American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER
September/October 2013 • Vol. 71, No. 5

From the President – The Future of Beekeeping

by George Hansen, ABF President

George Hansen
ABF President

I've been forced into thinking about the future of beekeeping lately. I have been to a lot of meetings and fed a lot of "beepocolypse" media. But my life and motivations have changed now that my sons are taking over the business. What is the next generation of beekeepers likely to have to deal with?

Nothing changes very quickly, so for decades into the future, a lot of what we see today will still be there. For the near future, most colonies will succeed or fail with what is in their three mile radius. But as we know, good habitat is hard to find. Most commercial beekeepers will increasingly depend on feed-lot beekeeping at some time during the year. The progress towards a truly complete artificial diet is slow. This is not an unsolvable problem. It is a matter of prioritization. The cattle, poultry and fishing industries are far ahead of us in this area.

The influence of our government is heavy in pollinator habitat. State and Federal governments fully own 35 percent of the land in the U.S. Additionally, their programs influence tens of millions of private acres. For instance, the government pays incentives to farmers encouraging them to grow corn and soybeans and guarantees against failure with subsidized crop insurance. On the positive side, there is some hope that the same incentives might become available for planting wildlife and pollinator habitat on a large scale.

Traditional beekeeping regions are in transition due to changes brought on by urbanization, farming practices, pest invasions and weather events. Africanized bees have eliminated many traditional queen-rearing regions. Citrus greening and the associated pesticide applications have made large parts of Florida unsafe for bees. The upper Midwest is no longer the reliable honey-producing area it was just a few years ago because of drought and corn and soybean expansion. The list

The younger generations are the future of beekeeping.

of examples is long. The next generation of beekeepers will have a hard time patching together places to put bees where they are safe and not a nuisance, let alone productive.

The demand for honey bee pollination is relentless. Future beekeepers will need to face this reality and situate themselves accordingly. Management practices will need to adjust to that reality. On the other hand, farmers growing seed and fruit crops will face paying pollination prices that are not subsidized by the almonds. The chemical industry will have to get their corn division to talk to their canola and almond divisions to make life for the pollinators possible in all farmscapes. One has to hope this adjustment will be sooner rather than later.

Pesticides will not disappear, but clearly things will not and cannot continue in the direction they are currently going. There are simply too many issues and forces at work. The warring over agricultural chemical use is far from over. Right now, organic and other "natural" systems of food production

(continued on page 4)

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

American Beekeeping Federation
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From the Vice President – Perspectives in Beekeeping: Double-Edged Swords!

by Tim Tucker, ABF Vice President

Tim Tucker
ABF Vice President

A couple years ago I was intrigued and inspired by a new technology that was being presented at the ABF conference by a company called Beeologics. Their product was promoted as a new treatment for the viruses that are vectored by the varroa mite. What better treatment could we have for minimizing the effects of this terrible scourge? We have seen the typical effects of viruses in our bees with, of course, the k-wing or malformed wings caused by the deformed wing virus. The bees are unable to fly and practice their normal functions due to this terrible disease that varroa spreads throughout the colony. This further weakens the bees on a day to day basis. This heavy load of viruses that the bees are exposed to continually keeps the immune system of the honey bee depressed and unable to maintain optimum health.

A new product called Remebee, currently undergoing field tests, would bring the hope of a treatment that would solve a host of problems that our bees are dealing with. This was all made possible by the use of RNA interference. It's a process whereby small interfering RNAs bind to messenger RNAs and promote cleavage via enzymes that suppress the ability of a gene to express its individual trait. Viruses are basically rendered innocuous due to their inability to replicate their particular RNA code. It is also commonly referred to as gene silencing because it is sometimes only on a temporary basis. In plain words, you don't always eliminate the virus, but you can hold it at bay for some extended period of time. I have been very hopeful that this would be a big benefit to our industry and still believe it to be a big step towards improving bee health.

I had originally wondered what the interest was in the purchase of Beeologics by the Monsanto Company a couple of years ago. Maybe it was a measure of public goodwill to be seen working in support of the environment by attempting to solve problems with the honey bee. In the past few weeks, I have been informed of the attempt to incorporate the use of RNA interference by genetically modifying plants with specific insecticidal small RNAs to produce toxins that would combat pests such as corn root worm or stop them from developing normally. This type of technology is really what will be commercially viable if it is developed and implemented by Monsanto. The use of it for preventing viruses in bees would likely never be a big payback for their investment in this genetic research company.

I am not a geneticist or a trained scientist, but I do have questions about genetically modifying plants without end. We have incorporated Roundup, 2-4-D and Dicamba genetics into corn and soybean plants, and I am still wondering if this has been a wise use of our technology and what the true long term costs will be. We know what it has done to the level of forage for honey bees in intensive agricultural areas. The current buildup of resistance to Roundup is proof that plants and pests always seem to be able to adapt to whatever they are presented. With this will come the need for more herbicides and combinations that we may only discover or realize the costs somewhere down the road.

While RNAi is used by plants and organisms in the natural world to combat viruses, it is not used by plants to silence critical gene functions in pests. According to Johnathan Lundgren and Jian Duan's "Potential Effects on Non-Target Species," insecticidal small RNAs are specifically selected or designed to overcome cellular defenses and barriers to small RNAs in order to kill a higher organism. It is unknown how these specific insecticidal RNAs will affect non-target species and it is this off-target silencing that I am particularly concerned about. Will this be the same problem that we have with sub-lethal effects on honey bees that we have become all too familiar with? Will this be the same problem that we have with the translocation of systemic pesticides that creep into non-target species from drifting corn dust? Non-target plants and weeds that become tainted accidentally, affecting the nectar and pollen that our bees feed on, is one of the unforeseen consequences that always seem to be present with these new technologies. There are so many variables to be considered when we begin putting things into our world that we fail to investigate fully before utilizing.

(continued on page 4)

From the President (continued from the cover)

are making inroads. All the hype aside, it is hard to know just where we will be in 50 years. The enormity and complexity of the job of creating food for this country and the world is really hard to grasp. Today's chemicals will be superseded by new systems of pest control to increase yield. Unintended and unexpected consequences will surely be facing the next generations of beekeepers.

With the introduction of Apivar, we are all hoping that the current crisis with varroa control is lessening. Most controls lose their effectiveness over time. There will be one or two more waves of hard chemicals for mite control in the works before a breakthrough non-chemical approach is available for large scale beekeeping. So far, every control has had unexpected issues. A bulletproof queen coming out of "natural" or survivor stock is highly unlikely, a long term gamble at best. Even queen stock from skilled selection by the best, most knowledgeable, well-financed breeders is not likely to bear significant, across-the-board solutions to pest and pathogen issues in any near timeframe. We haven't even seen the beginning of what viruses by themselves can do to beehives in a degraded environment. I cannot offer any comfort to my sons in this arena.

The limit to how many colonies we can lose every winter and reestablish the next spring is likely set by the number of queens and packages the industry can raise. More queens can be raised in the late summer and fall, but financing a startup queen operation is nearly impossible. Areas where queens can be raised for April and May delivery are shrinking. There is a big push from Canada to open the borders to give them access to our spring package bees. That will put even more pressure on the supply, causing a price adjustment and further altering management options. Is this a market opportunity or a ceiling for future beekeepers?

It is guaranteed beekeeping in the future is going to continue down this bumpy road. In the 40 years I have been keeping bees, there have been many dramatic changes caused primarily by totally unanticipated events such as varroa. But much of what we do has changed little, if at all. I feel the opportunities for future beekeepers will be there if they can see the way through the minefields.

From the Vice President (continued from page 3)

Lundgren and Duan's publication noted that "the physiological effects of RNAi on non-target organisms are difficult to predict without some knowledge of which genes are at risk of being silenced by specific small RNAs. Many of the effects may be sub lethal and not easily observable. Tiered studies involving the rate of population growth under normal colony conditions may offer a 'clearer picture' of effects, which would be a better means of testing than the simple maximum hazard dose studies done in the past on insecticides, such as Bt."

The EPA will be conducting a meeting of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel to consider and review RNAi technology as a Pesticide on October 29, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The panel will consider comments both written or in person. There are qualifications for speaking to the panel, which can be found at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-15/html/2013-19873.htm. Comments need to be submitted before October 21, 2013. Please refer to the FIFRA SAP's website at http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap to access the webcast of the meeting. This is a topic that the industry must address in the coming weeks, months and years if the genie is released once again.

I would urge anyone with thoughts and opinions on this topic to consider posting them through the link above, and I would be interested in your feelings, as well. If we don't weigh in on the matter, it is the same as endorsing the technology. There is so much more we need to know on this subject. It really does seem as though all things have potential for good and bad. We all need to further investigate as to whether this is a technology that will be non-hazardous to the honey bee and all of us who manage them for a living.

Government Relations Update

by Gene Brandi, ABF Director

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) implemented new hours of service regulations (HOS) for drivers of commercial motor vehicles that require compliance as of July 1, 2013. A portion of the new rule pertains to a mandatory 30-minute rest at some point during an 8-hour driving period. Given loads of honey bees are susceptible to damage from heat build-up during stops, especially in warm weather, this new rule is of great concern to migratory beekeepers.

Long-haul drivers who transport bees on a regular basis plan their scheduled driving time so they are able to avoid stops during the day, in order to keep the bees as cool and ventilated as possible. Beekeepers know that an overheated load of bees can be severely damaged to the extent that the colonies may not survive.

The ABF has been working with the California and American Farm Bureau Federations in an attempt to obtain an exemption from this new rule for drivers who haul loads of honey bees. The Farm Bureau was instrumental in helping the livestock industry obtain an exemption from the new HOS rule, and we are hopeful that, with their help, the bee industry can be exempted as well.

When we first heard of the rule and the livestock exemption, we wondered why bees were not classified as livestock for purposes of this rule. After inquiring with the Chief Driver and Carrier Operations Division of the FMCSA, we were assured that the agency did not include bees in its definition of livestock.

The livestock exemption to this new HOS rule was granted as a result of efforts by the National Pork Producers, as well as the Farm Bureau, and supported by a dozen allied industry organizations. These groups submitted a great deal of information about the damage that can be inflicted upon a load of livestock that is delayed due to stopping in warm weather. They stressed the fact that the health and welfare of the livestock would be at risk and would force the livestock industry and their drivers to choose between the humane handling of their livestock or compliance with the rule. Obviously the beekeeping industry is in a similar situation and needs to be exempted from this new regulation as well.

It is the intent of the ABF that a similar exemption be granted for the drivers of trucks who haul bees. At this time, we are in the process of obtaining as much data as possible so as to ascertain the damage that can be inflicted upon bee hives that are overheated, and we will continue to work with Farm Bureau and others in order to obtain this exemption for the bee industry.

You may view the entire HOS rule at http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ in order to more fully appreciate these complex regulations.

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The following ABF members contributed to the ABF Legislative Fund during the months of June and July 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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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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Ask for your representative's office and request to speak to the agricultural aide.

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2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow – Bees on the Bayou

The 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow is right around the corner and the excitement is building. The annual meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) will be held in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 7-11, at the Baton Rouge River Center.

As always, this conference promises to bring you the most up-to-date information within the beekeeping industry and the latest products and services offered by our many exhibitors and sponsors.

With an anticipated attendance of more than 600 beekeepers from all over North America and beyond, this conference promises to offer something for everyone. From the new small-scale beekeeper to the seasoned professional, conference organizers have planned a schedule to incorporate educational sessions at all levels. Multiple industry leaders have been invited to share their knowledge and practical experience during the conference and the response has been phenomenal. Industry experts will come together to provide up-to-date information on topics imperative to all beekeepers.

The week will commence with an optional field trip to the Baton Rouge Bee Lab. Attendees can expect to learn more about the research conducted at the Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Lab. The main conference activities will kick-off Wednesday morning with the Opening General Session. Wednesday evening will include a complimentary welcome reception for all registered attendees. The 2014 American Honey Show will also take place on Wednesday. The tradeshow, as always, will feature the must-have tools of the trade, as well as the latest and greatest deals and new product ideas and will open on Wednesday afternoon and remain open during conference hours.

Thursday will be dedicated to general sessions, and we are introducing new track sessions to take place on Friday morning. These sessions will be tailored to each stage of beekeeping. There will also be a second keynote presentation on Friday afternoon, followed by the ABF Business meeting. Interactive workshops will take place on Saturday morning, and the ABF will host its annual banquet on Saturday evening, as well as the coronation of the 2014 American Honey Queen and Princess.

Additional information, including registration rates, guest room accommodations, the conference schedule, invited speakers, session topics and much more, can be found on the conference website at www.nabeekeepingconference.com. Be sure to check the website often, as additional conference details are posted daily.

As you can see, the 2014 conference is packed full of educational sessions, social and networking activities, and lots of opportunities to learn about new products and services.

Register now and take advantage of the early registration rates, which will be honored through October 4, 2013. After October 4, the regular registration rates will be valid through December 13, 2013. You won't want to miss this opportunity to experience the largest beekeeping tradeshow, outstanding educational opportunities and the chance to network with your fellow beekeepers in the town where the Cajun way of life, hospitality and charm are contagious!

Baton Rouge Hotel Options

The ABF will utilize two hotels in Baton Rouge for conference guest rooms. Though most conference activities will take place at the Baton Rouge River Center, these hotels are only a short walk away.

Host Hotel

The Belle of Baton Rouge is the host hotel for the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Located just one block from the River Center, the hotel is an easy walk to downtown Baton Rouge and features the following:

- 288 deluxe rooms and suites
- Five different dining options which include the ultimate buffet, the freshest seafood and steaks, a convenient quick stop for delicious sandwiches and a social spot where you can enjoy locally brewed beers and cocktails.
- The Riverboat Casino, where you'll find three floors of unique gaming experiences
- Complimentary guest room internet access
- Complimentary Fitness Center
- 100% Non-Smoking Rooms and Facilities
- Complimentary Airport Shuttle
- Complimentary Self-Parking

The ABF has negotiated a discounted group rate for all conference attendees of $115 per night single/double occupancy plus tax (currently at 13%).

The deadline to make your reservation and receive the group rate is Monday, December 23, 2013, or until the group block is full, whichever comes first. As we anticipate filling our block early, we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Second Option Hotel

The Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center Hotel is another option for attendees of the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Located adjacent to the River Center (approximately a 10-minute walk), this historic landmark hotel features the following:

- AAA Four Diamond Hotel – ranked as one of the top 25 Hiltons in the U.S.
- 290 elegantly appointed guest rooms
- Full-service day spa
- Fitness Center
- 24-hour room service
- The Kingfish Grill, the hotel's signature restaurant
- Complimentary Airport Shuttle
- Complimentary wireless internet in all sleeping rooms
- $10.00 discounted overnight valet parking

The ABF has negotiated a discounted group rate for all conference attendees of $119 per night single/double occupancy plus tax (currently at 13%).

The deadline to make your reservation and receive the group rate is Monday, December 16, 2013, or until the group block is full, whichever comes first. As we anticipate filling our block early, we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Secure your room today by visiting the 2014 conference website at www.nabeekeepingconference.com.

2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Schedule at a Glance**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014	
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ABF Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	*Field Trip to the Baton Rouge Bee Lab
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Research Committee Meeting
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Resolutions Committee Meeting
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Honey Queen Committee Meeting
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Membership Committee Meeting
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Education Committee Meeting
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration Desk is Open
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	ABF Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	ABF Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014	
7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration Desk is open
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Honey Show Drop Off
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	General Session
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Tradeshow
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	ABF Delegates Assembly Lunch
1:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Producer/Packer SIG Meeting
1:30 PM – 3:45PM	Small Scale/Sideliner SIG Meeting
1:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Package Bee and Queen Breeders SIG Meeting
1:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Commercial SIG Meeting
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow
4:15 PM – 5:35 PM	Joint Commercial & Package Bee and Queen Breeders SIG's
4:15 PM – 5:35 PM	Joint Producer/Packer & Small Scale/Sideliner SIG's
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	ABF New Member Orientation
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014	
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration Desk is open
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Tradeshow (and Honey Display)
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	General Session
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	*ABF Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast/Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch (on own)
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Beverage Break in the Tradeshow
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	*Dinner & Entertainment Social Evening

2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Schedule at a Glance**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014	
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration Desk is open
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Tradeshow (and Honey Display)
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Track Sessions/Workshops
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Kids & Bees Program
10:10 AM – 10:40 AM	Beverage Break in the Tradeshow
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	*Foundation Luncheon
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch (on own)
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM	ABF Business Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Honey Show Auction

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2014	
7:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration Desk is open
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tradeshow
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Interactive Workshops
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch (on own)
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	ABF Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	*ABF Annual Banquet

Additional registration fee required** ****Agenda is tentative and subject to change.
For the full conference agenda, visit www.nabeekeepingconference.com

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the month of June and July 2013:

10 Years
LindaKaye Carmack, Ala.
Steve Ellis, Minn.
Jerome Linser, Minn.
Jo Ann Thompson, Md.

15 Years
Beth Hackenberg, Pa.
Joseph Hackenberg, Pa.

20 Years
Karen Dacey, Mass.
Orin Johnson, Calif.
Kim Lehman, Texas
Wally Nass, Wis.
Anna Stedina, Idaho

25 Years
Steve Conlon, W. Va.
John Piechowski, Wis.

35 Years
Edwin Holcombe, Tenn.

45 Years
Joe Callaway, Ark.
Tom Casavan, S.D.

ABF Fundraising at the Annual Conference

by Anna Kettlewell & Patty Sundberg

With the ABF convention just around the corner, we wanted to brief the ABF membership about fundraising at the ABF convention. ABF membership dues are vital to sustaining our organization's presence in the agricultural industry. Fundraising at the annual conference is also critical to the many programs the ABF implements throughout the year. At our conferences, we strive to put the FUN in fundraising!

At the ABF convention, members have many opportunities to support the American Honey Queen Program, the ABF Legislative Fund and the ABF General Fund. Each fund is important and provides our members with value for their membership. Through your donations and assistance, we can better lobby Congress regarding the needs of beekeepers throughout the nation. We can also generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in free media publicity for the honey and beekeeping industries through the American Honey Queen Program, provide educational webinars for our members and financially support research efforts of talented scientists throughout the country.

None of these ventures is inexpensive, nor can we ever provide them enough funding, but every little bit helps. The fundraising activities are well attended and fun events for our conference attendees. Below are some of the fundraising opportunities at the convention:

- **American Honey Show Auction:** All entries in the American Honey Show are auctioned to support the American Honey Queen Program.
- **Annual Sweepstakes Tickets:** Purchase raffle tickets from ABF Directors and members of the Delegates Assembly for unique prizes (beekeeping and non-beekeeping items). Winners are chosen at the ABF banquet.
- **American Honey Queen Quilt Raffle:** Honey Queen Candidates sell tickets to support the American Honey Queen Program. The quilt is awarded during the ABF banquet.
- **Honey Queen Quiz Bowl Auction:** A live auction benefiting the Honey Queen Program is held during the annual Quiz Bowl and Honey Queen Reception.
- **Silent Auction:** Various silent auctions benefit the Research Fund, General Fund and Legislative Fund.
- **Banquet auction:** A live auction with proceeds benefitting the General Fund and Honey Queen Fund. Items are limited at this auction to the Best of Show Honey and non-honey entries and other select items.

This year, the ABF general fundraising and American Honey Queen fundraising will collaborate in some of the silent and live auctions. The ABF Welcome Reception, along with a Honey Queen Quiz Bowl, will be held on Wednesday, January 8. Instead of a live auction at this event, we will accept live and silent auction donations for the General Fund and Queen Fund auctions that will occur throughout the week. You can bring your items to that event or ship them ahead of time to the convention site.

Fundraising at the ABF convention is critical to many of the ABF's keystone programs. While we eagerly and happily accept your donations through your membership dues and donations throughout the year, the bulk of the fundraising for these special funds happens at the ABF conference. We need your support to continue making these programs vibrant and solvent.

If you wish to donate an item to the auctions and cannot attend the ABF convention, please contact Regina Robuck at reginarobuck@abfnet.org to coordinate shipping logistics. You may make donations to special funds at any time during the year online or through checks to the ABF office.

We look forward to having you join us in the FUN of our fundraising activities at the ABF convention!

Know a new beekeeper?
Introduce them to the American Beekeeping Federation!

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2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Registration Rates

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

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

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	EARLY *(ends at 11:59 PM EST on 10/4/13)*	REGULAR *(ends at 11:59 PM EST on 12/13/13)*	ON-SITE
Family (Member)	$345.00	$395.00	$445.00
Family (Non-Member)	$405.00	$455.00	$505.00
Single Person (Member)	$235.00	$285.00	$335.00
Single Person (Non-Member)	$295.00	$345.00	$395.00
One-Day/One Person (Member)	$135.00	$185.00	$235.00
One-Day/One Person (Non-Member)	$195.00	$245.00	$295.00
One-Day/Family (Member)	$245.00	$295.00	$345.00
One-Day/Family (Non-Member)	$305.00	$355.00	$405.00

Note: Non-member rates include a one-year membership to the American Beekeeping Federation. Family is defined as two adults. Children under 18 years of age admitted free.

2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow Exhibitors/ Sponsors

(as of 9/1/13)

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Call for Entries for the 2014 American Honey Show *Gift Box Theme "Cajun Country"*

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2014 American Honey Show, which will be held during the 2014 ABF annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies.

Also, the Honey Show Committee has announced that the theme for the Honey Gift Box class this year will be "Cajun Country."

The Honey Show will showcase the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes 12 classes for honey, four for beeswax and the gift basket class. After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program. **The entry form and appropriate fees must arrive at the ABF offices by Friday, December 13, 2013.**

Additional information, including official show rules and regulations and entry form, can be found on the 2014 conference Web site at ABF Web site at www.nabeekeepingconference.com or by contacting the ABF office at 404.760.2875. Good luck!

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2013 Second-Place 4-H Essay: The Buzz is 'We Can Bee Better About Pesticides'

by Spring Vassey, Eighth grade, Del.

Why have our honey bees been disappearing? This question should be on everyone's mind, since bees are responsible for a large part of our food supply. The decline of honey bees is unclear, [… but recent environmentalists' studies are pointing the finger at pesticides.] Bees are fragile and their immune systems have no ability to fight pesticides. Exposure to the chemicals impairs bees' scavenging and navigation abilities and weakens their immune systems. So, even if the bees are not killed immediately, they are harmed in ways that can endanger the survival of their colonies. These pesticides affect the honey bees through direct or drifting spray, contact with treated surfaces, and by ingesting the noxious pollen, nectar, or water. So, who actually uses these pesticides? A peek inside my community of Lincoln, Delaware revealed many discoveries!

After buzzing around my community, I discovered that many people use different types of pesticides. Pesticide usage has been widely accepted, from our farmers and homeowners to mosquito controllers. So, how can the usage of bee-killing pesticides in my community be reduced, and, how can we lessen the 'pesticide impact' on these special creatures? I have two honey bee colonies of my own, and I want them to survive!

Editor's Note: Read more of Spring's second-place essay on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Web site at http://honeybeepreservation.org/2013/05/2013-4-h-winning-essays/.

Queen Committee Report

by Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

It's that time of year again when I brief you on the American Honey Queen and Princess's goals and results to date! As I write this article, we are more than two-thirds of the way through our 2013 promotional year with Caroline and Emily as our representatives. As of late August, they have visited 18 states and have plenty more to visit during the upcoming autumn months. We are on track to meet the American Honey Queen Committee's goal of reaching 30 unique states each year.

At the beginning of each year, the Queen and Princess set goals for what they want to accomplish for the ABF during their year of service to our organization. Below is a progress report on Caroline's and Emily's performances to date.

Caroline's Goals & Results to Date

- **Give 30 presentations to the deaf community.** As of August 19, Caroline has given 14 presentations to the deaf community in five states. The American Honey Queen Program has not heavily pursued the deaf community, so Caroline's skills in sign language have been an asset to the program this year. Caroline is halfway toward reaching her goal, with several more presentations coming in her fall travels.
- **Create six YouTube videos – three for the deaf community and three for the hearing community.** As of August 19, Caroline has completed these videos. They will be released through the American Honey Queen Program's YouTube Channel (AmericanHoneyQueen) throughout the year and promoted via the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page.
- **Have 30 media interviews.** As of August 19, Caroline has had 12 interviews with print, online, radio, and television outlets. With her upcoming trips, she is sure to reach that goal by the end of the year.

Emily's Goals & Results to Date

- **Give 20 presentations to FFA and 4-H members.** As of August 19, Emily has given 11 presentations to 4-H and FFA groups. As she visits your state, these groups are easy to reach out to help Emily reach her goal. Emily began her beekeeping journey as an FFA project, so this is her way of paying back this organization that helped her develop her speaking skills.
- **Visit 20 unique states.** As of August 19, Emily visited eight unique states, several of those multiple times. With an extremely busy September, October and November, Emily will hit her 20-state goal.
- **Have 50 media interviews.** With her personal experience and work in the radio industry, Emily is striving for 50 interviews this year. As of August 19, she has had 27 interviews with print, online, radio and television outlets. She is well on track to meet this goal.

As Emily and Caroline visit your states, please be sure to ask them about the status of their goals. Maybe you can help them reach their goals by scheduling media interviews or 4-H, FFA or deaf community presentations while they are in your state. Even if they don't visit your state, consider setting up a remote interview for them; the Honey Queen and Princess are regularly available by phone to take media interviews (newspaper and radio). Both are skilled at interviews and would promote honey in your state well, even from afar!

The Queen Committee has begun preparations for 2014. Application packets for the 2014 positions were sent to State Honey Queen program chairpersons in early August, and the application deadline quickly approaches in November. We are also taking requests for 2014 Honey Queen and Princess promotions, so please contact me to place your event on our master calendar. The sooner we hear from you, the more likely we will be able to accommodate your 2014 event. You may reach me by email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or by phone at 414.545.5514. Best wishes in all your promotions!

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 have been enjoying the busy season of summer. Summer travels are in full swing for the American Honey Queen Program. Here is what I have been up to as I promote our incredible industry.

On June 13, I traveled to Wichita, Kan., for a weekend of promotions. First, I worked at the Old Town Farmer's Market giving a cooking demonstration on "The Chef's Table," showcasing the versatility of honey in the kitchen. With so many fresh products available at the market, it was great to encourage guests to take advantage of such a wonderful product as honey and to experiment pairing it with other local ingredients – honey isn't just for toast anymore! Later that afternoon, I visited Botanica Botanical Gardens, where I worked with the Oakschmied Honey Company, selling honey products, answering questions and explaining the many processes that occur inside the beehive. The display was close to a special children's display, so many young people came to our booth asking questions, learning about honey bees and purchasing hive products. It was a great opportunity to reach even the youngest of consumers on a personal basis as I taught them about the different bees in the hive, the important job of pollination and the versatility of honey. I also gave four presentations to deaf students in a local summer program. For many, it was their first real exposure to honey bees and they loved it. It is a privilege to expand the reach of our industry. Very special thanks go to the Rocky and Ruth Schmied Family for hosting me during my stay.

Queen Caroline and 2013 Indiana Honey Queen, Kim Ferguson, give a live TV interview on Channel 8's Indy Style.

After a stop at my home beekeeping club, the Collin County Beekeepers Association, on July 9, I traveled to Cookeville, Tenn., for the Heartland Apicultural Society's annual conference, July 10-13. The conference was full of educational presentations about all aspects of beekeeping, hands-on workshops and catching up with beekeepers from the Midwest. I gave a presentation about the importance of the American Beekeeping Federation and encouraged membership in our organization. The conference was a great success, and I enjoyed connecting with and learning from so many amazing beekeepers and researchers. Thank you so much, Heartland Apicultural Society, for sponsoring my visit and to Stu Jacobson for coordinating my visit.

On July 24, I flew to Ohio for the Ohio State Fair. From July 24-31, I worked in the wonderful Honeybee Pavilion where we had an observation hive on display, honey to sample, cooking demonstrations and bee beard demonstrations. I answered questions, worked at the observation hive, judged honey and passed out literature. I had an opportunity to be on live TV with Gail Hogan of "Daytime Columbus" on Columbus's Channel 4, explaining honey and its incredible natural properties, which make it such a versatile ingredient in the kitchen. I also gave collaborated cooking demonstrations with the Ohio Pork and Chicken Producers, showcasing the importance and cooperation of all Ohio commodities. Finally, I visited the Ohio School for the Deaf to give a sign language presentation to pre-school and elementary students. The kids enjoyed the presentation and they especially enjoyed seeing, touching, smelling and tasting the many supplies and products I brought. Thank you, Anne Blackwell, for hosting me during my visit and Barry and Carmen Conrad and the Ohio State Beekeepers Association for so generously sponsoring my visit.

After Ohio, I headed to Washington for a week at the Clark County Fair near Vancouver, Wash. I judged the honey, wax and cooking entries both in the open show and for the 4-H members in categories ranging from liquid honey and candles to creamed honey, gift baskets and frames. I also worked in the wonderful Bee Barn alongside the

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From the Honey Queen
(continued from page 17)

Queen Caroline explains the difference between capped brood and honey to guests at the Clark County Fair.

Clark County Beekeepers' Association. Their exhibit included an observation hive, a plethora of beekeeping literature and fantastic displays of wild and domesticated colonies, as well as a wall of beautiful hive products on display. I spent much of my time in the barn, answering questions, passing out information about honey bees and beginning beekeeping and handing out samples of honey products. Next to the barn was an enclosed cage with a live hive where I gave a demonstration of a hive inspection, explaining the various roles of the bees in the hive, what a beekeeper is looking for when inspecting a colony and general care of the bees. The demo also showed the audience the gentle nature of honey bees. Throughout the fair, I gave several speeches, including one before a sold out concert audience and had five live TV interviews, reaching viewers throughout Washington and Oregon and generating approximately $16,500 in free publicity for the beekeeping industry. I extend a very special thank you to John and Mary Ann Morrison for their sweet hospitality during my stay and to the Clark County Beekeepers Association.

Finally, from August 10-18 I visited Indiana for the Indiana State Fair where I worked alongside members of the Indiana State Beekeepers Association (ISBA), 2013 Indiana Honey Queen, Alyssa Szafasz, and 2013 Indiana Honey Princess, Kim Ferguson. The week was packed with activity as the fair experienced nearly record-breaking attendance of close to 900,000 guests during the 17-day fair! I worked at the ISBA's booth answering hundreds of questions, handing out samples of honey, selling hive products and giving cooking demonstrations. I also was on live radio on WIBC 93.1 FM's Home and Garden Show with Dick Crum and Pat Sullivan discussing the issues the industry is facing and providing practical ideas for consumers to help the honey bees. I also had a live in-studio TV interview on Channel 8 WISH TV's Indy Style, promoting the incredible versatility and value of honey as well the vital importance of honey bees in our daily lives. Finally, I worked in the fair's Pioneer Village where they reenact various aspects of pioneer life. I worked at the beeswax candle booth making candles, selling hive products and teaching about the many uses of beeswax. I gave a presentation in the village about historical beekeeping complete with beautiful old handmade skeps. Thank you to the Indiana State Beekeepers Association for so kindly hosting me during my time in Indian.

I am looking forward to a very busy fall with trips from coast to coast. Be sure to follow Princess Emily's and my travels on Facebook. We are trying to reach 1,000 "Likes" on Facebook this year, so we would love if you would "Like" our page, share links to our site and encourage others to "Like" the American Honey Queen Program, too. Emily and I would love to promote at your event. To schedule a visit from us, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414-545-5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

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From the Honey Princess

by Emily Campbell, 2013 American Honey Princess

Emily Campbell
2013 American Honey Princess

There is only one word to describe the overwhelming amount of travels and promotions I have been to in the last several months – oofta! Between June and August, I promoted in Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Florida!

My first promotions were in Minnesota starting with a presentation to the North Central Minnesota Beekeepers Club on June 17 in Brainerd, Minn. Since this was my home club, they were very interested in where and how I have been promoting bees and beekeeping. My next event was on June 22 in Rochester, Minn., where I attended the Cascade Meadows Pollinator Celebration, which had a fabulous turnout. There were over 300 adults and kids in attendance, and this was the very first year the event was held. There were many presentations about efforts to restore native prairie land, as well as pollinator population. Visitors saw an observation hive, participated in arts and crafts and learned about everything from plants to birds. I had an exhibit at the event, where I played a trivia game with the kids, showed them tools of beekeeping and handed out honey sticks. It was nice to see such support by the public for such a well-planned event.

Next, I attended the Aitkin County 4-H board meeting on June 26. I gave a cooking demonstration and presented on the importance of honey bees to agriculture to the group of adults and children. I had a few days off before my next event on July 11. This was a marathon day for me because, not only did I give cooking demonstrations at the Aitkin County Fair all morning, but it was also the very first day of the Minnesota Honey Producers Association (MHPA) Convention in Walker, Minn. At the Aitkin County Fair, I made a honey citrus iced tea, which was a huge hit since it was a very hot day. After the fair, I headed directly to Walker to attend the MHPA opening ceremonies and sell raffle tickets. The convention ran through July 17, and I participated in a number of activities ranging from awarding the beekeeper of the year award to giving a presentation on my American Honey Princess and Minnesota Honey Queen activities. I send a huge thanks to the MHPA for providing me a wonderful year of being the 2012 Minnesota Honey Queen.

My next event was on July 18 when I had a radio interview with KKIN 94.3 in Aitkin, Minn. They gave me a full hour of time, and people called in to ask any questions they had about bees. Uniquely, at the end of the show a woman called to inform me that she had a swarm of bees in her yard that very moment. The radio staff and I piled into my car, which is always fully stocked with beekeeping supplies and did a live broadcast of my swarm collection. That was probably the most memorable interview I have ever had!

During the Wisconsin State Fair, Emily gave daily cooking demonstrations on stage. The recipes were a big hit.

After a few days to recover from the excitement of acquiring some free bees, I headed down to Lyndale Park in Minneapolis, Minn. On July 25, the annual Minneapolis Park and Recreation's Pollinator Party took place. Families came to the park to learn about bees as well as sample some fabulous honey ice cream. I ran an educational station where kids could test their skills as a guard bee. We had three jars that each represented bees. The kids (or adults) had to guess which two jars had the same smell in them and which one was an imposter. I send a special thank you to the University of Minnesota Bee Lab for arranging my visit to the party.

Less than 12 hours later, I hopped on a plane to New Jersey to promote at the Warren County Farmers' Fair from July 26-31. I had the pleasure of working with the Northwest New Jersey Honey Princess, Tarin Weinberg, at the fair. Some of our many jobs were selling honey, describing an observation hive and helping State Apiarist Tim Schuler with the honey show judging. I extend a huge

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From the Honey Princess
(continued from page 19)

thank you to the Weinberg family for taking wonderful care of me while I was in New Jersey.

On July 31, I left for my next event in Milwaukee, Wis. I attended the Wisconsin State Fair and presented to a local Boys and Girls Club during my stay in Wisconsin through August 6. During my time at the fair, I gave a daily educational presentation and cooking demonstration, as well as worked in the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association's exhibit selling honey, other amazing products from the hive and honey ice cream, soda and lemonade. My favorite part of this trip was all the media exposure I received for the beekeeping industry. I had five interviews over the week. My first was on August 1 with WTMJ 620 AM radio (Wisconsin's largest radio station) where I was given several minutes during rush hour to discuss honey bees and what was going on at the fair. I was asked about that interview the rest of the week, which proved that people heard the great messages about our industry. I was also interviewed by Mike Austin of WFRV TV out of Green Bay, Wis. My next interviews all took place on August 6 when I interviewed with Bob Meyer of the Brownfield Network, which broadcasts on over 300 networks nationwide; the Farm Report that broadcasts to Madison, Wisconsin's WTDY radio and six other stations in Wisconsin; and the Country Today newspaper. I had a short break from the state fair scene when I presented to 72 children at a Milwaukee Boys and Girls Club. The kids were extremely interested in honey bees and the process of making honey. It was very rewarding because I saw many of the children at the fair the next day, where they could look at real, live bees in an observation hive. I extend my appreciation to the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association for sponsoring my visit to Wisconsin.

In Florida, Emily demonstrated the docile nature of honey bees by wearing a full bee beard.

After a whirlwind week at the Wisconsin State Fair, I headed out to West Chester, Pa., on August 6 to attend the Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Conference. I teamed up with the Pennsylvania Honey Queen and Princess, Elena Hoffman and Jessica Aurand, for the entire event. On August 7, we gave several cooking demonstrations to conference goers. Throughout the rest of the week, we sold raffle tickets, promoted the American Beekeeping Federation, attended sessions and even helped out with the Kids and Bees expo. I thank Alyssa Fine and Tess Bryson (your 2012 and 2011 American Honey Queens, respectively) for all the hard work they put into planning and setting up the Kids and Bees Expo. My last event in Pennsylvania was the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association summer picnic. This event was a wonderful opportunity to meet beekeepers from Pennsylvania, talk about the American Beekeeping Federation and sell some Honey Queen raffle tickets. Thank you to Bob Haniwalt and Joan Welch for making sure we arrived at our events safely, giving us a place to stay, and cooking amazing food.

On August 11, I landed in Gainesville, Fla., to spend a week promoting National Honey Bee Awareness Day. I prepared for this event in early August by participating in a phone interview on SKY 97.3 FM located in Gainesville, Fla. Throughout the week, I had several TV interviews on Channel 20 WCJB and Channel 40 ABC Gainesville. I also had the pleasure of attending the Gainesville City Council meeting and the Gainesville Commissioner's meeting. I received three proclamations throughout the week recognizing National Honey Bee Awareness Day. On August 17, there was a large celebration at the Priest Theater in High Springs, Fla., followed by events at the local Dadant & Sons branch. The most exciting part of my week was when I wore my very first bee beard at Dadant during the Honey Bee Awareness event, and it was a huge success. Overall, National Honey Bee Awareness Day was a honey of a good time for attendees and volunteers alike! Thank you to the Florida State Beekeepers and Chappie McChesney for coordinating and sponsoring my trip to Florida.

I am booked for more promotions all the way through October, so there will be many more updates to come. Make sure to keep track of the American Honey Queen Facebook page as well as www.buzzingacrossamerica.org for more information on upcoming promotions. Hopefully, I will see many of you at my upcoming promotions. If you would like to schedule a visit from Queen Caroline or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

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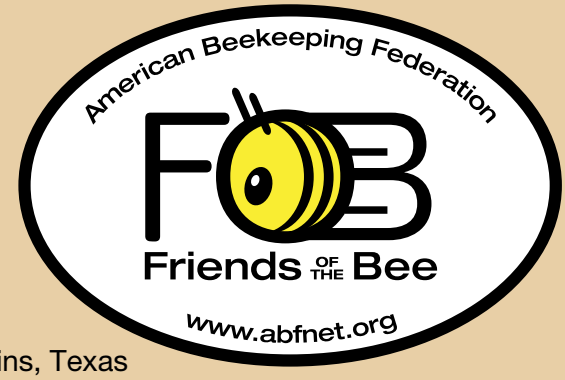
Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

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



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From the Auxiliary

by Lillian Kelley, ABF Auxiliary President

Summer is waning, and autumn brings on the beauty of nature. We, and many of our friends across the country, are pleased to report an excellent honey production and expected higher honey prices this year.

During this busy time of year, I want to remind you to take some snapshots for the Photo Contest and continue to look for recipes to make for the Honey Baking Contest. The rules for the Baking Contest are listed below. Make your plans to attend the ABF conference in Baton Rouge, La., January 7-11. The Auxiliary will host a booth at the tradeshow and we hope you will stop by to say hello!

Baking Contest Information and Rules:
There are four categories:

- Cookies
- Bars
- Candy
- Snacks

Rules:

- More than one entry is allowed that uses at least or more than 51 percent honey or all honey.
- Choose six identical cookies, bars, and candy or snack pieces. Place on a white paper plate and put in a clear plastic bag (the Auxiliary will provide plates and bags.)
- Make two copies of the recipe. Do not put your name or personal information on your recipe card.
- Bring your entries to Auxiliary table in the exhibit hall at the conference.

Judging Criteria:

- Outside Appearance: 30 Maximum points
- Inside Appearance: 20 Maximum Points
- Eating Quality: 50 Maximum Points

ABF Auxiliary Officers

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MISCELLANEOUS

ABF Auxiliary **701.537.5214**
Secretary/Treasurer, Louise Johnson, 34147 310th Street, Guttenberg, IA 52052. The Auxiliary is asking for contributions for the American Honey Queen Fund of 2 cents per day for a year. This will make additional funds available for our American Honey Queen and American Honey Princess. Let's help make this the best year in honey promotion.

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Sioux Honey Association **712.258.0638**
(home office) Fax: 712.258.1332, Box 388, 301 Lewis Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51102.

Tropical Blossom Honey Co **386.428.9027**
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PUBLICATIONS

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ORGANIZATIONS

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Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace?
Contact Regina Robuck, ABF Executive Director, at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

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Atlanta, GA 30305

2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow

BEES on the BAYOU

January 7-11, 2014
The Baton Rouge River Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The city of Baton Rouge welcomes the ABF for the 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. The conference will be held at the Baton Rouge River Center with guest room accommodations available at the Belle of Baton Rouge and the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center.

Baton Rouge is one of the fastest-growing cities in America. With so much to see and do, you'll want to start planning your agenda now. There is never a dull moment in Baton Rouge!

The River Center is centrally located in the downtown area, within walking distance of various attractions, cultural sites, hotels, restaurants and nightlife. With surroundings rich in Louisiana culture and entertainment, the River Center provides a unique environment for memorable experiences, including the 2014 ABF annual conference.

The Belle of Baton Rouge, the conference host hotel, is located just steps away from the Baton Rouge River Center. This hotel features 278 guest rooms, complimentary high-speed Internet access, complimentary airport shuttle, heated outdoor pool and a fully equipped health facility.

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