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QUARTERLY

VOL. 76, NO. 4, 2018

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AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION
QUARTERLY

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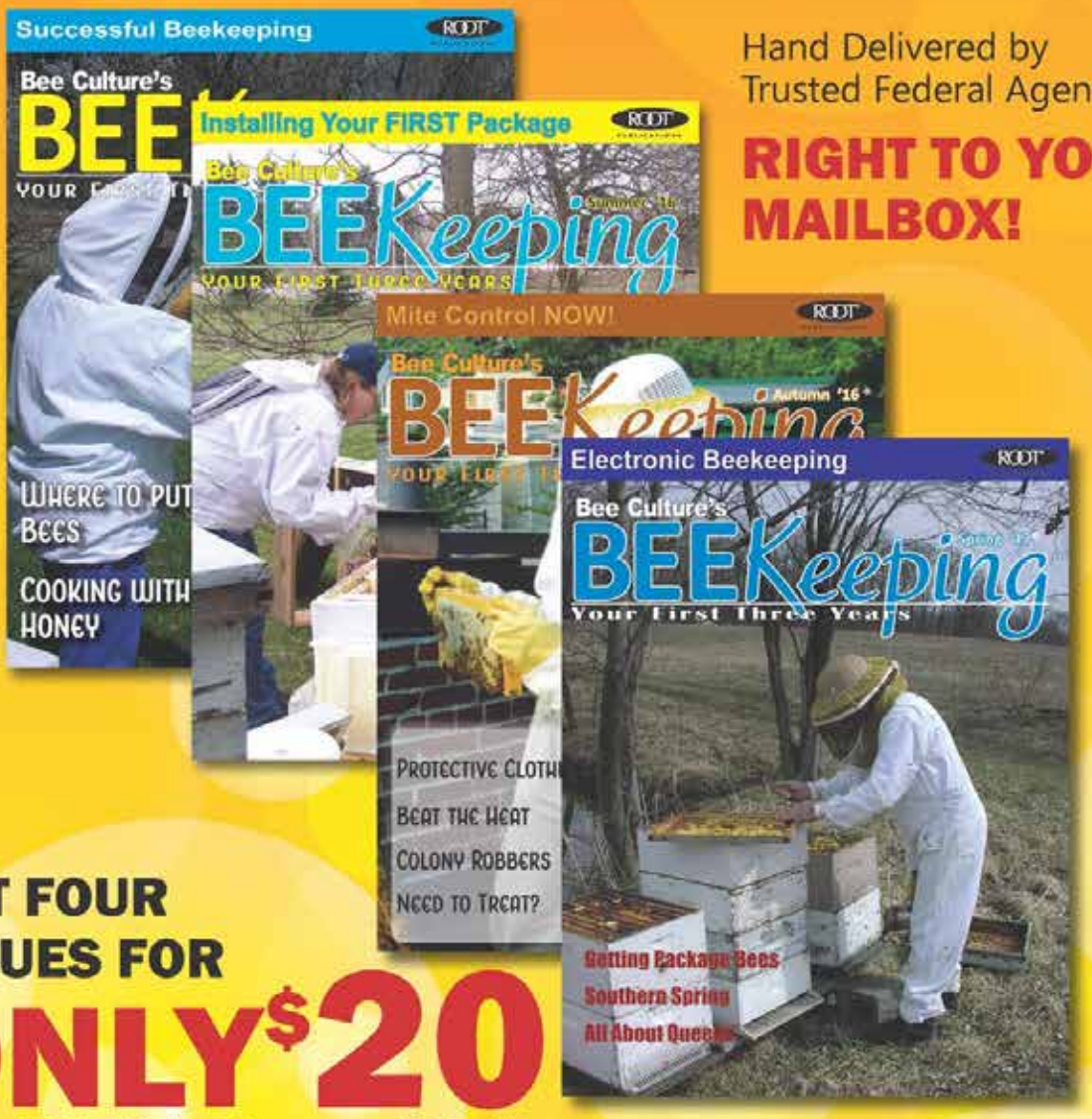

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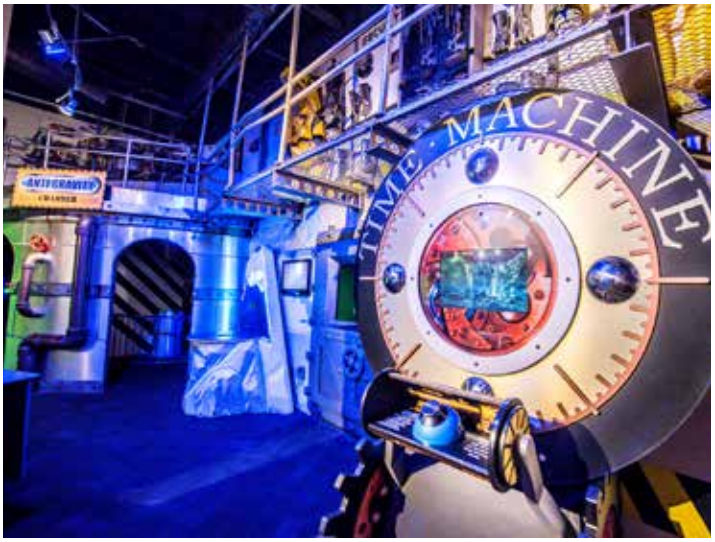

A time machine and anti-gravity chamber are just two of the wild exhibits you'll encounter at WonderWorks.

I am sitting down to write this message after enjoying another victory by the first-place Chicago Bears. I had the opportunity this past weekend to speak on behalf of the ABF during the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association's (WHPA) fall meeting in Wisconsin Rapids. The WHPA does a great job with their meetings, and I really appreciated the opportunity. Next weekend, I will be going down to Springfield, Illinois, to present during the Illinois State Beekeepers Association's (ISBA) fall meeting. The ISBA has always been a great supporter of the ABF, and I am honored to have the chance to discuss our organization with the ISBA members.

After a promising start to the past honey season, things really stopped in my area. We experienced great "bee weather," but unfortunately, it did not lead to much of a crop. We were about 60% of last year, and I heard a lot of the same results from beekeepers in the Midwest. Although the bees are light, they look relatively healthy going into winter.

Since we are approaching winter, it is time to start planning for the 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The conference takes place from January 9 to January 12. After a very close call from Hurricane Florence, everything is set and ready to go at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. Unfortunately, the hurricane had a devasting effect on many people in the Carolinas, and we wish them the best for a solid recovery from this tragic event.

The event schedule has been finalized, and the lineup is sure to be one of the best ever. The "Bee Innovative" theme will be followed not only on stage but throughout the tradeshow. We have three outstanding keynote presentations from some of the best bee researchers in the country. These presentations will take place during the morning general sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Dr. Marla Spivak will lead things off on Wednesday morning with "Restoring Bee Health: Molecules to Landscapes." Dr. Spivak is an Entomology Professor at the University of Minnesota. On Thursday, Dr. Reed Johnson will present "Interactions between Insecticides and Fungicides Applied to Almonds during Bloom." Dr. Johnson is from the Entomology Department at the Ohio State University. Finally, on Friday morning, Dr. Dennis vanEnglesdorp will present on the lessons he's learned over the past ten years. Dr. vanEnglesdorp is from the Entomology Department at the University of Maryland as well as the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP).

This year's conference will feature general session presentations and SIG breakout meetings as well as hands-on workshops on Saturday. The general sessions will include an update on governmental issues from Fran Boyd (Meyers and Associates) along with updates from EPA, USDA, the National Honey Board, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC), Project Apis m. (PAm) and BIP.

The Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning and is complimentary for all commercial beekeepers (registration required). Along with a great breakfast, we will have a panel discussion with three beekeeping experts: Gene Brandi, George Hansen and Dr. Norberto Garcia.

This year's Thursday Night Social will be a trip to WonderWorks—an "interactive science" activity center which is sure to be a fun time for all ages. Dinner, entertainment and a cash bar will be included as well as transportation to and from the venue.

The conference will conclude with the ABF Annual Banquet where we will crown the new American Honey Queen and Princess as well as hear from current Honey Queen Kayla Fusselman and Honey Princess Jenny Gross. The banquet will also include our famous sweepstakes and live auction. Be sure to purchase your tickets with your registration. You won't want to miss it!

This edition of *ABF Quarterly* magazine is the last of 2018. I hope everyone has enjoyed reading it and is happy with the new format and the contributors. I want to thank all the contributors as well as the Meeting Expectations staff for putting everything together.

On the following pages, you'll see a governmental update from Fran Boyd and Dr. Dewy Caron's assessment of the 2018 bee year. Al Chubak writes about "understanding your colony's community," and the ever-popular "Ask Hoopie" column is back with more answers to your questions. We also have a preview of the Kids and Bees program by Sarah Red-Laird and a commercial beekeeper spotlight on the Buchs from Willow Creek Apiaries in Potosi, Wisconsin. I have known Dan and Karen Buch for many years, and despite all the recent industry problems, Willow Creek Apiaries continues to be a successful mid-size producer/packer. Be sure to take a look at the interesting story they tell about their achievements.

Of course, this is our "conference preview" issue, so if you have a question regarding the 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, the answer is probably contained in this edition. You can always get additional information from our conference website at www.abfconference.com. Hope everyone had a successful season, and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach.

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JOAN GUNTER,
ABF VICE PRESIDENT

Thank you to Browning's Honey for hosting a portion of the tour.

A lot of learning happened during the pollinator field tour of North Dakota with the Entomological Society of America and the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

AUTUMN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR FOR ME.

This fine autumn day finds me on a three-day trek from Bismarck to Fargo, North Dakota, where I'll spend three days with the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) learning about the importance of pollinators in a farming state such as ours. I was asked to join this group as a beekeeping representative and have found it to be phenomenal.

The ESA and HBHC are educating all aspects of agriculture on the importance of pollinators, especially in agricultural states. As part of this endeavor, they organized a pollinator field tour which brought together diverse stakeholders for a hands-on understanding of pollinators and the many ways they intersect with production agriculture. During the tour, participants viewed the various challenges and opportunities facing beekeepers, farmers and others working to support pollinator health.

Autumn is a thing of beauty. Photo by Joan Gunter.

Participants arrived in Bismarck, North Dakota, on August 13, and a welcome reception and dinner were attended by all. On August 14, we drove to Harold Schultz farm near Baldwin to view the "bee integrated" approach to farmer-beekeeper collaboration on best practices for bee health. We visited a forage planting area and an apiary belonging to a local beekeeper (Randy Verhoek). Garrett Slater and Anne Marie Fauvel explained the role of the Bee Informed Partnership's Tech-Transfer Team.

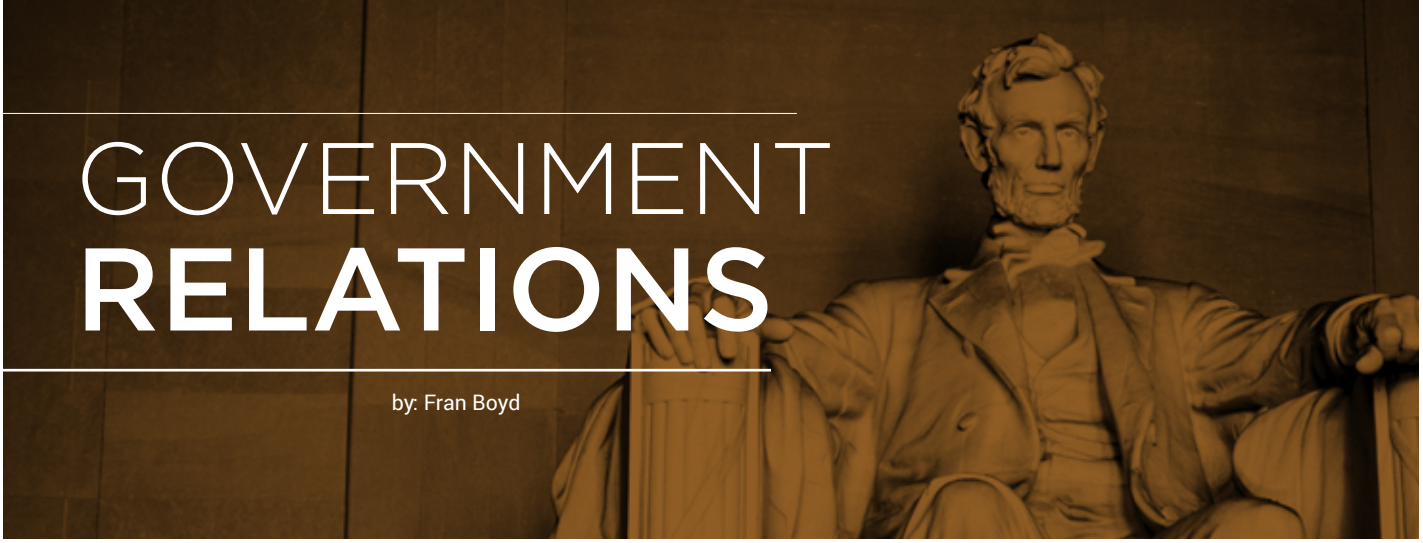
Jamestown, North Dakota, was our next stop. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, led by Clint Otto, provided us with a great description of the research center. Zak Browning, a local beekeeper, presented on beekeeping and forage.

Our next transition was to the Browning Honey Company where we were able to explore a commercial honey production facility. Harvest was in full swing with lots of honey tasting going on.

Day three found us at the Klose/Barnick Farm site near Jamestown. Here we witnessed the interaction between bees and row crop production. Crop protection and bees were discussed among the farmer, landowner, beekeeper, apiarist and the stakeholders who were present. Samantha Bruner from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture presented the North Dakota Pollinator Plan along with a very accurate representation of our overcrowded bee map. North Dakota is a giant in production agriculture. This state leads the nation in the production of many grains, oilseeds, legumes and other crops. To the surprise of some, North Dakota is also the national leader in honey production. Relations between farmers and beekeepers have been friendly, but in recent years, some tensions have risen over bee mortality and unexplained phenomena in apiaries. Tendencies are to blame agriculture. Comprehensive strategies have been put in place to help alleviate the problems between pollinators and agricultural practices. Effective communication and working together seems to be the key to a successful relationship within the agricultural community.

The field tour wrapped up with a quick Q&A session led by HBHC's Julie Shapiro and a trip to the Fargo airport. Lots of learning and tons of questions were answered. It was a very insightful experience.

And remember, the 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow is approaching quickly. Regular registration rates expire soon. Be sure to sign up by December 14 if you can. It will be a rewarding experience.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

by: Fran Boyd

As I write this column, Congress is trying to wrap things up as quickly as they can to get home to campaign for the mid-term election that may bring significant changes to the new Congress in January. As the month comes to an end, legislation has cleared Congress and is on its way to the President to keep the federal government open through December 7, while the farm bill authorization is scheduled to expire.

Federal Government Scheduled to Be Funded through December 7, 2018

During the last week of September, the U.S. House approved by a wide margin (361-61) a FY-2019 spending bill that covers next fiscal year's spending for the Department of Defense as well as the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education departments. Funding for the remaining agencies of the federal government will continue at FY-2018 levels. The U.S. Senate had previously approved the package, and it was sent to the President where he was expected to sign the action. The President had earlier in the month approved a separate spending package that, combined with the recent action by Congress, funded approximately 75 percent of the federal government's full FY-2019 spending. Department of Agriculture funding was one of the spending bills that were not able to be completed for the new fiscal year and was instead included in the continuing resolution (CR) portion of the funding package.

When Congress returns following the mid-term election, they will need to address the 25 percent of federal spending included in the stopgap funding that runs through December 7, 2018.

Farm Bill Expired at the End of September

The current farm bill expired on September 30, 2018, and there is no talk of an extension. Major farm and commodity programs will continue, as will nutrition programs. Federal crop insurance is permanently authorized. However, there are more than 35 farm programs and initiatives contained in the current farm bill that will expire and become inactive. In effect, the agencies will not be able to spend any money on them. All of the programs under the "Specialty Crop" title of the farm bill are affected by this situation. Only two times in the recent past have expired farm bills been extended—once in December and once in January.

With several more weeks needed by negotiators to reach a final compromise on the positions still in disagreement between the House and Senate, House and Senate committee leaders hope to continue their negotiations. Even though the House is recessed until after the mid-term election, there is hope that a farm bill conference report will be ready for Congress to act on soon after they return to town in November.

What's Next

Whatever changes the mid-term election brings, the ABF and its leadership are ready to meet head-on any challenges or opportunities for the beekeeping industry. Next—the 116th United States Congress.

ASK HOOPIE

Please email your questions to ***info@abfnet.org*** with *"Ask Hoopie"* in the subject line.

Q. ***At what temperature does heating honey destroy its enzymes?***

A. I have often quipped when giving a talk on honey that the best honey in the world comes off the end of a hive tool. This is because everything we do to honey after that causes it to lose some of its flavors, aromas and, if we heat it too much, its enzymes as well. An extracting room smells great during harvest time. That is because some of the aromas from the honey are being lost in the processing. It is to honey's credit that it still smells and tastes great. Heating honey above 40° C (104° F) will destroy some enzymes, and the European Union will not accept honey heated above that temperature. It is possible to determine whether honey was heated above 40° C by checking the HMF (5-hydroxy methyl furfural) levels. HMFs are produced when honey is heated above that temperature through a rearrangement of the fructose molecule.

That said, honey is a viscose liquid, and heating it will help during extraction, filtering and bottling. Warming honey from 70° F to 80° F will make it flow three times faster and going from 80° F to 90° F accelerates flow another three times. Thus, warming your honey 10 or 20 degrees will greatly speed up the processes involved in extraction and bottling.

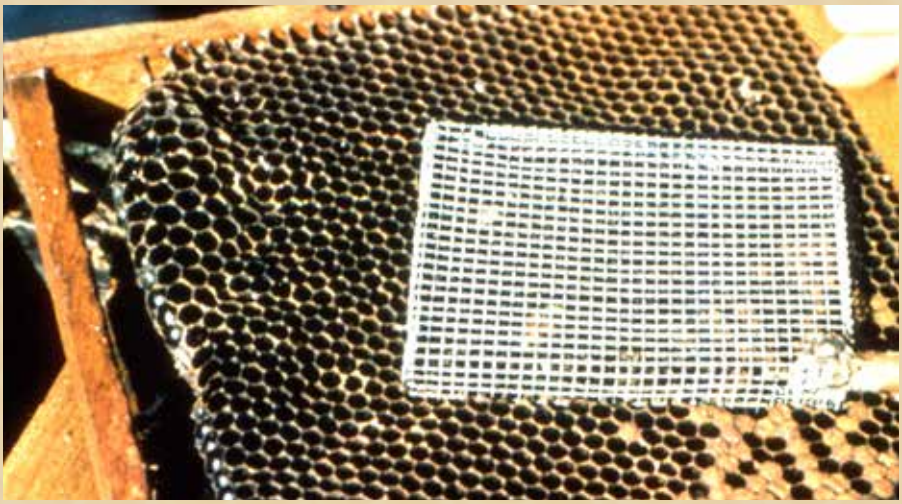
Q. ***What is the best way to introduce a queen to a colony?***

A. In my 70 years of keeping bees, I have probably used just about every method ever suggested at one time or another, and they have all worked to some degree.

The various methods I have tried include rolling a queen in honey and putting her on the comb; walking a laying queen in the front door with a little smoke; using every mailing cage ever invented; placing a laying queen between two combs taken from a nuc that had the queen; using a Butler cage that held the queen for a few days before releasing and, finally, using a push-in cage.

If you want the greatest assurance of success with your queen introduction, use a push-in cage. What is a push-in cage? It is a wire cage made from 8-mesh hardware cloth (see below). The cage can be any dimension, though most of mine range in the 2-inch by 3-inch size. I use larger ones if I want the queen to lay more eggs under the cage before I release her to lay anywhere in the colony. The sides of the cage that are pushed into the comb are ¾-inch deep so that they can be pushed about ¼-inch into the brood comb.

The theory behind the push-in cage is quite simple. The queen is protected from the bees balling and killing her, yet the worker bees can feed her through the wire mesh. And, since the cage is over brood comb, the queen can lay eggs into the cells beneath the cage. In three or four days the queen has the odor of the colony and is laying eggs, and the bees will very rarely kill such a queen when you release her from the cage. I usually check to see that the queen is, in fact, laying eggs. If she has not yet started, I put the cage back over her and wait another day or two before I release her.



A push-in cage is a great way to ensure success with your queen introduction.

ABF AUXILIARY

by: Shelly Jakob,
ABF Auxiliary Secretary

I don't know about you, but I am starting to get excited about the 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow. I can't wait to see everyone again in Myrtle Beach! There is going to be a lot to look forward to this year. We have a new executive director and new staff members, and they are so excited to get involved with us.

I promised to keep you informed as to our progress with the ABF Auxiliary, and here are your updates:

- **American Honey Queen Program 60th Anniversary:** Patty Sundberg is still working hard to reach all our former queens, and we are happy to say we have found some great ladies. If you know any queens, please reach out to Patty or me to help these ladies find out about the reunion.
- **Homemade Items Are Wanted to Sell at the Auxiliary Table:** I am ordering some branded promotional products to sell, but we want those handmade goodies too!
- **Cookbook of American Honey Queen Program Recipes:** Louise Johnson is still working on a cookbook with our logo on the cover to sell at the 60th-anniversary celebration. Hopefully, we will be ready to take pre-orders before the conference. Remember, quantities will be limited!
- **Increasing Membership:** Be thinking about whom you want to bring with you to the ABF Auxiliary Luncheon in January. I got mine... You got yours?
- **UF Honey Bee Lab:** Florida has a new state-of-the-art bee lab! For those of you who remember from the 2018 conference, Dr. Jamie Ellis was super excited about the new lab in Gainesville. Well, it is finally open! Visit *www.ufhoneybee.com* or @ UF IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory on Facebook and Twitter.

Meet the Board

Each newsletter will feature a current member of the Auxiliary Board of Directors, so you can get to know us better.

Auxiliary President Louise Johnson has a very busy schedule! Louise lives in Guttenberg, Iowa, and for the past 25 years, she has been producing top-quality products made from her 400 hives. If you haven't been to her website, you really must check it out at *www.johnsonhoneyfarm.com*. Between working with her amazing husband Bill, sewing, quilting, soap and candle making, being a mentor at the local elementary school and playing with her grandbabies, Louise still finds time to do extraordinary work for the ABF Auxiliary. She is working closely with Beth and Patty to make this year's ABF Conference & Tradeshow one for the history books! Her dedication to us is second-to-none. With her talent in quilt-making, we are sure to be in for a treat again this year. Last year's 75th-anniversary quilt auctioned during the ABF Annual Banquet raised big bucks for the ABF! Thank you, Louise, for all you do!

Auxiliary Photo Competition

Don't forget to take those pictures for our photo competition! We really want to showcase your hidden talent for making exceptionally beautiful pieces of art. Cell phones are great! Last year's winning photos were all taken with a cell phone. Print them out and send them in. I will accept them all year long.

Last year's best-in-show winner was auctioned off during the ABF Annual Banquet and brought in a lot of money for the ABF! Let's do some good with beauty! See below for address.

Mail photos to:

ABF Auxiliary c/o Shelly Jakob
17732 SE 283rd Avenue
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ABF Auxiliary Luncheon

Reminder: No ABF Auxiliary Luncheon would be the same without the gift exchange! We all find interesting bee-themed gifts throughout the year. Donate some to the auction for the American Honey Queen Program but save one item ($15-20) for your fellow auxiliary members. Bring a gift, take a gift! It is fun, and you can wind up with a great gift and a great new friend!

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What's So Super About the Super Organism the Honey Bee?

4-H WINNER ESSAY SECOND PLACE WINNER

by: Ayla Schoeppner

In 1911, the American entomologist William Morton Wheeler first described social insect colonies, like honey bees, as "superorganisms" because they work together for the survival of the colony, instead of just themselves.[1] Bees are like the cells that make up an individual organism, and the colony is like the organism.[2]

Honey bees cooperate and work as a team by having different jobs. All female bees are created equal—even the queen—when eggs are laid. It is what they are fed that determines if they are going to grow into a worker or a queen. This is decided based on which is needed. Worker bees get different jobs as they grow older. At first, they only know how to beg for food but soon learn to clean and then feed and take care of larvae, young bees and the queen. Next, they learn to take nectar and pollen into the hive from the entrance where it is being delivered by the foragers. Once their stinger is ready and they are strong enough to fly well, they become guard bees and then finally foragers. The queen and the drones have their own jobs too. The queen's job is to make sure the colony has new bees when the older bees die. She must lay all the eggs that will become the honey bees that make up her colony. This makes all the workers sisters and all the drones their brothers. The job of the drones is to mate with other queens and carry on the genes of their mother, the queen.[3]

Honey bees don't just help their colony—they help humans and other organisms too. Pollination is one of the ways they help others. Forager honey bees help plants make seeds when they visit flowers to get nectar. During their visit to each flower, pollen gets on them, and when they go to the next flower, some of that pollen gets transferred which allows a seed to grow.[4] Bees and flowers can help each other this way because they have coevolved—affecting the physical features and behavior of each other through natural selection.[5]

When there are many bees out foraging on crops like vegetables or in orchards, this increases pollination, and more food will grow. This helps humans. They also collect nectar from pollinate plants that provide food to wild animals. This helps the animals as well as the plants because seeds from fruits pass through the digestive systems of animals and out into a new place.[6] If bees are not around to help with pollination, not as much will grow. In some places where there are not enough honey bees, farmers have to hand pollinate. One person cannot do this job alone because it is a lot of work and would take forever. Hand pollination means putting pollen in each flower using a paintbrush. This doesn't include getting the pollen. This means they must hire workers to help and that takes away from their profits. This is already happening in orchards in China.[7]

And then there is honey, and well, honey is yummy. Most people would say it is the best thing about honey bees—after all, we made it part of their name. Honey production starts inside the worker bee's honey sac. Honey is a mixture of the nectar the bee collects from the flowers it visits, proteins and enzymes from the bee's saliva and even a little bit of pollen. The bee puts this mixture in the combs of the hive and fans it to make some of the water evaporate. This keeps bacteria and fungi from growing in it.[8] There are many types of honey from very light in color to very dark, with different flavors, aromas and scents. They get their differences from the plants from which the nectar comes. There are as many types of honey as there are flowers, probably even more since there can be mixtures.[9] I really like blueberry honey myself, but some popular types for sale here in Pennsylvania by local beekeepers include clover, wildflower and buckwheat.

There are so many amazing things honey bees do. It is hard to describe them all. There are many very long books about them for good reason. A few of my other favorites are their ability to make wax that can be used for things like candles and lip balm, their superpower-like ability to see ultraviolet light that is invisible to us humans and their fun method of communicating with their hive mates through the waggle dance.[10,11,12] Through all of these examples and all the others I didn't get to mention, honey bees bring so many people joy. Enjoying honey bees is what the beekeepers I talked to said is their favorite part of beekeeping—even thinking of them as thousands of little pets. Of course, there's also the honey, and that's what makes honey bees truly super![13,14]

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Meet Your ABF Board:

AMANDA WOOTEN
Director Representing Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG

Amanda Wooten is married to Robert Wooten—a third-generation queen breeder and commercial beekeeper. Amanda and Robert met during the summer before their freshman year in high school. While their friendship grew, Robert introduced Amanda to the world of beekeeping. After high school, Amanda attended college and started a career in real estate. In 2010, Amanda started working full-time at Wooten's Golden Queens—learning all aspects of the bee business alongside Glenda Wooten. In 2017, Robert and Amanda purchased the beekeeping business from Shannon and Glenda, and Wooten's Queens & Bees was established. Wooten's Queens & Bees still offers the same Park Italian productive queens, nucs, pollination and honey. Outside the beekeeping business, Amanda enjoys showing her AQHA horses and spending time with her husband, son and family.

PHILIP RUSSELL
Director Representing Package Bee & Queen Breeders SIG

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

KATIE LEE
Director Appointed by the President

Katie's interest in ants as a child led her to take a class on social insects with Dr. Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota. This became an opportunity to work in Dr. Spivak's lab and led to a passion for honey bees. That summer of learning how to keep bees with Dr. Spivak's right-hand, Gary Reuter, turned into a master's thesis on developing a standard Varroa sampling plan. After a six-month hiatus traveling and visiting beekeepers in New Zealand and Australia, Katie started the first of the Bee Informed Partnership's Tech-Transfer Teams in Northern California and the second team in 2012 based in the upper Midwest. For six years, Katie performed colony testing for commercial beekeepers as part of a Tech-Team and is currently using that data for her Ph.D. thesis to produce results for the beekeepers who participated. Long term, Katie's goal is to conduct research that generates information benefitting beekeepers. Katie is happy for the opportunity to serve on the ABF board and give back to the bee community that has been so wonderful in supporting her.

JONATHAN WALKER
Director Appointed by the President

Jonathan Walker is a fourth-generation beekeeper and Overlord of Beekeeping Operations at Walker Honey Farm, in Rogers, Texas. Jonathan has worked with bees since he was knee high at 5 or 6 years old. His first experience was in queen breeding with his granddad and helping with his local honey delivery route. Jonathan has had many different jobs before coming back to the honey farm, but the bees are his heart. Jonathan is an active member of both the Texas Beekeepers Association and ABF striving to help the beekeeping industry as a whole. Jonathan believes that education is key to solving the many problems that bees and beekeepers face.

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More than 82% of your paid membership directly funds legislative action, research and education to help sustain the beekeeping industry. Join the ABF now: www.abfnet.org or call 404.760.2875.

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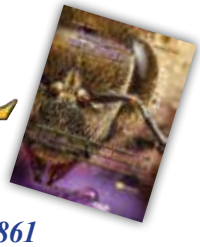

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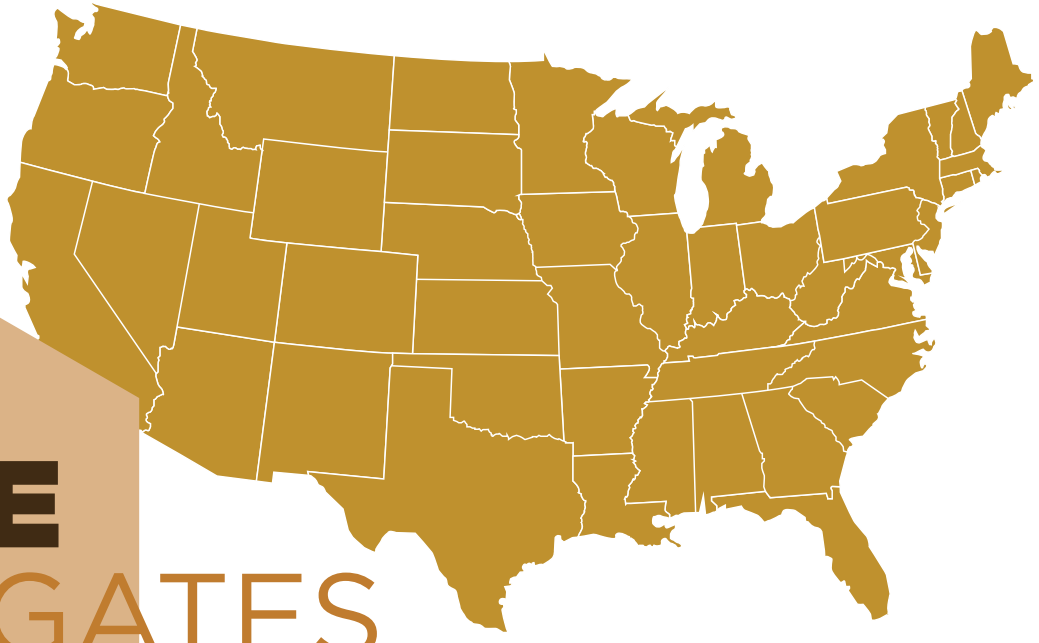

STATE DELEGATES

Each state having ABF members may appoint a State Delegate to serve as a liaison between ABF and its state association and local clubs. Each State Delegate acts as a Membership and Legislative Coordinator - communicating important membership and legislative information between ABF and the state and local clubs.

Let's grow together! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to publicize your state meetings.

State Delegates meet bimonthly on the second Tuesday of that month. Let us know if you want your state more involved with the membership and legislative happenings of the American Beekeeping Federation.

DON'T SEE YOUR STATE MEETING LISTED?

Contact your state beekeeping organization. State Delegates should submit state-level meetings by emailing us at **info@abfnet.org**.

STATE MEETINGS

ALABAMA

24th Annual Alabama Cooperative Extension System Beekeeping Symposium
Saturday, February 2, 2019
Clanton Conference & Performing Arts Center
Clanton, Alabama

2019 Alabama Master Beekeeper Program
February 7-9, 2019
Clanton Conference & Performing Arts Center
Clanton, Alabama

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.alabamabeekeepers.com

CALIFORNIA

California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention
November 13-15, 2018
Harrah's Resort Southern California
Funner, California

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.californiabeekeepers.com

COLORADO

Colorado State Beekeepers Association Fall/Winter Meeting
October 27, 2018
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Castle Rock, Colorado

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.coloradobeekeepers.org

OHIO

Ohio State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) Fall Conference
Tolles Career and Technical Center
November 3, 2018

Guest speakers:Dr. Marla Spivak and Dr. David Tarpy.

OSBA Traveling Speakers: Sustainable Beekeeping Using Nucs

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Honey Producers Association Fall Conference
November 1-3, 2018
Hotel Mead
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Keynote Speaker: Ian Stepper

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
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Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
January 8-12, 2019

The 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow promises more education, more research and more networking than ever before. We're partnering with exhibitors, researchers, scientists, industry experts and your peers to bring you the latest in beekeeping technology, information and ideas.

As one of the largest, most action-packed beekeeping events in the world, you won't want to miss this opportunity to network with 800+ beekeepers from around the nation and the world!

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- Keynotes by thought-leaders Dr. Marla Spivak, Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Dr. Reed Johnson
- More than 50 distinguished speakers discussing hot topics and trending issues
- Tradeshow packed with the latest beekeeping innovations
- Kids and Bees program for the next generation of beekeepers*

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- 2019 American Honey Show
- Auxiliary Luncheon and Business Meeting*
- Thursday Night Social with Dinner and Entertainment at WonderWorks*
- Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Luncheon*
- Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast
- ABF Annual Banquet and Coronation of the 2019 American Honey Queen and Princess*

Additional registration fee applies.

DON'T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY.
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Registration pricing increases December 15.
Get your tickets now and save!

American Beekeeping Federation

PRIVATE ALL-ACCESS TO ONE OF THE BEST ATTRACTIONS IN MYRTLE BEACH!

For this year's Thursday Night Social, we'll continue our quest to BEE INNOVATIVE with a family-friendly trip to WonderWorks! Here you'll experience more than 100 hand-on, interactive exhibits that challenge the mind and spark the imagination. Feel what it's like to experience a category-one hurricane or how cold the water was when the Titanic sank. Show your agility on the indoor rope challenge or test your aim during a rousing game of laser tag. We'll enjoy dinner, dancing and a world of experiences at your fingertips.

GUEST ROOM RESERVATIONS

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Sheraton guest rooms feature 350 sq.ft. of the perfect blend of luxury and style. The traditional rooms feature exterior views of the surrounding property and include free wifi, free bottled water and mini refrigerators. One king bed or two double bed configurations are available.

Online reservations: www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ABF2019

Alternatively, reservations can be made by calling the resort directly at (888) 627-8203 (please be sure to request the ABF or beekeepers room block).

Room Rate: $119 per night plus taxes (currently at 12%) and a 3% facility fee. The group guest room rate is offered three days pre- and post-conference dates, based on availability.

Deadline: The discounted group rate is available until December 14, 2018, or until the room block is full (whichever comes first). After this date, the discounted group rate may no longer be available.

Parking: Self-parking fees at the Sheraton are waived for all ABF attendees.

Guest Room Reservations Warning: On occasion, a housing company may contact potential conference attendees saying that the conference hotel is almost sold out and that they need to make their reservations with them at that time. This is not accurate! No one should or will be calling you to make your hotel reservations. All reservations must be made directly with the hotel either online or via telephone.

BEE INNOVATIVE

2019 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

MYRTLE BEACH – WHERE HAPPINESS COMES IN WAVES

Myrtle Beach is where cherished memories are made along 60 miles of beautiful coastline. Discover stunning sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean, lush natural wonders and grand new adventures. Savor the warm Southern hospitality, fresh coastal cuisine and unique flavor of fun.

Make your trip to ABF into a vacation with these exciting activities:

- World-class charter fishing and pier fishing
- More than 100 championship golf courses
- Live family entertainment including WonderWorks, Ripley's Aquarium, Medieval Times, The Carolina Opry, Alabama Theatre and Legends in Concert
- Amazing restaurants featuring steak houses and all-you-can-eat seafood buffets
- Natural attractions such as Brookgreen Gardens, Conway Riverwalk and Murrells Inlet MarshWalk
- Endless surf shops, high-end retail, specialty boutiques and factory outlet shopping

SEE YOU AT THE BEACH!

2019 AMERICAN HONEY SHOW: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Gift Box Theme: "Royal Indulgence"

We invite you to enter the 2019 American Honey Show, which will be held during the 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies.

The Honey Show will showcase the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes eighteen (18) classes—twelve (12) for honey, five (5) for beeswax, one (1) for beeswax art and the gift box class. The gift box theme for 2019 is "Royal Indulgence." After the entries are judged, they will be auctioned to benefit the American Honey Queen Program.

HOW TO ENTER:

The official show rules and regulations and entry form are available on the 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow website at **www.abfconference.com/american-honey-show**. It also includes helpful honey show hints and tips!

Before Friday, December 14, you may send your entry form and fee payment to the ABF headquarters office. Alternatively, you may submit your entry form and fee payment onsite at the conference. **You MUST ship directly to the hotel or hand deliver your show entries. No entries will be accepted at the ABF headquarters office.**

Questions? Contact us at (404) 760-2875 or via e-mail at **info@abfnet.org**. Good luck!

2019 REGISTRATION RATES:

Members of the American Beekeeping Federation and South Carolina State Beekeeping Association will receive a registration discount.

All rates are in U.S. dollars	EARLY through 10/31/2018		REGULAR 11/1/2018 - 12/14/2018		LATE after 12/15/2018	
	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Single Registrant	$250	$310	$300	$360	$350	$410
Family*	$375	$435	$425	$485	$475	$535
Single Day Rate	$125	$155	$150	$180	$175	$205
Family Day Rate*	$190	$220	$215	$245	$240	$270
Student & Educator Rate**	$50 per day					

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Auxiliary Luncheon	$38
Thursday Night Social with Dinner & Entertainment at WonderWorks	$65
Foundation Luncheon	$40
Commercial Beekeeping Breakfast	Complimentary to Commercial Beekeepers
ABF Annual Banquet	$70

*** Family is defined as two adults and any children living in the same household.**

**** Students and Educators will be required to show valid school ID at the conference.**

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Registration cancellations received in writing on or prior to 12/14/2018 will be refunded minus a $50 administrative fee. **Registration cancellations received after 12/14/2018 will not be refunded.**

PLEASE NOTE:

All non-member registrants will receive a one-year small scale level membership to the American Beekeeping Federation, to be processed following the conference in late January/early February 2019. You will be notified once your membership has been activated.

BEE INNOVATIVE

2019 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

American Beekeeping Federation

2019 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE:

(subject to change)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019	
All Day	Committee Meetings

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019	
All Day	General Session Presentations
Morning	Keynote: Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota
	Honey Show Entries Due by 10:00 am
	Auction Item Donations Due by 10:00 am
Noon	Tradeshow Opens
	State Delegates Luncheon (by invitation only)
Afternoon	ABF New Member Orientation
	Honey Show Judging
Evening	Welcome Reception in Tradeshow with Live Auction and Entertainment

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019	
All Day	Tradeshow and Silent Auction
Morning	Fitness Program
	Keynote: Dr. Reed Johnson, Ohio State University
	General Session Presentations
Afternoon	Auxiliary Luncheon and Business Meeting*
	SIG Meetings • Small Scale/Sideliner • Package Bee and Queen Breeders • Honey Producer/Packer • Commercial
	General Session Panel Discussion
Evening	Thursday Night Social with Dinner and Entertainment at WonderWorks*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019	
All Day	General Session Presentations
	Tradeshow and Silent Auction
Morning	Fitness Program
	Keynote: Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, University of Maryland
	Kids and Bees Program
Noon	Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Luncheon*
Afternoon	ABF Annual Business Meeting
	Honey Show Live Auction Reception
Evening	Free Evening to Socialize!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019	
All Day	Interactive Workshops
Morning	Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast and Panel Discussion
Evening	ABF Annual Banquet* • Awards • Live Auction • Coronation of the 2019 American Honey Queen and Princess

Separate registration and fee required.

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American Beekeeping Federation

BEE INNOVATIVE

2019 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

ABF FUNDRAISING *by Molly Sausaman, Executive Director, American Beekeeping Federation*

The 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow is right around the corner, and we are beaming over the exciting fundraising activities we have in store. While ABF membership dues are vital to accomplishing our organization's mission, funds raised during the annual conference are critical to blazing new trails on behalf of beekeepers and upping the ante on our flagship programs throughout the year.

WE PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Get ready to enjoy the company of your peers, family and friends, share some laughs and support the ABF all at the same time. Through your generous donations, we can lobby Congress to protect the interests of beekeepers. We can generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in earned media publicity through the American Honey Queen Program. We can develop educational resources for our members. And, we can financially support the invaluable research of talented scientists throughout the country.

Our fundraising activities are popular and always turn out to be highpoints of the annual conference. Here are some of the opportunities you can look forward to:

- **ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES:** Purchase sweepstakes tickets from ABF directors and members of the State Delegates Assembly for your chance to win unique prizes (beekeeping and non-beekeeping items). Winners are drawn during the ABF annual banquet.
- **AMERICAN HONEY SHOW AUCTION:** All entries judged in the American Honey Show are put up for auction to support the American Honey Queen Program. You can help by entering your honey, beeswax and/or gift basket into the show or by bidding on these items.
- **ABF AUXILIARY MERCH:** Cookbooks! Get your cookbooks! The ABF Auxiliary is creating a cookbook of all the recipes treasured over the years by the American Honey Queen Program. Cookbooks along with branded promotional items and handmade goodies will be for sale during the conference at the ABF Auxiliary table.
- **AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN QUILT RAFFLE:** Purchase raffle tickets from honey queen candidates for your chance to win a one-of-a-kind, handmade quilt from Montana. One winner will be drawn during the ABF annual banquet. Proceeds support the American Honey Queen Program.
- **SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS:** Silent and live auctions benefiting the ABF General Fund and American Honey Queen Program are held throughout the event.
- **ABF ANNUAL BANQUET AUCTION:** This thrilling auction is sure to get your heart pumping. Whose winning bid will buy this year's "Best of Show" honey? You'll have to show up to find out! Proceeds benefit the ABF General Fund and American Honey Queen Program.

The ABF welcome reception and live auction will be held in the tradeshow on Wednesday, January 9. Silent auction tables will be set-up throughout the conference, each with a different closing time. Keep your eye out for something new each day! The American Honey Show auction will take place on Friday, January 11, right after the ABF business meeting. Of course, the ABF Annual Banquet and live auction will be the event's grand finale on Saturday, January 12.

If you wish to donate an item to one of the auctions, please email me at **msausaman@abfnet.org**. We also accept monetary donations at any time during the year through the ABF website or direct mail to the ABF headquarters office.

Just imagine what the ABF can achieve with prosperous special funds to invest in the future of beekeeping. Let's catch the fundraising fever at the 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Myrtle Beach and transform imagination into reality!

CALL FOR AUCTION DONATIONS!

Each year we have a blast supporting the ABF and American Honey Queen Program with a little lighthearted competition between auction bidders during the ABF Conference & Tradeshow. Please help us keep things interesting with an awesome array of must-have auction items!

Do you have something fun to donate? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

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

Your contribution is instrumental to funding the ABF programs that serve our industry and preserve and protect honey bees. If you are interested in donating an item to either the silent or live auction, please let us know via email at **info@abfnet.org**.

We CANNOT accept auction item donations at the ABF headquarters office. You may ship directly to the conference hotel or bring your donation with you to the event. Auction items must be dropped off by 10:00 am on Wednesday, January 9. Our expert fundraisers need time to inventory all the wonderful donations and prepare for the various events.

Thank you for your support!

BEE INNOVATIVE

2019 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

KIDS AND BEES PROGRAM

by Sarah Red-Laird

The ABF Conference & Tradeshow is right around the corner, and I am counting down the days until the Kids and Bees event. Kids and Bees will take place on Friday, January 11, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel, from 9:00 am until noon. Hundreds of little feet will pitter-patter through the halls, dodging beekeepers as the owners of the tiny feet squeal and giggle with excitement and wander their way to their very own beekeeping event.

Kids and their teachers and parents can expect a room full of hands-on exhibits under the themes "The Art of Beekeeping," "The Science of Beekeeping," "The World of Beekeeping" and "The Future of Bees: It's Up to You!" They will learn about the art and science behind beeswax, honey, pollination, ultraviolet bee vision and so much more! Students will make their way through each station, engaging with beekeepers and Honey Queens and participating in activities that will harness their senses and imaginations.

I always strive to make this program a community-focused event. Local beekeepers donate honey, observation hives stuffed with bees, beekeeping equipment for the kids to handle and explore and most importantly—their time. It is wonderful to watch local families connect with their local beekeepers.

For beekeepers who travel to the ABF Conference & Tradeshow, this is a fantastic opportunity to meet other beekeepers from here, there and everywhere, and share your passion for bees and volunteerism. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, please contact me at sarah@beegirl.org.

If you are planning to attend the conference and are wondering what to do to keep your kiddos entertained, please join us! Even if they have spent hours in the bee yard with you, I guarantee they will learn something new. Registration is required for this no-cost event. Please sign up at **https://abfkidsandbees.eventbrite.com**.

Here is a bit of feedback we've received over the past few years:

"The event was wonderful. My girls are not nearly as frightened of bees now. They also recognize the vast importance of them."
- Kids and Bees Florida

"This was such a great event and extremely organized. We really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about honey bees and their vital importance to our everyday life!" **- Kids and Bees Galveston**

"My kids had a great experience at this exhibit. My kindergartener can now explain how honey is made and knows that different types of nectar make different kinds of honey." **- Kids and Bees Reno**

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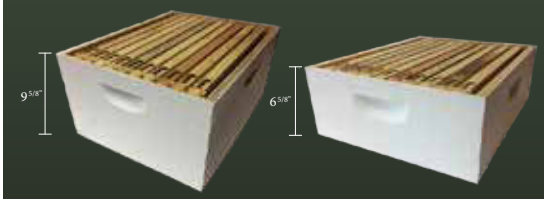

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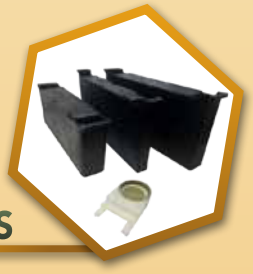

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HONEY SUMMIT EDUCATES INDUSTRY ABOUT FOOD & BEVERAGE TRENDS

Did you know that more than 50% of all eating occasions are snacks? Or that about 103 million pounds of honey is consumed in the morning daypart each year? These facts and more were presented at the National Honey Board's Honey Industry Summit, held on October 17 in Denver, Colorado.

The summit, attended by honey producers, packers and importers, focused on food and beverage trends impacting honey consumption and usage. It was an information-filled day as each of the National Honey Board's expert agency partners educated attendees about opportunities in the consumer, retail, foodservice and food and beverage manufacturing marketplaces.

"The goal of the Honey Industry Summit is to help the industry sell more honey," said Margaret Lombard, the National Honey Board's chief executive officer. "Looking at the trends driving the food industry today, it's easy to see how honey fits in. The Honey Industry Summit was a great way to convey this information to the companies who talk regularly to retailers, chefs and large food manufacturers."

The daylong event kicked off with a panel of food industry experts detailing the key influencers impacting consumer purchasing decisions. Various studies were highlighted during the panel that shed light on what consumers are looking for and what they're looking to avoid when they cook at home, dine out or buy a packaged food.

Not surprisingly, sweeteners are front of mind with most consumers, and the panel talked about the various ways honey can position itself as the preferred sweetener. Attributes such as all-natural, clean label and sustainability help distinguish honey in the marketplace, and the National Honey Board has been aggressive in conveying these message points to consumers. And, the effort has made an impact. According to the National Honey Board's Awareness & Usage Study from June 2018, honey is the preferred sweetener among the organization's target market of consumers.

A lively discussion closed the food industry panel and segued into the heart of the day's agenda. Each of the National Honey Board's agency experts detailed opportunities for honey in their field of expertise. Here are five of the key learnings from the Honey Industry Summit.

1. An all-natural way to start the day. Honey is synonymous with the morning daypart whether it's being used to top oatmeal or in a cup of hot tea. In fact, 73% of all honey consumed on an annual basis is consumed for breakfast. Even with this positive exposure, attendees learned that there is still a larger slice of the pie for honey to take in the morning daypart. The biggest areas of opportunity include protein shakes, cold tea, English muffins, pancakes and waffles.

2. Honey has great optics. A key topic of discussion throughout the day was the important role honey plays in marketing food and beverage products. This especially holds true with packaged goods, which often use honey and honey bee imagery on product packaging to convey the benefits of the all-natural sweetener. Beyond marketing, attendees learned about the many opportunities in the growing snack category. Honey plays many roles

in these products, from smoothing out the flavor profile of high protein foods to bringing a perception of familiarity to non-traditional products such as chickpea snacks.

3. With a side of honey. More and more consumers are consuming meals away from home than ever before, causing an explosion of new concepts and opportunities for honey to infiltrate menus at restaurants, cafeterias and more. The biggest opportunities appear with breakfast menus, which have slowly expanded to all-day menus. Other opportunities for honey to penetrate restaurant menus includes house-made condiments, honey-inspired cocktails and pickling/fermentation.

4. Could coffee and honey be the new PB&J? This was the question posed to attendees during a deep-dive session into honey's potential to gain market share in the burgeoning specialty coffee market. Specialty chains such as Peet's and Caribou have already jumped on the honey bandwagon by launching seasonals made with honey products. For example, Peet's recently introduced a Golden Caffe Latte made with honey and a honey macchiato and cappuccino. The growth of the specialty coffee segment is not expected to slow down anytime soon, creating an excellent opportunity for honey to find its way into your favorite coffee drinks in the very near future!

5. Bees and beer. This year's Honey Industry Summit was held at Wynkoop Brewery for an important reason. Brewers love brewing with honey. In fact, according to a 2015 volumetric study conducted by the National Honey Board, brewers purchase more than 20 million pounds of honey a year! Besides being a gracious host for this year's Honey Industry Summit, Wynkoop Brewery also brewed a special honey beer for the event. After an information-filled day, attendees were able to wind down by taking a tour of the brewery while sipping on a refreshing glass of Honey Helles.

WAS 2018 A SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING YEAR?

by: Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Was it wet, dry, hot, cold, a good bee season or a poor bee season in 2018? The weather is ever changing—have you found how best to read bee weather? It can fairly be said that weather still presents significant challenges to successful beekeeping.

Success is measured differently by different beekeepers. How do you measure bee success (or failure)? Good beekeeping stewardship is seeking to anticipate what the bees will be doing rather than merely reacting to what has happened. With bees, "timing is everything." Weather is one variable to planning for success. Successful beekeepers find there are more questions than answers about what to do when the weather is too hot (cold) or too wet (dry) or when those "abnormal" weather events strike.

If you are one of the new beekeepers seeking to "save the bees," did you have a successful year? Did you plant some flowers, reduce your personal pesticide use or seek to influence public policy about the diversity of plantings or pesticide selections in your community? Did you do something else to help bees and pollinators? If your saving bees included establishing a hive of bees, did you perform minimal management? Will you plan to replace them next spring if they don't survive? It is not too early to start such planning.

For first-year beekeepers, how did you do in getting inspection and colony knowledge this season? Did you follow the growth progression of your new colony, get a decent number (15+) of foundation frames drawn and check to see if your colony stored enough stores for winter survival? What else did you learn and do? Hopefully, you checked for mites, and if you found elevated numbers, did you seek to control mites in a timely fashion in your colony? Was control successful? Did you feed sugar syrup when you established the bees? Did you need to feed in the fall to ensure your colony had adequate fall resources? Have you a sense of what you don't know yet after the initial season?

New or established beekeepers will normally start new colonies during the season. That might have included installing package bees, buying a nuc or full-sized colony, capturing one or more swarms or dividing an existing colony. What was your plan for new starts? Did you achieve it? How many colonies did you start?

So now, at the end of the season, how have the new colonies progressed? Will they have a decent chance of surviving the winter season? Did you use new queens and drawn comb to requeen or unite with another colony to produce a stronger colony for the nectar flow or a stronger unit for pollination purposes? Have the new starts been able to store enough reserves to still be alive next spring? A new colony can serve one of many purposes—maybe it helped in the success of your 2018 beekeeping?

For northern beekeepers, emergency dry/sugar candy feeding is the best management possibility left for the wintering period, but such feeding may not salvage larger colonies. You need to plan to aggressively supply sugar water and pollen substitute/supplement in early spring. Beekeepers in more southerly locations may feed sugar syrup for a while longer or start early in 2019 for colonies light on stores. In the absence of healthy colonies with fat stores and bees, feeding may be necessary to ensure survival (success?), but it won't be easy. Of course, one variable beyond beekeeper control will be the weather.

Did you have late-season absconds (looks like swarming in that bees leave home en masse but essentially ALL the bees leave their home, doing so without preparations for a new virgin queen replacement)? This behavior is common in Africanized bees, with many absconds surviving, but in most absconding instances the bees do not survive for U.S. beekeepers. We don't know the triggers for absconding but surmise that high mite numbers and poor fall foraging conditions may be factors. Pick up the empty equipment—we believe it is okay to reuse next season for a new hive.

Did you see the signs of bee PMS (which we prefer to relabel as VMS = Varroa mite syndrome)? Colonies with VMS have high mite numbers, snot or cruddy brood, EFB (perhaps), do not readily utilize sugar syrup feeders, often seek to move the brood nest away from the existing brood cluster site and have too few adult bees to cover the brood and keep it warm. Such colonies have greatly reduced chances to survive, even for normal overwintering weather. Mite control employed in such colonies may not be successful—it may have been used too late. Such bee colonies have a high risk of not surviving the winter season because of reduced chances to store adequate fall reserves and rear a sufficiently large population of fat fall bees.

A big part of beekeeping success is a proactive mite control program by the beekeeper. Varroa mites are formidable mite pests, and as mite numbers increase, so does the deadly effect of spreading harmful bee viruses. Not all viruses are equal—only some strains will reach epidemic levels. Since we lack a means of vaccinating our bees, we are left with controlling the Varroa mite vector. Proactive mite control means good bee stock, monitoring to determine when controls should be applied and t-selection of a control management appropriate for the season and mite population. Weather conditions may influence what to use and how effective the technique or chemical might be.

However you measure success, now would be a good time to evaluate how successful your 2018 bee season was when taking into consideration the weather, mite numbers and management of new colonies. It is also time for winter (annual) meetings and some downtime to plan for the next bee season.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR COLONY'S COMMUNITY

by: Albert Chubak

To some, a beehive is occupied by bees with little attention given to other organisms essential to the colony's well-being.

For a century, treatments and chemicals have been used to thwart various concerns. Until recently, we have known little about supporting organisms in a hive. There are permanent and temporary supporting organisms as well as invasive organisms. A blanket approach of eradicating invasive organisms can also kill supporting organisms and result in colony death. Envision the colony as an incubator with a unique life in each hive. Diseases can be spread by using unclean hive tools and gloves.

Colony hygiene is essential in beekeeping. Here are a few tips you can follow:

- Torch hive tools following inspections.
- Have multiple hive tools and store them in alcohol when not in use.
- Use thick, latex, arm-length gloves instead of leather. Leather is difficult to clean and can absorb and store threats. Latex gloves can be thrown in the washer and reused.
- Regularly wash your suit.
- Limit contact with foreign colonies that are not your own.
- Clean your hands with bleach wipes after each inspection.

The exterior community of a colony expands from the hive to encompass an area of two miles in all directions and three miles for drifting drones. Whatever is happening in a bee's foraging area can affect the health of nearby colonies. Threats to a colony can include:

- Improper application of pesticides;
- Lawn weed-and-feed applications where flowers are involved;
- Orchard, farm and garden spraying;
- Discarded industrial waste sugars;
- Open feeding of honey;
- Beekeeping equipment with honey left outdoors to be locally cleaned; and
- Neighbors who buy honey to feed to visiting bees.

One area of concern is understanding threats, but another is understanding the forage in your area.

A new beekeeper requested help with his first harvest. He began three new hives that spring—two were weak, and one was strong. Most of the frames were free formed with lots of cross comb. The honey frames revealed the bees foraged on local buckwheat which had an unappealing, pungent aroma to this beekeeper.

What type of honey does your area produce? Each yard can vary and so can hives placed side-by-side. Honey bees find what they want and direct their foragers to cultivate it. This foraging can be from plants or robbed from weak or dead colonies. Honey bees are the best recyclers of sugars on the planet. If it is sugar and unattended or discarded, honey bees will be all over it. Companies may discard sugars—threatening nearby beekeepers with an unnaturally flavored by-product. Using a small beehive, such as a nuc or the Mini Urban Beehive (MUB) allows a beekeeper to initially test the area's bee density, aggression and types of honey it produces.

A local amusement park was temporarily shut down due to health risks involving rouge honey bees. Two feral colonies were identified. One was in a tree, and as it was being removed, comb was tasted and revealed a cola flavor. The next comb identified was red. It was inspected, and when placed on the tongue, it revealed a red snowcone flavor variety. It was interesting how the bees isolated the flavors in their hive. At the park's fence, many bees could be seen crossing in and out of the park boundaries. Placing lids on trash cans in this area is vital to protecting against scavenging by insects or rodents. Just imagine how many local bee colonies scavenge from sugar dumps like this.

Understanding your area is vital to every beekeeper. You become the master of your bees' habitat. Spend some time understanding your local challenges.

THE BIG ~~BROTHER~~ *SISTER* BEEHIVE

by: Albert Chubak

Being from a family with three older brothers and three older sisters, many times personal tragedy was prevented because an older sibling offered protection. In some cases, protection was given unknowingly just because of blood relation. There are external fringe benefits of having a large family with a few feared and respected siblings. The same fear and respect also unknowingly exist in the world of bees, and considering the bees with the ability to defend are female worker bees, perhaps the term "big sister" is more appropriate to use in this case than "older sibling."

Understanding a Bee's Natural Instinct

In nature, a honey bee colony would not be inches away from another colony. When a colony swarms or absconds, there is usually a significant distance of separation between the hives as well as from other bee colonies. Foraging bees are competitive, and colonies are protective. It takes about a minute of watching a returning bee to understand they can sway in flight a few feet in any direction. The landing board was developed in the mid-19th century to aid bees on their return. If access to its hive is temporarily blocked, then a bee can cover a swath of several feet in either direction. Orientation flights also show bees circling their area establishing their innate GPS location for a successful return. In both cases, bees are not always precise on the location of their hive while in flight. Equally telling is when a beekeeper manipulates two hives with active bees and swaps their locations. Returning bees do not know what the beekeeper did—all they know is their hive and colony was in that location when they left.

A Hive's Key to Admittance

Each colony has pheromones distinct to its queen which leads many to think any bee entering not of that queen's colony will be fought off and killed by the defense worker bees. This conclusion is true in some cases and false in others. A foreign worker bee entering a hive with goods or resources is treated as a friend, whereas a visiting bee without goods is viewed as a robber. Robbers come empty-handed. Friends of the colony bring resources.

The pheromones only provide a portion of the hive's entrance passcode and can be completely overlooked. When a weak colony needs a burst of troops and resources, some beekeepers use the trick of swapping the hive with another nearby colony that is strong. The foraging bees from the strong colony will return to the weaker colony, and the same happens with the weaker colony. This trick shows that bees can be taught to return to a foreign colony. Drones are the exception. They have a free-entry pass during spring and summer which allows them to enter freely without risk, but in the fall, they are routinely forced outdoors and left to die.

The Rule of Nature

Successful feral colonies live in areas that can sustain their needs. An area's feral hive density is equally related to available resources. When continuous, ample resources are available, more feral colonies may inhabit the same area. Modern beekeeping has introduced bees into areas perhaps not ideal for a colony's needs or not suitable for multiple colonies. Commercial beekeeping involves migration of hives to support crop needs as well as the needs of a colony. In a commercial setting, four hives are placed on a pallet where only inches separate them. A common permitted issue is drifting of bees from one hive to another. Again, this shows that pheromones are not the only key needed in entering a hive.

Looting Among Bees

A strong, healthy hive will not tolerate the presence of leaking honey or unattended sugars. If nectar or honey is outside a hive, nearby bees will smell it and reclaim it as theirs. As a side note here, beekeepers are encouraged to the keep their apiaries clean. A simple bucket left outside near a hive can cause looting which once done, falls over into all nearby hives. Back to the initial point, if honey or nectar are accessible to foreign insects, it is a sign the colony is weak or dead. With the entrance of a healthy colony being defended 24/7, nearby scouts can't peek in to see what resources are inside.

Bees are also opportunists when a quick in-and-out grab can save foraging time. The goal of a foraging worker is to find resources and safely return as quickly as possible. It is the nature of bees to test nearby colonies daily. In the case of a young colony being placed near a sister-hive, it is still essential that no sugars or honey be outside the hive. A sister-hive can be overrun by looters even if the colony is healthy and strong. The only plus of placing a young nuc closeby a large, healthy hive is to utilize their insect NORAD defense system.

Even though drones are permitted to visit multiple colonies with their "seasonal free-entry pass," they don't appear to share their secrets of food supplies nor locations of up-and-coming virgin queens.

Small Colonies and Lack of Defense

Small colonies—nucs—may be lacking in the area of "national defense," so it is vital that the exterior of the hive remain clean. Even discarded, dead bees and larva can intrigue scavenging wasps. Imagine a colony living in a tree (a natural choice for a hive) where discarded materials from the hive would drop to the forest floor. A distance of greater than about 15 feet from a hive's debris pile is a good cushion of protection.

Having a small colony on top of a full-sized colony prevents ground crawlers from invading and nearby colonies from testing their troops. The full-sized hive will defend the area, and the small colony will return home to the location they left. This unexpected unity of two colonies is due to location and the limited number of foragers in the small colony.

In the case of using a Mini Urban Beehive (MUB), eventually, the small colony can be locked up after dusk and relocated to another location separated from the sister-hive. The critical period for utilizing a sister-hive is during a time of low or poor foraging prospects. During times of abundant blossoms or "nectar flow," bees prefer fresh over high-risk, stolen honey jerky.

Commercial Beekeeper SPOTLIGHT

WILLOW CREEK APAIARIES

Willow Creek Apiaries is owned and operated by third- and fourth-generation beekeepers, Dan and Karen Buch.

Karen grew up around bees—working with her uncle, Willy Morshead, who, in turn, worked with his uncle, Joe. During the extracting season, she and her cousins used to take turns cranking on the two-frame extractor. She recalls having to stand on something to be able to reach the crank handle and keep it going. Karen says, "Sometimes we'd get it going too fast and get yelled at by our uncle. He did all the uncapping with a hot knife over an uncapping bed."

After Dan and Karen got married, they both helped Willy with the bee work because he had developed rheumatoid arthritis and they each held a full-time job. Their daughter Becky, who was three or four at the time, loved honey sandwiches and ate them for every meal. One day Karen made the statement, "What are we ever going to do if Willy doesn't run the bees anymore and we don't have any honey?" Karen remembers Dan just looking her and saying, "Why don't you run them?" She jokingly acknowledges that she sometimes thinks Dan regrets that statement.

Karen hopped on Dan's idea in an instant. After being born and raised on a farm, factory work wasn't her cup of tea. She always made the statement, "I would rather work with bees any time over gossipy people. If the bees are in a nasty mood, get back in the truck and do it tomorrow." Of course, that was many years ago when Karen had many fewer hives, and that doesn't happen anymore. Dan initially kept his full-time, second-shift factory job and helped Karen in the mornings until he had to leave for work. Eventually, the two started packing enough honey and running enough colonies to allow Dan to leave the factory.

Currently, Dan and Karen try to run around 1,400 hives. Willow Creek Apiaries packages its honey for local-area stores in addition to the retail shop located at the business. Customers who come into the retail shop always ask, "How are the bees doing?" Karen says it's nice to know that so many people care about the bees and the problem of trying to keep them alive. Because most people have no clue about bees and everything that's involved in taking care of them, Karen and Dan spend much time answering questions.

The one question most frequently asked of Karen is, "What are the bees working today?" When it's the middle of winter with a foot of

snow on the ground, she smiles and asks, "What's blooming?" All joking aside, Karen explains how she and Dan harvest honey in the fall and store it in 55-gallon drums until it is needed.

Until three years ago, Karen and Dan overwintered everything in Wisconsin. Their percentage loss was ten to twelve percent and kept increasing every year regardless of whether it was a cold winter or not. When their percentage loss reached 50 percent, they decided it was time to make a change. No one liked standing out in the damp cold cleaning up dead outs.

As everyone knows, dead outs are very depressing. So, Karen and Dan decided to try overwintering in Arkansas. It was a pricy change—they needed more trucks and bigger trucks as well as trailers, Hummerbees, property and, of course, two of everything. If it had just been the two of them, Dan and Karen say they probably wouldn't have done it. Fortunately, their daughter Becky and her husband Mike also work in the family business (and will eventually take it over).

One advantage to overwintering in Arkansas is easily being able to get to the hives to feed them. In 2013, Wisconsin was hit with an unbelievable amount of snow in March, and the bees were very skinny. Karen and Dan purchased a ranger with a set of tracks for feeding. The expense of the purchase was balanced out by the number of colonies that were saved from starvation.

The goal for the future of Willow Creek Apiaries is to maintain in an ever-changing industry. It seems to be getting more and more difficult each year to keep the bees healthy, produce a decent crop of honey and compete with all the imported and adulterated honey. On a positive note, in the past year, more crop ground was put into pollinator habitat in the area around Willow Creek Apiaries, and Dan and Karen are hoping this will cut down on some of the pesticide use and give the bees some bloom to work.

When asked what advice they'd give to a young beekeeper, Karen and Dan replied, "First, get an education, so you have something to fall back on if beekeeping doesn't work out for you." They have a part-time employee who started working for them when he was a junior in high school. After he graduated, his parents, along with Karen and Dan, encouraged him to further his education. He still helps out on weekends and will truly be missed when he graduates college and pursues a career. Of course, the door will always be open for him at Willow Creek Apiaries if he decides that's not his cup of tea.

Karen recalls, "Just the other day our six-year-old grandson says to me, 'Grandma, you need to buy me a bee suit,' and I thought it was because he was stung by a yellow jacket the day before. But, no," she says, "he wants to go to the yards." Guess what's now on order?

QUEEN Committee Report

by: Anna Kettlewell, *American Honey Queen Program Chair*

It's that time again when I update ABF members on the American Honey Queen and Princess's work year to date. At their job training in January, Queen Kayla and Princess Jenny set promotional goals for the work on which they wished to focus this year, in addition to their regular duties. I'm excited to give you their results as of September 2018. Below are Kayla and Jenny's performance measures to date based on the goals they established.

Kayla's Goals & Results to Date

1. **Create stock lesson plans for further education in the classroom following a visit from the Honey Queen.** As of September, Kayla has completed outlines for these lesson plans, which will eventually be posted as teacher resources on the American Honey Queen Program's educational blog at *www.buzzingacrossamerica.com*. She will have these completed before year-end.
2. **Give presentations to 5,000 students in grades K-12 and adult education groups (collegiate, professional and senior groups).** As of September, Kayla has reached more than 1,500 people in all age categories, reaching children as young as age two through seniors in a senior care facility. With upcoming promotions in many states (and during months when school is in session), Kayla will quickly reach her goal of 5,000 students reached through her presentations. She's always searching for more opportunities in this area, so be sure to schedule some educational presentations when she promotes in your state!

Jenny's Goals & Results to Date

1. **Generate $75,000 in media publicity for the industry.** As of September, Jenny has had media coverage from coast to coast in the form of television interviews, internet publicity and print coverage. She has met approximately 76% of her media publicity goal.
2. **Increase the American Honey Queen Program's YouTube channel subscriptions.** As of September, the program's YouTube channel has increased by 51 subscribers this year. Be sure to subscribe to the channel to receive the latest updates on the queens' video outreach to consumers of all ages. You can use the videos in your promotions as well!

Jointly, Kayla and Jenny made a goal of giving 50 presentations focused primarily on honey. In 2018, the queens have focused even more of their roles on increasing honey consumption in the United States. As of September, the queens have well surpassed this goal, giving more than 100 presentations focused on our sweet product! Be sure to ask Kayla and Jenny about their goals when they visit your events!

It's hard to believe that we are close to selecting our 2019 American Honey Queen and Princess! The American Honey Queen Committee reached out to many state honey queen programs, and we are pleased to introduce the 2019 applicants to you! You may find their bios and photos on page 37. Please join us in giving them a warm reception at the 2019 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Myrtle Beach this January.

You will have the opportunity to meet the applicants throughout the conference and witness their presentation and interpersonal skills at the Beekeeper Brain Buster, ABF Auxiliary meeting and general sessions. We thank the ABF membership for your continued support of this promotional and educational program.

We gladly welcome your auction item donations during the conference as well as your support of the American Honey Queen Program raffle. This year's raffle prize is a beautiful handmade quilt from the State of Montana. The quilt, pictured here, will also be on display during the conference.

This gorgeous work of art is yours to win in the American Honey Queen Program's quilt raffle in Myrtle Beach.

Members will also have the opportunity to reunite with former American Honey Queens and Princesses and state honey queens, as several will attend the upcoming conference in celebration of the program's 60-year history! If you know a former American Honey Queen, American Honey Princess or state representative who would like to connect with the program's alumni association, please reach out to Alyssa Fine at *beta.epsilon.epsilon@gmail.com*. We would love to reconnect with as many of these remarkable individuals as possible and develop a broad network to enhance the American Honey Queen Program nationwide.

I have begun to receive 2019 promotional requests and welcome information on your events and your dates! You may reach me at (414) 545-5514 or by email at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com*. We wish you the best for all your upcoming promotions and look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach!

2019 AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN CANDIDATES:

2018 MASSACHUSETTS HONEY QUEEN DESIRÉE GRACIE

Desirée Gracie, 22, is the daughter of Evelyn Schraft of Berlin, Massachusetts. She is a senior at Nichols College of Dudley, Massachusetts, majoring in accounting and working toward her MBA/MSA while working on her undergraduate degree. She is a part of the accounting club, cross country team and track team at her school. In her spare time, Desirée does ocean cleanups and takes care of her German Shepard, Honig.

2018 NEW JERSEY HONEY QUEEN NICOLE MEDINA

Nicole Medina is the 19-year-old daughter of Joel and Nolvia Medina of Green Township, New Jersey. She is a sophomore at Sussex County Community College working toward an associate's degree in business administration. After graduating, her primary focus will be in marketing and communications at a four-year college. Nicole works as a receptionist at a pediatric and adolescent doctor's office. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, volunteering with her church, spending time with her loved ones and spending time with the 40 hives her family owns.

2018 PENNSYLVANIA HONEY QUEEN HANNAH ALBRIGHT

Hannah Albright, 21, is the daughter of Douglas and Amy Albright of Leechburg, Pennsylvania. She is a recent graduate of Penn State University, where she majored in Environmental Resource Management (Soils Option). At the Penn State New Kensington campus, she completed several projects on the plight on the honey bee and worked with the chancellor to place hives on campus. In her free time, Hannah enjoys hiking, tennis and working on the Penn State student farm.

2018 WISCONSIN HONEY QUEEN HANNAH SJOSTROM

Hannah Sjostrom, 20, is the daughter of Doug and Kim Sjostrom of Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. She is a junior at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, studying nursing. She is a third-generation beekeeper, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather. Hannah's interests, in addition to beekeeping, include hunting, fishing, volunteer work, church and spending time with friends and family.

AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN REPORT

Kayla Fusselman

I have been as busy as a bee traveling the country promoting the use of honey and educating on the importance of honey bees. I have promoted in nine different states since my last column, with more to come!

I started the summer visiting Connecticut from June 11 to June 17. I spoke at the Farmington Rotary Club meeting about the industry and followed up with a Q&A session. The membership is preparing a grant to provide a children's book on honey bees to local third graders, so they wanted information on bees and how to teach children about them. I also presented to students at Wamogo High School and Northwest Park Recreational Center. The main focus of my stay was the Lyman's Orchard Strawberry Festival which drew 10,000 visitors—many of whom stopped to check out the observation hive. Throughout the festival, I answered questions, gave a speech to the audience before the band entertainment and interacted with kids through story time and bee-themed crafts. I also had great media exposure totaling over $7,400 in value. I thank Ted and Becky Jones for hosting me and arranging a great week of promotions in Connecticut!

At the Lyman's Orchard Strawberry Festival in June, Queen Kayla read *Give Bees a Chance* to children.

I had numerous promotional opportunities in Pennsylvania between June and August. I participated at the Berks County 4-H summer camp on June 21 as a featured speaker. This year, their curriculum focus was insects, so I was a perfect fit! I gave several presentations to the campers throughout the day. Each session ended in beeswax candle rolling and honey tasting. The campers were interested in how honey colors and flavors vary. On June 23, I visited the June Bee Jamboree in Easton working alongside Pennsylvania Honey Queen Hannah Albright. Children in attendance loved rolling beeswax candles and checking out the beekeeping equipment on display. In preparation for National Honey Month, I interviewed with the *Schuylkill Living Magazine* for their September issue. No surprise here—my interview was focused on honey! I explained about how honey is made, honey varieties and its many uses.

On June 28, I attended the Berks County board meeting to speak on ways the county commissioners could help honey bee health and beekeepers. I advised the commissioners to reduce the mowing of roadside wildflowers and consider speaking with local beekeepers before making agriculture changes. The presentation was special to me because my home county commissioners gave me a proclamation for my accomplishments as the national spokesperson for the ABF.

Next up was the Leesport Farmers' Market on July 7. What better way to educate on the great product of honey than to farmers' market visitors? I distributed recipe brochures and talked to customers about the many uses of honey. Working alongside my beekeeper friends, we nearly sold out of their delicious local honey! Thank you to Rick and Julie Freeman for inviting me. At the annual Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association summer picnic on July 14, I donned my second bee beard—this time with nearly 15,000 honey bees. I also spoke to the members about my work as the American Honey Queen. Following the picnic, I headed to Locust Lake State Park to present about bees and manage a honey tasting with the Freemans. I love bringing different honey for people to try since most have only had clover or a wildflower variety.

I set off on July 20 for Delaware and the Delaware State Fair. For a week, I worked in the Delaware Beekeepers Association's educational exhibit. Fairgoers flocked to grab a honey stick and spot the queen bee in the observation hive. One day, I took a guided tour of the fair alongside Delaware Governor John Carney. I spoke with him about how important honey bees are and why honey is such a great product. I also gave presentations about honey bees from the Delaware Department of Agriculture's stage. There were several media opportunities in Delaware including an article on the front page of *Delaware State News*, an online video interview for the *Dover Post* and an article in *Lancaster Farming*! I was a guest presenter at the New Castle County Beekeepers meeting and promoted the American Honey Queen Program and the ABF. I signed up two beekeepers as ABF members that evening! Thank you to Meghan McConnell, the Delaware Beekeepers Association and the Delaware Department of Agriculture for making my trip possible.

Queen Kayla showed Delaware Governor John Carney the observation hive on display at the Delaware State Fair.

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!

My next trip was to New Jersey for the Warren County Farmers' Fair. From July 28 to July 31, I spent my time selling honey, manning the observation hive and giving hive demonstrations. Visitors gathered to see a local beekeeper and me opening a hive and showing the components of a working beehive. People were fascinated that I opened the hive without protective clothing, allowing me to explain the gentleness of honey bees. A highlight of my visit was judging the honey and beeswax entries with New Jersey State Apiarist Tim Schuler. Thank you to Rick, Idria and Alessandria Knecht for hosting me. Thank you to Stan and Fran Wasitowski and the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association for inviting me and arranging my stay.

Queen Kayla assisted in honey judging at the Warren County Farmers' Fair with New Jersey State Apiarist Tim Schuler.

Taking what I had learned about judging honey and beeswax, I went to the Clark County Fair in Washington to be one of the apiculture department judges. From August 2 to August 8, I worked at the fair's bee barn run by the Clark County Beekeepers Association. Thousands of visitors came to see the observation hive and grab a piece of honey candy. I introduced myself to the audience before the nightly grandstand shows (what a thrill to meet performers Gary Allan, Pat Benatar, Grand Funk Railroad and Granger Smith!) and helped judge the pretty baby contest and goat cheese contest. While at the fair, I also provided a live TV interview about honey bees to KATU Channel 2 of Portland, Oregon. The publicity, valued at over $2,000, was a great benefit to beekeepers! Also included in my Washington promotions was a presentation to the Clark County Council about ways the county can help honey bees and beekeepers. Thank you to my hosts John and Mary Ann Morrison and the Clark County Beekeepers Association for making my promotion successful!

I returned home briefly to participate in the Pennsylvania Ag Progress Days on August 14 and 15, where I sold honey ice cream from the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association's booth. I also attended a luncheon for public officials and chatted with agriculture representatives from across the commonwealth.

My next trip covered four states in 26 days. Starting on August 16 at the Kentucky State Fair, I spent five days teaching visitors about the honey show, honey cookery contests and observation hive on display. An estimated 270,000 visitors passed through the fair. I had a 38-minute interview with WFMP Forward Now Sustainability radio and discussed the Kentucky State Fair, honey bee health and National Honey Month. Thank you to Tammy Horn for arranging my visit!

From Kentucky, I returned to New Jersey to work with the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agriculture Fair. I gave open-hive demonstrations and had two radio interviews with 40 minutes of airtime! I had the pleasure of working alongside New Jersey Honey Queen Nicole Medina, selling honey and answering questions about beekeeping. I thank the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association and Stan and Fran Wasitowski for hosting and arranging my second visit to New Jersey!

Queen Kayla was interviewed on WWCO Channel 4 live at the Minnesota State Fair.

Next, I headed to state number three of four—Minnesota—where I worked at the Minnesota State Fair from August 28 to September 3. Alongside members of the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association and Minnesota Honey Producers Association, I talked about the honey show and the observation hives on display. Each day, I demonstrated how to prepare honey-nut cream cheese dip which is featured in this year's recipe brochure provided by the American Honey Queen Program. Audience members loved the samples I gave out and eagerly took brochures for the recipe! I also enjoyed working with Minnesota Honey Queen Sarah Doroff. There was a lot of media attention at the Minnesota State Fair! I took part in two, live TV interviews and three radio interviews for an estimated $12,700 in free publicity. I thank the Minnesota Honey Producers Association for sponsoring my trip, Emily Campbell for hosting me and scheduling my activities and Greg Ranstrom, David Schroeder, Daniel Whitney, Mark Adams and Jason and Sara Rufer for being a great help throughout the fair!

Finally, I traveled on September 4 to the final stop on my 26-day trip—California. This stay was jammed full of school presentations to more than 470 kids. I talked to kids from age two through fourth grade about how honey is made and the working of a beehive. They all enjoyed learning about the body parts of a bee through a fun counting activity. A big hit for the school presentations was the observation hive I included in the visits. At the end of all my presentations, I directed the kids to *www.buzzingacrossamerica.com* to ask all their burning questions.

While promoting at the Palo Cedro Honeybee Festival on September 8 and 9, I had 13 minutes of radio airtime between two interviews. The Palo Cedro Honeybee Festival was a full weekend of selling honey with members of the Shasta County Beekeepers Association. A highlight for festivalgoers was the live bee beard demonstration. I narrated the bee beard process and explained how the beard is formed using queen pheromone. A big crowd gathered to watch as three pounds of bees crawled to reach the queen bee under my chin. After the demonstration, I was immediately surrounded by children asking if I had been stung. While we talked, a few bees were still flying around me, and, surprisingly, the kids weren't afraid of the bees! Special thanks to Wendy Sullivan, Amanda Wooten and Bonnie Stayer for arranging my school visits. Thank you to Shannon and Glenda Wooten for inviting me, hosting me and putting on my bee beard.

My 26-day trip ended on September 10, but I turned right back around on September 11 and left for Iowa—the first state on an eight-state, 40-day trip! So far in Iowa, I presented to high school agriculture students and guests of the Guttenberg Care Center in addition to providing various radio and newspaper interviews. From September 14 to September 16, I promoted honey at the Plagman Barn Days with an observation hive and my hosts Bill and Louise Johnson.

While summer is over, my busy season isn't! From Iowa, I head to California, Washington, Massachusetts, Maine, Georgia, Texas and Montana where I wrap up my latest adventure on October 20. I have a few more promotions scheduled in Wisconsin, Texas, Illinois and Pennsylvania before the end of 2018. This year has been life-changing, and I cannot thank the ABF enough for this opportunity. It seems unreal that 2018 is nearly over. It's even crazier to think about what I have done, seen and accomplished in this short time, how much I have grown personally and how my efforts have benefitted the American Honey Queen Program and beekeepers everywhere. Thank you for allowing me to serve the ABF as the 2018 American Honey Queen. Be sure to contact Anna Kettlewell at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or (414) 545-5514 to schedule an appearance with the 2019 American Honey Queen or Princess!

AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS REPORT

Jenny Gross

Hello, fellow beekeepers! I hope you and your bees are prepared for our winter season. My hives, here in Wisconsin, are doing very well, although our honey production was not as ample as in past years. Nonetheless, my bees are very healthy and resilient, and I hope the same of yours. While summer is the busy season for our bees, it also proved to be an extremely busy season for honey promotions!

In June, I promoted in Wisconsin. On June 11, I met with my local town board to share the importance of honey bees and pollination. We had a great conversation about what our community can do to support the bees, including keeping pollinator-friendly plants unmowed while in bloom and putting out water for the bees. I was surprised when they honored me with an official proclamation! Thank you so much to the Lima Town Board for being so supportive of me and the American Honey Queen Program.

On June 22, I met the youngest group of future beekeepers yet! I shared the day with 13 kindergartners at YMCA Camp Y-Koda in Sheboygan Falls for National Pollinator Week. The little students were excited to see real bees in an observation hive and dress up in a beekeeping suit. We talked all about pollination and why we need our friends, the honey bees!

Princess Jenny prepared three honey recipes at the Maricopa Home and Landscape Show in Phoenix, Arizona.

From July 10 to July 16, I was in Phoenix, Arizona, for the Maricopa Home and Landscape Show held in the University of Phoenix Stadium. I worked with the AZ Queen Bee company in their beautiful honey booth. One morning, we were featured on Fox 10 Phoenix. The three minutes of airtime made a big difference in the traffic to our booth! I also gave three, hour-long cooking demonstrations—making honey-walnut cream cheese dip, honey-raspberry lemonade and honey-berry citrus slush. Also while in Arizona, I participated in my first honey bee rescue with Audra Waddle of AZ Queen Bee. We rescued some hardworking honey bees from a chimney and relocated them to a safe new home. Thank you to Audra and her family for hosting me during my stay.

On July 24, I took a road trip to Bear Paw Scout Camp in Mountain, Wisconsin! The camp, located in the national forest of northeastern Wisconsin, recently started keeping honey bees. The camp leaders sought to teach the Boy Scouts about the importance of honey bees while giving them some beginner beekeeping skills. We discussed the parts of the hive, beekeeping equipment and useful tips for beginner beekeepers. Special thanks to my friend and former classmate Tobias Wing for arranging my visit!

On July 26, I was in Minnesota for the University of Minnesota's Pollinator Party in Minneapolis. The festival celebrated our many amazing pollinators including, of course, our beloved honey bees. Festivalgoers enjoyed watching live hive demonstrations, making bee crafts and enjoying honey ice cream. I worked with university staff along with members of the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association and

Princess Jenny greeted Minneapolis Pollinator Party attendees in July.

Minnesota Honey Producers Association at this evening event for the community. Thanks to Willie and Marilyn Gorham for providing me great accommodations during my stay.

From July 27 to August 2, I worked at the Ohio State Fair with the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. This group has a huge pavilion designated exclusively to honey, and it was filled with different promotional opportunities. I put a bee beard onto Barry Conrad, which drew a huge crowd as we spoke about how bee beards work. I also conducted daily "walks through the apiary," where Zale Maxwell and I explained the basics of beekeeping to fairgoers. Each day also consisted of cooking demonstrations and cosmetic demonstrations where I enlightened fairgoers about the many benefits of honey. Thank you so much to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association for having me in their awesome honey pavilion. Thank you to Carmen and Barry Conrad for hosting me and arranging my visit to the Buckeye State!

Next, I visited the New Jersey State Fair in August, New Jersey, from August 3 to August 9. I participated in many open-hive demonstrations with beekeeper J.C. Cowell and the local queens Nicole Medina and Sarah Edwards-Ronning. Hundreds of folks were fascinated to see honey bees at work right before their eyes. Additionally, the local queens and I gave daily cooking demonstrations—teaching crowds of people how to use honey in their everyday recipes. I was also honored to have crowned the 2018 New Jersey Honey Queen Nicole Medina! Nicole will travel the state promoting the honey industry. Congratulations, Nicole! Thank you to the Medina family for hosting me and showing me all over New Jersey and New York!

I was back in my home state of Wisconsin to work with the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association at the Wisconsin State Fair on August 10 and 11. We sold gallons of honey lemonade, lots of honey ice cream and countless bottles of honey at the organization's exhibit. We spoke with hundreds

of people who were drawn to our observation hive, and each day, Wisconsin Honey Princess Lexi Gegare and I piqued fairgoers' interest with educational presentations followed by cooking demonstrations. It was wonderful to see my Wisconsin beekeeping friends again! Thank you to the Kettlewell family for hosting me during my brief stop back home!

The Indiana State Fair was next, taking place between August 12 and August 19. This fair had a unique pioneer village! From old-fashioned beeswax candle dipping to honey lemonade, the fair-going Hoosiers were excited to learn about the amazing products of the hive! Pioneer costumes gave the village an authentic atmosphere. Participants enjoyed learning about the uses and properties of beeswax as well as the history of beekeeping, and I learned that blacksmiths would coat their steel goods in beeswax! The wax would be applied while the steel was hot—seeping into the pores of the metal and sealing it off to prevent rust. Who knew? Thank you to The Beekeepers of Indiana for bringing me to such a unique fair. Thank you to Kristy and Lacy Dooley for coordinating my visit.

Princess Jenny learned about old fashioned blacksmith work using beeswax at the Indiana State Fair.

From August 29 to September 3, I promoted at the Nebraska State Fair. Among all the beef, corn and soybeans, there was no shortage of honey producers. I worked alongside many Nebraska Beekeepers Association members who were there selling honey products from the organization's exhibit. I demonstrated two recipes and encouraged fairgoers to buy Nebraska honey! I also helped with a live honey extraction with ABF board member Brian Nilson. I finished my time at the Nebraska State Fair with a radio interview on KRVN Rural Radio Network. Thank you so much to the Nebraska Beekeepers Association for having me to such an awesome event and Brian for coordinating my visit.

I returned to Ohio for the Lithopolis Honey Festival, held September 7-9, where I had the opportunity to promote our gentle honey bees. I put another bee beard on Barry Conrad for wide-eyed attendees. I also conducted an open-hive demonstration, teaching the visitors about the job of a beekeeper. I hosted a quiz game where the audience of all ages could answer questions about bees and earn honey for prizes. Thank you again to Carmen and Barry Conrad for all their work at the festival and for inviting me to this wonderful event.

Princess Jenny narrates a honey extraction demonstration at the Nebraska State Fair.

Thank you for utilizing and supporting the American Honey Queen Program! It has been such a pleasure to meet many of you this year, and I thank you for such wonderful experiences! If you would like to schedule a promotion with Queen Kayla or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at (414) 545-5514 or *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com.*

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