Sweet Summer Treats

Keynote Speakers Announced for the 2018 ABF Conference & Tradeshow
Beekeeping in Havana, Cuba
Foundation Offering Five Graduate Students Scholarships
### 2017 Board of Directors

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*(EC) indicates Executive Committee member.*

Number in parentheses next to Director’s name indicates the year their current term ends and whether they are in their 1st or 2nd term.

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**American Beekeeping Federation NEWS**

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*Copy deadline is the first day of January, March, May, July, September and November for publications mailed at the end of the same month.*
The 75th Anniversary ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Reno this coming January 9-13, 2018 will be a special event that you will not want to miss. Registration is now open at http://abfconference.com. We will have a great tradeshow and the American Honey Show. In addition to a great array of nationally and internationally renowned speakers, we will take a nostalgic look back at ABF history and some of the issues with which the ABF has dealt during the past seven and a half decades.

Our two keynote speakers: Morris Weaver, ABF Past President (1975-76), and Dr. Jamie Ellis of the University of Florida will help set the stage for this momentous convention. Morris has a great deal of personal knowledge about ABF history but he is also calling upon ABF Past Presidents to ascertain their opinions as to the major challenges they faced during their Presidencies and how they dealt with them. Morris has been an ABF member since 1945 and will surely have a unique, interesting, and fact filled presentation.

Dr. Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida, who has responsibilities in extension, instruction, and research related to honey bees. Jamie has become a world-renowned honey bee scientist and has grown the University of Florida honey bee research program to include projects in the fields of honey bee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination. Jamie has a unique presentation style that is entertaining as well as educational.

I will highlight the 2018 ABF Conference in greater detail in the September/October issue of ABF News. Please note that conference registration is now open through the ABF website and the Grand Sierra Resort is accepting room reservations for the conference.

Now that I am in the final stretch of my second year as ABF President, I often think about what we have accomplished in recent years, as well as the many things upon which we still need to focus and work to see that changes are made. Among the latter, an issue of great importance to the health of the beekeeping community throughout the country is the changing of EPA’s pesticide policies which have diminished bee protection from pesticides in recent years. The new “Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products” announced at the Galveston conference in early January is a giant step backward in pollinator protection. With all the pesticide related bee and colony health issues we continue to face, this new policy is a kick in the gut to the bee industry.

EPA is suggesting in this policy that the following language be REMOVED from pesticide products which are toxic to bees: “This product is highly toxic to bees and other pollinating insects exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees or other pollinating insects are visiting the treatment area.” This language has been required on bee toxic products for decades and this mandatory “Do Not Apply….” language has been the fundamental basis of bee protection from pesticides. There have been efforts to remove or alter this language for at least the past 20 years. I know this from personal experience as I represented ABF on the EPA State Labeling Issues Panel for several years in the late 1990’s and the main focus of that group was to “relax” the bee warnings on pesticide labels by changing the aforementioned language. It has taken 20 years but it is finally happening at a time when bee health is at a critical juncture and pesticide exposure remains a major bee health issue throughout most of the country.

EPA recommends that the following language replace the longstanding prohibitory language in the previous paragraph: “This product is [moderately/highly] toxic to bees and other pollinating insects exposed to direct treatment, or to residues in/on blooming crops or weeds. Protect pollinating insects by following label directions intended to minimize drift and to reduce risk to these organisms.” At first glance, this language may appear to be protective of bees but it takes the teeth right out the label and there is nothing to enforce. The mandatory “Do Not Apply….” language is gone. Couple that with the “exemptions” on the neonicotinoid labels and the new sulfoxaflor label that does not even mention bee toxicity at all, and bee protective label language is minimal.

continued on page 4
We were encouraged in 2009 when EPA established its “Pollinator Protection Team.” Unfortunately, this team has done little to protect bees from pesticides. When the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators was announced in May of 2015, we were all very hopeful that finally, the health of honey bees and the beekeeping industry was a serious concern in Washington, especially at EPA. Clearly, there are many who either don’t care about bees or who choose ignore facts about bee health when it comes to pesticide issues. The EPA response to the National Strategy has been to weaken pesticide regulation and labels regarding honey bees, support development of less than effective Managed Pollinator Protection Programs (upon which I commented in detail in this column last July/August 2016), reduce pollinator protection for all bees but especially those not under contract pollination services, and other actions which are not protective of bees and other pollinators.

Where do we go from here? Is there no one listening to us at EPA? The problem is that people at EPA are listening, but not necessarily to us. We have been polite and professional in our discussions, testimony, and submissions to EPA, maybe too polite. We must engage more of our allies in the agricultural community and elsewhere to help us battle at EPA, and yes, it is a battle for the future of our industry.

ABF Vice President, Tim May, and I visited EPA this spring and have expressed the ABF’s concerns about EPA policies. We also mentioned these concerns at our Congressional visits during Pollinator Week in June, as well as at USDA. I emphasized our EPA concerns during my presentation at a Congressional briefing of the House Pollinator Caucus during Pollinator Week as well.

The key messages during our Pollinator Week visits were that the bees are still in trouble, and their health issues are caused by pesticides, mites, pathogens, and poor nutrition. We also urged that Federal agencies embrace the framework of the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators. Of the 14 Federal agencies mentioned in the strategy, none are more important to the health of honey bees than EPA and USDA. Tim and I were encouraged to hear USDA Secretary Perdue publicly acknowledge the importance of bees to the nation and the fact that they are still not healthy, when we met him at Vice President Pence’s residence for the unveiling of their new bee hive in early June.

Our goal at ABF is to work on behalf of the bee industry and the beekeeping community to help improve conditions for honey bees so that they can be as healthy as possible to pollinate the nation’s crops and produce a bounteous crop of honey, where possible. Yes, it is frustrating at times, but we will never cease pushing forward for you and your bees.

I hope you and your bees are having a good summer!
June was a busy month for ABF President Gene Brandi and I. We each made two visits to Washington, D.C., and another to the ABF office in Atlanta, Georgia. I have given an update on the Washington, D.C. trips in this issue’s Government Relations section.

Our annual visit to the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia took place the last week in June. We had two days of meetings with the staff at Meeting Expectations (ME!) which has been ABF’s management partner since 2009. As many of you know the financial situation for ABF back in 2009 was not the best. Membership numbers remained stagnant along with the revenue from the annual conference.

Over the past eight years, we have seen dramatic improvements in the financial situation as well as a 50% growth in membership. A lot of this can be attributed to the partnership with Meeting Expectations. The team that has been put together for ABF is outstanding. The positive changes the ABF has incurred during this time should be evident to its members.

I have been attending the annual conference for many years and I have noticed a dramatic increase in the quality of the conference since 2010. The tradeshow, speakers and special events during the conference get better every year. New additions such as the “Conference App” and Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast have been big hits with conference goers. We have exciting additions planned for ABF’s 75th Anniversary Conference & Tradeshow in Reno, Nevada January 9-12, 2018.

ABF’s support team from Meeting Expectations is overseen by ME VP Beth Chitnis. Beth is responsible for putting together the support team, assigning, and appropriating the staff. Beth works with Gene, myself, and the Board of Directors when changes in staff or assignments are needed.

Sherrell Bailey is the newest member of the team and has the title of ABF membership coordinator. Sherrell is the ABF main contact person for all phone calls and emails. She also manages the membership database and website. Sherrell helps coordinate the content for the ABF News and ABF E-Buzz along with webinar topics, scheduling, and promotion. She also facilitates the webinars. She additionally works with the education and membership/marketing committees in scheduling, topics, and new initiatives. Sherrell has only been a member of the team for a short time, but has quickly become an important contributor.

Micheal North, an original team member since the transition to ME, is the financial director for the team. Micheal has really been a pleasure to work with. His simple explanations to the ABF Board of Directors regarding financial reports have truly been appreciated. He is always willing to take extra time, phone calls, and emails as needed to clarify any financial questions anyone may have.

Tara Zeravsky, also an original team member, is the conference manager for ABF. Tara’s responsibilities revolve around the annual ABF Conference & Tradeshow. She works on site feasibility, facilities, accommodations, food and beverage, speakers, and activities. If it has anything to do with the conference, Tara is working on it. The ABF Conference & Tradeshow has seen annual enhancement since Tara has been on the team.

Liz Klostermann is the exhibit manager. Liz works with Regina on coordinating the tradeshow prior to and on-site at the annual conference. She also helps at registration as do all the team members.

Allison Dixon, senior director of marketing & creative services and Dimitri Papadimitriou, art director, lead the marketing/graphic design part of the team. They do the graphic design and artwork for all printed and online publications, and promotions. These areas have seen great improvement since the partnership with Meeting Expectations began eight years ago. A revamping of the ABF News and ABF E-Buzz are planned for 2018 and Allison and Dimitri will be a big part of this endeavor.

I would just like to thank the ABF Support Team from Meeting Expectations for their hospitality during our visit and their continued dedication to the ABF. It has been great working with them for the past years and I am looking forward to our future together.
Meet Your ABF Board
Special Interest Group Leaders

Directors Representing Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG

Jonathan Millet
Jonathan was born in southwest Idaho into a beekeeping family in 1980. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2003 from the University of Idaho. He spent almost a year on the big Island of Hawaii working for Kona Queen company learning the many facets of queen production. Jon served as Vice President, President, and now past President of the Idaho Honey Industry Association. Together he and his wife, Sheila own and operate a commercial bee operation, produce queens, nucs, and packages for use in their own operation as well as for sale. They also have a bakery where they produce artisan bread using honey as the only sweetener and pack honey for retail stores. Jonathan and Sheila also have a son together, Stuart.

Phillip Russell
My grandfather, Don Strachan, started Strachan Apiaries in 1954. My mother, Valeri Severson, worked for the family business my whole life. As a child, education was impressed on me more than beekeeping. I did work a few summers extracting, but I chose college over bees. Part way through my junior year of college I purchased a suffering flooring business. I always liked business and enjoyed being an owner. I added an accounting degree and other businesses along the way. Some were successes, some failures, but I learned from all of them along the way. When the housing market crashed in 2009, my mom asked me to step in and help run the family business. I released all my other obligations and joined her in the business in January of 2010. I hope my children will join me on this journey as well because I wish I had started earlier in the bees.

Directors Representing Honey Producer-Packer SIG

Randy Fair
Randy is a second-generation beekeeper who joined his father 12 years ago with 4 swarms and together they built up to 98 hives. Randy retired from International Paper Company after 22 years, to be a full-time beekeeper. Randy currently runs 300 colonies for honey production and blueberry pollination. Randy is a Louisiana state delegate to the Eastern Apiculture Society and American Beekeeping Federation. Past president and current treasurer of the ArkLaTex Beekeepers Club and President of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. He also serves as a past vice president and currently the treasurer of the DeSoto Parish Farm Bureau, in addition to being the chairman of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Beekeepers Advisory Committee and member of the American Honey Producers Association.

Robert Sears
I started beekeeping 26 years ago to balance my life as a lawyer in St. Louis. A local beekeeper told me that keeping bees was easy and inexpensive, and that I’d never get stung. I believed him. My first packages swarmed, but two years later my light honey took a blue ribbon at the Missouri State Fair, and I’ve never looked back. I run about 30 colonies in three yards and sell honey. I am President of my local club, Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association, where Sharon Gibbons, a past ABF board member, mentored me. I am also an EAS Master Beekeeper, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. I will be President of Heartland Apicultural Society in 2018. Serving on the board of ABF has given me the opportunity to contribute my time and experience to achieving a better outcome for honey bees and beekeepers, and to enjoy the kinship of the great people in ABF who keep bees.
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In June, ABF President Gene Brandi and myself made two trips to Washington, D.C. As most of you know the first trip was an invitation from 2nd Lady Karen Pence to the ceremony for the unveiling of a bee hive on the residence of the Vice President at the Naval Observatory.

Our second trip was during National Pollinator Week. Gene and I along with Fran Boyd (Meyers & Associates) met with Majority and Minority Congressional staffers from the Senate and House Agriculture committees. Once again, we stressed the importance of honeybees and the fact that the health of honeybees and other pollinators is still a concern. We emphasized the importance of the Federal Strategy for Pollinator Protection and how it is bipartisan and should be continued throughout this administration. This was a great week to talk with these committees since it was National Pollinator Week and they all seemed concerned about the situation.

Gene was on a panel for a briefing with the Congressional Pollinator Protector Caucus that was put on by Pollinator Partnership. Gene voiced our concerns to a standing room only audience.

We also were invited by the new Pollinator Partnership CEO, Val Dolcini to attend a reception at the new American Society of Landscape Architect’s building in downtown Washington. The building has a green rooftop made up of pollinator friendly plants.

Gene, Fran, and I also met with Jon Samson from the American Trucking Association. We discussed the new electronic logging requirements and hours of service regulations. We have been pushing for bees to be considered livestock. This may give beekeepers some exemptions and extensions to some of the new regulations. The new GVW limit on some regulations will be set at 26,000 lbs. rather than the 10,000 lbs. which had been considered.

We had an appointment with Dr. Anne Bartuska from the USDA. Dr. Bartuska is the current go to person regarding bee issues at the USDA and is a carryover from the last administration. She is very concerned with the bee situation and will be very good to work with. We explained how the UC Davis lab was ready to go, but still without a staff. We discussed the new Cast report titled “Why does Bee Health Matter? The Science Surrounding Honey Bee Health Concerns and What We Can Do About It”.

The Cast Commentary was a consensus report authored by a combination of scientists, geologists, and beekeepers. The group was led by the University of Minnesota’s Dr. Marla Spivak. The complete report is available on the USDA website (Cast Commentary QTA 2017-1).

We also had a discussion with Peter Narby from Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley’s office. Senator Merkley just released the “Pollinator Recovery Act”. The Bill will increase pollinator habitat by 3 million acres. It provides incentives to farmers who act to conserve pollinators among other provisions. It also addresses the concerns regarding native bees and other pollinators. More information on this Bill is available at www.merkley.senate.gov.
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Havana, Cuba and Honey Bees

by: Steven Page

Three friends and I, all of us beekeepers, spent a few days in Havana, Cuba recently. We immersed ourselves in the Cuban culture and history by using a driver that was our guide and interpreter also. We rode around Havana and out into the countryside in a 1952 Oldsmobile powered by a Kohler diesel engine. No seatbelts, no airbags.

We stayed at a Bed and Breakfast and enjoyed Cuban coffee with eggs, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables each morning. Lack of resources and supplies results in almost everything being in less than good repair.

Outside Havana, we visited a bee yard with about 20 colonies. Each hive had a piece of rubber over the top for protection from rain. The well-worn wooden hives were not in good repair, but the bees were coming and going from the entrance. The bee yard was in a small grove of trees probably for summer shade. We visited one bee yard, so we don't know if we saw a typical bee yard. Cuban honey is excellent with much of it exported to Europe.

Bees working in Havana, Cuba

Wood hives from the bee yard in a small grove of trees

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 24,000 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!
Foundation Offering Five Graduate Student Scholarships
Submission Deadline: September 22, 2017

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. (The Foundation) is offering $2,000 scholarships to apiculture graduate students in 2018. 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 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 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow at Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada on January 10-13, 2018. Each awardee will be given a $2,000 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 22, 2017.

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 late October 2017. Each chosen recipient will receive detailed information about the scholarship, travel arrangements and conference expectations in early November 2017.

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: 2018 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.
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The Beebeginning of the End?

The decline in honey bee population has caused many to wonder, what would a bee-less future hold? Hopefully, Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) will help us to never find out. This essay explores what MP3s are, why they’re important, and how they could more effectively protect honey bees from pesticides.

First, imagine a world without honey bees...

“You can live without bees, I guess, just like you can live without sunlight, and possibly even sleep. But why would you want to? Bee-pollinated foods enrich our lives and keep us healthy. You don’t need Einstein to tell you that.”1 Without bees we’d be hand pollinating with paint brushes and cigarette filters, like in China’s Maoxian region, where humans pollinate 100% of fruit trees by hand.2

NH Beekeeper of the Year, Jodi Turner, said, “Without bees, we’d be eating grain.”3 “Quite a bit would happen, or rather, not happen, if the bees were gone,” remarked Jim McCart of Pemi Baker Bee Club.4 “Mitigating the effects of pesticides on bees is a high priority for the federal government, as both bee pollination and insect control are essential to the success of agriculture.”5 The estimated economic value of honey bee pollination to agriculture production for human consumption is just under $200 billion per year worldwide.6 Bees pollinate more than $15 billion in US crops and produce about $150 million in honey annually.7 Every spring California almond growers import about 80% (1.7 million) of US colonies to pollinate their 1.85 - 200 billion pounds of almonds.8 California almond growers import about 80% (1.7 million) of US colonies to pollinate their 1.85 - 200 billion pounds of almonds.9

Almonds are only one of about 90 foods pollinated by bees.9 “Without bees and theirilk, almonds simply wouldn’t exist.”10

Now that we’ve concluded honey bees are important, we can discuss what’s being done to help them. In 2014, President Obama presented the concept of Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) to the federal government. The intention of MP3 is to protect pollinators from pesticides. This is achieved through education and communication especially with key stakeholders (beekeepers, growers, and pesticide applicators).

Before any improvements can be made, MP3s need to be implemented, which has only happened in seven states.11 Thirty nine other states, including NH,12 only have a plan of action.13 “It’s hard to tell how MP3 could be improved, without having it in place,” says David Rousseau, Director, NH Division of Pesticide Control.14 Maine has had an MP3 since 2015. “This will be the year we can accurately evaluate the effect MP3 is having,” commented Jennifer Lund, from Maine’s Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.15 EPA should make MP3s mandatory, and set an implementation deadline. As Michelle Colopy from Pollinator Stewardship Council said, “Many states won’t start MP3 because it isn’t funded.”16 EPA could allocate funds to those states.

When MP3s’ communication channels are successful, pesticide applicators inform beekeepers 48 hours before spraying. However, it is still a financial burden for beekeepers to temporarily relocate their colonies. Not only that, the 48 hour rule is nothing new. As Colopy said, “It has been around since the 1970s and clearly hasn’t solved the problem.”17 Enlarging the 1-2 mile “Pollinator Awareness Zone”18 (PAZ) would also help bees since they travel up to 5 miles to gather pollen. If the pollen collecting bees bring pollen contaminated with pesticides back to their hive, it will kill the bee larva. Some chemicals are prohibited if there are colonies within the PAZ, even if beekeepers have been notified.19 This needs better enforcement laws. Maine is creating a Geographical Information System to show where managed hives are located.20 Lund feels this will make it easier for pesticide applicators to keep track of the PAZ.21

MP3s educational materials should better help the public and key stakeholders understand the effects pesticides have on pollinators. Information should be provided about the negative effects of spraying pesticides “as a protective measure” (when pests are not present), which increases pests’ resistance, and kills many helpful insects. Only 5% of insects are harmful to humans or crops.22 One study in China found that half of the apple farmers were unaware that pesticides could kill bees.23 Reminders to avoid spraying when a crop is in bloom, or choosing a pesticide that loses potency quickly and spraying it at night, could make a huge difference in the future of bees.

Better yet, MP3s could mandate reduction or elimination of pesticides. Awareness of the effects of pesticides should decrease public consumption. Lund remarked, “Since MP3 has been in place in Maine (2015) pesticide applicators are more aware of what they can do, and they’re willing to make changes in the right direction.”24 There should defiantly be more public outreach on behalf of pollinators. MP3s must be tailored to each state’s specific needs. With education and communication, we could prevent the bees from dying. It doesn’t have to be extremely difficult, but if we wait too long, it will be.

However, as effective as all these improvements might make MP3s, we need more than words on paper. We all have a part to play in the solution. As Colopy put it, “None of these plans will solve the problems bees are facing. It will take all of us people to come together and agree we want to live in a world with a balanced ecosystem and healthy food.”25

NH citizens are making an effort. Nancy Mangion, owner of Bee Keepers Warehouse, said the most important part of her work is to walk new beekeepers through the process.26 Pemi Baker Bee Club mentors youth, and keeps a hive at Squam Lake Science Center...
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Queen Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell
Honey Queen Program Chair

Summer is seemingly flying by and our American Honey Queen and Princess are busily preparing for a summer and early autumn of busy promotions. The first half of 2017 brought several new Honey Queen promotions with some exciting groups and organizations. With June ending, the Queens will work with members of the American Honey Queen Committee on their mid-year reviews, and we will continue to provide training opportunities for them throughout the remainder of the year. They have many exciting venues to visit in the upcoming months, and we are eager for all events, especially those promotions with the 2017 state honey queens.

If your state has a honey queen program, encourage your organization to host one of our national representatives to work alongside your state queen. Our national queens are great resources for the state queens who may submit applications for the national positions in November. Not only can the American Honey Queen and Princess provide advice and guidance on the selection process, they can also give your state queens pointers on effective promoting. It can even be a bit more exciting to promote as a team, and an American Honey Queen or Princess visit can help your state queen with confidence and enthusiasm after she leaves!

We look forward to welcoming several state queens to the ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Reno in 2018. It will mark the American Honey Queen Program’s 60th anniversary year. The foundation for a great national program is the quality of candidates coming from our various state programs. 113 women have served in the capacity of American Honey Queen and Princess, and countless more have served as state and local honey queens.

Given the expansive network of American Honey Queens, Princesses, and State Honey Queens, a group of former American Honey Queens, Princesses, and national candidates joined together to create an alumni association of these individuals. Dubbed “BEE”, the group kicked off its initiative formally in June (after several years of organizing) and are looking to connect former queens to support those who participate in the program. This initiative may include providing professional networking for past participants, providing welcome baskets or encouraging words for Queen candidates at the ABF conference, supporting the current American Honey Queen and Princess as they become skilled travelers (who maybe miss home a little bit during their year of service), and providing past queens a link back to the program. So far, BEE has reconnected over 80 former Honey Queens, including our very first American Honey Queen, Esther Kay (Seidelman) Whan (1959). If you know a former American Honey Queen, Princess, or candidate for these positions from your state, have them contact Alyssa Fine at beta.epsilon.epsilon@gmail.com or search “Beta Epsilon Epsilon” on Facebook to join this organization.

Please continue to send me your promotional requests for Queen Maia and Princess Hope as soon as possible! The Queens’ calendars are booked now through late September, but we still have openings in October through December. You can reach me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514.

Member Milestones

### Milestones for May and June 2017

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<th>5 Years</th>
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Now that I am done with my semester at Iowa State University, I am on the go. I am on the go quite a bit and am enjoying every minute of it! Here is what I have been up to these past few months.

Right before school finished, I took a break and spoke at Gilbert Intermediate School outside Ames, IA on April 24. At this school, I reached 115 students. I really enjoyed taking a break from school to be able to share my knowledge about honeybees. The kids were very interested in learning about honeybees and had really great questions.

On May 9, I met with Hamilton County Board in my home county, and they declared it “Maia Jaycox Day”. In addition to receiving a proclamation, I talked to the members of the County Board about my position, what I will do during the year, and how they can help our industry. It is such a great honor to be able to represent not only the ABF, but my home town as well.

As I was getting settled back home from school, I traveled around Iowa to speak in different schools between May 10 and 17. I appeared at Stratford Elementary School, Eldora-New Providence Elementary School, Sunset Heights Elementary School, Northeast Hamilton Community School, and Webster City High School. In Eldora-New Providence Elementary school, I gave three different presentations to students in grades 2-4. Speaking with these different classes was great and they didn’t want to leave, because they wanted to learn more. Sunset Heights Elementary School is in my hometown of Webster City. With 210 students ranging in different grades, they all were very interested about honeybees, it was great to see all of their faces light up when they learned something interesting about the bees. At Northeast Hamilton Community School, the students had already been learning about honeybees, because they will be getting an observation hive in their school coming next year. I hope to visit once the hive is established at their school.

One of my many goals this year was to start of hive at Webster City High School, my alma mater. On May 17, I spent an entire day working with the Agricultural classes and the Animal Science classes, talking to them about the industry and helping establish their beehive. I will be working with my old high school over the next few years while they start to establish their hive.

My next trip was just outside Houston, TX for the Pasadena Strawberry Festival from May 18-21. I worked with the Harris County Beekeepers Association at their exhibit, speaking to the families that were coming through the festival about how honeybees help to pollinate the strawberries used at the festival. It was amazing seeing peoples face as they looked over the observation hive that we had at the festival. At the festival, I also helped to catch a swarm of bees that landed outside the venue! In addition to the festival, I gave three school presentations in the area. I extend a special thank you to Ed and Elaine Michalik for hosting me and inviting me to the Strawberry Festival!

Right after Texas, I headed to Illinois May 22-25 for a variety of events outside Chicago. I was a guest speaker at Batavia Public Library to many children. The library also hosted a honey tasting and lots of new books that were donated from the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association as part of my visit. I also was a guest presenter at the Fox Valley Beekeepers Association meeting. I spoke to them about the Honey Queen Program and what we do throughout the year. I visited two schools during my stay, including Wheaton Middle School, where I spoke to 750 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, who all were very invested in learning about honeybees. My other visit was at Norton Creek Elementary School in West Chicago, where I reached 80 students. Thank you to Karen and Chuck Lorence for graciously hosting me and arranging my many appearances!

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Once I was home from that trip, I was honored by the Webster City Council as they proclaimed June 5 as “Maia Jaycox Day” in the City of Webster City. I also spoke to the Council about beekeeping in Iowa and provided them with information about protecting pollinator habitat and how they can support beekeeping in the area. They have been a great support system for me back home!

I had an opportunity to return to Connecticut June 7-12. I worked two full days at Lyman Orchards with the many families that walked through the building. We also had a table full of all the different foods that are supplied at the orchards that honeybees help to pollinate and provided guests with information on using honey. I also participated in a unique promotion in Connecticut by attending the New Britain Bees Baseball game (a team affiliated with the Atlantic
League of Professional Baseball), which was a great tie in with our industry. In addition to talking to attendees entering the gates about honeybees before the game started, I also threw out the first pitch! Thank you to Ted and Becky Jones for arranging my second visit to the great State of Connecticut and for being wonderful hosts!

By far the biggest trip I have been on so far is for the Ohio Pollinator Week, June 16-26. I worked extensively with the Pollinator Stewardship Council, speaking at venues in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus. I worked at Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Krohn Conservatory, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Aullwood Farm in these various cities. At these places holding special pollinator events, I spoke with the public on things they could do to support the local beekeepers in their area. In addition to that, I spoke with 11 different Ohio Senators and Representatives at the state capitol, informing them more about how honeybees are so crucial to our lives. I was also given the opportunity to help during the dedication at Scotts Miracle Grow corporate headquarters outside Columbus for a pollinator habitat. Thank you to Michele Colopy, the Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and the Pollinator Stewardship Council for inviting me to participate and arranging my events and accommodations!

I am looking forward to the many more trips and experiences I have coming up this year, including upcoming stops in Illinois, Ohio, and Washington. If you are interested in scheduling a promotion with me or Princess Hope, contact Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. Have a bee-utiful day!
Happy Summer! I love this time of year when the honeybees are busy buzzing around looking for sweet nectar. It’s great to know that honey is on its way. I added another super to my hive box just this week!

On April 20-22, I went to Houston for the FIRST Lego League Championship. This is an amazing event! Students from across the country traveled to various outlets throughout the country. FIRST Lego League challenges students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM education) to research a real-world problem and develop a solution. At this event, the junior students had to make a honeybee-themed project made of Legos! All the kids had to pick an endangered animal to study, and they all picked honeybees! Then, the students had to present their Lego project to the different judges. They learned how to speak in front of people and think on their toes. They knew how to fix problems and work as a team. I participated in a large trade show for the kids. At my exhibit, I made seed bombs with the kids, teaching them the importance of quality habitat for our important pollinators. We mixed balls of clay and soil combined with seeds so that they could plant them in their backyards. The kids were so excited when they found out that these flowers were going to help the honeybees. Thank you to Zac Browning and Browning’s Honey Company for providing the seeds; to Joyce Walters (the daughter of David Miksa of Miksa Honey Farm) for inviting me to this event; to Jillian Mordarski for coordinating my on-the-ground logistics, and to David and Linda Miksa for sponsoring my stay. At this event alone, I reached over 22,000 people!

I next flew to Washington for the Benton Conservation District Salmon Summit April 23-26. In Kennewick, WA, the salmon are considered an endangered animal and many schools raise thousands of salmon all year. On this one weekend, the students bring their salmon together and release them into the river. I even had the opportunity to release some salmon into the river, and I hope that they make it back to lay eggs! During the Summit, many students and adults participated in various activities to learn about salmon conservation. Thank you to all who helped make this event possible!
groups have exhibits, and I worked at the beekeeping exhibit. The kids cycled through every 20 minutes, and I gave a 15-minute presentation and gave the kids five minutes to ask questions, see bees in the observation hive, and try on a bee suit. The kids loved it, especially since many of them had been around bees because of all the orchards in the area. I was excited to get a tour around the orchards with my hosts and learn how they take care of them. It helped me better understand what the commercial beekeepers do. Thank you to the Ide Family for hosting me and making me feel like a part of your family. After the Salmon Summit, I spoke before the Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association to share information on the honey queen program with the 30 members, and had the chance to speak at the Three Rivers Home link school. This was an after-school event, and all students were welcome. I gave a 45-minute presentation for the students, and they were soaking it all in. They loved hearing about honey bees!

I woke up early on April 27 to fly to Missouri for the second part of the FIRST Lego Championship which ran through April 29 in St. Louis. I did the same thing at this event as I did in Houston, but with a lot more people. There were about 29,000 people at this event, and the energy in the event center was high! Everyone was so thrilled to be there and ready for the competition to start. I set up my table and the kids came in the room where we made more seed bombs. There was one team that come back to the table many times to keep making seed bombs, so this activity was a hit! I also helped in the awards ceremony for both the older students and younger ones. In the younger group, everyone received a metal for different things they did throughout the weekend, whether it was for creativity, teamwork, encouragement, problem solving, etc. Everyone had a smile of their face. For more information on the FIRST Lego League Championships, visit http://www.firstlegoleague.org/. Thank you again to Miksa Honey Farm, Browning’s Honey Company, and Jillian Mordanski for all your assistance and donations!

On May 1, I returned to Reuben Johnson Elementary School in McKinney, TX. As I walked into the gym, the kids came in from playing outside. Many of them remembered me from the last two times that I had been there this year. The students were excited because many of their friends had told them about the last time I was there. Over 100 fourth graders learned about how important honeybees are for our everyday life. Many of the kids came into the room saying they did not like bees, but they left the room asking how could they help the bees. I love seeing the light in their eyes shine as they start to understand how important the bees are.

My next event was the first ever California Honey Festival May 5-7 outside Sacramento. On The night I arrived, the festival had a kickoff party in town. About 300 people came and were served honey foods and mead and had the opportunity to take pictures with a big honey bee hay ride wagon. Main Street was filled with vendors and educational booths about honeybees. Plants were for sale along with gifts of all kinds. People from all over, including other states, came down to see the honey festival, and I spoke with many people about honey bees and helped hand out the awards for the honey contest. Thank you to Kristy Levings for organizing the festival and my visit! I know that’s a lot of work but it was a great turnout with about 20,000 people. I would also like to thank Bill Lyon for hosting me and helping me throughout my stay.

I went to the Wildflower Art and Music Festival in Richardson, TX, May 20-21. This is a big festival with about 50,000 attendees. I worked at a bee exhibit, where I had an observation hive for the kids to see. The festival had a section for the kids to do different activities and learn about different bugs and insects. Each booth was decorated with bright colors to make it fun for the kids, and mine was bright purple. I also had a nuc box for the kids to see, along with a bee suit for them to try on. Many kids and adults were interested in becoming beekeepers and I pointed a lot of them to the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers scholarship program. I had a wonderful time at this event, and I can’t wait to see who shows up at the next beekeeping club meeting!

I attended the Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic on June 10 at the University of Texas in Arlington. About 650 people attended taking beginning and advanced beekeeping classes. I aided in the clinic logistics and helped with the Texas Beekeepers Association table. I thank my state organization for letting me participate again this year!

Thank you all for your continued support as I represent the honey bee industry nationwide. You can schedule a promotional event with me or Queen Maia by contacting Anna Kettlewell at 414.545.5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com. I would love to spend some time with you sharing about the honey bee.
In Holderness to educate visitors, UNH works with pollinator researchers throughout New England, and has staff available to answer questions via email (answers@unh.edu) or phone (1-877-398-4769). The bees have helped us survive. Now it’s our turn to help them and, in turn, help ourselves. As Turner said, “It’s not too late, but if we don’t make changes, it will be.” Let’s continue to work together to ensure we never reach that point where it’s too late.

For references, please visit:
http://www.preservationofhoneybees.org

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