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Perspectives in Beekeeping

2015 4-H Essay Winners

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Perspectives in Beekeeping: Best of Days and Worst of Days

The president released the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators in May, which was late, but as the old saying goes, “better late than never.” It is a long report spanning almost 60 pages, and it outlines some very ambitious goals. The plan aims to promote the health of honey bees, monarch butterflies and other pollinators, and specifically identifies three major goals to achieve within the next five years:

• To reduce overwintering honey bee colony mortality by 50% within ten years
• To increase the Eastern wintering population of the monarch butterfly to 225 million butterflies within five years
• To restore/enhance seven million acres of land for pollinators over the next five years through federal actions and public/private partnerships.

This Strategy consists of a Pollinator Research Action Plan, plans for outreach and education, plans for habitat enhancement and increased acreage, and public/private partnerships. This is very ambitious indeed but if it is accomplished at any time in the future, let alone five years from now, it will have been a remarkable success. I would love to see our honey bee losses reduced to 15% in my lifetime. It might not be in time for me or some others but would provide a better future for those younger folk in the business.

The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) recently released its annual loss report, which indicated that last year beekeepers lost 42% of their bees. Since the report’s release, several news sources have asked me what this statistic means to beekeepers. For me, losing 38% in 2014 means that 2015 is another year of difficulties and economic struggles. It means rebuilding over 200 colonies sometime this year and planning for more losses later in the year.

The other thing that I keep telling the media is that beekeepers didn’t all lose 42%. Some beekeepers lost less than 10%, while others in the Midwest lost 90% of their colonies. Those types of losses are not manageable. I recovered from a 90% loss of my bees in the winter of 1999/2000, and I struggled for months trying to decide if I would or could rebuild. It is a game changer when this type of loss occurs. I often wonder what I would be doing had I not been so stubborn and so passionate about keeping bees.

The Pollinator Health Task Force specifically states it will be necessary to do extensive research to evaluate and understand the causes of pollinator declines. This is something that ABF Vice President Gene Brandi and I have repeatedly stated in our discussions with USDA and the General Accountability Office, which recently conducted an audit of both EPA and the USDA to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and services. We have asked for more dollars to support free and open science where researchers are able to do their jobs and report their findings.

The Pollinator Action Research plan calls for expanding public education and outreach programs. I hope we can provide some input into the development of these programs during the coming years. In our discussions with the Office of Science and Technology during the past year, it has been good to experience the genuine interest they appear to have at this level of government. They truly are concerned and they know and understand the importance of what beekeepers provide in the area of our food production and ultimately our national security.

Initiatives outlined in the Pollinator Research Action Plan specifically address issues with the current system and remedies to improve upon those issues. Some of these initiatives are:

• Assessments of wild bee and monarch butterfly population patterns, and the relationship between those population patterns and habitat variables.
• Development of affordable pollinator-friendly seed mixes and guidelines for evaluating their effectiveness in restoration and reclamation.
• Identification of best practices for minimizing pollinator exposure to pesticides, and new cost effective ways to manage pests and diseases.
• Create strategies for targeting restoration efforts at areas that will yield the greatest expected net benefits for pollinator health.

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The Strategy also advances ambitious federal commitments to increase and improve habitat for pollinators, both directly through the large variety of facilities and acreages of land managed by the Federal Government, and indirectly through the leadership role that federal agencies can play in interactions with states, localities, the private sector, and citizens. These actions range from planting pollinator gardens and improving land management practices at federal facilities to advancing the availability and use of pollinator-friendly seed mixes in land management, restoration, and rehabilitation actions.

There are already those that are denigrating the report and some feel that the president should have moved on banning the neonics, which might provide for bigger issues for us from acute exposures to even more deadly pesticides. Our dilemma is whether to keep neonics legal but minimize their usage, make applications safer, and use these compounds only where they are providing definable benefits to producers; or, go back to using more acutely toxic compounds. The report does provide for accelerated testing of this family of compounds and asks for further research on mitigating the effects of planter dust and a general evaluation of whether or not these pesticides provide benefit to the agricultural industry. So, all of these points are at least steps in the right direction... at least from my perspective.
Honey Bee Health –
A Growing Concern

It is quite in vogue to be concerned about honey bee health nowadays and more folks are jumping on the bandwagon all the time. The honey bee’s “fifteen minutes of fame,” which began in 2006 (thanks to our friend David Hackenberg’s efforts), continues to this day. This unprecedented concern about the health of our precious honey bees is appreciated and we must take advantage of this opportunity to win friends, influence people, and genuinely help our bees. In other words, we need to continue striking while the iron is hot since nobody knows how long this widespread concern about honey bee health will continue. The release of the Bee Informed Partnership bee loss survey and the report from the Federal Task Force announcing a National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators has generated a great deal of additional publicity and concern for bees in recent weeks.

In late April, I had the opportunity to experience firsthand the efforts of a concerned group, as I represented Project Apis m (PAm) at the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) spring meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. HBHC consists of 34 members from the U.S. and Canada, including beekeepers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, growers, conservation groups, and representatives of the pesticide industry. Most of the coalition members sent representatives who attended this meeting in person, but some also participated via teleconference. The four priority areas upon which the coalition is focused include: forage & nutrition; crop pest management; hive management; and outreach, education, and communication.

George Hansen, ABF past president, continues to represent the ABF in a superb manner with this coalition and it was a pleasure to observe him in action at this meeting. George Hansen (Foothills Honey), Zac Browning (Browning Honey), Darren Cox (American Honey Producers), Dewey Caron (Oregon State Beekeepers), Jerry Hayes (Monsanto), Rod Scarlett (Canadian Honey Council), and Bob Sears (Eastern Missouri Beekeepers) were the only beekeepers in attendance other than myself. Even though Jerry Hayes represents Monsanto on the coalition, his knowledge of bees and beekeeping is a great asset to the group. There were many bee industry friends in attendance such as Pete Berthelson (Pheasants Forever), Bob Curtis (Almond Board), Michele Colopy (Pollinator Stewardship Council via teleconference), and several others. Involvement with this coalition is a prime example of an opportunity to educate non-beekeepers, which the bee industry must not squander, even though it can be difficult to be at the table with some who have publicly testified that the problems with bee health are the sole result of varroa mites and poor management by beekeepers. The age old cliché, “it is better to be at the table, otherwise you may be on the menu” certainly is appropriate in this case.

Pesticide (crop pest management) issues have been a concern of mine since I began working with bees over 40 years ago and there is no question that some of our major bee health issues today are pesticide related. The fact that the agricultural chemical industry is well represented on this coalition is a clear indication of this, whether it be from a practical or perceptive point of view. It was disappointing that I was not able to attend the crop pest management breakout session since it was scheduled in the same time slot as the hive management session, which I needed to attend as a PAm representative. There is certainly a great deal of work that needs to be done in order to minimize the negative effects of certain pesticides on bee health, such as improving pesticide risk assessment, risk management, labeling, and enforcement.

State Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3’s) continue to be a major topic of discussion (with the coalition and other groups as well) and we in the bee industry remain concerned that these plans not be developed in order to circumvent label restrictions with regard to pollinators. They should not be used as a means of locating managed bee hives through registries, and then requiring that the hives be moved away from pesticide applications. This is not a sustainable solution to resolve pesticide issues for honey bees or other pollinators.

Discussions in the coalition’s Hive Management workgroup revolved around a varroa management guide, new product registration, the use of technology transfer teams, and new varroa research. PAm has received thirteen varroa research proposals and is looking for financial contributions to augment the PAm funds already set aside for this effort. PAm’s scientific advisors are currently reviewing the proposals and prioritizing them to determine which are most worthy of funding. Some of the HBHC members indicated that their companies would likely be interested in contributing to this varroa research fund, which is promising news. The coalition has also developed a draft of “tools for varroa management” which is intended to be published in ensuing months, and discusses varroa sampling techniques as well as the control measures which are currently available. Most commercial beekeepers are aware of the various sampling methods and the products that effectively control varroa and those that do not. However, smaller scale beekeepers, especially those new to beekeeping, may not be aware, and this varroa management guide will likely be most useful to them.

There were robust discussions about the enhanced bee forage efforts of PAm, Pheasants Forever, Browning Honey Company and other groups. Finding adequate quantities of good, uncontaminated bee forage throughout the spring, summer, and fall continues to be a

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The long awaited release of the Federal Task Force report announcing a National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators has created a buzz throughout the country in the media and throughout the agricultural and beekeeping industries. While we have not yet had the opportunity to thoroughly digest the contents of this 79-page report (since it was just released 48 hours ago as I write this) we certainly intend to respond to the various federal agencies with our comments. ABF President Tim Tucker, Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates and I have already scheduled meetings with USDA and White House representatives with whom we will visit in early June to discuss the report and the actions of federal agencies. At this time it appears that American Honey Producers Association officers will attend these meetings, and perhaps others we are able to schedule with additional federal agencies as well, in order that we can present a unified bee industry response to the various issues raised in the report.

One of the issues with which the ABF has been involved for the past several months pertains to the development of State Pollinator Protection Programs (MP3’s) as well as an Agricultural Community Pollinator Labeling Work Group. Many thanks to George Hansen, Mario Jacob, Dave Mendes, and Tim Tucker who have all been part of the ABF efforts with these issues. Tim and I plan to attend a meeting of the Pollinator Labeling Work Group while we are in Washington, DC in June in order to discuss ABF concerns with the draft statement of principles proposed by the work group. The work group is comprised of a variety of agricultural stakeholders and we want to make certain that our concerns are heard and addressed.

During our June trip to Washington, DC, Tim and I also plan to visit some Congressional offices in order to help assure funding for honey bee related programs, including ARS research. We are pleased that the USDA Agricultural Research Service has announced they will establish a new base-funded Pollinator Health Research laboratory at the Western Regional Research Center. This research project is currently funded at $1.3M per year. The bulk of the research will be conducted at the WRRC’s worksite co-located with the University of California - Davis, building on the synergy between the Honey and Pollination Center and the Department of Entomology and Nematology at UC -Davis. Fiscal Year 2015 funding will be utilized for establishing laboratory space for two senior research scientists and three support staff. It is expected that these five research positions will be filled by March 2016. We understand that the eventual goal is to build a new USDA bee research facility on or near the UC Davis campus.
Why do honey bees like dirty water? It’s a question beekeepers have been asking for decades (if not longer). Place a dish of clean water near your hive and your bees might just ignore it, choosing instead to drink from the swimming pool, the rain gutter, or even a cow pie at a nearby dairy farm. Countless beekeepers (often to their dismay) have watched their bees choose dirty water sources over clean ones—and yet, there has been only one scientific study to look specifically at honey bee preferences when foraging for water.1

That study, published in 1940, tested drinking water preferences by giving foraging honey bees options: clear water, cow dung distillate, rain gutter distillate, and urine distillate. The bees always preferred the dirtiest choice—cow dung. While this study uncovered the mechanism by which honey bees find dirty water sources—odor1—the “why?” was left unanswered. I postulate that micronutrient (vitamin and mineral) need is the reason honey bees search out these dirty water sources in the first place.

A honey bee’s diet consists of two main sources: pollen and nectar. Both pollen and nectar are great sources of macronutrients (protein and carbohydrates respectively), but they only offer trace levels of certain micronutrients2—most of which are essential for various physiological processes (e.g. muscle movement and immune function). As such, it is logical to hypothesize that honey bees selectively forage in soil and water for minerals the colony may lack. To test this hypothesis, I broke down the “dirty water” sources into simple salt solutions. I trained honey bees to feed from artificial feeders—each full of a different salt solution—and let the bees choose which feeders to drink from. Preference for each salt solution was determined by comparing volume consumed (over the course of 5-7 hours) to that of deionized water.

So far, I have run these “taste tests” for three field seasons (Fall 2013, Summer 2014, and Fall 2014) at Tufts University in Medford, MA. During all three field seasons, honey bees loved sodium. This was expected as many herbivores are sodium deficient; sodium-specific foraging has been found in butterflies,3 ants,4 and solitary bees.5 Furthermore, there was a switch in preferences for some of the salt solutions from season to season. Calcium, magnesium, and potassium—three of the five micronutrients most commonly found in pollen6—were preferred in the fall, when nectar and pollen are scarcer, but completely avoided in the summer. This suggests that as the floral resources change in distribution and abundance throughout the year, honey bees similarly change their water foraging preferences. To determine if such preferences correlate with hive health, I collected brood and population data for each experimental hive through Summer and Fall 2014. While these data are still being analyzed, there is a significant difference in mineral preference between hives.

I still have more field seasons ahead of me, but thus far it appears that honey bees “love that dirty water” because it is more nutritious than clean water. In the short-term, my current results can help backyard beekeepers to better manage their hives via supplemental diets. Current data reveal that honey bees in the Medford area are likely looking for supplemental sodium, which is easy to mix into a sugar solution for supplemental feeding. In the long term, results will allow for the development of artificial diets tailored for specific hive characteristics (e.g. amount of brood, honey, etc.), season-specific diet supplements, and better overall nutrition throughout the year.

References


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Rachael Bonoan is a Ph.D. Student, in the Department of Biology Starks Lab at Tufts University from Medford, MA USA.
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The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees selected the 2015 4-H Essay contest winners on the topic “Planting for Bees from Backyards and Up.” Out of the nineteen submissions, the following papers were the best. They are as follows:

**First Place:** Virginia Harness (age 16) from Nampa, ID.

**Second Place:** Natalie Shimo (age 16) from Mercer, PA.

**Third Place:** Raymond Moats (age 15) from Brooksville, FL.

**Honorable Mention:** Heather Koering (age 17) from Vineland, NJ.

In her first place winning essay entitled “The Preservation of Honey Bees in Idaho” Virginia Harness writes, “Community education classes are offered on beekeeping, and there are a broad variety of resources for the general public, farmers, and gardeners on how to preserve honey bees. Though honey bee population is decreasing, public knowledge is increasing, allowing Idahoans to work toward better habitats for honey bees.”

“Honey Bees have a rich and beautiful history in America, as sweet as the delicious honey they produce every day. It appears Benjamin Franklin certainly understood their value...and he’s on the $100 bill!” Her first place prize is a cash award of $750.00.

Natalie Shimo writes, “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.”

Raymond wrote, “Florida native plants are steadily disappearing due to Florida development and the introduction of invasive species. Native plants are very important to honey bees. Since bees will take the shortest possible distances to forage for pollen and nectar, local plants are very necessary for their survival.”

His third place essay earned him a $250.00 cash award for his “Florida’s Outreach to Save Our Plants.”

Heather Koering receives an Honorable Mention for her great paper entitled “Everyone Can Do Their Part to Aid the Honey Bee.”

You can find all three winning essays on The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc main page.

State winners, who submitted their essay, were:

- Wick Cole, MT
- Henook Cooper, NH
- Arlan Dawdy, NM
- Madeline Hillebrand, GA
- Jaden Kieliszewski, MI
- Laura LeGlue, NC
- Dory McCormick, DE
- Keaton Patrick, TN
- Tommee Pelky, IA
- Emily Roberts, OR
- Jazzlan Rudd, AR
- James Sanders, LA
- Jessica Swenson, TX
- Gabrielle Taylor, VA
- Spencer Wittrock, CA

Congratulations to all participants in our annual essay contest.
The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Inc. (The Foundation) is offering five $2000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in 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 five graduate student scholarships to foster professional development for emerging apicultural scientists. The scholarships are available to all currently enrolled graduate students studying any aspect of honey bees, bee husbandry and/or the apicultural industry.

The purpose of the scholarships, in addition to providing modest financial support, is to allow the recipients to attend the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow at Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida 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 21, 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 in October 2015. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in late October 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 404.780.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.
The Combined Effects of In-Hive Miticides on Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera L.*) Queen Physiology and Worker Retinue Response

Due to the importance of honey bees to our agriculture and economy, the dramatic decline of this beneficial insect species should be of particular concern. This decline is likely caused by many environmental and biotic factors, including problems associated with varroa mites and lower overall queen reproductive quality, which reduce colony-wide strength (vanEngelsdorp et al. 2010). Given the queen's importance as the head of a colony, studies need to be performed to determine how queen reproductive quality affects colonies as a whole and how the beekeeping community can mitigate this issue.

In the fight against varroa, the most widely used miticides in beekeeping history contain the active ingredients fluvalinate, coumaphos, and amitraz. Studies have shown that the majority of honey bee colonies in the United States have contaminated beeswax with lethal and alarming levels of these chemicals (Mullin et al. 2010). Despite their ubiquitous presence in wax, these products continue to be used (Mullin et al. 2010, Haarmann et al. 2002). Due to nationwide contamination of beeswax with these top three miticides, it is reasonable to expect that the queen rearing environment in many beekeeping operations may be compromising queen health (Mullin et al. 2010). Comb contamination is a very serious problem, because the presence of miticides in the hive has been shown to have negative effects on fertility, including lower sperm viability in queen spermathecae and drones, lowered queen reproductive quality, and higher queen mortality (Burley 2007, Haarmann et al. 2002).

It is not known if the presence of fluvalinate, coumaphos, or amitraz in the queen-rearing environment has an impact on queen pheromones, but my dissertation work includes examining queens reared in miticide-laden wax and queens reared in miticide-free wax to see if their pheromone glands and pheromone signatures are different. If the experimental and control groups of queens do have very different pheromone signatures, then the queens reared in miticide-laden environments could be receiving a lower quality of care from the queen attendents. This has large implications, including a shorter lifespan, a less productive career in the colony, and increased rates of queenlessness and supercedure. Perhaps contaminated combs are one of the reasons why overall queen quality and longevity has dropped in the last few decades.

Sometimes it seems that there is little that we, as a beekeeping community, can do to control the amount of chemical drift that our yards are exposed to. While we may not be able to control the chemical drift from the farmer next door, we most certainly can control aspects of miticide contamination within our own hives and bee yards. If the levels of wax contamination are a factor in queen quality and supercedure, then this is information that the beekeeping community has to know in order to modify current beekeeping practices.

**Literature Cited**


**About the Author:**

Liz Walsh is a first year graduate student in Texas A&M University’s Entomology Department.
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Commercial Beekeeping

Desert Creek Honey

As you scan the chairs at any bee meeting, you find a majority of gray haired attendees, hence the saying, “graying of the beekeeping industry.” Well, there are some pretty great exceptions in our industry that will be carrying the passion of beekeeping into the next decade. Beekeepers are transferring their businesses, their customers and their passion to the younger generation in many cases. In the future we will explore some of the ways that the graying group are paying their businesses forward, but for this article I would like to introduce you to a young beekeeper who discovered beekeeping on his own, found a way to build a career from his passion, and has developed a well-respected beekeeping operation.

Blake Shook, owner of Desert Creek Honey of McKinney, Texas, began keeping honey bees at 12 years old by taking part in a local youth program that offered one beehive to kids between the ages of 12 and 17. As with most beekeepers, he was stung with the love of bees and has never regretted his decision. After high school graduation the only thing that he really wanted to do was be a beekeeper, and that love of the beekeeper’s life has never wavered. He was a small beekeeper with big plans!

As a graying beekeeper I appreciate the youth in our organizations. They add energy, enthusiasm and a different perspective to our work; that enthusiasm has waned in some of us old-timers. Often times they approach beekeeping with an appreciation for the opportunity to succeed in this industry. I researched Desert Creek Honey and found a charming website that indeed has many products to sell, such as honey, pollen, beeswax, soaps and lip balms. Their website is also educational, explaining the beauty and style of our beloved honey bees and a providing a short description of how they work.

Blake is not looking at beekeeping with rose colored glasses. He is totally aware of the pitfalls, having worked with honey bees for over twelve years. He knows and understands Varroa mites and the destiny of untreated hives. He understands how machinery sometimes lets you down when you need it most, and how overwintering is not always what you hope it will be, but he is willing to take the risks involved. He knows that it is a crazy way to make a living, but for him, it is the only way.

“IT ISN’T UNCOMMON TO SEE THE SUNSET AND THE SUNRISE IN THE SAME WORKDAY.”
–Blake Shook

Blake has a really good head on his shoulders. It has not escaped him that this is a very unpredictable industry. He is always looking for ways to improve his operation and do things more fluidly and more efficiently. He recognizes that he must be willing to adjust his plans and as the weather and bee conditions change, often many times in a season – often several times in a day! The one constant in beekeeping is to expect the unexpected.

Commercial beekeeping is very hard work. Blake keeps in mind the basics that he learned from John Talbert many years ago: to have a healthy beekeeping operation bee’s need good nutrition, food stores and to be pest and disease free. Commercial beekeeping is a business and must be run as one. You can’t avoid budgeting, cash flow and customer service... these are integral parts of your business just like maintaining your colonies.

Desert Creek Honey currently owns and operates about 2500 colonies, and also leases and operates 1000-1500 colonies for other beekeepers. Blake is hoping to expand to 10,000 colonies in the next four years. He calls his work in the California Almonds the “Company Vacation.” After almonds, the bees head back to North Texas for splits, then to Southeast Texas for a honey crop. They also do a short stint in Wisconsin for cranberries and a honey crop in North Dakota before a return back to North Texas for overwintering.

An issue for most commercial operations is where to find help, and Blake is no different than other beekeepers that I know. He asks friends, friends of friends and relatives to work for him. He is looking at the H2A program as he grows his business into the future.
I have had an opportunity to work with Blake on the American Beekeeping Federation Membership and Marketing Committee, which he has chaired for the past two years. His love of service to the industry is palpable in his conversation. As for all beekeepers, time is our tightest resource. He has a young business to grow that needs his full attention, but so many people in the industry have invested in him and helped him along the way that he simply wants to return the favor.

Blake feels that beekeeping is such a vital part of our world, everyone should do their fair share to ensure that it is protected and flourishes. Time constraints are always a factor with beekeepers, and Blake is no exception. His uses his cell phone to send texts and emails and is frequently catching up on his computer in his hotel room after long hours spent moving bees. Blake says, “It isn’t uncommon to see the sunset and the sunrise in the same workday.” The amazing thing about beekeeping is that we all do that!

As many of you have already seen, Blake was featured in the May 2015 issue of American Bee Journal with a great story and a great cover picture. He has been President of the Texas Beekeepers for the past three years (this is his final year). His skills as a commercial beekeeper are quite an accomplishment for a twenty-six year old man with fourteen years of beekeeping experience. He is truly unique to our beekeeping industry. We must attract, encourage and mentor our young beekeepers to help our industry flourish. Blake says he stood on the shoulders of giants in the industry and he, too is a force to be reckoned with in the future of beekeeping.

Blake says that his wife, Kathleen and new nine month old daughter Ella keep his spirits high and they do make it harder to leave home on these migratory beekeeping missions.

Look for my interview with Tony and Debbie, Nick and Shiloh, and Josh and Melanie from Noyes Apiaries in the next ABF News. They are passionate about the beekeeping industry and it is a family affair.

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Honey Bee Health - A Growing Concern – cont. from page 5

challenge for most beekeepers so these efforts are quite welcome.

All in all, it was interesting to engage with the various individuals who were at the table with the Honey Bee Health Coalition, most of whom are not beekeepers. They heard from those of us in the bee industry that the honey bee health issues we face arise from exposure to certain pesticides, varroa mites, poor nutrition, and diseases. One of the pesticide industry reps who was in attendance mentioned that he and his company participate in the Honey Bee Health Coalition to become better informed about bee health issues in order to better serve their customers. Keeping honey bees healthy is good for their customers, since many of their customers are our customers, too.

California is in the process of forming a Healthy Pollinators Work Group, which will meet for the first time in June. This is another example of an effort to involve a large group of stakeholders, most of whom are not beekeepers, in an effort to improve pollinator health. Several of us (California beekeepers) have been invited to become involved in this effort to educate our state departments of food and agriculture and other stakeholders about bee health issues. It is not that I want to attend more meetings, but we need to strike while the iron is still hot...

If you have the opportunity to become involved with groups such as these, please do not pass up the opportunity. Feel free to contact the ABF for any additional information or resources you may need.

Hoping that you and your bees have a healthy, prosperous summer!
The Preservation of Honey Bees in Idaho

In mid-January, you can walk into almost any ranch supply store in Southern Idaho and pick up a kit to build your own bee box. There are shelves lined with beekeeping displays and supplies. You have a broad variety of books to pick up on how to care for bees, and there’s a rack full of seeds for native plants nearby. Community education classes are offered on beekeeping, and there are a broad variety of resources for the general public, farmers, and gardeners on how to preserve honey bees. Though the honey bee population is decreasing, public knowledge is increasing, allowing Idahoans to work toward better habitats for honey bees.

In 1945, the honey bee population included nearly 6 billion hives across the United States. Today, there are only around 2.3 million. With such drastic decreases in the honey bee population, crops are becoming more and more at risk and the US is in danger of entering a food security crisis. Two of the major dangers facing bees include loss of native forage and constant increases in pesticides. In Idaho, there are few state programs to address growing concerns about bees, but a dedicated core of volunteers from around the state are working constantly to improve habitats for honey bees.

In response to decreasing honey bee populations, groups such as Treasure Valley Beekeepers have risen to the challenge to educate the public about the importance of these creatures. In cooperation with Idaho Honey Bee, volunteers teach community education classes on honey bees, habitats, and beekeeping at least twice a month. These courses draw a wide variety of people, from experienced beekeepers to new gardeners. In addition, Treasure Valley Beekeepers has an online library with PDFs on beekeeping and videos about the importance of honey bees. Through outreach programs like these, volunteers are able to create a community with a basic knowledge of how to support honey bees’ natural environments.

Beekeepers are also working with the public to foster a better understanding of honey bees. Boise Bees and Blossoms offer backyard beekeeping services for families with small gardens or wildflower patches, bringing in a honey bee box and maintaining it. This program both helps the environment and encourages homeowners to learn more about bees. They also offer bee removal services for people who find swarms of bees, safely taking the bees to areas with good forage in order to avoid extermination.

Public and private universities alike in Idaho have contributed to honey bee research and education. The University of Idaho’s College of Agriculture and Life Science contributes to community education through publications such as The Homeowner’s Guide to Honey Bees, which details ways homeowners can help preserve honey bees. Boise State University has a rooftop beekeeping program, encouraging research into urban beekeeping and hiring students as interns. This program began in 2011 and brings more public awareness to honey bees and urban beekeeping while benefiting Boise’s environment.

Small gardeners and farmers are encouraged by nurseries, University of Idaho Extension offices, and local soil conservation districts to plant native species and wildflowers in their gardens and backyards to promote healthier ecosystems for honey bees. Both the University of Idaho and Treasure Valley Beekeepers offer online and print resources on plants that help sustain bee populations. With easily accessible information about native plants and flowers, many small gardeners and hobby farmers create forage for honey bees on their own properties. The increase in gardeners and landscapers growing native forage is a direct result of community education programs.

In 2007, Idaho Legislature passed a law allowing landowners to opt out of routine pesticide spraying by the Mosquito Abatement District. When honey bees are sprayed by pesticides, they often try to find their way back to the hive while disoriented and sick, and are denied entry by other bees to avoid contamination of the hive. Every year, beekeepers lose almost 25% of their herd to illness and pesticides. By opting out of pesticide spraying, landowners can help save honey bees around their property.

The state of Idaho also offers a project called Operation Wildflower in cooperation with the AdoptAHighway program. Through Operation Wildflower, volunteers can plant seeds for native flowers along the highway while participating in cleaning the roadway, creating healthy habitats where bees can find adequate forage and support their young.

Idaho needs to continue growing community outreach programs and state supported programs, but with the efforts of dedicated volunteers and concerned Idahoans, we are improving habitats for honey bees and helping keep this crucial species from going extinct. As interest in honey bees increases in Idaho communities, many different groups are working to change the future of the honey bee. Many youth are introduced to the preservation of bees through 4H programs, wildlife center presentations, and community outreach at fairs and farmer’s markets. Thanks to the work of volunteers, universities, and beekeepers across the state, a new generation is entering the fight to preserve honey bees, and they are more dedicated than ever.

(Find the complete bibliography and resources at http://preservationofhoneybees.org)
Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

Spring finally arrived, and it’s pleasant to see flowers blooming and bees buzzing (or coming home in semis). The Queens have had plenty of time during the late spring and early summer to tend to their personal bees and promote all our bees’ products and services throughout the United States!

Late May and early June are generally quieter months for the American Honey Queen program, so this gives our representatives time to visit their personal and friends’ beeyards for some more hands-on learning opportunities and to prepare their bees for a busy summer. In between winding down their school year and spending a little time with family before the busiest promotional season starts, the Queens always find room for some promotions, be they local or national!

I thank everyone for their continued contributions to the American Honey Queen Program. You’ve seen the benefits of your generous donations through the Queens’ articles. Rest assured, there are more exciting promotions coming up this summer. They are possible because of your generous donations. Thank you for your continued support of this program and its efforts to promote honey consumption and provide education about our industry to the public.

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 as many as possible into our schedule this year. Summer schedules are filling up, and we continue to take your late fall and end of the year promotion requests. You may reach me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to make your requests. Happy promoting!

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 7,500 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

May/June 2015 American Beekeeping Federation News

Gabrielle Hemesath
American Honey Queen

It’s hard to believe that it’s already May as I write this! In Iowa, we are experiencing some cold weather, so my bees aren’t very active, but I know they are excited for the weather to warm. Since I last wrote, I have visited Connecticut, Wyoming, and Oregon. I also promoted in my home state of Iowa, and am currently on a plane heading to Houston, Texas.

On March 16, I travelled to Connecticut to participate in Ag Day on the Hill and to teach at local schools. It was my pleasure to stay with ABF members Ted and Becky Jones, who treated me like a member of their family and showed me the historical attractions in Farmington. On March 18, I spent the day in Hartford, Connecticut, at the capitol building. I worked a booth with the Connecticut Beekeepers Association and met a plethora of politicians, including Governor Dan Malloy and Senator Anthony Guglielmo. I spoke with the legislators about the importance of keeping a full-time bee inspector in the state of Connecticut. I also distributed literature to help remind them of the importance of honey bees. The next day, I gave three presentations at Wamogo High School in Litchfield, Connecticut. One of the presentations was a cooking demonstration for the culinary class; however, I soon realized I could learn a thing or two from the class itself! The students cooked a beautiful lunch entirely out of honey recipes for me and some other students to enjoy. The other presentations were for students in agriculture classes. I began to wonder if they were beekeepers when they asked about the pros and cons of using a queen excluder, but was told they are just very curious students. Thank you, Ted and Becky, for caring for me during my visit to Connecticut!

On March 20, I flew straight from Connecticut to Wyoming for the Wyoming Bee College, which is directed by Catherine Wissner. My job at the college in Cheyenne was to help things run smoothly and act as an emcee for the speakers. I enjoyed introducing speakers and answering numerous questions asked by the approximately 150 students in attendance. One of the speakers in attendance was Ron Fessenden, author of The New Honey Revolution. I am always curious to listen to authors’ presentations, because hearing from the person who wrote the book helps me understand the tone of their writing. Everyone in Wyoming was extremely friendly and welcoming, especially my hosts, Martha and David Mullikin. Thank you, Martha and David, for taking me into your home. I also thank Catherine Wissner for giving me direction at the Bee College and welcoming me as part of the team.

During the end of March and the beginning of April, my work was centered on promoting in Iowa in between my classes at Iowa State University. On March 25, I was on WHO Radio in Des Moines for

The Big Show. WHO Radio is the largest Agri-news station in Iowa. I was on the air for about nine minutes and covered a wide array of topics from pollination to how a queen bee is made. On March 30, I appeared on NASH Icon Radio’s Great Day TV program and on ABC Local 5’s Midday News (both in the Des Moines area), generating $13,780 worth of free publicity for the beekeeping industry in a single day! In addition, on April 1, I was interviewed on the radio for over 17 minutes as I spoke on KWBG’s Talk to the Expert segment. Thank you to all the media crews who made reaching thousands of people with honey bee information a possibility.
On April 8, I traveled to Eugene, Oregon for GloryBee’s Bee Weekend. I had the pleasure of staying with GloryBee’s founders, Dick and Pat Turanski, during my stay. Before the weekend began, I helped promote the event on a local radio station with Dick and Pat’s son, Alan Turanski. During the interview, I was surprised as listeners emailed in questions for the interviewers to ask me. I also visited two schools and spoke to nearly 200 children about the importance of honey bees. Once Bee Weekend began, I helped by answering questions, assisting with package installation demonstrations, handing out packages, and working with Sarah Red-Laird (also known as Bee Girl) at a kids table. One of the teaching moments I found most memorable during the package installations was carrying around a drone and a worker so the new beekeepers could see the difference. They were amazed that my bare hands were not stung by the worker, and I think it helped them realize how gentle honey bees are. None of the events I took part in would have been possible without Kristin Kokkeler of GloryBee, who not only organized all my appearances, but also drove me to every destination. Thank you for all your help, Kristin. I also thank Dick and Pat for taking me into their home, letting me play with their bees, and never allowing me to leave the house without a jacket!

During the end of April and into the beginning of May, my travels were focused back on schools and civic groups in Iowa. In fact, I spoke to 849 students from nine different schools! In addition, I was a speaker at a County Master Gardeners meeting, the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, and a Kiwanis meeting. They were all wonderful groups with a sincere desire to help honey bees and other pollinators. During this time, I also completed my second semester at Iowa State University. I am proud to say I managed to travel the country and make it through my first year of college with all A’s! Next semester, I will be taking a break from classes to fully focus on promoting honey bees. Lucky for me, Iowa State is willing to recognize being American Honey Queen as an internship, and I will receive school credit for my work.

I’m looking forward to many more months of successful promotions, with upcoming stops in Arizona and Michigan. Thank you to everyone who is following my travels and supporting me as I promote the beekeeping industry. If you are interested in scheduling a promotion with Princess Hayden or me, contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.
American Honey Princess Report

My, how these past two months have flown by! Spring is my favorite time of year, and this one proved to be a very productive one for me as your Honey Princess. With all my travels, I experienced spring multiple times in different parts of the country. It’s funny to see how different the timing of spring is in the various parts of the United States. For example, in Washington the spring nectar flow is just starting in May, while here in Texas we are already extracting our first honey harvest!

From March 12-16, my travels took me to Houston, TX, for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the largest livestock show in the world. There I worked with local beekeeping associations at their honey bee exhibit. The bee exhibit is the second most popular booth, with two large observation hives and a giant walk-in skep. With over 478,000 people coming through during the three days I was there, there was not a dull moment and there was line of people constantly waiting to see the bees up close! I reached another 300,000 people in Houston with a two-minute radio interview on 93.0 FM talking about how livestock benefit from bee pollination of clover and alfalfa. I send big thank yous to Ed and Elaine Michalik for hosting me and to the Harris County Beekeepers Association for having me.

I was home for a few weeks in March, keeping busy with local promotions. I spoke to two agriculture classes in my home town of Big Sandy about career opportunities with honey bees, and spoke to 48 elementary kids in Longview, who were especially fascinated with the beekeeping equipment I brought! On March 31, I was honored to be officially recognized by Upshur County for my work as American Honey Princess. I spoke to the assembly of 37 people about my role as American Honey Princess, the ABF, and honey bees’ impact on agriculture. I also spoke more with my County Judge afterwards, who was actually interested in becoming a beekeeper.

April was full of more local promotions before out of state trips began. I spoke to 17 members of the Tyler Rotary Club, attended the East Texas Beekeepers Association meeting, and had my first TV interview in Tyler. My first TV interview was three minutes live on the East Texas Live program on KETK 56, and I talked about the impact bees have on East Texas agriculture and my experiences in beekeeping and the Honey Queen Program. The interview reached thousands in the entire East Texas area, generating approximately $3,600 of free publicity for ABF. I also worked with the East Texas Beekeepers Association at a mini Maker Fair in Tyler, TX, on April 18, speaking about the industry with some of the 1,000 people in attendance.

My next big stop was in Lewisburg, PA, April 13-17, for a variety of promotional events. I had the privilege of working with Pennsylvania Honey Princess, Blair Hetherington, at a Senior Health Expo in Bloomsburg, PA, which was attended by 256 people. We gave out honey samples and talked to people about incorporating honey into their lives. We also gave a 20-minute presentation about the health benefits of honey, honey bee pollination, and planting bee gardens and forage for bees. I worked another day with Jim and Brenda Aucker of Aucker’s Apiary at the Lewisburg Farmers Market giving out honey samples and showing attendees the honey bees in the observation hive. I had one father come by who was rather terrified of bees but his son was fascinated with them. After talking to them for a long time about honey bees, he was no longer afraid of them and his son was actually considering becoming a beekeeper! On my last day in Pennsylvania, I spoke to 213 elementary students in Sunbury and Millville, PA. Thank you so much to Linda and David Hackenberg for hosting me and letting me experience a little bit of commercial beekeeping with them!

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April 23-26 found me in Rogers, TX, promoting honey with Walker Honey Farm. I spoke to over 850 kids at four schools in Temple, teaching them about bees and the many uses and types of honey. I also had a TV interview on KWXT News 10 in Waco, which gained approximately $2,640 in free publicity. I was encouraging people to come to the Walker Honey Farm Store for a meet and greet and open house. Nearly 200 people came by the Walker Honey Store while I was there. I gave honey samples and talked to kids and adults about bees and the different ways to use honey during the open house. I also promoted honey at Natural Grocers, handing out samples of creamed and liquid honey and talking to shoppers. Everyone was surprised that bees make so many different kinds of honey!

I extend a great big thank you to the Walker Honey Farm staff for all their help and to Clint and Janice Walker for being wonderful hosts!

From Rogers, TX, I headed to Rogers, Arkansas (coincidence?) April 26-May 4. One of my goals this year was to visit at least one state that had not been reached by a Queen or Princess in a very long time, and I’m proud to say that Arkansas was one of them! I spent a full five days driving all over Northwest Arkansas visiting schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl Scout Troops, and Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. I had a total of 22 separate promotions directly reaching over 1,500 people! Northwest Arkansas was ripe to learn about bees, and it was so neat for me to see the fresh excitement everyone had about learning about bees and how they could get involved. A few of the Girl Scout troops were working on getting their Bug Badges, and starting a project to help bees and raise awareness about them. One Girl Scout troop was making a pollinator garden for butterflies, and, after my program, they decided to add plants for honey bees as well! It is exciting to see the results of promotions! On my day off, I met beekeepers selling honey at a fair and talked with them about the Honey Queen Program and ABF. It was great to connect with fellow beekeepers there, and I hope it opens the door to more promotions in Arkansas in the future! Thanks to my brother Spencer and his family for hosting me.

From Arkansas, my last stop for the month was Kennewick, WA, May 4-7 for the 2015 Salmon Summit. This was a new event for the Honey Queen Program and was a great success thanks to the help of the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association, which set up a great station for me. Over two days, 3,500 students released baby salmon they had raised during the year into the Columbia River, and then came by the different educational stations in 20-minute rotations. I had a honey extractor and a box of empty frames, demonstrated how we extract honey from the hive, and let the kids give the extractor a spin. We also had two bee suits, and I’d ask the students, “Who wants to be a beekeeper?” and then select two of them to have a contest to see who could put the suit, gloves, and veil on fastest. It was very interactive, and the kids also learned a lot about how important honey bees and beekeepers are. Thank you to my hosts, the Ide family and Dart Helgeson, for helping with a successful new promotion!

I have had a tremendous time promoting these past few months and am excited for my upcoming promotions locally and nationally. We are closing in on the busy season, so if you have any events with which you would like Queen Gabrielle or me to assist, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514. May you and your bees have a lovely spring!
Interview with Corey Brill, Actor & Urban Beekeeper

“Do bees survive the zombie apocalypse?” As fans of The Walking Dead, AMC’s weekly television zombie survival drama, which films near ABF’s headquarters in Atlanta, we just had to ask when we had the exciting opportunity to interview veteran actor and urban beekeeper Corey Brill. When we spoke by phone in March, Corey and his character, Pete Anderson, the surly, suspicious, porch-lurking town doctor in the Alexandria, Virginia survivors’ colony, had just risen to a near-hysterical level of pop culture notoriety. Here we share the highlights of our conversation.

ABF: We really appreciate you taking the time to speaking with us. We were fascinated when watching The Talking Dead (editor’s note: The Talking Dead is a companion talk show to The Walking Dead) and they said you were an urban beekeeper! Tell us about your hives and how you got started in beekeeping.

CB: I love it. I’m by no means an expert in beekeeping, but it’s my favorite hobby. About five years ago, I was working for Sundance Institute. A coworker, lived in Mount Washington, where he had a yard and some room, and was getting into beekeeping. He had ordered some books and some bees. At that point, I added beekeeping to my mental bucket list of things I would do maybe someday... I live in a loft in L.A. and I thought that there was no way that I could keep bees. So it became part of my list, like, “someday I’ll make my own beer!” I happened to mention my interest to my landlord in passing and he said he would think about it, which was very surprising. And honestly, it was not one week later when there was a swarm of bees at the building’s front door that my landlord found me and said, “If you can catch them, you can keep them!” I called that friend and, you know, neither of us had yet to do anything with bees, but we were off! We watched a couple of YouTube videos, shook them into a box and got them up to the roof, where they’ve been ever since. So my wife and I have been keeping them as a hobby ever since. We have split them once, added other swarms and had as many as four hives at one time. Now I have two hives and 60,000 bees. Unfortunately, we lost two hives to wax moth. It was my fault, as I was out of town way too long. If I were trying to raise wax moths, I would have been really successful.

ABF: Do you produce honey?

CB: The honey the bees produce for me I call urban wildflower honey. I harvest about twice a year, just enough to keep ourselves happy. I had a mentor in Los Angeles named Kirk Anderson, who taught me about what he calls “backwards beekeeping,” in which you don’t use the premade foundations. He said, “First you get bee fever and then you get honey fever.” And then it might go back to bee fever after that. I don’t get the urges as often to take honey, now. I feel like, “let the bees keep it.” But we do get a little bit. We live in the Old Bank District, so when we give or sell honey, we do so under the name Old Bank Honey. We sell it to a restaurant called Ledlow in downtown L.A. and they use it on their menu. They use it in delicious biscuits and they do a roasted squash dish. We also sell it in a small market.

ABF: Did you bring any from L.A. to Georgia to share with your fellow actors?

CB: I did! Andy Lincoln (who plays Sheriff Rick Grimes on the show) has a bottle! Steven (Yeun, who plays Glenn) has some, some of the crew has it. Yeah, I love giving it out. It’s “sweet enough to raise the dead.”

ABF: Can we talk more about your education as a beekeeper and your mentors?

CB: Have you ever heard about “backwards beekeeping?” Is that a phrase that exists outside of L.A.?

ABF: We haven’t, but we’re sure some of our members have.
Depending on the time of year and what they’ve been getting into, sometimes it’s dark like molasses. Other times, it’s light, beautiful, almost clear honey. And I think there’s something to be said for capturing wild swarms. These bees on the roof were already living downtown, so they’re already well adjusted to the area and there’s no learning curve on their part. There’s just something about using the bugs already living here. As opposed to those mail-order Italian bees that are just sitting around smoking the whole time.

**ABF: Are you active in any beekeeping organizations now?**

**CB:** Not since the Backwards Beekeeping club disbanded. They had a great little bee rescue hotline that people could call – the city would send out insect control when there was a swarm and destroy the bees, so I was proud to be a part of the organization that gave the bees a chance.

**ABF: What do you find rewarding about keeping bees?**

**CB:** For a while it, I’ll be honest, it was the honey! It’s feeling like a kid. You know, I feel, after five years, when I know I’m going to be checking the hives, I can’t sleep the night before. I’m just excited about what I’m going to see, find out or learn the next day. So for me, it’s being tapped into a childlike feeling, a feeling of wonder, that it gives me.

**ABF: How does traveling for work impact your beekeeping?**

**CB:** My wife helps me a great deal with these hives. There was a time, when I was in a Broadway show and gone for eight months, that I lost the two hives to wax moth because we were both gone. I felt terrible and that’s why I’ve limited my number of hives. However, I find the longer you keep bees, the less time it takes and the less I feel I need to open up the hives to know what’s going on. About once a month, I swing up to the roof and I take a look. Everything looks healthy, they’re coming and going. It’s the perfect hobby for someone like me. I don’t need to set them back by cracking the hives to have. But I don’t know if Pete himself is the right guy to put in charge. And it’s been something that a woman with a garden and I, aside from maintenance workers, are the only two that have access to the roof of our eight-story building.

**ABF: Are you active in any beekeeping organizations now?**

**CB:** I don’t see why not. There’s plenty of everything they need. I think they’d be fine. They might welcome the change. I think the Alexandrians in the Safe-Zone would have some hives, honey is a complex carbohydrate, so I think would it would be a really useful thing to have. But I don’t know if Pete himself is the right guy to put in charge.

**You can follow Corey and his bees on the following social networks:**

Facebook: facebook.com/coreybrillactor
Twitter: twitter.com/brillcorey
The Old Bank District Bees have their own page: facebook.com/OBDBees

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**Corey Brill inspects his healthy bees.**
CALL FOR PAPERS/ PRESENTATIONS

for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow

Theme: Palm Trees and Healthy Bees

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, January 5-9, at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida. ABF is pleased to announce that the call for presentations is now open. If you have important beekeeping research to share, a best practice in beekeeping or a proven track record with keeping the hives alive, we want to hear from you.

Please complete the call for presentations submission form and return to Tara Zeravsky at tzeravsky@meetingexpectations.com no later than July 8th. The conference committee will review all submissions to put together the most informative conference agenda. You will be notified of your participation in early September. As a reminder, all presenters receive complimentary registration to the conference. All other expenses are the responsibility of the presenter.

Save the Date!

2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow
January 5-9, 2016

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), FL

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.

abfconference.com
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L.B. Davis
From the Auxiliary

by: Beth Hackenberg
ABF Auxiliary President

Warm weather is finally here. You can hear it in the air from the buzzing of the bees. Soon pollination season will be in full swing with longer days, lots of sunshine, blooming flowers and lots of frames of honey. This is a great time to keep your cameras handy for those awesome photos for the contest at the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida on January 5 - 9, 2016.

Hope the beekeeper in your family is getting a chance to get out and make splits and build their bees up.

Let’s keep up the education on how important honey bees and the products they make are to everyone we meet throughout our day.

We hope everyone has safe travels to and from bee yards and states.

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!

INGREDIENTS:
• 1/2 c. catsup
• 1/2 c. soy sauce
• 1 tsp. mustard
• 1/3 c. honey
• Sprinkle of ground ginger

Combine all ingredients.

TIPS ON HONEY USE:
When substituting honey for sugar, use half the amount of honey that you would normally use for sugar. (ex: 1c. sugar = 1/2c. honey)

Reduce the amount of liquid in the recipe by 1/4 cup for each cup of honey used in baked goods.

Add 1/4 to 3/4 tsp. baking soda for each cup of honey used.

Reduce the temperature by 25 degrees F to prevent over browning.

Spray measuring cup with cooking spray before adding honey. This will make the removal easier.

Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg

Honey BBQ Sauce

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Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace? Contact Regina K. Robuck, ABF Executive Director 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org

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PUBLICATIONS

American Bee Journal ........................................... 217.847.3324
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