeting in Hershey, Pa., this past January, we held a meeting to discuss the possibility of the U.S. being the host country for the 2019 Apimondia Congress.

The Apimondia Congress, held in Argentina in 2011, brings together beekeepers from around the world.

Yes, that's six years down the road, but that's how involved the planning is for this international event. It will actually be 2017 when the decision is made as to who will be selected to host the event. This year's Apimondia will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, and that is where the decision will be made as to where they will hold the next conference in 2015. Several countries are actively bidding for the prestigious honor of being the host country. The last time the U.S. hosted an Apimondia Congress was decades ago, and there has been much talk that the U.S. is overdue for hosting the event.

The 2013 Apimondia Congress is expected to draw 12,000 people from all over the world, and we hope the U.S. will have good representation there. The scientific focus and theme of this year's conference is, "Beyond the Hive: Beekeeping and Global Challenges." The attendees and speakers will be dedicated to studying the potential in solving the global problems facing the beekeeping industry and the world's economy and agriculture today. Special focus will be on environmental pollution and exhaustion of natural resources, poverty and social inequality, cultural barriers, pandemics and diseases of human civilization. The scientific sessions will include participation by over 800 scientists from around the world that represent about 400 scientific papers and over 800 poster presentations.

If the U.S. wants to host an Apimondia Congress in 2019, the first step is to determine the feasibility of whether or not we can pull together the resources to fund a winning proposal to win over Apimondia's delegates. Estimates for putting the proposal together and actually going through the bidding process may exceed $200,000. We certainly do not have that kind of money to do this by ourselves, so there will be attempts to locate additional funding to help make the plans come to fruition. During this year's ABF conference, about three dozen people attended a meeting to begin exploring the option of hosting Apimondia in the U.S. Most were interested in joining a task force to continue to brainstorm ideas, so we have met several times via conference call and will continue to meet throughout the year.

During our first conference call, we decided to form four subcommittees. The first was the venues subcommittee, which will explore several different sites that could be possible locations for the event. Since there may be as many as 10,000 people attending, it limits the cities that would be able to accommodate the event. In addition, there are considerations of which

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Government Relations Update

by By Zac Browning, ABF Past President

Zac Browning
ABF Past President

The following is a letter written by Zac Browning regarding conservation and habitat that he handed to Congressional leaders and Ag committee members on his recent visit to Washington, D.C., representing the ABF.

It is in the economic interest of agricultural producers and American consumers to ensure a healthy, sustainable population of native and managed pollinators, including managed honey bees. 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 posed a major challenge to honey bee health and colony numbers in recent years, posing a substantial threat to pollination. Honey bees require a rich supply of nectar and pollen from blooming trees, shrubs and plants in order to thrive. Changes in farming practices, wide scale herbicide usage, urban sprawl and altered land management policies have each significantly reduced the amount of sustainable habitat available for honey bees.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided millions of acres of valuable habitat for honey bees since the late 1980s and has, at times, effectively buffered honey bees from the effects of habitat loss. This is true throughout the country but especially in the upper Midwest and Northern Plains, where, perhaps, as many as 40 percent of the nation's honey bee colonies spend the summer. Honey bees are transported to the Midwest following winter and spring pollination deployment to the south or coasts, areas which lack critical habitat components needed to support large numbers of hives for the long term. CRP lands, with abundant acres of legume-rich forage, have offered the hives a safe haven from the pressure of modern agriculture where they can be revitalized after their rigorous pollination activities and be readied to again provide vital pollinators when and where they are needed.

The effects of time and altered conservation policies are affecting the value of conservation lands for honey bees. In recent years, CRP lands have deteriorated in value to honey bees as the nectar and pollen-rich plants succumb to grass, weeds and herbicides intended to control weeds overtime. Millions of acres of CRP lands have been converted back to farmland in recent years, while millions more acres are being re-enrolled in the program. In many cases, though, this happens without provisions to restore beneficial plants needed for honey bees. Furthermore, efforts to boost pollinator habitat through conservation programs have not kept pace with losses.

It is imperative that the benefits of CRP be recognized in planning for the future of CRP and other conservation programs. Since its inception, CRP has been a valuable resource for honey bees and other pollinators. Provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill mandated that the effect on pollinators be considered for all conservation programs. This is fitting since conservation lands, such as CRP acreage, provide prime habitat for these pollinators.

Without the benefit of the past and existing CRP acres in these areas, it is certain that the U.S. honey bee shortage would be even worse. It is of no small coincidence that North Dakota, the U.S. leader in honey production, has nearly doubled its hive numbers since the 1980s when the CRP program began there.

The American Beekeeping Federation strongly encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue its commitment to pollinator habitat through conservation programs and recommends focus on the following priorities:

- As a primary stake holder in pollinator concerns, a contact/liaison from the honey bee industry should be established to advise the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on policies affecting pollinator conservation.

- Pollinator-friendly seed mixes need to be affordable in order to be widely utilized. Seed mixes for CRP containing alfalfa and sweet clover were popular in some areas in the past. These plants are excellent sources of nectar and pollen for honey bees and other pollinators. While these plants are not native, they are widely used in agriculture and wildlife management, as they are affordable legumes that provide clear benefits to soil, water and wildlife.

(continued on next page)

From the Executive Director

by Regina Robuck, ABF Executive Director

Regina Robuck
ABF Executive Director

Hello ABF members! Hopefully by the time you read this you have seen my name in the April 2013 issue of *ABF E-Buzz*. If not, please let me take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Regina Robuck and I have been chosen to serve as the new ABF executive director. I began my career in association management over 20 years ago. I have worked with a handful of associations in a variety of different positions. Since 2008, I have had the pleasure of working for Meeting Expectations (ME!), including, most recently, in the role as director of education for one of our association management clients. During my tenure with ME!, I have had many opportunities to hear about the great accomplishments that have been happening within the ABF. I am thrilled to now be a part of this incredible team and to learn more about you, our members, as well as the beekeeping industry.

I know I have big shoes to fill now that Robin Lane has moved into her new role within ME!. Robin has been incredibly helpful getting me up to speed quickly. I am confident that I can continue all of the hard work that has taken place thus far within the organization. I am also excited to learn more about the ABF and help guide it in its journey in the coming years.

I look forward to hearing from you and to personally meeting you at the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Baton Rouge, January 7-11, 2014. Please plan to join us for a week of outstanding educational and networking opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support of the ABF and passion for the honey bee. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you. We stand ready to help in any way that we can!

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of March and April 2013:

10 Years
Willison Crites, Calif.
Gerald Dunbar, Mich.
Walter Els, Mo.
Luke Lambert, Mass.

15 Years
Robert Sears, Mo.
Douglas Scheuring, Texas

25 Years
W. Bernacchi, Minn.
Brian Hannar, Mich.

35 Years
Daniel Gunter, N.D.

45 Years
Marvin Trojahn, Iowa

50 Years
Jim Kuehl, Neb.

Government Relations Update
(continued from page 4)

- We also ask that current CRP contract holders re-enrolling land into the new programs be offered incentives to replant with new seed mixes to replace acres that are now largely devoid of original intended plants or are harboring weeds.
- Lastly, we ask that the Department maintain clear language to allow access for the placement of bee hives on CRP land.

Foundation: 4-H Essayists Look to Reducing Bee-Killing Pesticide Usage

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

"Imagine yourself having to hand-pollinate all the blossoms that honey bees visit or, instead, taking actions to protect honey bees and keep them on the job," challenges Elise Dunning in her first place essay in the 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest.

Writing to the topic "Reducing the Usage of Bee-Killing Pesticides in my Community," Elise advises "using natural alternatives, as well as being careful to follow rules for chemical application…. Most importantly, though, speaking out and spreading awareness of the honey bee's jeopardy can save this bee from toxic chemicals. Our actions and day-to-day choices, whether chatting with family or applying chemicals to our yards, need to be carried out with the honey bee in mind."

For her efforts, Elise, a home-schooled eighth grader from Enumclaw, Wash., wins a cash award of $750. from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. The contest drew state-winning essays from 21 states.

Another eighth grader, Spring Vasey, of Lincoln, Del., wrote the second place essay. She interviewed farmers, gardeners and even an aerial applicator to determine their pesticide-application practices and to educate them on bees and pesticides. She concluded, "Through the simple act of sharing information and communicating between beekeepers and pesticide users, we will have more food and many more 'bee-utiful' honey bees!" Her second place prize is $500.

The third place essay was written by Harold Mizell, 15, of Covington, La. He gets a cash award of $250. Through his research and interviews, he found that many in his community have already started reducing the usage of bee-killing pesticides. The judges awarded an honorable mention prize of $50 to essayist Marlee Vedder of Cincinnatus, N.Y.

Each state winner, including the national winners, will receive a copy of a book about beekeeping.

The essay topic for 2014 is "Beekeeping in Colonial Times." To the earliest European settlers in the New World, honey bees were an important part of their existence. Cargo manifests show that honey bees were among the first shipments of animals. How were they shipped? Why were they important? Why were they so important to the colonists? How does that differ from today? Students interested in writing should contact their local 4-H offices for contest details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.

Please e-mail info@honeybeepreservation.org for the complete rules and any other information needed.

2013 4-H FOUNDATION ESSAY WINNERS

Elise Dunning, Wash.
NATIONAL FIRST-PLACE WINNER

Spring Vasey, Del.
SECOND-PLACE WINNER

Harold Mizell, La.
THIRD-PLACE WINNER

Marlee Vedder, N.Y.
HONORABLE MENTION

STATE WINNERS

Abby Trammell, Ark.
Makenna Allen, Calif.
Alessa Craner, Fla.
Baxton Wimbish, Ga.
Grace House, Ky.
Lucien Failla, Miss.
Cole Diggins, Mo.
Trevor Jensen, Neb.
Hannah Falcone, N.H.
Viktoria-Leigh Wagner, N.J.
Wyatt Chiordi, N.M.
Daniel Osborne, N.C.
Casondra Rutschke, N.D.
Nick Gremmels, Ore.
Janesa Wine, Tenn.
Lauren Kilpatrick, Texas
Olivia Perry, Va.

ABF Dues Increase – Renew Now at Today's Rates

During the recent ABF Annual Business Meeting in January at the 2013 ABF annual conference, those ABF members present voted on and approved a membership dues increase effective July 1, 2013, to the following: Small Scale — $60; Sideliner — $125; and Commercial — $300.

The cost of protecting beekeeping on a small, sideline and commercial scale continues to grow. The ABF is committed to fighting for YOUR ability to continue to maintain healthy bees and needs your support to do so. Since we last raised our dues in 2007 we have added many membership benefits and expanded the reach of services that are offered.

RENEW NOW AT TODAY'S RATES

Please complete the application and return it with payment to:
American Beekeeping Federation • 3525 Piedmont Road
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❏ Small Scale (up to 25 colonies) $50
❏ Sideliner (25 to 300 colonies) $100
❏ Commercial (300 to 1,500 colonies) $250

Total Dues: $ _____

ABF dues and donations, except those to the Foundation, are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution. However, they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses, subject to restrictions imposed as a result of ABF lobbying activities. The ABF estimates that the non-deductible portion of this year's dues and donations – the portion allocable to lobbying – is 20%.

Membership Information (print neatly, one form per person)

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It is not without much thought and consideration that this increase was decided upon and we hope that you will find the many membership benefits far outweigh the small additional increase in the dues structure. Be assured that the ABF elected leaders and staff operate in a manner that is fiscally responsible while continuing to provide the membership benefits you have come to expect, including:

- **North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow**
- **ABF Website at www.abfnet.org** — The latest in industry news
- **Government Relations** — Your voice into Washington
- **ABF Membership Directory**
- **"Conversation With a Beekeeper" Online Webinars**
- **ABF Honey Defense Fund** — Ensuring the purity of honey
- ***ABF Newsletter*** — Published six times yearly
- **ABF Research Initiative** — Funding small-scale projects
- ***ABF E-Buzz*** **Electronic Newsletter** — Published monthly
- **American Honey Queen Program**

We are notifying members in advance of this dues change, such that you can take this opportunity NOW to pay your dues for the coming year at the current levels, which are $50 for Small Scale, $100 for Sideliner and $250 for Commercial. These savings will hopefully help you transition into the higher dues structure over the next year. We encourage you to consider taking advantage of this opportunity to renew at today's rates! You can easily renew online at www.abfnet.org or you may contact Grayson Daniels, ABF membership coordinator, at 404.760.2875 to process your renewal over the phone.

The ABF looks forward to continuing to serve the industry while expanding our services and benefits in the coming years. The new dues structure will provide for years of improving our ability to be an effective organization providing the highest level of commitment to you, our members, as possible. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the ABF.

Donate to the ABF Legislative Fund

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Legislative Fund Contributions

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

Walter Els, Mo.
Robert Harrison, Mo.
Brent Woodworth, N.D.

Foundation Donations

The following ABF members made general contributions to the ABF Foundation during the month of March 2013.

Nancy Carr, Del.
Walter Els, Mo.
Samuel Golston, W. Va.
Robert McDonell, Ill.

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Washington, D.C. 20510

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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!

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!

Queen Committee Report

by Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

Caroline and Emily completed their spring semesters at their universities and are now ready to promote as much as possible the next several months! While June is busy for many of us as we prep our bees for the summer honey flows, there are many opportunities to promote with the Queen and Princess.

In early summer, many summer school programs are in session. Some school districts have short series on specialized topics, particularly science. 4-H Clubs continue to meet during the summer. It's an excellent venue to teach children about the industry, be it about honey and how it can be used, or beekeeping as it relates to their projects or gardens. Boys and Girls Clubs, parks and recreation programs and summer camps often are eager to fill the days with different activities and events. Consider contacting these groups and offer to have the Honey Queen or Princess give an educational presentation about honey bees and do an activity, like a cooking demonstration, with the children.

Other options available to us in the early summer are civic organizations. Lions, Rotaries, Kiwanis, women's clubs, garden clubs, Chambers of Commerce and many more meet year round and typically have a guest speaker on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis. Most of us know someone in such a club, and they are the easiest to reach out to schedule a visit. The Queen or Princess can give basic educational programs, focus on a particular aspect of the industry or participate in a question and answer session. She typically has a PowerPoint presentation to share with adult groups.

Finally, municipal governments meet throughout the year and usually have public comment portions of their agendas. With National Pollinator Week (June 17-23) or National Honey Month (September), local government bodies could be encouraged by residents to grant Pollinator Week or Honey Month proclamations in the region. Having the Honey Queen or Princess accept such a proclamation often affords her the opportunity to speak to the legislative body about the importance of honey bees, the beekeeping industry and the need to protect habitats for honey bees. This typically only requires a call to your local elected official to get the ball rolling.

The American Honey Queen Program has had some unique opportunities in the last few months, so please read Caroline and Emily's articles for more details. We are eager for a busy summer and fall of promotions, but there are still some open times on the calendar. If you are interested in scheduling a promotional visit from Caroline or Emily, please contact me as soon as possible (414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com). Happy promoting!

Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

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

- Robert McDonell, Ill.
- Stephanie Pomeroy, Iowa

From the Honey Queen

by Caroline Adams, 2013 American Honey Queen

Caroline Adams
2013 American Honey Queen

Hello fellow beekeepers! I hope you and your bees are doing very well and have enjoyed the spring. Though the weather varies across the country, there is an anticipation of warmer temperatures, blooming flowers and a flurry of activity in the bee hive. As American Honey Queen, I have been very busy the last few weeks buzzing across America.

I spent March 11-17 in Houston, Texas, working with 2013 Texas Honey Queen, Shelby Kilpatrick and other Texas beekeepers at a variety of events. The first two days, I gave beekeeping presentations to Girl Scouts and local youth groups, sharing the importance of honey bees in our daily lives and encouraging them to support and become involved in beekeeping. After the presentations, the audience had a chance to sample local wildflower honey. It was encouraging to see young consumers enjoy this sweet gift and for me to share with them the many uses for honey. I also visited Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base where I shared with Air Force pilots the role of honey bees in agriculture, the versatility of honey and the importance of the beekeeping industry. The pilots were particularly fascinated with the fact that honey bees are being used in bomb and drug detection. I also spent two days promoting our industry at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the largest livestock show in the world. Over 175,000 people were in attendance at the show that weekend. I worked at the beekeeping booth in the AgVenture building, answering hundreds of questions about honey bees and the observation hive, providing information to attendees and showing guests a live beehive, beekeeping equipment and products of the hive. During my time at the exhibit, there was never a dull moment, as people swarmed by to see the bees. It was so exciting to see the interest people have in honey bees and their desire to help them. I send a special thank you to Ed and Elaine Michalik, Don Angle and the Harris County Beekeepers Association for hosting me during my stay.

From Houston, I flew straight to Hartford, Conn., for several days of promoting the importance of honey bees. I had the extraordinary opportunity of visiting the American School for the Deaf. Established in 1817, it is the oldest deaf residential school in the United States. I gave five presentations in American Sign Language to deaf students ranging from preschool to high school. Previously, most deaf people have not had easy access to this information. It was a privilege to open this new world to them and to share with them the impact honey bees have on their daily lives. Deaf people have very strong senses, so I included opportunities to stimulate those senses, such as allowing them to look at many different photos, feel the beekeeping equipment, smell and taste hive products and feel the warmth and vibration of the bees in the observation hive. This hands-on learning made the experience even more impactful for the children and it was such a delight to see their interest and excitement! I would love the opportunity to share these experiences throughout the country with the deaf community.

Queen Caroline presents honey bee information in sign language to deaf students at the American School for the Deaf in Connecticut.

In addition to the school visits, I appeared at the Connecticut State Capitol for the annual Ag Day. State agricultural commodity groups gathered to promote their respective industries and speak to legislators about the importance of that commodity to Connecticut's economy. I worked alongside of the Connecticut State Beekeepers Association, promoting the importance of honey bees to Connecticut agriculture. At the event, I met

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Queen Caroline speaks with guests and sponsors at GloryBee's Bee Weekend VIP luncheon in Eugene, Oregon.

and spoke with State Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve K. Reviczky; State Entomologist and Vice Director of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station, Dr. Kirby C. Stafford, III; and President of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, Don Tuller. It was such a pleasure to meet with these gentlemen and discuss the importance of honey bees, the issues the beekeeping industry is facing and ways they can help preserve this vital commodity. Nearly 800 people were in attendance, including 245 legislators, making for a valuable day of effective promotions for the industry. Thank you for your sweet hospitality, Ted and Becky Jones!

Queen Caroline promotes the necessity of protecting honey bees and beekeeping to legislators at Connecticut's Ag Day at the Capitol.

On April 11, I traveled to Eugene, Ore., for GloryBee Foods' 38th Annual Bee Weekend. The weekend was packed full of promotions as a record breaking attendance of roughly 1,000 people visited the event to learn about beginning beekeeping, pick up packages of hives, watch live package installations, sample an assortment of honey varietals, visit with exhibitors and support the beekeeping industry. During the event, I gave presentations about the work of the ABF and the Honey Queen Program, visited with attendees about the importance of honey bees, promoted the versatility of honey, attended a VIP luncheon for GloryBee's guests and sponsors and worked with media reporters from two local news stations, KVAL and KEZI 9. The weekend was a great success, and it was wonderful to work alongside GloryBee for the preservation of our industry. Thank you to Dick and Pat Turanski and the entire GloryBee family for sponsoring my visit!

I am looking forward to several local school presentations and presentations to the deaf in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for details and be sure to "like" the American Honey Queen Program on Facebook for all of our travel updates, articles, facts and recipes! Do you have an event coming up? I would love to promote at your venue. Hurry – the summer and fall schedule is quickly filling up! To schedule a visit from Princess Emily or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

From the Honey Princess

by Emily Campbell, 2013 American Honey Princess

Emily Campbell
2013 American Honey Princess

I can hardly believe it is already May! Where has the time gone? April has flown by with several outstanding promotions amidst many midterm exams and final school projects. Although school kept me busy, I still had time to run across the country a few times.

I took a break from my spring break and jaunted east for a bit. My first April promotion was in Richland Center, Wis., March 20-24. I began with a school presentation, which was just one of many that would take place throughout the week. In total, I spoke to well over 400 students from kindergarten through high school seniors. My main promotion in Wisconsin was the Richland Center Garden Expo on March 22 at the University of Wisconsin-Richland Center Campus. I gave a presentation geared toward gardeners and the benefits of bees to flowers and fruit-bearing plants. Many of the expo participants were surprised that bees pollinate over 100 different food crops and that beekeeping is not as intimidating as they thought. The presentation piqued a large interest in the attendees and was extremely effective. My favorite part of the trip was a 45-minute interview with local radio personality Ron Fruit. I covered many extremely important topics in the interview and promoted the Garden Expo. I give a huge thank you to my host family, John and Sue Sharp at ZZ Honey Farm. They were spectacular hosts, and I loved learning about how beekeeping evolved from a hobby into a business for them. It was very inspiring!

In between my long distance trips, I made a trip to East Grand Forks, Minn. (not to be confused with Grand Forks, N.D.). On April 10, I spoke to two classrooms full of children in second to fourth grades. I was impressed with how much a lot of the kids already knew. When students have great baseline knowledge of bees and agriculture, it makes my presentations even more effective. I would like to give a big thank you to the teachers at Riverside Christian School for teaching their children about the importance of agriculture.

My latest trip took me much farther west than the North Dakota border. I was sent to Puyallup, Wash., April 16-22 for the Puyallup Spring Fair. After leaving the snow drifts of Minnesota to find the green mountainside of Mount Rainier, I must say that this promotion was spectacular! Before my official fair promotions started, I had an interview with Carly Calabres from Tacoma.com. The interview lasted over an hour, and because there was so much information exchanged, Carly's computer froze! The interview was posted on the Tacoma.com website and took up a grand total of five pages. The fair officially started on April 18, and I gave an on-stage presentation every day. It didn't take long to draw extremely large crowds to gather to hear about the fascinating life of a honey bee. During my presentation, I covered topics ranging from products of the hive to the jobs of a beekeeper. My presentations also attracted interest to the Pierce County Beekeepers Association booth, where I was stationed for the rest of the day answering the numerous questions coming my way. The observation hive next to me also generated a buzz with all the kids passing by. I had the unique opportunity to do a live interview with

Princess Emily presented to large audiences daily at the Puyallup Spring Fair in Washington. Audience members were fascinated by the dynamics of honey bee hives.

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From the Honey Princess
(continued from page 15)

KIRO radio and their gardening expert host, Ciscoe. I had five minutes of airtime, which was plenty of time to get the important message of pollination across and also invite people to the Pierce County Beekeepers booth. The fair was a huge success and much work was put into it, so there are many people that require thanking. I especially thank the Jackson family and their daughter, Sarah, for hosting me. I also thank the Pierce County Beekeepers, John Timmons and Mark Mietzner for arranging my visit.

In early May, I will continue with more local promotions in Minnesota and surrounding states. If you would like to schedule a visit from Queen Caroline or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

At the Richland Center Garden Expo in Wisconsin, Princess Emily spoke one-on-one with gardeners about the importance of honey bees to their flowers, as well as any fruits or vegetables they grow.

From the President
(continued from the cover)

providing evidence these chemicals, even in minute doses, negatively affect honey bee colonies. Sure, these doses do not outright kill bees, but the long term effect on the colony cannot be dismissed. At minimum, the colony and individual bees must detoxify these materials, potentially overworking their immune systems and allowing other toxins to cause damage. There is good science to support this statement. There are other indications that behavior, including navigation and the ability to process protein and life span, are negatively affected. Is there any good data on what happens when bees are subjected to repeated doses from successive crops? As is the case in any dispute, it is impossible that everyone is right, which always leaves the possibility that no one has the answer. I don't think the definitive chapter has been written on any one class of systemic chemicals and their impact on honey bees.

Varroa taught us that we cannot run away from our problems. There is no secret valley, no distant land where we are immune. That being said, there are better and worse places to be. In my outfit, we have identified several areas where we need to take our foot off the accelerator, just to give the bees a better chance to adjust and heal, to find a better place. We still have to make a living, but downstream costs have been eating up all of today's cash flow. In particular, our last pollination appears to be risky, mostly because it leaves us so little time to restore the bees to proper strength before winter. There is clear evidence that a combination of pesticides and poor nutrition are root causes of our problems. We won't abandon the work completely, but we will significantly reduce our exposure. At the same time, we will continue to search for a successful formula that will allow our bees to succeed. As a general rule, we have found that growers who depend on pollination from bees find ways to do their farming without hurting the insects they depend on. That gives me some reason to be optimistic. A much stiffer challenge is to change the behavior of growers that doesn't depend on bees for their crop's success.

As an industry, we need to look at all causes as we seek to find solutions. We need to resist the temptation to point fingers at one culprit, or, conversely, to deny the involvement of any one problem. The answers will become clearer as objective discussion and investigations continue. In the absence of one clear culprit, we continue to suffer from a thousand cuts. Our industry's future is dependent on finding practical keys to reducing the volume and severity of the injuries.

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From the Auxiliary

by Lillian Kelley, ABF Auxiliary President

The warm weather of spring has finally arrived and the bee yards are buzzing with activity. Beekeepers are busy moving bees for pollination and splitting, re-queening their hives and getting package bees to replenish the bee population. We hope there are lots of healthy bees to split.

Be sure to take advantage of working with the bees, so you can bring some interesting photos to the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow.

In the upcoming *ABF Newsletter*, the rules for the Photo and Baking Contests will be published. Make plans to attend the conference in Baton Rouge and visit the Auxiliary table.

Honey Cookies

- 3 cups crisped rice cereal
- 16 ounces chocolate chips
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Heat all ingredients, except cereal, in a saucepan until creamy. Pour over cereal and coat well. Pat into a greased 8x8 pan and let cool before cutting.

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From the Vice President
(continued from page 3)

attractions would interest attendees for time spent outside of the conference. Tourist attractions that may exist in Washington, D.C. or Orlando, Fla. are the types of areas that would interest many people to actually come to the congress. We have already had a conference call with tourism representatives in Washington D.C. who explained the many details as to why it would be a prime location for being the host city. The tourism department is very experienced at helping groups attract international conferences of this type to the U.S., and that is a big factor in considering what city might be selected by the group. The other subcommittees formed were the strategic partner, initial bid and the presentations subcommittee. Jim Bobb, an ABF board member, was selected to be the general committee chairman, and his experience with attending several Apimondia events is a big help to getting the ball rolling.

The Apimondia Congress Task Force is an exploratory committee, and we hope that we will have a good feeling by the end of the year as to whether or not we can find the resources and an ideal location that would entice the selection committee to consider the U.S. as the host country in 2019. If so, a formal proposal will be presented for consideration to the ABF board of directors at the end of the year. This proposal will help us continue to proceed with research and planning for the event. If you have any questions, please contact Regina Robuck, ABF executive director, at regina.robuck@abfnet.org.

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The 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow is sure to offer top-notch education sessions from industry leaders, various networking opportunities, a variety of hands-on workshops and lots of fun.

Watch for details on the ABF conference website at www.nabeekeepingconference.com.

American Beekeeping Federation