American Beekeeping Federation NEWSLETTER
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Perspectives in Beekeeping – Hopes & Expectations

by Tim Tucker, ABF President

Tim Tucker
ABF President

Throughout my life, I have always maintained a positive outlook on things. I suppose it goes back to my early days of sales training, hearing from inspiring speakers and teachers like Zig Ziegler and Norman Vincent Peale. I found early on that these guys had some great rules to live by and that most of what we get in life depends upon what we can perceive, dream for and even expect. I learned that setting goals and planning for accomplishments seemed at most times to get me ahead of those who didn't, but most importantly, it got me moving. Now, that doesn't mean I've met all my goals in life, but some have exceeded my expectations a hundred times. I've learned through 40 years of setting goals that it helps to be a realist and it also helps to learn that not arriving at total achievement is OK, too. Oftentimes, it turns out even better.

In our trips to Washington, D.C. this year we have informed our contacts that our bees' health issues are complex. We compare them to a three legged stool with individual legs of importance being pesticides, habitat loss and the varroa mite. Yes, there are others but these are the ones we feel are the main challenges. We need to significantly reduce all three of these stressors to see our bees thrive as they did 15 to 20 years ago. With that said, depending on where you keep bees and what your management practices are, you may prioritize these factors differently. That doesn't really matter and it's something we need to quit arguing about. What does matter is the recognition that if we solve any one of these problems without addressing the other two, it doesn't get us to good bees. In the coming years, my goal is to see us make progress on each of these problems and while I can hope for a 100% solution, that wouldn't be realistic. We didn't get to where we are in a year or two and we won't turn it around in that amount of time. When Dr. Jeff Pettis was asked during recent testimony before the House Agriculture Committee, "If we solve the problem with varroa, does that resolve the problem with bees?" he said no. If we were to get rid of neonicotinoid pesticides next week, would that solve all of our problems? I believe that would make a large difference, but I don't think it is the panacea that gets me back to 90's bees. Those were the bees that I kept in the 90's that raised 100 lb. crops after having one or two swarm prevention splits made from them.

Most of us understand that crop protection is vitally important and pest control measures are necessary to protect our food supply for a growing population and provide for healthy food production and service. I can hope for an organic world where we are able to eliminate pests and disease without using chemicals, but I don't expect that reality coming to fruition in my remaining days. What I expect is that we can move to a wiser use of pest control measures. What I can expect is that we can better manage crop production acres to provide for set aside acres with safe forage. What I can expect is that our nation works to protect honey bees and native species of all types in every way we can devise.

I am very encouraged by the recent White House Initiative that President Obama released on Friday of Pollinator Week. You can read the memorandum if you haven't seen it on the ABF website. It is a very ambitious program that will form a Pollinator Health Task Force to "restore populations to healthy levels" and also calls for each federal agency to develop programs that they can employ to assist in the project. The task force will be headed by EPA administrator Gina McCarthy and Tom Vilsack, who is the secretary of agriculture. Each federal agency has instructions to develop a Pollinator Health Strategy, which shall include explicit goals, milestones, and metrics to measure progress. One of the most significant considerations in this initiative is how much of our country is under the umbrella of one federal agency or another. Roughly one third of our country is owned or managed by the federal government. Whether it is parks, forest, Corps of Engineers projects, U.S. interstate highways or office complexes, the amount of land available for providing habitat is huge. As I said in my last newsletter article, our industry was asked to provide guidance on this initiative and

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“The Rest of the Story” Continued

by Gene Brandi, ABF Vice President

Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President

Summer has finally arrived and I hope that your bees are making a good honey crop. Bountiful crops rarely seem to coincide with high prices, but maybe this year will be an exception.

I have certainly dealt with a great deal of pesticide issues during my 40 years of beekeeping in Central California. Trying to keep bees here during certain times of the year can be very challenging due to the seemingly constant barrage of chemicals applied to crops and some native areas as well. Dealing with and trying to improve the pesticide/bee situation has been a passion of mine since I began keeping bees. At one point in the 1970’s, having experienced a great deal of misuse and overuse of pesticides around bees, I seriously entertained the idea of becoming an IPM (integrated pest management) practitioner. I even went back to college, enrolled in an entomology course and joined the Association of Applied Insect Ecologists, a group of entomologists who endeavored to control insects using natural enemies, cultural practices, pheromones, etc. and would only recommend the use of pesticides as a last resort. I attended their annual meetings for a few years and was encouraged and enlightened by their progressive approach to pest control. Although I never become a certified pest control adviser and eventually dropped my membership in AAIE, I remain passionate about bee/pesticide issues, as they continue to be a serious concern for me and most beekeepers around the nation to this day.

Given my background and interest in the subject of bees and pesticides, I was pleasantly surprised when I was asked to join ABF Past President Zac Browning, AHPA President Randy Verhoek and AHPA Vice-President Darren Cox on a trip to the BASF Corporation research facilities at Limburgerhof, Germany in late June. Unfortunately, Randy was unable to make the trip, but Zac, Darren, and I had the unique experience of meeting with many of the leaders in the BASF Global Ecotoxicology division as well as some individuals in upper management during our two day visit with them. We were welcomed warmly by everyone as we toured their facilities and learned a great deal about BASF, but we also used this opportunity to communicate our concerns about the negative interactions our bees often have with pesticides. We learned about how their products are tested for adult bee and larval toxicity. BASF has been conducting larval toxicity tests for many years, even though it has not always been a requirement for product registration. We were impressed with their facilities and the thorough nature of their testing procedures. They even use colonies with sister queens in their various tests in order to help reduce the effect of genetic differences on the results of their experimental trials.

During our very frank discussions, we stressed that our bees are generally not exposed to single products in the real world, but rather are exposed to tank mixes of various pesticides as well as adjuvants, surfactants, etc. We pointed out that the synergism between a number of these compounds, which makes the tank mixtures many times more toxic to bees and/or their colonies than the individual products alone, is a very serious issue for our bees. Although it would be extremely beneficial to know the toxicity of various pesticide mixtures to bees and other pollinators, US EPA does not require these mixtures to be tested.

We were questioned on more than one occasion whether or not varroa was really the main problem with the health of our bees. We emphasized that pesticides are one of the primary stressors which are negatively impacting our bees, along with varroa and lack of good forage in many areas. Certainly there are diseases of concern as well, but they would be much less of an issue without the vectoring action of varroa, and the immune system suppression caused by exposure to certain pesticides. We reminded them of the testimony presented at the congressional Ag subcommittee hearing in May, where it was stated that if varroa disappeared, honey bees would still have serious health issues. All in all it was a very educational visit for us and I trust that the members of the BASF staff with whom we visited have a greater appreciation of the issues our bees face with exposure to pesticides in the US.

Back on the home front, discussions continue here in California with the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Almond Board of California and bee industry representatives, including myself, regarding the application of tank-mixed fungicides and insect growth regulators to blooming almonds. It is everyone’s goal to see that the problems which occurred with these products in

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Government Relations Update

by Gene Brandi, ABF Vice President

ABF President Tim Tucker and I traveled to Capitol Hill in mid-June, where we, along with Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates visited the offices of 12 senators and congressmen that hold important committee assignments with impact on the issues affecting our industry, as well as key members of the House Ag Committee staff. One of the more significant meetings we had while in the capitol was with Dr. Melinda Cep, assistant to USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. USDA Secretary Vilsack has asked Deputy Secretary Harden to head up the Pollinator Task Force recently established by the President's Executive Order. Dr. Cep has been asked by Secretary Harden to serve as her point person on all bee/pollinator matters.

Our message was simple but timely and important. We thanked the senators and congressmen (and their staffs) for their continued support of the US beekeeping industry and for their efforts to secure support of additional funding for USDA-ARS bee research for FY 2015. In addition, we asked that they do everything they can to ensure that the final appropriations bill that goes to the President's desk is accompanied by the strongest pro-bee/pollinator report language possible.

We expressed the need for continued research into bee health issues by ARS since the health of our bees remains a serious threat to the viability of the beekeeping industry. Most seemed to be sympathetic and understanding of the situation as we described the issues with exposure to certain pesticides, varroa mites and lack of forage. We stressed these are the issues that must be addressed if we are to improve bee colony heath. Not one, or two, but all three. We can report that at the time of our visits all said they believed that additional federal research was what was needed if we are going to improve the current state of honey bee colony health in America. Unfortunately FY 2015 appropriations are currently being held up by a great deal of controversy over the school lunch program and new USDA regulations, and this will likely not be settled until after the August congressional recess.

Congressmen Hastings (D-Florida) and Denham (R-California) have introduced the "Highways Bee Act" which directs the Secretary of Transportation to use existing authorities, programs and funding to encourage and facilitate integrated vegetation management and pollinator habitat efforts by willing state DOTs and other transportation right-of-way managers. It is estimated that there are at least 17 million acres of highway right of way throughout the USA (approximately as much that is in the Conservation Reserve Program), much of which could be managed in a manner that is more beneficial to pollinators. This can be accomplished by reduced mowing (let it bloom) and by planting native forbs where appropriate. We of course urged support of this bill at every office during our legislative trip and ask that you contact your local congressional office and urge them to support the Highways Bee Act and sign on as a co-sponsor of the legislation as well.

Following our return, we became concerned when two congressmen (whose offices we visited and who have always been strong supporters of additional federal research funding for bees) Rooney (R-Florida) and Valadao (R-California), published a press release stating that the problems with bee health are overblown. Their op-ed, entitled, "Cutting Through the Buzz, Pollinator Numbers Are Up," claimed that since the nation's summer bee colony numbers have remained fairly constant according to USDA estimates, all is fine in the bee industry. They minimize the significant losses many beekeepers have experienced in recent years saying that bees only live for five or six weeks anyway and colonies can quickly regenerate their populations. They claim that any bee health issues are related to varroa and that exposure to pesticides is near the bottom of the list of bee health

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Government Relations Update

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problems. ABF President Tim Tucker has crafted an industry letter of response to Congressmen Rooney and Valadao highlighting the shortcomings and inaccuracies of their editorial. This response is scheduled to be a joint industry letter from both ABF and the AHPA.

Recently, ABF Past President George Hansen participated in a meeting of the National Corn Growers Association in Washington, DC. He relayed to them the serious issues bees are confronting in the corn belt. In addition to the corn dust issue he discussed with them the matter of contaminated pollen, and the continuing loss of pollinator habitat. It is important that ABF be at the table during events such as this, lest the corn growers and others think that all is OK with bees in the ever-expanding corn belt. I urge you to also attend and speak out at your local and state grower organizations to make sure they know and understand the issues facing beekeepers in your state.

I want to also urge all ABF members to visit with their local congressional representatives while they are in their home districts during the August recess. It is a great opportunity to meet with them face to face and tell them about the issues you are facing as a beekeeper and convey the fact that the bee industry needs to remain sustainable in order to continue the important job of pollinating the nation's crops. If they have helped with bee issues in the past, be sure and thank them, and encourage their support of bee and pollinator issues. Remember that 2014 is an election year and they should be willing to hear from any constituent, so take advantage of the opportunity. Make sure they know they have beekeepers in their district!

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How to Contact Your Congressional Representative

The ABF encourages you to keep in contact with your members of Congress – both your representative and your state's two senators. They and their staff members need to be aware of your beekeeping activities and of our industry's needs. And they need to hear this from you. Below are some tips on how to make these contacts. If you need any assistance, please contact the ABF offices at 404.760.2875 or info@abfnet.org.

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.

Legislative Fund Contributions

The following individuals contributed to the Legislative Fund during the months of May and June 2014.These donations will help ABF's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.

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Foundation Offering Five Graduate Student Scholarships

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. (The Foundation) is offering five $2000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in 2015. This is the Foundation's 10th year to award these scholarships.

The Foundation is a charitable research and education foundation affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The Foundation has benefited from a number of generous gifts, including the estates of Glenn and Gertrude Overturf and Margaret and Victor Thompson, and continues to be sustained by ongoing gifts from ABF members and other supportive individuals.

The Foundation Trustees have chosen to use a portion of these gifts to offer five graduate student scholarships to foster professional development for emerging apicultural scientists. The scholarships are available to all currently enrolled graduate students studying any aspect of honey bees, bee husbandry and/or the apicultural industry. The purpose of the scholarships, in addition to providing modest financial support, is to allow the recipients to attend the 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow at Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California on January 6-10, 2015. Each awardee will be given a $2000 scholarship check, in addition the Foundation will cover all lodging expenses and up to $750 in travel expenses. Graduate students enrolled in a University, either within the United States or internationally, are eligible to apply. The recipients will have an opportunity to meet other researchers and beekeepers and to present their research at the meeting. The Board of Trustees always looks forward to interacting with recipients' and hearing about their research during conference.

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until September 19, 2014.

Criteria:
Applicants should submit the following for consideration, as one collated PDF document titled "Applicantsname". pdf, substituting the applicant's actual name for "appilicantsname":

1. A one-page cover letter from their University advisor outlining:
   - The student's progress toward their graduate degree (Masters or PhD)
   - Tentative graduation date
   - Any other information about the student
   - Any information about their research that would help "get to know" the student.
2. The student's curriculum vitae, or resume, not to exceed two pages.
3. A research proposal (not to exceed three pages), written by the graduate student. This proposal should:
   - Begin with an introduction to the research problem, followed by clear goals and objectives that state the research questions and hypotheses
   - Outline specific research experiments the student is conducting for their degree
   - Describe research the student is planning to perform, or the progress the student already has made toward that research
   - Clearly state how the research benefits bees, beekeepers, and/or the apicultural industry
   - Discuss the methods that will be used to answer their research questions, and the expected results or results to date
   - Be written for a general audience. The reviewers of the proposals are beekeepers that really want to understand the importance and implications of the research.

Recipients will be selected in October 2014. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in late October 2014.

Applications must be submitted as one PDF document electronically, including name, address, e-mail address and phone number, to:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., e-mail address reginarobuck@abfnet.org: with the subject line: 2015 Foundation Scholarship Application.

If you have questions or need more information about the scholarship program, contact: Regina Robuck, Executive Director, American Beekeeping Federation and The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

Beekeeping in Colonial Times

by Garrett Smith

Honey bees are quite possibly the most undervalued insect on our planet today. I, like most people, only thought about the bee's menacing stinger, at least until beginning research for this paper. Now, however, I understand the importance of bees and beekeeping. According to many sources, beekeeping may have been around as early as 13,000 B.C., even though scientists believe that honey bees came into existence around 130 billion B.C. [1] Because honey bees are not native to the Western Hemisphere, North America would witness the art of beekeeping until the 17th century[2].

The most commonly accepted honey bee migration theory involves the intentional transportation of the insects by the English during the first stages of European colonization of the Americas. However, some believe that honey bees had already been brought by the Irish and Norwegians. This transit was said to have taken place between 800 and 900 A.D. Even so, most bee experts believe the population did not stabilize itself until the arrival of English shipments in 1622 [1]. After their initial transportation from Europe, the bees began to naturally spread out and increase in number. This action, in addition to multiple other European honey bee shipments, resulted in a bee population that, by 1853, reached across what is now known as the United States [3].

Even with their original tiny population, honey bees quickly became an important pollination factor in the Americas. It is approximated that 94 percent of all Americans took part in some sort of farming at the time of the American Revolution [4]. Even though most of this percentage only participated in subsistence farming, a few took part in commercial farming, an important source of the Unites States' income. Today, honey bees are America's leading pollinator, which differs from colonial times. Pollination before and during the honey bee's first years in America was carried out by a multitude of other insects. These insects included twelve species of bees native to North America. Six of these species are now extinct, and the other six are on the verge of the same fate. Now, honey bees are an irreplaceable pollinator. It is estimated that 35 percent of a human's diet relies on pollination carried out by honey bees.

Beekeeping in the United States began as a small industry made up of a few beekeepers spread out across a new-born nation. This fledgling enterprise would later become a multi-million dollar industry in the US alone. Originally, however, honey produced by beekeepers was largely either consumed by themselves or traded locally. Commercial beekeeping would not begin until the 19th century. Commercial pollination was also non-existent in the colonial times. Historically, bees were kept in man-made straw beehives, or skeps. While this form of storage was common, some beekeepers used wooden boxes. However, upon beekeeping's American debut, wooden boxes suddenly became more common than the straw skeps. Experts believe this shift occurred because of a lack of qualified skep builders. A group of farmers would later invent artificial hives that used removable caps, making the honey extraction process much simpler. Previously, beekeepers would have to kill the bees before extracting honey. This made beekeeping more difficult, as beekeepers would be forced to capture new bees. After exterminating their hives, beekeepers would remove the honey from the combs. Later, L.L. Langstroth would invent a new type of beehive that spawned many of the hives used today. This earned the Pennsylvanian minister an important position in beekeeping history. He patented his invention in 1852. Modern wax comb plates would subsequently be invented in 1857 [2]. These two inventions ushered in a new era of beekeeping, an era that is still continuing today. This was a new form of

beekeeping; easier, simpler and cheaper. Because of this, the hobby attracted more and more followers, which resulted in increased honey output. Although not originally home to honey bees, the United States is now one of the world's leading honey producers. Beekeeping equipment that evolved during colonial times was not limited to artificial beehives. While bee experts have

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Beekeeping in Colonial Times

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reason to assume that smoke may have been used to calm bees from the beginning, the smoker was developed in 1870. Without the smoker, colonial beekeepers were forced to either kill their hives, or use a technique known as drumming. Beekeepers would add a small box to the top of their individual beehives. Then they would pound the sides of the hive, hence the term "drumming." They would do this for fifteen minutes before opening the hive and removing the honey. They were not stung because the bees fled to the top box upon hearing the loud banging on the edges of their home. Drumming would later go extinct after the invention of the smoker [5].

In conclusion, honey bees and beekeeping played an important role in the history of the United States. In turn, the United States played an important role in beekeeping. New techniques, methods, and equipment were all developed during beekeeping's first years in North America. These additions helped form the modern beekeeping industry. I now know to think twice before swatting a bee.

My name is Garrett Smith. I am a thirteen year old boy. This is my first year in 4-H. I play junior high baseball, football, and soccer for my school. I have also represented my school at the district and state level in math competitions, science fairs, spelling bees and essay contests. I am an active member in my church youth group and school FCA Chapter. I enjoy hunting and fishing, as well as reading.

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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!

Make abfnet.org your home page and discover industry updates, ABF news and much more.

Log on and plug in today!

Research Donations

The following individuals contributed to the Research Fund during the months of May and June 2014. These donations will help ABF continue to support research efforts and grants within the beekeeping industry and community.

Hunter Graham, TX
Amy & Stephen Rostkowski, CT

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

Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions

The following individuals contributed to the Friends of the Bee Fund during the months of May and June 2014.These donations enable us to fund educational programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

Tim Cerniglia, CT
Paul Darasz, CT
Lawrence Dubose, IL
Tom & Karen Emde, FL

IN MEMORIAM

The American Beekeeping Federation extend its condolences to the families of two dedicated members and friends.

Phillip Rossman, 1947-2014
Phillip Rossman was the retired vice president of Rossman Apiaries. He served as president of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, the Southern States Beekeepers Association and the American Beekeepers Federation.

Willem Wouter Vanderput, 1934-2014
Willem Vanderput built a dominant honeybee pollination business in the Rio Grande Valley. He was recognized for his approach to working with and controlling the Africanized bees that reached South Texas in the 1980's. He was also a member of the Texas Beekeeper's Association.

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On the Road Again

(continued from cover)

I can tell you that most of our recommendations were taken into consideration. Once the Pollinator Health Strategy is defined, we will need to keep this program at the front of the public consciousness.

The bees and butterflies are all the news today and that is great! Everywhere I go, I get asked "How are the bees doing?" Almost daily there are articles appearing across the country talking about bee kills or bee health issues. People are concerned and it is our time to make our voice heard. This initiative gives us a platform for doing that and if we fail, it will be our fault. Every week it seems there is at least one new peer-reviewed paper that further demonstrates that we are overusing pesticides and it is affecting "microbes, insects, and other invertebrates as consumers, predators, pollinators, and decom- posers for the maintenance of healthy ecosystem functions and food production." (1) Current agricultural practices are affecting populations such as the monarch butterfly so adversely that they are approaching levels where migration and survival is in question. This isn't just a honey bee problem and we have to recognize that and understand that these efforts will involve everything from butterflies to moths and native bees as well. I've already heard voices that this will be just another bogus effort that is designed to use smoke and mirrors to avoid dealing with the real problem of pesticides. I don't expect that because I've sat with members of the administration who are genuinely concerned and members of our corporate world who are concerned as well. Those of us in the industry have to, at the very least, be hopeful for progress resulting from this program. If we are not then we can only expect the worst. Balancing our hopes and expectations is how we manage to continue through times of adversity and it's what I have to do to keep keeping bees. I have written a press release from the ABF which is also available on our website. I will be forwarding this to the White House and to our members of congress. During my remaining year and a half of my term as president, I will keep this commitment by our President on the front burner. We need to all work to keep our individual congressmen aware of the importance of following through with the specifics of this memorandum. Write them often and ask what they are personally doing to help and what we can expect for the future of honey bees.

(1) Risks of large-scale use of systemic insecticides to ecosystem functioning and services. –Chagnon, Kreutzweiser, A.D. Mitchell, Morrissey, Noome, Van der Sluijs

"The Rest of the Story" Continued

(continued from page 3)

almonds earlier this year are not repeated in the future. As beekeepers, we want to maintain healthy bee colonies and the Almond Board wants to ensure that almonds are the safest crop to pollinate in the country. Obviously pesticide application practices during almond bloom must change if that is to occur.

The fact that none of the fungicides or insect growth regulators (IGR's) has been including warnings on their labels is a fundamental problem to the resolution of this issue. EPA representatives have stated that there will be no label changes on currently registered fungicides or IGR's prior to 2015 almond bloom, so it is imperative that something be done at the state and/or local level in order to change current pesticide application practices. At our most recent meeting, we questioned whether or not County Agricultural Commissioners could add certain conditions to almond grower's annual pesticide permits which would restrict the mixing of IGR's with fungicides for use on blooming almonds. We were told that this wouldn't be possible as none of these products are restricted materials. Given that scenario, it appears that an educational campaign aimed at pest control advisers, growers and applicators is the most promising course of action. We have plans to address the California Association of Pest Control Advisers' annual convention as well as their regional meetings. The Almond Board has already published information in their grower newsletter about this problem and plans to address the issue at their annual grower conference this fall. There are plans to approach the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association as well.

If you are involved with almond pollination, it is a good idea to discuss this issue with your growers prior to almond bloom (even this fall), ask about their pest control programs and request that they do not apply a tank mix of fungicides and IGR's during bloom. Also, ask that if a fungicide must be applied during bloom that it be in a mixture of at least 75 gallons of water per acre, applied late in the day or in the evening, in order to reduce the chance of pollen contamination.

The most effective long-term solution to this problem will be to properly label the products which are causing these bee health issues during almond pollination as well as when they are used on other crops throughout the nation. Until that happens, education is the next best alternative.

May your bees remain healthy and strong, and may your honey crop be bounteous!!

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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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Queen Committee Report

by Anna Kettlewell, Honey Queen Program Chair

Summer is in full swing, and the Queen and Princess are on the road promoting honey and teaching the public about the vital importance of our industry in society! Prior to venturing across the country, Susannah and Elena stayed busy on the home front, preparing for many months of nearly nonstop travel. Among their preparations were composing kid-friendly blog articles for the rest of the year and completing several YouTube videos.

As social media has taken hold of the nation's attention, the Queen Program has continued to embrace its application to education and promotion of our industry's work and products. Each year, the Queen and Princess prepare 12 blog articles suitable for an eight-year-old audience. While the Queen and Princess present to students of all ages, we are most commonly welcomed into the second, third, and fourth grade worlds during school promotions. The topics on the blog have ranged from the history of beekeeping, jobs in the industry, different uses for honey and how to use beeswax. The beekeeping industry has a wealth of intricacies, and it would take years to share all these with the public. Using our blog gives the queen and princess the opportunity to explore different topics that they may not be familiar with, and it also allows them to point to a resource when they can't answer every child's question in a classroom.

To aid with answering students questions, there is a questions page on the program's blog. It buzzes with activity in the spring and fall months, when students ask those questions that couldn't be answered. While the Queen and Princess are in your state, they will likely take 30 minutes each day to update the blog (and the program's Facebook page) and answer students' questions.

One of the most exciting components of the program's social media is the expansion of a YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/AmericanHoneyQueen). Videos on this channel can range in topics from what happens when a honeybee stings and how to hive a swarm to how to liquefy crystalized honey and various demonstrations of cooking with honey. There are always concepts that are hard to explain to an audience, be they children or adults; videos really help bridge the gap. As many classrooms are equipped with smart boards and other technology, it is increasingly easy to use YouTube in the classroom. Queens often use these videos to explain their points, and you are welcome to do the same. Feel free to log onto the American Honey Queen Channel on YouTube to access these videos and use them in your presentations. They're a great resource.

The Program's blog and YouTube channel reach tens of thousands of people throughout the world each year. Stay tuned to see the contributions of our 2014 American Honey Queen and Princess on these media throughout the year.

HONEY QUEEN FUND

The following individuals contributed to the Honey Queen Fund during the months of May and June 2014.These donations will help to continue the purpose of the Honey Queen/Princess Program to have a public representative and educate the public about the beekeeping industry nationwide.

Michael Brake, NC

Milestones

Congratulations to the following ABF members that have reached milestone years during the months of June and July 2014:

JUNE

40 Years
Ronald Uzzell, FL

JULY

10 Years
Joseph Carson, AK
Gerald Dunbar, MI
Marianne Gamber, PA

25 Years
Liz Vaenoski, WI

40 Years
Gary Reynolds, KS

From the Honey Queen

by Susannah Austin, 2014 American Honey Queen

Susannah Austin
2014 American Honey Queen

The last few months of travel have been the busiest yet. I am always interested to learn about the differences in beekeeping in each state and of course tasting the different honeys is also a great experience!

In mid-May, I flew to Texas to help the Harris County Beekeepers at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival outside Houston and to give several school presentations with Texas Honey Princess Shannon LaGrave. Before the festival, we visited Jensen Elementary and talked about beekeeping on career day. The children were fascinated to learn about the important role that beekeepers play in producing many crops. The Pasadena Strawberry Festival has run for more than 40 years, and all the money raised during the weekend is used for scholarships for members of the local community. The Harris County Beekeepers Association had a booth at the festival with an observation hive and honey tasting. Princess Shannon and I worked with local beekeepers to talk with festival attendees about the important role that honeybees play in different crops, particularly strawberries, in Texas!

Queen Susannah appeared on "Good Day Orlando" discussing how honeybees produce honey.

After the festival, we visited a local Montessori school to talk about helping honey bee habitat. We provided students with resources to identify which wildflowers or bee friendly flowers would grow best in their area and provide bees with nutritious food to make a difference to the honeybees in their area! If you are teaching others about creating pollinator-friendly growing projects, a great place to start is the Pollinator Partnership. You can find a planting guide on www.pollinator.org to find out what flowers will grow best in different areas. I am very grateful for Ed and Elaine Michalik for hosting me during my time in Texas and thankful for the Harris County Beekeepers Association including me in their educational outreach.

After I finished my promotions in Texas, I returned to Florida to finish the month of May by teaching nearly 300 students at local schools in Mount Dora and Deltona about honeybees and all of the amazing things they do that benefit us. During the first week of June, I visited several more elementary schools around central Florida to speak about the benefits of honeybees and the effect they have on many different industries. I also visited Fox 35 on June 7 for a live television interview to talk about beekeeping and honey production in Central Florida. I brought an observation hive as well as several different varieties of honey, so we could talk about how honey is produced, the differences in honey varieties and the unique properties of honey. The interview was live on a Saturday morning, generating nearly $6,500 in free publicity for our industry! Thank you to Jason Deeringer of Bee Serious, LLC for allowing me to use his observation hive for the interview.

I visited Colorado, June 10-15, for the Colorado State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting and other local promotions. In addition to the summer meeting, I spoke with a local bee club, helped at several farmers' markets, visited a youth gardening group, and toured the National Honey Board offices. I had the opportunity to speak about my travels as the 2014 American Honey Queen at the local bee club. Attending beekeeping meetings is interesting for honey queens, because beekeeping practices and experiences vary across the country. I always learn new tips and tricks along the way! These experiences help the queens better teach the public about the differences in beekeeping throughout the nation. At the farmers' markets, I helped local beekeepers share information about the value of local honey and sold a lot of honey! The youth gardening group was a community outreach projects in the local area to reach inner-city children who have had problems in school

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From the Honey Queen

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to help them become involved in agriculture and learn about community building. During my visit I talked about the important role that pollinators play in crop production. The students were amazed to learn that without the help of pollinators, some plants wouldn't even be able to produce seeds! Insects may be small, but they are crucial.

Next, I visited the headquarters of the National Honey Board in Firestone. Their staff does a fantastic job of creating recipe cards, handouts and all kinds of honey goodies which are used by educators and media across the country to share the sweet story of honey! The Honey Board has several new honey brochures and cookbooks which I have utilized in cooking demonstrations since then. I am very thankful to all the Honey Board staff for all of the hard work which they do to promote honey education. Finally, I capped off my Colorado promotion with the Colorado State Beekeepers Association summer meeting. The meeting was attended by more than 100 beekeepers. I presented a class on beekeeping education for beekeepers who are interested in teaching others and sharing their knowledge. Thank you to Terry and Teresa Dorsey for hosting me, to Beth Conrey for arranging my presentations and to the Colorado Beekeepers Association for invited me to participate in their summer meeting!

Queen Susannah presented on Honeybee Education at the Colorado State Beekeepers Association summer meeting in July.

I rounded out June with local events. I traveled to Bartow, Florida on June 23 to speak at the Ridge Beekeepers Association about my travels this year and the goals of the Honey Queen program. Approximately 30 beekeepers attended, and I demonstrated some honey recipes for their potluck dinner. Thanks to Bert Kelley for arranging my presentation! Then, on June 30, I spoke at a 4-H club in Orlando about the fascinating life cycle of bees and the important role which they play in our lives. We made some delicious honey mustard and vegetables as well as pepperoni pizza and talked about the ways in which bees contribute to those foods! Kids are always interested to learn that without honeybees, we would lose a third of the amount of pizza that we eat!

I traveled to Carbondale, Illinois, July 9-13 to speak at the Heartland Apicultural Society 13th Annual Meeting. Approximately 200 people from several different states attended the conference, and it was great to catch up with beekeepers I met earlier this year and to meet new ones! I worked with Indiana Honey Queen Katie Neighbors and Indiana Honey Princess Teresa Nance to teach several classes on cooking with honey and youth education during the conference. I really enjoyed the opportunity to share information with beekeepers who are interested in beginning to teach others! I have learned a lot during my time with the Honey Queen program and was pleased to share that knowledge with others so that we can educate the public about bees! I am very thankful to Kristy Dooley and Jennifer Tsuruda for arranging my trip to Illinois. I am also very grateful to the Heartland Apicultural Society for inviting me to participate.

It has been a busy couple of months, and I am very thankful to everyone who helped to make my events possible. Coming up, I am looking forward to more promotions in Minnesota, New Jersey, Washington, and Indiana! To see more pictures and updates follow the American Honey Queen Program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmericanHoneyQueenProgram. If you would like to invite Princess Elena or me to attend your event or if you would like more information about the American Honey Queen Program, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or by email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com

From the Honey Princess

by Elena Hoffman, 2014 American Honey Princess

Elena Hoffman
2014 American Honey Princess

Hello, everyone! I have now officially, successfully completed my freshman year of college and have moved back into my home. Now that school is out of the way, I am ready and excited to fill up the rest of this eventful year with promotions.

I was very busy May 21-23, as I traveled to Delaware to speak to 831 students in five schools in Wilmington. The classes ranged from kindergarten to fifth grade. Some of the classes had me in to speak to kick off their pollinator units! I really loved talking to the students about honeybee biology, pollination and the importance of beekeepers. One of the school's mascots was the honey bee, and the kids told me that they were "bee"lingual. This trip was a great way to round out the school year!

After dropping down to Delaware, I returned to Pennsylvania on May 28 to speak to a Girl Scout Troop in Montoursville. I used a teaching mini-hive to show the girls what the inside of a beehive was like and to explain where and how honey bees live. I also explained how honey bee pollination gives us fruits in better quantity and quality. Lastly, I finished up the promotion with a craft by letting them paint their own stones into honey bees, which they kept at the end of the night. Working with Girl Scout troops is always rewarding, because when I was younger, I listened to Girl Scout presentations and always enjoyed the educational crafts as a Brownie in my local troop.

June was buzzing with some fantastic promotions! On June 4, I presented to a Daisy Troop in Picture Rocks, PA. I spoke to 20 girls about honeybees and demonstrated a honey snack for them. The girls learned that they could really enjoy fruits or vegetables, like bananas, that they typically did not enjoy, simply by adding a little honey to the recipe. They also learned how healthy honey is. After visiting Picture Rocks, I headed to Altoona, PA, to demonstrate a Tropical Juice Quencher drink on "Central PA Live" with Dawn Pellas at Fox 8 WTAJ TV studios. I was given five minutes of airtime, valued at approximately $6,000 of publicity for the industry. During the interview, we discussed the over 300 honey varietals in the United States, how wonderful honey is to cook with and how vital honey bee pollination is to our fruits and vegetables, like oranges, which were in the recipe we demonstrated. To complete the month of June, I headed to another TV station in Harrisburg, PA. I visited ABC27 WHTM TV Studios, where I appeared on "Good Day PA" on June 9. The host, Amy Kehm, and I discussed pollinator decline and how consumers can help bees by planting native wild flowers that bloom during different time periods of the year. We also spoke of the value of honey bee pollination to the United States and humans as a whole.

Good Day PA's host, Amy Kehm, and Princess Elena in the TV studio discussed how consumers can help the honeybee.

Early July brought some unique promotions in my home state. I started my promotions at the Penns Creek and the West End Senior Centers. I previously visited these two senior centers when I was Pennsylvania Honey Queen. It was excellent to see the women again and humbling to hear from them how I have improved as a spokesperson for the beekeeping industry! I spoke about different uses of honey in cooking and demonstrated a honey drink. Next, I presented at the Herr Memorial Library in my hometown on July 3. I spoke to approximately 40 children about honey bee pollination during their summer reading program. The program leader and I also read books about honey bees to the kids and set up five craft stations that taught the kids something new about either the honey bee or the hive. This is something that you could think about setting up in your state! It's a great way to educate the local youth in your area. Since they are already in the summer reading program, why not read about honey bees?

A unique promotion I was invited to was Rural Heritage Days in Lewisburg, PA, on July 12. The promotion required all participants to wear period dress, so I was decked out in 18th century clothing, along with my crown and sash. I spent the day teaching attendees about the history of

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From the Honey Princess

(continued from page 21)

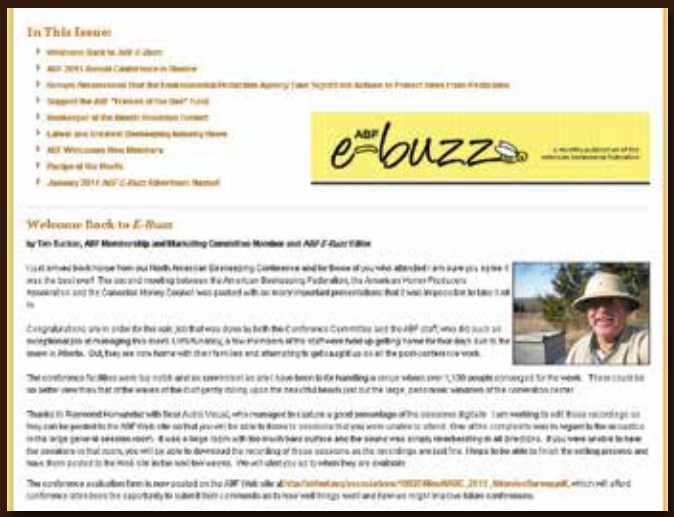
beekeeping from the Native American era through the 20th century. The day was packed with people who were curious about learning more on how honey was collected previously and how colonists dealt with hives.

Princess Elena demonstrated a honey banana pop snack in Williamsport for a Girl Scout Troop while talking about the versatility of honey.

To finish off the middle of July, I gave another Girl Scout presentation on July 14 in South Williamsport, PA. 32 girls gathered to listen to information on the honey bee hive and pollination. They also asked many questions about the Honey Queen program, and many parents asked how they could help the honey bee populations thrive. To finish out the night, I demonstrated how to make a honey banana pop snack that is a simple way for kids to incorporate honey into their diets. I also prepared honey chocolate frosting, which I smothered on fresh homemade sugar cookies. I taught the girls how to make the frosting and why honey is a healthy choice in their diets.

During the last few months alone, I have helped generate free media publicity for the ABF valued at around $10,200. To date, I have presented to nearly 900 children. I am looking forward to the busy travel season, with visits to Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky and Alaska, but we still have some openings left for events! I would love to visit your state, if possible! If you are interested in having Susannah or me attend your promotion or lend a helping hand in your state, contact Anna Kettlewell now at 414.545.5514 or via email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com!

Have You Caught the Buzz?


In This Issue:

e-buzz

Welcome Back to *E-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!

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From the Auxiliary

by Lillian Kelley, ABF Auxiliary President

With the arrival of really warm weather, the bees are working hard and hopefully the honey flow is going strong. The beekeepers are busy putting on supers in anticipation of the extraction of honey. Now that the bees are busily making honey, it would be a great time to take some pictures of your favorite beekeeper, your favorite bee hive, or your honey for the photo contest. The five categories are:

1. Adults and Beekeeping
2. Kids and Beekeeping
3. Honey Bees and Nature
4. Pollination
5. Beekeeping

If you haven't joined the ABF Auxiliary, I encourage you to join. You can contact Louise Johnson, ABF Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer at louisej@alpinecom.net. Dues are $10.00 and are used to support the American Honey Queen program.

Included is a winning recipe from an earlier baking contest I thought you would enjoy trying.

Honey Pecan Caramel Slices

by Ellen Sundberg

- **1 tsp. Flour**
- **½ cup Honey**
- **½ tsp Salt**
- **½ tsp. Vanilla**
- **¼ cup cream**
- **½ cup chopped nuts**
- **1 tbsp butter**
- **1 pack miniature marshmallows**

DIRECTIONS

Mix flour, salt and cream in heavy saucepan. Mix in butter and Honey, Cook and stir constantly until temperature reaches 258 degrees (about 15 min.) stir in vanilla. Place layers of nuts on bottom of 8 by 10 inch pan. Cover with Y4 inch of the hot caramel.

When cool cover with slightly thicker layer of marshmallows. Put remaining layer of caramel on top and cool slightly. Cut into strips and roll. Wrap in wax paper or foil to keep their shape. When cool cut into pinwheel slices.

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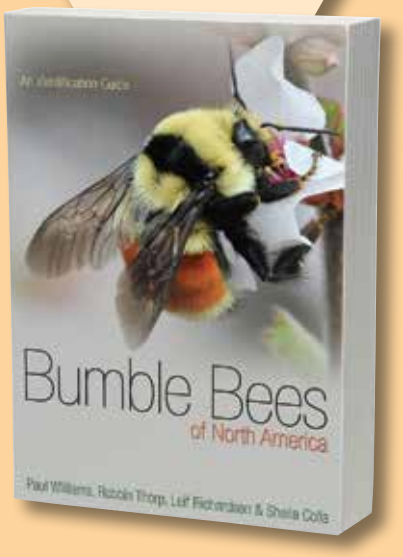
A landmark publication, *Bumble Bees of North America* sets the standard for guides and the study of these important insects.



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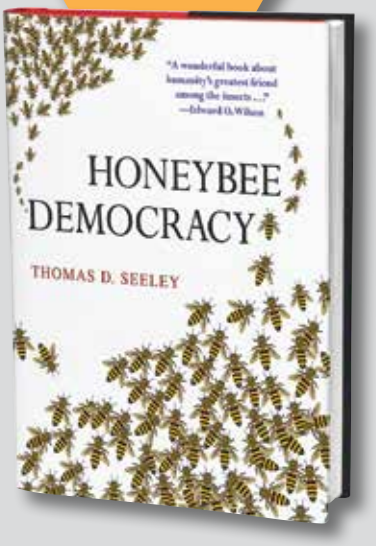

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