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AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION QUARTERLY
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ABF Quarterly is published quarterly by the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc. The articles, opinions and ideas expressed by the authors are the sole responsibility of the contributors and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or members of the ABF. The ABF Quarterly welcomes and encourages contributions and suggestions from its readers. Editorial policy dictates the right to edit or reject any material submitted for publication.
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Welcome to the new
ABF QUARTERLY

The new American Beekeeping Federation’s magazine has been refreshed and updated. The usual features remain, but we have added more educational features and bee research updates.

In this issue and future issues, we have the “Ask Hoopie” column, an interactive Q & A feature, where Dr. Roger Hoopingarner will answer reader’s questions regarding bees and beekeeping. Dr. Hoopingarner is from Michigan State University and a long-time expert in bees and beekeeping. Dr. Hoopingarner is the namesake for the ABF’s annual “Hoopingarner” award for the best scientific presentation at the annual conference & tradeshow. Please email your question for “Ask Hoopie” to info@abfnet.org. They will be featured in future issues.

This issue also has a featured article on the advantages of the indoor storage of beehives, written by Brandon Hopkins. Brandon received his Ph.D. from Washington State University (WSU) with Dr. Steve Sheppard where he worked on the cryopreservation of honey bee semen. He is currently a faculty member at WSU where he oversees the research apiary, diagnostic laboratory and field research.

Another new article is on using overwintered nucs for early spring research. This piece was written by Zachary Lamas. Zac recently joined the vanEngelsdorp Bee Lab at the University of Maryland. Previously he made queens and nucleus colonies on the coast of North Carolina and upstate New York. He worked for Micheal Palmer at French Hill Apiaries where he managed production colonies and nucleus colony production.

Al Chubak, owner of Wasatch Honey, Utah Bee Removal and Eco Bee Box, has a column geared towards newbie beekeepers called the “Learning Corner”. He writes, teaches travels and seeks out sustainable beekeeping practices. His article, “Bee Talk. How is it Said, Written and Why,” explains some of the basics that are of interest to hobby beekeepers.

Dr. Dewey Caron, author of Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping and Africanized Honey Bees In the Americas, discusses “Early Spring Beekeeping” and some things that can be done to achieve success for the upcoming honey flow.

All ABF members, regardless of whether they attended the 75th ABF Diamond Anniversary Conference & Tradeshow in Reno, Nevada, will appreciate Past President Morris Weaver’s Keynote presentation on the history of the American Beekeeping Federation. This was a fascinating look at our past and is a must read.

I hope everyone enjoyed this year’s conference in Reno. We had great attendance and many outstanding presenters. The nightly social events were enjoyable, I even liked the bowling night. The banquet was very well attended, and our group picture is great and well worth the effort it took to get everyone together.

Dr. Jamie Ellis, from the University of Florida, received the “Hoopingarner Award” for his keynote address on “The Sustainability of Beekeeping in the 21st Century.” This was both entertaining and informative as expected coming from Dr. Ellis.

This year’s President’s Award went to both Anna Kettlewell and Brent Barkman. Anna has done outstanding work on the Honey Queen Program. She is so well organized and is a great mentor for all the queen candidates. Her tireless efforts in organizing and scheduling the ABF Queen and Princess’ presentations and interviews for many years are really appreciated. The Queen Program could not go on without Anna. Thanks Anna.

Brent Barkman is and has been a giant in all aspects of the beekeeping and honey industry. Barkman Honey has been a strong advocate for the beekeeper and the integrity of honey. For many years Brent has been a great business partner with U.S. beekeepers. Brent has also been a tireless worker for the ABF and the beekeeping industry. Thank you, Brent.

I’d like to thank all our sponsors, including Platinum Sponsors: Barkman Honey, Dadant, Healthy Bees LLC and Mann Lake; Gold Sponsor: Beekeeping Insurance Services; Silver Sponsor: Brushy Mountain; and Bronze Sponsors: ApiHoldings, LLC, Hummerbee, Bayer Bee Care, GloryBee, Kelly Beekeeping and Strong Microbials.

Thanks also to all the exhibitors, speakers, volunteers and the Meeting Expectation’s staff for another great conference. A special thanks to all the attendees. This conference would not happen without the tremendous support from the ABF membership.

It was great seeing everyone in Reno. I am really looking forward to this year and our next conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Hope to see you all there.
FEATURES OF THE ABF CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

- Fantastic general session presentations from industry experts
- Track sessions for all levels of beekeeping
- Interactive, hands-on workshops
- Vendor tradeshow with the latest and greatest products and services
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Hello everyone. I am Joan Gunter, your new Vice President of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). My husband, Dwight, and I have been involved in the beekeeping industry and ABF for over 30 years. Dwight and I are both third generation migratory beekeepers with an established company, Gunter Honey, Inc. We are based out of North Dakota and migrate to Mississippi and Texas. I am proud to be a part of Gunter Honey, the American Beekeeping Federation and the industry they represent.

It has been a privilege to have served on every committee within the ABF. I have also served on the Board of Directors for 10 years, five of those have been on the executive committee. I also serve as chairman of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, an alternate on The National Honey Board and a representative of the Honey Bee Health Coalition. My ABF appointment will be an adventure I am really looking forward to. The calendar is already filling up!

The 2018 ABF Conference and Tradeshows was a huge success. Congratulations to our new President, Tim May. We are in good hands under his leadership. A huge thank you to Gene Brandi for bringing his expertise to our leadership roles. Congratulations to the 2018 royalty, Queen Kayla Fusselman and Princess Jenny Gross. These girls will be tremendous ambassadors for the ABF and the industry. Thank you to our outgoing royalty, Queen Maia Jaycox and Princess Hope Pettibon. Remember us in your future endeavors.

The President’s Award was given to Anna Kettlewell and Brent Barkman, two excellent choices and contributors to the Federation. Congratulations to you both.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees along with Sarah Red Laird, had another successful Kids and Bees presentation. This is an event everyone should take in. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that help make this a success every year.

The Foundation’s annual luncheon was well attended. Our speaker, Rebecca Masterson, did a wonderful job. The Founders’ Award was granted to Dr. Eric Mussen for all he has contributed to the industry over the years. Congratulations Eric!

Once again, the Foundation chose four wonderful graduate scholarship winners. I can’t say enough about this tremendous program. These scholars often move on to become our next generation of researchers; Dr. Jamie Ellis is a perfect example! Watch for their articles in the ABF Quarterly. Congratulations!

As your Government Relations representative and your Legislative Chairperson, I intend to be very active in industry politics. There are several trips already planned for Washington D.C. where the industry’s presence is clearly needed. I have been in contact with Fran Boyd, our representative on the Hill and have asked for all information that will affect the industry. Fran and I plan to keep the membership informed with any updates on issues of importance.

Don’t forget, the American Beekeeping Federation is promoting a 75th Anniversary Rifle. You can order yours at A & A Engraving by calling (605) 343-7640 or (605) 391-2396, attention Tanya. All proceeds will go to the Legislative Fund. Only 75 have been reserved, so order yours today.

Thank you for this opportunity and putting your trust in me to hold this office. I look forward to serving you in the years to come.
Congratulations to all American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) members on a well-attended and informative 75th Anniversary ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Reno. During the meeting, we were able to hear from a wide cross section of beekeepers on the legislative and regulatory issues that were of concern to them. This information is invaluable when structuring a legislative strategy and responses to new regulations that will affect our industry. Issues in Washington are dynamic and ever-changing by their very nature. With this in mind, the Washington Update provides the legislative situation as it exists upon submission for publication in ABF Quarterly. We do our best to look ahead and provide you with our best predictions. The issues listed below are the matters that we and the officers of ABF are focusing on at this time.

**Funding of the Federal Government and Appropriations of Issues Important to the Honey Bee Industry**

At this writing, the federal government runs out of money for all federal programs on Thursday February 8th. There is little expectation that Congress will be able to agree on a long-term funding measure that also includes a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration fix. Congress is currently in discussion on a stop-gap funding measure that will fund the government through March. The Continuing Resolution (CR - a continuous authority to spend, but only at FY 2017 approved levels) that the House Republican leadership is considering at this time is expected to include funding for defense spending through the full fiscal year and an extension of the nation’s borrowing limit (debt ceiling). The rest of the federal government will be funded through March at existing FY2017 levels. Also, under discussion this week is whether the CR will include disaster aid for areas damaged by hurricanes and fires last year. The House passed an $81 billion disaster bill in December of 2017, however, the Senate has not acted on the legislation.

We expect the House to agree on a short-term measure that will address some if not all defense spending and possibly a debt limit extension to keep the government operating through March. The Senate is expected to agree. The next crucial provision to establish funding through the rest of the fiscal year will be inclusion of a “fix” to the DACA immigration issues. At this writing, the talks continue but there is yet an agreement between Republicans, Democrats and the White House on what that solution should be.

**Reauthorization of the Farm Bill**

The current farm bill expires on September 30 of this year. The Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Michael Conaway (R-TX), is still saying that he hopes to bring the House version of the 2018 Farm Bill for consideration in the House Agriculture Committee in late February or in March, but that this schedule depends on available time on the House floor. He has also said that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is very close to being able to provide the committee with a “score” of the cost of the multi-title legislation. He has said that the “good news” on this farm bill process is that the 2018 farm bill does not have to make any mandatory cuts, unlike the $23 billion cut that was required in the 2014 farm bill. In fact, farm bill spending, according to the committee, has come down $100 billion since 2014, primarily in reduction of spending on SNAP (food stamps) due to the improvement in the economy.

The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Pat Roberts (R-KS), has said he hopes to bring the Senate version of the 2018 farm bill to the Senate Agriculture Committee in March, but most believe this date will slip somewhat.

ABF’s officers have been working in tandem with the American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) on our joint legislative priorities throughout the year to provide a unified legislative front to Congress on the important industry issues in the 2018 farm bill debate. This effort will continue through both the House and Senate Committee mark-ups as well as final consideration on the floor of the House and Senate.

**Proposed Regulatory Guidance Concerning the Transportation of Agricultural Commodities**

Comment Period Extended

ABF together, with the other member of our Livestock Transportation Coalition, in December 2017 requested a 30-day extension of the public comment period for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) notice of December 20, 2017 that announced the proposed regulatory guidance concerning the transportation of agriculture commodities. I am happy to report that FMCSA responded positively to our request and extended the January 19, 2018 deadline for comment submission to February 20, 2018. ABF, together with the other members of our coalition, will be submitting public comments. In addition, ABF and AHPA plan to submit a joint comment from the beekeeping industry.

We look forward to continuing this column with you in the next edition of ABF Quarterly.
**Q. How does the winter cluster of bees function? What is the temperature of the cluster?**

**A.** The honey bee is a tropical species that has evolved to live in the temperate north. The honey bee was able to do this with a couple of changes to its lifestyle. The first change was to form a cluster to both produce heat and to conserve the heat that is produced. The second change was the storing of excess honey that allows the colony to survive over the long months of winter. This honey is used to produce energy (heat) in the winter cluster. (Honey bees often store more honey than is needed to survive the long winter and this is the honey that the beekeeper harvests as surplus honey.)

The bees begin to form the heat saving cluster when the temperature within the hive falls to ~55° F. The cluster is a sphere that encompasses several frames with an outer dense shell of bees that limits the escape of heat. The cluster (sphere) reduces its outer surface area to a smaller size as the temperature falls. Thus, the cluster expands and contracts as the temperature rises and falls.

The cluster gets its heat by the bees in the center eating honey and vibrating their wings to generate heat, much like shivering. The temperature within the cluster depends on whether the bees are raising brood within the cluster and how many bees make up the cluster. If the outside temperature is very cold, then the bees may not be able to generate enough heat to maintain a brood rearing temperature of 95° F. Thus, if the temperatures are very cold, and the cluster is small, brood rearing must be delayed until the outside temperature rises.

The temperature of the outer dense shell of bees is usually maintained at about 45° F. If the temperature within this outer shell of bees drops much below this, some of these bees fall off the cluster and are lost to the colony—a winter loss of bees. The bees that make up the outer shell of the cluster are mostly older bees, and they migrate into the center of the cluster periodically to get food. However, most of the consumption of honey to produce heat is used by the bees in the center core of the cluster (Approximately one pound of honey per week.)

In the northern parts of the U.S. and Canada, the core temperature of the cluster in the late fall and early winter is usually about 85° F. and remains there until the daylight hours start to lengthen. Then the bees begin to rear brood in anticipation of spring, but only if the cluster can maintain the brood rearing temperature. In the southern states brood rearing may not totally cease and will begin to increase as the day length begins to increase.

**Q. Does a larger or heavier queen bee mean that she lays more eggs? Does a larger queen cell mean a larger queen?**

**A.** Many years ago, I described in my doctoral thesis that larger/heavier queens do have more ovarioles (egg tubes), and thus should be capable of laying more eggs. As an egg moves down an ovariole, yolk is being added to the egg, and this takes a little time. So, if a queen has more ovarioles she can mature more eggs in a given time. A good queen will have 300 or more ovarioles and when she is laying more than 2,000 eggs per day each additional egg tube is beneficial.

Larger queen cells producing larger queens is a little more cloudy, as some colonies put in an excess of royal jelly and the resulting cell is bigger. And there is a great variation between colonies in how they raise queen cells as some will add more beeswax to the cell wall giving it a feeling of being larger. However, if given a choice of queen cells in a colony I would always pick the larger cell.

**Q. Would having bee hives on your property be beneficial to support bees without harvesting honey? Can you just let them be and exist?**

**A.** 70 years ago, when I started keeping bees, the answer would have been an unqualified yes, but things have changed with the importation of the parasitic mite, varroa. I understand there are feral colonies in trees and buildings and having a colony that is unmanaged is not much different. The question is - are you helping bees and beekeeping by having an unmanaged colony? If the mite population becomes very large and the colony disintegrates, the mites attached can infest many of the neighboring colonies. If this happens, you would not help the honey bee world at all and you have helped destroy several other colonies as well. It seems hard, but unless you are willing to monitor and control the mites, you should not try to keep bees.

**Q. What are the pros and cons of using candy boards?**

**A.** I like to think of candy boards, and all winter feeding, as insurance in case the colony runs out of food before spring. If the winter cluster reaches the top of the hive before the bees can move laterally to find honey, they may starve. If you make and put on a candy board and the bees do not use it, you can either save the board for another year or dissolve the sugar in water and feed it to the bees as syrup to stimulate more brood rearing later in the spring. Thus, I feel that there is much in favor of using a candy board, and the only con is the cost of your time in making the board and the soft-ball candy.

Candy boards can be easily made by using the formula for soft-ball candy. When the sugar syrup has cooled somewhat, pour it into a pre-made board, which is essentially a solid board similar to an inner cover or pour the syrup into cake pans lined with wax paper. Place the resulting blocks of candy on the top bars of the hive. The bees from the late winter cluster will be able to feed on these blocks of sugar, as the moisture escaping from the cluster moistens the sugar. You will need to put on an empty super box or make a shallow rim to allow for the height of the candy. The hive cover then goes over the shallow rim.
BIG WINS IN RENO
The 2018 ABF Conference & Tradeshow was a tremendous success! Celebrating 75 years of service is a huge milestone for the American Beekeeping Federation. With close to 1,000 attendees and over 90 vendors this was definitely one of ABF’s most successful conferences.

The 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow was held January 9-13 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. Celebrating ABF’s 75th anniversary with close to 1,000 in attendance from all over the world, we truly represented the conference theme, “Many Facets, One ABF.” Attendees spent time sharing tips, techniques and challenges they incur beekeeping their respective parts of the world.

We kicked off this year’s conference on Wednesday, January 10, with the Presentation of Colors by the Reno Sheriff’s Department and a welcome by Bonnie McLaughlin, President of the Northern Nevada Beekeepers Association. General session followed with presentations from industry experts and a trip down ABF memory lane with Morris Weaver, ABF President, 1975-1976. The evening concluded with the Welcome Reception and tradeshow with entertainment provided by the 2018 American Honey Queen candidates.

Thursday morning began with SIG meetings for the Small-Scale/Sideliner, Package Bee & Queen Breeders, Honey Producer/Packer and Commercial groups. Each featured presentations unique to their stage of beekeeping. The day continued with track sessions for Beginning Beekeepers, Serious Sideliners and Commercial beekeepers, where ideas were exchanged, and new information was presented. The ABF Auxiliary lunch/meeting, with close to 100 attendees, featured presentations from the Honey Queen candidates and the opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary. The evening concluded at the Grand Sierra Bowling Lanes where 200 beekeepers donned their bowling shoes and competed against one another while enjoying the musical talents of Terri Brown.

The popular Kids and Bees program was held on Friday morning, coordinated by the BeeGirl, Sarah Red-Laird. Close to 400 local children participated in hands-on, interactive activities, with nearly 40 ABF volunteers assisting. Children, teachers and parents walked away with a greater understanding of the honey bee and its importance to our lives.

Friday was also packed full of general sessions featuring updates from the USDA-ARS labs and a keynote presentation by Dr. Jamie Ellis on “Addressing the Sustainability of Beekeeping in the 21st Century,” for which Dr. Ellis was presented the Hoopingarner Award for best scientific presentation at the conference.

More than 100 people participated in the Foundation luncheon where they met the 2018 Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Scholars:
- Shilpi Bhatia, second year graduate student in the Environmental Health Sciences program at the University of North Carolina
- Katie Lee, doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota
- Alexander McMenamin, third year doctoral student at Montana State University
- Surabhi Gupta Vakil, doctoral student at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

Congratulations to these scholars who each received a $3,000 scholarship grant from the Foundation to continue their course of study.

The annual ABF Business Meeting was also held on Friday where Tim May, Harvard, IL, was confirmed as ABF President for 2018 and Joan Gunter, Towner, ND, 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 2018 Honey Show auction was held on Friday with all proceeds benefitting the American Honey Queen Program. Special thanks to Mary Kettlewell and the all the judges for their time and expertise. For a complete list of winners, please visit the ABF website (www.abfnet.org).

The final day of the conference began with the Commercial Beekeepers breakfast and a panel discussion on current issues. Just over 200 beekeepers from all over the world participated to share information and ideas. The breakfast was followed by a workshop designed for those interested in “Growing into a Commercial Beekeeping Operation”.

Saturday also featured an array of interactive workshops, where attendees had the opportunity to learn:
- How to Delegate with Confidence
- How to Taste and Evaluate Honey
- Valuable Team Building Skills
- Bee Handling Techniques
- The Art and Science of Making Mead
- And much more . . .
The ABF annual banquet was the final activity of the conference. With several hundred people in attendance, the evening was spent celebrating ABF’s 75th Anniversary, participating in the always-exciting Sweepstakes drawings, the live auction and the coronation of the 2018 American Honey Queen and Princess. Congratulations to Kayla Fusselman, our 2018 American Honey Queen, and Jenny Gross, our 2018 American Honey Princess.

Thank you for all the amazing work you do for the ABF. 2018 is going to be an adventurous and fulfilling year for all.

ABF was pleased to present three awards that evening. The first President’s Award was presented to Anna Kettlewell for all the amazing and significant work she does with the American Honey Queen program. The second President’s Award was presented to Brent Barkman of Barkman Honey for his strong advocacy of the beekeeper and the integrity of honey. As previously mentioned, Dr. Jamie Ellis was the recipient of this year’s Hoopingarner Award for the best scientific presentation of the conference.

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

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Be sure to join us for the 2019 Annual ABF Conference & Tradeshow, January 8-12, 2019, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach & Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We look forward to seeing you there! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor, please contact Regina K. Robuck: reginarobuck@abfnet.org

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**CONFERENCE FEEDBACK:**

“We had a great week at the American Beekeeping Federation conference and tradeshow! Big things happening! Stay tuned.”
- Hive Track

“Hoping for the best ABF conference yet. Western Bee is there.”
- Western Bee

“Great ABF conference & Tradeshow.”

“Having a wonderful time at my first ABF Conference. I have learned a great deal from fellow beekeepers.”

“Having such a great time!”

“My first ABF Conference: Having a blast!”

“This is my first conference. I’m really excited to be here and learn from the sessions and other beekeepers”
2018 AMERICAN HONEY SHOW  
RENO, NV

CLASS A – WATER WHITE HONEY
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. Paul Radosevich – Mukwonago, WI
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

CLASS B – EXTRA WHITE HONEY
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
3. Nick Thill – West Bend, WI

CLASS C – WHITE HONEY
1. Don Thill – West Bend, WI
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

CLASS D – EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Tony Rekeweg – Decatur, IN
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS E – LIGHT AMBER HONEY
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Frank Moriarity - Hawthorn Woods, IL
3. Amanda & Jeff Lee - Creston, BC

CLASS F – AMBER HONEY
1. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
2. Paul Radosevich – Mukwonago, WI
3. Amanda & Jeff Lee – Creston, BC

CLASS G – DARK HONEY
1. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. Shaheen Al-Bashr & Sinan Kazzaz – Abu Dhabi

CLASS H – CHUNK HONEY
1. Charles Lorence - Aurora, IL
2. Betsy Higgabotha – Paris, IL

CLASS I – ROUND COMB SECTIONS
Jim Rodenberg - Wolf Point, MT

CLASS J – COMB SECTION HONEY
No Entry

CLASS K – CUT COMB HONEY
Charles Lorence - Aurora, IL

CLASS L – CREAMED HONEY
1. John Piechowski – Redgranite, WI
2. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL
3. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL

CLASS M – BEESWAX BLOCK
1. Tony Rekeweg – Decatur, IN
2. Charles Lorence – Aurora, IL
3. Tanya Rudometkin – LaPine, OR

CLASS N – ARTISTIC BEESWAX
No entry

CLASS O – BEESWAX CANDLES
1. Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, WI
2. James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, IL

CLASS P – ARTISTIC BEESWAX CANDLES
Tanya Rudometkin – LaPine, OR

CLASS Q – BEESWAX ART
George Hansen – Colton, OR

CLASS R – HONEY GIFT BOX
1. Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, OH
2. Gibbons Honey – Crawford, NE

BEST OF SHOW – HONEY
Don Thill – West Bend, WI – White Honey

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

for November, December 2017 & January 2018

5 YEARS
Lynn Danzer, IA
William Hamilton, MA
Jeanne O’Neill, LA
Stephen Pernal, Canada
Martin Potter, WI
John Gaut, NJ
Raymond Hopper, NV
William Palmer, WI
Mark Schifrin, NH
Thomas Steeger, DC
Jerry Tate, WA
Richard Anderson, TX
Robert Deemer, NY
Bill Dunn, GA
Frank Keller, CA
Jim Kennedy, VA
Vayden Stanley, TX
Cliff Stevens, NY

10 YEARS
Tony Hogg, FL
Ethan Johnson, ND
Denise Qualls, CA
Paul Hosticka, WA

15 YEARS
Steve Ellis, MN
Zac Browning, ND
Ronald Tweedie, NY

20 YEARS
John E. Ferree, VA
Louann Hausner, KS
Wally Brey, WI

25 YEARS
Roger Hoopingarner, MI
Clifford Patz, WI
Tony Schmitz, IA
Brent Woodworth, ND

30 YEARS
Harold Schock, WA
Mark McCoy, FL
Wayne Sommers, NJ

35 YEARS
Wesley Waring, MN
Gary Honl, MN
Hal Livingston, AK

40 YEARS
Don Shenefield, IN
Gene Brandi, CA
William Sirr, MI

50 YEARS
Roberta Glatz, NY
Fred Holte, MN

60 YEARS
Clint Walker III, TX

Buying honey from all parts of the U. S.
Some of the reasons we are strong are that we have survived longer than any other national beekeeping organization in the United States, encompass all segments of the diverse United States beekeeping industry and leadership has always focused on the future and not short-term solutions.

There have been national bee associations in the United States almost continuously since the 1860s. One of the first, if not the first, was “The American Bee Association” founded in 1860. However, it was disbanded in 1861 apparently because of the Civil War. There were many other national beekeeping organizations in the 1800s.

What I call the forerunner of the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc. was an organization founded in Kansas City, Kansas in 1920 named “The American Honey Producers League.” The organization folded in 1942 due to lack of members and funding.

1943
James Gwen, former president of “The American Honey Producers League,” convened a “War Time Conference” in Chicago. It was decided the beekeepers would organize under the name “National Federation of State Beekeepers Associations.” Only a temporary constitution was submitted to the state associations elections of delegates were deferred to the next meeting. H. J. Rhamlow was retained as secretary.

1944
Howard H. Schmidt, of Michigan, was elected president at the second War Conference, also held in Chicago. This meeting was presided over by James Gwen. Nineteen states were represented at the meeting. The organization had no money and Howard H. Schmidt funded the organization with fifty dollars of his personal money. By the end of the first year, 35 - 35 federated states had joined, and they had some funds.

President Schmidt’s goals were for an organization to promote, effective, harmonious and concerted action when necessary to protect the United States beekeeping industry. A resolution requested United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) gave early consideration of a support price program for honey on a basis of nine cents per pound.

With the war raging, some of the problems the organization helped resolve were obtaining sugar for bee feed, tires, fuel, honey containers and a draft deferment for beekeepers. Also, we need to credit Oscar H. Schmidt for getting honey bees declared as livestock in 1940.

1945 - 1946
John W. Holzberlein, of Colorado, was president and the 1945 conference was again held in Chicago. Oscar Membership was 438 with 200 in attendance which represented 36 states and six countries. A resolution asked for rehabilitation aid to returning veterans for training to become beekeepers.

1946
The conference was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Membership was 854 and they discussed the removal of war time price controls on honey.

1947 - 1948
Woodrow Miller, of California, was president. The 1947 conference was held in Tampa, Florida. Attendance was 600 representing 42 states and a bee breeders committee was formed.

1948
The conference was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Three hundred forty-two members registered. Resolutions requested all imported honey be labeled as such. That was seventy years ago.

Another thanked the Marketing Administration of the US government for purchasing 15 million pounds of honey.
1949 - 1950

Roy Grout, of Illinois, was president and the 1949 conference was held in St. Louis, Missouri. The name was changed to The American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). The purpose of the Federation, as stated in the bylaws, is to engage in any lawful activity that will promote the common interests and the general welfare of the diverse segments of the United States beekeeping industry. The change allowed each member regardless of class of membership one vote on all issues except the hiring of the secretary-treasurer who is hired by the executive committee.

1950

The conference was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. Attendance was 300 - 400. A Honey House Sanitation committee was appointed. A resolution petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for an official Standard of Identity for Honey. That was 68 years ago. A resolution asked United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for incentive payments of legume seed production.

1951

N. C. Jensen, of Mississippi, was president. The conference was held in Denver, Colorado. There was a debit of four hundred dollars from the previous year which was paid in full by those in attendance. Resolutions approved uniform standards for processing and handling honey. A new constitution was adopted with affairs to be managed by the Board of Directors with one member from each affiliated organization.

1952

Glenn Gibson, of Oklahoma, was president. The conference was held in Dallas, Texas. Resolutions requested a minimum price support for honey at 78% of parity and another asked for a memorial postage stamp honoring Reverend Langstroth. At that time, I was 14 years old and this was the first ABF conference I attended.

1953 - 1955

Henry A. Schaefer, of Wisconsin, was president and the 1953 conference was held in San Jose, California. A new constitution was adopted, and the organization was incorporated in the state of Minnesota. Robert Banker became secretary-treasurer.

1954

The conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Dues were changed to $1 for up to 50 colonies, $2.50 for 50-99 colonies, and 4 cents per colony for 100 or more colonies.

1955

The conference was held in Chicago, Illinois. Estimated attendance was 500. A resolution in favor of a health certificate for interstate movement of bees and bee equipment was passed.

1956 - 1958

S. J. Watkins, of Colorado, was president. The 1956 conference was held in Biloxi, Mississippi with 667 in attendance. A resolution asked that students taking vocational agriculture extension and conservation courses at Land Grant Colleges be required to take courses in bee culture and pollination.

1957

The conference was held in Long Beach, California. The Board of Directors was represented by 32 states. A resolution asked that legumes be included in the soil bank program.

1958

The conference was held in Columbus, Ohio. The price support for honey was 9.6 cents per pound. Minimum dues were $3. A special session for hobbyist was added to the program.

1959 - 1960

Lawrence Budge, of Idaho, was president. The 1959 conference was held in Tampa, Florida. Membership was near 1,000. The program focus was on bee breeding and marketing. A hobbyist session drew good attendance. A resolution was sent to FDA concerning abusive advertising by corn syrup refiners.

1960

The conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. A resolution asked the USDA for research on the honey bee tracheal mites. A resolution was made for a voluntary contribution of 2 cents per 60 lb. container from both the producer and the packer and other segments of the industry. Funds collected would go to The American Honey Institute (AHI) for honey promotion.

1961

Henry Hansen, of Iowa, was president and the conference was held in Omaha, Nebraska. Minimum dues were $5 and honey price support were 11.2 cents per pound. A resolution was sent to USDA concerning the severe losses of bees due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides and another asked for research for a better method to remove honey than carbolic acid.
1962 - 1963
Glenn Gibson, of Oklahoma, was president. The 1962 conference was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. The major topic of discussion throughout the convention was whether to have a mandatory check-off of one cent per pound on honey for honey promotion. There were many discussions in smoke-filled back rooms concerning the pros and cons of this item. The resolution failed by a vote of 149 to 120. However, there was a gentlemen’s agreement to revisit the issue in five years. The voluntary check-off raised $31,586 for honey promotion by AHI.

1963
The conference was held in San Antonio, Texas with an estimated attendance of 500. Resolutions emphasized adequate staffing for bee research laboratories, and the study of Nosema disease in colonies used to produce package bees.

1964 - 1965
Robert Banker, of Minnesota, was president. The 1964 conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota with 602 in attendance. Senator Carl Hayden, of Arizona, was recognized for his efforts on behalf of the beekeeping industry. He had successfully lobbied to get the USDA bee laboratory built in Tucson, Arizona. The ABF was successful in having the laboratory named in his honor.

1965
The conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Resolutions raised included protesting the needless destruction of honey plants in government brush eradication programs; another asked USDA for more specific wording on insecticide labels to assist beekeepers and additional research to protect bees from pesticides.

1966 - 1967
Roy S. Weaver, Jr., of Texas, was president. The 1966 conference was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A resolution requested USDA pay beekeepers for bee losses in USDA-sponsored and subsidized pesticide spray programs.

1967
The conference was in Little Rock, Arkansas. A resolution requested the establishment of a Honey Bee Genetic Stock Center.

1968
E. H. Adee, of Nebraska, was president and the conference was held in Niagara Falls, New York. After much heated discussion a resolution directed leadership to propose legislation to Congress that would establish a National Honey Research and Promotion program funded by a mandatory assessment not to exceed 1/4-cent per pound.

1969
Frank Hrushka, of Michigan, was president. The conference was held in Portland, Oregon. This meeting was filled with controversy. The feeling was that the ABF leadership had failed to carry out the 1968 resolution noted earlier. While the nominating committee identified Frank Hrushka, of Michigan, for president. E. H. Adee was nominated from the floor. Hrushka was elected. Gibson was terminated as secretary-treasurer and replaced by Bob Banker, of Minnesota. The American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) was subsequently formed with Adee as its president and Gibson as its secretary-treasurer.

1970 - 1972
Hood Littlefield, of California, was president. The 1970 conference was held in San Diego, California and a resolution was passed welcoming all members of the honey industry, not just beekeepers, to become members. Because of the controversy over a mandatory honey promotion program, the issue was put on the back burner.

1971
The conference was held in Columbus, Ohio. A resolution asked USDA to study the spread of African Bees. Another requested adequate funding for The Pesticide Indemnification Program.

1972
The conference was held in Orlando, Florida. A resolutions asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to closely monitor pesticides that are harmful to bees and another sought additional funds for research and for the Pesticide Indemnity Program.

1973 - 1974
Howard Foster, of California, was president. The 1973 conference was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A resolution requested research on a better method to depopulate colonies in the fall when package bees are to be installed in the spring.

1974
The conference was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. There was much discussion concerning High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) both as a competitor and as an adulterant to honey. The Honey Defense Fund was established to fight adulteration and protect the good name of US honey. Jim Powers made the original contribution of $10,000. In about six months over $100,000 was raised. An attorney from New York City who specialized in this field of law was hired by the ABF to help combat the problem.

1975 - 1976
Morris Weaver, of Texas, was president. The 1975 conference was held in Boise, Idaho. ABF worked on reinstatement of the Honey Loan Program. Resolutions requested EPA to review chemicals being used by beekeepers to protect bees and equipment from pests and diseases and to determine what effect newly released regulations would have on their continued use.

1976
The conference was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Constitution and By Laws were revised and a 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest was established. Following the conference, a bus load plus car load of ABF members traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby their congressional representatives and governmental agencies concerning industry issues.
1977 - 1978
Robert Ray, of Minnesota, was president. The 1977 conference was held in San Antonio, Texas. ABF sponsored a North American Beekeeping Symposium just prior to the conference. Participants from Canada, Mexico, the top two Russian bee scientists with their interpreter, and 50 beekeepers from France were in attendance. ABF resolutions requested the continuation of the Beekeeper Indemnity Payment Program.

1978
The conference was held in Orlando, Florida. Robert Banker asked to be replaced and the executive committee named Frank Robinson of Florida as assistant secretary-treasurer, for a year’s transition to replace Banker. Resolutions included recognizing the danger to bees posed by micro-encapsulated insecticides, and asking for the continuation of the Honey Loan Program.

1979 - 1980
G.C. Walker, Jr., of Texas, was president. In an effort for unity in 1962 G.C. had stepped aside from becoming president. The 1979 conference was held in San Diego, California. The connection of honey with infant botulism was first reported.

1980
The conference was in Dearborn, Michigan. Attendance was about 1,000. There was much discussion concerning honey adulteration, and three resolutions concerning different aspects of the problem were passed.

1981 - 1982
Binford Weaver, of Texas, was president. The 1981 conference was held in Seattle, Washington. A concurrent hobbyist program was well attended.

1982
The conference was held in Savannah, Georgia with 736 registered. The main topics of discussion were chemicals used by the agriculture industry and beekeepers. Several resolutions concerning both issues were passed. After Binford’s presidency he had a major role in the establishment of the original National Honey Board (NHB) and was the first chairperson of its nominating committee.

1983
Phillip Rossman, of Georgia, was president and the conference was in Honolulu, Hawaii. After considerable discussion, a resolution committed the ABF to work on a National Marketing Order for Honey.

1984 - 1985
Larry Gunter, of North Dakota, was president and the 1984 conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Executive Committee decided that the ABF would again plan its conventions beginning in 1986. Wind chill factor hit 29 degrees below zero and many attendee cars refused to start at the end of the week.

1985
The conference was held in Tampa, Florida. The expected hearings on the referendum of the NHB dominated the conference meetings as the enabling legislation had passed Congress in late 1984. Later in the year, the executive committee retained Meyers and Associates as ABF’s lobbyist, a relationship that continues to this day.

1986 - 1987
Randall Johnson, of Idaho, was president. The 1986 conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Tracheal Mites had been found in the US. This was the beginning of the end of simple beekeeping. Several states had instituted quarantines concerning colony movement. After considerable and extended discussion, a resolution opposing quarantines was passed by a close vote.

1987
The conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. By another close vote quarantines were approved. The constitution and By-Laws were revised. Membership had increased by one-third, reaching 2,001 at the conference as the result of a revitalized membership campaign.

1988 - 1989
Reg Wilbanks, of Georgia, was president and the 1988 conference was held in Houston, Texas. Africanized bees had arrived in the Rio Grande Valley near Brownsville. This was the main topic of discussion and four resolutions concerning different aspects of the issue were passed. The ABF, AHPA and Sioux Honey Cooperative (SHC) held a summit to see how they could work together the for advancement of the industry. The Secretary of Agriculture appointed a Mite Negotiated Rule Making Committee. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposed a federal quarantine. There was a tour to Weaver Apiaries and Howard Weaver and Sons in Navasota. Frank Robinson wanted to retire as secretary-treasurer and later in the year the executive committee selected Troy Fore, of Georgia, as his replacement.

1989
The conference was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Honey Loan Program was in jeopardy and varroa mites continued to spread. APHIS did not implement federal quarantines. The Farm Bureau named a Beekeeping Committee.

1990 - 1991
Bob Brandi, of California, was president and the 1990 conference was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The environment and food safety were becoming more important. A proposal by USDA - APHIS to allow honey bee imports from New Zealand prompted the ABF Board of Directors to call for all ABF members and all beekeepers to import bees only through legal avenues.

1991
The conference was held in Mobile, Alabama. With a renewal referendum on the NHB scheduled, ABF urged “yes” votes on both continuation of NHB and on the discontinuation of the refund provision. ABF pursued Section 18 approval for products to control varroa mites.

1992 - 1993
Donald Schmidt, of South Dakota, was president. The 1992 conference was held in San Diego, California. A resolution called for the deregulation of varroa mites and American Foulbrood as both were widespread in the US.

1993
ABF celebrated its 50th Anniversary. David Sundberg, of Minnesota, was president. The conference was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Discussions began that lead to the formation of the “Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.” Later the ABF joined the AHPA in seeking a section 406 investigation into honey imports from China and Argentina.

1994
The conference was held in Orlando, Florida. David Sundberg, of Minnesota, was president. U.S. President Clinton refused to impose the remedies recommended by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) on Chinese honey.
ABF joined the AHPA to work for antidumping relief on honey from China and Argentina. The Honey Loan Program was discontinued by the Federal Government.

1995
The conference was held in Austin, Texas. Pursuit of antidumping relief dominated the conference. The keynote speaker was Congressman, Kika de la Garza, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Congressman Kika de la Garza was instrumental in helping beekeepers establish the USDA bee laboratory in Weslaco, Texas; subsequently the laboratory was named in his honor. ABF continues to pursue antidumping.

1996 - 1997
Bill Merritt, of Florida, was president. The 1996 conference was held in Portland, Oregon. The main topics of discussion were adulteration, antidumping, honey imports and labeling.

1997
The conference was held in Norfolk, Virginia. The ABF adopted a Statement of Mission and Values. The Kids and Bees program was held with 572 children and parents in attendance.

1998 - 1999
David Hackenberg, of Pennsylvania, was president and the conference was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This was the first conference where a portion of the program was organized into Special Interest Groups (SIGS). Later the name was changed to Shared Interest Groups. David made many trips to Washington, D.C. during his tenure on the executive committee.

1999
The conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Honey prices had dropped from a high of 80 cents per pound to as low as the 40 cents per pound. This was primarily due to relatively recent North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and World Trade Organization (WTO) treaties and the resultant increase in honey imports from China, Argentina, and other countries. The Board of Trustees of the “Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees” held their first official meeting.

2000 - 2001
Clint Walker III of Texas was President. The 2000 conference was held in Ft. Worth, Texas. The ABF had successfully lobbied for a Non-Recourse Honey Loan Program to replace the old Honey Loan Program that was discontinued in 1994. The loan rate was funded at 65 cents per pound. Drastic changes in the By-Laws were adopted. The body called “Directors” are now called “Delegates Assembly” and setting up the Shared Interest Groups as Units. Now the Shared Interest Units the Delegates Assembly elect the Directors.

2001
The conference was held in San Diego, California. Antidumping and how to pay the associated legal and lobbying fees dominated the conference. The United States International Trade Commission established antidumping tariffs on Chinese and Argentine Honey.

2002 - 2003
Pat Heitkam, of California, was president. The 2002 conference was held in Savannah, Georgia. At this conference, there was much controversy between ABF and AHPA on whether to keep or disband the NHB.

2003
The conference was held in Kansas City, Missouri. Discussions continued concerning the NHB. The Packers and Importers wanted to disband the board and create a board funded by them. Since they had the power to disband the board the ABF chose to work with the Packers and Importers to establish the current NHB.

2004 - 2005
David Ellingson, of Minnesota, was president. The 2004 conference was held in Jacksonville, Florida. New challenges arose in the sweetener market both as competitor and adulterants to honey.
2005
The conference was held in Sparks/Reno, Nevada. ABF continues to fight for a National Standard of Identity for Honey and ways to enforce honey label laws to ensure the quality of honey being marketed in the U.S. Another resolution requested an applied research position at Land Grant Universities and USDA.

2006 - 2007
Daniel Weaver, of Texas, was president. The 2006 conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky. A resolution requested mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling regulations for honey. Anthony petitioned Congress to appropriate funds to provide laboratory facilities, equipment, material and personnel to initiate a research program on the chemistry of honey, potential and actual honey adulterants, and contaminants toward the result of developing and certifying new methods for the detection of adulterants and contaminants in honey.

2007
The conference was held in Austin, Texas. This was the first report of what would later be called “Colony Collapse Disorder” (CCD). ABF also worked hard on legislation to include honey in the Farm Bill that provides relief to farmers affected by severe weather. Daniel W. was co-leader of the “Honey Bee Genome Sequencing Consortium.” After the conference a tour of Walker Apiaries coincided with a torrential rain storm, and for Texas, a rare snow storm.

2008 - 2009
Zac Browning, of North Dakota, was president. The 2008 conference was held in Sacramento, California. This was first joint meeting with the AHPA. There were many presentations related to CCD. About one thousand attended.

2009
The conference was held in Sparks/Reno, Nevada. One big issue concerned imported bees and honey. Resolutions included allowing placement of apiaries on conservation program land and for the planting and cultivation of legumes, using management practices that promote and protect pollinator habitat initiatives. The Directors hired Meeting Expectations, Inc. of Atlanta, GA to manage ABF, a relationship that continues to this day.

2010 - 2011
David Mendes, of Florida, was president. The 2010 conference was held in Orlando, Florida. The electronic newsletter ABF E-Buzz was unveiled. ABF membership was one thousand twenty-one representing a twenty percent growth since the change in management. During this period there was no Farm Bill. ABF worked diligently on health issues with EPA, USDA, and Congress. ABF continues to fight for a National Standard of Identity for Honey.

2011
The conference was held in Galveston, Texas. This was the second joint meeting with AHPA with 1,100 in attendance. A Customs Service Agent challenged honey producers to have a serious discussion with their honey buyers to see that all imported honey is properly sourced and labeled. ABF launched its Facebook page. The “Conversation with a Beekeeper,” an online monthly educational webinar series, was also introduced.

2012 - 2013
George Hansen, of Oregon, was president. The 2012 conference was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. A resolution asked USDA to maintain the work of the Weslaco Honey Bee Laboratory with scientists at other bee laboratories, if the Weslaco laboratory closed. The ABF Research Committee called for research proposals to fund a pilot project on using geographic information systems and spatial analysis to monitor honey bee health.

2013
The conference was held in Hershey Pennsylvania. Several talks were presented concerning queen rearing and breeding, bee diseases, exotic pests, and viruses. A resolution to continue its ongoing efforts to expedite regulatory approval, registration and research safe, efficacious products especially semi-chemically based and environmentally safe methods for the control of pests.

2014 - 2015
Tim Tucker, of Kansas, was president. The 2014 conference was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A resolution expressed thanks for the Presidential Memorandum for “Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators.” A tour of the USDA Honey Bee Genetic Stock Center was conducted. The Secretary of Agriculture announced the implementation of a new Farm Bill initiative.
that would provide insurance for relief to farmers affected by severe weather. The program included Honey and would begin the following year.

2015

The conference was held in Anaheim, California. The USDA and the Interior Department set goals to increase and improve bee and pollinator habitat. Topics of discussion were nutrition, queens, drones, bee breeding, survivor stock and bee health.

2016 - 2017

Gene Brandi of California was President. The 2016 conference was held in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. There were big concerns about the Integrity of Scientific Research. A resolution supported scientists to conduct essential research and be able to publish the results of their findings without fear of retribution. Another resolution emphasized clear enforceable label language as the best way to protect honey bees and all pollinators.

2017

The conference was held in Galveston, Texas. Top legislative priorities were funding and maintaining research and protecting our honey market. A Honey Task Force was formed to address the issues related to the quality and authenticity of honey in the US market. FDA proposed new labeling rules that could have a negative impact on honey. Another requested mandatory and accurate country of origin labeling on honey. Other items of importance were the new “Veterinary Feed Directive” and Nutritional Labeling for Honey.

In preparing this history, I found it interesting that there have been several father and son presidents. Oscar H. Schmidt and son Donald, Binford Weaver and son Daniel, G.C. Walker, Jr., and son Clinton. Two sets of brothers have also served as presidents: Roy S. Weaver Jr. and Binford, and Bob Brandi and Gene.

AMERICAN HONEY INSTITUTE

The organization was formed in 1928 and its purpose was to promote honey. It was the idea of Lewis Parks, of the G. B. Lewis company. Beekeepers and Honey Packers as well as other segments of the industry to make a voluntary contribution called a “check off.” Funds went to the AHJ. Operations ceased January 31, 1965, due to lack of financial support. They did a good job with their limited funds.

THE AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM

The program was organized in 1959 and is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Congratulations! During this period there have been five queen chairpersons: Esther Piechowski, Joanne King, Charlotte Randall, Patty Sundberg, and Anna Kettlewell, who is our current chairperson. The first honey queen was Kay Seidelman. Each year a queen and princess are selected from a field of state honey queens. Applicants have been represented by twenty-seven states. Their duties are to promote honey and the beekeeping industry. A secret panel of impartial judges evaluates applicants on their writing skills, public speaking skills, demonstration skills, interaction with people and their knowledge of the subject.

The Queen and Princess promote honey and the beekeeping industry through media interviews, particularly television, radio, print and in recent years have expanded to social media and other related media outlets. On an annual basis they generate anywhere from $200,000 to $500,000 in media publicity. They also promote the industry by giving product demonstrations, assisting with fair promotions, and presenting educational information to civic and business groups and in schools.

HISTORY OF LADIES AUXILIARY

Every good man has a good woman standing with him. We are fortunate to have the Ladies Auxiliary standing with us. Ladies Auxiliaries were first organized by states beginning in 1930s. The American Honey Institute organized the first national ladies’ auxiliary in San Antonio, Texas in 1936. It was named “National Ladies Auxiliary” and Mrs. H. M. (Ethel) Krebs was the first president. Approximately 80 ladies were in attendance. In 1939 the name was changed to “National Auxiliary of American Honey Institute”. It wasn’t until 1953 that the name was changed to “American Beekeeping Federation Auxiliary”. The purpose of the ABF Auxiliary is to provide support to the American Honey Queen program with a special emphasis on honey use and to assist the ABF in its efforts. In the early years they sponsored National Honey Cookery Contests.

As a Federation, we encompass and welcome all segments of the industry to join us as equals. One member, one vote.

It is my opinion that the biggest challenges beekeepers face today are fake honey, adulteration, deceptive labeling and transshipment of honey to avoid tariffs. Some people think that as much as one third to one half of the honey being marketed today is adulterated and/or mislabeled. Label laws and the best scientific methods to detect adulteration and transshipments are worthless unless we beekeepers aggressively pursue and prosecute violators. Just think what the price of honey would be today without this problem.

My challenge to the officers, the delegates assembly, the special units and membership is to reinvigorate the Honey Defense Fund to protect the good name of US honey.

We have accomplished much in the last 75 years. Just to name a few: we were successful in securing a USDA Honey Loan Program, secured three USDA honey bee laboratories, the establishment of the National Honey Board, had honey included in the USDA severe weather insurance program, had tariffs placed on dumped honey.

Hopefully, I have enlightened you about our past. I look forward to a bright future. Keep your hive tool sharp.

REFERENCES

“History of our National Beekeeping Organizations” By Dr. Vern G. Milum
Troy Fore
David Hackenberg

David Mendes
Donald Schmidt
Dr. Clinton (Clint) Walker III
Danny Weaver
Reg Wilbanks
Meet your ABF Board: ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

TIM MAY
ABF President

I am a third-generation commercial beekeeper from outside Chicago, IL. We have colonies throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin for honey production as well as apple and pumpkin pollination. We pack all our honey under the “Sunny Hill Honey” brand name and distribute throughout the Chicago area. My grandfather and father started the business in 1948 by purchasing two hives from my great aunt. They continued to expand the business as well as their customer base. After completing a degree in Marketing from Illinois State University and five years at a marketing firm I joined the family business.

I am honored to be the President of this great organization and looking forward to a great 75th year for ABF.

JOAN GUNTER
ABF Vice President

I was raised in rural North Dakota on the family farm. I attended college and earned a degree in education and business. After graduating, I taught school on all levels for 10 years while raising two boys with husband, Dwight.

Living in Towner, North Dakota, my husband and I have been Commercial Migratory beekeepers for over 30 years traveling to Mississippi, Texas, and California. The family-owned company is primarily engaged in honey production, queen rearing, pollination, and sales of bees.

I am involved with the American Beekeeping Federation, the Foundation for Preservation of Honey Bees, the National Honey Board, and the Honey Bee Health Coalition. I am also active in several states organizations in North Dakota, Mississippi and Texas.

GENE BRANDI
ABF Past President

I began working with bees during high school and college in 1970. I earned a B.S. Ag Business degree from California Polytechnic State University 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 as the chairman, and of course, my time with the American Beekeeping Federation, which I had the honor of serving as president.
ROBERT “BOB” SEARS  
**Director Representing**  
**Honey Producer-Packer SIG**

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.

BLAKE SHOOK  
**Director Representing**  
**the State Delegates Assembly**

Blake Shook, who got his start in beekeeping at the age of 12, and his wife, Kathleen, own Desert Creek Honey Company. They operate over 5,000 hives in Texas, California and North Dakota. Blake packages and markets a wide variety of honey and honey products online and throughout Texas.

Blake is a director of the American Beekeeping Federation, as well as our Membership and Marketing Committee chair. He has served as president and vice president of a local beekeeping association in Texas and as president of the Texas Beekeepers Association.

When he is not working bees, he has had the privilege of speaking at local, state, national and international beekeeping conventions promoting beekeeping. He has also written and contributed content for national beekeeping magazines.

MARIO JAKOB  
**Director Representing**  
**Commercial Beekeepers SIG**

Mario Jakob is a third generation Florida beekeeper. He and his wife, Shelly, own and operate D & J Apiary, Inc. operating 3,500 hives and mating nucs, a beekeeping supply store, and a mobile store they take to local club meetings across Florida. He is a lifetime member of the Florida State Beekeepers and is a member of Sioux Honey Association.

Mario has been on the Board of Directors with ABF since 2012. His commitment to the industry and the ABF organization is evident in his volunteer efforts on many committees, including Membership & Marketing, Commercial SIG, Executive and others.

PATTY SUNDBERG  
**Director Representing**  
**the State Delegate Assembly**

Patty with her husband, Lance, founded Sunshine Apiary, Inc. located in Columbus, Montana. The business now has 10 full time employees and 12 seasonal employees. Patty manages Sunshine Apiary, where they run over 8,000 hives for almond pollination in CA, fruit pollination in WA and honey, wax, and hive products in Montana.

Patty is the past ABF Honey Queen Chairperson, is serving her 6th year on the Board and has been actively involved in fundraising activities during the annual conferences. Patty loves sharing the story and life of honey bees with others, especially children.

In her spare time, you will find her traveling to spend time with their three sons and their families enjoying every moment with her grandchildren, taking pictures, sewing, walking, enjoying camping, listening to birds, looking at flowers and appreciating the simple things in life. She is currently serving her 16th year as an alderman for the city of Columbus, Montana.
February, March and April are “pivotal” months for beekeeping. Beekeepers in the north are not as actively busy with their bees, unless going to California with almond rentals as those who beekeep in the south. For many beekeepers, early spring hive inspections should be rapid. Air temperature should be above 40 degrees to lift tops and hive heft, 55° or higher is better for removing and examining frames. Since bees organize a brood sphere, the earliest spring managements should generally not disrupt this sphere.

Deadouts should be removed from the apiary and the wooden boxes and combs allowed to dry out. Calling of the darkest/nastiest combs is a good idea before reuse. Some beekeepers like to “wash” frames to be repopulated with acetic acid (vinegar is diluted acetic acid) or sodium hydrochlorite (bleach) but there is no good evidence that it makes much difference. Ozone or radiation are of benefit but there are too few facilities that are available for such treatments.

The queens of most colonies are laying eggs by now. Bee bread and honey stores will be depleted more quickly in February and March than in December or January. Pollen patties will push good queens; dry sugar (tondant, crystallized or sugar candy) is preferred for emergency feed for northern beekeepers still facing winter conditions. Eventually, depending upon weather and colony development, switching to sugar syrup will stimulate queens and brood rearing.

Cleaning the bottom board (if you use one) is good management and you might consider even exchanging for a dry bottom – wooden bottom boards may hold a pint or more of water. If you use an upper entrance, most of the flight activity is likely to be here, rather than from the bottom. Beekeepers using moisture chambers at the hive top should check to see they are still effectively wicking the excess moisture away. February and March are wet months for most bee colonies, and their keepers. Apiaries without all-weather access will be more difficult to service.

There is still time to purchase and assemble equipment. Larger scale beekeepers make some or all their wooden equipment, but it is easier for most of us to buy. There is an adage “Buy Once.” This means spending once for quality rather than seeking the cheapest buy, which often need to be repurchased when they quickly wear out/break down. Cheap may seem attractive but if you buy and assemble well one time, producing a good study home for your bees, it will pay off in the long run. You can take the short cuts down the road but start out with quality.

February, March and April are pivotal too as bee colonies can starve out, or experience “spring dwindling”. Early springs, like many East coast beekeepers experienced last spring, push colonies along and colonies with new queens will expand brood rearing more rapidly and may then crash. Weather that is up and down, such as beekeepers experienced in the upper midwest last spring, can also be threatening. Early, warmer weather (“start” message for bees) followed with a late spring cold spell (a “stop” message) may leave colonies heavily brooded but underpopulated with adults. Smaller colonies may be unable to move from cluster location to reach honey in frames further away. Beekeepers should be spring weather watchers.

For many beekeepers, bees are housed in more than one single hive configuration or hive type. Natural beekeeping sometimes implies using a hive more “natural” than the Langstroth type hive but alternative hives, such as top bar or Warré hives, cannot be converted into the moveable frame Langstroth hive. They can be useful off to the side however as a source, along with nucs, for requeening, as food resource supplement or just “something different.” Standardization is essential for mechanized movement for pollination and all beekeepers will benefit from it.
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The indoor storage of hives is an exciting topic right now in the bee industry, although it has roots dating back more than 100 years. There is at least one article discussing the storage of bees in cellars in an American Bee Journal from 1902. It has been a widely practiced wintering strategy throughout many parts of Canada for decades. The motivation for Canadian beekeepers and those early adopters of storing bees in cellars is very different from the motivation and demands on US commercial beekeepers today.

The increasing demand for strong colonies in February drove many beekeepers to take their bees to California in November. However, disease and labor pressure combined with heavy colony losses during those winter months has many beekeepers looking for alternatives. People are finding that alternative in indoor storage.

It became apparent to us that there were some potentially major benefits to indoor storage based on some observational studies we conducted by comparing commercial colonies before and after winter when they were held in either a California holding yard, refrigerated building, or outdoors in Washington. The hives kept indoors had significantly higher frame counts compared to bees held in a California holding yard. The beekeeper also felt as though his bees were fatter (healthier) when they were stored indoors. The next year, we painted about 4,000 newly emerged bees and distributed them into colonies that, again, were stored in California or indoors for the winter months (Nov-Jan). The painted bees we collected before almond bloom were compared for head protein and fat content. The bees held indoors had significantly more fat and head protein than bees kept in the California holding yard providing one possible explanation for the observation of greater hive strength seen in colonies the year before.

There are some well recognized advantages to storing bees indoors during the winter months: no feeding, no spreading disease/mites, reduced labor, increased security, no digging them out of the snow or mud, less deterioration of woodenware, etc. One of the more significant advantages might be the reduced brood rearing and or complete break in brood. Some beekeepers report that the hives are broodless when coming out of storage facilities. While this might sound worrisome to some beekeepers it might be the greatest advantage in indoor storage. Creating a break in brood rearing provides an amazing opportunity to get the most effective control of varroa mites with a single application of miticide, and that miticide can be a “softer” compound. Indoor wintering is often thought of as a northern beekeeper thing, but the brood break that it affords should be a major consideration for all beekeepers as an opportunity to start the season with uniformly low mite levels. This might be even more important in areas of the country that don’t normally experience a natural brood break.

It is this concept of a break in brood rearing created by indoor storage combined with what has been done in smaller scale operations in European countries with summer queen caging to create a break in brood that spurred the idea for us to place commercial colonies in refrigerated bee storage immediately after the honey was removed in August. The idea being that we could force the colonies to stop brood production by placing them in the cold dark confines of the building so they have no food coming in and no light stimulation. We found that after 18 days the colonies were completely broodless and a single treatment with a “soft” compound (HopGard in this case) was amazingly effective at controlling mites with very little variation. This is in comparison to reliance on repeated treatments in an attempt to cover a full brood cycle. With the difficulty in treatment timing and labor it is almost impossible to ensure that all colonies get treated in a timely manner and even when this is accomplished it results in widely variable effectiveness. I am sure many of you have imagined the lifecycle of varroa mite in your colonies during the times you are attempting to treat after the honey crop. You apply the first treatment and get good knockdown of phoretic mites (only those on the adults or outside the capped brood), but the product is only effective for a few days. Meanwhile, you have a queen laying thousands of eggs a day, which means you have thousands of emerging bees each day, each with the potential to be releasing more mites and thousands of newly pupating larvae (cells being capped) providing thousands of opportunities for mites to crawl in and reproduce, each day.

Basically, when trying to use multiple treatments trying to cover a brood period (24 days) there are inevitably windows of time when the product is not fully effective, and mites continue their life cycle. That is under optimal circumstances when the crews are able to hit every hive 3-4 times at perfect intervals. In comparison, hives coming out of summer cold storage are uniformly broodless. This provides a 7-day window to treat before the first mite can run and hide in the first capped brood cell. This offers extremely uniform and predictable mite control. No more worrying about “mite bombs” in the operation. The hives can be moved in and out in batch sizes and calendar timing that best suits each operation’s size and capabilities. There are likely to be additional management benefits with the cycling of colonies through such a summer storage period. While colonies are in storage, there are fewer hives for crews to feed, requeen and fix-up and it improves the beekeeper-to-hive ratio and allows crews to do more thorough hive care. This work is still preliminary with research ongoing, but there is a great deal of potential.
The practice of making and overwintering nucleus colonies has gained in popularity recently. Michael Palmer, a honey and queen producer in Saint Albans, Vermont has been avant-garde with overwintered nucleus colonies. They are an excellent resource for expanding apiaries, replacing deadouts or for early sales. I had been making and using overwintered nucleus colonies in upstate New York and then driving them to the coast of North Carolina for a few years. In North Carolina they experience a brief winter before expanding rapidly on the early flows of red maple, henbit, wild mustard and sourweed. In Reno this January I presented at the American Bee Research Center (ABRC) poster session on the benefits of using these same overwintered nucleus colonies for early spring research.

In late November 127 5x5 nucleus colonies were driven over 800 miles to the coast of North Carolina and left in a small standing yard. The colonies had all been made during the honey flow four months earlier. In late January the nucleus colonies were transferred to 10 frame equipment and used for a viral study with hives being sent to California almonds. All colonies met contract strength by the end of January as we were shipping out of North Carolina to California. I’d like to explain the high level of standardization we achieved using these colonies, our cost saving methods and the success at having colonies ready for research so early in the season.

During the summer of 2016, I set-up starter nucleus colonies in upstate New York. Brood and bees were harvested from non-productive colonies that were free of disease. Non-productive colonies are typically any hive that isn’t making honey. We usually have strong flows beginning in early May. Supering continues into the summer, and typically non-productive colonies stand out by the second and third rounds of supering. Neighboring hives are beginning to tower over their underperforming counterparts. Often there is an issue of excessive swarming or queen issue that prevents these colonies from making a honey crop. During the flow the brood and bees can be harvested to make replacement colonies in the form of nucs. The idea is simple: use the resources of these colonies to make many more colonies during the honey flow. The idea is not mine. I was fortunate to work with Michael Palmer for years and see how he made queen rearing and nuc production a core of his apiaries. I want to make the case that this same commercial process can be a successful method for researchers.

The starter nucs received two frames of brood, a honey frame and a mixed frame with adequate bees covering all the frames. One of the brood frames is typically larva, and the other capped brood. Overall, the goal was to make a small unit, nucleus, of bees that would house a new queen. Nucleus colonies that are made too strong and with too many resources will often reject the cell or queen introduced to them. The goal is to make a batch of nucleus colonies that are uniform, weak enough they will house a new queen instead of trying to make their own, and not so strong they will swarm immediately.
The new colonies were driven to a mating yard where they received a queen cell. Sixteen days after establishing the colonies, queens were checked for fecundity. This process is very quick. I simply removed a center frame from the nucleus colony. If the queen was laying, then that brood frame was elevated into a new super with frames of foundation filling in all empty spaces. The colonies want to be encouraged to work vertically. These colonies will explode in growth on a honey flow with a new queen and excess young bees. Some of the colonies were supered into a third story by the end of the summer.

There is a strong golden rod flow from August into early September in the North. Typically, this is a time to address any feed issues amongst colonies, to treat colonies and to equalize them.

Some nucleus colonies were made a little too strong or built up into an third additional super. Often, they will have drawn out several frames, but still have undrawn foundation in that upper most super. I want the colonies to have a condensed brood chamber for winter. I also don’t want them to have any undrawn foundation in the colony. This is a great time to equalize the nucleus colonies.

Brood frames are counted and observed. The researchers have control over the breeder queen, quality of the cell builder and conditions of mating. The strength of the colony is observed for the remainder of the summer. Queens with issues or colonies that exhibit any disease are removed. By the next spring queen quality and colony strength is easily observed. We have gone at length to produce queens and colonies with a high degree of standardization for the experiment.

I removed the upper super and brushed the bees back into the colony. The undrawn foundation was stored aside. Drawn honey frames were stored under cover. As I was going through the yard, these frames were swapped into lighter colonies if the need arises. This involved removing a partial honey frame from one nuc and replacing it with a heavy capped frame. The goal was to condense the colonies for travel and to equalize them.

The nucleus colonies were fed with 2:1 syrup before the end of the fall flow. Colonies that had sufficient stores did not need to be fed. Colonies that were light were fed before the end of the fall flow. The weather was still warm, and colonies readily took down syrup. The syrup was stored in the honey comb around an ever-condensing brood chamber. All colonies had sufficient stores, and were in contact with those stores. This was imperative for early brood rearing. Colonies with insufficient resources would not be able to rear brood as early as properly prepared colonies. The colonies also wanted to be in contact with stores during weeks of cold weather. In North Carolina this meant the colony would continue to rear brood without issues during cold weather; imperative for early spring buildup.

One hundred twenty seven colonies were then driven to the coast of North Carolina in November. The colonies sat in a standing yard in Columbus county until the last week of January. During this time the colonies received no additional management from the beekeeper. The major preparatory work had already been done.

- Queen quality was observed through colony growth and brood patterns during the summer
- Mites were addressed
- The colonies were condensed to an overwinter configuration
- Colonies were fed
- Colonies needing uniting were already combined

From November until the end of January there was about a 10-week waiting period. The colonies were still rearing brood before shipping from New York. For the most part brood rearing continued when the colonies settled in North Carolina. The maple flow in this area was strong and began around January 10th.

A colony transferred to be sent to California almonds. This colony was started from two frames of brood and allowed to grow vertically during the previous summer. By January in North Carolina, they were ready to be shipped as production colonies.
The experiment involved three groups: an experimental group being sent to California, a test group remaining in North Carolina, and a control group. Each group’s colonies needed to be like the colonies in the other groups. Most of this standardization had already been done. Colonies were started during the previous season at the same time, with the same resources. The queens all mated in the same mating yard. The cell building process was identical for all queens produced. The operator could control which breeder queen(s) were used to make the daughters. I used three different breeder queens in my operation during 2017. The task in January was to select the 48 most similar colonies amongst the total 127 available. These colonies also had to meet the requirements for the California broker. A combination of number of brood frames, quality of pattern and total population of adult bees was used to choose the colonies. This meant outliers on each end, underperforming colonies and colonies that were uncommonly strong, were removed from selection. After choosing the 48 colonies they were transferred to 10 frame equipment. Care was taken to observe for queen rightness and brood quality. This was the final step to prevent selecting a colony in error. Five pounds of homemade pollen patty was placed on top of the brood chamber. Wax paper was placed underneath each patty. Another commercial beekeeper in North Carolina drove the colonies to California. Our experimental colonies piggy-backed on his load going out west. He received the pollination payment for our colonies, and we received free transport of our experimental portion to California. We felt like this was a win-win. The commercial beekeeper incurred no cost to assist in the experiment, and in turn we were able to run an experiment without incurring large transportation costs. There wasn’t a rush or worry about having colonies ready for the experiment. We didn’t have to purchase packages or sort through dissimilar colonies. Instead these overwintered nucleus colonies had all the resources needed for the experiment to begin. The experiment also had control over the queen quality. I made all my own queen cells for new colonies. I tried to optimize the health of my new queens and create a high level of standardization that would be different if I merely purchased queens. Our group felt this was an important baseline for beginning the experiment:
1. Control over the breeder queen I choose
2. Determine the cell builder strength
3. Where and when the queens are mated
The nucleus colonies were established in June and July. The queen strength, reflective in brood pattern and overall growth of the nucleus colony was observed. Underperforming queens were culled, including any issues with poor mating. This gave us a short history of the health and performance of these nucs well before the start of the experiment. By January, I was simply trying to find the 48 most similar hives: culling under performers and over performing outliers. Frames of brood were counted, and the brood patterns were observed before shipping the colonies to California. This was another level assurance of overall colony health and queen performance at the establishment of the experiment.
Establishing overwintered nucleus colonies is an excellent way to have healthy hives for early spring research. Better levels of standardization are capable using nucleus colonies of your own rather than purchasing or renting colonies elsewhere. Additionally, we had several months to observe the health and performance of these colonies before the start of the experiment. Issues and outliers were omitted. This gave us a high level of confidence we were beginning with equalized colonies without unforeseen preexisting conditions. The colonies described in this article were used for: “Home sick: effects of migratory beekeeping on honey bee disease.” Samantha Alger of the University of Vermont led the project and the laboratory team. Colony preparation and field sampling was carried out by Zachary Lamas.
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Bee Talk. How is it Said, Written and Why?

by: Al Chubak

When beekeepers speak of “hives,” they are not referring to a static box but the colony within the box. The structure is the hive, the living organism inside the hive is the colony. A hive can’t do anything. In contrast, a colony acts and interacts. How many hives you have refers to boxes. How many colonies you have refers to the group of bees inside the hive.

Is it a Langstroth or Langstrom hive? The inventor of the most widely used hive today is Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth.

Many discuss the bee apocalypse in a widely general fashion. The term “bees” refers to the 20,000 members or types of bees that belong to the Apidae family. A honey bee belongs to a group or tribe of insects in the bee family called Apini. Several types exist in the genus Apis. Apis is Latin for bee, and mellifera means honey-bearing. Apis mellifera means honey bee. European honey bees belong to the order Melifera. So, using the term “bees” is a very broad way of referring to honey bees.

Is it proper to write honeybee or honey bee? Entomologists have a rule for common insect names. “If the insect is what the name implies, write the two words separately; otherwise run them together.” A house fly, and a horse fly are both a part of the fly family, so separate the words. A butterfly and dragonfly are not of the fly family but names only, so they are joined. Because a honey bee is of the bee family, it is two separate words.

Is it a swarm, colony, hive...what? Some say a hive of bees flew into their yard. This is truly a remarkable sight, as a box of bees shouldn’t be able to take on air and be navigated like an aircraft, unless of course a truck just lost its cargo. “A swarm is in my home”, is another challenging image of thousands of loosely flying bees, circling in your family room, but is possible. Once a swarm finds a location and enters to claim it as home, it is now a colony in a hive...which is your home.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND UNDERSTAND YOUR BEES
An urban neighborhood comprises many people, a majority with fears of insects that “buzz”. A beehive can pose a large threat almost equal to a nuclear power plant. Keeping honey bees is a constant learning experience, and sometimes your “learning” will spill over the fence to include your neighbors. For example, I was asked to re-queen an aggressive colony in a nice urban neighborhood. The colony did not know an inspection was in the works, nor was it disturbed prior. As the gate was opened to the rear of the yard, defense bees came out in force. The colony filled 4 deeps and was loaded with queen cells and excessive brood. Thinking they were angry for being cramped, they were split into 4 colonies. The inspection a week later showed each colony had queen cells, but were still very angry; too angry for a residential area. It was decided to move them to a safer place and have them tested for Africanized DNA. After the move, there were so many bees agitated, it was hard to see either hand or feet in front of the protective veil. DNA results showed a very low percentage of Africanized DNA. The queen cells in each colony were then destroyed and new mated queens introduced, one of which was later entombed in her cage. Due to the drones from these angry colonies, no natural queen rearing was done that season in this apiary.

Another situation occurred when a new beekeeper hived a 3 lb package on their apartment deck. This deck was 8’ off the ground, and next to the main walkway into the complex. The colony was hived, then the tenant went biking all day. Many in the apartment complex were concerned by the excessive number of bees flying, so they called the police. The police determined it was a health risk, so the bees were removed. A month later; the tenant noticed his bees were gone! He contacted the authorities, and learned they were confiscated. Instead of the full-sized colony, a MUB was given to replace the large hive. This new beekeeper reared a new queen. This colony existed for two seasons, then was given away.

Instead of smoking bees, using a sugar water solution in a mist bottle is a good practice for simple inspections. Misting promotes grooming, which aids in reducing Varroa mite counts. Opening a mature colony can agitate it and can pose a threat to neighbors. Some inspections can be performed at dusk, which limits the patrolling bees to the remaining daylight. Full inspections can be done between 11am-5pm as foraging bees and guard bees are limited. Full sized colonies require protective clothing, so consider the risks on your neighbors. Educating your neighbors about honey bees is a good idea. The MUB is less intimidating to neighbors and stimulates curiosity. Take every opportunity to educate and help mitigate fears. Different types of honey bees have diverse traits, from aggressive to calm. The temperament of each colony can also vary. It’s important to understand what sets off your colony, and how your bees react to changes in the weather, hive inspections, and even people walking near the hive. Your previously calm, gentle honey bees can turn ferocious during a nectar dearth, for example. An important aspect of keeping bees is understanding their needs.
TYPES OF HONEY BEES
AFRICANIZED BEES DO NOT HAVE INDIVIDUALIZED APPEARANCE

AFRICANIZED
An excellent honey producer; aggressive nature, defends against invasive threats like Varroa mites; lives in hot and tropical climates effectively; very defensive; swarms excessively and overtake existing colonies; not a good bee for urban beekeeping or with nearby livestock; has difficulty in cooler climates.

BUCKFAST
Good honey producer; good for northern climates; resists Tracheal Mites and Chalkbrood; gentle bee ideal for urban settings; low swarm risks; queens create large colonies; slows brood production in fall and during drought; fills brood nest with honey for winter; slow spring build up.

CARNIOLAN
Good honey producer; tolerates cold and moist days better than other bees so it can forage earlier in the day; builds up fast in spring; stops brood production during times of drought and fall so sometimes looks queen-less; uses less stores during drought and winter due to ability to lower population; not as much propolis, burr and brace comb as other bees so inspections are less of a mess; highly successful breeding with other types of bees for generating hybrids; swarms faster than Italian bees due to needing more space.

CAUCASIAN
Good honey producer; can forage earlier during the day; low swarm tendency; good queen layer; slows brood production during drought and in fall so sometimes looks queen-less or not queen right; good propolis producer; good comb builder.

CORDOVAN
A beautiful golden bee; excellent fat producing young bees; mild bees; like Italians these consume lots of resources in fall and winter; once season starts they don’t slow until fall.

FERAL
May be acclimated to area; usually from colonies that have absconded or swarmed from packages; swarm lists enable beekeepers to capture them for minimal expense; if queen is unmarked it is unknown how long she may have lived; may have disease or mites; temperament unknown; natural selection on breeding; variety from colony to colony exists due to how long feral, what stock it came from originally; can be prolific at swarming; should be well inspected in a holding yard prior to bringing into an apiary.

ITALIAN
A very popular bee due to their mild temperament; fast build up; fast comb builder; does not produce much propolis; great honey producer; does not slow down brood production during drought; goes into winter with large colony; consumes lots of resources during drought and winter; poor flight orientation causing bee drift between other colonies.

RUSSIAN
Resistant to Varroa mites and Tracheal mites; similar qualities to the Carniolan bee; good honey producer; tolerates cold and moist days better than other bees so it can forage earlier in the day; builds up fast in spring; stops brood production during times of drought and fall so sometimes looks queen-less; uses less stores during drought and winter due to ability to lower population; not as much propolis, burr and brace comb as other bees so inspections are less of a mess; highly successful breeding with other types of bees for generating hybrids; swarms faster than Italian bees due to needing more space.

Each breed listed here has pros and cons, so it’s helpful to talk with other local beekeepers to see what bees work for your area. Generally, most people begin with Italian bees due to their docile behavior. Using the genetics of the queen included with packages or are sold separately, to further breed a locally mated queen is a good practice for any area. Currently a variant queen from Saskatchewan Canada is being promoted as the “Saskatraz” queen. This queen is believed to be colder tolerant and able to survive long winters. It is ideal to identify the traits of the type of bees you care for, as each is unique with varying challenges.

Africanized: Photo courtesy of Truly Nolen
Buckfast: Photo courtesy of Wikipedia
Carniolan: Photo courtesy of Wikipedia
Caucasian: Photo courtesy of EcoFilms.ge
Cordovan: Photo courtesy of BeeKeepClub.com
Feral: Photo courtesy of Freethebees.ch
Italian: Photo courtesy of Freethebees.ch
Russian: Photo courtesy of Bill’s Russian Bee Blog
Happy New Year! The 2018 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Reno was a great success. It was wonderful to catch up with many of you and to work with you on new promotion ideas! I am humbled to have been honored by Gene Brandi with the ABF President’s Award this year (and honestly, I’m still speechless and stunned!) It has been a great honor to serve the ABF leading the American Honey Queen Committee these last ten years, though much of the success of this program is attributed to the ABF members who support the program and schedule amazing promotions, the incredible team serving as the American Honey Queen Committee, and the professional women who have served as American Honey Queen and Princess. I thank you all for your efforts. It is an absolute joy to continue to serve the ABF, an organization that has been an important part of my life since childhood!

2018 begins a year of celebration for the American Honey Queen Program. At the American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow, the selection of the 60th set of national spokespersons for the American Beekeeping Federation was announced, and events are in the works to expand and enhance the American Honey Queen Program Alumni Association.

On behalf of the American Honey Queen Committee, I thank our 2017 American Honey Queen and Princess, Maia Jaycox and Hope Pettibon, for their service to the American Beekeeping Federation. To recap their efforts, these representatives promoted in 28 states, 11 on multiple occasions. Through their efforts with the media, Maia and Hope helped obtain an estimated $226,000 in media publicity for the American Beekeeping Federation. We thank them for dedicating a year of their lives to our organization and its members throughout the country and extend our best wishes as they continue to pursue their college studies.

The American Honey Queen Committee is pleased to welcome 2018 American Honey Queen Kayla Fusselman of Pennsylvania and 2018 American Honey Princess Jenny Gross of Wisconsin to the ABF family. They have had a busy and fantastic start to their year, beginning with the American Beekeeping Federation Conference and followed by their training with the Committee.

I thank all attendees for their support of the American Honey Queen program and to our excellent Committee for the support they contribute throughout the years. We look forward to your continued support during the program’s 60th anniversary. Stay tuned to the ABF Quarterly for more details on the program’s plans for this year of celebration. Our American Honey Queen Program Alumni Association is working to connect with all previous American Honey Queens, Princesses, and candidates for these positions to create a broad network for those who have participated. Our new Queen and Princess are eager and excited to continue the work of their predecessors this year.

For 2018, the American Honey Queen Program will renew its commitment to increasing the consumption of honey and hive products, along with continuing education on how to use our products and the importance of honeybee pollination. We will again strive to reach close to 30 states and continue the strong tradition of media coverage. 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. We encourage you to subscribe to the YouTube Channel, “Like” the Facebook page and encourage children to ask honeybee questions on the blog! Please check out these sites, follow and “Like” the content available for you in your promotions and presentations.

Training the 2018 representatives was a joy for the Committee this year. This year’s team consisted of several past American Honey Queens and Princesses, each with unique and different roles and perspectives to offer, and several other experts in their fields. In all, 12 individuals assisted the queens with lessons ranging from social media to media interviews, from packing to styling, and from reporting to evaluating. The Queens quickly put their training to the test, giving several school presentations and preparing for upcoming trips as you’ll read about in their articles.

Please contact me as soon as possible to arrange a visit from Kayla or Jenny to your state. We especially encourage visits to Alabama, Utah, and Vermont, where Queens and Princesses have not been in nearly two decades. You may contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or (414) 545-5514 to discuss promotion opportunities and trip requests. Kayla, Jenny, and I look forward to making 2018 a wonderful 60th anniversary year.
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EDUCATION
Information and ongoing learning is the key to surviving as a beekeeper today.

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Success in the business of keeping bees requires networking with those in the industry who are leading the way to the future.

ONE VOICE
From working with the USDA, EPA and other governmental organizations, to making sure the industry is front and center. ABF is your voice.
I am Kayla Fusselman, your 2018 American Honey Queen, and I am excited to be serving the American Beekeeping Federation this year.

I am from Kempton, Pennsylvania, and I recently served as the 2017 Pennsylvania Honey Queen. I am a 2017 graduate from Kutztown University, where I earned a bachelor’s degree in art education. In college, I co-published a pictorial history book called “Kutztown University.”

I am an active alumna with the Kutztown FFA chapter and the Kutztown University Presidential Ambassadors. Through the FFA chapter, I am a member and the secretary of the Kutztown School District Agriculture Educational Advisory Board. In my free time I enjoy painting, making clay jewelry, scrapbooking, traveling, playing with my dog, Willow, and pet skunk, Luna, and working with bees.

My passion for education and my love of agriculture led me to apply for the position of honey queen. As a state representative, I reached more than 1.5 million people, and I am excited to surpass this number at the national level. I enjoy learning and teaching on the many uses of honey. This year, Princess Jenny and I hope to collectively give 50 honey-focused presentations. Since the ABF convention, I have had several newspaper interviews. On January 30, I had an interview with the editor who writes for several newspapers in Berks County, PA. I also had an interview for Reading Eagle’s Berks Country and was featured in the Northwestern Press in both their newspaper and website coverage.

Princess Jenny and I went through honey queen training January 31-February 6, in Wisconsin. We learned how to effectively convey our key messages in interviews, how to get kids engaged in school presentations, and how to report the impact of our promotions. During the week of training, we also had the opportunity to give four presentations at local Wisconsin elementary schools. Collectively, we reached around 200 students in third and fourth grades. As the American Honey Queen, I look forward to giving educational presentations to groups of students and adults of all ages!

While training was a long process, it was very effective and helped us prepare for our promotions across the country. There are many people we would like to thank, who took the time to share their knowledge and prepare us so that our year as national representatives are successful. We would like to thank Anna Kettlewell (1999 American Honey Queen), for sharing the tools to be successful in educating the public and representing ABF. Thank you to Louann Hausner (1996 American Honey Princess) and Bill Graffin for providing experience and training on the media and how to maintain a professional image in an interview. We would also like to thank Rachel Bryson (2008 American Honey Princess) for reviewing important marketing and sales techniques, Amy (Roden) Blakeney (2010 American Honey Princess) for guiding us on our scrapbook reporting, and Emily (Anderson) Brown (1997 American Honey Queen) for instructing on reporting. Thank you to Anna Kettlewell and Dan and Gina Piechowski for hosting us during our week of training.

Now that training is over, the excitement begins! My next trips are to Florida for the Florida State Fair and University of Minnesota for the Beekeeping in Northern Climates course with Princess Jenny. I look forward to promoting this sweet industry, meeting new people, and learning along the way.

We are excited to teach and speak at a variety of promotions and would love to come to your state. If you are interested in inviting Princess Jenny or me to your event please contact Anna Kettlewell at (414) 545-5514 or honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.

Have a sweet day!
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 24,750 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!
My name is Jenny Gross, your 2018 American Honey Princess. I am 20 years old, and from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

I have two wonderful parents, Bill and Mary, four siblings, and a dog named Chuck. I am a junior at Concordia University Wisconsin studying Hospitality and Event Management through the Accelerated Business Scholars Program (dual Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees). At school, I am a Student Ambassador, a Social Media Copywriter, and an Orientation Leader. I am also involved in women’s ministry, Bible studies, and mission trips. In my spare time, I enjoy painting, singing, theatre, playing ukulele, and, of course, beekeeping.

I am a second-generation beekeeper and started when I was 14 years old. I love working with the bees and helping my parents with the marketing for our apiary, Heirloom Honey. We currently have six hives of bees and are hoping to expand to 12 by spring. We sell our honey at the local farmers’ market and use our beeswax to make lip balms, hand creams, and soap. I enjoy designing the labels and developing our business’s brand. For me, watching and working with the bees is fascinating and peaceful. I enjoy painting my bee boxes beautiful designs and playing ukulele to my bees.

I am so excited for my year as the American Honey Princess. Since the ABF conference in Reno, Nevada, my promotions have taken off to a fast start. On January 24, I attended Agriculture Day at the Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, where I listened to Governor Walker speak about the current state of our agricultural industry. Wisconsin Honey Queen Hannah Sjostrom, leaders from the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, and I met with legislators and aides to discuss current legislative issues facing our honey industry, including the importance of a diverse and healthy habitat for honey bees and increasing funding for the apiary programs in Wisconsin.

On January 26, I had a newspaper interview with Agri-View, a statewide agricultural newspaper in Wisconsin. In January and early February, I was featured in The Country Today and the Sheboygan Sun newspapers, as well as in several online news outlets. In these articles, I explained my role as Honey Princess and shared key information about the honey and beekeeping industry!

From January 31-February 6, Queen Kayla and I trained in Wisconsin. It was a rigorous week full of social media training, professional imaging, and self-evaluation. So many people helped us to become the professional spokespeople for the honey industry. Anna Kettlewell gave us the resources we will need for our year ahead. We focused a lot on our social media platforms. Jolene (Hoefs) McNutt (2006 American Honey Queen) showed us how to utilize our Facebook page to maximize our reach. We have a goal of increasing our Facebook followers this year, so please visit our site and “Like” the page! Angie ( Olson) Lundeen (2000 American Honey Queen) taught us how to write blog articles, and how to challenge students to use it. We are encouraging students to continue to ask us questions after our presentations. You can do this, too, as you visit with students. Danielle Dale (2012 American Honey Princess) worked with us to create a strategy for our YouTube platform. Watch for videos from Kayla and I later this year! Carmen Risi helped us to develop and maintain a professional image and Tabitha Mansker (2016 American Honey Princess) taught us how to pack efficiently for our many trips. Our training took place part of the time in Redgranite, Wisconsin, and Dan Piechowski gave us a tour of his business, Henry’s Honey Farm, to learn more about the commercial side of the honey industry. This was my first experience touring a commercial beekeeping operation, so seeing a business of this size was eye-opening for me. As I visit your state, I would love to see your operations and learn more about how operations vary throughout the United States. I send a sincere thank you to all our trainers for giving us the tools needed for this big year ahead. Thank you to Anna Kettlewell and Dan and Gina Piechowski for hosting us during this critical week.

I have some exciting upcoming events to share! In February, I will visit New Jersey and Minnesota. I will speak about the unparalleled benefits of the Honey Queen Program, both at the state and national level and will learn even more about our industry in both states. I can’t wait to meet you as my travels continue!

If you would like to schedule a promotion for Queen Kayla or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or (414) 545-5514.

Jenny Gross

Princess Jenny practices media interviews with Louann Hausner to refine her interview skills. They later watched the practice interviews for the critical step of self-evaluation.

Princess Jenny explains the role of the queen bee in a hive to fourth graders in Berlin, Wisconsin.
The California State Beekeepers Association would like to thank all the sponsors, members, and guests for participating in the 2017 Annual Convention in South Lake Tahoe, California. Your continued support for our association is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Temecula November 13-15, 2018!

Thanks to our 2017 sponsors!

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