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THIS SUMMER

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Perspectives in Beekeeping:
President’s Message

by: Gene Brandi
ABF President

There are times when being involved in beekeeping industry organizations can be very rewarding and just downright fun. An example of this happened to me, and some of my family members, recently in Hollywood of all places. When I accepted the invitation to bring an observation hive and some comb honey to the World Premier of The Jungle Book in early April, I had no idea it would be such a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience. For those who have seen this remake of the Disney classic, you know that honey and bees play a prominent role in the movie and for that reason the National Honey Board sponsored the premier of The Jungle Book and featured honey and honey-inspired dishes at the after party. My wife, Christine, my daughter Renee, son-in-law Jason and their three children (Morgan 12, Madison 9 and Ryan 5) were all invited to take part in this very special evening as well. There were actually three distinct portions of the evening: the Red Carpet, the movie premiere itself and the after party.

We knew that some of the stars whose voices provided the human touch for the multitude of animals in the movie (Ben Kingsley, Lupita Nyong’o, Giancarlo Esposito) as well as Neel Sethi, who played Mowgli, were going to be walking the Red Carpet that evening, but we were very surprised when we were invited to walk the Red Carpet ourselves! After we were fitted with wristbands (our ticket for the evening’s events) the Disney representatives led us on a tour of the Red Carpet where we were able to watch some of the stars as they were interviewed by the plethora of Hollywood TV reporters on site. Many in the crowd just outside of the Red Carpet were snapping photos, thinking that perhaps we were celebrities, too. One photographer in the crowd actually asked Christine if she had starred in “Designing Women”! After spending about a half hour or so on the Red Carpet, we were ushered into the theater, and while waiting for the movie to begin, we were entertained by a great-sounding “big band” complete with a fabulous vocalist. As the theater continued to fill, we noticed the director and some of the stars sitting across the aisle from where we were seated. The movie was absolutely fabulous, and it was the first time in my life that I observed serious applause at the end of a movie during the rolling of the credits (of course many of the folks on the credit list were in the theater). Everyone in the theater stayed in their seats until the very last credit finished rolling across the screen.

In the movie, Baloo the Bear gorges himself on copious amounts of comb honey, so it was very appropriate that guests at the after party had the opportunity to try some delicious comb honey for themselves. Given that this was early April and too soon in the year for good comb honey production in my area of California, it was fortunate that Bill Lewis, (Bill’s Bees in Lakewood Terrace, California) donated some great comb honey he had stored in his freezer from last season. Bill also let me borrow a couple frames of bees, complete with a marked queen, for my observation hive. Since I live about 5 hours away from Hollywood and was concerned about how the bees might look after being in the car that long, it was much better to have some of Bill’s fresh bees. The bees and comb honey were a big hit with attendees at the after party. The ABF, National Honey Board and I sincerely appreciate Bill’s generosity!

The after party provided an opportunity to talk to people about bees and honey as they stopped by to marvel at the observation hive. I was impressed by the fact that most of the people who dropped by the display were quite knowledgeable and very concerned about bees given all the publicity in recent years surrounding CCD. Some indicated they were interested enough in bees that they would like to try their hand at beekeeping. I suggested that to gain additional knowledge about beekeeping they should join a local beekeeping organization, the California State Beekeepers Association, and of course, the ABF, especially given our 2016 complimentary promotion for new members.

continued on page 4
Perspectives in Beekeeping – cont. from page 3

The National Honey Board supplied sheets of beeswax foundation that guests could roll up into their own candles. Many guests also wore a pair of bee antennae supplied by the Honey Board to further emphasize the theme of bees and honey. There were so many people wearing antennae that at times the room appeared like it could have been the set for the old Saturday Night Live skit about “The Bees!” with John Belushi!

Practically every dish served at the after party contained honey, including salads, main and side dishes, as well as desert, where party attendees could enjoy comb honey just like Baloo the bear did in the movie.

Margaret Lombard, National Honey Board CEO, told me that the promotion has proven to be quite a successful endeavor. In addition to the premiere event, the NHB ran an online ad campaign that resulted in the following responses:

- The 30-second online ad had 25 million impressions in total.
- 19 million users watched the entire online video.

As part of National Honey Board’s Jungle Book media buy, the NHB received a Nielsen Brand Lift study – where they test favorability of honey among a group that was shown the ad against a control group (that has not seen the ad). The results are very impressive. Overall, the campaign displayed a significant lift in favorability (+31.7%) between the exposed and control groups. 88% of respondents exposed to the campaign viewed honey favorably with the largest lift coming from those viewing it very favorably.

The highlight of the evening for my granddaughter, Morgan, was posing for a photo with Neel Sethi who played Mowgli in the movie. They are both 12 years old and it provided her with a memory of a lifetime. As a matter of fact, as I write this in mid-May, Morgan is still wearing the wristband needed to attend the premiere in early April!

The Jungle Book movie portrays bees and honey in a positive light, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to help the National Honey Board with this promotion. I would certainly recommend The Jungle Book movie for kids of all ages, even older kids like me!
Greetings ABF members,

I hope you all had a successful spring and are looking forward to a productive summer. We had some difficult spring weather in the Midwest. Warm and dry one week then getting cold and wet the next. This pattern seemed to alternate throughout the spring making it challenging to get the bees ready for the honey flow.

In the last issue of the newsletter I discussed some of the changes that beekeepers have had to deal with over the last three decades. Most of the changes made beekeeping more difficult. There is one change that has helped beekeepers with their difficult times. This change is public awareness.

In the past, when I told someone that I was a beekeeper, their first question would inevitably be “do you get stung?” I still get that question, but what I am now asked more often is “are the bees really dying?” This is not an easy question to answer, but it goes to show that the general public is becoming aware of the problem with the bees.

I usually answer this question by explaining some of the variables that are affecting honeybees. Pesticides, varroa mites and the lack of floral sources are the causes that I always mention. Many people respond by asking what they can do to help. In fact we get many emails and phone calls from people that would like to help “the bee situation.”

These types of comments and questions may be about a difficult situation for bees and beekeepers, but the fact that people are asking is very positive. Once there is concern regarding a problem by the general public, the politicians and corporations begin to take notice. Even though we are a very small industry inside the world of agriculture, people are beginning to take notice.

Ortho (a division of Scotts Miracle-Gro) has decided to phase out neonicotinoids in eight of its pesticides by 2021. It will eliminate neonicotinoids in three products by next year and reformulate the others in the future. This is a long time for a phase-out, but it is a start. It shows that corporations are beginning to take notice of “the bee problem.”

Home Depot has also begun to phase out neonicotinoid pesticides. It has removed neonics from 80% of its flowering plants with a complete phase-out planned by 2018. It is also beginning to phase out “off the shelf” pesticides that contain neonicotinoids. Following the commitment by Home Depot, Lowe’s announced that it will also be removing flowering plants and “off the shelf” products that contain bee-harming neonicotinoids.

It may still take some time for neonicotinoids to be completely phased out from all retail outlets, but this is definitely a start. If we keep the ball rolling it will happen.

Pop Weaver, America’s second largest popcorn supplier, has also begun phasing out the use of neonicotinoids in its popcorn supply. This is the first U.S. food corporation to make this commitment. Pop Weaver will lower its use of neons by 50% in 2016 and 75% by 2017. They have made a longer-term pledge of reducing use while working with universities and the suppliers of neonic to the seed industry. Currently over 80% of the U.S. corn seed is treated with neonicotinoids.

Seed coating is a newer practice but has become much too common. Seeds are covered with pesticides, and as the plant grows, the entire plant becomes toxic. Unfortunately most of the pesticide never makes it into the plant. It just enters the environment from seed dust and water runoff. I’m sure many of you have witnessed the cloud of seed dust behind the planters. We had a severe bee kill in 2014 at an apple orchard due to a dust cloud blown over our bees in the orchard. Since that episode, the orchard owner and neighboring farmer have discussed the situation and have come up with an agreement so it will not happen again. This doesn’t reverse the bee loss of 2014, but it does show that cooperation can help solve a problem.

Politicians are also taking notice of the bee problem. Maryland became the first state to ban neonicotinoid use by everyday consumers and home gardeners. This ban applies to products such as KnockOut Ready To Use Grub Killer, Ortho® Bug B Gon and Lesco Bandit Insecticide. This law will take effect in 2018. Farmers and professional gardeners are exempt from the law, but this again is a start.

Similar laws have been passed in such cities as Portland and Eugene, Oregon, and Seattle and Spokane, Washington. There also have been attempts in other states to pass such laws, but none of that legislation has made it as far as the one in Maryland.

It may be a difficult time for bees and beekeepers, but the public, corporations and politicians are taking notice. The ball is finally beginning to roll to phase out neonicotinoids. The ABF will continue to work with the USDA and EPA to increase research regarding the use of neonicotinoids and the effects they have on pollinators when mixed with other chemicals.

I hope everyone has a great and productive summer. We are looking forward to the joint conference in Galveston. Hope to see you there.
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by: Gene Brandi
ABF President

ABF immediate Past President, Tim Tucker, and I just returned from a trip to Washington, D.C., where we, along with Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates, visited with various federal officials. The trip was scheduled to coincide with the EPA Pesticide Program Dialog Committee meeting, which Tim and I both wanted to attend.

Our first visit was to Capitol Hill where we met with more than a dozen staff members of the Congressional “Pollinator Caucus” who have been very helpful in pushing pollinator-related issues through the House. Much of our discussions revolved around the recently-released winter and annual loss numbers from the Bee Informed Partnership. Approximately 28% winter losses and more than 44% annual losses represent an increase over last year’s numbers and are cause for great concern. The beekeeping industry cannot continue to experience such substantial losses and remain sustainable. We stressed the need for continued research on the issues impacting the health of honey bees, increased access to public lands for apiary locations, as well as the need for additional efforts by EPA to better protect bees from pesticide exposure.

We met with two USDA Senior Advisors to the Secretary of Agriculture, Jeff Eschmeyer and Doug McKalip. Tim, Fran and I expressed the need for continued funding of ARS research efforts, and we look forward to contributions from the new ARS facility at the University of California, Davis, which is not yet staffed. The benefits of increased honey bee access to federal lands administered by USDA agencies was also stressed. We reminded them that the focus of the Federal Task Force Report, released a year ago, was an “all hands on deck” effort by federal agencies to reduce pollinator decline. The 2016 ELAP program was discussed, and we conveyed our opinion that the “normal” colony loss rate should remain at 15%, which is in line with the goals of the Federal Task Force. There was also a meeting that Fran attended, with Dr. Ann Bartuska, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Research, to discuss a proposal to evaluate the impact of horticultural pest management practices on commercially-managed honey bee colonies in diverse agro-ecosystems on an annual basis.

Tim, Fran and I also met with several representatives from EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs to discuss an array of issues surrounding bees and pesticides. We expressed our concerns about the shortcomings we see in pesticide labeling, the Managed Pollinator Protection Programs (MP3s), the problems with Insect Growth Regulators and tank mixes with fungicides during pollination of almonds and other crops, neonics and other issues. We continue to stress the ABF position that all bees need to be protected from pesticide exposure all the time, not only when they are being paid to pollinate a particular crop.

Tim and I appreciated the opportunity to meet with EPA in conjunction with AHPA Board members in a separate meeting where we discussed our jointly-submitted comments on EPA’s proposal to mitigate pesticide exposure to bees, our recently-submitted comments on the Imidacloprid Pollinator Risk Assessment, as well as other issues. Again, the recently announced winter and annual rates of honey bee colony loss were a reason for concern that more needs to be done to protect bees from pesticide exposure. During our meeting we were told of the EPA proposal to register sulfoxaflor on a limited basis for crops that are not bee attractive. The ABF and AHPA will review the proposal and likely submit comments during the announced 30-day comment period.

The EPA Pesticide Program Dialog Committee meeting was very interesting. The PPDC comprises about 40 individuals from agriculture, environmental, academic, chemical industry and other groups. Steve Coy of Mississippi is the only beekeeper on the PPDC, and he represented the bee industry well. It was disappointing that the Pollinator Work Group, within the PPDC, is being discontinued. Given the losses the bee industry continues to experience, it is clear that there is still a great deal of work to be done with pesticide exposure and its effects on bees.
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Thomas D. Seeley

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Save the date for the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. That’s right, the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) and the Canadian Honey Council (CHC) will come together for a combined conference & tradeshow in 2017. This is one conference you won’t want to miss so make your plans now.

The conference will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. Guest rooms will be available at the San Luis Resort, the Hilton Galveston Island Resort and The Holiday Inn Resort Galveston.

With anticipated attendance of 1000+ this is the perfect place to learn more about beekeeping, share best practices and visit with vendors who have lots of great information to share with you.

Features of the conference include:

• Participation of beekeepers from all over the world
• Updates from the USDA-ARS bee labs
• Presentations from industry leaders
• Interactive hands-on workshops
• Full day of sessions for commercial beekeepers
• Tradeshow full of the latest products and services in beekeeping
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• And much, much more . . .

And, while you’re in Galveston, mixing business with pleasure is easy as the island offers plenty of opportunities for exploring, from the adventure pyramids of Moody Gardens to the thrills of the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier. Visitors can learn about Galveston’s unique history at a variety of museums like the historic mansion Bishop’s Palace or the 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA. In Galveston, even shopping and dining are historic, cultural experiences. The Historic Downtown Strand Seaport District boasts of beautiful Victorian storefronts featuring unique shops, restaurants and art galleries just a short walk away from Galveston’s Pier 21 and glistening harbor. We look forward to seeing you in Galveston!
Call for Papers/Presentations

2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow
Theme: Building a Sweeter Future

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow, January 10-14, at the San Luis Resort & Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. This is a joint conference of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council.

This is a great opportunity to share information with more than 1000 beekeepers. The call for presentations is now open. If you have important beekeeping research to share, a best practice in beekeeping or a proven track record with keeping the hives alive, we want to hear from you.

Please complete the call for presentations submission form and return to Tara Zeravsky at tzeravsky@meetingexpectations.com no later than July 20, 2016. The conference committee will review all submissions to put together the most informative conference agenda. You will be notified of your participation in early September. As a reminder, all presenters receive complimentary registration to the conference. All other expenses are the responsibility of the presenter.

Please complete and e-mail to tzeravsky@meetingexpectations.com no later than Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

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## Presentation Proposal:

| Title |  |
| Category - Please select one of the following categories that best describes your presentation: | ❑ Research ❑ Beginner Beekeeping ❑ Serious Sideliner ❑ Producer/Packer ❑ Commercial |
| Training - Please indicate if your presentation, regardless of category, has a “how to/practical application” focus. |  |
| Contribution - Describe the value your audience should expect to gain from your presentation (3-4 points). |  |
| Abstract (up to 350 words or 2000 characters): |  |
Foundation News

2016 National 4-H Essay Contest Winners Selected!

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees selected the 2016 4-H Essay contest winners on the topic “Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?” Out of the twenty-four submissions, the following papers were the best. They are as follows:

First Place: Luke Exley (age 17) from Georgetown, TX

Second Place: Hadley Kimball (age 18) from Jerome, ID

Third Place: Madeline Chairvolotti (age 15) from Grand Isle, VT

In his first place winning essay entitled “Significance of Honey Bees,” Luke Exley asks, “… what would happen if the honey bees died out and does our state or community organize or fund any programs to help pollinators?”

“Bees are still facing many issues that are destroying them and could significantly harm our economy and our health. However, our city, county, state and nation seem to finally have a good start in promoting awareness and protection. It will be critical to follow through with several of these great ideas on habitat development and protection to make a difference.” His first place prize is a cash award of $750.00.

Hadley Kimball writes, “Humans heavily rely on honey bees and their pollination skills. Bees go unnoticed every day in this world. To say that you and I are in need of honey bees is a horrendous understatement. Honey bees will continue to carry out their laborious job day in and day out without a single complaint. The humble difference between us and bees is that the bees are not in it for the fame and glory. They merely do what they must do to survive while unknowingly allowing the rest of the world to thrive. They are the unsung heroes of this life, and at the very least we owe them a sincere and gracious thank-you.”

Hadley is the second place winner and receives a cash award of $500.00 for her essay, “Bees and Pollination: How Important is It?”

Madeline Chairvolotti writes, “Vermonters are helping bees have access to more nectar through the Forage Legume Bee Project, which is put on by the University of Vermont Extension along with the Vermont Beekeepers Association. It encourages farmers to plant more flowering forage legumes, a legume being a plant that is grown for food, such as alfalfa and clover. These plants are necessary for dairy farmers to grow to feed their herds, but they also fill the nectar gap as mid to late summer flowing plants, allowing the honey bees to thrive.”

Her third place essay earned her a $250.00 cash award.

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

State winners, who submitted their essay, were:

• Benjamin Tellano, GA
• Laura LeGlue, NC
• Tommee Pelky, IA
• Garrett Stone, MS
• Nataleigh Hughes, MI
• Rebekah Waddle, KY
• Amon Van Alst, NY
• Savannah Carson, LA
• Banion Niles, SD
• Rachel Lawson, NE
• Nicklas Bowman, SC

Congratulations to all participants in our annual essay contest.
Significance of Honey Bees

by: Luke Exley
First Place 4-H Essay Winner

Honey bees are some of the hardest working, interesting and most beneficial insects in the world. My family has kept bees for 10 years and participates annually in the Bee Informed Survey that keeps track of bee losses each year. Besides the benefits of the honey, beekeeping is an excellent way to earn money and is an interesting hobby. However, we lost many of our hives due to major issues facing honey bees today. Which leads to the questions of what would happen if the honey bees died out and does our state or community organize or fund any programs to help pollinators?

People’s lives and the world would be very different if honey bees perished since they provide several important roles in our food production and economy. The most important role is 2/3 of the world’s crops are dependent on pollinators with an annual average value of 18.27 billion in the United States alone. This comprises most of our fruits, vegetables, nuts, beverages, some raw fibers, and even food oils. In fact, honey bees are either directly or indirectly responsible for 1/3 of every bite humans eat and account for about 15 billion annually. Their efficient robust pollination increases the quantity and often the size of our fruits and vegetables, not to mention 50% larger coffee beans, cocoa, and many spices and herbs. Next, pollinators are essential since they pollinate flowering forage for livestock like clover, field beans, and other cover crops. Additionally, pollinators are responsible for more than 85% of the world’s flowering plants and honey bees get direct credit for about 16% which means they pollinate berries and seeds for wildlife and maintain genetic diversity in the vast variety of flowers whose beauty we enjoy. Finally, bees provide honey, the world’s most perfect food that never spoils. According to the January 15th, 2016 National Honey Report, the U.S. imported $554 million dollars of honey of honey this past month from all over the world to meet our needs! Another important role involves potential medical uses of honey bee venom. Therefore, honey bees and the services that they provide are irreplaceable for the long term health of our economy, and we should be protecting them in our state and nation.

What are my city and county doing to help bees? When I called my city council, I found our city has no ordinances on bees, but our county does. My county encourages interest in bees by giving agricultural exemptions to folks who own 5-20 acres to put a certain amount of bees on it. My mom, Elizabeth Exley, was one of the main people the Williamson County Agricultural Tax Office asked for advice on this. She interviewed several long time beekeepers and gave the tax office a proposal outlining the best ideas. They adopted all of them in 2013. Our county hosts Williamson County Area Beekeepers Association (WCABA) that offers scholarships to youth to interest them in this important insect. In fact, my two older brothers were recipients of WCABA scholarship which is what got us started in in this lifelong hobby. It is notable that public awareness is improved since there is an increase in the memberships of the many beekeeping clubs in Texas. The Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA) is a large nationally recognized group that offers training workshops, raises public awareness, posts other beekeeping group events, and hosts fundraisers to promote honey bees.

The state of Texas also helps honey bees. For instance, the Texas Cottage Food Law was changed to make it easier for beekeepers to sell their honey in certain venues without as much paperwork and licenses. Protecting bees is further aided by the Texas Apiary Inspection Services (TAIS) through resources and registration of beekeepers which make it easier for the general public to find someone to remove unwanted honey bees. Additionally, beekeepers are exempt from the Texas Structural Pest Control Act. Furthermore, Texas is proud to host Dadant and Sons, the publishers of the American Bee Journal, which is one of the oldest beekeeping publications in the world and was started before the Civil War. This Journal regularly updates the public on beekeeping and honey bee issues.

While searching for existing programs protecting pollinators, I emailed Chris Moore, the President of the TBA. He mentioned the 2014 Presidential Memorandum which set aside money for voluntary pollinator protection programs. With some of this money, Texas has come up with a collaborative plan to conserve honey bees. Bee Culture Magazine reports, Texas A&M University Bee Lab worked with the Texas Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, pesticide application people, a seed company, and the manager of landfills to start a creative plan using completed landfills as pollinator habitat that would be planted with pollinator food resources. In addition, more volunteer training and bee hive testing will be done for all possible problems. Chris also mentioned The Pollinator Stewardship Council which focuses more on the detrimental effects of pesticides and gives a state by state summary on what each is doing to help bees. I also emailed Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab and found that their bee lab is very developed and their state has an exceptional pollinator program in place. There is no doubt that Texas A&M’s Bee Lab will improve and has a good model to imitate or surpass over time.

Bees are still facing many issues that are destroying them and could significantly harm our economy and our health. However, our city, county, state and nation seem to finally have a good start in promoting awareness and protection. It will be critical to follow through with several of these great ideas on habitat development and protection to make a difference. Hopefully, we will see our bees recover and our city and state programs increase efforts to effectively protect honey bees and other pollinators in our shared environment.

For references, please see http://preservationofhoneybees.org.
Foundation Offering Graduate Student Scholarships

Submission Deadline: September 16, 2016

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. (The Foundation) is offering five $2000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in 2017. This is the Foundation’s eleventh year to award these scholarships.

The Foundation is a charitable research and education foundation affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The Foundation has benefited from a number of generous gifts, including the estates of Glenn and Gertrude Overturf and Margaret and Victor Thompson, and continues to be sustained by ongoing gifts from ABF members and other supportive individuals.

The Foundation Trustees have chosen to use a portion of these gifts to offer five graduate student scholarships to foster professional development for emerging apicultural scientists. The scholarships are available to all currently enrolled graduate students studying any aspect of honey bees, bee husbandry and/or the apicultural industry.

The purpose of the scholarships, in addition to providing modest financial support, is to allow the recipients to attend the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow at Galveston Island Convention Center at The San Luis Resort on January 10-14, 2017. Each awardee will be given a $2000 scholarship check; in addition, the Foundation will cover all lodging expenses and up to $750 in travel expenses. Graduate students enrolled in a university, either within the United States or internationally, are eligible to apply. The recipients will have an opportunity to meet other researchers and beekeepers and to present their research at the meeting. The Board of Trustees always looks forward to interacting with recipients and hearing about their research during the conference.

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until September 16, 2016.

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

1. A one-page cover letter from their university advisor outlining:
   • The student’s progress toward their graduate degree (Master’s or PhD)
   • Tentative graduation date
   • Any other information about the student
   • Any information about their research that would help “get to know” the student.

2. The student’s curriculum vitae, or resume, not to exceed two pages.

3. A research proposal [not to exceed three pages], written by the graduate student. This proposal should:
   • Begin with an introduction to the research problem, followed by clear goals and objectives that state the research questions and hypotheses
   • Outline specific research experiments the student is conducting for their degree
   • Describe research the student is planning to perform, or the progress the student already has made toward that research
   • Clearly state how the research benefits bees, beekeepers, and/or the apicultural industry
   • Discuss the methods that will be used to answer their research questions, and the expected results or results to date
   • Be written for a general audience. The reviewers of the proposals are beekeepers that really want to understand the importance and implications of the research.

Recipients will be selected in October 2016. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in late October 2016.

Applications must be submitted as one PDF document electronically, including name, address, e-mail address and phone number, to:

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., e-mail address reginarobuck@abfnet.org; with the subject line: 2017 Foundation Scholarship Application.

If you need more information about the scholarship program, contact: Regina Robuck, Executive Director, American Beekeeping Federation and The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.
Queen Committee Report

Another spring is upon us, and summer is (possibly) quickly around the corner as I write this. Our spokespersons have been very busy on behalf of our industry the last few months, as their articles reflect. Be sure to read up on their exciting events and the expansive reach our industry’s messages have had since the last edition of the newsletter.

In addition to their busy promotional schedules, Queen Kim and Princess Tabitha have kept busy at home with college and graduate school studies and by working with their own hives of bees, along with putting in some extra hours with local commercial beekeeping operations in their home states. Not only has this helped supplement their personal incomes, it also has given each of them tremendous experiences that they can take with them as they promote from coast to coast for the ABF.

I’m often asked what the queens would like to do when there is some down time during their promotional trips. All the queens certainly enjoy seeing local landmarks and sites and trying the locally unique and special foods, but, quite often, many of them are ALSO interested in seeing local beekeeping operations and how beekeeping varies in each state. Our industry is unique in that most of us have a slightly different way to accomplish the same goals in our hobbies or businesses. Not only does seeing your region’s techniques and operations provide our representatives with a broader knowledge of the challenges facing the industry, it provides them personally with ways to better their own hives at home. It also gives them new and improved talking points as they speak to consumers in your region and throughout the country.

Summer and early fall schedules are filling up, and Kim and Tabitha have many exciting events coming up in the next few months. Be sure to follow their travels on Facebook and watch for new educational videos to be released via the American Honey Queen Program’s YouTube channel! If you have a promotional event at which you’d like our representatives to appear, contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.
ABF DONATIONS

The following individuals contributed to the ABF Funds during the months of March and April 2016. These donations enable us to fund programs and services that will benefit ABF members and the American beekeeping industry.

Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.
Bradley Bechthold, Iowa
Farris Bukhari, Ohio
Hunter Graham, Texas
Brian Higgins, Georgia
The Lebermuth Company, Indiana
Robert McDonell, Illinois
Tracey W. Middlebrooks Jr, Georgia
Nancy Putnam, Florida
Robert Sears, Missouri
Sally Shortridge
Stig Bea White, Florida

Honey Defense
Brian Higgins, Georgia
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Nancy Putnam, Florida
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The Wilbanks Apiaries, Georgia
Willow Creek, Wisconsin
Shannon Wooten, California
Christopher Yates, New Jersey

Log on and plug in today!
Make abfnet.org your home page and discover industry updates, ABF news and much more.
American Honey Queen Report

Hello, beekeepers! Between my travels as Honey Queen, I have successfully finished another semester at Iowa State University! I will continue classes through the summer and fall, and then I will have my Masters of Science degree in Agricultural Education!

In mid-March, I traveled to the blistering city of Cheyenne for the Wyoming Bee College. I served as the program emcee and welcomed 210 eager students to the college, guiding them to the workshop classrooms and vendor fair. We learned about bee health, marketing and label design and mead making. CBS 5 in Cheyenne interviewed me about the event and honey bee populations. I took the opportunity to assure viewers and consumers that there is ongoing research to address issues facing bees and that beekeepers, just like any other farmer, care about their animals! This interview helped generate over $2,000 in free publicity for our industry! Special thanks to Catherine Wissner, Laramie County Extension Horticulturist, for organizing the event and ensuring another successful Wyoming Bee College - and for hosting me during my visit!

I wrapped up March with a visit to my hometown high school in Nekoosa, Wisconsin, for several presentations. I demonstrated the goat cheese honey spread in the American Honey Queen recipe brochure for the school’s family and consumer sciences class. It was a great way to show the students how easy it is to incorporate honey into recipes for snacks, dips and spreads. A truly unique experience was presenting to a special education class. The students were thrilled to see and touch my beekeeping equipment up close and to try on my bee suit. One student even said she wants to be a beekeeper just like me when she grows up!

With the start of April, I launched into numerous local school visits around southwestern Wisconsin. I stopped at 13 different schools – from elementary to high school – in just a few weeks! Through these local school visits, I reached over 1,045 students! Four of these school visits were arranged through the Monroe County Extension, which offered my presentation as a STEM and agriculture-themed after-school activity for 4-H kids. This helped me work toward my goal of speaking to 4-H and FFA groups, a crucial audience that could grow into our next generation of beekeepers. I also managed to work in three radio interviews in LaCrosse, Madison, and Sparta, Wisconsin. Using over 50 minutes of airtime, I emphasized the importance of honey bees in relation to the food we eat every day. My Madison interview was with the Association of Women in Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin on their show called AgChat, where I used to co-host! It was an amazing experience to switch roles and be the knowledgeable subject matter expert being interviewed.

My next stop was Amherst, Virginia, for the inaugural Amherst Honey Bee Festival April 7-10. Prior to the event, I visited four local elementary schools and invited over 160 children to the festival. There were over 100 vendors featuring local artists, gardeners and community organizations at the event, all supporting the honey bee. I presented information about the inner workings of a beehive and basic bee biology and helped out throughout the festival wherever possible. The event was run by high school students gaining real-world experience operating a festival. Dr. Steven Wilder, an educator at the high school, is to thank for starting the festival and coordinating the many vendors and student workers. I appreciate all the time and effort he and his family expended hosting me during my visit!

It was not long before I headed westward, all the way to the sunny California coast April 27-May 1! I spoke to my first college class at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. In an agricultural communications class of about 20 students, I discussed for about 45 minutes how to effectively share our stories in agriculture and connect with the audience. At two different farmers markets I demonstrated peanut butter honey dip and party franks, which were a huge hit! There was also a local beekeeper selling honey, which allowed any visitors to buy honey to take home and try the recipes. I also taught FFA students at a local high school, younger children at an elementary school and adults at two local libraries about honey bees. The main event for my visit was the Cambria Bee Festival. It was a community-sponsored event that featured vendors with pollinator-friendly plants, local honey and mead. There were also speakers throughout the entire day. During my presentation, I encouraged the audience to be aware of honey bees and promote pollinator habitat in their area. Christine Heinrichs, a member of the Beautify Cambria Association, organized...
Queen Kim discussing nature’s sweeter, honey, at a farmers’ market in San Luis Obispo, CA

all of these wonderful events in California. Thank you for your hospitality!

For the rest of May, I focused on promotions close to home and reached 250 more students! I crossed the Mississippi to visit St. Paul Lutheran School in Nodine, Minnesota, on May 9. I spoke to kindergarteners through eighth graders about how bees work together in the hive to build comb, care for larvae and store food. I shared the versatility of honey with FFA students in Ontario, Wisconsin, and elementary students in Stoddard and Tomah, Wisconsin, May 10-11. Viewers in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin also had a chance to see me demonstrate peanut butter honey dip on WXOW TV in LaCrescent, MN. This was my first run at a food demonstration on television, and this successful interview was nearly 4.5 minutes of coverage at a $5,400 value!

I have a few more local promotions left in May; then I’m off to Connecticut and Ohio in June! To schedule an event with me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

Queen Kim teaches WXOW News 19 anchor Dustin Leucke about how to use honey in everyday recipes.

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!
American Honey Princess Report

by: Tabitha Mansker
American Honey Princess

Spring is quickly coming and going! I don’t know about you, but I have been super busy the past few months. My bees are doing great and are already storing honey in the supers. I cannot wait to extract my honey when the first week of July rolls around!

On March 29, I had an all-day promotion with John Talbert in Dallas, TX. We spent the day teaching customers about the many uses of honey at two stores that sell John’s honey. Both Weirs Furniture and Shoemaker & Hardt Coffee House and Country Store are big supporters of beekeepers and local honey. This was a great event to end the month! Moving on to April 11, I attended the monthly meeting of my home beekeeping club, the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I gave an update on my travels around the United States and also learned how to make beeswax candles from our special speaker. It was great to see some fellow Texas beekeepers. Thank you to all who bought quilt raffle tickets in support of the American Honey Queen Program!

On April 15, I boarded my plane for Eugene, Oregon. Wow! It was my first time to see real mountains! What a beautiful state! At the airport, I met the Turanski family, my hosts for the week. Dick and Pat Turanski are the founders of GloryBee and are such a sweet and passionate family. I was invited for GloryBee’s 41st Annual Bee Weekend. Throughout the weekend, they had many Save the Bee promotions, encouraging the community to get involved in helping the honey bees. I had a short TV interview encouraging the public to come to the annual family event and to get involved in helping save the honey bees. This five-minute interview was worth almost $6,000 in free publicity! I had the opportunity to help hand out packages of bees to the new beekeepers during two days of my trip. I also spent some time speaking to the kids who attended the event, sharing the importance of honey bees’ important job: pollination. One morning, I had a live interview on radio station KDUK 104.7. We talked about the need for honey bees, along with how good honey is as natural healer. Being on air that morning for a full seven minutes brought us just over $560 of free publicity. What a great interview! Eugene is a very bee-friendly city, and it’s so encouraging to see people’s excitement about getting started in beekeeping. During my week stay, I visited an area school to speak to a couple of classes, reaching over 75 elementary students. Thank you to the whole Turanski Family, and especially thank you to their four grandchildren, John, Ellie, Emily and Eli, who made sure I wasn’t bored during my trip!

After Oregon, I returned back home to Texas and dove right into educating students around my area on April 20 and 22. I gave lots of school presentations, mostly to high school students, who are becoming one of my favorite groups with which to speak. During the end of April, I presented to over 330 students at three local schools. I love getting the opportunity to educate students in my hometown. Coming from an agricultural background myself, speaking to ag students is always very enjoyable for me. Answering their questions concerning honey bees and helping them in their various projects is always challenging and fun. Many of the students are even looking into the process of getting bees on their school grounds as a part of their hands-on agricultural classes! How exciting!

On April 24, I visited Sabine Creek Honey Farm in Josephine, TX, to help with the company’s bee classes. Throughout the day, I helped new beekeepers conduct hive inspections along with finding queens and marking them. The excitement of finding the queen, seeing eggs or watching the bees store pollen are some of my favorite things about hive inspections with new beekeepers. The weather was perfect all day long, and the bees were all well behaved. John Talbert really does do a great job in getting new beekeepers started with his monthly classes.

Princess Tabitha spoke to customers at the GloryBee Days in Oregon about how creamed honey is made, while handing out samples.
I presented in more local Texas schools on April 25 and 29 and May 10, reaching over 500 students in three area schools. My presentations at Wylie High School on April 29 were special because I gave cooking demonstrations to high school culinary students. These high school kids are studying to be chefs or restaurant owners, so they were very interested in the many ways to cook with honey. I spent a good amount of time teaching them not only the many ways to use honey in recipes, but also honey’s medicinal uses. These kids absorbed all the information I could give them! There were many great questions and a discussion of how amazing honey is as an ingredient.

I headed to the state of Washington May 1-7 for a huge event in Kennewick. I gave over 16 presentations in two days at the annual Salmon Summit. The Salmon Summit is a way for all the elementary and middle schools to learn about the environment in the Tri-Cities area of Washington, including Richland, Kennewick and Pasco. At one of the main stations at this event, the kids actually release baby salmon into the Columbia River. Thousands of salmon were released across both days of the event. I worked with the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association and had a beekeeping exhibit at this event. This exhibit had almost every beekeeping tool you could think of including a device to show the students how we mark the queens. At this hands-on exhibit, we reached over 3,000 students with fascinating and practical beekeeping information. I was interviewed by the local news station for about two minutes the first day, and the interview made the 6:30 p.m. news! I had a little free time in Washington after my promotions and enjoyed climbing my first mountain and seeing my first waterfall! I had never been that high (on foot) before, and it was such an amazing view. I would like thank David White and the family for taking me to these beautiful places and thank the Ide and Able families for hosting me.

As I write this in mid-May, I have just arrived in Houston, Texas, for two weeks promoting the beekeeping industry and speaking to hundreds of students in the area. I am looking forward to sharing my adventures of this event with you in the next article! Be sure to like the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page to follow Queen Kim and me on our travels. If you would like to schedule a promotional visit for Queen Kim or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Thank you for your support!
From the Auxiliary

Spring finally arrived and summer is almost here. The kids will be out of school soon and it’s always nice to have some extra sets of hands to help extract honey while we are buzzy with the workload of pollination, honey production and making splits.

Keep taking pictures for the photo contest in Galveston, Texas. I hope everyone has a great summer and a season of plenty.

ABF AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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ABF AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Honey Fruit Salad

by: Beth Hackenberg
ABF Auxiliary President

INGREDIENTS:
• 2 large bananas, sliced
• 1 pound strawberries, tops removed and sliced
• 1/2 pound fresh blueberries
• 2 tablespoons honey
• 1 lime, juiced

DIRECTIONS:
Combine fruit in a bowl, drizzle honey and lime juice. Stir to coat all the fruit. Sprinkle with silvered almonds and enjoy. Yum.

From the Recipe Box of Beth Hackenberg

Bee Connected:
ABF Facebook Fan Page

by: Regina K. Robuck
ABF Executive Director

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

Everyone is welcome. To date, we have over 14,000 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 lineup.

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!
Interested in advertising in the Federation Marketplace?
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