January 5-9, 2016

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), FL

2016 ABF CONFERENCE ISSUE

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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:
Palm Trees & Healthy Bees

by: Tim Tucker
ABF President

I remember it as if it were yesterday at times even though it will have been 12 years in just a couple of months. The ABF held its annual conference at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Verde Beach, south of Jacksonville, Florida. I know I had anticipated attending the event for months as it was a trip to Florida in the middle of our Kansas winter. It was also the first time I really planned on competing in the Honey Show. I didn’t have any hopes or expectations as I really felt there was little chance that I would win anything, but I did! I got a first place ribbon in the gift basket division of the show. I still remember how proud I was of that accomplishment. I knew it would be a learning experience and even though my honey entry did not get a ribbon, I was able to talk to the judges and Ed Doan about all the many aspects of the judging in the show. I discovered how really important all of the different points of judging were and what points were awarded for each. I recall that Ed was taking his jars out of his boxes and setting them on the table and wiping them down with a cloth while I was wondering why he was going to such great length to make sure they were perfectly clean. In my basket, I included a jar of honey, a couple of hex jars of flavored creamed honey and moisturizer bars and lip balm that I had begun making. As things go, it was a rather modest basket and I worked very hard to hot glue sea shells to the plastic wrap that enclosed it. I think I also threw in some honey sticks and some Bit-O-Honey candies and a beeswax candle or two. I have seen so many baskets over the years and some of the ones even at our state fairs here in Kansas far exceed that little accumulation of honey items. But the one thing this particular meeting did, was ignite a spark within me that inspired me not only in the following honey shows but my need for being involved. I also met several people during this conference and reaffirmed earlier relationships with others.

There are so many aspects of our 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, January 5-9, that make it the “Event of the Year” in the beekeeping world here in the U.S. The most important thing I have gained from attending this specific meeting was it gave me personal access to so many experts in the field. I found they were so easy to approach. At one of these meetings, as I was going down the stairs, a man was coming up and I noticed the name on his tag was Dr. Gordon Wordell. He was there to talk about the bee diet he had been working on. I grabbed my opportunity to talk to him on a landing by just not letting him pass on the stairs. Just kidding! Gordie, as he is known, was very responsive to my questions and the several minutes I spent with him had me walking away thinking, Wow! I had the opportunity to just get acquainted with one of the leading bee experts in the U.S. I was also asked by Troy Fore, former ABF Executive Director, to be the Chairman of the Membership Committee. I asked him who was on the committee and he said me! I was a one man band at the time and over the next couple of months, I came to ask others to be involved and had a committee for the next year’s meeting. We didn’t have monthly...
meetings but we did some communicating via email since our communicating came once a year. Things have really changed! My point is, I really came away from that annual conference feeling like I had been engaged on several levels and had met so many wonderful people. Since that time, we have developed several committees and also formed the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, which continues to add another dimension to our annual conferences. There really is so much to do and be involved with whether it’s on the commercial, sideline or small scale. There are tracks to engage anyone’s interest and our workshops on Saturday will cover the entire spectrum of topics. We will have the Kids and Bees program on Friday for the little ones. For the first time, we will had a special commercial beekeepers breakfast (invitation only). It is a small thank you for their support. There will also be plenty of time to network with your fellow beekeepers during the tradeshow, the Thursday night out at the Jacksonville Zoo and Saturday night at the banquet (extra charges). To this point, had I not been so engaged in this annual conference, I would not have been so involved over the years. I would not have met people like Dr. Marla Spivak and been invited to attend the groundbreaking event for the new Bee and Pollinator Research facility that will be constructed at the University of Minnesota. I would not have been asked to contribute a verse to describe the Keepers of Bees that will be encased in a window installed at the bee lab. And...I would not have become your ABF president, which has been the greatest opportunity of my beekeeping experience. We need to make sure everyone who comes to our annual ABF Conference & Tradeshow finds what they need in the area of education and information. We also need to engage and encourage others to become involved in our committees and our webinar programs throughout the year. We need YOUR help in developing new concepts to improve our communication and services to our membership in areas that we yet to explore. So ... I hope that you all manage to make it to the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in January. Let’s all encourage each other and make some new experiences together. You can register and book your travel arrangements online at www.abfconference.com or you can contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875. It is going to be the best thing a beekeeper can do in January!
Relax, Learn & Socialize in Jacksonville

The 2016 American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Conference & Tradeshow is right around the corner and the ABF Conference Committee has strived to put together a great program that has something for everyone who is involved with beekeeping and/or the honey industry. The upcoming conference at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, near Jacksonville, Florida, promises to be a wonderful experience for all. In addition to the many great speakers and workshops, the multitude of exhibitors in the tradeshow will bring their latest products and ideas for you to examine and perhaps purchase. Of course, the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones is always a major benefit of attending any ABF conference. There will be the Thursday evening social event at the Jacksonville zoo (for an extra cost) which will provide an additional opportunity for relaxing with friends, old and new, during conference week.

ABF conferences have always been a great experience for me, beginning with my very first conference in 1979 at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel in San Diego. I have met many beekeepers and others involved with the beekeeping industry who have become friends and longtime business associates as a direct result of attending ABF conferences. Prior to the year 2000, when the ABF by-laws were changed to include the various special interest groups on the ABF Board and conference program, the focus was primarily on commercial beekeeping. In recent years some members have commented that there needs to be a renewed commitment to the interests of commercial ABF members. With that in mind, this year there will be a special breakfast on Saturday, January 9th, for our commercial members at 8 AM and all ABF commercial members are cordially invited to participate. In addition to the complimentary breakfast, this will be an opportunity to network, share ideas, and discuss the latest challenges facing commercial beekeepers and how ABF may be able to help. If you are a PC Gold level commercial beekeeper, this invitation includes the opportunity to bring up to two additional guests in addition to yourself. If you are a PC Silver level commercial beekeeper, you may bring one person in addition to yourself. Please RSVP to Regina Robuck at reginarobuck@abfnet.org by December 9, 2015 to confirm your participation as well as any additional guests you intend to bring if you are a PC Gold or PC Silver member.

The American Bee Research Conference and the Apiary Inspectors of America will be meeting in conjunction with us this year. Anyone registered for the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow will be allowed to attend the ABRC meetings and listen to their speakers.

The ABF program will include presentations from USDA and EPA officials who will discuss their responses to the Presidential Memorandum as described in the Federal Task Force Report issued earlier this year. Perhaps EPA will also have a response to the comments received on their proposal to mitigate exposure to bees from toxic pesticide products. It is our hope that they develop a proposal that will truly protect pollinators from the negative effects of pesticides.

The American Honey Show is a unique highlight of ABF conferences but it can only be successful with participation from as many beekeepers as possible. Take the opportunity to enter some of your best honey or beeswax products in the honey show. You could be an award winner!

The ABF annual business meeting is an important part of the conference as it gives the membership the opportunity to review the policies previously adopted by the organization and develop new ones through the resolution process. As chairman of the ABF Resolutions Committee, I encourage you to forward any new resolutions either to the ABF office or directly to me (gbrandi@sbcglobal.net) by the last week of December. Of course, resolutions can always be introduced from the floor at the business meeting, but it is better for everyone if they are submitted ahead of time so they can be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee and printed for all to see.

Early bird registration for the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow has been extended to October 31 and you are encouraged to take advantage of the reduced rates available if you register early. You can register online at www.abfconference.com or you can contact the ABF office at 404.760.2875.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference in January!
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The effort to establish a memorandum of understanding between the USDA - Farm Service Agency, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service and the American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association is coming closer to reality as a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been sent to us for review. We approached USDA some time ago about establishing this more formal relationship between the bee industry and the aforementioned agencies in order to foster better communications so that USDA can take into greater consideration the needs of the beekeeping industry.

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. Such activities include, but are not limited to, honey bee and other pollinator habitat conservation projects, habitat restoration, technical assistance, delivery of information and educational materials, collaboration on habitat and pollinator research, and development of habitat restoration and enhancement techniques. We look forward to finalizing this agreement during in the near future and perhaps establishing MOU’s with other government agencies as well.

You may recall that in 2013, the ABF was a co-petitioner along with The Pollinator Stewardship Council, AHPA, and several individual beekeepers, in a case which challenged the EPA registration of sulfoxaflor without sufficient bee toxicity data. Recently, the Ninth Circuit Court ruled in favor of the petitioners. The court vacated the Environmental Protection Agency’s unconditional registration of sulfoxaflor, and remanded for the EPA to obtain further studies and data regarding the effects of sulfoxaflor on bees, as required by EPA regulations. The full decision can be found at:


In another matter involving EPA, the ABF and AHPA submitted joint comments on the proposal to mitigate exposure to bees from acutely toxic pesticide products on August 28. We did not support the proposal given that it was very narrow in scope and did not offer significant improvement in bee protection from pesticides. We anxiously await EPA’s response to the comments received on this issue.
Be an Early Bird for the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow!

The 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow will be held at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, January 6-9, 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!

Register now and take advantage of the early registration rates, which will be honored through October 31, 2015. After October 31, the regular registration rates will be valid through December 9, 2015. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to experience the one of the largest beekeeping tradeshow, outstanding educational sessions and the chance to network with your fellow beekeepers in sunny Florida.

The lowest hotel and conference registration rates are available now, for a limited time. Visit www.abfconference.com to reserve your hotel room and register for the conference.

Early bird ends October 31! Don’t wait. Register today. abfconference.com

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa:

Kick off the New Year in Ponte Vedra, Florida, just on the outskirts of Jacksonville. Average temperatures range from the high 40’s to the mid 60’s, making it much warmer than most other places in January. So, take a break from the cold and join 600-800 other beekeepers to share knowledge, experiences, tips and a little fun in a beautiful setting.

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, offers 65 acres of lush landscaping, a beautiful lagoon and sunshine galore. The resort combines contemporary accommodations and an amazing selection of dining options with a spa, meeting space and 99 holes of championship golf.

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 must be made by Friday, December 11, 2015 or before the group rooms are sold out, so do not delay. 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.
ABF Fundraising at the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow

As we first started attending the ABF conferences many years ago, the various auctions were among the most FUN events of the conference. Where else can you see a one-pound jar of honey retail for hundreds of dollars? Where else can you take home the most beautiful piece of bee art to display in your shop or home? The many items for auction at the conference are just part of the fun in fundraising. These events are great opportunities to enjoy your peers, family, and friends at the conference and to have a great time and some laughs.

With the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow just around the corner, in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, January 5-9, we are eager to share the news about our lively events at the annual conference. ABF membership dues are vital to sustaining our organization’s presence in the agricultural industry. Fundraising at the annual conference is also so critical to the many programs the ABF implements throughout the year. At our conferences, we strive to put the FUN in fundraising!

Members will again have many opportunities to support the American Honey Queen Program, the ABF Legislative Fund and the ABF General Fund. Each fund is important and provides our members with value for their membership. Through your donations and assistance, we can better lobby Congress to protect beekeepers’ interests. We can also generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in free media publicity for the honey and beekeeping industries through the American Honey Queen Program, provide educational webinars for our members, and financially support invaluable research efforts of talented scientists throughout the country.

None of these ventures is inexpensive, nor can we ever provide them enough funding. but every little bit helps. The fundraising activities are well attended and fun events for our conference attendees. Below are some of the fundraising opportunities at the conference:

- **American Honey Show Auction**: All entries in the American Honey Show are auctioned to support the American Honey Queen Program. You can help by entering your honey, wax, or gift basket in the show or by attending the auction of these items.

- **Annual Sweepstakes Tickets**: Purchase raffle tickets from ABF Directors and members of the Delegates Assembly for unique prizes (beekeeping and non-beekeeping items). Winners are chosen at the ABF banquet.

- **American Honey Queen Quilt Raffle**: Honey Queen Candidates sell tickets to support the American Honey Queen Program. The quilt is awarded to the winner during the ABF banquet. Tickets may also be purchased from the American Honey Queen and Princess throughout the year and prior to the convention.

- **Silent and Live Auctions**: Silent and live auctions benefiting the ABF General Fund and the Honey Queen Program are held throughout the conference.

- **Banquet auction**: A live auction with proceeds benefitting the General Fund and Honey Queen Fund. Items are limited at this auction to the Best of Show Honey and non-honey entries and other select items.

The ABF general fundraising and American Honey Queen fundraising will collaborate in some of the silent and live auctions. Drop off for ALL auction items must occur by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6. Our expert fundraisers need time to inventory all the wonderful donations and prepare for the various events.

The ABF Welcome Reception, along with the Beekeeping Brain Buster Game and a live auction, will be held in the Tradeshow on Wednesday, January 6. Silent auction tables will be open each day of the conference, with different closing times. Keep your eye out for something new each day! The American Honey Show Auction will occur on Friday, January 8 night after the business meeting. Stay for a cocktail and bid on some great honey before heading out to dinner!

Fundraising at the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow is critical to many of the ABF’s keystone programs. While we eagerly and happily accept your donations through your membership dues and donations throughout the year, the bulk of the fundraising for these special funds happens at the ABF conference. We need your support to continue making these programs vibrant and solvent.

If you wish to donate an item to the auctions and cannot attend the ABF conference, please contact Regina Robuck, reginarobuck@abfnet.org to coordinate shipping logistics. If you have larger items or plan to ship your auction items prior to the conference, contact Regina for assistance. You may make donations to special funds at any time during the year online or through checks to the ABF office.

We look forward to having you join us in the FUN of our fundraising activities at the ABF conference!
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)

** Early Bird Registration will be extended until October 31, 2015**

### 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Registration Rates*

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<td>Single Day Rate</td>
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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.

The entry form and appropriate fees must arrive at the ABF offices by Friday, December 11, 2015.

Additional information, including official show rules and regulations and entry form, can be found on the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow Web site at ABF Web site at [http://abfconference.com/2016-american-honey-show](http://abfconference.com/2016-american-honey-show) or by contacting the ABF office at 404.760.2875. Good luck!
## 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow
### Schedule at-a-Glance *(subject to change)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 11:00 AM ABF Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ABF Membership Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM ABF Honey Queen Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 PM – 7:00 PM ABF Resolutions/Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ABF Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Honey Show Entry Drop-off</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 1:00 PM Auction Item Drop-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Opening General Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM – 8:00 PM Tradeshow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:30 PM ABF Delegates Assembly Lunch (by invitation only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35 PM – 5:15 PM General Session resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:00 PM ABF New Member Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Welcome Reception in the Tradeshow w/Live Auction</td>
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<tr>
<th>THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Tradeshow Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM All Silent Auction Tables Open</td>
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<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM ABRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:15 AM Producer/Packer SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:15 AM Small Scale/Sideline SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:15 AM Package Bee and Queen Breeders SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:15 AM Commercial SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 AM – 10:45 AM Refreshment Break in Tradeshow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM Silent Auction – Amber Tables Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Joint Commercial &amp; Package Bee and Queen Breeders SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Joint Producer/Packer &amp; Small Scale/Sideline SIG Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 1:15 PM *Auxiliary Lunch/Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM – 1:15 PM Group Lunch (on own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 PM – 4:45 PM Beginning: Serious Sideline; and Commercial Tracks</td>
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</tbody>
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* Additional registration fee required
# 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow

## Schedule at-a-Glance *(subject to change)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016 (CONT.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 PM - 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Silent Auction – Water White Tables Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 9:00 PM</td>
<td>*Thursday Night Social Activity at the Jacksonville Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Tradeshow Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>ABRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Silent Auction – Dark Tables Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 2:40 PM</td>
<td>General Sessions resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Kids and Bees Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:55 AM – 10:25 AM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Silent Auction – Dark Tables Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:35 PM</td>
<td>* Foundation Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM – 1:35 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (on own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:40 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break in the General Session Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>ABF Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediately following the ABF Business Meeting</td>
<td>2015 Honey Show Live Auction (in General Session Ballroom) w/cash bar</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Research Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration/Information Desk Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast/Meeting (Invitation Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Interactive Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Interactive Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM – 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (on own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Interactive Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 5:30 PM</td>
<td>ABF Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>* ABF Annual Banquet w/Live Auction and the 2015 American Honey Queen &amp; Princess Coronation</td>
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*Additional registration fee required*
Each year during the 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, attendees are given the opportunity to experience outstanding live and silent auctions. The ABF is never at a loss for must-have auction items, including:

- Beekeeping-related artwork, including paintings, stained glass and hand-carved pewter items
- Honey and honey-related products
- Unique clothing items
- Beekeeping supplies and instructional books
- Antique beekeeping items, such as smokers and hive tools
- Household items in a bee motif, including coffee mugs, glasses, cheese trays and plates

The ABF is already on the lookout for items for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, January 5-9, 2016, in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida. Do you have an item that you would like to donate? Your contribution will be instrumental in helping the ABF bolster its general fund, which enables us to carry out our programs to serve the U.S. beekeeping and honey industry, as well as work to preserve and protect honey bees to ensure a quality food supply and environment.

If you are interested in donating an item to either the silent or live auction, please contact Regina K. Robuck at reginarobuck@abfnet.org or 404.760.2887 for additional information and to let us know the item(s) you will be donating.

We will accept donations up until the conference, but for planning purposes it would be helpful to hear from you by Friday, December 11, 2015.

Thank you in advance for your support of the ABF. We look forward to hearing from you soon and to seeing you in Florida in January. And, if you haven’t already done so, be sure to register now for the conference. Additional information, including all registration rates, guest room accommodations, the conference schedule, invited speakers, session topics and much more, can be found on the conference website at www.abfconference.com. Be sure to check the website often, as additional conference details will be posted as soon as they are made available.
Florida’s Native Plants

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. Also, forage distances can dramatically change the production of a hive. (Eckert) If bees are forced to go further their production will drop as they will spend more energy flying back and forth. Speakers at the First Annual South Florida Bee College shared that many commercial beekeepers move their bees to blooming crops such as blueberries and oranges, however, small-time beekeepers are not always able to move their hives. Therefore, their hives are stationary and reliant on local forage and wild plants. As a result, wildflower conservation and restoration projects have a great impact on bees, especially wild bees.

There are many organizations in my community which are dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wildflowers. These organizations fund and carry out projects such as planting on roadsides and nurseries, and education to backyard gardeners.

The three major roads in Hernando County, SR 50, I-75 and US 41, are always buzzing with traffic and honey bees. FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) allows wildflowers to grow on these roads and over 186,000 roadside acres. In addition to helping pollinators and aesthetically covering roadsides, the flowers also take up space which would be otherwise occupied by invasive species. According to the Florida Wildflower Foundation the FDOT project is economically valued at a half-billion dollars including the impact on bees. FDOT is currently conducting a study on the effect of mowing practices on bee forage, however the study is not finished yet.

FDOT isn’t the only active planter. Nurseries under Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) are encouraged to plant and distribute native species. Their business members include growers, retailers, environmental consultants and landscape professionals. (www.floridananovenurseries.org) By reaching to and providing growing information for these companies, FANN not only encourages the commercial production of native plants, but also allows them to be placed in anyone’s backyard. FANN also offers CEU (continuing education unit) courses on native plants in each of Florida’s respective USDA assigned planting zone. FANN is also the host of the Annual Native Plant show which gathers members, experts and gardeners together to discuss the importance of native plants and their use in landscaping.

“...wildflower conservation and restoration projects have a great impact on bees, especially wild bees”
– Raymond Moats

Another planter is the Florida Wildflower Co-operative. This organization encourages wildflower planting through the selling and buying of seed for native species. Its goal is to increase “the supply of native Florida seed available for beautification, native habitat restoration projects, and consumer use.” They also provide specialty seed mixes for bees and pollinators. The co-op requires that growers grow at least one acre and harvest at least 25 lbs. of seeds. This assures there is a minimum amount of seed produced.

As a hobbyist beekeeper, during the warm summer months I often find my bees flying towards the state park where wildflowers are plentiful. Wildlife preserves often harbor wildflowers allowing beekeepers near conservation lands and wild bees to take advantage of abundant nectar flows. Conservation areas like Withlacoochee State Forest help bees by managing invasive species and preventing development. Native trees and shrubs such as black mangrove (Avicennia germinans (L.) L.) and saw palmetto (Serenoa repens. (Bartr.) Small) which provide good honey flows. (Sanford)

Major activism organizations such as the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) and the Florida Native Plants Society (FNPS) support land management as well. They educate the public on the importance of wildflowers to the ecosystem. FWF provides funding for planting projects and research on wildflowers. FNPS supports public policies that protect endangered native flora. They also provide resources for planting and pollinators.

In my community I have found many projects for the conservation of wildflowers or education of the public about them. In particular, I found some of these projects innovative and resourceful. They used land for multiple purposes including the conservation of wildflowers. While these projects are beneficial I feel that more action must be taken to encourage native planting of bee friendly plants. Hopefully, these programs will expand and help bees regain access to native plant species.

For the references, please see Raymond Moats’ complete article at http://preservationofhoneybees.org.
Kids and Bees Program

There are moments that stay with you for a lifetime. You know what I’m talking about. We all have them. They can be the adrenaline rush of summiting a mountain, rock climbing, white water rafting or riding a motorcycle for the first time. The “Aha!” moments, like learning how to drive a stick shift. The endearing moments like when your hand brushed against your love’s for the first time, or your firstborn’s first real sentence. And then those frustrating or painful moments. When the straight “A” student gets their first “B,” getting fired, being humiliated in front of your boss or peers. These are moments that shape us, and especially the latter, are the moments that guide us.

One such moment I remember well. Back in about 2006, I was working as the education and outreach coordinator for a watershed council in Alaska. We were having a hard time reaching the town in a positive way. It was my job to let the community know that we weren’t there to control private land rights, but to help them understand how we all had a responsibility to keep our storm water clean and our fish habitat healthy. Having a great relationship with teachers at the school (as one of my many other jobs was working as a sub), I thought, “What’s a better way than to infiltrate the homes of community members by providing fun, educational, and meaningful activities for kids?”

If I could inspire kids to love their watershed, would they police their parents away from dumping motor oil down the storm drain? Our advisor, a federal biologist, didn’t see my angle. He provided me with a moment that will live in infamy in my mind. “Sarah,” he stated, “I don’t see it. You’re the coordinator, so it’s up to you, but all you’re going to get for results is a couple of kids growing up to be well rounded hippies who go to school in Bellingham (referring the liberal arts college, Western Washington University).”

That stung.

It also, however, was a challenge. I wouldn’t just reach two kids who were destined for Greenpeace and dreadlocks, I would take my allotted ten hours a week and change the town.

I worked hard to create experiences for kids that may only take a moment here and there, but would stay with them. And it worked. One of the most endearing feats was when one of our students was chosen as a finalist for the “River of Words” art and poetry contest. The town pulled together a fundraiser and sent this little girl, and her water colored bear, “down South” to a black tie gala and reception.

Leading up to this time, attitudes began to change. Watershed stickers started showing up on water bottles, notebooks, and bumpers. People stopped us in the post office and grocery store to say thank you. Kids building watershed models in science class made it to the front page of the paper. And who doesn’t love the bragging rights of having a cover story kid?!

I am thankful for those gruff words over the crackling line on that frigid Alaskan winter day. That moment is one I look back to often. It motivates me to keep driving forward, using the same “inspire the kids, save the town” model for the last decade.
In 2009 I found bees, and haven’t yet gone back to water. It’s a decision that I’ve never regretted and don’t expect to any time soon. I still continue to face adversity in our beekeeping community. "Why kids? How are they going to help beekeepers? Your pictures are cute, but this is a waste of money." What they can’t see is what I can see. While impact is harder to measure across the country then in a four block by twenty two block patch of a town, it’s working. We are raising the next generation of beekeepers, entomologists, policy makers, administrators, thinkers and doers. They are already inspiring their families to learn and care more about bees, and where their food comes from.

"The sense of newness and wonder that is provoked in kids {during the Kids and Bees Program} is the greatest gift you can give a child."

–Third Grade Teacher, Oregon

I spend my days dreaming up ways to provide simple moments for kids that will land with an impact that will start with rattling off recalled bee facts at the dinner table that night, and continue to resonate through their whole life in one way or the other. I am constantly inspired by these kids, and also by the new and innovative kids’ bee programs that are blossoming across the country. I stand by Baba Dioum’s quote, “In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

I’m so thankful to the American Beekeeping Federation supporting me in this endeavor. I’m currently working on curriculum to share with beekeepers across the country to engage their littlest community members. Also on the agenda are plans for the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow Kids and Bees program.

Elementary-aged kids are welcomed to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa to participate in the Kids and Bees program. This no-charge event has been a tradition with the ABF conference for over 20 years, and is a don’t-miss opportunity for school groups, home schooled kids, scouts, and clubs. Kids and their teachers or parents can expect a room full of hands-on activities under the themes of, “The Art of Beekeeping,” “The Science of Beekeeping,” “The World of Beekeeping,” and “The Future of Bees: It’s Up to You!” Students will make their way through each station, engaging with beekeepers and Honey Queens from around the United States, and participating in activities that will harness their senses and imaginations.

I would be happy to meet you, and would be delighted if you would stop in to see the event, or even volunteer. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, and lend your time, a smile, and your love of bees and beekeeping, we would love to have you! It’s a great opportunity to connect with locals, other beekeepers from across the country, and meet the Honey Queens.

If you would like to lend a hand, or share a story or idea, please feel free to contact me at sarah@beegirl.org or 541.708.1127.
Bee Health Kit

As a beekeeper, if you are unsure of what you need to keep your bees healthy we have tried to combine all of the basic and necessary products that you will need on hand.

Contains: 2 pack of Mite Away Quickstrips, .5 gram fumigillin, 8 oz. Honey Bee Healthy, 50 gram pack of menthol, nitrile gloves, measuring spoon, and beekeeping log book.

Item No. 7700 ...................... $64.00

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Honey-B-Healthy is a feeding stimulant composed of lemongrass and spearmint oil concentrate. It promotes healthy vigorous hives. Use it in early spring, late winter, and during nectar shortages. Our exclusive 8 oz size is perfect for 1 to 2 hives.

Volume | Item No. | Price
--- | --- | ---
8 oz (.65 lbs) | 7708 | $15.50

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☑ Healthier, Stronger Bees
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☑ A Complete Amino Acid Profile
☑ Beneficial Vitamins, Lipids, and Minerals
☑ Made with the Finest USA Ingredients
☑ Ready to Feed When You Need It
☑ Highest Protein Content Available

According to research done by Randy Oliver of scientificbeekeeping.com and published in the American Bee Journal, August and September 2014, Ultra Bee Patties produced results statistically equal to those of natural pollen.

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Commercial Beekeeping

Heitkam’s Honey Bees

Pat Heitkam was the first beekeeper that I was introduced to in the early 90’s at a Washington State Beekeepers meeting. I knew nothing... and he was so generous answering my incessant questions without rolling his eyes once!

In beekeeping we have an incredible need for information, and consequently we spend much of our free time searching for answers and information from fellow beekeepers. They may not all be close friends, but they are information sources, and a vital part of the beekeeping industry. There are some beekeepers that for one reason or another stick, and over the years you take an interest in each other’s families, businesses and lives. For me, Pat and Russell have become not just beekeepers with a common interest, but also life friends. Their honesty, sincerity and generosity is amazing.

Their generosity with the beekeeping community is an example to us all; it is not just their donation of time, services and financial support to the industry, but also their deep seated concern for the industry itself and how we can mature our industry to be more self-sustaining. Several years ago, when I was President of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Pat came to me with information about the Bee Informed Tech Team that was working with California queen breeders. He thought that this team would be a great thing for Oregon, especially when commercial beekeepers in Oregon pollinate almonds in California. Because of Pat’s personal experiences with the Tech Team and how it helped their operations in California, we proceeded to put on pressure for our own Pacific Northwest Tech Team, and I am so glad that we followed his lead with this opportunity. Not only has it has given commercial beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest a field team to help mediate the many problems that we have in our operations, it has also brought a fresh injection of youth into our graying industry. It was a win-win situation.

Northern California was the first group to have a Bee Informed Tech Team, and everyone at Heitkam’s Honey Bees is so happy to have this team working for their operation. The Tech Team comes out and samples bees and gets the results back in about a week, so common problems can be caught and managed before they get out of hand. Russell also feels that breeder selection has been improved because the Tech Team can sample so many more colonies than they could in the past.

Megan Mahoney, one of the Northern California Tech Team “techies”, says it is definitely a pleasure working with Pat and Russell. She once came home from a hard day of sampling and found a pie in her kitchen. Pat had slipped into her place and dropped off a pie because he knew that she had company coming. She also remembers a time when she was nervously hauling 250 packages to New Mexico a few years ago, and Russell put on a crazy mask and watered down her packages to calm Megan and the bees down.

Heitkam’s Honey Bees originated in 1976 when Pat traded a bicycle from his bike shop for his first hive. Pat says, “Things got out of hand really fast!” He worked for Darrel Wenner, who was very service-minded, and because of Darrel’s example, Pat has dedicated much of his career to community service for the industry. Pat says that contacts and friendships are his biggest rewards.

Russell says that as soon as his dad got into bees, the whole family became involved. Russell and his brothers Craig and Patrick built equipment, while Pat worked his “real” jobs to support the family while Heitkam’s Honey Bees was getting off the ground. Russell is hesitant to encourage others to go into the business because he saw first-hand how difficult it is to start with nothing except a passion for bees.

Russell began his adult life with a love of teaching, and teach he did for many years prior to coming home in 2009 for the final time. He was able to keep up with the industry during his teaching years by supplementing his income working the queen season with his dad each year.

Currently, Heitkam’s Honey Bees runs around 6000 colonies. Located in Orland, California, they live in an area that is rich in queen production, and they learned their craft from some of the best queen producers in the world. Demand for young healthy queens has increased since emphasis on pollination has increased and varroa mites have joined the game. Over the years, they have increased the time that queens are in mating nucs, because slightly older queens ship better and are more likely to be introduced successfully. Their selection for breeder queens includes selection for honey, large populations and hygienic behavior, and they also rely on artificial insemination (AI) stock for new genetics. It is a never ending process and what they cannot develop on their own, they can get with AI.
Pat believes that most beekeeping operations do similar things to different degrees. We put bee health first and never give up. Adding on to that thought, Pat says an operation will have more success if you treat your employees with respect and pay them a fair wage. They will respond accordingly. It is also important to find employees that you can work with comfortably, empower them and let them help with the decision making.

Pat says, “Mites totally changed our industry; either you adapted to the new demands or you quit.” As beekeepers, we have learned to work together and communicate more. “We now have a very powerful enemy,” says Pat. More labor is required in an operation because of varroa. If you don’t manage your colonies in a timely manner, with feeding, nutrition and varroa control, your bees will suffer. If you can keep your bees healthy, it becomes a much more profitable business.

Russell is very quick to point out that he came into beekeeping from a very different place than his dad did. Pat started from nothing and has done an amazing job of molding Heitkam’s Honey Bees into the business that it is today. Russell had the advantages of his own knowledge of bees, knowledge gained from countless others over the years, and Pat’s guidance. Russell gets to build on an existing, successful business and is grateful that his dad let him take the reins of something he spent twenty five years building (but Russell thinks that Pat is glad that he did).

Russell also points out that he has the advantage of speaking Spanish and being able to communicate with the employees in their language. They currently have twenty six employees working most of the year, and only the nine women involved in queen production take three months off. It does take so much more labor to keep bees healthy these days.

California has been in drought conditions for the past several years, and summer has never been paradise, but it has become more difficult in the past few years. Currently, Heitkam’s Honey Bees sends a few loads of bees out of state for honey production on a rental basis, and this situation works well for them. For all of us commercial beekeepers, finding locations for bees when they are not needed for pollination is a challenge, and having bees sustain themselves is impossible. Farmers have become more efficient. They are farming every inch of ground and there are less weeds, more sprays, and more monoculture. Something needs to change. Our industry is small and it will benefit all if we can affiliate with similar interest groups like Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and Xerces Society to seize opportunities to be heard.

Twenty five years ago when we ordered queens from Heitkam’s Honey Bees, I would be concerned that we had not paid for them, and Vince’s comment was, “Oh, Pat will get around to sending a bill when he has time.” Many of us have worked with too little help for many years, and as Pat pointed out, with the entrance of varroa, things had to change. Well, change they did for Heitkams! In 2001, Marion Beeman joined Heitkam’s Honey Bees as their Girl Friday. Her daughter Chase attended the same school as Russell and Maggie’s kids, and when Marion found out that Heitkam’s Honey Bees was looking for an office person, the rest was history. She has been with them for fourteen years. With a name like Beeman, where else could she work? Marion is totally efficient and their bookkeeping system has moved forward with computers and QuickBooks. She also schedules queen shipments, package orders and cells. As a scheduler they try very hard not to over commit on orders, but with nature we always know that we are not in control and Marion is wonderful about working with beekeepers to make their experiences the best possible.

**PAT’S BEEKEEPING LESSONS**

1. Don’t put bees in a flood area
2. Don’t put bees in a burn area
3. Mites get out of control fast
4. Bees do not anticipate: Feed Fast
5. Good locations are worth it
6. Sometimes the nicest folks will crowd you
7. What comes around goes around – our circle is small

Pat has loved old cars since he was very young, and his enthusiasm for them has progressed. His oldest treasure is from 1915 and the newest is from 1950. Pat and his wife Laura are currently smitten with their new dog Eiler, rescued from dog jail. He is big and not too bright, but is super affectionate and makes them laugh and feel loved. Laura retired recently after teaching kindergarten for 30 years and they have a blended family, including Pat’s sons Patrick, Russell and Craig, and seven stepchildren. There are enough grandkids to have several sports teams.

Reg Wilbanks has a home in the same city in Florida where I grew up, and Pat made it a point to introduce me to Reg so we could have a chat about Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach, Florida. Since our 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow is being held an hour from Amelia Island, I thought that it would be appropriate to interview Reg for the next Commercial Beekeeper article. Here is a quote from Reg about Pat Heitkam.

“When associated with any industry, certain people within that industry earn your admiration and respect. They do so by being knowledgeable, being honest and having the reputation for turning out a quality product while maintaining a high level of integrity. Pat Heitkam is such a person. I was President of the American Beekeeping Federation in 1988 and 1989. If a problem arose, I always valued Pat’s opinion and reasoning. Obviously, others did too because later he was elected President and served as American Beekeeping Federation President in 2002 and 2003. And for Russell, the acorn does not fall far from the tree!”

I look forward to our 2016 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida, in January, and please watch for our next Commercial Page on Wilbanks Apiaries!
New Lab to Support Bee Studies, Collaboration

Credit: Inquiry at the University of Minnesota

Researchers are buzzing with excitement over an upcoming University of Minnesota lab.

Construction crews will begin work this fall on the Bee and Pollinator Research Lab, which will provide the collaborative and centralized spaces needed to advance the U’s internationally recognized research and allow for stronger interdisciplinary and international collaborations on bees and other pollinators. The $6 million, 10,500 square foot lab, part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, is expected to open summer 2016 on the St. Paul campus.

The new facility will bring the Bee Lab’s research and outreach programs together, combining lab space, honey extraction, apiaries for research and teaching, offices, equipment space, and bee-friendly landscaping into one central facility that allows for the training of new scientists and conducting ongoing research. The building will replace the previous facilities, which spanned a number of outdated buildings and sheds across campus and included a honey house that was in poor condition.

“This new, state-of-the-art facility brings together all of the Bee Lab’s research and educational activities, allowing us to be more efficient and to have more space to coordinate and collaborate on studies,” said Marla Spivak, Ph.D., distinguished McKnight University professor of entomology. “The facility will be crucial as we continue to research the factors contributing to the decline of bee colonies and work to discover how to best promote bee health and protect the valuable role they play in our society.”

Why are bees so important? These insects play an important part in agriculture, nutrition and the economy. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, bee pollination is responsible for more than $15 billion in increased crop value each year, and one-third of a person’s diet directly or indirectly benefits from honey bee pollination, which supports commercial production of berries, fruits, vegetables and tree nuts, like almonds. Currently, bee populations are suffering from a collection of interacting threats, including parasitic mites, diseases, pesticides and lack of flowers, which can lead to malnutrition in bees.

Bee researchers at the U of M study the abundance, diversity and social behaviors of bees, as well as how best to breed and manage colonies. The new lab will host Spivak’s honey bee program, which covers a wide range of topics related to bees’ ability to survive and thrive, from improving conservation to reducing pesticide use. Spivak and her team, for example, are studying how propolis, a resin that honey bees collect from certain trees and use to seal cracks in their hives, can benefit human health. Early studies between Bee Lab researchers and collaborators at the U’s Medical School suggest propolis, which has antimicrobial and antiviral properties, is highly active against one type of HIV in human cell culture. Other research Spivak has led includes identifying and breeding “Minnesota Hygienic Bees” — queen bees that detect and remove damaging diseases and parasites from the hive, helping bees defend themselves naturally.

The lab will also support the research of Daniel Cariveau, Ph.D., who recently joined CFANS as an assistant professor of entomology to study how to increase habitat, such as flowers and nesting sites, to support native bees around the state. Cariveau will begin by partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies to survey native bees around the state.

A hands-on learning center

In addition to the new research lab, the U will also help conduct outreach and education efforts through a new facility at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minn. The $7 million Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center, construction crews start building this month, will give visitors innovative, hands-on experiences to learn about the lives of bees and other native pollinators.

U researchers will partner with the arboretum on teaching children and adults about the agricultural and ecological importance of pollinators and how their efforts intersect with human lives, as well as how visitors can plant bee-friendly flowers around their homes to help support bee populations.

Visit the Bee Lab website at www.beelab.umn.edu to learn more about the upcoming research lab. For information on contributing to the fundraising effort to support the new facilities, contact Shana Zaiser at zais0003@umn.edu.

Read the article online here:
http://inquiry.research.umn.edu/2015/09/01/new-lab-to-support-bee-studies-collaboration/
Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

It is time to highlight the American Honey Queen and Princess’s goals for the year. Gabrielle and Hayden are great promoters for our industry and they set high standards for themselves this year acting as ABF representatives. As of September 30, they had visited 22 states from coast to coast!

At the beginning of each year, the Queen and Princess set goals for what they want to accomplish for the ABF during their year of service to our organization. Below is a progress report on Gabrielle’s and Hayden’s performances to date.

Gabrielle’s Goals & Results to Date

1. Visit at least one state that has not been visited in many years. As of September 15, Gabrielle had visited 15 unique states, three of them multiple times. She had a remarkable promotion in Michigan, a state that we have not visited since 2010, where she spoke at The Henry Ford and participated in one of the nation’s largest Maker Fairs. In addition, she had the incredible opportunity to work with the United States Apimondia delegation in Daejeon, South Korea.

2. Have 40 media interviews. As of September 1, Gabrielle had 31 interviews with print, radio, internet, and television outlets. She is on track to meet this goal, particularly with your help as she visits your state. Do you have a media outlet that might be interested in an interview? Even if she isn’t scheduled to visit your state, she can participate in recorded or telephone interviews to promote our industry in your state. Contact me for details.

3. Speak to 5,000 students nationwide. As of September 1, Gabrielle had given presentations to 2,098 students throughout the United States. She is on track to exceed this goal by the end of the year, particularly as more school promotions are on her schedule in the next few months.

Hayden’s Goals & Results to Date

1. Speak to 25 civic groups. As of September 1, Hayden had made presentations at 22 civic group meetings. Her presentations have ranged from Lions Clubs to government bodies, from Boys and Girls Clubs to Girl Scout Troops. This is a great option to fill in some down time during your promotion. Does your local Kiwanis Club or Rotary Club meet during her visit to your state? Do you know a local 4-H leader? Reach out to them to have Princess Hayden present during her visit to your state.

2. Visit at least one state that has not been visited in many years. As of September 1, Hayden had met this goal having visited Arkansas. She will exceed this goal later in the year, with a planned trip to New Mexico and other potential visits still in the planning stages.

3. Visit 20 states. Hayden is on track to meet this goal by the end of her year. As of September 15, she had visited 13 unique states, four of them multiple times.

Please be sure to ask Gabrielle and Hayden about the status of their goals when they come to your state!

The Queen Committee has begun preparations for 2016. Application packets for the 2016 positions were sent to State Honey Queen program chairpersons in early August, and the application deadline quickly approaches in November. We are also taking requests for 2016 Honey Queen and Princess promotions, so please contact me to place your event on our master calendar. The sooner we hear from you, the more likely it is that we will be able to accommodate your 2016 event. You may reach me by email at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or by phone at 414.545.5514. Best wishes in all your promotions!

SHOW OFF YOUR ABF STYLE AT THE 2016 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

Preorder your ABF-branded gear by November 30, 2015 and pick it up on-site during your participation in the 2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, January 5-9, 2016. Plus, skip the shipping costs! Orders logged bypass any shipping fees.

Our new fleece, stylish hat and a variety of shirts are now available in the ABF merchandise shop at www.abfnet.org/?page=86.
American Honey Queen Report

American Honey Queen

I am knee deep in the busy season of my travels! I am learning so much and meeting such wonderful people as I hop from state to state, and I couldn’t wait to write this article to tell you all about it.

From July 13-20, I was in Arizona working with 1997 American Honey Queen Emily Brown and her lovely family. During the first part of my visit, Emily took me into her bee yards to work with and learn about Africanized honey bees. The experience gave me some great insight about the behaviors of Africanized bees, and I love that now I can answer questions about Africanized honey bees with personal observations. The main event in Arizona was the Maricopa County Home and Garden Show. I promoted the show through interviews on NPC 12, ABC 15, and 3TV, generating a total of $25,473 in free publicity for the beekeeping industry! During the show, I helped with Emily’s honey booth by giving honey samples, selling products, and answering bee questions. In addition, I gave a daily cooking demonstration, and spoke about honey bees and the many ways to use honey. Thank you Emily, Andrew, Carson, and Ellie for taking me into your home and teaching me amazing things about Arizona!

I spent July 24-27 in Michigan taking part in the Henry Ford Maker Faire. I was amazed by the size of the event and the enthusiasm of the 130,000 attendees. At the Maker Faire, I ran a booth with a few volunteers speaking about honey bees and helping kids and adults make seed bombs. Seed bombs are a mixture of clay, potting soil, and seeds used to help grow flowers for honey bee forage. I also gave a presentation inside the Henry Ford Museum about the different castes of honey bees, how bees make honey, and pollination. Thank you, Shauna Wilson, for the time and effort you put into preparing for my visit and making sure I had a comfortable stay. I was amazed by the Henry Ford Museum and the Maker Faire. I can’t wait to come back to see it again!

I was extremely busy in New Jersey from July 30 to August 5. At the New Jersey State Fair, I took part in 13 hive demonstrations! The fairgoers loved crowding around the screened-in booth, learning about honey bees, and seeing just how gentle bees are. I also gave two cooking demonstrations with the Sussex County Honey Queen, and I was a judge for three different contests: cookie baking; cupcake decorating; and, doll and me. One of the big attention grabbing events was me wearing a bee beard for the first time! I was a little nervous, but I trust honey bees, and the gentle girls didn’t sting! The fair got more than it bargained for when a swarm of about 20,000 bees flew in and landed on a carnival ride. I was fortunate to help catch it with Joel Medina, and our little adventure caused a big stir. Soon, the New Jersey Herald was out to interview me about the event, and the next day there was a large article in the paper with the title, “Honey Queen Worthy of Title.” In the evenings, I enjoyed endless adventures with my host family, the Medinas, and I thank them for keeping true to their promise that I would never experience a dull moment in New Jersey!

I stayed in Washington from August 5-14 to take part in the Clark County Fair outside Vancouver, Washington. Throughout the fair, I was a judge, worked in the bee barn exhibit, greeted the grandstands, and had multiple media interviews. Leading up to the fair, I had a nine-minute interview on KPAN radio in Portland, Oregon. I was honored to be included as a honey judge for both the Clark County Beekeepers Association’s honey show and the local 4-H honey show. A beautiful set of capped combs won the judges’ award for the county show, and a very detailed, decorated wax bowl won the judges award for the 4-H show. I was amazed by all the products created by the 4-H’ers using beeswax including several types of soap, lip balm, candles, wax bowls, and more! They even had entries of honey, cut comb, capped frames, and baked goods. I was also a celebrity judge for the pretty baby contest and the goat cheese show. On my third day at the fair, I had two TV interviews, generating $6,000 worth of free publicity for the industry. For a little fun, I convinced one of the reporters to wear a honey bee costume during the interview, and I taught him how to do the waggle dance on live television! Throughout my entire visit to the Clark County Fair, I greeted the grandstand audiences each night before the entertainment began. Through this, I was given the opportunity to meet the bands Kansas, The Guess Who, and Montgomery Gentry. In addition, I had the amazing experience of helping the Bee Barn win the Black and White Ribbon for education by being a resource in their booth. I extend a big thank you to my hosts Mary Ann and John Morrison for teaching me so much and treating me so well during my stay in Washington!

I am looking forward to taking part in the 2015 American Honey Queen Contest and love meeting such wonderful people along the way! Thank you, Shauna Wilson, for making sure I had a comfortable stay. I was amazed by the Henry Ford Museum and the Maker Faire. I can’t wait to come back to see it again!
Next, I flew home for the Iowa State Fair. From August 14-18, I gave many presentations, had three radio interviews, met many politicians, and used observation hives to teach thousands of people about bees. Every day, I gave a presentation in the kid’s barn with local Honey Queens about pollination. We started the program by teaching about the different types of bees, how honey is made, and how pollination is connected to the food industry. After the speaking portion of the presentation, we helped kids and adults make seed bombs to help feed honey bees. One of the politicians I met was presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson, who came to the bee booth with some of his colleagues to try honey lemonade and ask a few questions about bees. They were amazed by the observation hives, and I was glad to show them around. Thank you to all my Iowa beekeepers for welcoming me home, especially to Connie Bronnenberg, Heidi Godwin, and Rhonda Heston for taking care of me during the fair!

I was then in Florida from August 19-23 for a variety of events. I had the opportunity to talk to the Alachua County Beekeeper’s Club about my year as Honey Queen, the American Beekeeping Federation, and some fun things I have learned through my experience with bees. I appeared on two television stations: WCJB ABC 20 and NBC CBS 4. I talked to the reporters about honey, pollination, and National Honey Bee Day. I also gave a presentation about honey bees to adults at an education center, answered all their questions, and hosted a honey tasting session. I spent National Honey Bee day at Santa Fe High School, where the local beekeeping clubs put on a day of learning. Dr. Jamie Ellis was the main speaker, I emceed, and multiple vendors showed up to sell their wares. To add excitement to the day, Alachua Mayor Gib Coerper and I wore bee beards for the public to see! Thank you to my host, Chappie McChesney, for showing me a new side of Florida, teaching me different beekeeping techniques, and organizing all my events!

I was in Kentucky August 24-30 for Kentucky State Fair. At the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association’s large booth, we sold honey from many local beekeepers, showcased award winning honey, ran a candle rolling booth, and offered answers for the visitors’ many questions. Visitors loved asking where the queen bee was in the observation hive and what makes her special. One of the most memorable events of the Kentucky State Fair was the Kentucky Country Ham Breakfast, a formal breakfast attended by politicians, Miss Kentucky, farmers, and many other people. Near the end of the breakfast, after many politicians had spoken, the grand champion ham was auctioned off for $400,000! Thank you, Tammy Horn, for watching over me in Kentucky, keeping me supplied with fudge, and making me laugh all day!

Finally, I participated in the Maryland State Fair September 4-8. I worked at the Central Maryland Beekeeper Association’s booth, helped run a honey and wax demonstration day, and had a TV interview. I spent many hours with an observation hive answering the public’s questions. Many were surprised to learn honey bees make wax themselves. I also spent time demonstrating how to make hand dipped wax candles and explaining how beeswax and honey can both be used in many different ways. One day, I had an early morning interview on Fox 45 news. The reporter was interested to hear about the six different types of honey the booth had to offer, and I also supplied samples to her and the many customers who visited our booth! Thank you Lloyd, Ruth Ann, and Laura Snyder, for hosting me during my visit to Maryland! I’m so glad I can now pick blue crabs like a native!

I’m off today to California, followed by a trip with ABF members to Apimondia in South Korea, and then more trips back in the United States to continue to promote National Honey Month. I look forward to seeing you in your state soon. To schedule an appearance with me or Princess Hayden, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

Log on and plug in today!

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

by: Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

Hayden Wolf
American Honey Princess

My, how these past two months have flown by! I have loved every moment of representing the ABF and spreading knowledge about honey bees to youth and adults across the nation.

On July 13-14, I traveled to Mount Pleasant, Texas, for a variety of events. I spoke at a local high school that is considering getting hives for the students. I answered the parents’ and students’ many questions about starting beekeeping. I was the main speaker at the Caddo Trace Beekeepers Association meeting, discussing the ABF and how to present to the public about honey bees. I also was a guest of the Mount Pleasant Public Library. Among my activities there, I gave a cooking with honey demonstration to children and adults and was a guest reader at the Storytime session. I send a huge thank you to Roger and Sue Farr for hosting me and to the Caddo Trace Beekeepers for inviting me out to their meeting!

Troubleshooting a half hour later, I attended two radio interviews at the fair. In addition to the State Fair, I worked one morning at the Columbus Farmers’ Market, which attracted about 500 people. I greeted visitors and handed out samples of honey yogurt with fruit as an example of an easy way to incorporate honey into your diet. I also used an observation hive in which you could see the bees were all producing flakes of wax from their wax glands, which fascinated both the kids and adults. I also attended Down on the Farm Ag Day with the Scioto Valley Beekeepers and talked to groups of children and parents about beekeeping and the honey bees’ role in agriculture through pollination. I extend many thanks to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Carmen and Barry Conrad, the Scioto Valley Beekeepers (for the amazing helicopter ride!), and my wonderful host, Anne Blackwell.

The fourth stop on my trip was Indianapolis, Indiana, August 10-18. I worked in two booths at the State Fair with Indiana beekeepers. In the Fair’s Pioneer Village, I helped dip and pour beeswax candles. This was my favorite booth! I loved showing how beeswax candles are made and teaching people about the many uses of beeswax and other hive products. The second booth, in the Agriculture

Princess Hayden teaches Minnesotans about the wonders of the beehive at the Minneapolis Pollinator Party in July.

From July 31 through August 10, I worked with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association in their pavilion at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus. Over 689,000 came through during my nine days at the fair, and I gave a total of 29 presentations. Every morning I gave up to four presentations in the center of the pavilion on what it takes to be a beekeeper. After every one, a few people would stay to ask further questions about beekeeping. It was so exciting to see a response and interest in beekeeping! I also gave daily cooking with honey demonstrations, teaching about the benefits of honey, and gave presentations on using honey as a beauty product. Three of my cooking demonstrations were on stage in the commodities building, and there were up to 700 people at just one of the demos! I also had two radio interviews at the fair. In addition to the State Fair, I worked one morning at the Columbus Farmers’ Market, which attracted about 500 people. I greeted visitors and handed out samples of honey yogurt with fruit as an example of an easy way to incorporate honey into your diet. I also used an observation hive in which you could see the bees were all producing flakes of wax from their wax glands, which fascinated both the kids and adults. I also attended Down on the Farm Ag Day with the Scioto Valley Beekeepers and talked to groups of children and parents about beekeeping and the honey bees’ role in agriculture through pollination. I extend many thanks to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Carmen and Barry Conrad, the Scioto Valley Beekeepers (for the amazing helicopter ride!), and my wonderful host, Anne Blackwell.

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Building, had an observation hive that was always drawing a crowd. I gave honey samples in the booth and taught people about the different varieties of honey and how to use light and dark honeys. I had the privilege of working with the Indiana State Honey Queen Rebecca Eldridge at the fair, and we gave a cooking with honey demonstration together each day. I extend a great big thank you to Kristy and Lacey Dooley and the Indiana State Beekeepers Association for arranging my visit!

I was back in Flemington, New Jersey, August 18-24, with the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association for the Hunderton County 4-H Fair. It was a busy fair, with 50,000 attendees during my stay. I helped judge the honey contest and taught fairgoers about the honey judging process. I again gave daily hive demonstrations in the bee cage, even once taking a frame with the queen outside the bee cage for everyone to see up close. The audience loved getting that close to them. I reached an even larger audience with a 30-minute radio interview on 14.50 WCTC. I discussed everything from the importance of honey bees in pollination to the uses of beeswax, and encouraged people to come to the beekeepers tent at the fair. I had two more interviews at the fair with 89.7 WDVR, one on a gardening show talking about planting bee friendly flowers, and a second talking about the bee booth and its offerings. These three interviews generated approximately $44,150 in free publicity for the ABF! The highlight of my trip to New Jersey though was definitely the incredible experience of demonstrating my first bee beard. The demonstration drew a great crowd and was a fantastic teaching opportunity. Many thanks to the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers and to Fran and Stan Wasitowski for being fantastic hosts!

I returned to Minnesota for the State Fair August 26-September 1. I was quite honored to attend the fair since it is one of the biggest fairs in the nation. I never saw such an impressive honey display as the one in the Minnesota Bee and Honey exhibit! There were seven observation hives, and I spent most of my time answering questions and talking to people who came to see the hives. I also gave five cooking with honey demonstrations, and a hive demonstration in the bee cage. I spoke about bees on the FFA stage and used fresh cream to make honey butter for everyone to taste. Children helped shake the jar of cream to make butter while I talked about the timeless benefits of honey. I was interviewed by Fox 9 one morning with an observation hive and various forms of honey, and had three more radio interviews during my stay. All the media generated approximately $13,213 worth of publicity and reached thousands more people! Thank you to Liz Schroeder for taking such great care of me and for all the laughs, and to the Minnesota Honey Producers Association for sponsoring my visit!

I kicked off National Honey Month in Grand Island, Nebraska for the Nebraska State Fair, September 1-7. The Nebraska State Beekeepers had a great exhibit with four observation hives that I worked at most of the time. One of the hives was raising a new queen and fairgoers were fascinated seeing how bees make a new queen. A highlight of the beekeepers booth is their famous honey ice cream, which fairgoers love! I gave a daily cooking with honey demonstration at a cooking stage, making everything from honey peanut butter dip to crockpot honey chicken for the large audiences. I also gave an educational presentation on a nearby stage and assisted with honey extracting demonstrations. I had a quick TV interview with the top news station in Nebraska, Fox NE KFXL, and talked about the bee booth and the uses for honey to its audience of over approximately 100,000 people. Thank you to the Nebraska State Beekeepers Association for inviting me, and to Brian Nilson for scheduling my appearances!

I am currently in Ohio and am looking forward to upcoming travel to Iowa, California, and New Mexico. I am excited for upcoming fall promotions, especially school visits! Don’t forget to keep up with Queen Gabrielle’s and my travels on the American Honey Queen Facebook Page. To schedule an appearance with Queen Gabrielle or me, contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.
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 9,400 fans and are reaching new fans each day.

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

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

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A CASE FOR HONEY

A case for honey. When your business is measured in cases of honey, when you begin to call yourself a “Producer-Packer”, when honey puts food on the family table, when you know that if you had just another 100 colonies you could quit that damn day job and be your own boss, make your own decisions, fix it yourself, make it yourself, set your own schedule – Then you NEED to be in Medina October 22 and 23, 2016 to listen to and learn from a group of Producer Packers who are successful, who have made the move, who put food on their table every day because of CASES OF HONEY. These are the businesses that count every case, count every colony in every yard, worry about accounts, buyers, shelf space, labels, bottles, dollars, labor, trucks, regulations, and more regulations and family freedom.

If this is you, if this is where you want to be, come listen to and learn from some of the best in the business – long time, well established businesses who know the ropes, know the bees, know the regulations, and know how to sell – A CASE OF HONEY.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

October 22 and 23, 2016
at
Bee Culture’s Conference Center
640 West Liberty Street
Medina, Ohio

Watch BeeCulture.com for program and registration information
ABF DONATIONS

The following individuals contributed to the ABF Funds during the months of July and August 2015. These donations enable us to fund programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

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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!
From the Auxiliary

Pumpkins are everywhere and you know what that means: summer is almost over, the kids are back to school, and it’s time to take the fall honey crop off and prepare hives for winter. Here in central Pennsylvania, the guys are taking off honey, treating for mites and feeding the hives to prepare them to go south for the winter. Hope all is well with your bees and your harvest is prosperous.

The next ABF Conference & Tradeshow will be January 5 – 9, 2016, at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville), Florida.

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.

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 1/2 c. warm water
- 1/2 c. honey
- 2 c. orange juice
- 1.2 t. salt

DIRECTIONS:

Mix warm water and honey together until honey is dissolved. Mix orange juice and salt. Put in fridge to cool for at least an hour. Makes 8 one cup servings.

From the Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg

Orange Julius

Member Milestones

Milestones for July and August 2015

5 Years
Virginia Courtney, CA
Sallie Lincoln, NV
L. Dee Oliphant, OK
Jose Quinones, Puerto Rico
Rich Ramsey, IL

10 Years
Dennie Best, GA
Jonathan Hackenberg, PA
Jordan Hackenberg, PA
Michael Sadler, FL
Susan Williams, NE

15 Years
Theodore Jones, CT
Jerome Kern, MN
Ben Rulison, NY

20 Years
Rodney Holloway, TX
Bill Mitchell, MT
Thomas Rea, PA
Hubert Sadler, FL

30 Years
Albert Belliston, ID

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