HOME for the HOLIDAYS

2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Updates

2016 Foundation Scholarship Recipients

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American Beekeeping

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(EC) indicates Executive Committee member.
Number in parentheses next to Director’s name indicates the year their current term ends and whether they are in their 1st or 2nd term.
Perspectives in Beekeeping: A Quick Look Back

I know, I know, everyone is always warning me, don’t look back, your future doesn’t lie in that direction. But sometimes it’s good to at least review a little bit to appreciate the amount of effort that has been put into different things.

First I’d like to say that I have appreciated the opportunity to represent you, the ABF membership, for the past two years, serving as ABF President. Those two years have been monumental in every respect. They were two of the most rewarding years of my beekeeping experience, in so many ways! I have had opportunities to meet people from all over the country and the world. I had the opportunity to travel to Korea and Canada, and crisscrossed the United States. Other than missing a few planes, my travel experiences have been wonderful and I meet some of the most interesting people on planes as well as during bee meetings. There are just so many interesting folks wherever you go! These opportunities have been personally enriching in ways that I can never express my gratitude.

For the past four years, our focus has been on increasing the perceived value of ABF services to our membership. We have made some major strides towards this goal with the tremendous increase in outreach through our Facebook page and our “Conversation with a Beekeeper” webinar series. As I outlined in the July/August ABF News, outreach to those in the beekeeping community that extends beyond our membership has been dramatically impacted. We just exceeded 10,000 likes on our ABF Facebook page, and people are responding daily to the information we provide. We also just finished our first ever public webinar series “Primetime with Honey Bees.” We had almost 300 people sign up to hear these three sessions.

Our cataloged webinars are a treasure trove of information for anyone in the business, and just one or two offer up enough ideas for justifying the cost of ABF membership. We have developed tri-fold brochures that showcase the webinar program, listing all of those that we had done up to the point where the brochures were printed. These can be handed out at state meetings to promote this valuable members-only benefit.

The Kids and Bees Program has been expanded to include other meeting venues throughout the course of the year. Sarah Red-Laird, ABF Kids and Bees Program Director, has developed the Kids and Bees Facebook page and put on events that reach kids across the country, including the Eastern Apicultural Society and Western Apicultural Society programs.

Our American Honey Queen Program is operating at peak efficiency with Anna Kettlewell coordinating the Honey Queen and Princess’ travels around the country. As they promote American honey on a day to day basis, the amount of free advertising they are able to produce is just phenomenal.

In April of last year, Zac Browning, Randy Verhoek and I were invited to the Executive Office Building of the White House to meet with Dr. Micheal Stebbins and Doug McKenzie to discuss our input into what would become the Presidential Initiative for Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. It took a couple of weeks, but we came up with some of the most thoughtful recommendations that we could muster. It was very comprehensive, and without going into all the details of a 60-page report, I can just say that most of the suggestions that we made to the White House on behalf of our industry were adopted. The goal of reducing annual colony losses to 15% within ten years is without a doubt ambitious, but if all agencies develop programs to work to improve pollinator health, it is possible.

The report will also recommend an in depth review of pesticide practices in regard to seed coatings, and minimizing the impact that they have on honey bees as well as other pollinators. All pesticides determined to be acutely toxic to bees will require tiered testing and review, and all neonicotinoids are to be reviewed before the end of 2017. We asked that all federal agencies be involved in developing strategies to improve pollinator habitat and honey bee health; this was a critical part of the plan.

We have recently been working with Melinda Cep and Tawny Mata at USDA to develop plans for better networking between beekeepers, farmers, ranchers and the FSA offices throughout the country, for purposes of education and resource development. We hope these programs will outline better ways for beekeepers to find lands that are both free from high levels of exposure to pesticides and good diverse forage for bees. We are working with the National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to help improve the access to federal lands where our bees will be safe.

We have continually asked for better management of roadsides along U.S. highways so that available forage is not mowed several times a year (like a suburban lawn scape). President Obama supports this goal, and will be meeting with the states in December to recommend best management practices for vegetation management in conjunction with forage production and maximization for all pollinators along U.S. highways. The I-35 corridor, which runs right through the midsection of the country, will provide a 1,500 mile corridor for habitat for bees and pollinators. There are areas of this interstate that run right through Kansas; it has miles of crimson, red and tall sweet clovers growing at the present time. If the states would just refrain from cutting these clovers, except for once a year in the fall, the wild flowers would just spread from year to year. So, we expect to be part of the upcoming planning meetings on forage

continued on page 4
improvement and recommendations for working with all government agencies in the coming year.

Tawny Mata and I discussed the idea of a meeting between our bee labs and university bee labs, USDA scientists and researchers at the 2017 Joint Conference (which will be a joint conference with AHPA). We have been discussing the need to better network the ideas and thoughts of everyone working on different projects, to coordinate and better assimilate the total data being generated. So, with the 2017 Joint Conference a little more than a year away, this is a plan in the works. I hope that it will take place and become a yearly meeting of the minds that are working to improve the plight of our honey bees.

I would also like to mention that on December 8th we will be meeting with board members of the AHPA to discuss the possibilities of a merger event that somewhere down the road might reunite our two organizations. This is an idea that has been discussed for many years and it makes more and more sense with each passing year. I hope that this is also something that will happen in the next few short years.

Lastly, I would like to state the ABF financial position has been improving steadily for the past eight years. I am sure that under the direction of Gene Brandi and a great board (that has been very fastidious in their investment of time and resources), ABF will keep moving full steam ahead. It really takes the hard work of many, many people, including our management team, to realize the steady gains that we have made these past years.
The Apimondia USA 2019 Bid Committee represented our country in an outstanding, professional manner at Apimondia 2015 in Daejeon, South Korea, this past September. This effort began approximately three years ago in an effort to have the International Federation of Beekeepers meet in Minneapolis in 2019. When the Apimondia 2015 delegates voted on the last day of the congress in Daejeon, however, they chose Montreal, Canada, to host the event in 2019.

Our USA group was disappointed in the outcome, but very proud of the way in which we represented our country and our USA beekeeping industry. We all wore red blazers with the Apimondia 2019-Minneapolis insignia while in the booth and at other events during the week. Our USA booth was well designed, complete with video screens which showed a continuous loop video of USA beekeeping. There was plenty of room for visiting with folks from throughout the world at the booth, which had padded benches, several chairs, two tables, and a large cabinet at the entrance end of the booth where we dispensed craisins, almonds, honey stix, and Apimondia USA 2019 brochures to visitors. Country Western entertainers Terry and Hilda Brown performed at the booth and, along with my wife Christine, wandered throughout the Api-Expo exhibition halls singing and twirling red, white, and blue mini trick ropes, often attracting a large paparazzi with cameras and cell phones taking photos and videos.

Both our ten minute presentation and final two minute presentation before the Apimondia delegation were very professionally done with the assistance of Meet Minneapolis, the convention and visitor’s bureau of that great city. Meet Minneapolis developed the videos which provided the basis of our presentations, sent two staff members to Daejeon for the week, and provided professional assistance throughout the bid process. ABF President Tim Tucker and I, along with committee chair Debbie Seib, provided dialog to go along with the video presentations. Also, Terry and Hilda Brown performed for two minutes at the end of our ten minute presentation. Terry sang a special song he wrote entitled “Honey in the Heartland” (our Apimondia USA 2019 theme) while Hilda performed some of her champion rope tricks, including a large loop using a 60 foot rope as the finale. It was a very professional presentation of which we were very proud and delighted in the fact that it all went so well.

Since coming back home I have been asked my opinion as to why Montreal was chosen over the USA. Certainly world politics played a role in the decision as there are some countries that would likely never vote for the USA due to divisions that have existed since World War II and because of some of the world conflicts that exist today. However, I was surprised by comments from a European beekeeper who expressed concern held by some of his colleagues that agrichemical interests would take over the program if Apimondia were held in the USA. I was astounded by this assertion as it would certainly not be the case. The fact that European beekeepers fought to get a two year ban on neonicotinoid pesticides in the EU and US beekeepers have not yet sought such a ban here had lead them to that conclusion. Another factor was that even though Apimondia has not been in the USA since 1967, some felt that since the ABF joined as a member of Apimondia less than ten years ago, it might be too soon to award the USA a bid.

In spite of the outcome of the vote, the overall attitude of congress attendees with whom we spoke was actually very positive and we were thanked over and over for being there and for making a bid effort. Several Apimondia Regional Commissioners, as well as the newly elected President of Apimondia, Philip McCabe, from Ireland, were among those with very positive comments about our presence and our effort.

Special thanks to the entire Apimondia USA 2019 Bid Committee for the many months of hard work put forth in this tremendous effort. It should be noted that committee members all paid their own travel, lodging, meals, and other personal expenses. Committee Chair Debbie Seib did an outstanding job of coordinating the effort and along with her husband, Mike, tended to a great many of the details in preparing the booth, materials, and much more prior to and during the congress in South Korea. Other committee members who attended Apimondia in Daejeon included ABF President Tim Tucker, Jim Bobb, Louisa Hooven, Rachel Bryson, Virginia Webb, Benton Kastman, and myself.

Additional USA Apimondia 2015 attendees included Jeff Pettis, Dennis Van Englesdorp, Mark Dykes, Margaret Lombard, Terry Brown, Hilda Brown, Christine Brandi, American Honey Queen Gabrielle Hemesath, Nathan Hermistan and Alicia Schindler of Meet Minneapolis.

Apimondia USA 2019 Committee members unable to attend the congress in Daejeon include Dr. Marla Spivak, David Mendes, Ellen Coffey, Gary and Ginger Reuter, Susan Cobey, Rebeca Masterman, and Greg Hunt.

There were many sponsors and contributors who donated money and/or products which made our Apimondia USA 2019 effort possible. Whether large or small, every contribution was appreciated and truly made this a national effort. Major sponsors included the National Honey Board, Dave Mendes and Mary Kerr, Brownings Honey, Ocean Spray, Blue Diamond Almonds, Almond Board of California, Tuttle Orchards, Glory Bee Honey, Rogue Brewery,

by: Gene Brandi
ABF Vice President
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<td>160 +</td>
<td>$59.50 ea.</td>
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Discussions continue with government agencies involved in the effort to improve honey bee health throughout the country by allowing greater access to their lands for apiary sites. Several agencies, including but not limited to BLM, US Forest Service, Department of Defense, US Fish and Wildlife Service, etc., manage millions of acres, some of which is suitable for apiary sites. BLM and the US Forest Service have contracted apiary sites for many years, but it would be helpful to know if there are any additional federally managed land areas where apiary sites do not currently exist that could potentially support bees. Please contact me at gbrandi@sbcglobal.net so that we can use this information in our apiary location discussions with federal officials.

The ABF/AHPA Memorandum of Understanding with USDA-NRCS and FSA should be signed in the very near future as the language has been finalized and agreed upon by all parties. The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework of cooperation among FSA, NRCS, ABF and AHPA to maintain and enhance the productivity of honey bees on private and public lands, and to foster a better relationship between the bee industry and these federal agencies which administer programs for the benefit of beekeepers.

Honey producers are still eligible for NAP (Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) payments in 2016, contrary to an announcement in late October when FSA indicated that honey would not be included in the 2016 program. There is one major change for NAP 2016: honey producers who also purchase crop insurance (the API rainfall insurance program underwritten by USDA-Risk Management Agency) can only receive payments from one program or the other, but not both. According to a Risk Management Agency official, the reason for this change is that both programs are intended to pay for lack of honey, even though API uses lack of rainfall as a proxy for honey. Check with your local FSA office for any additional changes to these programs.

The new transportation bill recently passed by both the House and the Senate contains language very beneficial to pollinator habitat along roadways throughout the USA. The bill is headed to conference committee where it is hoped that the pollinator language will remain as written. If this bill is enacted with the pollinator provisions intact, state Departments of Transportation will be key to making progress for pollinators on the rights-of-way landscape. The White House has scheduled a summit focused on pollinator habitat along roadsides in early December.

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Don’t Miss the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow!

The 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, January 5-9, 2016. Come join us and hundreds of beekeepers large and small for an event that is full of educational sessions, networking opportunities and a large tradeshow full of ideas to ensure the future of the honey bee. As an attendee you’ll benefit from:

- Two days of general sessions featuring presentations from industry experts, researchers and authors
- Informative Shared Interest Group meetings and track sessions for each level of beekeeping
- 15+ interactive hands-on workshops
- A Tradeshow highlighting the latest products and services in the beekeeping industry
- The 2016 Honey Show & Auction
- Coronation of the 2016 American Honey Queen and Princess
- Opportunities to network with beekeepers of all levels, vendors and industry experts
- And much, much more . . . Details are being added daily at www.abfconference.com

Pre-registration deadline is December 9th. On-site registration will begin on Tuesday, January 5 at 3:00 p.m. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to experience one of the largest beekeeping tradeshows, outstanding educational sessions and the chance to network with your fellow beekeepers in sunny Florida.

Visit www.abfconference.com to reserve your hotel room and register for the conference.

Find out more at: abfconference.com

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa:

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Additionally, the hotel offers an array of amenities including:

- 511 airy hotel rooms, including 21 spacious suites and one- and two-bedroom villas with kitchenettes
- Fitness center, four pools and the Sawgrass Spa
- Complimentary self-parking
- Pets allowed (w/non-refundable deposit)
- Complimentary in-room internet access
- In-room coffee maker/tea service and safes

Reservations for the Sawgrass Marriott

Make your room reservation now! The special rate for the conference is $125.00. A limited number of rooms are reserved at this rate. To secure a room please contact the Sawgrass Marriott Resort by booking online https://resweb.passkey.com/go/abfconference or by calling 1.800.457.4653.

Reservations and rates may be limited after December 11, 2015. Prevailing rates may apply after this date or when the group rooms are sold out, whichever occurs first. Rooms are subject to availability. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card for the first night’s guestroom rate and tax charge. Additionally, the group rate will be honored three days before and after the conference dates. So, make a little vacation out of it and bring the whole family.
If you are a member of any of the following organizations, you qualify for the Member Rate:

- American Beekeeping Federation (ABF)
- Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA)
- Florida State Beekeepers Association
- National Honey Packers and Dealers (NHPDA)

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Call for Entries for the 2016 American Honey Show: Gift Box Theme “Fountain of Youth”

The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) invites you to enter the 2016 American Honey Show, which will be held during the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, on January 5-9. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees’ abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies. Also, the Honey Show Committee has announced that the theme for the Honey Gift Box class this year will be “Fountain of Youth.”

The Honey Show will showcase the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes eighteen (18) classes: twelve (12) for honey, five (5) for beeswax (including the new category of Beeswax Art) and the gift box class. The gift box theme for 2016 is “Fountain of Youth.” After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.

Entry form and appropriate fees must be brought to show site by January 5th, 2016.

Additional information, including official show rules and regulations and entry form, can be found on the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow website at http://abfconference.com/2016-american-honey-show or by contacting the ABF office at 404.760.2875. Good luck!
# 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Agenda

*(subject to change)*

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Honey Show Entry Drop-off</td>
<td>Patrons</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Auction Item Drop-off</td>
<td>Masters Reg Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies • Call to Order &amp; Introductions • Presentation of Colors • <em>Star-Spangled Banner</em> - led by American Honey Queen &amp; Princess • Welcome &amp; Invocation by Nancy Gentry</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 9:20 AM</td>
<td>President’s Address – Tim Tucker, American Beekeeping Federation</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
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<td>9:20 AM – 9:23 AM</td>
<td>General Session Keynote Sponsor: Broodminder</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20 AM – 10:40 AM</td>
<td>Introduction of 2015 American Honey Queen and 2015 American Honey Princess and the 2016 Honey Queen Contestants – Anna Kettlewell, Chairperson, American Honey Queen Committee, Badger State Apiaries, Greenfield, WI</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 AM – 10:50 AM</td>
<td>Apimondia Update – Debbie Seib, Mooresville, IN</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50 AM – 11:10 AM</td>
<td>Updates on EPA’s Pollinator Protection Plan - Rick Keigwin, Deputy Director of the Pesticide Programs, US EPA</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Melinda Cep, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Platinum Sponsor Presentation: Mann Lake, Ltd.</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 12:05 PM</td>
<td>ABF Legislative Update - Fran Boyd</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:35 PM</td>
<td>Delegates Assembly Lunch (by invitation only)</td>
<td>Players BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Tradeshow Open</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35 PM – 1:40 PM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40 PM – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>National Honey Board Promotions and Research - Catherine Barry, Director of Marketing, National Honey Board</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 2:20 PM</td>
<td>Project Apis m’s Partnerships Helping Honey Bees – Billy Synk, Director of Pollination Programs, Project Apis m</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:20 PM – 2:40 PM</td>
<td>Honey Bee Germplasm Importation, Cryopreservation and Establishing Germplasm Repositories Worldwide - Sue Cobey, Washington State University, Pullman, WA</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40 PM – 3:10 PM</td>
<td>Report from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees &amp; Introduction of Foundation Scholars - Joan Gunter, Chairman, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:10 PM – 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Healthy Bees, Healthy People, Healthy Planet: The Honey Bee Health Coalition - Julie Shapiro, Keystone Policy Center, Keystone, CO</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Group Refreshment Break in Tradeshow</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM – 4:20 PM</td>
<td>How and When to Use Oxalic Acid Effectively for Varroa Control - Medhat Nasr, Alberta Agriculture’s Crop Diversification Centre in Edmonton, Canada</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:20 PM – 4:35 PM</td>
<td>Platinum Sponsor Presentation: Beekeeping Insurance Services</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 PM – 4:55 PM</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Agenda
(subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 (CONT.)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:55 PM – 5:15 PM</td>
<td>Mosquito Abatement Programs Can Harm Honey Bees and Native Pollinators - Michele Colopy, Pollinator Stewardship Council, Akron, OH</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>ABF New Member Orientation</td>
<td>Heritage DE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Welcome Reception in the Tradeshow  
7:00 PM Beekeeping Brain Buster Entertainment  
Live Auction in the Tradeshow | Champions Ballroom |
| 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM | AIA Business Meeting                                                                    | Heritage DE  |
| **THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016** |                                                                                        |              |
| 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM | Registration/Information Desk Open                                                       | Champions Reg Desk |
| 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Tradeshow Open                                                                          | Champions Ballroom |
| 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | All Silent Auction Tables Open                                                           | Champions Ballroom |
| 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | NHPDA Meeting (invitation only)                                                          | Heritage AB  |
| 8:30 AM – 10:15 AM | Producer/Packer SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)                                        | Masters D    |
| 8:30 AM – 10:15 AM | Small Scale/Sideliner SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)                                  | Masters E    |
| 8:30 AM – 10:15 AM | Package Bee and Queen Breeder SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)                          | Masters ABC  |
| 8:30 AM – 10:15 AM | Commercial SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)                                             | Heritage CDE |
| 10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow                                                        | Champions Ballroom |
| 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM | Joint Commercial & Package Bee and Queen Breeder SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)       | Masters ABC  |
| 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM | Joint Producer/Packer & Small Scale/Sideliner SIG Meeting (see separate agenda)          | Masters E    |
| 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM | *Auxiliary Lunch/Meeting                                                                 | Players BC   |
| 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM | Pests, Predators and Diseases - Don Schramm, Waterford, MI                               | Beginning (Masters ABC) |
| 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM | The Bee Understanding Project - Richard Crespin, CollaborateUp, Washington DC            | Serious Sideliner (Masters E) |
| 2:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Beverage Break in the Tradeshow (Champions Ballroom)                                     | Commercial (Masters D) |
| 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | AIA Business Meeting (Heritage DE)                                                       |              |
| 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM | Pollen Collection – John Speckman, Shawnee, KS                                           |              |
| 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM | Beekeeping in 15 minutes or less and a Brief History of Beekeeping - David Westervelt, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL |              |
| 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM | *Thursday Night Social Activity – Jacksonville Zoo                                        |              |

* Additional registration fee required
# 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Agenda

*(subject to change)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
<td>Champions Reg Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Tradeshow Open</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>American Bee Research Conference (ABRC)</td>
<td>Tournament A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Silent Auction – Dark Tables Open</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 AM – 8:55 AM</td>
<td>Overwintering Migratory Bee Colony Health and Survivorship – Dr. William Meikle, Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, USDA-ARS, Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55 AM – 9:15 AM</td>
<td>The Effects of Chronic Exposure to Neonicotinoid-Contaminated Sugar Stores on Overwintering Honey Bee Colonies – Mark Carroll, Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, USDA-ARS PWA, Tucson Bee Lab, AZ</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Kids and Bees</td>
<td>Tournament B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 AM – 9:35 AM</td>
<td>Update from the USDA Baton Rouge Laboratory - Bob Danka, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 AM – 9:55 AM</td>
<td>Pathogen Research at the USDA Baton Rouge Laboratory - Mike Simone-Finstrom, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:55 AM – 10:25 AM</td>
<td>Beverage Break in Tradeshow</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Silent Auction – Dark Tables Close</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25 AM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 10:50 AM</td>
<td>Research Update for USDA Beltsville Bee Lab – Dr. Jay Evans, USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Lab, MD</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50 AM – 11:10 AM</td>
<td>Novel Approaches and Strategies for Targeting Honeybee Diseases - Judy Chen and Dr. Jay Evans, USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Lab, MD</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM – 11:20 AM</td>
<td>Gold Sponsor Presentation: Barkman Honey</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 AM – 11:25 AM</td>
<td>Silver Sponsor Presentation: Bayer Bee Care Center</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>2015 American Honey Queen &amp; Princess Year-in-Review</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 12:05 PM</td>
<td>Bee Informed Partnership Update – Dr. Dennis van Engelsdorp, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:35 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (on own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:35 PM</td>
<td>*Foundation Luncheon</td>
<td>Heritage CDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35 PM</td>
<td>General Session resumes with announcements</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40 PM – 2:40 PM</td>
<td>2nd Keynote Presentation: Ambrosia and Royal Jelly: How Bees Meet Their Nutritional Needs – Dr. Geraldine Wright, Tyne and Wear, United Kingdom</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in Tradeshow</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>ABF Business Meeting</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediately following the ABF Business Meeting</td>
<td>Honey Show Live Auction (in General Session Ballroom) w/cash bar</td>
<td>Masters Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Research Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Players BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional registration fee required*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
<td>Champions Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast/Meeting (invitation only)</td>
<td>Heritage AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>American Bee Research Conference (ABRC)</td>
<td>Tournament A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>How to Establish and Manage the Best Possible Pollinator Habitat - Peter Berthelsen, Pheasants Forever, Inc. Director of Habitat Partnerships, Elba NE</td>
<td>Heritage CDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>How Beekeepers Can Take Action for Local, State, and National Beekeeping Issues – Michele Colopy, Pollinator Stewardship Council, Akron, OH</td>
<td>Champions B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Honey Bee Pest and Pathogen Identification and Treatment with an Emphasis on the Small Scale Beekeeper - Mark Dykes, Texas Apiary Inspector, College Station, TX</td>
<td>Champions C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>How to Produce Top Quality Forms of Comb Honey for the General Public - Gene Killion, Paris, IL</td>
<td>Masters AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Medical Issues in the Apiary: How to Prevent, Recognize, and Address – Dr. Michael Misko, Centerview, MO</td>
<td>Champions A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Bracelet Fundraising – Louise Johnson, ABF Auxiliary Vice President</td>
<td>Players BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Bee Informed Partnership Meeting (invitation only)</td>
<td>Champions F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Beverage Break</td>
<td>Champions Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>The Effects of In-Hive Miticides on Honey Bee Queens - Elizabeth Walsh, College Station, TX</td>
<td>Heritage CDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Fundraising for the Local and State Beekeeping Association - Michele Colopy, Akron, OH</td>
<td>Champions B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>What You Don't Want to See in Your Hive - Debbie Seib, Mooresville, IN</td>
<td>Champions C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>How to Effectively Use Oxalic Acid - Dr. Marion Ellis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>Masters AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Candle Making – Ginger Reuter, Amery, WI</td>
<td>Players BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</td>
<td>The American Bee Project: Bee Heavens are Tax Havens - Julie Zahniser, Adam Locke &amp; Amanda Chang, The American Bee Project</td>
<td>Champions A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>UMN New Bee Lab Plans and Bee Squad Programs - Dr. Marla Spivak and Rebecca Masterman, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>Heritage CDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Managed Pollinator Protection! For Beekeepers, Growers and Applicators - David Westervelt and Jeanette Klopchin, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL</td>
<td>Champions B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Encaustic Painting - George Hansen, Foothills Honey Co., Colton, OR</td>
<td>Champions C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Varroa Mites - Gary Reuter, University of Minnesota, Amery, WI</td>
<td>Masters AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>&quot;How To&quot; Develop Value Added Programs for YOUR Association - Cathy Misko, Centerview, MO</td>
<td>Players BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Developing Sustainability Concepts for Maintaining Productive Apiaries Season to Season – Dr. Larry Connor, Wicwas Press LLC, Kalamazoo, MI</td>
<td>Champions A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>ABF Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>*ABF Annual Banquet w/Live Auction</td>
<td>Masters DE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Additional registration fee required
Honey Producer and Small Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>The Struggle to Be Both a Producer &amp; a Packer - Can it Work? - Blake Shook, Desert Creak Honey, McKinney, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Honey Bee Pest and Pathogen Identification and Treatment with an Emphasis on the Small Scale Beekeeper - Mark Dykes, Texas Apiary Inspector, College Station, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>The Future of the Producer/Packer, How We Will Survive? - Panel Discussion with Dan Buch, Willow Creek Apiaries, Potosi, WI; Manley Bigalk, Golden Ridge Honey Farm, Cresco, IA; Tim May, Sunny Hill Honey, Harvard, IL; Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm/Dancing Bee Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Where do we GROW From Here? - Tim Tucker, President, American Beekeeping Federation, Niotaze, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 AM – 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Winterizing Your Hives - David Burns, Long Lane Honey Bee Farm, Fairmount, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Breeding a Better Bee; Live and Let Die is Not an Option – Greg Hannaford, Ozark Bee Supply, Tulsa, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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</table>

2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Sponsors (as of 11.17.15)

**Platinum Sponsors:**
- Beekeeping Insurance Services
- Mann Lake, Ltd.

**Gold Sponsor:**
- Barkman Honey

**Silver Sponsor:**
- Bayer Bee Care

**Bronze Sponsors:**
- A&O Forklift, Inc.
- Blue Sky Bee Supply
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
- Florida Backyard Beekeeping Association
- Kelley Beekeeping
- Megabee
- Pierco

**Koozie Sponsor:**
- Gamber Containers

**Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast Sponsors:**
- Barkman Honey
- Kelley Beekeeping

**Lanyard Sponsor:**
- Beekeeping Insurance Services

**General Session Sponsor:**
- Broodminder

**Foundation Luncheon Sponsors:**
- Eco Bee Box
- Honey Bee Health Coalition
- Pollinator Stewardship Council

**Bag Sponsor:**
- Complete Bee

**Thursday Night Social DJ Sponsor:**
- Florida State Beekeepers Association

**ABF Banquet Sponsors:**
- Beekeeping Insurance Services
- Maxant Industries

**Exclusive Break Sponsors:**
- A & O Forklift
- Medivet Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.

**Non-Exclusive Break Sponsors:**
- Dadant & Sons, Inc.
- Dutch Gold Honey and Gamber Containers
- The Lebermuth Company
- Shanghai Bainiang Apiculture Co., Ltd
- Veto-pharma

**Welcome Reception Sponsors:**
- Dadant
- Megabee
- Shanghai Bainiang Apiculture Co., Ltd
# 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow
## SIG Agendas – Thursday, January 7, 2016

### COMMERCIAL SIG (MARIO JAKOB & KEVIN JENSEN)  ROOM: HERITAGE CDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Effect of Formic Acid Treatments, Temperature and Humidity on Honeybee Viral Loads and Diversity – Roy Crumrine, Tiburon, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Hygienic Behavior of the Honey Bee (Apis mellifera) is Influenced by Breed-Specific, Damage-Dependent Brood Signals – Kaira Wagoner, Greensboro, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>The Effects of Vegetation Types and Processing Methods on the Physico-Chemical and Antimicrobial Activity of Tropical Honey Samples in vitro – Caroline Akachuku, Michael Okapra University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 AM – 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PACKAGE BEE & QUEEN BREEDERS SIG (JOAN GUNTER & JONATHAN MILLET)  ROOM: MASTERS ABC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 8:35 AM</td>
<td>Sponsor Presentation:  Bee-bus.com - Charles Linder, Flora, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 AM – 9:05 AM</td>
<td>NC State Queen &amp; Disease Clinic: An Update and New Techniques - Dr. David Tarpy, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:05 AM – 9:35 AM</td>
<td>Mass Production of Instrumentally Inseminated Queens in Poland, Constraints &amp; Benefits - Sue Cobey, Washington State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 AM – 10:05 AM</td>
<td>Bee Informed Partnership: Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team - Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05 AM – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>ABF SIG Business/Elect Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 AM – 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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### COMMERCIAL & PACKAGE BEE & QUEEN BREEDERS SIG’S  ROOM: MASTERS ABC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>The Nutritional Value of Commonly Used Artificial Pollen Supplements - Dr. Geraldine Wright, Tyne and Wear, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Hawaii’s Queen Production - Danielle Downey, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Hilo, HI</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
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## 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Exhibitors (as of 12.4.15)

- A&O Forklift
- Acorn Bee, LLC
- Arnia
- Barkman Honey, LLC
- Bayer Bee Care Center
- Beaver Plastics, Ltd.
- Bee Somebody
- Beeendeavors
- Beekeeping Insurance Services
- Beevital
- Bee Informed Partnership
- Bee Rancher Supply
- BL Plastics Containers
- Blue Sky Bee Supply
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
- Canadian Honey Council
- Central Life Sciences
- Colorado Bee Rescue, Inc.
- Complete Bee
- Cook & Beals, Inc.
- Country Rubes Beekeeping Equipment
- Dadant & Sons, Inc.
- Dutch Gold Honey
- Eco Bee Box
- Environotics Unlimited
- Ezyloader - M & K Stafford Engineering Pty, Ltd
- Fieldwatch
- Florida Backyard Beekeepers Association
- Florida State Beekeepers Association
- Gamber Containers
- GloryBee
- Honey Bee Health Coalition
- Hive Tracks
- International Honey Products, Ltd
- Kaftan, LLC
- Kelley Beekeeping
- Mann Lake, Ltd.
- Megabee
- NOD Apiary Products, Ltd.
- Oxavap
- Pierco

- Pollinator Stewardship Council
- Project Apis m.
- Propolis
- Reid’s Apiary & Bee-tique
- River Wood, Inc.
- SargiI HoneyBee, Ltd.
- Shanghai Bainiang Apiiculture Co, Ltd
- Shanghai Yile Gardens Trading Co.
- Shastina Millwork
- Solution Bee, LLC
- SouthEast Bee Supply
- Strong Microbials, Inc.
- Superior Bee
- Texas Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
- The Haselmaier Company
- Ursula Copper Embossing
- USDA-National Ag. Statistics Service
- Veto-pharma
- Vinyl Windows & Doors
- Vita (Europe), Ltd
- WICWAS Press
2016 American Honey Queen Candidates

2015 Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker
Tabitha Mansker is the 19 year old daughter of Gary and Wanda Mansker of Nevada, Texas. She lives on a small farm with her family, where they raise honey bees, goats, pigs, donkeys, alpacas, and other various farm animals. Tabitha was actively involved in 4-H for eight years and enjoyed competing in many different stock shows and events. She has been involved in beekeeping since she was 14 and helps work the 16 hives on the family farm and with commercial beekeepers for the past five years, extracting honey in the spring and summer. Her future goals consist of pursuing a job somewhere in the medical field and possibly becoming a teacher. She is working on her basics through online studies. Besides bees, Tabitha enjoys photography, playing piano, singing, working on the farm, and serving in her local church and community.

2015 Wisconsin Honey Queen Kim Kester
Kim Kester is the 23 year old daughter of Jim and Barb Kester of Nekoosa, Wisconsin. She is a July 2014 graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she double majored in dairy science and poultry science. Kim grew up on a small hobby farm and showed her horses, llamas, poultry, and rabbits in 4-H. She started beekeeping after learning from other beekeepers and serving as a county Honey Queen. She is currently an Operations Assistant at Accelerated Genetics in Westby, WI, and is pursuing a master’s degree in agricultural education at Iowa State University. In her spare time, Kim enjoys photography and riding horses.

2015 Indiana Honey Queen Rebecca Eldridge
Rebecca Eldridge is the 20 year old daughter of Adrian and Virginia Eldridge of Orleans, Indiana and is a homeschooled high school graduate. She is currently pursuing a business degree from Ivy Tech Community College. Rebecca was a nine-year 4-H member, and was named Indiana Young Beekeeper of the Year in 2010. She is active in several Indiana beekeeping organizations and on the family farm, where she helps maintain about 70 hives. Rebecca enjoys farming, singing, playing music, sewing, cooking, and shooting sports.

2015 Pennsylvania Honey Queen Jessica Onstead
Jessica Onstead is the 22 year old daughter of Steve and Fritz Onstead of Somerset, PA. She is a 2014 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and earned her bachelor’s degree in business economics. Jessica currently works at Somerset Trust Company in the collateral department. In her free time Jessica enjoys tending her apiary with her grandfather, reading books, sending postcards, and collecting stamps. In the future, she hopes to own her own business, visit New Zealand, and learn to fence.

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Commercial Beekeeping

Reg Wilbanks and Six Generations of Wilbanks Beekeepers: Wilbanks Apiaries, Wilbanks Farms, Kalona Honey Company and Wilbanks Brothers Honey Farm

I pursued an article about Reg Wilbanks for selfish reasons. I was raised on Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach, Florida, and through my friendship with Pat Heitkam, discovered that Reg is from Claxton, Georgia, but also has a home on Amelia Island. This island was an amazing place to grow up, and to me it is like knowing a mutual friend. Reg has the same love and respect that I do for this thirteen mile long island, the southern-most of Sea Islands, located just north of Jacksonville, where our ABF Conference & Tradeshow will be held in January, 2016.

I have to tell you straight out that I had to make myself a diagram of the Wilbanks family in order to keep this incredible beekeeping family straight. They are all exceptional in their own right and their contribution to beekeeping is astounding.

Their story reads like a movie. Gresham Duckett, father-in-law of Guy Wilbanks and Reg’s great-grandfather, was given four honey bee colonies as a wedding present in 1919 (this was when wedding presents included dowries). The family increased their colonies to 300 and produced honey in Georgia, selling at various markets in the mountains of North Georgia and the Atlanta area for years. In 1946, their cabin was destroyed by fire and a decision was made to move south to the Claxton, Georgia, area, because of better financial opportunities, improved climate, improved floral sources and agriculture diversity. Wilbanks Apiaries remains in Claxton, Georgia, to this day.

Reg is a fourth generation beekeeper who begin working when he was nine years old with various chores around the shop, even caging queens in the queen yards, and loved every part of what he was doing. Because of his love and appreciation of nature, he returned to the family business after graduating from Georgia Southern University in 1972 with a degree in industrial management.

Wilbanks Apiaries runs between 6,000 and 7,000 colonies and 15,000 queen mating nuclei, with annual production at approximately 20,000 packages and 60,000 queens. Over the years they have transitioned from honey producers to 95% income derived from package bees and queens and only 5% derived from pollination fees and honey. During their busy season they employ twenty employees, and as business grows, so does the number of employees necessary to run their operation. They do have seasonal workers come in with the H-2A program to supplement their employee needs.

One thing that Reg is quick to point out is that Wilbanks Apiaries is not a migratory operation. Since beekeeping in the South has little or no broodless time, varroa requires more attention. Tracheal mites, varroa mites and small hive beetles have taken a lot of the joy out of beekeeping. Many beekeepers have gone out of business because they could not adapt to the added expense and workload necessary to cope with them. However, some good comes out of bad, because those that chose to remain in beekeeping shifted from extensive beekeeping to intensive beekeeping and had to incorporate more efficient management practices.

In January, Wilbanks Apiaries starts feeding their bees and treating for mites. Red Maple bloom is the first natural source of pollen, and with a week or two of moderate weather the bees will collect enough pollen to begin to brood up. Grafting usually begins around mid-February when they begin to see drones. By the first of March, the first queen cells come off, so they begin stocking queen yards, a three week process. Finally, with queen yards stocked, the caging cycle begins and they can begin shaking packages, weather dependent, by the end of March or the first of April. They also...
requeen all of their colonies each year, beginning around the 20th of June and finishing in August.

Bees, like people, need variety in their diets, so Reg tries to choose bee locations that will provide a variety of floral sources for pollen and nectar which will cut down on supplemental feeding. Much of his success depends on locations, and as a “thank you” to his landowners, he delivers a case of honey each year.

As I said before, Reg is a fourth generation beekeeper with “beekeeping in his blood.” As did his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him, he trained the next generation of beekeepers. His sons Patrick (Wilbanks Farms) and Tim (Kalona Honey Farm) are both beekeepers. Patrick’s sons, Ben (age ten) and Barrett (age eight) with their four hives each have formed the Wilbanks Brothers Honey Farm and are currently young entrepreneurs producing their own honey for sale.

Patrick, Reg’s oldest son, has an engineering degree from Georgia Tech and owns Wilbanks Farms in Metter, Georgia. He pollinates watermelons, cantaloupe, squash and blueberries and produces about 100,000 pounds of honey per year. They produce the prized tupelo honey, as well as tyty, blackberry, tulip popular, gallberry, palmetto, Chinese tallow and cotton. Patrick says, “We are in partnership with Mother Nature, sometimes kind and sometimes not!”

Tim has a biology degree from the University of Georgia and graduated from Palmer School of Chiropractic. Dr. Wilbanks formed Kalona Honey Company near Washington, Iowa, where he follows the bloom from California to Maine. He pollinates a variety of crops and produces several varieties of honey. Tim has five children who help to produce, process and market their honey. He is also a supplier of package bees and queens and is currently merging his package supply business with Lee Heine’s package bee business in Watertown, Wisconsin. Tim says, “My dad helped to instill in me a great work ethic and cultivated in me a passion for beekeeping.”

Reg’s suggestion for someone starting out with bees in 2015 is to start small and slow and to work with a reputable commercial beekeeper for a while to understand bees, their behavior and their health problems. Knowledge and experience will make the bumps fewer and the profits greater. He credits his success in business to dedicated employees, hard work, dependable service and turning out a quality product at a reasonable price.

As many of you know, Reg Wilbanks has contributed not only his love and knowledge of bees to his family, but also to the beekeeping industry. His has been President of the Georgia Beekeepers Association, President of the American Bee Breeders Association and President of the American Beekeeping Federation. He was on the Executive Board and represented Producer Region 6 of the National Honey Board, and has held many other positions both nationally and locally.

Gus Rouse of Kona Queens said that he invited Reg over to Hawaii to help prepare Kona for the influx of varroa mites, and Reg found the first varroa detected on Kona. Gus also said that he and Sandy made Reg pick coffee beans in trade for his dinner and he did a pretty good job.

I am looking forward to our 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Jacksonville, so close to Amelia Island for me and an opportunity to visit more with Reg and his wife Melissa. I hope to see you there.

Stay tuned for our next Commercial Page where Joe Hansen is writing an article on his and brother Matt’s life at Foothills Honey Company in Colton, Oregon.
Thanks to scholarships awarded by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, six budding scientists from all over the country are presenting their research at this year’s conference. The $2000 awards will enable the graduate students to meet fellow honey bee researchers and people in the industry they hope to serve.

Adrian Fisher

Adrian Fisher II is a fourth year Ph.D. student in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University (TAMU). As an undergraduate, he studied honey bee and native bee pollination efficiency and behavior at California Polytechnic University Pomona. As a graduate student, he examines the effects of beekeeper applied and field acquired in-hive pesticide contaminants on drone reproductive health. He also investigates the influence of fungicides, commonly used in almond orchards, on forager mortality. After finishing his Ph.D. at TAMU, he plans to become a professor continuing his research into honey bee health and biology as well as teaching future generations of scientists.

Meghan McConnell

Meghan McConnell is a current Masters student in the vanEngelsdorp bee lab at University of Maryland. She is currently researching chemical-free alternative treatments to control the honey bee parasite Varroa destructor. Meghan completed her undergraduate education in Environmental Science & Technology from the University of Maryland. At the University of Maryland, Meghan has participated in extension events to promote pollinator awareness in association with the student group PollinaTerps and the UMD Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Her work has included evaluating the biodiversity of native bees both on campus and as part of a state-wide citizen science project. Find more on the current research at the lab’s website: www.vanengelsdorpbeelab.com. As part of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), Meghan has been responsible for organizing the Real Time Disease Load Monitoring Project for the past two years. Find out more at BIP’s website: www.beeinformed.org.

Carlos Vega Meléndez

Carlos J. Vega Meléndez is a third year graduate student in the Environmental Health Science program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). Stress has been the main underlying theme in his work. As an undergraduate, he was interested in studying the impact of chronic developmental exposure to antibiotics in worker bees and its impact on behavior and head and gut microbiomes. In summer 2011, he attended the George Washington Carver Internship at Iowa State University. As a graduate student, he is interested in studying early developmental stress and its potential long-term effects on adult morphology, life history and molecular biology. After finishing his Ph.D. at UNCG, he intends to get a post-doc position, preferably in an area to refine and learn new bioinformatics tools that could be used to study stress and stress response. Ultimately, he is interested in learning bioinformatics tools to study honey bee epigenetics and understand its potential role in honey bee health decline.

Ashley Mortensen

Ashley is a doctoral candidate in the University of Florida’s Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory (HBREL). Her research focuses on the effects of juvenile rearing environment on adult behavior. Ashley uses in vitro techniques to rear honey bee larvae in the laboratory. She then conducts laboratory and field studies to determine if those individuals perform normally as adults. Ashley completed her Master’s degrees in the University of Florida’s HBREL. Her Master’s research focused on drone congregation areas, hybridization of African and European honey bees, and molecular discrimination of African and European honey bee subspecies. In addition to her research efforts, Ashley participates in the HBREL’s teaching and extension programs. Ashley has contributed to several undergraduate and graduate level courses at the University of Florida as both a teaching assistant and an instructor. Furthermore, Ashley frequently delivers extension presentations and has published numerous extension documents for the HBREL. Following the completion of her doctorate, Ashley intends to pursue a career in academia where she can continue to participate in research, teaching, and extension activities focusing on honey bees.
Doug Sponsler

Doug Sponsler is in his fifth year as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Entomology at the Ohio State University. He graduated from Cedarville University in 2010, where he did undergraduate research on yellow jacket biology and control. Under the mentorship of Dr. Reed Johnson, he now studies the relationship between honey bees and their surrounding landscape, particularly with respect to food acquisition and toxic exposure. His most recent project uses computer simulation modeling to understand how honey bees are exposed to pesticides while foraging and how this exposure might be mitigated. Doug expects to finish his doctoral program in the next 12-18 months, after which he hopes to find an academic job that balances teaching and research.

James Withrow

James is a second year graduate student in the Entomology department at North Carolina State University. As an undergraduate, he studied classical music and biology at Gardner-Webb University. As a graduate student, he is studying the evolution of sociality, with particular focus on the collective decision of queen selection and queen quality in honey bees. For the past two and a half years he has also volunteered and worked at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. After completing his Ph.D., James plans to pursue a career that includes research, teaching, and connecting science to a general audience.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

ABF members are invited to submit resolutions, to be considered by the ABF Resolutions Committee at the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, any time prior to 5 PM on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Resolutions form the basis of ABF policies on issues of importance to the organization and serve as a guide for the board and officers throughout the year. 2015 resolutions approved by the membership in Anaheim, including continuing resolutions, can be accessed via the ABF website by clicking on “resolutions” under “about ABF.”

If you would like to submit a resolution for the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, please email Regina Robuck at reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

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!

Apimondia 2015 A Great USA Effort – cont. from page 5

and Kelley Beekeeping. A number of state, regional, and local beekeeping organizations as well many individuals donated varying amounts to the cause. The American Beekeeping Federation contributed matching funds which were budgeted by the Apimondia Committee as a loan. While it is too early to determine what the final numbers are, it appears that at least a portion of the loan will be repaid to the ABF.

The Canadian representatives were a very friendly group with whom we had great comradery before, during, and after the congress. We certainly wish them well as they prepare for their special Apimondia congress in four years.

Apimondia USA 2019 Committee Chair Debbie Seib will be presenting a final report at the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in January. Thanks again to all who contributed time, money, products, and expertise to this monumental effort.
Queen Committee Report

It’s hard to believe that we’re nearing the end of 2015. It has been a fantastic promotional year for the American Honey Queen Program, and the American Honey Queen Committee is thrilled with Queen Gabrielle’s and Princess Hayden’s dedication and hard work for the beekeeping industry this year. There will be ample opportunity at the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida to learn more about their work.

We are eager for the Queen, Princess, and candidates to meet you and to learn even more about the industry at the conference and from attendees. There are many opportunities to see, speak with and interact with them to learn more about their personal stories! I especially encourage members to attend a lunch sponsored by the ABF Auxiliary on Thursday, January 7 at 11:45 a.m. (additional registration fee required). The featured speakers at this lunch are the American Honey Queen candidates. Each candidate will give three-minute presentations on honey varietals. Their required speech, part of the selection process, is based on a different topic each year and can take any form the candidate requests. Attendees each year learn more about different niches of our industry and about the candidates’ presentation styles. All are welcome to see this very interesting part of the judging process.

Queen Gabrielle and Princess Hayden will continue to be busy with promotions through December. While their schedules are full for the rest of the year, I encourage you to contact me at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to provide me with dates and details for promotions for our 2016 representatives. We look forward to an excellent Jacksonville conference and a successful 2016 promotion season!

I encourage all conference attendees to support the Honey Queen program through purchase of raffle tickets for our beautiful handmade quilt. Kay Oakley of Texas graciously donated her time in creating yet another stunningly beautiful quilt, which will be on display throughout the conference. You can also support the program by entering your unique honeys and beeswax items in our American Honey Show. All items will be auctioned off during our conference to benefit the American Honey Queen Fund.

The Queen Committee is pleased to welcome four candidates to Jacksonville who have applied for the 2016 American Honey Queen and Princess positions. You can find their bios and photos on page 17. We look forward to learning more about them and their state promotions at our conference.

The handmade quilt for the Queen Raffle at the 2016 ABF Conference and Tradeshow in Florida

Member Milestones

Milestones for September & October 2015

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<td>Peter Kallas, WI</td>
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<td>Paul Limbach, CO</td>
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January 5-9, 2016

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), FL

Join fellow beekeepers in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville, FL) for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow featuring:

- Presentations and workshops for all levels of beekeeping led by industry experts
- Keynote presentations by top researchers in the field
- A Tradeshow highlighting products and services in the beekeeping industry
- Opportunities to network with beekeepers of all levels, vendors and industry experts
- 2016 Honey Queen Coronation, Honey Show & Auction and more!

On-site registration will begin on Tuesday, January 5 at 3:00PM.

Questions?
For additional information about the conference, please call 404.760.2875 or visit abfconference.com.
Hello, fellow beekeepers! I cannot believe how far I have traveled since I last wrote. These past couple months have been incredibly busy for me promoting the beekeeping industry in the United States and abroad. If you haven’t been keeping up with the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page, I think you’ll be surprised by all the places I have been!

I traveled to California September 8-13 for the Palo Cedro Honey Bee Festival. Prior to the weekend festival, I was happy to reach 374 students in seven area schools. I also spent a total of 17 minutes on the air with three different Redding-area radio stations. I spoke about the upcoming festival, and the radio broadcasters were interested in hearing about how honey bee pollination affects California’s largest export, almonds. Each day at the festival, I gave several speeches and made a guest appearance in a local children’s theater skit about honey bees. My favorite part was emceeing the bee beard presentations. I explained how bee beards are made and answered questions throughout the demonstrations. One day, I gave up my emcee position to wear the bee beard myself, and Jackie Park-Burris and her son, Ryan, formed my biggest bee beard yet, which was pulled off without a single sting! I also sold honey alongside my hosts, Glenda and Shannon Wooten, and the Shasta County Beekeepers. Thank you, Glenda and Shannon, for inviting me to this wonderful event and opening up your home to me.

My first ever international trip occurred October 15-20, as I flew to South Korea for the 2015 Apimondia Congress. I worked with the ABF’s bid team promoting the United States and our beekeeping practices. Every day, I worked at the USA booth passing out gifts to many of the 4,000 Congress attendees, and answering their questions about beekeeping in America. Many visitors were especially interested in learning about our pollination industry. I met people from all over the world and made some great new friends from Swaziland, Australia, and Turkey. I was fortunate enough to be invited to Korea night and Turkey night, which were dinner celebrations highlighting the cultures of each country. It was lovely to learn about the Korean culture while I was there and the culture of Turkey, which is the country hosting the next Apimondia Congress. Thank you, Debbie Selb, for arranging my trip to South Korea. Thank you also to Tim Tucker, Gene and Christine Brandi, Virginia Webb, and Mark Dykes for all the ways you pitched in to make my experience in South Korea a fun and safe one.

I flew back to the United States on September 20 and landed in Hawaii. I visited Oahu and The Big Island to speak at schools, take part in the Hawaii Honey Challenge, promote honey and beekeeping through radio and television interviews, and teach at a local zoo. My first promotions on the Big Island were a three-minute radio interview on The Wave 97 and school presentations to 97 students. Following that, I attended the American Honey Queen Gala dinner and spoke about the American Beekeeping Federation and my experiences as an industry representative. During the next few days, I hosted a booth at a high school career fair day with Peggy and Rod Beckett and gave four school presentations at two different schools. Saturday was filled with excitement over the Hawaii Honey Challenge at Namu Gardens. Visitors could shop from local vendors, learn about local bee problems, enjoy live music, sample over 80 different honeys, and much more. I spent most of my day helping out with children’s activities and chatting with attendees. I flew to Honolulu next to present five times at Punahou School, which is President Obama’s childhood school. I also had a great three-minute television interview on Sunrise Hawaii News Now, which generated approximately $3,600 worth of publicity for the beekeeping industry. Before departing, I worked with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture at the Honolulu Zoo hosting an educational Pollinator Day. In between events, my dedicated team of hosts showed me Hawaii and took me on adventures. It took a lot of people to pull off my eventful Hawaii experience. Thank you, Peggy Beckett, for arranging my wonderful visit. Thank you, Danielle Downey, for taking me sightseeing. Last, but certainly not least, thank you, Cody and Lauren, for being great hosts and helping me try Hawaiian fruits!

I spent October 1-4 in Colorado for the Western Apicultural Society Conference. I hosted an ABF booth in the trade show with ABF Executive Director Regina Robuck, where we promoted the benefits of being an ABF member. I also had the opportunity to listen to many speeches, ranging in topics from using honey for health to pesticide issues and everything in between! I teamed up with the National Honey Board to present on using products of the hive to create cosmetics. The audience was interested to learn about my borrowed technique for making my own wax pellets, in which I pour melted
wax over cold water and use a rolling pin to break up the solidified lines of wax. Thank you, Beth Conrey, for inviting me to speak at the conference. Also, thanks to Terry and Theresa Dorsey for inviting me into their home and driving me everywhere I needed to go.

I traveled to Massachusetts for the Topsfield Fair October 4-11. At the fair, I gave school presentations (10 total to 185 students), worked in the bee building, and mingled with crowds of people. I assisted in the huge bee building by answering questions at the observation hives, helping kids roll candles, and working at the sales counter. When the building wasn’t bursting with people, I enjoyed looking at all the beekeeping entries. I was impressed by the vast array of categories included in the building, such as table settings, quilting, rolled candles, and videography.

I toured the fairgrounds regularly with Mrs. Essex County, the fair’s ambassador, and we greeted many of the half million fairgoers. I was also a guest judge for the rooster crowing contest. (I named my rooster Billy, and he crowed nine times in 15 minutes!) Thank you, Chris Delaney, for orchestrating my entire visit, as well as Pete Delaney, Debbie McClelland, and Kathy Sample for acting as drivers and spunky tour guides.

I spent the first week of November in Wisconsin promoting for Wisconsin Honey Producers Association. I gave 27 school presentations throughout the week, reaching 1,231 students, including one presentation with Wisconsin Honey Queen Kim Kester. The kids loved seeing two queens at their school! In addition, I spoke in several local civic and community organizations, including a Boys and Girls Club, a 4-H Club, a Kiwanis Club, a Girl Scout troop meeting, and a Rotary Club. I also generated media publicity by appearing on a morning television news program and participating in three radio interviews that broadcasted on over 300 stations! My goal during the promotions was to make the community excited for the Kids N Bees Expo hosted by the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association on November 7 as part of their convention. When the big day came, Kim and I (along with many other volunteers) ran stations showing kids and their families live bees and beekeeping equipment. The attendees could also roll candles, taste honey, and have their faces painted. In addition to these activities, I was a convention speaker and assisted with the Wisconsin Honey Queen auction. Thank you, Donna Thoma, Dan, Gina, Jalyn, and Larissa Piechowski, Derald Kettlewell, and Anna Kettlewell for being great hosts and dutiful drivers.

As I write this, my last newsletter article, I am in South Dakota, which is the 20th state I have promoted in this year. I am speaking in Sioux Falls area schools, and appeared on KDLT and KSFY News morning television programs. Next, I will travel back to Iowa for my home convention.

I am already looking forward to seeing all of you at the ABF conference this year. Thank you again for following my trips and helping me make them possible. I appreciate the tremendous opportunity that the American Beekeeping Federation has provided me this year and I look forward to sharing more stories at the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Jacksonville!
American Honey Princess Report

by: Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

I hope you all have been enjoying some cooler weather in your areas! I have been very busy the past few months traveling from coast to coast, spreading knowledge about honey bees.

I continued my National Honey Month tour in Lithopolis, Ohio, September 7-13, for the Lithopolis Honeyfest. The Honeyfest is a fantastic event completely centered on bees and honey. I arrived before the festival to speak in schools and other venues to encourage people to attend the event. I had a radio interview with 90.9 FM in Lancaster, generating over $1,000 in free industry publicity, and discussed Honeyfest activities and the uses for honey. I gave a presentation to over 40 4-H’ers and parents in a beeyard at my host family’s home. I presented in open hive fashion and kept it interactive, answering many questions and showing frames of bees and the queen. I also spoke to 315 students in schools prior to Honeyfest. The two-day Honeyfest bustled with activities. I helped in the craft tent turning water bottles into bee bottles and teaching kids more about honey bees. I presented a program entitled, “Getting Started in Beekeeping 101”, judged the honey baking contest, was the emcee for the contest awards ceremony and bee quiz contests for kids, emceed for and helped with two bee beards, and demonstrated a bee beard myself! Thanks to Barry Conrad for doing such a great bee beard on me. I wasn’t stung at all! I thank Carmen and Barry Conrad for arranging my trip and Anne Blackwell for hosting me.

September 16-21 found me in Guttenberg, Iowa, for my first stop on a nearly five-week trip. I went straight from the airport to a radio interview on WMT 95.7’s The Big Show, which aired in seven Midwestern states. Working with Bill and Louise Johnson from Johnson Honey Farm, I gave a honey extracting demonstration to 27 people at the Senior Center in Guttenberg. The residents loved learning about honey’s health benefits, seeing how honey is extracted, and tasting freshly extracted honey. I also worked at the Dubuque Farmers’ Market at my own table with an observation hive, sweet tea, and fruit dip featuring the Johnsons’ creamed honey. Over 1,000 people attended the Farmers’ Market, and I answered questions and talked about uses and forms of honey. The main event for my trip was the Plagman Barn Show, where I had an exhibit with an observation hive. Hundreds of people came through, and I gave multiple presentations to children and showed them the bees. One visitor was a newspaper reporter from the Guttenberg Press, with whom I had an interview. Thank you, Bill and Louise, for hosting and showing me how beautiful Iowa is!

My next stop was sunny California for the Los Angeles County Fair, September 21-29, to work with the L.A. County Beekeepers Association in their bee building. Over 314,000 people came through the exhibit during my visit, and many of them were children. When school groups visited, I gave presentations about bees as they waited in line to see the exhibit. We ferried thousands of kids through the building daily and ensured that each received a honey stick. I also presented in the gardening center about honey bees and beekeeping, and had the opportunity to collaborate with a local chef to give four cooking demonstrations. On my day off, I worked with my hosts in their beeyards and had an up-close look at commercial beekeeping. Thanks to the Los Angeles County Beekeepers for inviting me, and to Bill and Liane Lewis and Clyde and Jan Steese for hosting me.

I next headed to New Mexico, a state that the American Honey Queen Program hasn’t visited in many, many years. I stayed in Los Alamos and had two days packed with school presentations. The night I arrived, I spoke to 20 kids and parents in a homeschool group at my host family’s house. The group was very enthusiastic to learn about beekeeping! I visited five schools during the next two days and spoke to 1,015 children, encouraging them to plant flowers for bees, since nectar sources can be scarce in this region. I also spoke to 78 kids at a Boys and Girls Club and to 30 senior citizens, who were interested in learning about honey’s health benefits. I was thrilled to have a 20-minute radio interview at KRSN 14.90 in Los Alamos, garnering $1,620 of free publicity for the ABF. The interview was also during the morning commute time, so I reached a potential audience of 250,000 people! Thank you to the Vander Wiel family for being such sweet hosts.

I headed to the east coast first to Cockeysville, Maryland, October 2-5, for the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Honey Harvest Festival. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Joaquin,
the Honey Festival was canceled; however, I still visited the Nature Center one afternoon and talked to visitors at an observation hive about bees. Thank you to my hosts, Gene and Linda Williamson and the Tan family, for showing me around Maryland and teaching me how to eat soft shelled crab. Next, I headed up the coast to Fryeburg, Maine, October 5-11, for the Fryberg Fair. The Fryberg Fair is the state’s largest fair, which drew over 160,000 people during my visit. When I wasn’t stationed at the observation hive in the Western Maine Beekeepers booth, I worked in a commercial beekeeper’s booth, and there was always a crowd and never a dull moment. The honey booth had a variety of flavors of honey, and I explained honey varietals and distributed samples. I gave an introductory beekeeping presentation in the garden center daily, which drew large audiences. I also worked closely with the fair staff in the sheep and cow barn handing out ribbons. The fair staff respects the American Honey Queen Program, and they actually considered me part of the staff! They gave me a grand behind-the-scenes tour, which included a helicopter ride! Thank you to my hosts James and Carol Cottrill for teaching me all about Maine and treating me like a daughter.

I travelled south to the warmer climate of Perry, Georgia, October 12-15, for the Georgia National Fair. I worked at the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association’s bee booth at the fair, talking to people at the observation hive and giving out honey samples. They had a fantastic honey display that drew swarms of visitors. I spoke in six area schools to encourage children to stop by the bee exhibit when they attended the fair. In four days, I gave 16 presentations to 2,103 students! Thank you to the Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association for inviting me and to my wonderful hosts, Kelley and Carla Hillis, for showing me true southern hospitality.

I was excited that my last stop of my five-week journey was my own Texas State Fair! I was in Dallas October 16-18 to work in the Texas Beekeepers Association’s booth and give cooking with honey demonstrations, teaching the public practical ways to use honey in their cooking, along with other county and state Honey Queens and Princesses. I had a short, but impactful, radio interview with a local Dallas station, 97.9 The Beat, where I talked about the status of the nation’s honey bees and how the public can help them particularly in urban areas. I promoted in Texas the remainder of October, with stops in Houston, Belton, and my home area. October 22-25, I talked to 200 eighth grade students and participated in the Harris County Beekeepers Banquet with Texas Honey Queen Tabitha Mansker in the Houston area. I gave a presentation about my work as American Honey Princess and the upcoming 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow at the banquet. I extend a huge thank you to my fabulous hosts, Ed and Elaine Michalik. A few days later, I travelled to Belton for the Texas Beekeepers Association Convention. This was a busy three days, as I worked in the Texas Beekeepers Association booth and talked to people attending the ABF Conference & Tradeshow. In addition to presenting about ABF and my year, I participated in a social event where each Honey Queen has a table to decorate and display her scrapbook of events for the year and a food or snack made with honey. I thank the Texas Beekeepers Association for all their support! I rounded out my time in Texas with a presentation to 23 4-H students in Diana, a presentation at my local East Texas Beekeepers Association meeting, and a stop at the Farmers’ Market in Tyler in early November.

My latest promotion was in Idabel, Oklahoma, on November 10, to speak in two elementary schools. This was the first time in many years that the American Honey Queen Program reached Oklahoma. I conveyed our messages to 368 Pre-K through fifth graders, including a few students who now want to be beekeepers. It is incredible to think that I can help change people’s minds about the honey bee for the better!

I have just a handful of promotions left before the ABF Conference & Tradeshow in January. I can’t believe this amazing year is almost over. I thank you, the ABF, for your support and for this opportunity. I’ve come to realize this year that beekeepers are some of the best people in the world! I can’t wait to see many of you in Jacksonville!
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 10,000 fans and are reaching new fans each day.

If you have a Facebook fan page for your business or local beekeeping association, let us know and we’ll add you to our line up.

Please feel free to post your beekeeping photos on our page, write on our wall and keep sending your friends to our page. Stay tuned for ABF updates, fun facts, recipes and photos of our ABF members doing what they do best!

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From the Auxiliary

Time is flying by and the year is almost over. For some of us it’s almost time to pack up and move to a warmer climate and prepare our hives for winter and start the pollination process all over again, counting losses and preparing to make splits.

Once again, it’s time for the annual ABF Conference & Tradeshow. It’s a wonderful time to be reunited with old and new friends. Don’t forget to put those pictures together for the contest.

We’ll see you soon!

Sincerely, Beth Hackenberg

Photo contest information and rules:

Categories:
- Adults and Beekeeping
- Kids and Beekeeping
- Honey
- Bees and Nature (bees on flowers, bees on frames)
- Pollination and Beekeeping

One entry per category please

Requirements:
- Submit two 5x7 photos for each entry (5x7 before matting)
- At least one photo must be for judging (single mat only)
- 3x5 index card attached to back of photo with name, address and category

Important Information:
- Photos must be submitted by noon on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, during the ABF Conference & Tradeshow.
- Photos can be submitted by proxy or mailed to a committee member if you are unable bring them in person.
- Amateur photographers only.

If requirements are not met, photos will be disqualified. Photos will not be returned. Waivers for rights to the photos will be signed at conference.

From the Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg
Honey Cut Out Cookies

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp of baking powder
- 1/4 cup of salt
- 1/4 cup of butter
- 1/3 cup of brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup of honey

DIRECTIONS:
- In a medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt.
- In a separate large bowl, beat the butter and brown sugar until creamy.
- Add the egg and honey, then add the flour and whisk gently until your dough is mixed well.
- Roll out dough thin or up to a 1/4 inch thick.
- Cut out with cookie cutters, decorate and bake for 10 minutes or until done.
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