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Thinking Globally

Perspectives in Beekeeping:

Our Apimondia Committee has been really busy the past couple of months and is making progress and significant strides towards bringing the Congress here in 2019. It is really time for the world of beekeeping to come to the U.S. When we formed the committee two years ago in Hershey, Pennsylvania, I knew that this was something that we could do.

I mean, seriously, if Turkey can put on an Apimondia event, why can’t we host an event of this type and magnitude here in the U.S.? One of the largest issues, with an event of this magnitude, is the cost of really doing a top notch job to get through the bid process. Our initial budget estimate was over $200,000.00. You start getting into some expensive areas when talking about putting on an event meant to address thousands of people from all over the world. There also is a need to focus on the 250 voting delegates who will cast their ballots for one of the usually six countries vying for the opportunity to host the event four years down the road. But we did revise our estimates down, way down in fact. Some things have actually been less expensive than we had originally thought, so our hopes are that we can do a good job for less than half the original budget.

There are still some things that we don’t know. We don’t know just how much it will cost to provide everything from handouts to entertainment for the delegates at the upcoming event in Daejeon, South Korea. We have over twenty people who are going to attend the event. They are paying for their own tickets, will be staffing our booth and engaging the attendees from around the world and let them know that the U.S. is the place to bee!

Another issue that we have is at the financial end of the puzzle, and we have been disappointed in what we have accomplished so far. While we have raised enough to pay for our booth in Korea, we are far short of what we really need. Most of us on the finance committee had thought that we would receive much more support from everyone, including local hotels and businesses in Minneapolis and from those in our industry. We have gotten some good donations from lots of people and state and local organizations, and you can view the list of those who have helped so far on our website, http://www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org/. We greatly appreciate their support, and this will happen because of these very generous people and organizations. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed!

We do have one great piece of news about the financing of our Apimondia Bid: the ABF Board has voted to match donations for the Bid up to a level of $20,000.00. This was done to encourage others to go ahead with donations with the knowledge that their dollars will get a 2 for 1 boost! We hope to get things going in the last few months and boost our revenues to a level that will make the choices easy.

Much will still have to be done for the Apimondia committee to win the bid this coming August 2015 in Daejeon, South Korea. I would like to personally thank the almost thirty committee members who have been contributing their time and efforts, including our committee leaders Jim Bobb and currently Debbie Seib. The two of them really got us where we are today in our level of organization. We have been planning now for over two years to select the best U.S. host city, and we have decided upon Minneapolis, Minnesota. It has the perfect sized facilities for the event, and easy access for five or six blocks downtown where you never go need go outside if it’s raining. It is also the site of the Minnesota State Fair and we are aiming at the same week, August 24th – 29th, 2019, for hosting the Apimondia. We will also have the new bee lab constructed at the University of Minnesota by then, for a great off site visit and tour. And, of course, there is the Mall of America, the largest shopping facility of its type anywhere. So there will be lots of things to do for beekeepers from all over the world. We know international beekeepers will appreciate seeing the heartland of American and its honey production headquarters. We will also schedule some side trips for before and after the event to some local beekeepers, who may be extracting some of the best honey in the world in some of the finest facilities.

Meet Minneapolis has been working on our bid presentation booklet, which we just sent to Rome. We hope it will entice those who will permit us to bid to come to the U.S. in May and see the city and the facilities to determine if it would fit the bill for an Apimondia Congress. It is a very attractive 24-page booklet that details everything about why America, especially Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a great choice. It outlines our suggested itinerary, including the Scientific Program, and explains the ease of travel and access to wonderful local attractions and entertainment. It is a great marketing piece that much time was spent on and the results will be fantastic. I am confident that the Apimondia organization will allow us to bid and that an American venue will more than meet their expectations.

continued on page 4
We really would like to make this happen and WE NEED YOU! If all of our beekeepers in the ABF would just contribute ten dollars and all of our vendors would send $100.00 to the cause we can make this happen. It doesn’t take a large sacrifice on the part of anyone to make a big difference. So, visit our website at www.apimondiausabidfor2019.org, and if you feel like it, we will take donations above ten dollars as well. Again, your dollars are going twice as far!

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.
Another successful almond pollination season has come to a close here in the Central Valley of California where approximately 1.7 million colonies of honey bees were needed to pollinate approximately 860,000 acres of almonds. The bloom was exceptionally early this year with many areas in full bloom by mid-February and some colonies were even released by growers prior to the end of the month! I have been placing bees in almond orchards for well over 40 years and do not recall an almond bloom earlier than this one. An exceptionally warm, dry winter with lack of sufficient chilling hours for almond trees is thought to have been a major cause of the early bloom. While there appeared to be an adequate supply of bees, there were definitely some hive quality issues in some areas. Great weather during bloom has once again allowed the bees an adequate opportunity to get the job done. Most orchards appear to have a decent crop; however, there is still an opportunity for some of the nutlets to drop due to heat, lack of water, or other factors. Availability of irrigation water remains a major concern for almond growers and all California farmers for that matter.

Speaking of water, despite of a few rainy spells since early December, California appears to be on the cusp of our fourth consecutive year of drought. All major reservoirs hold significantly less water than normal and the Sierra Nevada snowpack now stands at a dismal 12% of the average for late winter. These facts have already resulted in the decision by federal water regulators to once again (as in 2014) allocate no irrigation water to growers in federal water districts. In addition, some smaller local water districts, such as the Merced irrigation district just east of where I live, have recently announced a zero water allocation for their growers this season as well. Some growers will rely on well water from the rapidly depleting underground supply, but in many areas this water is too salty and mineral laden to be used on most crops. There can also be long term damage to the soil by using too much of this tainted water when there is inadequate rainfall or surface irrigation water to flush out the salts and other contaminants. In addition, there are communities here in the Central Valley that no longer have water for their residents as either their wells have dried up, or they rely on water from a federal water district with zero allocation. The ongoing California drought is becoming more serious with every passing month and our normal “rainy season” will be coming to a close in late April.

The continuing drought and lack of snowpack in California is a stark contrast to many parts of the central and eastern United States. Every time I see snow piled up in Boston or other hard hit areas in the East, I wish a trade of some sort could be worked out to take the snow off their hands and relocate it to our Sierra Nevada Mountains where it is wanted and needed.

There are some areas of the Central Valley that are subsiding at a rate of one foot per year due to the overdraft of the aquifer under our valley. This lowering of the ground level is permanent as it will not rise again when the rains come back some day.

Another factor that almond growers face in addition to lack of water availability is the cost of whatever water they can find. Individuals with wells, and certain water districts in the state continue to sell water to growers in areas with little or no water allotment. Water that was priced at less than
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March/April 2015 American Beekeeping Federation News
Re: ABF Legislative Fund Appeal

Dear ABF Member,

The American Beekeeping Federation continues to work in Washington D.C. and around the country to further the legislative and regulatory related priorities important to ABF members. ABF President, Tim Tucker, and ABF Vice President, Gene Brandi, have plans to visit Washington, D.C. very soon in order to work with legislators and regulators to advance the issues important to ABF members.

The legislative priorities of the ABF in 2015 include:

• **Funding for Research.** There is no question that the bee industry continues to sustain major colony losses throughout the country. We will continue to work with Congress in an effort to obtain the necessary appropriations so that vital research into the many problems which negatively impact honey bee health can continue. In addition to USDA-ARS, we plan to work with other public and private research sources that can provide meaningful research opportunities for our industry.

• **Maintaining ARS Lab Funding.** The ABF continues to urge that USDA-ARS honey bee research facilities be fully funded in order to maintain and enhance their research efforts. We are excited to hear that USDA-ARS has plans to open a new honey bee research facility in Davis, California which is scheduled to be up and running in 2016.

• **Protecting our Honey Market.** There continues to be a great deal of discussion concerning the state of our honey market. The discussions come down to two priorities: 1) establishing a national standard of identity for honey; and 2) stopping illegal imports, particularly transshipment of Chinese honey through intermediary countries. We are being told that our honey market is in precarious shape. We need to take strong steps to shore it up.

• **Pesticides.** We are losing our bees at unsustainable rates, and it is increasingly clear that pesticides play a major role in colony decline. The verification that neonicotinoids have been implicated in honey bee losses during corn planting in the US and Canada is a reminder that this is an area that cannot be overlooked, no matter the pushback from entities with vested interests. The fact that neonicotinoids and other pesticides applied to a variety of crops continue to have negative effects on honey bees throughout the country is of extreme concern to the ABF. The ABF, on its own and with the National Honey Bee Advisory Board (NHBAB) have developed a working relationship with the EPA as a stakeholder in the efforts to revise registration and labeling of pesticides. It is clear that the incident reporting system and the policing of compliance issues are broken. ABF leaders and members have already devoted considerable time and effort toward these issues in recent years but there is a great deal more work which must be done if real progress is to be made in protecting honey bees from the negative effects of pesticides. We are concerned that proposed “State Programs for the Protection of Bees” may exacerbate rather than improve the situation, and have been participating in discussions about such programs for the past several months.

• **Promoting and Protecting Honey Bee Habitat.** Lack of sufficient clean foraging resources for honey bees in many parts of the country is having a profoundly negative effect on hive health and productivity. We are committed to working with government agencies, agriculture allies, and other stakeholders to develop policies and programs to enhance, protect, expand, and provide access to suitable pollinator habitat. There are several new initiatives which will enhance forage for pollinators in many parts of the country and ABF is supportive of these efforts. One great example is the new joint forage/habitat project in the upper Mid-West with Pheasants Forever, Project Apis-M, and Browning Honey Farm.

• **Crop Insurance, ELAP, and H-2A Labor Programs.** The ABF continues to work for USDA disaster programs to be more available to beekeepers, and to make funding of these programs permanent. We need programs that allow for the management of risk without opening the door to fraud. The beekeeping industry’s need for legal laborers requires an H-2A labor program.
that works. In addition, the ABF continues to be an active member of the agriculture labor coalition working on meaningful immigration reform. These are difficult issues and require our input and consistent voice to resolve.

• **Transportation Issues.** We are continuing to work on a waiver/exemption from additional hours of service limitations for drivers of trucks who haul bees. The ABF co-signed a letter along with California Farm Bureau requesting such a waiver/exemption, and submitted comments during the official comment period as well. This is a bee health issue which we believe can be addressed without adversely impacting traffic safety.

In order to carry out these ABF objectives, it is necessary that your ABF representatives travel to Washington periodically. This is always an expensive endeavor as airline fares keep increasing and hotel rates in Washington are some of the highest in the nation. The services of Meyers and Associates are necessary to assist the ABF with legislative and government relations efforts in Washington and their fees must be paid on a regular basis. We must have them working for us on the scene, in order to keep us abreast of anything that may impact the beekeeping industry.

The bottom line is that the ABF cannot achieve the goals set by the membership without the financial resources to get the job done and, at this time, we are again well behind budget in the ABF Legislative Fund. Your commitment to help in these efforts is essential to their success. We can assure you that your contributions to the ABF Legislative Fund are spent carefully and with full consideration of how important this work is for you, the ABF members. Your Legislative Fund donations are very much appreciated and are an investment in the future of your business, as well as the bee industry as a whole. You can easily donate online at www.abfnet.org (click on the “Donate to the ABF” link on the home page), or send a check to the ABF office at the letterhead address. If you have any questions, please call our ABF office at 404.760.2875.

While your contributions are essential to the success of ABF efforts, there is something else just as important – maybe more important at times. We need you to keep in contact with your members of Congress, both your representative and your state’s two senators. They and their staff members need to be aware of your beekeeping activities and of our industry’s needs – and they need to hear this from you. There is helpful information in this newsletter that can assist you when contacting your Congressional representatives and Senators.

There is a role for each of us, and together we can accomplish a great deal. As we progress throughout the year, it is our intention to keep you informed with the latest developments and needs in the legislative area that are critical to our industry. Please let us know how we can better serve you and all ABF members.

Gene Brandi, Chairman
ABF Legislative Committee
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ABF is pleased to announce that the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, January 5-9. So mark your calendars and save the date for the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow.

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The ABF Conference committee has already started planning for the 2016 conference and it’s sure to be a “bright” event. We hope you can join us in the place where sunglasses are needed. More information will be coming soon.

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In Memoriam

Peter Teal:
Dr. Peter Teal, Research Leader of the Chemistry Research Unit at the Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology (CMAVE), USDA-ARS Gainesville, Florida passed away in early February from pneumonia.

Dr. Teal assumed the role of Research Leader of the Chemistry Research Unit in 2003 and served in that position until 2015. In 2014, he also began serving as Acting Research Leader of the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, Miami, Florida.

Dr. Teal was a Supervisory Research Insect Physiologist, and he obtained both his B.Sc. and M.S. Degrees from the University of Ottawa and his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Florida. Dr. Teal began his career with ARS at CMAVE in 1990. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Guelph from 1983 to 1986, and an Associate Professor at the University of Florida (1986 to 1990).

Dr. Teal was an outstanding scientist with an international reputation and had achieved the level of super grade. His research focused on isolation and identification of naturally produced compounds that affect the behavior and reproduction of insects and in developing control and monitoring strategies for control of invertebrate pests. He received many awards recognizing his research and leadership. In 1991, he received the USDA Outstanding Early Career Scientist Award. Later, Dr. Teal was recipient of the Arthur S. Flemming Award for Science (2002) and Researcher of the Year Award from the Florida Beekeeping Association (2005).

Dr. Teal was active in technology transfer efforts related to protecting plants and honey bees from devastating pests while protecting the environment. He worked closely with industry using CRADAs and MTAs such as developing a new attractant for small hive beetles, a significant pest of honey bees. In 2014, he received the South Atlantic Area Senior Research Scientist of the Year “For excellence in chemical ecology research and advancing the surveillance and control of agricultural insect pests.” His research has been documented in over 200 scientific publications and patents.

We will all miss Peter’s humor, compassion, guidance, and excellence in science and leadership. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Kathy and son Evan.

E. Randall (Randy) Johnson:
Long time ABF member and Past ABF President Randy Johnson, age 88, passed away peacefully at his home in Nampa, Idaho on February 2, 2015 with his wife Betty at his side. Randy and Betty were married for 66 wonderful, adventurous years.

Randy joined the US Navy two days before his 18th birthday and served throughout the South Pacific Theater in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and China. After the war, he returned to finish his studies at Oregon State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Technology. Randy accepted a position with Libby, McNeill, and Libby where he worked for the next 23 years. During the “Libby years” the Johnson family moved 20 times, making dear, life-long friends in Portland, Yakima (3X), Cuba, Chicago (2X), Puerto Rico, and several places in California. While in Cuba in the 1950’s Randy joined Rotary International and continued his Rotary membership everywhere he lived.

Randy resigned from Libby’s in 1973 after traveling the world as VP of their international division in order to purchase some honey bees and establish Honeygold Corporation in Nampa, Idaho. At Honeygold, Randy worked with a group of fine men who became friends as well. He and Betty established deep roots in Nampa where he became President of the local Rotary and was an active member of the community.

Randy served as ABF President from January 1987 - January 1989. During his time with the ABF, he was instrumental in the formation in the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and remained very active in the ABF for many years. Randy played a major role in the establishment of the National Honey Board in the mid-1980’s, served two terms as Producer Member Region I, and served as Chairman of the NHB in 1995-96. In his later years, he also traveled to the Republic of Georgia, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey to advise beekeepers on methods of modern beekeeping. These and his many other contributions to the ABF and the entire beekeeping industry have certainly left a very positive, long lasting legacy and are very much appreciated.

Randy will be greatly missed for his hearty laughter, engaging smile, hearty hugs, his love of jokes, and his constant interest in people and what they were doing.

Memorials can be sent to Oregon State University Master Beekeepers Program (honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu) or to the Nampa Rotary (namparotary.org).

Jeremy Pendell:
Jeremy Pendell passed away on March 7, 2015. He had been ill with pneumonia for a week and suffered a blood clot to the lung. He was the son of Frank and Sheri Pendell. Jeremy was 29 years old. He leaves behind his wife Robyn, his 4 year old son Landon, and his 2 year old daughter Anzley. Jeremy was a selfless person. He loved everyone he met and was loved by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

Above all, Jeremy loved his wife and kids. He was the sole provider for his family. Jeremy wanted the very best for his kids. He worked hard so that Robyn could be a mom and care for their kids, rather than having to put them in daycare. Even as a teenager, Jeremy wanted nothing more than a wife and kids—a family of his own. They were his pride and joy and everything he did was with them in mind.

Jeremy and Robyn had just moved down to San Jose a year ago for a welding job with PG&E. That move had drained them of their savings. Robyn now has to move them back north to be nearer to family. This transitional time, with Robyn supporting and raising the kids on her own, will be extremely difficult for the family.
Commercial Beekeeping

Woodworth Family Business

I first met Brent and Bonnie Woodworth in California during Almond Pollination about twenty years ago. We had been hard-hit over winter and were looking to buy some brood to help fill our nuc orders when George Hansen introduced us to the Woodworths!

I was delighted to meet another wife that was as involved with the bees as I was, and thought that I can learn so much from them. How do you divide the responsibilities, what part does Bonnie play in the business, and most important “who has time to do the laundry”?

They delivered the nucs that we ordered and it taught us both how beautiful brood and bees can look. They had plenty of beautiful slabs of brood and a wonderful coverage of bees in these deep boxes with screened bottom boards.

Over the years I have continued my admiration, with Bonnie’s involvement with the National Honey Board, the American Beekeeping Federation and her own North Dakota politics. She is a force to behold! Brent has a marvelous sense of humor, an amazing passion for honey bees and an outfit to be respected.

Over the years we have crossed paths on many occasions, in airports on the way to ABF Conferences, at dinner, in the vendor center, or in the halls at the meeting. They always seem so happy with what they do and are a marvelous example to other beekeepers. I asked Bonnie to write the Woodworth Story for our Newsletter this month and of course she did not disappoint.

The Woodworth Story:

The Woodworth family business started in 1939 when Wendell H. (Woody) Woodworth was 10 years old. He bought two packages of bees from the Montgomery Ward store. He worked for beekeepers during the summers in Iowa, and by the time he graduated from Nashua High School, he had 150 hives of bees.

He got married to the smartest girl in Bremmer County, Jeanette Copenhaver and started a family. After an offer to purchase a beekeeping operation in Montana fell through, he moved the family to South Heart, North Dakota in 1955 and started Dakota Honey Company. In 1957 they moved to Dickinson, North Dakota. The family and the business, Woodworth Honey Company grew to 6000 hives by the 1970’s. Beekeepers at that time were few and far between. Migrating with bees to Oklahoma and then Texas in the early days was always an adventure.

Woody was quite the inventor, developing many innovative ideas that contributed to the beekeeping industry. He purchased his first model Bobcat forklift in 1961 and built pallets to move bees. Woody and his wife Jeanette remained active in beekeeping until Woody passed away September 23, 2014 at the age of 85!

The business was split three ways in 1979, and Woody’s two sons, Greg and Brent each purchased 2000 Colonies. Their youngest son, Brent and his wife Bonnie continue the family business of beekeeping, managing 3800 colonies in Halliday, North Dakota.

Beekeeping has many challenges in current times, not that it has ever been easy, just different challenges from his father’s days. Brent, like his dad is a hands on beekeeper, always teaching his workers how to work bees, pull brood, find queens and always striving to keep healthy colonies. Bent’s work with formic acid to control varroa mites is something he is always eager to share with others. His belief in the use of formic acid has been unwavering, and it has allowed his bees to thrive during these difficult times. As with many “hard-working” folks, the body suffers and Brent has had back surgery and both knees replaced in the last few years and it gets more difficult to keep up with those 20 year old employees!

Bonnie has been very involved in all aspects of the business from the beginning of their marriage in 1972, working the bees, extracting honey, managing office affairs and politics. She serves on the board of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and is a member of the American Beekeeping Federation.

She has served as Director, President and now Director-at-Large for the North Dakota Beekeeper’s Association, she was a member of the National Honey Board Nominations Committee, a member of the Honey Board representing producers, and now as a producer alternate on the current Honey Board. She served as a North Dakota farm Bureau County Board Member, a member of the state board of North Dakota Farm Bureau and a Board Member for Nodak Mutual Insurance.

Bonnie is always involved in representing beekeepers in North Dakota, and with programs like Living AG In The Classroom where thousands of fourth graders have a chance to learn about the joys of keeping bees. An interest in the legislative process helps when “bee bills” need a beekeeper’s voice, and since most beekeepers are out of state during that time of year, the voices are few. Bonnie is usually called on to defend the beekeeping industry that a lot of people have issues with, like motorcyclists.
The Manipulation of Cell Suicide?

In the last decade, many bee pathogens were in the focus of research to find answers for losses of millions of managed honey bee colonies. In this context the fungal gut parasite Nosema ceranae was controversially discussed as a major driver for colony decline in Europe and colony collapse disorder (CCD) in United States. This exotic microsporidian parasite has managed to rapidly spread worldwide. Recently, it has not only been considered to be a serious threat to honey bees, but also to wild pollinators, thus asking for more research to understand both the functioning and failure of the bee immune response towards N. ceranae. On the other hand, it would also be crucial to know what traits enable Nosema to overcome the honey bee immune system.

After transmission via the fecal-oral route, N. ceranae germinates in the host midgut in order to penetrate and enter epithelial gut cells. In those cells Nosema then replicates and produces a new generation of spores that are ultimately released into the gut lumen. Nevertheless, to achieve that Nosema has to face and overcome a number of honey bee defenses. In insects, epithelial cells of the intestine are typically the first line of defense against pathogens. Besides the production of defense compounds such as antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) and reactive oxygen species (ROS), these cells can also respond with programmed cell death (also known as apoptosis) when infected. Infected cells respond in such a way that it kills both itself as well as the pathogen. Apoptosis is controlled by a specific gene cascade, which also includes genes that block apoptosis in healthy cells. Thus it is not surprising to see that intracellular pathogens engage in an evolutionary arms race with the host to manipulate apoptosis to their own advantage, reflecting classical host-pathogen coevolution.

Interestingly, this seems also to be the case in N. ceranae infections. It was recently shown that inhibition of apoptosis plays an important role in the disease pathogenesis of N. ceranae infections. Although there are some examples showing strategies which other pathogens use to manipulate cell suicide, the mechanism which Nosema uses is unknown. Moreover, there is a lack of knowledge how the host might withstand that manipulation by the pathogen.

For this reason, our research focuses on the importance of cell suicide as a defense mechanism in the adaptation of these Nosema-resistant honey bees. These Nosema-resistant honey bees are the result of an extensive long-term breeding program from the 1980’s on an isolated Danish island where beekeepers have selected a honey bee strain that is not only resistant to the native N. apis, but also to N. ceranae. We compare the response to N. ceranae infection of those resistant honey bees from Denmark with susceptible honey bees from the South of France in controlled inoculation experiments. In our research we are addressing the following question: Does apoptosis differ between the resistant and susceptible strains? Where and how does N. ceranae actually manipulate apoptotic machinery in the host cell? What mechanism might have evolved in the resistant honey bees to escape this manipulation? To answer these questions we use an integrative approach which combines methods from the fields of genetics, histology, proteomics and physiology.

Our results might not only be interesting for the community of evolutionary biologists, but moreover, they might also be important for beekeepers and the beekeeping industry since it illustrates how selective breeding can be efficiently used in sustainable apiculture to enhance honey bee health and improve beekeeping in the long run.

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Farmer and Rancher Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-Up Begins April 15 for Livestock, Honeybee, Fruit Grower Programs

WASHINGTON, April 7, 2014 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that farmers and ranchers can sign-up for disaster assistance programs, reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill, beginning Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Quick implementation of the programs has been a top priority for USDA.

“These programs will provide long-awaited disaster relief for many livestock producers who have endured significant financial hardship from weather-related disasters while the programs were expired and awaiting Congressional action,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “President Obama and I prioritized the implementation of these disaster assistance programs now that the Farm Bill has restored and strengthened them.”

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014.
Pests and diseases constantly threaten honey bee health. Recently, honey bee colonies in the United States have been reported to be infected with a gut parasite called Nosema ceranae. Nosema ceranae has been shown to increase winter colony losses and decrease bee immune responses to other diseases. The biology and epidemiology of this new pest is still relatively unknown. Current Nosema sampling protocol is not very reliable and may provide a false diagnosis or perception of a colony’s health. This has forced beekeepers to treat all their hives prophylactically, which can be extremely expensive. Thus there is an urgent need to understand the dynamics of a Nosema ceranae infection inside a hive (Experiment 1). Furthermore, the quality of pollen has been shown to affect the survival of honey bees infected with Nosema, but not much is known about the role of nutrition on the rate of infection (Experiment 2).

My first experiment is still in the data collection phase and no definite conclusions can be made at this point. However, it is becoming clear that newly emerged bees have a much lower intensity and prevalence of Nosema infection than bees that are 1, 2 and 3 weeks old. It is also evident that bees 3 weeks old when introduced to Nosema ceranae have the highest prevalence of infection at nearly 50%. This information can potentially help us understand what a Nosema ceranae infection actually looks like inside a colony. With further research, new robust Nosema sampling methods can be developed to help beekeepers get a more accurate picture of their hive’s infection levels.

The second experiment has shown that there is a significant difference between nutrition and Nosema ceranae intensity. Bees fed with a high protein diet had the highest intensity of Nosema spores, and conversely the bees fed the least amount of protein had the fewest amount of spores. This indicates that Nosema spore reproduction may require higher protein levels. Interestingly, the bees fed the higher protein diet, which had more spores, still had greater survival rates than bees with the lower amount of protein and fewer Nosema spores. These results suggest that bees that receive better nutrition have a higher chance of survival while infected with Nosema ceranae.
I write this article on the brink of March Madness - what a wonderful time of year! Over the last few years, March and April have become very popular promotional months, and I thank all our members who have continued to make these months productive for the Queen and Princess! We’d love to see this continue into the early summer months as well!

The last few months have given the Queen program multiple educational opportunities. For many years now, the Queens have participated in the University of Minnesota’s Beekeeping in Northern Climates course in March. This year, we were also grateful to add the University of Florida’s Bee College to the mix of events. Additionally, Queen Gabrielle will head to the University of Wyoming’s Bee College in late March. At these events, much like your local, state, and regional beekeeping conferences, the Queens not only help in a variety of capacities (giving or assisting with presentations, participating in public or children’s educational events, or promoting the event ahead of time through media interviews), but they also spend a lot of time learning in the sessions.

All our American Honey Queens and Princesses get their start promoting a single state’s beekeeping industry. Within a week, they are elevated to national spokespersons, expected to have a wide knowledge of beekeeping throughout the country. As we know, beekeeping in Florida is significantly different than beekeeping in Montana (or pick any two states of your choosing!). These specific courses early in the year help the Queens gain insight on the different practices and timelines in northern, southern, or western apiculture. They also significantly help our representatives, even the most knowledgeable Queens, in finding alternative ways to explain beekeeping concepts. It’s always important to have several different ways to explain a topic to the public! Every audience learns differently.

Please continue to contact me as soon as possible to start planning your promotion with the Queen or Princess. We have received many exciting promotional requests, and we hope to fit in as many as possible into our schedule this year. You may reach me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to make your requests. Happy promoting!
American Honey Queen Report

I have had a fantastic time promoting honey and beekeeping these past couple months. Immediately after training in January, I began interviewing with newspapers about my new position. I made the front page of the business section in the Waterloo Courier on February 8. In the article, I discussed the importance of honey bees and how beekeeping can be a wonderful business. I was also featured in four other newspapers, generating approximately $9,010 in free media publicity for our industry!

On January 31, I attended the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association’s meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. It was wonderful to attend a meeting with the group, because I was their local Honey Queen in 2013. It was also my first event since training, so it was nice to have familiar faces around. At the meeting, I gave a talk about the ABF and the Queen program for the 33 members in attendance. Thank you CIBA, for inviting me to your meeting.

On February 12, I headed to Tampa, Florida for the Florida State Fair, which ran through February 17. At the fair, I gave three cooking demonstrations on how to make chicken breasts with spicy honey-orange glaze and honey peanut butter dip. You can find the honey peanut butter dip recipe in our recipe brochures. In addition, I worked at the Florida State Beekeeper’s booth, where I passed out honey samples. Kids were amazed as I pointed out the queen bee in the observation hive as they tasted delicious Florida honey. The kids were just a small portion of the approximately 31,000 people I reached while at the fair. I also had the opportunity to attend the meetings of both the Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association and the Ridge Beekeepers Association. At the meetings, I learned about some of the things the clubs are working to accomplish and spoke about the benefits of being an American Beekeeping Federation member. Thank you Marie and Noel Blanchet as well as Bert and Caryl Kelley for hosting me during my first visit to Florida.

On February 28, Princess Hayden and I both headed to Minnesota where we took part in a variety of events. The main affair was the Beekeeping in Northern Climates class taught by Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter of the University of Minnesota. Thank you, Marla and Gary, for giving Hayden and me the opportunity to learn more about our favorite industry! In addition to the beekeeping class, we gave a presentation at Urban Ventures, which has a great after-school program for kids of all ages, in downtown Minneapolis. We presented to a total of 61 kids in grades 1-6. They were very interested in what we had to say, because the program recently obtained a few hives to keep on a balcony at their facility. Thank you Urban Ventures staff for including us in your program, and thank you Bill and Marilyn Gorham for taking such good care of Hayden and me during our stay in Minnesota.

I was back in Florida March 4-8 for the Master Beekeeper Program and Bee College hosted by the University of Florida. I was a student in the classes and helped out with an assortment of events. For example, I assisted with a class on how to make lip balm. I talked about the many ways beeswax and honey can be used, while the organizer of the talk was stirring and melting ingredients. I also helped with awards night, where I presented a slideshow on the ABF and the Honey Queen program, in addition to helping hand out awards. I also spent three hours helping teach the children’s class on bees. The kids even had the chance to look up close at real bees after learning about their different body parts. Thank you Dr. Jamie Ellis and David Westervelt for coordinating my trip to the Florida Bee College. I gained a great background in beekeeping in the South and thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to learn from your keynote speakers.

I have already learned a lot about traveling and presenting through these first trips. Thank you to everyone who is following my travels and supporting me as I promote the beekeeping industry. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514. I am looking forward to all the promotions to come, including stops in Connecticut, Wyoming, Iowa, and Oregon.
American Honey Princess Report

by: Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

I hope this finds you and your bees doing well and keeping warm! February and March gave me time and opportunities to prepare for my busy year and to continue polishing my spokesperson skills.

Three days after I returned home from Honey Queen training at the end of January, I put what I learned at media training to use in a phone interview I had with Across Kentucky Radio. The interview, which was aired on 125 radio stations across Kentucky and generated about $30,000 of free publicity for ABF, was in preparation for a later trip to the state in March. During the segment, I talked about simple ways to help honey bees by supporting local beekeepers and planting bee friendly flowers. I also discussed why bees are essential to us for pollination.

On February 5, I attended the East Texas Beekeepers Association Meeting in Tyler to update 110 members of my local association on my travels, my role as American Honey Princess, and on the ABF. It was great to go back to the club that made my dream of becoming a beekeeper come true. I was thrilled to assist the group again on February 13 in training the East Texas Honey Queen and Princess for their roles as spokespersons for the beekeeping industry. I wish them success in their promotions this year!

I headed to St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, on February 27 to give community presentations and to attend the Beekeeping in Northern Climates Short Course at the University of Minnesota February 28-March 1 with Queen Gabrielle. The course was taught by Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter of the University of Minnesota, and it was an absolute honor to participate in their sessions. I learned so much from the course, especially since I live in the South and have not had much experience keeping bees in cold weather. It was really interesting and helpful for me to learn how beekeeping is done in northern climates. Queen Gabrielle and I also manned an ABF table one afternoon and spoke to many of the 360 course attendees about ABF. Thank you to Marla and Gary for making our attendance possible and to Bill and Marilyn Gorham for hosting Gabrielle and me!

From Minnesota, I was off to Kentucky March 2-8 for Bee Friendly Frankfort, a week of community presentations and events about bees that the Capitol City Beekeepers Association puts on each year prior to the Bluegrass Beekeeping School. I started off the trip with my first live radio interview with Froggy Country 104.9 in Frankfort, promoting the events for Bee Friendly Frankfort and the Bluegrass Beekeeping School. Over two days I spoke to 378 kids at four schools around Grant and Fayette Counties about why honey bee pollination is important to them and how they could help bees. One of the schools was an agriculture high school, and I spoke with the students about the honey bee’s effect on the agriculture industry and career opportunities in beekeeping. During the week, Kentucky State Apiarist Tammy Horn and I also met with Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer to discuss efforts to help support bees and beekeepers in Kentucky. Unfortunately, due to over 16 inches of snow, some of my promotions were cancelled, but I waited it out and still made it to the Kentucky Crafted Market. I worked at Josephine Sculpture Park’s booth with their beehive painting activity! Every year, a beekeeper donates a few hive boxes to be used as an art project and craft during the market. After drawing nature and bee themed designs on the boxes, children and adults are encouraged to paint the hives. As people came and painted the hive boxes, I talked to them about beekeeping and the honey bees that would live in those boxes. The sculpture park will use the boxes this spring on the beehives at their park. The children especially were excited about visiting the park and seeing the hive boxes they painted with bees in them! This activity is a great and fun way to mix art and beekeeping together and get people involved. Despite all the snow, I had a productive and successful time in Kentucky and reached many people with the importance of honey bees. Thank you Capitol City Beekeepers for arranging my visit and hosting me!

I am currently in Houston, Texas for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and am looking forward to upcoming events in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Washington. My spring schedule is quickly filling up, so be sure to contact American Honey Queen Program Chair Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 with any events you would like us to attend. I hope you all have a beautiful and wonderful start to spring!
ABF Participates in Spring Research Meeting in Stoneville

The spring research meeting of the USDA, ARS, National Biological Control Laboratory was held in Stoneville, MS on March 10th and 11th, 2015. Dr. Deborah Brennan, director of the Southeast area, and John Adamczyk, research leader, opened the meeting with introductions of attendees. The AHPA and the ABF were both represented. Darren Cox and Kelvin Adee from AHPA and Joan Gunter from ABF were in attendance. Team reports were presented by each lab with a brief question and answer period following.

- Dr. Susan Kegley, Pesticide Research Institute, Berkeley, Ca presented the Science behind Pesticide Residue Detection in Apiculture Samples: Results from Current Experiments.

- Drs. Tom Rinderer, Bob Danka, Kristen Healy, Frank Margotta USDA, ARS Baton Rouge, Louisiana discussed their research on the effects of mosquito treatments on honey bee health.

- Drs. Scott Stewart, Heather Young, and Mohamad Alburaki from the University of Tennessee reported on the impact of neonicotinoids in the South. Future experiments include gene expression and bee brain dissection and RNA extraction. They also introduced us to the bio-marker testing they are doing.

- Dr. Gus Lorenz, Mr. Jon Zawislak, Joe Black, & Ms. Nicki Taillon from the University of Arkansas reported on their work with feeding studies for bee hives. They also discussed airborne contamination from dust of pesticide treated seeds and soils.

- Drs. Angus Catchot, John Adamczyk, Blair Sampson, Ales Gregorc, Don Cook, and Jeff Gore of Mississippi State University & USDA, ARS in Poplarville, MS discussed neonicotinoid seed treatments drift with the use of lubricants.

- Dr. William Meikle of the USDA, ARS Tucson, Arizona reported on their neonicotinoid feeding experiments.

- Dr. YuCheng Zu of the USDA, ARS lab in Stoneville, MS discussed the 42 commonly used pesticides and fungicides and the results they have on honey bees.

- Dr. Clint Hoffman of the USDA, ARS, College Station, Texas talked about the synergy needed between farmers, beekeepers, and applicators.

- Drs. Steve Thomson, Reginald Fletcher, and Yanbo Huang of the USAD, ARS in Stoneville, MS reported on proper spray conditions for applicators.

The follow up was a discussion on all presented and ideas on how to move forward. It was a very informative meeting and I appreciate ABF asking me to be their representative.
U.S. Honey Production Up 19 Percent

Released March 20, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Honey Production Up 19 Percent! Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices. The complete NASS Honey Report is available on the American Beekeeping Federation website at www.abfnet.org under the Education & Events tab, “Honey Facts.”

“Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014...”

–USDA

Bee Connected: ABF Facebook Fan Page

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

Everyone is welcome. To date, we have over 6,400 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!
$100 per acre foot five years ago is now selling for $2,000 per acre foot and more! The old saying here in the valley is that if you have the money, you can get water. With the extreme shortage of water this year, that may no longer be true for everyone, but it is likely that those with the most money have the best chance of finding some water with which to irrigate their almonds. The ramifications of the water situation in California will certainly effect the nation’s commercial beekeepers if almond acreage declines. At this point however it appears that more new almond orchards are being planted than those being removed.

It can be reasonably anticipated that more California bee hives will be trucked out of state for greener pastures given the probable lack of forage for bees here during our long hot summer. California has generally been amongst the top 5 honey producing states and has been THE top producing state many times over the past 40 years, but it will take a miracle to accomplish that in 2015.

Two individuals recently passed away who I must mention as they have both influenced my life as a beekeeper: The first is Jack Jensen, a Los Banos, California beekeeper who gave me my first job in bees over 45 years ago. I worked for Jack while in high school and college and bought my first beehives from him in 1977 to begin my beekeeping business. Jack was President of the California State Beekeepers Association in 1972 and was CSBA Beekeeper of the Year in 1975. He and his wife, Claire, regularly attended ABF conventions for many years.

ABF Past President, E. Randall (Randy) Johnson passed away recently at his home in Nampa, Idaho with his wife, Betty, at his side. Randy traveled the world with Libby, McNiell and Libby for 23 years before founding Honeygold Corporation in 1973. In addition to serving as ABF President from January 1987 - January 1989, he also chaired the National Honey Board in 1995 - 96 and represented Producer Region I for two terms. Randy was instrumental in the formation of the National Honey Board as well as the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. His professional leadership served to guide the ABF and the National Honey Board through difficult times.

The Apimondia USA 2019 Bid Committee is in full fundraising mode at this point and the ABF Board of Directors voted to match any new donations to this effort up to $20,000. Funds are still needed in order to build the USA booth at the upcoming South Korea Apimondia conference, host a USA reception for the Apimondia delegates, and pay for Apimondia officer travel to Minneapolis later this spring in order for them to analyze the proposed convention venue, hotels, etc.

Thanks to Joan Gunter for representing ABF at the recent USDA Stoneville, Mississippi meeting where USDA researchers reported on their research. Joan’s report about the meeting in this edition. May your bees bee healthy and make you wealthy this year!
The following individuals contributed to the ABF funds during the months of January and February 2015. These donations enable us to fund programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

### Friends of the Bee Fund Contributions
- Linda Kaye Carmack, Alabama
- Brian Higgins, Georgia
- Howard Hohnsen, Illinois
- Honeyland, Inc., Montana
- Robert McDonell, Illinois
- Bella Puccetti, New Mexico
- Margaret Reid, Ohio
- Larue O. Shultz, Pennsylvania
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- Stan Yeagley, Mississippi

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- Tracy W. Middlebrooks Jr., Georgia
- Nancy Putnam, Florida
- Margaret Reid, Ohio
- Strachan Apiaries, Inc., California
- M. & W. Wilson, Utah

### Memorial Donation
- For Mary Ann Rodenberg of Wolf Point, Montana, mother and mother-in-law of Jim and Shelley Rodenberg.
- From Lance and Patricia Sundberg.
From the Auxiliary

Wow can you believe it? It’s been three months since our ABF conference. Thank goodness spring is right around the corner. Some of us still aren’t sure winter is going to end. And I know everyone’s working busy as bees, getting ready for the pollination and honey crop seasons, while others are trying to make up for losses. Either way, we need to keep everyone in mind and hope for a good year and a blessed spring.

From the Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg

Granola Bars

This is a four step process

STEP 1:
- 2 c. oats
- 1 c. coconut
- 1 c. sliced almonds
- Toss together and bake @ 350 for 10-12 min.

STEP 2:
- Mix 3 T. butter
- 2/3 c. honey
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla
- 1/4 t. salt
- Bring to a boil stirring constantly.

STEP 3:
- Mix 1/2 c. wheat germ
- 1/2 c. dried cranberries
- 1/2 c. dried apricots
- 1/2 c. dried blueberries or other preferred dried fruit
- Chop dried fruit then pour the other ingredients (honey mixture and oats mixture) together and thoroughly mix.

STEP 4:
- Line a 9X12” pan or jelly roll pan with parchment paper.
- Place mixture on paper and use another piece of parchment paper to press ingredients into pan, making sure to pack it down and into the corners.
- Bake @ 350 for 10-20 min.
- Place in fridge, cut when cool with sharp knife.
- Sit down, relax and enjoy. Yum!

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!

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