July/August 2015
VOL 73, No. 4

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American Beekeeping Federation

NEWS

July/August 2015 /// Volume 73, No. 4

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Perspectives in Beekeeping:
Communicating in the Digital Age

by: Tim Tucker
ABF President

Tim Tucker, ABF President

There have been a couple of memes on the internet lately that I've found interesting. One is a picture of a group of college kids walking down the sidewalk, all walking single file with their cell phones in their hands, flipping through pictures on their screens. There's no doubt that things have changed in the past twenty years with the development of the iPhone. These gadgets are computers with functions and applications that continue to amaze me.

I've just moved into the computer phone arena in the past six months or so, and I have to admit that I'm not up to speed just yet. These things come with instructions which explain how to turn them on and off, and how to set up access to the internet, but that's about it. I guess you are supposed to already know how to use them, or ask someone who knows. The interesting thing today is that everywhere I go people are looking at their hand held devices and have no time for anyone around them, like the college kids in the meme who are all exiting class together, but are somewhere else entirely. I've noticed what appears to be an outcome of all of this impersonal information exchange: people seem less interested in engaging one another personally, or even saying "hello" to each other. I wonder, "Where is all of this taking us?" I question whether we have access to too much information at times!

As we have worked to increase the level of communication with our membership, it has become clear that we are competing for everyone's valuable time. That's why we have to make sure that the ABF News, *ABF E-Buzz* and "Conversation with a Beekeeper" Webinars we deliver are timely, pertinent and have value to you. It's a tough job, but we have to do it and we have to do it more effectively and efficiently to keep up.

In November 2010, I began putting together our electronic monthly newsletter, the *ABF E-Buzz*, and in a few more months we will be in our sixth year of publishing what we hope is a valuable tool for communicating, which people can access anytime, wherever they are, as long as the batteries aren't dead on their phones. We still publish our bimonthly hard copy of ABF News, which has come a long way as well. It's far removed from the simple black and white issues that we had just seven or eight years ago. Times are a-changing, and we hope that this is still a valuable resource for you (and yes, you can access it on the internet in case you lose your hard copy). A while back, I met a long-time ABF member who didn't realize this, because they weren't versed in the ABF website. There is so much information online that it does take some time to familiarize oneself with all that is available.

We set up our ABF Facebook page about four years ago. It slowly caught on with a goal of just 100 for that first year. We are posting new information every day, and the likes keep coming. We are now at almost 8,500 likes, which means the audience for our Facebook page is now is seven to ten times larger than our membership base. Many people and organizations share our posts on their own pages, so the outreach potential is staggering. Some videos that I posted had 12,000 views. We regularly reach five to ten thousand people per week through our Facebook page, and that number is growing faster than our ability to figure out how best to utilize it to expand our outreach and membership. We are picking up 100 new viewers or likes each week, and I've set a goal of 10,000 likes by the end of the year.

There are now literally millions of people using Facebook every day, and hundreds of thousands of them have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Facebook is an unbelievable resource for communicating and I know it will help ABF grow in the future. We just have to find the best uses for this new tool. The power of internet technology is incredible, and if you don't believe that, I'll remind you of the Flow Hive crowd funding effort, which raised

continued on page 4

Perspectives in Beekeping – cont. from page 3

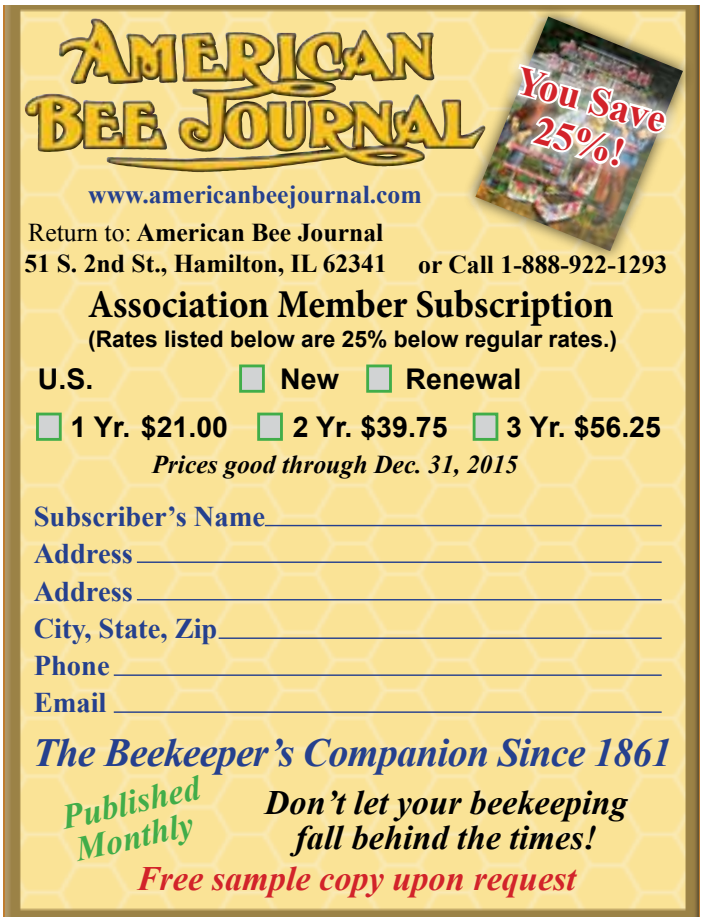
twelve million dollars from tens of thousands of people who were just interested in helping to fund a new idea in beekeeping. It all comes down to marketing and effective communications. While I was writing this article, I posted half a dozen pictures and articles to the ABF Facebook page, and in just 45 minutes one of those posts had reached 1,183 people. After six hours the post had been viewed by almost 4,000 people. That's just amazing! So, we can't forget how important this is in today's electronic device world. People are walking around communicating 24/7.

We continually strive to demonstrate the value of ABF membership. Membership costs as little as $60 for a Small Scale ABF Membership, which is a great deal. With a Small Scale ABF membership, one can participate in a dozen or more educational webinars throughout the year, as well as access over 40 webinars that are archived online for ABF members only. I think that today, with so much free information out there, people have become reluctant to pay for information. It might be time to find out how best to involve these people and how to provide services that are timely and of value to the public, who may not be beekeepers themselves, but are interested in what we do.

We just have to make sure that we are really communicating effectively, which reminds me of another Facebook picture that constantly plagues me. The picture is of a pot of half peeled potatoes sitting in water. The caption below the picture is the wife saying to the husband, "Honey, will you get the potatoes out of the pantry and peel half of them and get them on to boil so I can mash them when I get home?" We have to be explicitly correct in our communications, in addition to putting out more and more information, because some people out there aren't always paying attention.

ABF membership has fluctuated between 850 and 1,250 over the past seven years. We have grown, but growth has somewhat leveled off during past couple of years, and we need to increase membership revenue in order to fund the things that are on the must-do list, if we are to continue to be the force we are in the industry. If we are not growing, we are getting behind! I have had some great help during the past few years from our management team at Meeting Expectations, and I give them much of the credit for what's happened. They are a great pool of talent to draw from with our marketing and communicating efforts, and they are currently doing an analysis of how well we have grown our Facebook page audience, so they can follow the example with other groups.

There is one other amusing Facebook meme I want to mention. It's a cartoon of heaven showing Saint Peter talking to God, and people standing around everywhere staring at their hands. Saint Peter is saying, "It's amazing, all the new arrivals just stand around looking at their hands, I can't figure it out!" Our greatest challenge during the past five years has been how to better communicate with you, our members, and it looks like that's not going to change any time soon!



Helping to Guide The Government

by: Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President

Gene Brandi , ABF Vice President

The widespread attention focused upon honey bees continues to keep our favorite insect in the spotlight, thanks to the recently released National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, and EPA's Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticide Products. Both publications might lead one to believe that the government is here to help us, but it is clear that we in the bee industry need to help guide the government in the right direction if there is going to be any significant impact on improving the health of bees.

The National Strategy was developed as a result the June 2014 Presidential Memorandum, which called for an "all hands on deck effort" to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators, with the establishment of a Presidential Task Force to coordinate this effort. This report contains Pollinator Protection Plans from no less than 14 different federal agencies, but clearly the EPA and USDA have the potential to provide the most significant help in the effort to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators. That being said, the Departments of Defense, Transportation, and Interior manage millions of acres of land, some of which contain excellent bee forage. If honey bees were to be allowed greater access to some of these lands, the clean, natural forage provided could help to improve the health of tens of thousands of honey bee colonies.

ABF President Tim Tucker and I met with Melinda Cep, Deputy Assistant USDA Secretary, and Bruce Roden, of the President's Office of Science and Technology, in June, to discuss details of the National Strategy. Darren Cox and Kelvin Adee, President and Vice-President of the AHPA, Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates, and Eric Silva of Winston and Strawn attended this meeting as well. Melinda and Bruce were the key point persons from their agencies on the Task Force. During our meeting we discussed many possibilities for improving the bee industry's relationships with the various federal agencies in order that we may assist by guiding them in this effort.

USDA goals as stated in the National Strategy include the reduction of annual overwintering losses of honey bee colonies to 15% or less within ten years, and restoring or enhancing seven million acres of bee forage within five years. We would certainly like to see improvements in both areas sooner than in five or ten years, and this is a possibility if the major federal agencies involved in this effort take significant action in a timely manner. Within USDA, the National Resource Conservation Service, US Forest Service and the Farm Service Agency can all play major roles in this effort.

During our trip to Washington, D.C. in June, Tim, Fran and I also met with a group of senior EPA officials to discuss their agency's portion of the National Strategy, as well as the Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides. In general, it appears that EPA acknowledges the various issues revolving around bees and pesticides; however, their responses to many of these issues are insufficient to make a difference in the immediate future. Some areas of concern that we wish EPA would address sooner than later are: pesticide products that clearly impact bee colonies in a negative manner yet have no bee warnings on their labels; problematic tank mixes of various products; systemic products that remain toxic to bees for extended periods; the lengthy neonicotinoid reevaluation; and the fact that EPA does not consider dust from the planting of treated seeds to be a pesticide application.

On a more positive note, the agency has sent letters to registrants of neonicotinoid pesticides with outdoor uses, informing them that EPA will likely not be in a position to approve most applications for new uses of these chemicals until new bee data has been submitted and pollinator risk assessments are complete. Also, the harmonized risk assessment procedures have expanded the data requirements to include additional potential impacts, in addition to adult bee toxicity. This enhanced risk assessment is required for new products and for those being reevaluated, but there are many products that are not scheduled to be reevaluated for several years.

The EPA Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides was discussed in detail, and while we appreciate this effort to reduce the negative impacts of pesticides on bees, unfortunately this proposal falls short of being a practical solution, in my opinion. This proposal would prohibit the foliar application of listed acutely toxic products during bloom for locations with bees on site under contract, unless the application is made in accordance with a government-declared public health response. The terms "on site" and "under contract" certainly require clear definitions, but as a practical matter, once they are defined, the proposal only addresses a very narrow spectrum of potential pesticide exposure for bees. The majority of pesticide issues involving bee toxic products on the EPA prohibited list occur from applications by others in the neighborhood who apply such products to their blooming plants, rather than by the growers who rent the bees to pollinate their crops. Also, there are several products on the EPA list that have short residual toxicities and have been used on blooming crops at night for years with minimal negative effects on bees. In the Central Valley of California where I live, it is common for these products to be used in that manner throughout the season.

The differentiation of bees "under contract" and those not "under contract" is also problematic. Given the colony health issues our

continued on page 9

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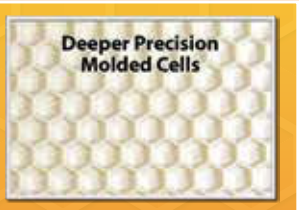

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Government Relations Report

by: Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President

As mentioned in the Vice President's message in this newsletter, the release of the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators and EPA's Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticide Products has provided the ABF and the entire bee industry with a great deal of thought provoking material in recent weeks. The ABF is working in concert with the American Honey Producers Association to finalize joint industry comments to submit to the docket on the EPA proposal.

EPA is extending the comment period on its proposed plan, which prohibits the use of all highly toxic pesticides when crops are in bloom and bees are present under contract for pollination services. Initially released on May 29, 2015, the plan also recommends that states and tribes develop Pollinator Protection Plans and best management practices.

The 30-day extension ends on August 28, 2015, and will be announced in the Federal Register. Please visit the regulatory docket, EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0818, to read the plan and submit comments.

Learn more about the proposal by viewing EPA's recording of the June 24 webinar or by viewing the webinar slides: Webinar Slides for EPA's Proposal to Protect Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticides (PDF).

Learn more about EPA's Actions to Protect Pollinators: http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-actions-protect-pollinators

Several months ago, the ABF and AHPA initiated efforts to establish a memorandum of understanding with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in order to provide a closer working relationship between FSA and the beekeeping industry. While this MOU has not yet materialized, it is our hope that it will be of benefit to the bee industry by helping the FSA set priorities on issues relating to bees, and establish better communication, allowing for quicker response to critical issues which impact the bee industry. We will likely attempt to develop additional MOU's with other agencies as well at some point in the future. Given the fact that so many federal agencies now have Pollinator Protection Plans as a result of the Presidential Memorandum, it is important for the bee industry to be at the table with the most influential agencies on a more formal basis.

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Effects of Commonly Used Agrochemicals and Their Interactions on Honey Bee Colony Health

by: Stephanie Parreira
2015 Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Stephanie Parreira

The effects of various pesticides on honey bee colonies, and the interactions between them, have not been thoroughly explored. Current information on how these chemicals impact colony health is mostly limited to laboratory experiments, which most frequently focus on single-chemical effects. Focusing on the effects of one chemical alone in a laboratory setting leaves out critical patterns and processes that are true in the field. My chosen experiment will address these issues by determining the possible interactive effects of two chemicals—imidacloprid and chlorothalonil—in pollen consumed by honey bees, as well as how exposure to these chemicals impacts colony health over time.

Imidacloprid and chlorothalonil are two very widely used chemicals in American and world agriculture. Imidacloprid—a neonicotinoid insecticide—is one of the most ubiquitously used insecticides in the world. It is used on many bee-pollinated crops, and has been found to decrease learning, memory and navigation in honey bee workers; and also found to increase their susceptibility to the Nosema gut pathogen. Chlorothalonil is a fungicide that is also used on many crops pollinated by bees, but despite its frequent detection and high concentrations in bee bread, little data exist that detail its implications for honey bee colony health. Like imidacloprid, chlorothalonil has also been linked to higher Nosema loads.

The objectives of my study are to 1) determine how the presence of these two chemicals in pollen impact various indicators of colony health and immunity, both separately and together, 2) to determine the possible long-term consequences of exposure to these residues, and 3) to determine the degree to which field data and laboratory data agree with each other. The parameters I am exploring include changes in colony size and food stores; foraging activity (pollen and non-pollen); phenoloxidase, prophenoloxidase, and glucose oxidase activity; midgut proteolytic enzyme activity, abdominal lipid stores, and hypopharyngeal gland protein content. This experiment will therefore provide a comprehensive picture of how two chemicals may lead to decline of colonies in sublethal ways.

In order to determine these patterns, I fed a total of 40 sister-queen colonies pollen patties containing imidacloprid, chlorothalonil, both chemicals, or neither chemical, for four weeks last summer. The concentrations I used were based on the mean concentrations found in pollen in Mullin et al. (2010). Before and after treatment, we sampled nurse bees for immune assays, counted foragers, and measured colony size and food stores. We are in the process of analyzing these data now. This upcoming summer we will do the same experiment with worker bees in the laboratory. I ultimately hope to not only gain a better scientific understanding of the various ways these pesticides can disrupt colony health, but also determine what the simplicity of laboratory data can and cannot tell us about a far more complex problem.

Helping to Guide the Government – cont. from page 5

bees have been dealing with in recent years, it is imperative that all bees are protected from pesticide exposure all the time, not only when they are "under contract."

State programs for the protection of bees (Managed Pollinator Protection Plans or MP3's) were discussed, and while such programs have the potential to increase communication between pesticide applicators and beekeepers, a clear and enforceable pesticide label remains the primary protection for bees and other pollinators. Such state programs should not be viewed as a means for applicators to contact beekeepers so they can move their bees away from pesticide applications. Occasionally, bees can be moved to avoid pesticides, but more often than not this is not possible. Constant movement of bees to avoid pesticide exposure is an unsustainable answer to this problem. Avoiding the application of toxic products to blooming plants, except those with short residuals applied at night, is the answer, in my opinion.

The ABF and AHPA are finalizing a joint response to this EPA proposal, which will be submitted to the docket prior to the new deadline of August 28, 2015. If you would like to learn more about this proposal and perhaps submit comments yourself, there will be additional details in the Government Relations article in this newsletter.

Clearly the bee industry must continue to engage with the various federal agencies if any meaningful improvements to bee health are ever going to materialize as a result of these government proposals. That is our goal, and we're sticking to it!

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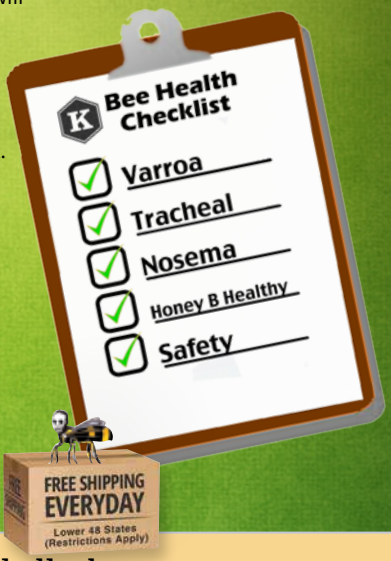

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Pennsylvania's Pollinator Programs

by: Natalie Shimo
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4-H Winner

It's mid-summer. The bees are buzzing and the butterflies are flying. Pollinators are critical to the production of the fruits, vegetables and flowers we love so much. However, the pollinator population is in decline. As people are becoming concerned, the popularity of pollinator programs is growing. Gardeners and farmers are rethinking traditional growing methods and pollinator information is becoming more available.

There are many pollinator programs available in the state of Pennsylvania. Penn State Extension offers a variety of educational opportunities for people in the community. The Master Gardener Program trains volunteers to educate others on a variety of gardening topics.[1] Ginger Pryor, State Master Gardener Coordinator, said in a Penn State News interview, "The program focuses on creating landscapes that can strengthen and increase native pollinator populations. Because landscapes have been extremely fragmented due to urbanization, suburbanization and development, we would like to have homeowners and gardeners rethinking their space."[2] Master Gardeners also certify gardens as pollinator-friendly. Currently, there are 442 certified gardens in Pennsylvania.[3] Karen Roccasecca, Pennsylvania's State Apiarist, wrote in response to my query: "Not everyone wants to be a beekeeper, but this [pollinator gardening] is an interesting and fairly easy way to help pollinators."[4] Penn State Extension also offers a Pesticide Education Program which educates participants in the safe application of pesticides.[5]

Monarch Watch is an organization that educates people about the importance of protecting Monarch butterflies. Participants are encouraged to plant Monarch waystations or rest and reproduction areas for the Monarch butterfly.[6] As a participant, I planted milkweed in our flower gardens and also encouraged my grandparents to plant milkweed in their garden as well.

The Center for Pollinator Research at Penn State University is an independent, faculty lead research program that works to develop a deeper understanding of pollinator health.[7] They study the response of honey bees and other pollinators to pesticides, diseases and other stresses.[8] Results are shared nationally and internationally.[9] Charlie Vorisek, President of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA), wrote that PSBA is currently working with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation to allow the planting of pollinator-friendly plants along highways and utility right-of-ways.[10]

Representatives from PSBA, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture will be meeting in March 2015 to continue discussions.[11] The Ernst Seed Company in Meadville, Pennsylvania, also supports pollinator-friendly gardening. In February 2015, the company will participate in the Clarion Forest Landowner Conference by promoting pollinator-friendly seeding practices.[12] They also sell pollinator seed mixes. Randy Ferguson, Director of Marketing and Communications, reported to me that sales are increasing as people recognize the value of using pollinator mixes for the pollinators.[13]

State Senator Michele Brooks said in response to my letter: "When I was a member of the House of Representatives last year, the House adopted House Resolution 904 designating the week of June 16-23, 2014, as 'Pollinator Week' in Pennsylvania."[14] The resolution was adopted in an effort to promote beekeeping.[15] Pollinator gardening programs are abundant in the state of Pennsylvania and gardening is ranked as the seventh most popular hobby in America.[16] The question then is how can we increase participation in pollinator programs? I believe there are four things we can do better.

Although pollinator programs are abundant, very few people know about them. When asked if he was aware of Penn State Extension's Pollinator Garden Certification Program, John Lechner, Mercer County Commissioner and avid gardener, replied that he was unaware that the program existed.[17] Dave Stearns, a hobby beekeeper and a member of the Northwest Beekeepers Association, wrote that he was unsure whether his club promotes pollinator gardening.[18] Promoting current pollinator programs more effectively would provide more people with access and information, and increase participation.

When most people encounter a stinging insect they usually try to kill it. Educating people about the intelligence, beauty and importance of the honey bee is essential. Beehives could be placed in public parks and at 4-H fairgrounds with demonstrations and honey tasting offered to the public. If people could see how docile honey bees can be, I believe they would develop a new appreciation for them.

Many people are unaware that there is even a pollinator crisis. How can the word be spread? Those who know need to make an effort to inform those who do not know. There are approximately 30 beekeeping clubs in Pennsylvania.[19] If every club offered classes or meetings on the pollinator crisis and encouraged non-beekeepers to attend, I believe it would greatly increase people's knowledge of the pollinator problem.

Finally, I believe people may be intimidated by the work and expense required to maintain a certified pollinator garden. It's true, gardens take time to maintain. However, there are many little things homeowners can do that don't require much time at all. For example, leaving dandelions and clover growing in yards would benefit the pollinators and actually save homeowners time and money.

Planting milkweed along a property line or in a flower bed also requires little time or expense. There are many people in the state of Pennsylvania who know the importance of planting pollinator-friendly gardens. There are many more people who would enthusiastically embrace the idea of helping the honey bee if only they knew about the problem.

What better way to spread to the word to Pennsylvanians about the need to support pollinators than by changing our state nickname to the "Bee-Friendly State." The new nickname could then be added to the state license plate along with a website address. Not only would the website provide pollinator information to Pennsylvanians, but would also spread the news across the nation.

For the references, please see Natalie Shimo's complete article at http://preservationofhoneybees.org.

Foundation Offering Five Graduate Student Scholarships

Submission Deadline: September 18, 2015

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. (The Foundation) is offering $2000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in early 2016. This is the Foundation's eleventh 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 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 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa on January 5-9, 2016. 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 the conference.

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until September 18, 2015.

Criteria:

Applicants should submit the following for consideration, **as one collated PDF document titled with his or her name ("Applicantsname".pdf):**

1. A one-page cover letter from their university advisor outlining:

- The student's progress toward their graduate degree (Master's 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 by late October 2015. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in early November 2015.

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: 2016 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.

The Importance and Function of Larval Pheromones in Honey Bee Colonies

by: Rong Ma
2015 Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Many insects communicate using chemical compounds known as pheromones, which can produce both short-term and long-term responses in physiology and behavior. The European honey bee (A. mellifera) has a complex, nuanced chemical language for mediating diverse behaviors, such as division of labor, brood-rearing, and nest defense. Pheromones in honey bees often occur naturally as multi-component blends that require specific proportions in order to function effectively.

Rong Ma

One well studied example of a pheromone blend is brood pheromone (BP), which can increase pollen-foraging and colony growth. Recently, it was discovered that young honey bee larvae also emit a second type of pheromone—(E)-β-ocimene (EBO)—which is able to evaporate and spread throughout the hive extremely quickly. BP and EBO are chemically distinct pheromones, but they can induce similar physiological changes in nurse bees. These prior observations raise questions about how these pheromonal signals function, whether they differ in the information they convey, and how they affect the behavior of nurses and foragers. To investigate this knowledge gap, I developed a project to explore two main questions: 1) what are the effects of volatile EBO on honey bee foraging behavior and colony growth? and 2) how does pheromone exposure change patterns of gene expression in honey bee brains?

Behavior: How does EBO affect the behavior of foragers?

When a drop of sugar solution is placed on a honey bee forager's antennae, her reflex is to stick out her tongue to begin feeding. We can measure just how sweet the sucrose concentration must be before a bee extends her proboscis (sucrose response threshold). Further, I will also conduct field experiments to determine how synthetic EBO affects foraging behavior.

In collaboration with the honey bee lab at Texas A&M, I tested whether giving colonies synthetic EBO in addition to frames of real brood could increase foraging activity. I exposed naturally-foraging honey bee colonies to a one-hour pulse of either synthetic EBO or a paraffin-oil control, and then I recorded the number of returning pollen or non-pollen foragers. We found that exposure to synthetic EBO significantly increased overall foraging activity.

Genetics: How does EBO alter gene expression in honey bee brains?

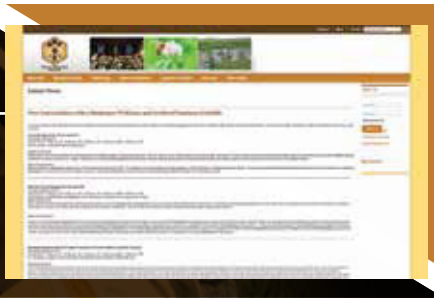
The second set of analyses involves gene expression in the bee brain using a next-generation sequencing technique called Illumina sequencing. Illumina will allow me to sequence essentially every gene product in the brain that is being actively being used, which is known as RNA. In other words, it produces a detailed snapshot of everything the bee brain is doing in one moment in time. This will allow a comparison of the differences in brain gene expression between foragers that have been exposed to EBO, BP, and a control.

Benefits to bees, beekeepers, and the apicultural industry

Because treating colonies with natural pheromones can promote growth and improve bee health, this project has practical applications for apiculture and for crops dependent on honey bee pollination. Furthermore, a few pheromone blends have been studied closely (e.g., brood pheromone, queen pheromone) and developed into commercially-available beekeeping products as a result. Despite the tremendous progress that scientists have made in understanding how larvae interact with workers, many aspects of pheromone communication are not well understood. In exploring larval pheromones further, this research project could have implications for the development and improvement of commercially-available pheromone supplements in addition to improving our scientific understanding of honey bee ecology and behavior.

Log on and plug in today!

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



Primetime with Honey Bees:
Series on Beekeeping, Bees and More!

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

"Bee educated" about honey bees and how you — yes, you — can help reverse their population decline. Join the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) for a free, public three-part webinar series about the basics of beekeeping and honey bees. Sessions are 90 minutes each and allow you to interact with expert beekeepers and ABF members!

The first session is on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at 8:00 PM ET. ABF President Tim Tucker shares an overview of honey bee biology and an explanation of how and why we keep them the way we do today.

The second session is on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 9:00 PM ET. Blake Shook, ABF board member and a commercial beekeeper, speaks about the necessity of pollination to the honey industry specifically and the farming industry more broadly (we're talking economic impact in the billions of dollars!). Pollination is one of the honey bee's largest and most pressing tasks, so this is a session you won't want to miss.

The last session is on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 10:00 PM ET. ABF Vice President Gene Brandi shares challenges that beekeepers face and the effects of pesticides on the honey bee population. Beekeepers are losing 30-50% of their hives each year, so this is a pressing issue for all who are interested in the population. Gene will update us on everything that ABF board members and leaders are doing to help reverse the trend, and provides insight into how everyone can lend a helping hand.

Look on our ABF Home Page for information on how to register!

Have You Caught The Buzz?

Sent via e-mail monthly to all ABF members, *ABF E-Buzz* is a key member benefit and is published to inform members about ABF activities, as well as key happenings in the beekeeping industry. If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, please be sure to contact the ABF office at info@abfnet.org or 404.760.2875 to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information. Also, if you wish to contribute content to the newsletter, please contact Tim Tucker, ABF E-Buzz editor, at tuckerb@hit.net. We welcome your submissions!

Commercial Beekeeping

by: Jan Lohman
Vazza Farms, Inc.

Noyes Apiaries

"We Put the Bees First."
–Tony Noyes

In 1976, Tony Noyes was my partner Vince Vazza's beekeeping mentor in New Plymouth, Idaho. They were both in their early 20's at that time. They have had quite a history of supporting each other, learning together and working together over the past 40 + years. We have watched their three kids grow up, get married and now have kids of their own, so I really want to get this right!

The reason that I want to introduce you to the Noyes Family is that they have grown a beekeeping business from the ground up. After starting with one semi load of bees in the 70's, they have now grown to a peak number of 10,000 honey bee colonies. They began moving bees to the almonds in 1974, then started a second operation in Turtle Lake, North Dakota, in 1986. They have some interesting and unusual ways of beekeeping, including many ideas that we can all learn from, and they have now succeeded in moving their business management from Tony and Debbie (the parents) to Nick and Shilo in Idaho and Josh and Melanie in North Dakota.

first woman that I ever saw on top of a load of bees, getting it netted for travel. I thought to myself, "If she can do this I can too." For years Debbie also managed the office for Noyes Apiaries, but has happily turned those duties over to her daughter Melanie in the past few years. Their other daughter, Lee, also worked in the extracting room as a teenager, but has now become a registered nurse and resides in North Dakota with her husband David and daughters Natalie and Abbie and son Troy.

Tony Noyes of Noyes Apiaries.

Tony has always been an incredible advocate for beekeepers. He often will introduce one beekeeper to another, if he thinks that they can learn from each other or use each other's services. He shares his truckers, suppliers, queen producers, and pollen manufacturers,

Tony Noyes and his family have grown a beekeeping business from the ground up.

Now, don't get me wrong, I know that Tony and Debbie Noyes are not sitting around eating bonbons and enjoying the scenery. I know that they still stay very busy with their business and Tony has also been on the Board of Directors for Sioux Honey for the past three years, taking his energy and putting it where he can be of service to the whole beekeeping industry.

Debbie Noyes, mother of Lee, Melanie and Nick, was the very first woman I met that worked with bees, not just by supporting her husband and kids (which Debbie does with such grace), but with her head stuck in a beehive right along with Tony. She was also the

and will suggest pieces of equipment or new trucks that you can't live without. He is fearless about trying new things in his operation, and is very willing to share his failures as well as his success. I call this the beekeeper grapevine; collaboration is so important in our industry. When a beekeeper stumbles on a new opportunity or new information it does not take long for others to follow, thanks to great communication.

When Shilo, Nick's wife, was a young woman working at a local bank, Tony recognized her potential and asked her, "If we had a honey store, would you be willing to manage it?" Shilo didn't

Debbie Noyes extracts honey.

know Tony and his determination at that time, so she said "yes," thinking that it would never happen. Sure enough, six months later the Noyes Honey Store was born. What began in 2000 as a small, local honey store has grown into a wonderful facility with any and everything you would want to purchase to eat or use for a gift basket: candies, pancake mix, syrup, all types of honey and lots of other goodies. The last time I was there on a Saturday, there were fresh chocolate chip cookies to get you through the afternoon. The Noyes Honey Store has now grown to meet the challenge and has three employees. It was not always easy; when Allison was a baby, she spent her first year with mom in the store. It wasn't until baby Kylee came along that a babysitter became a necessity.

Shilo Noyes helps a customer at the Noyes Honey Store.

Nick Noyes is Past President of the Idaho Honey Industry Association and currently managing the Idaho portion of Noyes Apiaries. I asked Nick when was it that he knew that he wanted to become part of the beekeeping business and his answer was: "Not sure." Perhaps that is because for most of his life he has been part of the business: he says he was extracting at age 8! Nick has tried to focus more on bee health and let others focus on trucking, equipment repairs, construction, etc. Since they have such large numbers, they need to focus their energy on managing yards rather than on analyzing individual hives. He credits their success to this philosophy: "Always put the bees first. If they die we go broke!"

Nick says one positive aspect of the bee business is his ability to take some time off during the fall and winter for hunting and holidays. His two oldest girls, Allison and Kylee, have elk tags this year, and he will have the opportunity to be there with them on the hunt.

Noyes Apiaries runs 9,000 to 10,000 colonies, a huge jump from the 1973 semi load. They store their bees indoors in the winter and have been able to maintain under 10% losses with this method of overwintering, but bee yards are becoming harder to find and finding labor can also be a huge issue with so many bees to manage. They hope that their expansion of colonies is complete, and they maybe will be willing to decrease numbers in the future. Noyes Apiaries are pollinators for almonds, apples, plums, peaches, cherries, carrots, onions and red clover. They are also honey producers with clover, alfalfa, canola, star thistle, tallow, mint, sunflowers and wildflowers available for honey production.

Melanie Noyes Freeman was born into beekeeping and is now in charge of the bookkeeping for the company. She and her husband Josh are the North Dakota Unit for Noyes Apiaries. Josh was interested in changing jobs when they lived in Idaho in 2006, but like in the movie The Godfather, Tony made Josh "a deal that he couldn't refuse!" Josh, Melanie and their kids Cassidy and Tanner are all carrying on the family bee tradition. Melanie began in the extract room at age 10, scraping top bars for her parents, and now works in the extract room in North Dakota from seven in the morning until six at night, catching up with the books whenever she can. Cassidy has her own bees, her Future Farmers of America project, and also helps extract, while her brother Tanner, who is still in high school, runs his own hives and manages a summer pulling crew.

Josh Freeman manages the North Dakota colonies and also travels to California to help with almond pollination and to Idaho in April for divides. Living in honey country, his favorite job is supering and pulling honey, especially when they come in full. Josh enjoys every aspect of beekeeping.

The Noyes family is especially appreciative of the many employees that they have. Without them there would not be a bee business. Currently they have 14 full time employees and 10 part timers, as well as the family members working full and part time. One employee, Steve Schlett, has been with Noyes Apiaries for 36 years. In addition to a number of seasonal workers for extracting and pulling, three employees work at the Honey Store, six work in the Idaho Bee operation and three work in North Dakota. This labor force is a huge contribution to the success of their business.

Tony and Debbie are semi-retired, but still willing to jump in to help whenever and wherever help is needed. They have no hesitation passing the torch on to the next generation with such willing workers all participating in the business, including Nick and Shilo Noyes and their girls Allison, Kylee and Reagan, and Josh and Melanie Freeman and their kids Cassidy and Tanner. They are what makes the future so promising. They have no hesitation passing the smoker on to their family because they are more than capable of keeping it lit!

Finally, Tony's words of wisdom are this: "In beekeeping you can have lots of successes, lots of failures, but never give up! Determination is the key. At Noyes Apiaries we might not get it done right the first time, but eventually we get it done."

Please stay tuned for an interview with my good friends at Heitkam's Honey Bees in the next issue of ABF News.

2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

Register today and join us for Palm Trees & Healthy Bees in sunny Florida!

Join us for a buzzworthy experience at the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, January 5-9, 2016. The conference will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida. Begin your New Year with mild temperatures and hundreds of fellow beekeepers sharing experiences, best practices and research while making like-minded friends.

Features of the conference include:

- General session full of presentations by industry experts
- Tradeshow to learn about the latest product and services available to beekeepers to nurture and grow their business or interest
- Track sessions on Thursday specific to various stages of beekeeping
- Over 15 hands-on workshops
- 2016 Honey Show
- Optional social evening on Thursday
- Shared SIG meetings
- ABF annual banquet
- Coronation of the 2016 American Honey Queen and Honey Princess

Registration is Open:

Registration is now open for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow. Register early and secure your place at this all-important conference.

Conference Hotel:

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is the host hotel for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow.

This hotel offers 65 acres of lush landscaping, a dazzling lagoon and sunshine galore and offers an array of amenities including:

- Complimentary Internet in guest rooms
- 100% non-smoking hotel
- Private balconies overlooking lovely views
- Fitness center
- Four pools
- Pets allowed (with non-refundable deposit)

Guest Room Reservations Warning:

It has been brought to our attention that a Housing Company is contacting ABF members and advising that the conference hotel is almost sold out and that they need to make their reservations with them at that time. This is not accurate! No one should, or will be calling you to make your hotel reservations. All reservations can be made directly with the hotel via telephone or online reservation link. If you would like to secure your guest room for the conference, the room rate is $125.00 + tax.

Secure your guest room today for the conference at the negotiated rate of $125.00 per night, plus tax (currently 16%). This rate is available until Friday, December 11, 2015, or until the room block is sold out – whichever comes first. Don't hesitate, make your reservations today!

This conference is sure to be an exciting and enriching experience that we can't wait to share with you! Visit the conference website for more information, including schedule at a glance and hotel information. Please check back often as we continue to post new information. We look forward to celebrating Palm Trees & Healthy Bees with you!

Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

It's summer promotions time, and our American Honey Queen and Princess have embarked on several extremely busy travel months that will be filled with countless types of promotions. They will visit fairs throughout the nation, beekeeping conferences, farmers' markets, civic groups and schools, all with the effort of teaching the American public about the critical need for healthy honey bees in the United States and the many ways consumers can help our industry.

Gabrielle and Hayden are passionate promoters, as our former American Honey Queens and Princesses have been throughout the past 56 years. As many of us will tell you, the jobs of American Honey Queen and Princess are incredibly rewarding, challenging, and life-changing. Throughout the next several months, Gabrielle and Hayden will see parts of the United States that they may never see again. They'll have experiences that no other position can provide them, with the extensive media exposure, direct consumer contact, and large scale speeches and presentations. They will befriend many of us, and we each have the potential of having a substantial influence and impact on their future careers (which likely will relate in some way to our industry!)

As they travel to your state, be sure to express your appreciation to them for the countless hours of promotional work that they are devoting to the beekeeping industry. If they are not scheduled to visit your event, like the American Honey Queen Facebook page and send them a shout out to support them in these upcoming months. They will have many long days full of hard work, and they do this work with positive attitudes and smiles on their faces! I am grateful for the diligence they contribute to the industry.

It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2015! Fall promotions are quickly filling the Queen and Princess's calendars, and we are already taking some requests for 2016. Please contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 if you have an event at which you'd like one of our industry spokespersons to appear.

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 8,500 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!

American Honey Queen Report

by: Gabrielle Hemesath
American Honey Queen

Gabrielle Hemesath
American Honey Queen

As I write this, my bees are extremely busy gathering nectar. I learned from my travels that different parts of the country have very different honey flows. In Iowa, late June and early July is when the most nectar is available. Plants my bees love include dandelions, basswood, and clover.

I promoted in Pasadena, Texas, May 12-17. The big event was the Pasadena Strawberry Festival, which was attended by about 50,000 people. I worked in the Harris County Beekeepers Association's booth to spread knowledge about the wonderful work honey bees do.

American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath answers many questions of a curious little girl at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival in Texas, alongside Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker.

Before the festival began, I had the opportunity to spend some time with my amazing hosts, Ed and Elaine Michalik. Ed took me on a tour of NASA, where I learned more about space than I ever thought possible. I even sat in the same chair in the mission control view room that Queen Elizabeth once sat in! Elaine and I spent our time making decorations for the train themed booth. Since I love crafts, I had a wonderful time creating a train out of construction paper and tracks out of electrical tape. Soon, Tabitha Mansker, 2015 Texas Honey Queen, arrived to help out too.

Once the festival began, our days were filled with meeting new people. Tabitha and I talked with an amazing amount of people, and when only a few visitors were at the booth, we tag teamed to give joint mini presentations. As usually happens, the observation hive quickly became the focal point of the booth, as tiny toddlers and adults alike came in close to see the bees. Tabitha and I periodically took breaks from the booth to see how much of the world's largest strawberry shortcake had been consumed. I wasn't surprised to see a 20,000-pound cake in Texas! After all, everything's bigger in Texas! Thank you, Ed and Elaine, for your hospitality and all the laughs we shared together.

I began giving school presentations in the Houston, Texas, area on May 18. Over the course of three days, I spoke to 1,116 students at six area elementary schools. I was also a guest speaker at the spring 4-H Club annual banquet. I discussed the possibilities of featuring honey bees and honey in various 4-H fair projects, such as the cooking and photography classes. The 4-H members most enjoyed learning about how honey bees develop and what makes the queen different. In particular, they were amazed to learn that when the colony supersedes, it creates multiple new queens, and the first one to emerge takes over the hive. While in the Houston area, I stayed with my uncle and aunt, and was thrilled to have the opportunity to see my family and spend time with my cousins. Thank you, Uncle Kenny and Aunt Mary Ann, for a great week!

I spent June in Iowa at local promotions and working bees at Fassbinder Apiaries. One area I focused on was civic group and government presentations. I spoke to the Clermont City Council, Castalia Tuesday Club, Ossian Senior Hospice, Fayette County Master Gardeners, and the Fayette County Supervisors about why honey bees matter and easy ways anyone can help them. I was extremely honored when the Clermont City Council made June 1, 2015, Gabrielle Hemesath Day, to recognize my positive representation of our city. I couldn't ask for a more loving community, and I thank them for their continued support as I travel. I reached many individuals during these visits, and the Elgin Echo newspaper covered some of my stops in June.

Another event in which I participated in June was Pollinator Fest at Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa. I worked with Amy Toth and other volunteers to share information with the public about why all pollinators are important to the environment. My booth was set up with an extra table for cooking demonstrations, and I showed a couple groups how to make honey energy bites!

On July 11, I traveled to Lynnville, Iowa for the Iowa Honey Producers Association's (IHPA) annual field day. I spoke about my travels and the benefits of being a member of the ABF. The IHPA never fails to welcome me back with enthusiasm! Thank you to everyone in Iowa who has helped organize and attended my events!

I will be leaving for Arizona next to take part in media interviews and a trade show, followed by a stop in Michigan for the Henry Ford Maker Faire. I am very excited for both of these trips and my other upcoming trips to New Jersey, Washington, Iowa, Florida, and Kentucky. Be sure to follow the American Honey Queen Facebook page to stay up to date with my travels! Thanks again to everyone who has been following my trips and helping make them possible. If you are interested in scheduling an event for me or Princess Hayden, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

American Honey Princess Report

by: Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

I hope that you are all enjoying the sweet profit from your bees' hard work this spring! I extracted 11 gallons of honey the last week of June, and I couldn't be happier with it; it's some of the best honey we've had!

I kept very busy during June and July, preparing for my busy travel season ahead and participating in many local promotions.

On May 15, I visited an elementary school in Gladewater, Texas, to speak with 70 kindergarteners. They were very enthusiastic and really grasped the concept of pollination and why we need honey bees. I look forward to more school presentations in the autumn months ahead!

I participated in several beekeeping meetings in June and July. I attended two monthly meetings of the East Texas Beekeepers Association and gave updates on my promotions and travels this year. On June 6, I was one of over 500 people to attend the Texas Beekeepers Association's Annual Summer Clinic in Conroe, Texas. It was a day full of workshops and classes, and I spoke with people from all over the state and worked with other Honey Queens and Princesses from Texas. I had the privilege of being on one of the ask-the-experts panels, and answered attendees' beekeeping questions. I also assisted with a basic class about honey bees for the public. Each Honey Queen was assigned a specific topic pertaining either to honey bees or beekeeping, and we collectively gave a two-hour educational program. This was a fantastic way to reach out to the public and bring people into the beekeeping community. On June 25, I had the honor of attending the first meeting of a new beekeepers club in Longview, Texas. I was pleasantly surprised that 67 people attended the meeting, including a reporter for the local newspaper. I spoke at the meeting about reaching out to the public and the benefits of a Honey Queen Program to a club. I was also featured in an article in the Longview News Journal about the meeting. This newspaper reaches 20,000 people and the article is valued at over $2,100 in publicity!

I also spoke in several civic and community venues in June. On June 12, I was the main speaker at the Tyler Rotary Club meeting, with 50 members attending. They had many questions for me before and after my program, and they also donated two books about beekeeping to the Tyler Literacy Council in my honor! I presented to 60 members of the Longview Rotary Club on June 23 about the beekeeping industry and its impact on the United States. On June 2, I gave an interactive presentation to 43 children and parents at a summer reading program at the local library in Gladewater, Texas. I brought an observation hive with my bees, and the children were fascinated! Many of them stuck around afterwards asking questions, looking at the bees, and trying out my bee veil and equipment.

June 20 found me in Winnsboro, Texas, for the Winnsboro Farmers' Market, where I worked with local beekeeper Bill Zimmer and his wife at their honey tent, promoting honey and talking about simple ways to help the honey bees. A few weeks before, the Zimmers began a save-the-bees art contest to raise awareness for honey bees and their decline. They provided participants with hive boxes to paint and then displayed the painted hives at their honey tent for several weeks at the farmers' market. Market goers were encouraged to vote for their favorite hive, and it attracted a lot of people to the Zimmers' booth, where people learned about how they could be active in helping bees. Since it was the last day of the art contest, I had the privilege of announcing the winning hive. This was such a fantastic and unique way to get the public involved, and provided a great opportunity for them to learn about bees in the process. I've seen quite a few beekeepers and beekeeping clubs this year doing similar things, connecting art and beekeeping, and it has proven to be a successful way of reaching people.

American Honey Princess Hayden Wolf spoke about life inside the beehive at the Winnsboro Farmers' Market in Texas.

During my time at home, I made two videos (one on propolis and the other on planting flowers for bees) for our YouTube channel. If you haven't visited our channel yet, check it out at www.youtube.com/AmericanHoneyQueen. The videos on our channel are a great tool to use if you are presenting to groups or schools about honey bees. Many schools these days have multimedia capabilities, and you can easily pull up our YouTube channel on the screen and show a video or two to help students see what you are explaining (and give your voice a little break too). There are short videos on a variety of topics relating to bees, beekeeping, and honey, and I encourage you to use them!

I'm excited to begin traveling again at the end of July, and have a full schedule of trips, including visiting New Jersey, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska. Bee sure to like the American Honey Queen Facebook page to follow along with my travels! If you would like to invite Queen Gabrielle or me to visit your event, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Enjoy your summer!

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From the Auxiliary

by: Beth Hackenberg
ABF Auxiliary President

Summer is finally here and so is the honey flow. With lots of rain in the northeast and sunny hot days, everything is green, and the fruits and vegetables are abundant. Of course that wouldn't be possible without the amazing honey bee.

No matter where you are, I hope you have much success with your hives this year, and don't forget to take those photos for the contest at the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida, January 5-9, 2016. Have safe and sweet summer.

Sincerely,
Beth Hackenberg

From the Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg

Coleslaw

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 cups cabbage, finely chopped (about 1 head)
- 1/4 c. carrot, shredded (1 medium carrot)
- 2 T minced sweet onions
- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 1/3 c. honey
- 2 T milk
- 2 T buttermilk
- 1 1/2 T white vinegar
- 2 1/2 T lemon juice
- 1/2 T salt
- 1/8 T fresh ground pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Chop cabbage, carrot and onion into small pieces, set aside. In large bowl, combine remaining ingredients and beat until smooth. Add slaw and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. (This step is very important for flavor).

Member Milestones

Milestones for May and June 2015

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M. Jessica Cox, Bermuda
L. Dean Honeycutt, TN
Bill Koelzer, KS
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