January/February 2015
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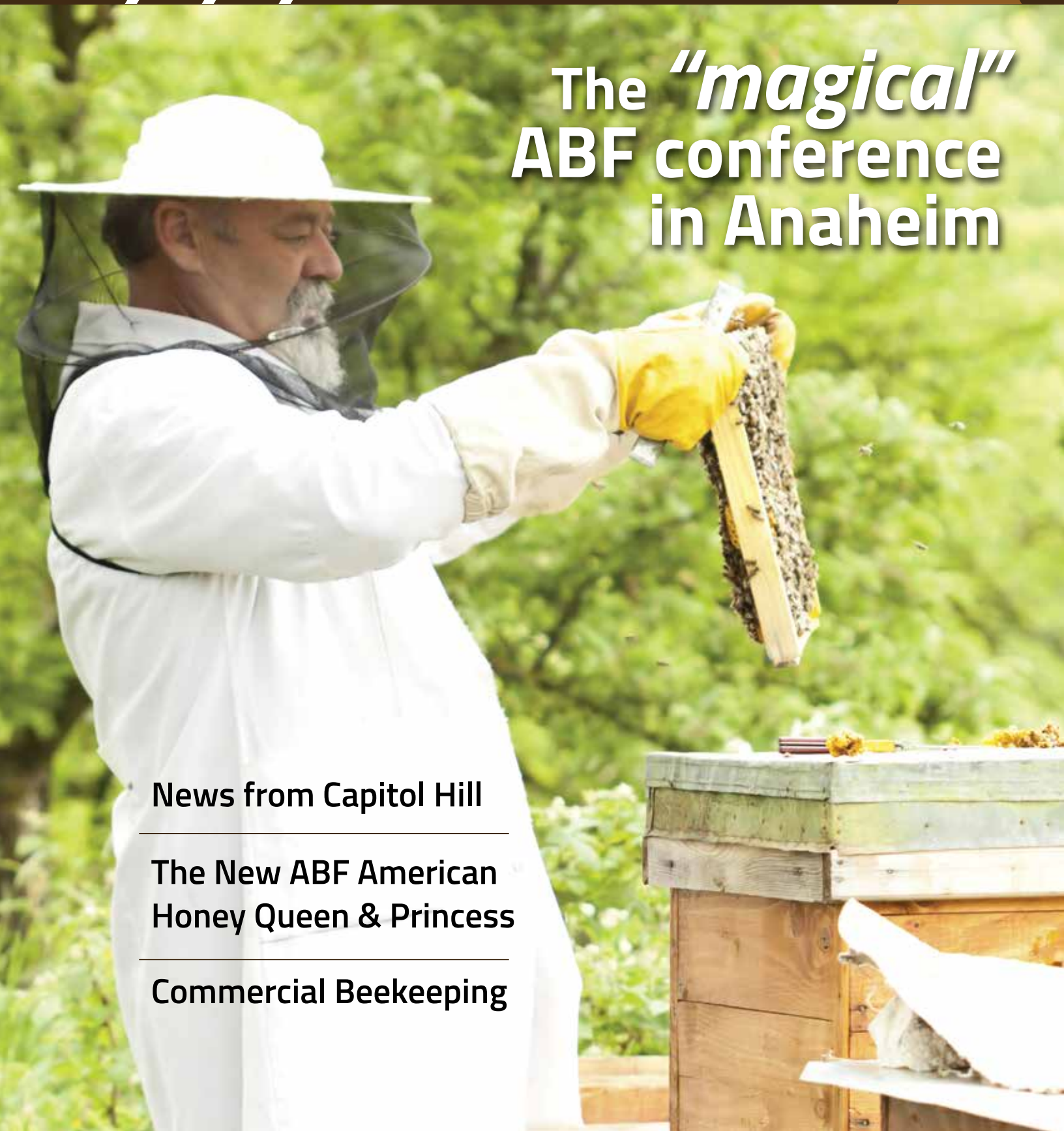
American Beekeeping Federation NEWS

www.abfnet.org



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Perspectives in Beekeeping:
When Things are Really Magical!

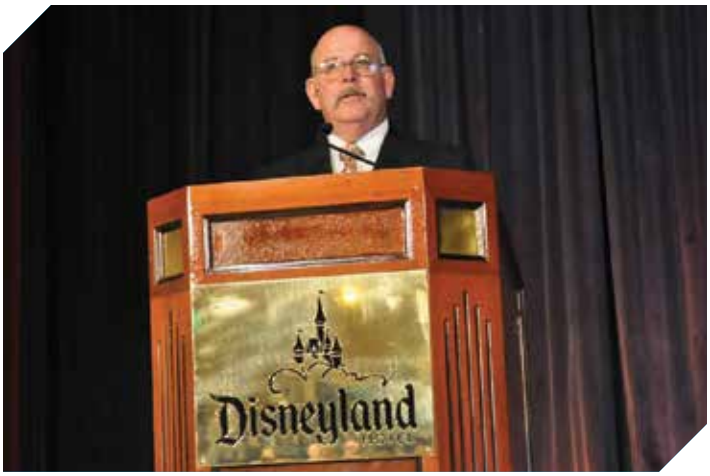
by: Tim Tucker
ABF President

Tim Tucker, ABF President

I would like to start the year off by thanking all those who worked so hard to make the recent conference in Disneyland such a resounding success. It takes a great deal of work to make a conference for close to a thousand people happen. For some, this first week of January was a time of work, and while there were moments to enjoy and some limited time to share with friends, it was meeting the daily challenges and pulling things together in a seamless way. Our association management staff worked almost round the clock to make this conference perhaps the best that I've ever attended. I would like to thank and recognize them: Regina K. Robuck, ABF Executive Director; Valerie Lake, Membership Coordinator; Tara Zeravsky, Senior Conference Manager; Katie Pereira, Exhibit Manager; Micheal North, Vice President of Accounting and Finance; and Karl Kirsch, Vice President, Meeting Expectations. They all did a great job in making the week a success and I so appreciate their level of commitment. This also took a year of planning by our conference committee. I want to thank them and our entire board of directors who serve on all our committees throughout the year to make the ABF function in the manner that it does.

Our conference week started off with a meeting with officers and representatives of the AHPA on Monday to discuss how we will be working together in the coming year and constructively working towards having a joint conference again in 2017. It was very productive and I am so encouraged by their present leadership team of Darren Cox, who is their new President, Kelvin Adee, Vice-President and Randy Verhoek, who is now Past President. It is encouraging to be able to work with friends that are also committed to the industry and doing what is best for us collectively. I expressed in my opening comments that we have been working to present one voice when speaking for the industry and we are working hard in an attempt to not duplicate our efforts. I do believe that our people in Washington are recognizing this and that we are really making better progress. There is so much to do this year as there are many issues that are coming to their conclusions and we have to have a consistent effort to help ensure that the outcomes represent us. We won't get everything we want or need as there are those who continue to oppose but our voice is being heard. While we don't have the finances to be there as much as we need, we do have some great people working for us in Fran Boyd with Meyer and Associates and Eric Silva with Winston-Strahm. We also get a lot of miles from our good friend Tom Van Arnsdahl at Pollinator Partnership. These men do have a thorough understanding of the difficulty we face as an industry and they know the ropes in Washington and the people we need to have on our side when the votes are taken. If we had no one to speak for us on an almost daily basis, we would just be run over. We really appreciate their efforts and the efforts of the many people who went to D.C. on our behalf this year such as Dave Hackenberg and Barry Thompson. Thank you all!

We also had another successful Kids and Bees Program, thanks to our coordinator Sarah Red-Laird and a fantastic group of volunteers. It was a real treat to see so many kids having a great time learning about bees. Somewhere around 350 kids came through the program and enjoyed seeing how important honey bees are to our environment and to the production of our food. Thanks to Mann-Lake and Glory Bee for their contributions for handouts to the kids and all of those who helped with manning the stations. Our past Honey Queens and Princesses were present to assist with every aspect of the day. It is so nice to have them continuing to come back to our conferences each year.



Tim Tucker opens the 2015 ABF Conference

I'd also like to thank Louann Hausner for being our ABF auctioneer this year again. We really appreciate her singing for those sales at both the Honey Auction and our Banquet Auction. She has no problem getting some great prices for the many items that were auctioned. It's always a great addition to our conference to have all of these young ladies in attendance helping with things wherever it is needed and have course their wonderful leader and mentor Anna Kettlewell.

Last but not in any way the least, I'd like to thank a couple of guys that made it possible for me to get through this first year as your President. Gene Brandi and George Hanson have provided me with constant help in several initiatives as well as providing continual input and advice into so many aspects of managing our day to day activities at the ABF.

continued on page 4

Perspectives in Beekeping – cont. from page 3

Gene moved us through the process of streamlining resolutions during the conference, which is always a process that takes a great deal of time out of your available hours of the conference. It's always a process that takes away from being with friends and events. He has also been very instrumental in helping out this year on a number of issues directly affecting the industry, and one that most aren't aware of is his help on the Almond Board's Honey Bee Best Management Practices for California Almonds brochure. This is perhaps the most informative package dealing with safeguarding our bees during almond pollination. Stressing communication and a list of expectations from growers and beekeepers alike, it discusses everything from what growers can do to arrange for and prepare for bees for their groves and how best to care for the bees while providing for crop protection. It is a valuable effort on part of the Almond Board to help protect our bees and inform almond growers as to their role in that process.

George has been involved with the Honey Bee Health Coalition, which is an initiative that is also attempting to bring together stakeholders to develop better strategies for providing for safe forage for our honey bees and enlisting the help of all parties interested in restoring bee health and the well-being of beekeepers across the country. He has also been in the lead in working on the Standard of Identity for honey. Last year the passage of the farm bill required Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to investigate the need for the SOI for honey. His report, which just came out December 29th, provided a good history of our attempts to secure the SOI for honey during the past decade. It was surprising that there were only 85 comments provided to the Agricultural Marketing Service during the comment period, but they were overwhelmingly in favor of a national SOI. The summary of USDA's report to the FDA is: "The preponderance of comments across multiple regions and organizations support the establishment of a standard of identity for honey; and 2) there are divergent opinions on the content and wording of such a standard, and its relationship to existing international standards. The comments received indicate that while a standard is desired, there is not a clear consensus on its specific content." Mr. Vilsack has fulfilled the requirement of the farm bill and has provided information necessary to support a SOI for honey. Whether or not the FDA will respond positively is still anyone's guess, but we anxiously await their response.

Thanks to all of you who help make the ABF so successful. Thanks also everyone who came out to Anaheim and the Disneyland Hotel for making our conference the largest and most magical event we have had in the many years that I have been involved. I'm looking forward to another great year in 2015.

Perspectives from California

by: Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President

Gene Brandi , ABF Vice President

Greetings! As I write this in the latter part of January, I am still recounting the fond memories of the recently concluded 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. Having attended ABF conference for well over 30 years, I can honestly say that this was one of the best. There are so many people involved in making a convention successful that it is difficult to thank them all, but the following certainly deserve recognition. Special thanks to the conference committee, the staff at Meeting Expectations, speakers, exhibitors, auction and sweepstakes donors and buyers, the Honey Queen committee, queens, and queen candidates, Sioux Honey Association, the Disneyland Hotel staff, ABF Board members and state delegates, the many ABF members who volunteered to help in any way, and President Tim Tucker who was involved in practically every aspect of this great conference. Special thanks also to Bill Lewis and Alan Mikolich for generously donating honey for the luncheons, banquet, and coffee breaks.

Delicious almonds

Certainly one of the highlights of the conference was the Keynote Address by Dr. Jim Frazier, Professor Emeritus, and Penn State University. His presentation kicked off the convention with a powerful, heartfelt message entitled "Dying Bees - Harbingers of the End Times or Opportunity Buzzing." If you were not able to hear Dr. Frazier's keynote address in person, I urge you to log onto the ABF website and visit the ABF annual conference archives where the audio recording of his presentation will soon be available. Dr. Frazier was also presented with the ABF President's Award at the annual banquet, which was richly deserved.

While we were at the conference in Anaheim, the southern portions of California received some welcome rain showers, but most of the state, including the Central Valley where I live, has not had any significant rainfall since mid-December. We are very thankful to have received some precipitation throughout the state in early December, but unfortunately California is still considered to be in a state of drought and much of the state remains in extreme or exceptional drought. The snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, which normally supplies the state with water in the summer months, is less than 30% of average for this time of year. These conditions do not bode well for California almond growers, many of whom are looking at the possibility of a zero irrigation water allocation for the second year in a row. With no 2014 water allotment in many areas, there was no "carryover water" for those growers to purchase for use in 2015. It appears that many growers will have to rely upon the underground aquifers for their water in areas where such water is available. California's aquifers are seriously over drafted and some wells have already gone dry, prompting many growers to drill deeper in hopes of finding sufficient water. 2012 through 2014 is the driest 3 year period in recorded California history. We are still in the midst of our "rainy season" in California and are praying that additional precipitation is forthcoming for the sake of agriculture, the bees, and the human population as well.

There is no question that the almond industry is severely affected by the drought conditions, however it is too early to tell how many orchards will be abandoned and pulled out in 2015. New orchards continue to be planted in many parts of the valley, generally in areas where water supplies are more reliable, so there is still a great deal of optimism about the future of the almond industry given the continued high prices almond growers are receiving for their crop.

The Almond Board's "Honey Bee Best Management Practices for California Almonds" campaign has been in full swing for the past several months. The brood damage issues encountered by many beekeepers who pollinated almonds in recent years was the impetus for this campaign. We are hopeful that pest control advisors, growers, and applicators will heed the advice of the Almond Board in the effort to reduce the negative impact of certain pesticide applications during almond bloom. It is a good idea for beekeepers to encourage their almond growers to adopt the Almond Board's BMP's. If growers are not familiar with them, the BMP's can be accessed and downloaded from the Almond Board's website.

Remember the Apimondia 2019 Bid Committee is still looking for sponsors and donations of any kind to help the U.S. in the effort to succeed in winning the bid. Check out the Apimondia bid committee's website at http://www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org for further information.

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Government Relations Report

by: Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President

The new Congress is now in session and Committee members have been selected. The House Ag Committee is now chaired by Congressman Mike Conaway (R-Texas). The Senate Ag Committee is chaired by Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kansas). We look forward to a good working relationship with the new chairmen and their committees.

The 2014 Farm Bill charged the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture with developing a report for the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, describing how a Federal Standard of Identity for honey would be in the interest of consumers, the honey industry, and U.S. Agriculture. USDA accepted comments from mid-August until mid-October on the proposal to establish a Federal honey standard. On December 29, 2015, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, sent the required report to the FDA which summarizes the 85 comments received. Even though the preponderance of the comments (89%) supported the establishment of a Federal Standard of Identity for honey, the report indicated that there was not a clear consensus as to its specific content. This, in spite of the fact that the petitioners, including the ABF, had worked for several years carefully preparing language for a national standard prior to submitting this latest petition. It certainly appears that not enough weight was given to the proposed standard as submitted by the petitioners. The ABF has been working for more than ten years on this issue and co-signed the original petition which was submitted to FDA in 2006. The ABF will continue to pursue a Federal Standard of Identity for honey as mandated in the organization's continuing resolutions.

The ABF remains concerned with proposed EPA pesticide label changes which we understand will be revealed for public comment in early 2015. Clear, enforceable label language with no loopholes or exemptions is what is truly needed to best protect pollinators. We will continue to pursue such language as it can best provide the fundamental protection from pesticides that all pollinators need.

It was gratifying to see that the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration responded to the petition by the California Farm Bureau Federation (co-signed by the ABF) asking that drivers hauling bees be exempted from the additional 30 minute rest break required in the Federal Hours of Service regulations. The ABF co-submitted testimony with AHPA during the comment period which lasted from early January until early February. It is our hope that bee haulers can obtain a permanent exemption from this rule in order not to jeopardize the health of bees in transit.

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Happiest Place on Earth Welcomes ABF:

ABF Annual Conference Highlights

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

Anaheim played host to our 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Over 900 attendees escaped their freezing weather to come to sunny California and Disneyland Hotel for a week of education, networking and fun.

The ABF would like to thank its many sponsors that donated heavily to making the conference such a special occasion. Our Platinum sponsors were Dadant and Mann Lake, who are always there to lead the way for sponsoring much of our tradeshow and events. Many thanks to our Bronze Sponsors: Beekeeping Insurance Services; Brushy Mountain Bee Farm; Global Patties; Hummerbee; Kona Queen Hawaii and Pierco. We would like to thank Beekeeping Insurance Services, who sponsored our name badge lanyards and in tandem sponsored the conference bags. The week was kicked off with a welcome reception in the tradeshow that was sponsored by California Almonds and members of the ABF Board. We would also like to thank our break sponsors: Burleson's Honey; California State Beekeepers Association; Dadant; JZs BZs Originals; Kelley Beekeeping and Veto-pharma along with some members of the ABF board for their support and sponsorship of other breaks. Your continued support of the beekeeping industry is greatly appreciated.

ABF Foundation scholarship recipients

Elections were held during the annual conference and confirmed at the ABF Annual Business Meeting. The results of which are as follows: representing the State Delegates Assembly are Davey Hackenberg, of Milton, Pennsylvania, Patty Sundberg, of Columbus, Montana, who will be continuing their second term of service and Jessie Brown, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for her first term full term and Blake Shook, McKinney, Texas, for his first term. Mario Jakob, of Umatilla, Florida, was re-appointed to the Commercial Beekeepers SIG for his first term. Joan Gunter, of Towner, North Dakota, was elected for her second term on the Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG. Mark Hedley, of Rochelle, Texas, was elected for his first term on Honey Producers-Packer SIG. Emily Brown, of Scottsdale, Arizona, was elected to the Small Scale-Sideliner SIG for her first term. Congratulations to these individuals and we hope that they will bring a great deal of new ideas, insight, and experience to the ABF. Tim Tucker, of Niotaze, Kansas and Gene Brandi, of Los Banos, California, were unanimously voted to continue their second year of service to the ABF. (See page 2 for the full list of the 2015 ABF Board of Directors.)

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

- Rachael Bonoan – Graduate student at Tufts University
- Cameron Jack – Graduate student at Oregon State University
- Christoph Kurze – Ph.D. student at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
- Rong Ma – Ph.D. student at University of Texas at Austin
- Stephanie Parreira – Master's student at Oregon State University
- Elizabeth Walsh – Graduate student at Texas A&M

The Founder's Award came as a complete surprise to this year's recipient, Jeffrey Pettis, of Beltsville, Maryland. The Foundation unanimously agreed that David was the right choice this year. Jeffrey 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 2014, and the 2015 American Honey Show award winners were recognized and several new resolutions were adopted. A full copy of the 2015 ABF Resolutions is posted on the ABF website. See page 12 for full list.

In addition to the multiple networking opportunities, an always-crowded exhibit hall and yet another extremely well attended Kids & Bees Program, the ABF crowned 2015 American Honey Queen Gabriella Hemesath from Iowa, and Hayden Wolf from Texas was crowned 2015 American Honey Princess.

Plans are already in full swing for the 2016 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, which will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott in Jacksonville, Florida. The latest conference information will be posted to the ABF website in the coming months. Be sure to make your plans now to attend!

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Top Honors Given During 2015 American Honey Show

ABF members Tim Tucker, of Niotaze, Kansas, and Judy Schmaltz of Clarkston, Michigan, took top honors at the 2015 American Honey Show. Tucker's Dark Honey won Best of Show - Honey, and Schmaltz's Artistic Beeswax Candles received Best of Show - Related Items for a second year.

BEST OF SHOW – HONEY

Tim Tucker - Niotaze, KS - Dark Honey

BEST OF SHOW – RELATED PRODUCTS

Judy Schmaltz - Clarkston, MI - Artistic Beeswax

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3. Chris Beck – Breckenridge, MI

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2. Nick Thill – West Bend, WI
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY

Sponsored by Acorn Bee

1. Nick Thill – West Bend, WI
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY

Sponsored by Ashurst's American Honey and Beekeeping

1. Norbert Neal - Elk City, KS
2. Tim Tucker – Niotaze, KS
3. Chris Beck – Breckenridge, MI

CLASS F – AMBER HONEY

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3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS G – DARK HONEY

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2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY

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2. Jim Rodenberg - Wolf Point, MT
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY

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1. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, WI

CLASS P – ARTISTIC BEESWAX CANDLES

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1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
2. Judy Schmaltz – Clarkston, MI

CLASS Q – HONEY GIFT BOX

Sponsored by Central Life Sciences

1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
2. David Gremmels – Central Point, OR

ABF Recognizes Outstanding Contribution to the Beekeeping Industry

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, Dr. Marion Ellis and many more. These individuals all possess a deep respect and passion for beekeeping and the honey bee, and the 2015 recipient of this prestigious award is no different: Dr. Jim Frazier.

Dr. Jim Frazier

Dr. Jim Frazier is a Professor Emeritus of Entomology at Penn State University. In his own words, "My research focuses on the structure and functioning of insect chemosensory systems and on chemically mediated behavior, especially the feeding behavior of caterpillars. I am seeking to understand the sensory messages that cause a caterpillar to initiate feeding as well as those that prevent feeding, even in the presence of an acceptable host plant. The key stimuli that caterpillars detect and respond to during the early phases of induced plant defenses are also being investigated. A second area of interest is in the basic sensory transduction machinery that insect chemosensory cells use to operate. We are using pharmacological agents, genetic mutants, and combined electrophysiological and ultra-rapid freezing techniques to investigate the mechanisms of transduction in chemosensory cells. Details of the operating mechanisms of these cells are being used to understand plant induced defenses, design new antifeedant chemicals, and for the development of new detectors for use in Precision Agriculture."

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

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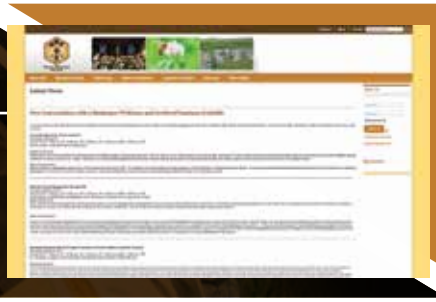

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Commercial Beekeeping

by: Clint Walker, III
Walker Honey Farm

Walker Honey Farm; Rogers, Texas

Three ton load of honey

My grandfather, G.C. "Clint" Walker, Sr., started beekeeping in 1930 at the age of 40 with the purchase of 150 hives after losing the family grocery business. My father, G.C. Walker, Jr., was ten years old at the time. "G.C. began working bees full time in 1937 upon graduation from high school. He worked bees full time until Janice and I bought the business in 1994—we over a half century career.

In 1941 the family relocated the business 300 miles south from Central Texas to the citrus groves of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. After the orange honey was "canned up" each spring--bees were moved north out of the Valley up into the "brush country". By the late 1940s, post-orange bees had found a new summer home 1000 miles to the north in the largest alpine valley in the world—Colorado's San Luis Valley. In the 1950s the Colorado operation was phased out in lieu of north Texas clover crops. In 1963, Walker Honey Farm re-established a presence in Central Texas. G.C.s younger brother, Ed Walker, continued with honey production in the LRGV and managed that part of the operation until the early 1990s. During these years Walker Honey Farm also pollinated vegetable seed crops in the LRGV, cucumbers on the Texas High Plains (Lubbock area), and produced package bees and queens.

In the late 90s almond pollination was added to the beekeeping calendar. This continued through 2010. Over the last ten years or so we have gradually begun to "pull in our wings" in migratory beekeeping. Our expanding packed honey business has allowed us to focus our honey production on Texas varietal honeys. 2014 was the first year in our 85 years in beekeeping without any pollination contracts as we gave up our last watermelon account. We have not produced queens commercially in several years and have steadily trimmed our package bee operation. Spring of 2015 will be package bee free. Our last crop in South Texas brush country was 2008. We only go to the coast for tallow honey when our central Texas crops drought out. In 2014 our farthest apiary was less than 50 miles from the house.

It was a good year that came in at about 100#s per colony—well above our 60# local average. That puts it in the top two or three crops in the last 50 years. The last four years have seen two failures and two large crops. We wonder—like many of you—if this is the new norm, namely, radical swings in weather and crops?

In 2014 we were fortunate enough to produce five local specialty varietal honeys: Pecan Honeydew Honey—the first time we ever produced enough to extract this rarity, Sesame—on a local sustainable see growers 100+ acres crop, Clover honey—from both Dutch and Hubam clovers, Yaupon Holly—in the understory of the post oaks where Grandpa made his first crop 86 years ago this spring, and our local spring Wildflower honey—a bee-mixed blend of Gaillardia and various Monardas (Bee Balm, Lemon Mint, Horsemint, and Sandyland Horsemint).

We operate 1200 colonies in Illinois modified (6 5/8ths). We get around our small sphere of influence with only three trucks—a 3 ton, 1 ton, and 3/4 ton. One Swinger suffices for all our beekeeping and warehouse needs. A small John Deere with a front end loader serves as backup fork lift when the Swinger is in the field. For extracting equipment we are using the same Bogenschutz uncapper that dad

bought used in 1970! Our two radial extractors are old enough that we have replaced the bearings in each multiple times. Even with this smallish setup we can turn out 12-15 drums of honey per day.

We feed protein supplement. We prefer a protein supplement that is high in the amino acid isoleucine (found in dried eggs--among other sources) for hypopharyngeal gland stimulation. Our carbohydrate supplement of choice is liquid sucrose. We almost always feed a very thin mix for brood stimulation. Due to normally strong fall nectar flows, we rarely have to feed for winter stores. To our sugar syrup we add vitamins, minerals, amino acids, essential oils (spearmint and lemon grass), and citric acid (to achieve a pH of <4 for ease of digestion and bacterial and viral protection). We use a one gallon division board feeder that permanently resides in the hive.

Nucs are made by putting together supers of 7 frames of shaken brood and two frames of honey/pollen from one or more hives and then placing them over a queen excluder on one of those same hives or another hive with excess population. We then send a crew around the next day to pull off all the splits and relocate them to another site where they are fed and queen cells installed. We will make up splits any time we are working through bees—even occasionally when we are pulling honey. We graft our own queen cells from good CA Italian stock.

"We can learn from each other and benefit from our shared stories."

–Clint Walker, III

for testing for varroa and nosema. (http://ars.usda.gov/services/docs.htm?docid=7472) This "triplicate sampling" of randomly selected hives gives us varying confidence levels in our sugar rolls and phoretic mite counts. We have not treated for mites with synthetic (hard) chemicals since 2010 and have used no antibiotic prophylactically since 2008. We have little or no nosema (based on lab analysis), had only one diagnosed case of AFB in six year. We use essential oil patties and thymol patties and formic acis for varroa control and we suspect that we get some nosema control from the essential oils as well. We feel like we can "get away" with softer treatments because we don't go to almonds and we don't run in Big Ag and Big Chem territory. Our bees have cleaner forage and more diversity which we believe makes them healthier and less disease prone. We are very aware that the techniques that we employ for mite and disease control are not practical in all—or even most—commercial beekeeping situations. We are thankful that for us they are not only practical but beneficial.

Honey pulling crew

As I write this at the end of January our bees have one to two supers of goldenrod, aster, and broomweed honey in stores from last fall. It is sunny and 75 degrees today. The water elm trees along the creeks in the post oak woods are in full bloom yielding a high protein pollen that stimulates egg laying. We are out today providing stimulative sucrose feeding. The fresh pollen and thin syrup will hopefully produce a big jump in egg laying. After a dry winter last year, we have seen abundant rains lately and our spring prospect look good.

We just completed our first "spring" sugar rolls for mites. At the same time and from the same individuals hive we also do a phoretic mite count and collect bee samples to send to Beltsville

I very much enjoyed Jan Lohman's description of her and Vince Vazza's Eastern Oregon "accent" on beekeeping in the November/December ABF Newsletter. I am greatly anticipating reading about Brent and Bonnie Woodworth's Western North Dakota "accent" in the next edition of this newsletter. We all can learn from each other and benefit from our shared stories. Thank you Jan and ABF for creating this forum to share and learn and grow.

Bee Connected: ABF Facebook Fan Page

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

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 over 6,200 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!

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Queen Committe Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome 2015 American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath of Iowa and 2015 American Honey Princess Hayden Wolf of Texas to the ABF family. Our new representatives have a year of exciting new promotions ahead of them!

Gabrielle and Hayden started their work as ABF representatives very shortly after the 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow– 11 days to be exact! The Queens discuss their Honey Queen training each year, but it does not always give you the magnitude of what the training involves. Here is some information to help everyone understand what exactly American Honey Queen training is.

By the numbers, training Lasts for 6 days, working at least 8 hours each day (with breaks, of course!). It Involves anywhere from five to seven trainers and assistants and at least one external promotional event, such as a school presentation or media interview.

Training covers a wide array of topics, including:

- *Managing and optimizing the promotional value of events, including:*
  - Fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets
  - Civic organization presentations
  - School presentations (elementary, middle, and high school)
  - Governmental/legislative visits/presentations
  - Cooking demonstrations
  - Beekeeping conferences
- *Media interviews, including:*
  - Tools, tips, and tricks to give media interviews like a professional
  - Practicing how to incorporate key messages in a variety of interview scenarios and training for sound bites.
  - Recorded practice to understand length of media interviews and how to shape and craft messaging
  - How to effectively approach the media to request interviews.
- *Social media, including:*
  - Administering and preparing Facebook posts.
  - Creating and publishing YouTube videos.
  - Composing and posting blog articles and answering students' questions.
- *Presentation and image training*
- *Basic business items (policies, procedures, program reports, promotion logs, and background on the ABF, its programs, and national honey statistics and facts)*
- *Traveling tips, tricks, and procedures.*

2015 Honey Princess and 2015 Honey Queen

Like previous queens, Gabrielle and Hayden soaked up new knowledge and practiced skills eagerly and professionally. They had the opportunity to work with a TV reporter, learning inside tips about effectively delivering television interviews, in addition to practice sessions with our many trainers. I do thank all the training team, including Louann Hausner, Jolene McNutt, Angie Lundeen, Danielle Dale, Amy Blakeney, Bill Graffin, and Carmen Risi. Each provided the Queens with different tools to be effective promoters of honey and our industry's issues this year.

The Queen and Princess are ready and eager to visit your state soon and to reach the goals that they have set for the year! Please contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with the Queen or Princess. You may reach me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. The American Honey Queen Committee is excited for a successful year of work for the ABF and the beekeeping industry. Happy promoting!

American Honey Queen Report

by: Gabrielle Hemesath
American Honey Queen

Gabrielle Hemesath
American Honey Queen

Hello, everyone!

My name is Gabrielle Hemesath, and I am proud to serve as your 2015 American Honey Queen! I am very excited to promote this wonderful industry throughout the country on your behalf.

I am originally from Clermont, Iowa, and I started keeping bees when I was 12 years old and first employed at Fassbinder Apiaries. At work, I help manage about 2,000 hives and extract honey. I soon grew to love honey bees and am now the proud owner of two hives. I am also a freshman at Iowa State University, majoring in marketing. I previously served as the Central Iowa Honey Queen and the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen. As American Honey Queen, I hope to expand my reach through multiple media outlets.

Princess Hayden and I spent six days, January 22-27, training in Wisconsin with American Honey Queen Program Chairperson Anna Kettlewell, numerous past queens and princesses, and other volunteers. We focused on was how to use social media as a tool to reach a wider audience. 2006 American Honey Queen Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt taught us about different types of posts we can use on Facebook to attract new followers. You can view our posts on the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page, and we encourage you to like our page! Angie (Olson) Lundeen, 2000 American Honey Queen, showed us how to use our blog, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com, to write our monthly educational posts for elementary aged children. In addition, 2012 American Honey Princess Danielle Dale trained us in the art of making YouTube videos. Princess Hayden and I have each already posted a video to our YouTube channel, AmericanHoneyQueen. Please stop by the channel and view a variety of videos today!

Queen Gabrielle practices a television interview with former television reporter Bill Graffin during American Honey Queen training

We also worked on developing skills for media interviews. We practiced numerous types of interviews, such as newspaper, radio, and television, and focused on a variety of lengths and styles for these interviews. Anna, Louann Hausner (1996 American Honey Princess) and a former television reporter, Bill Graffin, guided us to give the best interviews possible. The training helped me feel prepared to share important information in a limited amount of time. On January 28, I had the chance to put my new skills to use through two newspaper interviews in Iowa!

Princess Hayden and Queen Gabrielle practiced cooking demonstrations during their orientation and training session in January

Another skill we worked on in training was cooking demonstrations. Princess Hayden and I worked together to try every recipe contained in our recipe brochures! We also practiced talking about honey bees throughout our cooking demonstrations to make the most of our presentation time. I enjoy talking about how different types of honey have slightly different flavors and all the different ways to use honey. I am eager to put these skills into action at the Florida State Fair in February.

I am extremely honored to serve as the 2015 American Honey Queen, and I look forward to promoting the industry in every way possible. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514. Thank you to everyone who has helped me prepare for the coming year. I know I will have a productive, positive experience serving as your spokesperson.

American Honey Princess Report

by: Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

I am so honored to have been selected as your American Honey Princess and excited to be representing this great organization. The 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow was an amazing experience for me, and I loved getting to know beekeepers from all over the United States and hear about their beekeeping experiences. I look forward to meeting and working with many more of you this year!

I am from Big Sandy, Texas, a tiny town in East Texas where I help my family with our small farm of chickens, guinea hens, a large organic garden, a dog, and, of course, bees. I am the youngest of four children, and I am interested in pursuing a degree in Nutritional Science with hopes of becoming a Registered Dietitian.

As a child, when my family and I lived in New Jersey, I was fascinated with honey bees and would pet them on their fuzzy backs when they visited the flowers in our yard. We started getting honey from a local beekeeper who once took me through one of his beehives with just a smoker (no bee suits) and handed me a frame of live bees. That's when I decided I wanted to be a beekeeper! When we moved to Texas seven years ago I applied for, and was beyond excited to receive, a Youth Beekeeping Scholarship from the East Texas Beekeepers Association. I now maintain about one dozen hives with my dad and brother, and I have a love for beekeeping that continues to grow. In 2011-2013 I served as the East Texas Honey Princess and Honey Queen for my local club, and then served as 2014 Texas Honey Queen. I've had a fantastic time promoting the beekeeping industry around Texas, and can't wait to see what this new year brings.

Princess Hayden practices her interview skills with 1996 American Honey Queen Louann Hausner.

My first ABF trip for the year was to Wisconsin, January 22-27, where Queen Gabrielle and I had six days of intensive spokesperson training to prepare us for representing the ABF this year. We had a host of former Honey Queens and Princesses helping with various aspects of training, such as media interviews, social media, school presentations, and more. We developed our goals for the year and came up with key messages for our presentations and media interviews. One of my key messages is, "Simple solutions can support honey bees." One simple solution is downloading the Pollinator Partnership's Bee Simple app to find out what bee friendly forage to plant in your area.

Princess Hayden teaches fourth graders in Berlin, WI about honey bee pollination

One large aspect of our role is delivering school presentations, and we worked hard on refining and practicing them during training. Gabrielle and I spoke at two schools in Berlin and Milwaukee, WI, collectively reaching 260 kids with the importance of honey bee pollination. I love seeing the children's excitement about bees! After the presentations at these schools we received many more questions from the students on our blog, www.BuzzingAcrossAmerica.com. Our blog is geared toward children, and is a great place for kids to learn more about honey bees and cooking with honey, and to ask bee related questions.

During training, we also had the opportunity to tour Henry's Honey Farm in Redgranite, WI, which supplies honey to many stores around Wisconsin. As a hobbyist beekeeper, it was especially fascinating for me to learn about a commercial honey operation and see how it works. Thank you to the Piechowski and Kettlewell families for hosting us during our Wisconsin trip. I extend a big thank you to everyone who helped with our training, especially Anna Kettlewell, Louann Hausner, and Danielle Dale. The things I learned from training are invaluable, and I now feel well prepared for this year of promoting the ABF.

I am anxious to begin promoting, and I'm looking forward to upcoming events in Minnesota and Kentucky. One of my goals for this year is to reach 20 states, so, if you would like me or Gabrielle to help with a promotion in your state, contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

From the Auxiliary

by: Beth Hackenberg
ABF Auxiliary President

The 2015 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Anaheim, CA, 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 were renewed and new ones made.

During the annual auxiliary breakfast, our 2014 American Honey Queen, Susannah Austin, and American Honey Princess, Elena Hoffman, shared with us the activities involved in their very busy year. The 2015 Queen Candidates (Hayden Wolf of Texas, Gabrielle Hemesath of Iowa and Kaylee Kilgore of Pennsylvania) entertained us with their sales presentations on Propolis, 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. As many of you know, the ABF Auxiliary supports different funds within the ABF. All the money raised from your donations are given back to support the Honey Queen fund, legislative fund and others.

The photo contest had 39 very good entries and will be continued next year with some changes, which we will share in a future newsletter. Thank you to everyone who entered. Please continue to take those photos throughout the year, so that you will be ready to participate in the competition next year in Jacksonville, FL. Thank you to Louann Houser for all her time and hard work as chairman of the photo contest. The note cards made from the photos were a very popular item at the auxiliary table and we plan to continue them for next year.

We are looking forward to another outstanding year and a great 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow at the Sawgrass Marriott near Jacksonville, FL.

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Member Milestones

Milestones for December 2014 & January 2015

5 Years
F. Barry Brown, Canada
Mike Buske, IA
Marion Evans, LA
Steve Harris, MO
Douglas Hauke, WI
Christi Heintz, AZ
Bill Klett, ND
Lisa Lanz, IL
Janice Lohman, OR
Tracey Middlebrooks, GA
Greg Pendley, TX
Karen Rennich, MD
Charles Schaffer, WA
Elizabeth Schroeder, MN
Angelo Trapani, NJ

10 Years
Alan Henninger, CA
Mark Johnson, OR
Scott Ledbetter, GA
Tony Noyes, ND
Beth Shenefield, IN
Douglas Vincent, CA

15 Years
John Christman, OH
Rodney Hurd, FL
Norm Peterson, WI
Kirk Stoller, OH
Gordon Waller, WI

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Janice Shenefield, IN

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