January/February 2017
VOL 75, No. 1

American Beekeeping Federation NEWS
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ABF 1943
American Beekeeping Federation

BEEHOLD THE FUTURE

2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow - A Sweet Success

2017 ABF President's Award: George Hansen

Announcing the 2017 American Honey Queen and Princess

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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.

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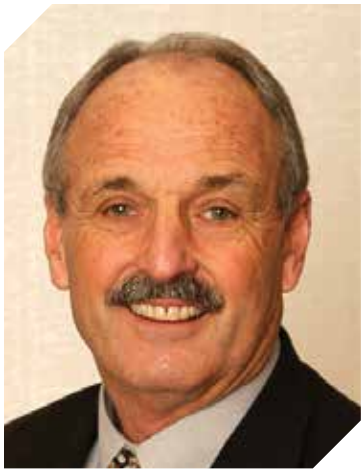
Perspectives in Beekeeping:
Almonds, More Almonds, and RAIN!

by: Gene Brandi
ABF President



Gene Brandi, ABF President

As I write this in late January, the almond orchards in the Central Valley of California still appear to be dormant, having finally lost their leaves, and their buds do not appear to be "moving" yet, but they will be moving soon. Beekeepers continue preparing their colonies for the upcoming bloom, and some colonies are already being placed in orchards. The latter half of January and the first half of February is a busy time for most commercial beekeepers in the USA as that is when more than 1.8 million colonies of honey bees are moved into California's almond orchards for the largest honey bee pollination event in the world.

The busy work of this season is the reason that the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) sets the dates of its annual convention to conclude by mid-January. Prior to the latter 1990s, the ABF convention was normally held during the third or even fourth week of January, which is too late for those of us who need to prepare our hives for the move to almond pollination. I recall

that there was considerable debate when my brother proposed this change in convention timing about 20 years ago. Even though quite a few out-of-state beekeepers were bringing their bees to the almonds at that time, there were comments about "those darn Californians" who wanted to have the convention conclude by mid-January. Now that California almonds require nearly 90% of the nation's available colonies every February, a much larger percentage of ABF commercial members move their bees to California each year, and indeed it is essential that the ABF convention no longer stretch into the latter portion of January.

It befuddles me when I hear or read that California almonds only require 65-70% of the nation's commercial bee hives. In recent years, USDA-NASS has estimated that there are approximately 2.6-2.7 million commercial colonies in the US during the peak season (May-July), but winter losses, averaging between 28-30% during the past 10 years, must be deducted from that total when calculating the number of colonies available in February.

It is estimated that there are currently 1.2 million acres of almonds in California, approximately 1 million of which are mature enough to require bees for pollination. Most growers rent at least 2 colonies per acre for traditionally-planted orchards when their orchards reach 5th leaf (4 years old) and older. Fewer colonies per acre are placed on 3rd and 4th leaf orchards, and approximately 20% of the 1.2 million acres are the newer self-fertile varieties, which also require fewer colonies per acre. Most growers use 1 colony per acre on mature self-fertile orchards as pollen still needs to be transferred from anther to stigma even though it does not have to come from another variety.

Reports of the demise of traditional almond varieties have been greatly exaggerated (sorry, Mark Twain), as the self-fertile varieties are not without their problems. Self-fertile varieties reportedly do not taste as good as traditional varieties, and they are difficult to shake from the trees at harvest time. Nuts remaining on the trees after harvest are called "mummies," and if they are not removed prior to the following harvest season, the percentage of rejected nuts is higher. Growers of self-fertile almonds are spending more money to remove mummies and are receiving lower prices due to the flavor profile and higher rejects, so the economic benefits of renting fewer bee hives per acre are offset by these other factors. As a matter of fact, one almond industry representative who spoke at a recent Delta Bee Club meeting in California mentioned a ten-year economic forecast that showed that growers would be better off financially by growing traditional varieties that need cross pollination rather than the self-fertile varieties.

The price growers are receiving for almonds remains at a profitable level, so acreage continues to increase every year. Forecasts indicate that acreage will increase to 1.5 million acres in a few years. Where will the bees come from to pollinate that many acres of almonds? Even if a significant portion of the new acreage is self-fertile, the number of colonies required will continue to increase. The US beekeeping industry will need to get healthy again and reduce colony losses significantly to expand and meet the future demands of the almond industry. More effective, sustainable mite

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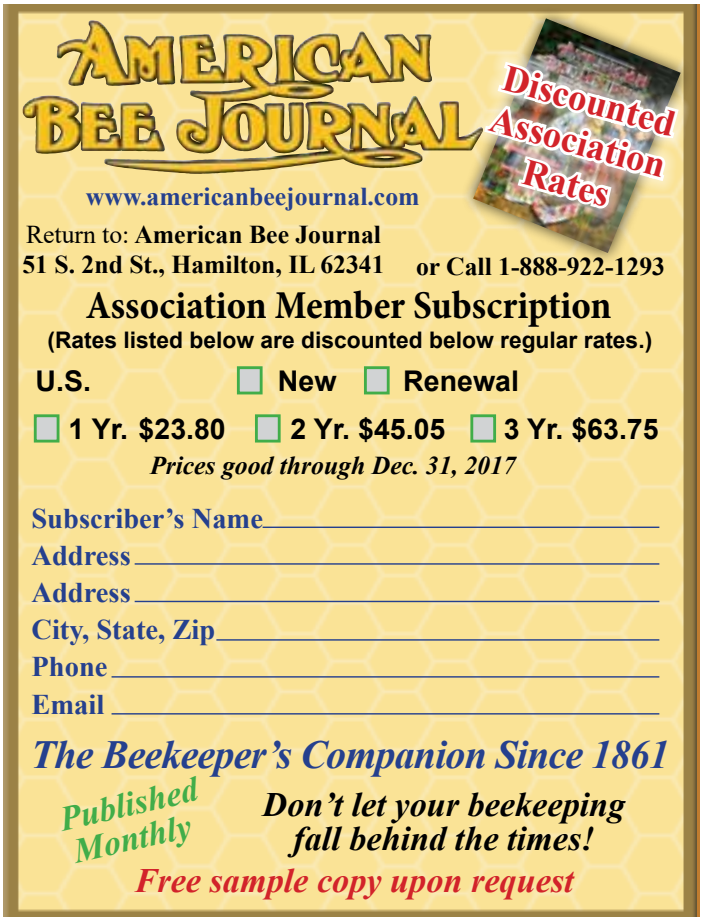


Perspectives in Beekeeping – cont. from page3

control, access to more uncontaminated nutritionally-balanced forage, and less exposure to pesticides is essential if our industry is to thrive again and meet this challenge.

Rumors of opening the Canadian border or allowing packaged bee imports from the southern hemisphere again are heard periodically. The ABF is not in favor of opening the Canadian border unless there is a reciprocal arrangement that would allow US bee hives into Canada, an unlikely scenario. Nor is the ABF in favor of opening the US border to imported packages again due to threats of diseases, pests or unwanted species of bees.

The good news for almond growers and beekeepers is that it is raining again throughout most of California for the first time since 2011! Of course, this means that some orchards in heavy ground will be difficult to access unless there is a break in the weather, but only time will tell. In the meantime, it is great to see the reservoirs filling up and to see the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains between 15 to 20 feet at the higher elevations, which is "water in the bank" for summer irrigation. These rains also raise the possibility that California might overtake North Dakota once again as the number one honey-producing state in the nation!

May you and your bees be healthy and productive in 2017!

Message from the ABF Vice President

by: Tim May
ABF Vice President

Tim May, ABF Vice President

I have been back from the convention in Galveston for a few weeks now, and trying to catch up on things. I believe the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow was the best show I have ever attended. I heard great things from many attendees as well as sponsors and vendors. Everyone I spoke with really enjoyed the combined conference. We were able to get numerous vendors and great speakers along with impressive attendance. This year's event drew over 1,500 attendees. I was asked on many occasions "Why don't we do this every year?" I feel that eventually we may be able to do that. For now, we will continue to try to organize a combined conference every few years.

I would like to thank the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA), along with their Board of Directors and staff, as well as the Canadian Honey Council (CHC), for their help in making this such a great event. Thanks also to all the speakers, sponsors and exhibitors. Without your support, this event would not happen. Special "thank you" to the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) Board of Directors, volunteers and the staff at Meeting Expectations. This event takes a huge amount of preparation and coordination between all parties involved. Everyone's hard work and dedication made this such a successful convention.

This year's tradeshow was the biggest and best. The number of vendors this year was staggering. Along with a full exhibit hall, we had exhibitors in the halls, entryway, upstairs and even in the parking lot. Everyone enjoyed the sponsored breaks as well as the available concessions in the tradeshow area. Thanks again to all our vendors.

The keynote presentations by Dr. Jonathan Lundgren and Dr. Jeff Pettis were outstanding. I'd like to thank them for speaking as well as for all the work that they do to help this industry. Dr. Pettis was the recipient of this year's "Hoopingarner Award." The annual award is given to the conference's best speaker as voted on by conference attendees.

Updates from the National Honey Board, FDA, EPA and USDA-ARS were presented by each agency. Although each speaker explained the new policies from their agency, many of us still have questions. The FDA's new VFD ruling was explained and presented by Dr. Michael Murphy from FDA's Center for Veterinarian Medicine. Questions remain regarding the logistics of receiving needed antibiotics. Margaret Lombard, CEO of the National Honey Board, explained the new FDA ruling regarding nutritional labeling requirements for honey. She discussed the options and alternatives that the NHB has presented to the FDA.

Rick Keigwin, Deputy Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. EPA, discussed EPA's new "Proposal to Mitigate Exposure to Bees from Acutely Toxic Pesticide Products." Questions remain regarding this proposal and the effect it will or will not have on honey bee health. USDA-ARS gave several presentations on current honey bee research projects.

Thursday's Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast was once again a very popular event. The breakfast was followed by a panel discussion on "Current Issues Facing Commercial Beekeepers." The panel included Gene Brandi, Darren Cox, Brett Adee and Dave Hackenberg. This discussion among commercial beekeepers was once again interesting, informative and could have gone on all day.

Thursday's agenda was broken into three specific track sessions. Beginning Beekeepers, Serious Sideliners and Commercial Beekeepers were given a full day of presentations representing their interests. Thursday was also our Social Night. Attendees could tour the Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid and view a 4D movie production. There was a delicious BBQ dinner and dessert followed by entertainment from singer/songwriter Terry Brown and professional trick roper Hilda Machado. It was a full evening of fun for all.

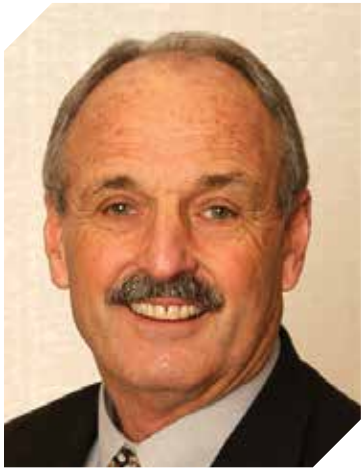
Over 300 kids attended the "Kids and Bees" program on Friday. Participants made their way through several stations enjoying face painting, a photo booth with costumes and an ultraviolet "Bee View" demonstration. Thanks to the volunteer beekeepers and to program director Sarah Red-Laird for once again making this program a successful and fun experience for our future beekeepers.

Many attended the AHPA banquet as well as the ABF/CHC banquet on Friday and Saturday nights. Each event included a nice dinner and program as well as an opportunity to raise funds for the organizations. The ABF banquet ended with the coronation of the 2017 American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox, and 2017 American Honey Princess, Hope Pettibon. I'm sure these young women are going to be enthusiastic and successful representatives this year for the ABF. A special thanks to the 2016 American Honey Queen, Kim Kester, and the 2016 American Honey Princess, Tabitha Mansker, as well as Honey Queen program director, Anna Kettlewell, for their dedication and hard work during the past year.

I hope everyone enjoyed the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Thanks again to all those responsible for making it such a success. We are already starting to prepare for the 2018 ABF Conference. Hope to see you all next January at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

Meet Your American Beekeeping Federation Board

by: Regina Robuck
ABF Executive Director

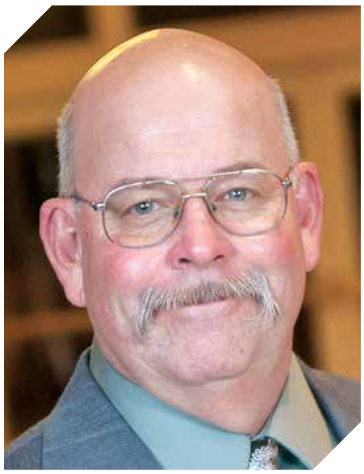


Gene Brandi, ABF President

I started working with bees during high school and college in 1970. I earned a B.S. Ag Business degree from Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo in 1974. In 1975, I became a commercial beekeeper and have owned Gene Brandi Apiaries since 1978. My son Michael and I currently manage 2,000 colonies of bees in Central California. Being active in the industry via associations and on boards has been a huge part of my life. The one most important to me is my 37 years on the California State Beekeepers Board of Directors. Others include my tenure on the National Honey Board, including three years as the chairman, and of course my time with the American Beekeeping Federation, which I have the honor of serving as the current president.

Tim May, ABF Vice-President

Greetings, I am a third-generation beekeeper from northwest of Chicago. May's Honey Farm has been producing and packing Sunny Hill Honey since 1948. Our honey is distributed throughout the Chicagoland area. We also have pollination contracts for apples and pumpkins in our area. Our 1500 colonies are wintered in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, unfortunately with declining results over the last decade. My son Colin is our family's fourth-generation beekeeper working full time in the business. Phil May is my father and at 82 has been delegated to part time. I'm very honored to represent ABF as its vice president and will do my best to help the organization and industry any way possible.



Tim Tucker, ABF Past-President

I began keeping bees in 1990, when the fellow that I was working with to remove bees from buildings gave me two hives. I moved them to my farm here in Southern Kansas and the first year they produced 170 lbs. of honey and I was hooked. I began splitting and increasing my colony numbers till by around the time I sold my pest control business and moved to the farm I had around 60 hives and was producing more honey than I could get rid of at my farmer's market and soon started wholesaling to my local health food stores and a few grocery stores. It very quickly built up to where I was spending most of my time working the bees and distributing honey. I became involved in the Kansas Honey Producers and after a couple years became the editor of the Cappings which is their quarterly newsletter. A few years later I was elected to serve as President of the KHPA and was serving in that capacity when the ABF came to hold its annual meeting in Kansas City. I met Clint Walker and Pat Heitkam at that meeting and they convinced me to become involved with the ABF. After a couple of years, Troy Fore asked me to chair the membership committee which I think was around 2004. I have been involved on the Board of Directors for over ten years and enjoyed serving as the President of the ABF for 2014 and 2015. It has been my great pleasure to work on many of the committees during the past ten years and to have met people from all over the world in the beekeeping business.

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2017 ABF Honey Show
Final Results

Galveston, Texas

by: Regina Robuck
ABF Executive Director

BEST OF SHOW – HONEY
Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
Chunk Honey

BEST OF SHOW – RELATED PRODUCTS
George Hansen - Colton, OR
Beeswax Art

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1. Tess Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH

CLASS B – EXTRA WHITE HONEY
Sponsored by Dutch Gold Honey, Inc.

1. Don Thill - West Bend, WI
2. Tony Rekeweg - Decatur, IN
3. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL

CLASS C – WHITE HONEY
Sponsored by Barkman Honey

1. Nick Thill - West Bend, WI
2. Jim Gross - Nantucket, MA
3. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL

CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY
Sponsored by Acorn Bee

1. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
2. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL
3. Reeves Jones - Canton, MS

CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY
Sponsored by Bud Ashhurst's American Honey & Beekeeping

1. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
2. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL
3. Denise & Jared Schetselaor - Farmington, VT

CLASS F – AMBER HONEY
Sponsored by Burleson's Inc.

1. Timmie Melancon - Gueydon, LA
2. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL
3. Amanda & Jeff Lee - New Westminster, BC

CLASS G – DARK HONEY
Sponsored by GloryBee Foods, Inc.

1. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL

CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY
Sponsored by Gene Brandi's Apiaries

1. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
2. Gene Killion - Paris, IL

CLASS I – ROUND COMB SECTIONS
Sponsored by Ross Rounds

1. Judy Schmaltz, Clarkston, MI
2. Jim Rodenberg - Wolf Point, MT
3. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL

CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY
Sponsored by Tuckerbees

1. Gene Killion - Paris, IL
2. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL

CLASS K – CUT COMB HONEY
Sponsored by Dwight & Joan Gunter

1. James & Karen Belli - Wadsworth, IL
2. John Piechowski - Redgranite, WI

CLASS L – CREAMED HONEY
Sponsored by Mann Lake, Ltd

1. Judy Schmaltz - Clarkston, MI
2. Tess Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
3. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH

CLASS M – BEESWAX BLOCK
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1. Tony Rekeweg - Decatur, IN
2. Chris Beck - Breckenridge, MI

CLASS N – ARTISTIC BEESWAX
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1. Liz Vaenoski - Clinton, WI
2. Bridget Lee - Topeka, KS

CLASS O – BEESWAX CANDLES
Sponsored by Ellingson's, Inc.

1. Derald Kettlewell - Greenfield, WI
2. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
3. Liz Vaenoski - Clinton, WI

CLASS P – ARTISTIC BEESWAX CANDLES
Sponsored by Bee Culture

1. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH
2. Judy Schmaltz - Clarkston, MI

CLASS Q – BEESWAX ART
Sponsored by Bee Culture

1. George Hansen - Colton, OR
2. Judy Schmaltz - Clarkston, MI
3. Gene Killion - Paris, IL

CLASS R – HONEY GIFT BOX
Sponsored by Central Life Sciences

1. Kim Kester - Sparta, WI
2. Carmen Conrad - Canal Winchester, OH

2017 ABF President's Award Winner: George Hansen

by: Gene Brandi
ABF President

George was born in Portland, Oregon. Until he was 20, he probably never gave bees a thought unless he stepped on one in the grass walking barefoot. Living a completely middle-class urban life, he grew up expecting to go to college and maybe become a lawyer. He attended Stanford University on an NROTC scholarship and competed on the varsity wrestling and track teams as a walk-on. He resigned his commission as a sophomore but was not drafted and continued his studies as a civilian. He graduated with a BA in German language and literature. After spending a year in Berlin, Germany, with his wife, Susan, studying at the John F Kennedy Free University, he completed an MAT at Reed College. His first job was in a bilingual program teaching recent Russian-speaking immigrants in public schools in a small Oregon rural community.

The home Susan and George bought to live in while he taught was an old farmhouse that had been surrounded by new housing developments. There was a bee hive on the property. The previous owners had caught a swarm in an apple box and nailed it above the door of an old chicken house. Because of ignorance and stupidity, the attempts to put the colony into Langstroth equipment led to the death of the bees. Wracked with guilt, George bought two packages the following spring and soon was catching swarms and rescuing abandoned hives in the area. In short order, the beekeeping hobby had grown completely out of control. It was a motley collection of broken down, unproductive, mean, unmanageable hives.

Along the line, a few old-timers gave some good advice, and help, so when the funding for the school program ended, the bee part of George's life was at least respectable, if not at all profitable. The decision to support the family with beekeeping was, in George's own words, "singularly irresponsible, risky and unlikely to succeed." Two sons were added to the family, and Susan's job as an operator at the phone company ended. But times were different then, and as George has said, the family could eat for a month for the cost of a truck tire today.

Selling honey at every bazaar, market and roadside stand -- along with a very few pollination accounts -- kept cash flowing. There were a few part-time jobs too. About that time, the almond industry decided they really needed bees and were willing to pay to bring them in, and, in Oregon, more and more seed crops needing pollination became part of the crop rotations for farmers. Over time, the core business activity pivoted heavily to pollination and away from honey. The business started selling nucleus hives about 10 years ago, and that has become an important part of the whole plan.

George participated regularly in local bee clubs and took his turn as leader and eventually as president of the Oregon State Beekeeping Association. He began attending ABF meetings regularly in the 1990s, served on the National Honey Board Nominating Committee and eventually served as an alternate board member. That was followed by four full terms as NHB board member. He was elected Vice President and President of the ABF. Currently he serves as the ABF representative on the Honey Bee Health Coalition, and the Honey Integrity Task Force, and tries to contribute to the industry when he can. His encaustic paintings have regularly been auctioned off at the annual ABF banquet.

George and Susan are in the process of transferring the business to their sons Matt and Joe. They are looking forward to joining the ranks of the beekeepers with the largest smiles at Galveston, those who have recently successfully sold their businesses.

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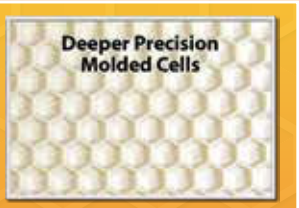

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Government Relations Report

by: Tim May
ABF Vice President

In this issue, I'd like to update everyone on what the ABF did regarding government issues that involve the beekeeping industry in 2016, as well as what we will be doing in the future.

Back in March, Gene Brandi, Joan Gunter, Bob Sears and George Hansen attended the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) symposium in Washington, D.C. The symposium was sponsored by EPA, USDA, NASDA and the Honey Bee Health Coalition. During the meeting, ABF stressed that enforceable pesticide label language is currently the best means for protecting pollinators from pesticides and that removing bees prior to pesticide application is not a practical method. ABF emphasized that the success of MP3s relies on voluntary participation and is impossible to enforce.

In May, Gene and Tim Tucker were in Washington for the EPA's Pesticide Program Dialog Committee meeting (PPDC). Also during that trip, they met with staff members of the congressional pollinator caucus. The discussion revolved around the annual loss reports and the fact that annual losses of 44% are not sustainable for the industry.

They also met with the USDA secretary's senior advisors and stressed the need for continued funding of USDA-ARS research, and they met with the EPA to discuss concerns regarding pesticide label language and the effectiveness of MP3s.

In June, Gene and I returned to Washington and were joined by Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates. We met with FDA/CVM (Center for Veterinarian Medicine) and discussed the new Veterinary Feed Directive. We expressed our concerns with the effect the ruling will have on our industry. They assured us that they would work with us to make this an easy transition for beekeepers.

We also met with USDA Secretary Vilsack's senior advisor Jeff Eshmeyer and discussed honey as a non-GMO product and the Vermont GMO labeling law. We stressed the importance of President Obama's memorandum directing an interagency Task Force to create a Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other pollinators. Under the leadership of EPA and USDA, the Task Force has three main goals:

1. Reduce honey bee colony loss to economically sustainable levels
2. Increase monarch butterfly numbers to protect annual migration
3. Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators through public and private action

The EPA just released its "Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products." The proposed restrictions would prohibit applications of pesticide products that are acutely toxic to bees during bloom where honey bees are known to be present under contract for pollination services. Unfortunately, this policy does nothing to protect bees and other pollinators that are not under pollination contracts.

The Policy also encourages states and tribes to reduce pesticide exposures through the development of MP3s.

In general, the EPA will use its Tier 1 acute risk assessment to determine which products trigger concerns about pollinator risk that label restrictions are intended to address.

Another issue that we are currently working on is the new FDA nutritional labeling requirement. This ruling requires the term "added sugars" to be included on the nutritional information part of honey labels. We are working with the National Honey Board, the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association and the AHPA to provide alternatives regarding this ruling. As of now, the compliance has been delayed until July of 2018. The National Honey Board has presented FDA with alternatives to the wording, which, so far, have been rejected. FDA has agreed to allow an asterisk to be placed after the words "added sugars" with a corresponding note outside the label box.

This year we plan to begin working with Fran Boyd on the new Farm Bill as the 2014 Bill expires on September 30, 2018. We will request the continuance of the ELAP program with an increase in the limit. We will also ask for more pollinator plants on conservation land for increased bee forage, more access for bees on public lands and for continuing or raising appropriations for bee research programs and specialty crop research.

We will also emphasize the importance of continuing the Pollinator Task Force.

We do not really know how the new administration will affect our industry but, we will continue to work with USDA, EPA, FDA and the congressional Pollinator Caucus on behalf of our industry. We thank you for your continued support.

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2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow - Building A Sweeter Future

The 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow was held, January 10-14, in Galveston, Texas. This joint conference of The American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producers Association and The Canadian Honey Council was a huge success with over 1,500 beekeepers collaborating and sharing best practices. In addition, members of the Apiary Inspectors of American (AIA), the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA), the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) and the National Honey Packers & Dealers Association (NHPDA) gathered in the same location for joint meetings and to participate in the conference.

We kicked off this year's conference on Wednesday, January 11, with The Presentation of Colors by the Sons of the Revolution and a welcome by Chris Moore, President of the Texas Beekeepers Association. General session followed with presentations from industry experts including a keynote from Dr. Jonathan Lundgren on "Beyond the Bees: Why 'Solving the Bee Problem' Isn't Going to Work." The evening concluded with the Welcome Reception in the sold-out tradeshow with entertainment provided by the 2017 American Honey Queen candidates.

Thursday morning began with the Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast and a panel discussion. Over 200 beekeepers gathered to collaborate on issues unique to their commercial businesses. The day continued with track sessions for Beginning Beekeepers, Serious Sideliners and Commercial beekeepers. The ABF Auxiliary lunch/meeting, with over 100 attendees, featured presentations from the Honey Queen candidates and the opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary. The evening concluded with an optional social activity at the Moody Gardens Rainforest with over 375 in attendance. Participants had the opportunity to view 3D and 4D movies, and they enjoyed the musical talents of Terry Brown while learning how to rope from professional trick and fancy roper, Hilda Machado.

The ever-popular Kids and Bees session was held on Friday morning, coordinated by our very own BeeGirl, Sarah Red-Laird. Over 250 local children participated in this hands-on, interactive program. Children, teachers and parents walked away with a greater understanding of the honey bee and its importance to our livelihood.

Friday was also packed full with general sessions featuring updates from the USDA-ARS labs and a keynote presentation by Dr. Jeff Pettis on "Is Secondhand Smoke Killing Bees?" More than 150 people participated in the Foundation luncheon where they met the 2017 Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Scholars:

- Mehmet Ali Doke, a doctoral candidate in the Entomology PhD program at Penn State
- Courtney MacInnis, a Master's student in the department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta
- Rodney Richardson, a doctoral candidate at Ohio State University's Department of Entomology
- Lars Straub, a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Bee Health

Congratulations to these scholars who each received a $2,000 scholarship grant from the Foundation to continue with their course of study.

The annual ABF Business Meeting was also held on Friday where Gene Brandi, Los Banos, CA, was confirmed as ABF President for 2017 and Tim May, Harvard, IL, was confirmed as Vice President. The Board of Directors was also confirmed and can be viewed on the ABF website (www.abfnet.org).

Additionally, the 2017 Honey Show auction was held on Friday with all proceeds benefitting the American Honey Queen Program. With over 63 entries from 16 states and 2 countries, the judges faced no small task. Special thanks to Mary Kettlewell and the all the judges for their time and expertise. For a complete list of winners, please visit the NABC website (nabeekeepingconference.com).

The AHPA annual banquet was held Friday evening at the San Luis Resort with over 250 in attendance. AHPA presented Christi Heintz with the Friend of the Industry Award and Mark Brady with the Beekeeper of the Year Award. The evening ended with a live auction, lots of fun and some great items going to happy bidders.

The final day of the conference was again packed with hands-on workshops where attendees had the opportunity to learn:

- How to Prepare a Business for Sale
- How to Make Candles and Creamed Honey
- Encaustic Art & Monoprints
- Honey Bee Morphology and Anatomy
- Skin Care with Beeswax and Honey
- Honey Bee Biology and Management
- And much, much more . . .

The ABF/CHC banquet was the final activity of the conference. More than 360 people attended the banquet and participated in the Sweepstakes drawings, the live auction and the coronation of the 2017 American Honey Queen and Princess. Congratulations to Maia Jaycox, our 2017 American Honey Queen, and Hope Pettibon, our 2017 American Honey Princess. Thank you for all the amazing work you are going to do for the ABF. 2017 is going to be an adventurous and fulfilling year for you both.

ABF was pleased to present two awards that evening. The President's Award was presented to George Hansen in recognition of his outstanding and significant contributions to the American Beekeeping Federation and the beekeeping and honey industry. Dr. Jeff Pettis was the recipient of this year's Hoopingarner Award for the best scientific presentation of the conference.

We would like to recognize and thank our conference sponsors who made this conference possible:

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Save the Date: Be sure to join us for the 75th Annual ABF Conference & Tradeshow, January 9-13, 2018, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada! We look forward to seeing you there! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor, please contact Regina K. Robuck, at reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

Exploring How DNA Sequencing Can be Used to Identify Honey Bee-collected Pollen

by: Rodney Richardson
2017 Foundation Scholarship Recipient

From determining which floral resources sustain honey bee colonies to tracking down criminals, identifying the botanical origins of pollen is useful in many applications. Traditionally, pollen grains have been identified by visualizing the physical features of the pollen – the number of pores, geometric shape, surface texture, etc. – but this approach is limited by its reliance upon highly-trained practitioners. Despite its limitations, this traditional method is a valid approach to identifying pollen and should be encouraged. Such experts often possess critical knowledge of plant biology and can serve to verify the findings of novel methods of pollen identification. In construction, it doesn't hurt to measure twice and cut once every now and then. The same concept applies as we expand our knowledge of honey bee foraging. However, to make pollen identification more readily available to researchers, beekeepers and forensic scientists, new methods of identifying pollen should be pursued.

A promising new method relies on identifying pollen using DNA sequencing as opposed to microscopy. Using microscopy, reference pollen grains are collected from the flowers of a particular species and used as a reference for comparison to bee-collected pollen of unknown origin. However, just as these physical features can be useful, so too can the DNA inside the pollen. With the DNA-based method, scientist can sequence the DNA of a particular plant species to produce a reference sequence. Reference sequences can then be used for comparison to sequences obtained from bee-collected pollen of unknown botanical origin.

As a graduate student of The Ohio State University, much of my work

> *"With the DNA-based method, scientists can sequence the DNA of a particular plant species to produce a reference sequence."*
> –Rodney Richardson

has been devoted to applying molecular techniques to the study of bee-collected pollen. Thus far, we have found that DNA sequencing techniques can be used to identify the plants represented in diverse samples of pollen. However, the success of this method can be highly variable with respect to how well we can resolve plant species and whether the data provides useful information on the relative abundances of different types of pollen within samples. In summary, this approach to pollen identification is new, exciting and full of promise, though it does deserve additional validation prior to large-scale application.

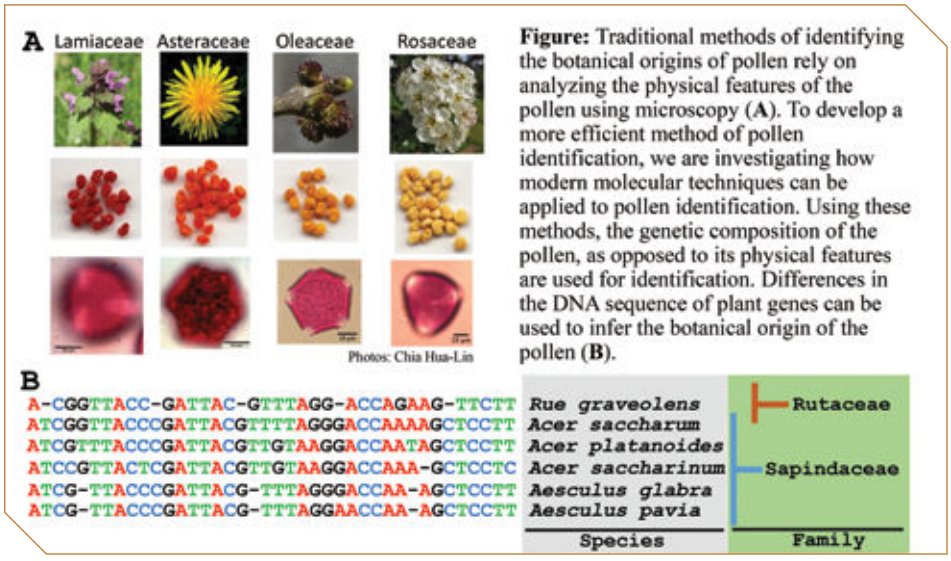

Figure: Traditional methods of identifying the botanical origins of pollen rely on analyzing the physical features of the pollen using microscopy (**A**). To develop a more efficient method of pollen identification, we are investigating how modern molecular techniques can be applied to pollen identification. Using these methods, the genetic composition of the pollen, as opposed to its physical features are used for identification. Differences in the DNA sequence of plant genes can be used to infer the botanical origin of the pollen (**B**).

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Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I welcome our 2017 American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox of Iowa, and our 2017 American Honey Princess, Hope Pettibon of Texas, to the ABF family. These two young women will have a busy year representing us at promotional and educational events.

Queen Maia and Princess Hope have big shoes to fill. I extend the American Honey Queen Committee's deepest appreciation for the exemplary efforts of our 2016 American Honey Queen, Kim Kester, and Princess, Tabitha Mansker. Recapping their year, they reached 29 states, 13 on multiple occasions, reached 14,951 students through classroom presentations, had media coverage through television, radio, print, and internet outlets valued at approximately $391,476.60 and traveled collectively 393 days on our behalf in 2016. They were outstanding spokespersons for our industry and made an impact on legislative bodies on local and state levels as well as to college students, 4-H members and FFA students. Kim and Tabitha were active promoters and stewards of our industry. We wish them well as Kim enters the United States Army Officer Training program and Tabitha continues her studies at Texas A&M University.

2016 American Honey Queen Kim Kester and 2017 American Honey Queen Maia Jaycox and 2017 American Honey Princess Hope Pettibon

The 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow was an amazing display of all that is good in our industry. We had great collaboration with our colleagues in the American Honey Producers Association, the Canadian Honey Council and multiple other boards and organizations holding meetings during our conference. I extend the American Honey Queen Program's sincere thanks to all conference attendees who supported the program through purchases of raffle tickets, purchasing honey from the American Honey Show auction, entering honey in the American Honey Show, donating auction items to the ABF or supporting the program through other auctions and events. I extend special thanks to members of the various organizations participating in the annual Beekeeper Brainbuster activity at our opening reception and to the outstanding and entertaining auction styles of Rick Sutton, Louann Hausner and Gary Reuter.

For 2017, the American Honey Queen Program will again strive to reach close to 30 states and continue the strong tradition of media coverage and education that this program has provided for nearly 60 years. The Queens will also continue to work to expand the program's reach through its social media outlets, www.buzzingacrossamerica.com, the American Honey Queen YouTube channel and the American Honey Queen Facebook page. Please check out these sites and follow and like the content that is provided and available for you to use in your promotions and presentations.

Please contact me as soon as possible to arrange a visit from Maia or Hope to your state. We especially encourage visits to Alabama, Idaho, South Carolina, Utah and Vermont, where Queens and Princesses have not been in over a decade. You may contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Maia, Hope, and I look forward to making 2017 another stellar year!

Log on and plug in today!

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Member Milestones

Milestones for November & December 2016

5 Years
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Bill Dunn, GA
Randell Verhoek, TX
Stephen Pernal, AB, Canada
Stan Umlauft, CA
Richard Anderson, TX
Janet Brisson, CA
John Gaut, NJ
Sam Hall, NY
Ryan Lieuallen, OR
Sheila Millet, ID
William Palmer, WI
Mark Schifrin, MD
Vayden Stanley, TX

10 Years
David Blocher, CT
S.S. Brantley, TX
Tony Hogg, FL
Eric Mills, SC
Matthew Scott, ME
David Winter, CA

15 Years
Zac Browning, ND
Laurence Cutts, FL
Cecelia Patterson, IA

20 Years
Valeri Strachan-Severson, CA
Vincent Vazza, OR

25 Years
Roger Hoopingarner, MI
Vicki Hull, MN

30 Years
Jerilyn Honl, MN
Alan Baldwin, WI
B.W. Lemmons, ID

35 Years
Robert Lee Allen, OR
Wesley Waring, MN

40 Years
Robert Clark, WA

45 Years
Howard Schwab, ND

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 19,000 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!

American Honey Queen Report

by: Maia Jaycox
American Honey Queen

Maia Jaycox
American Honey Queen

Hello, beekeepers! I am Maia Jaycox, your 2017 American Honey Queen. I am the daughter of Scott and Juli Jaycox of Webster City, Iowa, and the granddaughter of Lynn and Deb Jaycox of Webster City, Iowa, and Richard and JoAnn Kuebler of Tucson, Arizona. I have one older brother, Cooper, who is 21 and is currently attending Iowa State University.

I am a 2016 graduate from Webster City High School and am currently attending Iowa State University. I am a member of the Kappa Alpha Sorority at Iowa State and am very involved in my sorority. I enjoy all the opportunities that have come with being a sorority member. I am currently in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State but am undeclared on my major. I have always enjoyed science, so I am considering studying biology.

I have been a beekeeper for about four years now and have about seven hives. My mom always wanted bees, so, as a family, we decided that it would be a great learning experience to become beekeepers together. We normally sell our honey at our farmers' market or give it as gifts to friends and family. My mom and I also like to use the wax to make lip balm and lotion bars as well.

I would like to thank the Iowa Honey Producers Association for allowing me to be their 2016 Iowa Honey Queen. I am extremely excited about all the traveling that I will do with the American Honey Queen Program. This is such an amazing opportunity. I am proud to be a part of the American Beekeeping Federation and excited to see where this year goes!

Queen Maia worked with children at the Kids N Bees Expo in Galveston.

Queen Maia prepares to address the ABF for the first time.

Queen Maia is introduced at the ABF banquet.

Princess Hope and I will be heading off to training in early February, and we are very excited to get the year started. Be sure to follow our first experiences as Honey Queen and Princess on the American Honey Queen Facebook page. To schedule an appearance from one of us, please contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

American Honey Princess Report

by: Hope Pettibon
American Honey Princess

Hope Pettibon
American Honey Princess

Hello, everyone! This is my first newsletter as the 2017 American Honey Princess. I cannot tell you how honored and exited I am to serve you this year as the spokesperson for the honey bee industry in all of America.

Some of you may remember my sister, Nicole Pettibon. She was the 2009 Texas Honey Queen. As a little girl, I can remember watching her speak at different events and talking about the importance of the honey bee. I knew then that I wanted to serve as a honey queen when I got older! I understood that it is a privilege to serve the industry by sharing the importance of the honey bee and the products we receive from the hive. At age 17, I had the privilege of serving as the Collin County Honey Princess in 2014, then as the Collin County Honey Queen in 2015 and as the Texas Honey Queen last year.

Princess Hope participates in the Beekeeping Brainbuster with members of the Canadian Honey Council, ABF, and AHPA.

My family has been raising honey bees since 2004, when my older brother and sister received a scholarship from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. I am now 20 years old, the fifth of 11 siblings (7 girls and 4 boys). I attended a Bible College last year and graduated with a one-year Bible certificate. During my free time, I enjoy reading, playing the piano, cooking and crafts. I also love spending time outside gardening, farming and helping my family raise honey bees. We now have seven hives that are doing very well and provide delicious honey for our family and friends. Also, I entered my honey in the black jar tasting contest at the Texas State Fair last year and won third place!

I had a wonderful time at the North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow meeting many of you and helping to raise funds for the ABF and the American Honey Queen program to support Queen Maia's and my travels this year. Make sure to buy some raffle tickets for our 2018 raffle when I see you this year! I enjoy learning about the different products in the hive and how this amazing insect benefits our world.

I am available this year for interviews and presentations about our industry, and I am excited to visit your state! Please contact American Honey Queen Program Chair, Anna Kettlewell, at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com to arrange an appearance from me this year.

Princess Hope helps out with one of the auctions with 2016 American Honey Queen and Princess Kim Kester and Tabitha Mansker.

Princess Hope receives her new title at the ABF banquet in Galveston.

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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!

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From the Auxiliary

by: Louise Johnson
ABF Auxiliary President

The 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow in Galveston, Texas, was a BIG success. The weather was warm, a nice break from our Iowa weather.

Congratulations to Jodie Drange, from Laurel, Montana, who won the Best of Show for her entry in the ABF Auxiliary photo contest. I would like to see your photos at the 2018 ABF conference in Reno, Nevada, January 9-13, 2018.

The quilt raffle for the Honey Queen Program exceed expectations. The queen, princess and candidates worked very hard selling all the tickets and it sure paid off.

I want to say a special "Thank you" to all who helped at the auxiliary table and to all who made donations. I am hoping and praying that all the beekeepers and bees are healthy and safe for the winter.

photo by Jodie Drange

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799 Grange Hall Rd.
Milton, PA 17847
dbhack@evenlink.com

Honey Recipe:

Sweet and Sour Chicken Wings

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup Honey
- 3/4 cup diced sweet red peppers
- 1/3 cup wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup pineapple juice
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (optional)
- 1-1/2 lb. fried or baked chicken wings

DIRECTIONS:

Combine honey, peppers, vinegar, pineapple juice and seasonings in small saucepan; mix well. Cook and stir until mixture begins to thicken. Pour over chicken wings in baking dish. Bake at 350° for 12 to 15 minutes or until wings are glazed with sauce.

Yield: 6 Servings

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