It was great to see many old friends and meet many new ones during the recent 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Once again we brought cold weather to the South as we experienced cold temperatures that had not been seen there in twenty years! It seems we always manage to break records during the first and second week of January. I am hoping that next year’s conference in Anaheim at Disneyland Hotel will be much warmer. We are already working diligently to establish a solid platform for our 2015 meeting. We are meeting with our vendors who will help coordinate future conferences through our recently established Vendor Involvement Program. It’s our hope to include those that help make the NABC a great program each year by enlisting their ideas and thoughts on the program. Their participation on the conference planning committee will be a great help.

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to serve in the coming year as your president. It is indeed a great honor and an opportunity of a lifetime. There is much to focus on in the coming year and our challenges are, as always, never ending. I am hopeful that my experience and service has been sufficient to allow me to succeed in my position. As I mentioned in my address on the opening day of the conference, our federation is successful because of the way it is structured and we have great experience from which we can draw. We have great talent on our board and our past presidents’ involvement will make my job easier. We also depend upon our committees to provide good insight into new tracks for us to pursue that promote membership growth and value. Operating through this system of a varied board of directors representing all groups of beekeepers and a sound committee structure provide a broad view of our issues and how we address them. I have to thank all of those who serve each month on our committee conference calls and help provide leadership and direction for our ABF. We did have sign up boards for anyone interested in serving on committees this year at the conference, but if you didn’t attend and you would like to serve on a committee or two this year, we would appreciate the added help. We have spots to fill on the communications committee that is headed by Mike Mason and we would be happy to enlist your help. Please call Regina Robuck at +1 404.760.2887, or send her an email reginarobuck@abfnet.org if you would like to volunteer.

I am preparing to head to Washington D.C. for a Varroa Summit hosted by the USDA and I hope that it will be time well invested. There is no doubt that many of our bee health issues still are exacerbated by this tiny parasite and the many viruses that they vector. I have been asked to speak to the group at the opening of the meeting, and I am still trying to find the words that will appropriately speak to our problems as an industry. Many of us who have been keeping bees for 20-30 years remember well the days when keeping bees, producing honey, and meeting pollination contract requirements was much, much easier. Then the tracheal mite arrived, and then varroa, changing the entire formula. I do remember years, however, when we had severe problems with both of these mites, yet we managed the mite loads with timely treatments and still produced good crops of honey. And we did it with winter losses that were almost always less than ten percent, and we had bees build up so fast in the spring that it was always necessary to make swarm prevention splits. We had hives that we could make two, two or three frame splits from a colony and still raise 100 lbs of honey. While I used Apistan and Apilife Var and Formic Acid, I never used Checkmite or Coumaphos for treating mites in our hives. I did not like using an organophosphate in my beehives. I had used compounds very similar to treat for termites, fleas and roaches in the pest control industry, and I knew that in certain cases it could cause problems for humans and may persist in the wax in my hives. I really felt that it would be more of a long term problem than Apistan or fluvalinate. What we are finding now is that even Apistan has persisted in our hives, and is showing up in samples that Beehive Botanicals is getting.
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__(EC) indicates Executive Committee member. Number in parentheses next to Director's name indicates the year the Director's current term ends and whether in their 1st or 2nd term.__
Greetings from Central California, the winter honey bee capital of the USA, and the almond growing capital of the world. As I write this letter in early February, California continues to feel the negative effects of drought even though the first significant rain in 13 months arrived three days ago. 2012 and 2013 were very dry with 2013 being the driest calendar year on record in California. The recent rain, while very much a blessing, has not ended the drought, as the water level in our storage reservoirs is still substantially below where it should be at this time of year, and the underground supplies are seriously over drafted. Areas that normally have considerable bee forage at this time of year are still brown from the drought but should become green shortly given the recent precipitation. We certainly hope that this is the start of a wet spring that provides some forage for the bees as well as some degree of drought relief.

A serious concern for the bee industry is the fact that most almond growers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley (where over 25% of California’s almonds are planted) are currently scheduled to receive a zero allotment of irrigation water in 2014. There are few usable wells in this area so surface water irrigation is critical to the sustainability of the almond orchards in this region. Most of these growers received 20% of their water allotments in 2013 and through conservation practices and fallowing of certain lands; we are able to “carry over” some 2013 water allotments. This “carry over” water is bought and sold like a commodity on the west side of the valley and some growers paid upwards of $1,000 per acre foot for this water in order to at least partially irrigate their almond orchards in 2014. For about a week in late January, the growers who had purchased this expensive “carry over” water were unsure whether or not the government was going to actually make it available for them to use this season. Currently, it appears that the “carry over” water will be available, but the zero water allotment for 2014 is pretty much assured.

At this time, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to whether or not some of these growers will need bees to pollinate their orchards this year. A number of older orchards are being removed and several growers on the west side of the valley have already decided to try and keep their trees alive but not set a crop in order to reduce the amount of water needed, and thus have told their beekeepers that their services are not needed this year. Many of these beekeepers have found other growers who could use their bees, but some have not.

Up until this year, the supply side of the supply/demand almond pollination equation was the only unknown variable, since beekeepers are never assured of a fixed number of successfully overwintered colonies, thus the supply of bees is generally in question. Prior to this year, demand for pollinating bees has consistently increased over the past 4 decades as bearing almond acreage has grown to more than 800,000 acres. At two colonies per acre over 1.6 million colonies are required to adequately pollinate California’s almonds. Last year this amounted to approximately 88% (assuming 31% winter loss) of the available managed commercial bee hives in the USA! We won’t know until later in February how the supply/demand equation for bees in almonds will work out for 2014.

I am honored to be the new vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation. The ABF is engaged in many important issues on behalf of the bee industry, some of which I will address in the legislative report elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to working with president, Tim Tucker, the ABF Board, Fran Boyd, and the staff at Meeting Expectations in order to serve ABF members to the best of my ability.

Special thanks to my wife, Christine, and my son, Michael, who encouraged me to run for this office, even though they will be overworked at home as they endeavor to keep our business running smoothly.

Wishing everyone a successful and prosperous 2014!
From the President
(continued from cover)

from beekeepers that haven’t used it for a number of years. It is present in propolis at limits that are too high to use for human consumption or cosmetic uses and they are having a difficult time buying propolis from U.S. beekeepers. As we have added other products to the mix, there is an accumulation of compounds that, in combination with all the other pesticides present in the environment seem to continually suppress the overall health of our bees. Recent studies suggest that pollen samples collected from returning bees demonstrated signs of 8-30 different chemical compounds. This ready access to an ongoing smorgasbord of pesticides cannot be good for honey bees or anything that visits flowers for nectar or pollen. While overall pesticide use has slightly decreased in the past twenty years—which is a great trend--there is a much broader spectrum of pesticides in use and persisting in the environment. In combination with the miticides we have used in our hives over the past 15-20 years, the mix is increasing in complexity and perhaps its ability to produce synergistic effects such as those that can be demonstrated with the exposure of bees to a mix of fungicides such as chlorothalonil and neonicotinoids.

Honey bees are very resilient, but we just don’t see the bees we used to care for in the 1990’s, and I believe it’s due to the spectrum of exposure to pesticides, the adjuvants in those compounds and even the compounds that result from degrading. The present course is not sustainable and there have to be other solutions that will have to come from our industry researchers at our universities and bee labs, and the pesticide-producing companies. And these new technologies may not have much initial potential for return. We are a small concern when it comes to the overall picture of feeding a hungry world. It’s going to come down to our working with those that have the money and the facilities to develop these new methods of fighting varroa and better crop protection strategies. What we have been doing for twenty years is not working!
On February 7, 2014, President Obama signed the Agricultural Act of 2014, officially ending a long and tumultuous process to reach a consensus on a new farm bill. This new bill, which was strongly supported by votes in the House and the Senate, will set the course for our country’s agricultural and nutrition policies through 2018.

There are several issues contained in the pages of this legislation that directly affect beekeepers and pollinators. The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) has advocated for its community since the inception of the bill, and has succeeded in passing through all but two provisions strongly supported by the ABF and other conservation and pollinator groups.

Provisions contained in the 2014 Farm Bill of interest to beekeepers include;

• Extension of the non-recourse Marketing Assistance Loan for Honey through 2018 at a loan rate of $0.69 per pound. The terms of the loan are 9 months.
• Permanent funding of a Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Program, which includes emergency relief to honey producers. Includes coverage of losses during 2012-2013.
• Requirement of the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to publish guidance on enhancing pollinator health and the long-term viability of populations of pollinators, including recommendations related to allowing for managed honey bees to forage on the National Forrest Service lands and planting and maintaining managed honey bee and native pollinator forage on National Forest lands.
• Development of an annual report addressing the decline of managed honey bees and other pollinators; assessing Federal efforts to mitigate pollinator losses and threats to the U.S. commercial beekeeping industry; and providing recommendations to Congress regarding how to better coordinate Federal agency efforts to address the decline of managed honey bees and native pollinators is required.
• Requirement of the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 180 days after enactment, in consultation with persons affected by the possible establishment of a Federal standard of identity for honey (SOI), to submit to the Commissioner of the FDA a report describing how a Federal Standard of identity of honey would be in the interest of consumers, the honey industry, and U.S. agriculture. In the preparation of the report the Secretary shall take into consideration the Standard of Identity petition filed with FDA on March 2006, including any current industry information clarification, or amendments necessary to update this petition.
• Extension of all pollinator protection provisions (including bees) enacted in the 2008 farm bill through 2018.
• Addition of the term “honey bees” to conservation provisions for native and managed pollinators placed in current law in 2008.
• Expanding of the annual reporting requirement by USDA on CCD to include other health disorders affecting honey bees.
• Reauthorization of conservation programs and provision of mandatory funding for some, that are critical to helping farmers and ranchers implement voluntary conservation practices including establishing habitat and forage for native and managed pollinators.

The two provisions supported by the industry together with many conservation groups and the acceptance of the chemical industry that were dropped from the final conference report (1) language directing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a task force on Bee Health and Commercial Beekeeping, and (2) language encouraging the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pollinator research lab feasibility study.

We continue to work with Farm Bureau in an effort to obtain a waiver/exemption from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration so that drivers hauling bees would not be required to stop for an additional 30 minutes to rest every eight hours. The effort includes trying to get the Federal Department of Transportation to recognize bees as livestock, as does USDA and the IRS.

Thanks to Fran Boyd for providing the summary of Farm Bill issues. Many thanks go to Fran, George Hansen, Tim Tucker and Zac Browning for their efforts on behalf of ABF in the Farm Bill negotiations over the past several years.
Donate to the ABF Legislative Fund

Send your contributions to: ABF Legislative Fund • 3525 Piedmont Rd. | Bldg. 5, Ste. 300 • Atlanta, GA 30305

$100 $ 500 $ __________

Name:__________________________
Address:________________________
City:__________________________
State:________________ Zip:__________
Phone:________________
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Gift may be made by:

- Visa  - Mastercard  - American Express  - Discover  - Check (made payable to the ABF Legislative Fund)

Credit Card:________________
Exp. Date:________________
Security Code:________________
Cardholder Name:________________
Cardholder Billing Address:________________
Signature:________________

Your credit card will be billed by the ABF, which will be transferred to the ABF Legislative Fund.

Legislative Fund Contributions

The following individuals contributed to the Legislative Fund during the months of November and December 2013. These donations will help ABF’s lobbying efforts in Washington, D. C.

Richard Anderson, TX
Scott Barnes, IL
Conrad Bee Pollination, CA
Jordan Dimock, OR
Josh Dion Griffis, Jr., OR
John Robert Hansen, IL

Tony Hogg, FL
James Eric Mills, SC
Gus Rouse, HI
Nolan and Cecelia Stubbs, TX
Clint Walker, TX
Wind River Honey Co., WY

Research Donations

The following individuals contributed to the Research Fund during the months of November and December 2013. These donations will help ABF continue to support research efforts and grants within the beekeeping industry and community.

Scott Barnes, MI
Josh Griffis, GA
John Hansen, OR

How to Contact Your Congressional Representative

Representatives

Write: The Honorable __________
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Call: 202.225.3121
Ask for your representative’s office and request to speak to the agricultural aide.

Senate

Write: The Honorable __________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Call: 202.224.3121
Ask for your senator’s office and request to speak to the agricultural aide.

E-mail: To locate and e-mail your representatives and senators, visit www.congress.gov.
Baton Rouge played host to our 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Although the Polar Vortex did cause some delayed flights and lost luggage, over 650 attendees gathered for a week of education, networking, and fun.

The week kicked off with a trip to the USDA bee lab in Baton Rouge. Over 150 attended this event, where they were treated to a traditional Cajun lunch before they were divided into five learning groups. The participants toured the USDA facility, heard researchers and others discuss what is happening in beekeeping, and explore what the organization is doing with regards to breeding for hygienic bees that will better survive the problematic varroa mites.

This year, our move to a new program design was welcomed by those who responded through our conference evaluation sheets. Instead of having a serious sidelined and a general session track as in years past, we developed a four track session on Friday and added a Beginning Beekeeper, Commercial and Research track. These new elements successfully expanded the focus of the conference beyond serious sidelined issues.

During the conference, the ABF membership elected Tim Tucker, of Niotaze, Kansas, as the new ABF President and Gene Brandi, of Los Banos, California, as the new ABF Vice President. Newly elected members of the ABF Board of Directors are: Kevin Jensen, of Flasher, North Dakota, elected by Commercial Beekeepers SIG. Jonathan Millet, of Greenleaf, Idaho, was elected by Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG. Tim May, of Harvard, Illinois, was elected by Honey Producers-Packer SIG. Steve Repasky, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was elected by Small Scale-Sideliner SIG. Davey Hackenberg, of Milton, Pennsylvania, Patty Sundberg, of Columbus, Montana, reelected and Jessie Brown, of Albuquerque elected by the State Delegates Assembly. (See page 2 for the full list of the 2014 ABF Board of Directors)

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees selected five Foundation Scholarship recipients that represented various levels of study and interest. The recipients were:

- Katy Evans – Master’s student at University of Delaware
- Maria Kirrane – Ph.D. student at University College Cork in Ireland
- Ian Lane – Master’s student at University of Minnesota
- Megan Taylor – Ph.D. student at Washington State University
- Ellen Topitzhofer – Master’s student at Oregon State University

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

- Lillian Kelley – ABF Auxiliary president and ABF Auxiliary booth coordinator
- Anna Kettlewell – 2014 Honey Queen Program Committee chair
- Mary Kettlewell – 2014 American Honey Show coordinator
- Sarah Red-Laird –Kids & Bees coordinator
- Blake Shook – ABF Membership and Marketing Committee chair and ABF membership booth coordinator
- Patty Sundberg – 2014 ABF Silent/Live Auction and ABF Sweepstakes coordinator
- Tim Tucker – ABF President and Friends of the Bee co-chair and booth coordinator

Thank you all for helping to make these activities a resounding success for the ABF!
Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

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

- Micheal and Christine Quinn, WA
- Aveda Corporation, MN
- Gus Rouse, HI

ABF Annual Conference (continued from previous page)

The Founder’s Award was presented to David E. Hackenberg, of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. David received this award for his many outstanding contributions to apiculture education and research.

At the ABF Annual Business Meeting, ABF committee chairs shared updates on activities and initiatives from 2013, the 2014 American Honey Show award winners were recognized, and several new resolutions were adopted. A full copy of the 2014 ABF Resolutions is posted on the ABF website.

In addition to the multiple networking opportunities, the conference provided a bustling exhibit hall and an extremely well-attended Kids & Bees Program. Further, the ABF crowned 2014 American Honey Queen Susannah Austin from Florida and Elena Hoffman from Pennsylvania, was crowned 2014 American Honey Princess.

Plans are already in full swing for the 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, which will be held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. The latest conference information will be posted to the ABF website in the coming months. Be sure to make your plans now to attend!
Top Honors Given During 2014 American Honey Show

ABF members Carmen Conrad, of Canal Winchester, Ohio and Judy Schmaltz of Clarkston, Michigan, took top honors at the 2014 American Honey Show. Conrad’s Extra White Honey won Best of Show- Honey, and Schmaltz’s Artistic Beeswax Candles received Best of Show – Related Items.

**CLASS A – WATER WHITE HONEY**
SPONSOR – Sioux Honey Association
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
3. Gene Killion – Paris, IL

**CLASS B – EXTRA WHITE HONEY**
SPONSOR – Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. Tim Ives – North Liberty, IN

**CLASS C – WHITE HONEY**
SPONSOR – Golden Heritage Foods
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH

**CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY**
SPONSOR – Acorn Bee
1. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS
2. Debra Teeleen - Morriston, FL
3. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH

**CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY**
SPONSOR – Ashurst’s American Honey and Beekeeping
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. Norbert Neal - Elk City, KS
3. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA

**CLASS F – AMBER HONEY**
SPONSOR – Burleson’s Inc.
1. Norbert Neal – Elk City, KS
2. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA
3. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS

**CLASS G – DARK HONEY**
SPONSOR – GloryBee Foods Inc.
1. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS
2. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA
3. John Piechowski – Redgranite, WI

**CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY**
SPONSOR – Gene Brandi Apiaries
1. Gene Killion – Paris, IL
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

**CLASS I – ROUND COMB SECTIONS**
SPONSOR – Ross Rounds
1. Judy Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI
2. Jim Rodenberg - Wolf Point, MT
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

**CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY**
SPONSOR – Central Life Sciences
1. Gene Killion – Paris, IL
2. Jim Rodenberg - Wolf Point, MT
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

**CLASS K – CUT COMB HONEY**
SPONSOR – Dwight and Joan Gunter
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

**CLASS L – CREAMED HONEY**
SPONSOR – Mann Lake, LTD
1. Judy Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
3. John Piechowski – Redgranite, WI

**CLASS M – BEESWAX BLOCK**
SPONSOR – Dadant & Sons, Inc.
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA
3. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, WI

**CLASS N – ARTISTIC BEESWAX**
SPONSOR – Texas Insurance & Financial Services
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH

**CLASS O – BEESWAX CANDLES**
SPONSOR – Ellingson’s, Inc.
1. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
3. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, WI

**CLASS P – ARTISTIC BEESWAX CANDLES**
SPONSOR – Sabine Creek Honey Farm
1. Judy Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI
2. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
3. Virginia Webb – Clarkesville, GA

**CLASS Q – HONEY GIFT BASKET**
SPONSOR – Meeting Expectations
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH

**BEST OF SHOW – HONEY**
Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH – Extra White Honey

**BEST OF SHOW – RELATED PRODUCTS**
Judy Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI – Artistic Beeswax Candles
Sweet, Sassy, Savory Sue Bee BBQ Sauces!

Two delicious choices. Sue Bee® Original Style Barbecue Sauce is the perfect blend of all-natural honey, rich tomato and natural spices. Sue Bee Louisiana Style Barbecue Sauce is the best sweet and sassy sauce this side of the Mississippi!

To order, go to suebee.com or call 712-233-9172.
ABF Recognizes Outstanding Contribution to the Beekeeping Industry During Annual Conference

Each year during the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, the ABF takes the time to recognize a member for his or her “outstanding and significant contributions to the leadership of the ABF and the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry” with the presentation of the ABF President’s Award. Past recipients of this award include such long-term members as Gene Brandi, Binford Weaver, Liz Vaenoski, Randy Johnson, Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, Kim Lehman and others. These individuals all possess a deep respect and passion for beekeeping and the honey bee, and the 2014 recipient of this prestigious award is no different—Dr. Marion Ellis of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dr. Marion Ellis was the Professor of entomology and apiculture specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is currently Trustee Emeritus Department of Entomology. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from the University of Tennessee in 1972 and 1974, respectively. He then served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru and El Salvador teaching apiculture at the Escuela National de Agricultura and offering educational workshops for beekeepers. After completing his Peace Corps service, he spent 4 years at Iowa State University working on controlled pollination of plant germplasm collections and 15 years as the Nebraska State Apiculturist. After 21 years of applied apiculture work, he returned to school and completed a Ph.D. in entomology at the University of Nebraska in 1994 where he is currently a professor of entomology. His research interests include bee diseases, bee parasites and how bees are affected by toxins. He is currently a partner in a 16 institution USDA CAP funded project to investigate factors affecting honey bee health.

Dr. Ellis is a long-time and loyal member of the ABF. Dr. Ellis has always been a respected leader in industry education and a deserving recipient of the ABF President’s Award.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of November, December 2013 and January 2014:

5 Years
Bruce Boess, DC  
Terry Brown, KS  
Peter deBruyn Kops, NH  
John DeWilde, Jr., CA  
Jamie Ellis, FL  
Ray Green, ND  
Christi Heintz, AZ  
Holly Jones, GA  
Richard Moore, CT  
Michael Palmer, VT

Reg Rice, CA  
Nancy Seaquist, MN  
Larue Shultz, PA  
Peter Shultz, PA

10 Years
Jason Conrad, CA  
Angela Honl, MN  
Bert Honl, MN  
Leonard Joy, NV  
Wesley Pound, UT  
Michael Risk, MI

15 Years
Jon MacDonald, NY

20 Years
Andrew Card, MA  
George Hansen, OR

25 Years
Ann Rossman, GA
Bee Connected: ABF Facebook Fan Page

If you are a member of Facebook, you can be a fan of the ABF Facebook page. All you have to do is simply search Facebook for “American Beekeeping Federation” to access the page and click the “Like” button to become a fan.

Everyone is welcome. To date, we have 2,857 fans and are reaching new fans each day.

If you have a Facebook fan page for your business or local beekeeping association, let us know and we’ll add you to our line up.

Please feel free to post your beekeeping photos on our page, write on our wall and keep sending your friends to our page. Stay tuned for ABF updates, fun facts, recipes and photos of our ABF members doing what they do best!
On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome 2014 American Honey Queen Susannah Austin of Florida and 2014 American Honey Princess Elena Hoffman of Pennsylvania to the ABF family. These two women will have a busy year representing us at promotional and educational events as the program continues its 30-state goal for 2014.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our 2013 American Honey Queen, Caroline Adams, and Princess, Emily Campbell, for their hard work. Thanks to their efforts, the American Honey Queen Program again met its 30-state travel goal, reaching a Canadian province, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii this year. Together, they garnered well over $500,000 in free publicity for the beekeeping industry! In addition to their promotional work, they continued our social media programs (American Honey Queen Program Facebook page, American Honey Queen YouTube Channel, and Buzzingacrossamerica.com blog), which reached nearly 50,000 people in over 10 countries.

The American Honey Queen Committee was proud to share this information with attendees at the North American Beekeeping Conference in Baton Rouge. The Queen Committee keeps busy during these conferences, and I extend my personal gratitude to every member of the Committee for making the program run smoothly each year. The Committee and Queens thank every conference attendee who purchased raffle tickets from the queens, participated in the American Honey Show, bid on and purchased honey from the American Honey Show and our other auctions, and who assisted the program at the conference. Your support will allow Queen Susannah and Princess Elena to promote beekeeping and the ABF throughout the country.

In 2014, the American Honey Queen plans to reach at least 30 unique states with promotions this year. As always, we are looking for new promotions in different states. Some states we would love to visit this year include Michigan, New Mexico, Vermont, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. If you have an event in your area, please contact me soon to arrange for Queen Susannah or Princess Elena to attend. Both are eager to promote at your fairs and festivals, but are also passionate about speaking with groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and FFA. They are also ready to appear at school presentations, cooking demonstrations, media interviews, and any other presentation you can schedule for them!

Additionally, our Queen and Princess plan to expand our social media presence. Be sure to like their Facebook Page (AmericanHoneyQueenProgram), follow their children’s blog (www.buzzingacrossamerica.com), and catch their YouTube videos (subscribe to the channel at AmericanHoneyQueen). Both are eager to share the world of beekeeping beyond their face-to-face contacts at promotions.

Susannah and Elena started their work for the ABF quickly after the conference with their training session in late January. I extend my deepest gratitude to Louann Hausner (1996 American Honey Princess), Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt (2006 American Honey Queen), Angie (Olson) Lundeen (2000 American Honey Queen), and Danielle Dale (2012 American Honey Princess) for helping to make the training session productive for the Queen and Princess! All provided valuable training and advice during our session. Susannah and Elena were troopers during the training, smoothly managing not only the bitterly cold weather, but also the many new things thrown their way. I have full confidence that Susannah and Elena will be outstanding representatives for our industry this year.

The Queen and Princess are ready and eager to visit your state soon and to reach the goals that they have set for the year. Please contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with the Queen or Princess. Contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Susannah, Elena, and I look forward to a successful year of work for the ABF and the beekeeping industry.
As January comes to an end, I am amazed by how much has already happened this year, and how much I have to look forward to in the months ahead. The 2014 ABF convention was a fantastic learning experience for me. I met beekeepers from many different areas and learned more about beekeeping in different climates. I met many of you during my time in Baton Rouge and am excited to meet many more of you throughout the year. For those of you whom I did not meet yet, I am pleased to introduce myself to you now.

I am the fifth of nine siblings and was born and raised in Central Florida. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Central Florida studying biology. Once I complete my undergraduate degree, I hope to attend medical school and become a veterinarian. In addition to my interest in bees I also enjoy reading, canoeing, photography, and knitting. I also really enjoy spending time with family and friends; with eight siblings there is always something to attend and enjoy.

I became involved in beekeeping by participating in 4-H and other youth agriculture programs. Through my local beekeeping club, I learned about the Honey Queen program, and the unique opportunity it provides to those who love agriculture and the beekeeping industry. In 2012, I served as the Honey Queen for my local beekeeping club, the Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association in Central Florida. I had a wonderful year promoting honeybees with my local club, and, in 2013, I continued promoting honeybees as the 2013 Florida Honey Queen. I had an amazing experience promoting beekeeping throughout Florida and look forward to another year of honeybees throughout the nation!

My first official appearance this year was the Orange Blossom Beekeepers Association meeting. It was a great experience to talk with the beekeepers that first encouraged me to participate in the Honey Queen program, and to thank them for their support during the past two years. I was very excited to begin my duties as the 2014 American Honey Queen with the local association that cheered for me from the start!

My first out-of-state trip as the American Honey Queen was for Honey Queen training in Wisconsin and Iowa, where I started to outline our goals for the upcoming year. Princess Elena and I decided to prepare a youth education packet which can be used to teach 4-H clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other youth organizations about the importance of beekeeping. I also hope to promote beekeeping in 20 states and will strive to generate $100,000 in free media publicity for the beekeeping industry.

Princess Elena and I are excited to promote honey and beekeeping at a variety of events throughout the year, and our training session was a time to rehearse for all of them. During our time in the Midwest, I practiced preparing
From the Honey Queen  
(continued from page 15)

honey recipes, giving school presentations, participating in media interviews, addressing legislative meetings, and much more. We also had meetings with members of the honey queen committee to learn about our duties in promoting honey through social media on our blog, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Check out the American Honey Queen Program blog, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com, to follow me in my promotions across the nation.

I'm eager for my upcoming trips to promote beekeeping at the Florida State Fair and in Minnesota! I am very excited for the opportunity to work with members of the beekeeping industry from all over the country in the upcoming year. If you would like the American Honey Queen or Princess to attend your event contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

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!
I am honored to be your Honey Princess, and am excited to promote the industry this year on the American Beekeeping Federation’s behalf. I was excited to attend the ABF convention in Baton Rouge, LA in early January. I want to thank the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association for making the trip to Baton Rouge possible, for supporting me throughout my year as Pennsylvania Honey Queen, and for their continued support now as the American Honey Princess. It was my first time ever flying on a plane, and I am eager to travel much more this year on your behalf.

I am from Millmont, Pennsylvania. Millmont is a very rural area, and my family resides on about 25 acres of land. At home, I’ve worked with my father for about eight years in our apiary, participating in hive management and honey extraction. My dad was always interested in honeybees, and he and my mom actually worked for Hackenberg apiaries at one point in time. My dad’s passion for honeybees inspired me and my two sisters to become involved in the world of honeybees. We found ourselves going to many, many beekeeping meetings while we were young, which in turn led us helping out with our family’s hives. We are small scale beekeepers and normally keep anywhere from 17-22 hives. I also have one horse named Begonia who normally spends the summers in our front yard, while the honeybees occupy the back yard along with our dog Kia.

I am currently attending West Chester University of Pennsylvania. I am in my freshman year studying biology with the hopes of obtaining a medical degree. At school I’m involved with the Astronomy Club and Darlington Biological Society, and I soon hope to be in the Photography Club. Other than classes and clubs I enjoy drawing. If everything goes as planned, I hope to have a honeybee drawing for next year’s auction! Who wouldn’t want a honeybee drawing from the princess?

My ABF travels began shortly after the ABF conference, On January 23, I headed to Wisconsin and Iowa to train for my new position as American Honey Princess. The first thing we accomplished was setting our goals for the year. One of my goals is to increase views to our YouTube channel and post six new videos. You can check out our YouTube page at www.YouTube.com/AmericanHoneyQueen to see old and future videos!

In addition to setting goals, Queen Susannah and I spent time practicing media interviews and school presentations. We also spent time becoming more prepared for cooking demonstrations and tried all of the wonderful, delicious recipes that will be in our 2014 brochures. This was really helpful because, although I think it is fun to cook, I’m not Julia Child, and needed to learn some of the cooking techniques! One of my key messages this year is that honeybees are the guardians of agriculture, and I plan to emphasize that message as much as I can this year. Overall, the week was busy and impactful, and pushed us to become better spokespersons for the industry. I want to send a big thank you to Louann Housner and Anna Kettlewell for being so wonderful at training, for striving to make this a successful year for Susannah and me, and for giving us the tools we need to have an impeccable year.

I am thrilled to be serving as your American Honey Princess and cannot wait to start a wonderful year full of promotions. I’ll soon be heading to Minnesota and travelling in Pennsylvania to promote the beekeeping industry! Since it is early in the year, we have plenty of openings available to come to your state and promote the honey and beekeeping industries. To invite Queen Susannah or me to your event contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or via email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.
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The 2014 ABF annual conference in Baton Rouge was very successful for the auxiliary. It was great to see so many people attending the conference. A great deal of information was shared and many friendships renewed and new ones made.

During the annual auxiliary breakfast, our 2013 American Honey Queen, Caroline Adams, and American Honey Princess, Emily Campbell, shared with us the activities involved in their very busy year. The 2014 Queen Candidates (Susanna Austin, Elena Hoffman, Shelly Kilpatrick, and Hannah VanWyk) entertained us with their honey promotion skits, which were most enjoyable. Thank you to those who joined and continue to support the ABF auxiliary. We appreciate the bee motif items that were donated to the Auxiliary for sale at the table or for the silent auction.

The photo contest will be continued next year with some changes, which we will share in a future newsletter. Please continue to take those photos throughout the year, so that you will be ready to participate in the next competition at the Anaheim conference. Thank you to Ellen Sunberg for all her time and hard work as chairman of the photo contest. We welcome Louanna Houser as incoming chairman and look forward to working with her. The note cards made from the winning photos were a very popular item at the auxiliary table.

The honey baking contest will not be continued for another year. We appreciate all that our chairman Linda Hackenberg has done over the years to help make the baking contest a success.

We are looking forward to another outstanding year and a great conference in 2015 in Anaheim.

Below is a winning recipe submitted by Shelley Rodenberg for your enjoyment.

**Glazed Pecan Honey Cookies**

- ½ cup HONEY
- 1 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt

Cream honey and butter until it is light and fluffy. Add the egg and lemon juice, and beat to combine. Next combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Once combined, add it to the wet ingredients.

Chill the dough for one hour. Once chilled, shape the dough into 1-inch balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with bottom of glass. Brush with lightly beaten egg white and sprinkle with chopped pecans.

Bake at 350F for 8-10 minutes or until the cookies are lightly browned. This recipe yields 6 dozen 2.5 inch cookies.

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*by Lillian Kelley, ABF Auxiliary President*
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