AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

QUARTERLY

VOL. 77, NO. 4, 2019

SWEET TIMES

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AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION
QUARTERLY

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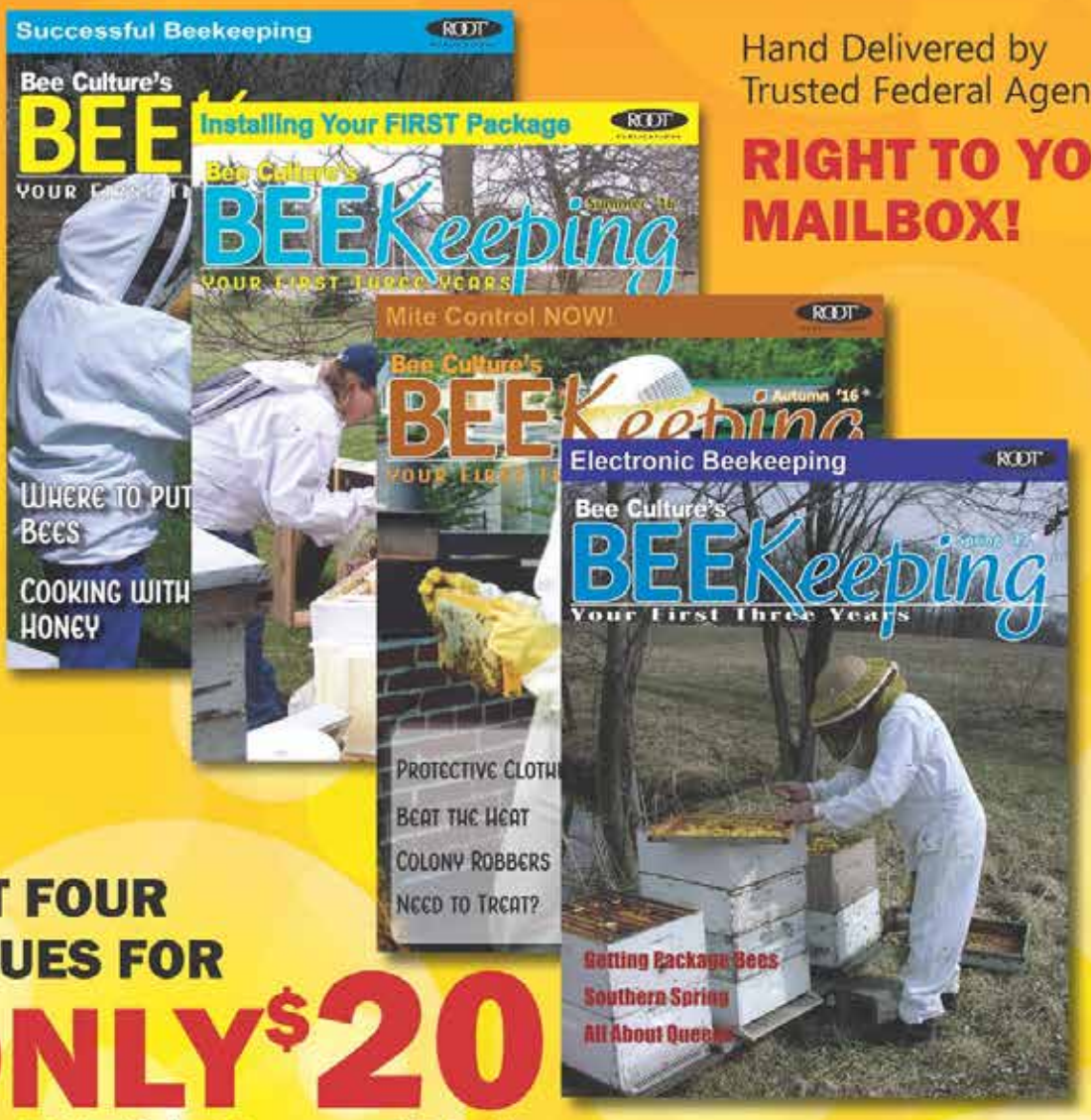

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Can't wait to see you all in Schaumburg!

TIM MAY, ABF PRESIDENT

It's a beautiful fall day here outside Chicago. Unfortunately, I just watched another depressing Bears game. It hasn't been the year we were hoping for. Par for the course around here. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable fall and your bees look healthy going into the winter season.

It's time to start thinking about the 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow. I think we have one of the best lineups we've ever had. Three outstanding keynote speakers headline the event this year. Dr. Sam Ramsey, University of Maryland, Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, Blue Dasher Farm, and Dr. May Barenbaum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be presenting their latest research results on the health of honey bees.

This year's tradeshow will feature more than 85 vendors with the latest beekeeping innovations. Along with vendors from the past, the tradeshow will have many new participants and products.

There will also be more than 80 other speakers discussing various topics that involve the beekeeping industry. On Wednesday afternoon, we will have Project Apis m.'s Healthy Hives 2020 which will focus on the results from 11 different research projects on honey bee health.

On Thursday, there will be updates from various government agencies as well as bee labs from across the country. The Shared Interest Groups (SIG) will also break out and have presentations that will be of interest to each group. Feel free to move around between SIG sessions, wherever you have an interest in the topic.

Thursday night will be our annual social activity. This year we are headed to the IMPROV comedy theater for dinner and entertainment. The theater is attached to the Woodfield Mall nearby, and transportation will be provided.

On Friday morning, we will have the renowned Kids and Bees program as well as general session presentations. That afternoon will be broken down into two different tracks. The Beginner Beekeeper track will have a panel on "Varroa Management" followed by a Q&A session to answer beginning beekeeper concerns. The Advanced Beekeeper track will have a panel on "The Future of Mite Control."

Saturday will feature more than 15 hands-on workshops available for attendees. These workshops will vary from "Encaustic Painting" to "Making Creamed Honey." The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) will also have a workshop for those who participated in or those interested in the Sentinel Apiary Program. They will discuss the results from 2019 and explain the program to any interested attendees.

The annual Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast will also take place on Saturday. There will be panel discussions on the honey market as well as the beekeeper's perspective on almond pollination. This breakfast is free of charge for all ABF commercial beekeepers.

ABF will be showing the film "The Pollinators" on Friday evening. This film is very well done and follows the lives of migratory beekeepers throughout the country.

The annual ABF Banquet will take place on Saturday night. The 2020 American Honey Queen and Princess will be coronated along with the sweepstakes drawing and live auction.

The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel is an outstanding facility. The hotel is only a 17-minute ride from O'Hare International Airport, making it an easy commute for everyone. We were able to secure a room rate of $119 per night. This is very reasonable for such a high-quality hotel in this area. The convention center is located within a mile of the Woodfield Mall, one of the largest in the country, and there will be shuttles available to nearby attractions.

For those concerned about the weather in Chicago during January, I personally guarantee that it will be 72 degrees with no precipitation during the conference. I am anticipating one of the best ABF conferences ever. For more information go to www.abfconference.com.

The end of the conference will also be the end of my term as ABF President. I am thoroughly honored to have represented such a great organization. I think the ABF is going in the right direction and will continue to be a leader for the industry. I have learned a lot and enjoyed my tenure. I would like to thank the entire ABF Board of Directors who I have had the pleasure to work with as well as the ABF committee chairs and members. Your hard work and dedication really helped this organization accomplish its goals over the past two years. I would also like to thank the ABF staff from our management group Meeting Expectations (ME). ME has really made the ABF the professional organization it is today. We have thrown many initiatives at this small staff and their hard work and dedication has been outstanding.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members for your support of the ABF and the beekeeping industry.

See you in Schaumburg!

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JOAN GUNTER,
ABF VICE PRESIDENT

An encaustic painting by George Hansen.

REPRESENTING ABF FROM COAST TO COAST

The 2019 Apimondia was held in Montreal, Canada, in September. The Canadians along with the Apimondia committee did a wonderful job with this conference. The American Beekeeping Federation was well represented with a manned booth and plenty of volunteers. The booth contained information about the ABF, along with our new video that encourages membership in our organization. Several visitors signed up for membership which is always encouraging.

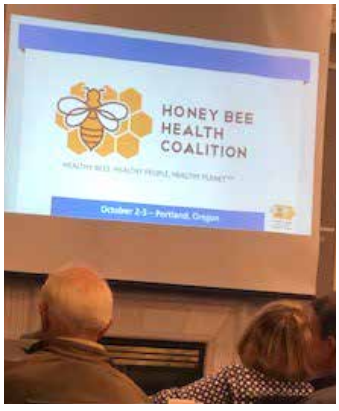
There were tracks on everything involved with beekeeping and the issues that surround the industry. The vendor show was well represented with booths from many countries as well as booths selling beekeeping-related items.

The city of Montreal was amazing. The conference was held in the old downtown district, where we were surrounded by architecture with a French-Canadian influence. The restaurants had an old-time charm with many varieties of fantastic food. The only thing better was the fantastic company of beekeepers from all over the U.S. and the world.

The next Apimondia will be two years from now in Russia. The delegates voted on the 2023 location while at this conference. Chile will host the 2023 Apimondia. Both locations will be wonderful to see. Consider joining the ABF delegation!

ABF Past President George Hansen gives a tour of his operation at Foothills Honey Company.

The Honey Bee Health Coalition held its fall meeting on October 2-3 in Portland, Oregon. George Hansen and I represented the ABF and the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. George has his operation in a nearby town, so we had the opportunity to visit Foothills Honey Company in Colton, Oregon.



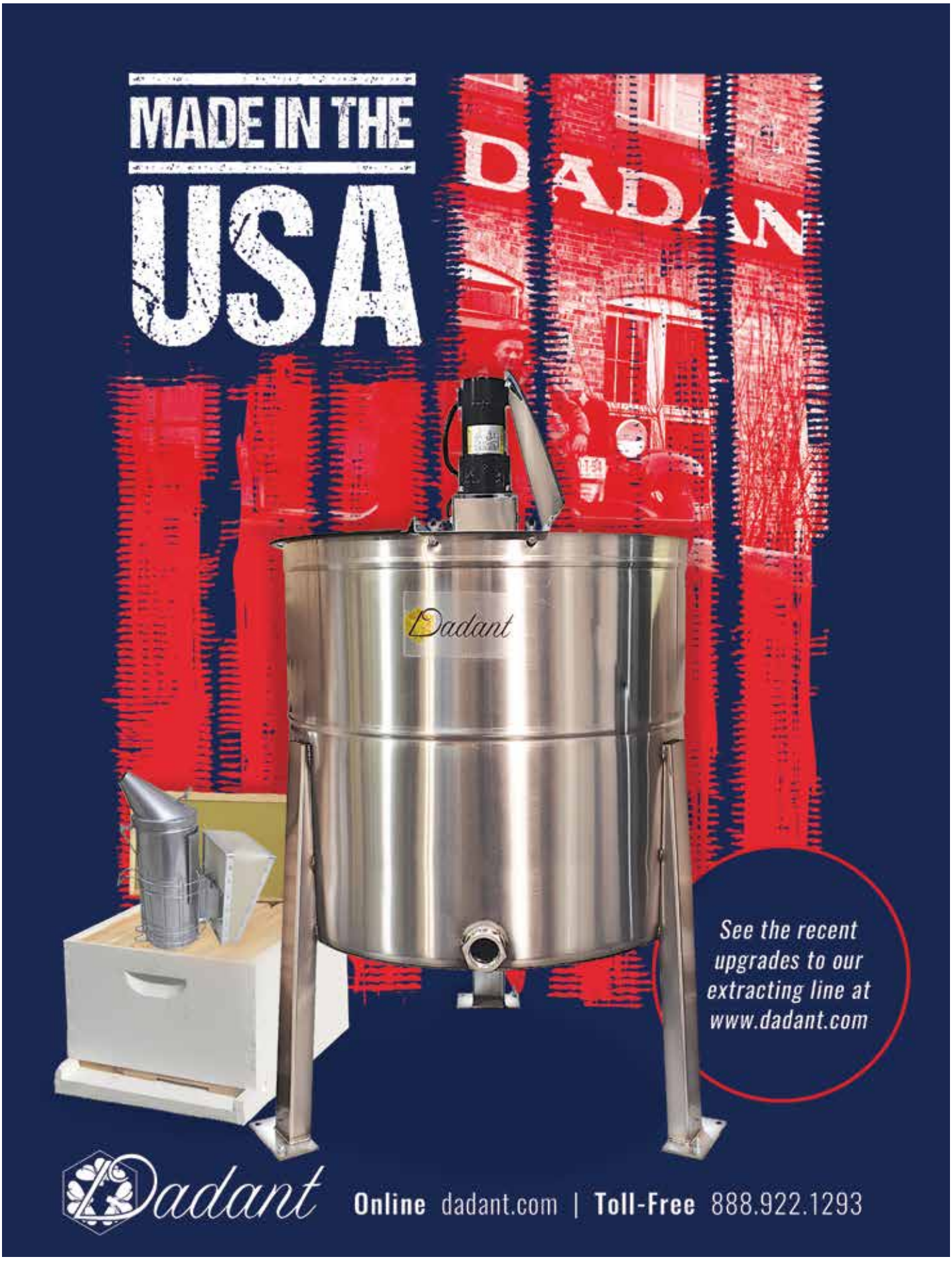
The Honey Bee Health Coalition provides stakeholders with updates during its fall meeting.

The tour began with a bus trip through the surrounding area to get to his base of operation. George led us through a presentation and discussion on the pollination process of specialty crops, including almonds. We also had the chance to tour his farm and play with his bees. We were served a wonderful lunch and had the chance to visit his encaustic art studio. The day was very entertaining. Thanks, George!

We also had the opportunity to visit the Underwood Fruit & Warehouse processing plant in Bingen, Washington. They were packing pears the day we were there. It is always interesting to watch a semi-automated processing plant in operation.

The Honey Bee Health Coalition, led by Matt Mulica, Julie Shapiro and Alli Langley, had a fantastic meeting lined up for the coalition. The discussion was held on the Bee Integrated Demonstration Project. It has entered its third year. The Varroacide Resistance and Testing Team have entered its second year. The Varroa web page which contains the Tools for Varroa Management Guide along with other Varroa resources has been very successful this year.

There are many new projects on the horizon that the coalition has been developing or partnering with that prove to be promising. As we look to 2020 and beyond, we will continue in the direction of positive bee health.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ASK HOOPIE

Q. ***This is my first winter keeping bees. What should I expect to see inside the hive during winter?***

A. Honey bees are a tropical species that has adapted its behaviors over the eons to be able to survive in the Temperate North. Basically, this is the ability of the bees to cluster together to keep the brood nest warm and the behavior to store surplus honey that gives them food for the long dearth of winter. There are other behaviors that contribute to the success of the colony to survive the winter, but the ability to cluster to keep warm and the storage of honey are the key elements.

Now, what should you "see" if you were to examine the colony during winter? (I do not like to examine a colony unless the outside temperature is greater than 55ºF, unless the look is a short peek to see where the cluster is located and that there is still available food.) In late fall or early winter, the cluster of bees should be at or near the bottom of the hive with approximately 100 pounds of honey in the super(s) above them. The cluster of bees slowly eats their way upward through the honey stores, ending up at the top of the hive in spring. If the cluster of bees arrives at the top of the hive before, they can move about and forage for food. The beekeeper needs to provide supplemental food. This food can be honey, candy boards or sugar.

Honey bees control the hive temperature throughout the year. In the late fall, when there is no brood, the brood nest temperature is maintained at about 85ºF. When brood rearing starts in early January, the brood nest temperature rises to 95ºF, and the colony keeps the temperature as long as there is brood present in the hive. The area that, at 95ºF, is a very small area when the outside temperatures are low. Then, as outside temperatures rise, the volume of the area increases and, of course, more brood is produced.

If all you want to know is, "is my colony of bees still alive," you can put your ear up to the side of the box and tap on the hive. You should hear a buzzing sound in response to your tapping.

Q. ***How do you suggest I keep my bees hydrated during the winter in the northern states?***

A. Actually, the problem is just the opposite. If you look at the chemical equation for the metabolism of honey, it is this: $C^6H^{12}O^6$ $CO^2 + H^2O$ + heat. The carbon dioxide sinks to the bottom of the hive and flows out the door or through the screened bottom board. The water rises with the heat from the cluster and either flows out the upper entrance or vent opening. If the moisture cannot escape, it likely will condense on the inner cover and drop back down onto the cluster causing them great discomfort and harm. The heat of the metabolism is, of course, used to heat the winter cluster. Thus, as long as the cluster has honey to metabolize, the colony has adequate water in the wintertime.

Q. ***Are Varroa mites less of a problem during the winter?***

A. The short answer is probably, "yes." If we are talking about the winter months of December through February, there is very little brood being raised and thus the Varroa mites are not reproducing either. Thus, the Varroa population is not growing, and these phoretic mites on the bodies of the worker bees sometimes fall off or are groomed off and thus die. In my opinion, most of the damage that is caused by Varroa is the transmission of viruses that often causes the absconding of the bees from their hive in the fall. Some of the absconding effects may also be caused by excessive mites. Thus, once the bees get into the true winter, the effect of Varroa mites is probably limited to the life-shortening effect of the mites feeding on the individual bees.

Q. ***Is it unreasonable to expect no winter losses?***

A. When I started keeping bees 72 years ago, if you had 10% winter loss you were considered a poor beekeeper. Now a 10% loss puts you in the expert class. The "Lonesome Hive" that I had in my backyard went 25 years without a loss until tracheal mites showed up. However, in the last 45 years, we have accidentally imported, from overseas, at least five diseases and parasites, not including any viruses. Thus, until the bees develop resistance mechanisms for these maladies, obtaining even a 10% loss is going to be difficult. How long it might take for the bees to develop these resistance mechanisms is hard to tell. With good research and selection, it might happen sooner than I expect.

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

2020 VISION OF THE FUTURE

ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

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- 20 Interactive and hands-on workshops
- Tradeshow packed with the latest beekeeping innovations
- Fun for the whole family with the renowned Kids and Bees program
- Exclusive meeting of the nation's commercial beekeepers
- Coronation of the American Honey Queen and Princess
- And, the 2020 American Honey Show!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Auxiliary Luncheon and Business Meeting*
- Thursday Night Social with Dinner and Comedy Show at the IMPROV*
- Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Luncheon*
- Commercial Beekeeping Breakfast and Meeting
- ABF Banquet*

Separate registration required. Additional fee applies.

DON'T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY.

ABFCONFERENCE.COM/REGISTRATION

In true Chicago fashion, this year's social is dinner and a family-friendly comedy show at the IMPROV theater. For over half a century, the IMPROV comedy clubs have remained the premiere scene for live comedy in the United States. The talent who have played center stage represent the "who's who" of American comedy, including Billy Crystal, Lily Tomlin, Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno and countless others. Today, the IMPROV stage continues to be the most important live venue for new comedians. Come and join the IMPROV legacy!

EXPLORE SCHAUMBURG - FAR FROM ORDINARY

We implore you to explore. So, follow the crowd. Or, follow your natural inclination to discover something new. Onsite local experts can recommend the most authentic side Chicago has to offer—both on and off the beaten path.

Get out and discover an exclusive music and entertainment experience like none other. The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel plays host to "Evenings at Renaissance" events that feature complimentary bar rituals and live performances by local emerging artists. Events are not limited to concerts, but also include an array of entertainment options that encourage both guests and locals to stop in and try something wonderfully new.

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

- Woodfield Mall (1 mile SE)
- Legoland Discovery Center (1 mile SE)
- IKEA (1 mile SE)
- Medieval Times (3 miles W)
- Boomers Baseball (3 miles S)
- Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary (4 miles S)
- Arlington International Racecourse (4 miles NE)
- The Arboretum of South Barrington (4 miles W)
- Grand Victoria Casino (14 miles SW)
- Brookfield Zoo (25 miles SE)
- Wrigley Field / Chicago Cubs (24 miles SE)
- Soldier Field / Chicago Bears (32 miles SE)
- U.S. Cellular Field / White Sox (37 miles SE)
- United Center / Bulls & Blackhawks (32 miles SE)
- Prime Outlets (30 miles W)

GUEST ROOM RESERVATIONS

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel
1551 N. Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
Phone: 847-303-4100

Experience refined style and impeccable service. Renaissance guest rooms feature exterior views of the surrounding Chicagoland area and include complimentary wifi and self-parking. Relax around the 360-degree fireplace or enjoy the warmth of the indoor pool, whirlpool and fitness center.

Online reservations:
https://book.passkey.com/go/AmericanBeekeepingConf20209

Alternatively, reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 847-303-4100. Please be sure to request the ABF or beekeepers room block.

Room Rate: The ABF room block rate is $119 per night plus tax. Current occupancy tax is 15% and sales tax is 12%. No resort fees or any other fees will be added to this rate.

Deadline: The discounted group rate is available until Monday, December 16, 2019, or until the room block is full (whichever comes first). After this date, the discounted group rate may no longer be available.

Guest Room Reservations Warning: On occasion, a "housing company" may contact potential conference attendees and advise them that the conference hotel is almost sold-out and that they need to make their hotel reservations 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 via telephone or online link.

2020 VISION OF THE FUTURE
ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

2020 REGISTRATION RATES:

Members of the American Beekeeping Federation and the Illinois State Beekeepers Association receive registration discounts:

All rates are in U.S. dollars.	**EARLY** through 11/23/2019		**REGULAR** 11/24/2019 - 12/14/2019		**ONSITE** after 12/14/2019	
	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Individual Registrant	$250	$310	$300	$360	$350	$410
Family (2 people)*	$375	$435	$425	$485	$475	$535
Individual Day Rate	$125	$155	$150	$180	$175	$205
Family Day Rate*	$190	$220	$215	$245	$240	$270
Student and Educator**	$50 per day					

** 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.*

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Auxiliary Luncheon - Thursday, January 9, 2020	$65
Thursday Night Social with Dinner & Entertainment at the IMPROV - Thursday, January 9, 2020	$70
Foundation Luncheon - Friday, January 10, 2020	$67
Commercial Beekeeping Breakfast and Meeting - Saturday, January 11, 2020	Complimentary to Commercial Beekeepers
ABF Banquet - Saturday, January 11, 2020	$85

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration cancellations received in writing on or prior to 12/14/2019 will be refunded minus a $50 administrative fee. **Registration cancellations received after 12/14/2019 will not be refunded.**

Please Note: All paid, non-member registrants will receive a one-year, small-scale membership to the American Beekeeping Federation, to be processed following the conference in late January 2020. You will be notified once your membership has been activated.

DON'T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY.
ABFCONFERENCE.COM/REGISTRATION

ABF FUNDRAISING

The 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow is right around the corner, and we are beaming with excitement over the 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 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 or gift basket into the show or by bidding on these items.

ABF Auxiliary Merch: The ABF Auxiliary has created 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 the American Honey Queen, American Honey Princess and honey queen candidates for your chance to win a one-of-a-kind, handmade quilt. 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 Banquet Live 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 8. 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 10, right after the ABF business meeting. Of course, the ABF banquet and live auction will be the event's grand finale on Saturday, January 11.

If you wish to donate an item to one of the auctions, please bring your donation with you to the conference and drop it off in the auction office by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, January 8. 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 in the next year with prosperous special funds to invest in the future of beekeeping. Let's catch the fundraising fever at the 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Schaumburg, Illinois, and transform imagination into reality!

QUILT RAFFLE

Each year, the American Honey Queen Program raffles a one-of-a-kind, handmade quilt in support of the promotional work of the American Honey Queen and Princess. This year's queen-sized quilt was crafted by 2011 American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson of Pennsylvania.

Purchase raffle tickets from the American Honey Queen, American Honey Princess and honey queen candidates throughout the conference and enter for your chance to win this phenomenal piece of art. It's also a great opportunity to learn more about each of these amazing women and get a glimpse of their beekeeping knowledge.

One winner will be drawn during the ABF banquet, and you need not be present to win!

2020 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE:

(subject to change)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020	
All Day	Committee Meetings
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020	
All Day	General Session
Morning	Honey Show Entries Due by 10:00 am
Noon	Tradeshow Opens
	ABF State Delegates Luncheon (by invitation only)
Afternoon	ABF New Member Orientation
	Auction Item Donations Due by 4:00pm
Evening	Welcome Reception in Tradeshow with Live Auction and Entertainment
	American Honey Show Judging
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020	
All Day	Tradeshow and Silent Auction American Bee Research Conference
Morning	Fitness Program
	General Session
Noon	Auxiliary Luncheon and Business Meeting*
Afternoon	SIG Meetings • Small-Scale/Sideliner • Package Bee & Queen Breeders • Honey Producer/Packer • Commercial
Evening	Networking Social with Dinner and Comedy Show at the IMPROV*

2020 VISION OF THE FUTURE
ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020	
All Day	Tradeshow and Silent Auction
	American Bee Research Conference
Morning	Fitness Program
	General Session
	Kids and Bees Program
Noon	Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Luncheon*
Afternoon	Beginner and Advanced Breakout Sessions
	ABF Business Meeting
	American Honey Show Reception and Live Auction
SATURDAY JANUARY 11, 2020	
All Day	Interactive Workshops
Morning	Commercial Beekeepers Breakfast and Meeting
Noon	Tradeshow Closes at Noon
Evening	ABF Banquet*

Separate registration required. Additional fee applies.

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2020 VISION OF THE FUTURE
ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

KIDS AND BEES EVENT

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 10, at the Renaissance Schaumburg 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 those 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 from around the United States, 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 *thehive@beegirl.org* or 541-709-1127.

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 www.abfconference.com/kids-bees.

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

Even if you don't have a little one on your heel or a whole morning to volunteer, I invite to you to come to Kids and Bees and soak up some of the joy and sunshine that these kids bring to ABF.

DON'T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY.
ABFCONFERENCE.COM/REGISTRATION

2020 AMERICAN HONEY SHOW: CALL FOR ENTRIES

GIFT BOX THEME: "TO YOUR HEALTH"

We invite you to enter the 2020 American Honey Show, which will be held during the 2020 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow in Schaumburg, Illinois. This is a prime opportunity to showcase your bees' abilities to produce the purest honey, the best wax and the most goodies.

The American Honey Show showcases the best examples of honey and beeswax. It includes 18 classes: 12 for honey, four for beeswax, one for beeswax art and the gift box class. The gift box theme for 2020 is "To Your Health."

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 conference website at www.abfconference.com. It also includes helpful honey show hints and tips!

Turn in your entry form in person at the conference or mail the entry form with appropriate fees to arrive at the ABF headquarters office by December 14, 2019.

The actual honey or beeswax entries should be hand delivered to the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel or shipped directly using the shipping address provided in the official show rules and regulations. If you are shipping, entries must arrive between December 10 and December 30, 2019.

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

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 8. Our expert fundraisers need time to inventory all the wonderful donations and prepare for the various events.

Thank you for your support!

ABF AUXILIARY

Winter is upon us, and we all know what that means—the ABF Conference & Tradeshow is almost here!

Don't forget to take those bee pictures for the ABF Auxiliary 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 bring them with you to Schaumburg, Illinois.

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

Auxiliary Photo Competition

There are five categories featured in the 2020 competition including:

1. Adults and Beekeeping
2. Kids and Beekeeping
3. Honey
4. Bees and Nature
   (bees on flowers, bees on frames, etc.)
5. Pollination

Competition Rules and Requirements:

- Amateur photographers only.
- Submit two 5x7 (before matting) photos for each entry. At least one photo must be matted for judging (single-mat only). A 3x5 index card must be attached to the back of the photo with the photographer's name and address and the photo category.
- Photos must be submitted by 12:00 pm CT on Wednesday, January 8.
- Photos will not be returned. A waiver for rights to photos will be signed at the ABF Conference & Tradeshow. Winners will be asked to submit their photos to ABF in high-resolution JPEG for publication.
- Only one entry per person per category will be accepted to enable more participation in the competition.
- If the above requirements are not met, photos will be disqualified.

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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Lamb's Ear Honey: More than Just an Ingredient

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEES, INC.

4-H ESSAY COMPETITION SECOND PLACE WINNER

by: Gretchen Kellar

Picture a field full of one type of flower. It is a sea of color with its myriad of repeated beauty. Honey bees fly from flower to flower collecting pollen and nectar, taking the pollen and nectar from these flowers back to the hive. The result of their labors is a varietal honey. Varietal honey is made primarily from the nectar of one flower type (Conrad). There are many different honey varietals that can be collected in the state of Pennsylvania, one of the most unique being Lamb's Ear honey.

Lamb's Ear honey is very rare. Ernst Conservation Seed, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, has planted a 51-acre field of Lamb's Ear, Stachys byzantine (Vorisek). This is unusual because Lamb's Ear is usually planted in small quantities in a landscape. In fact, there are only three large plantings of Lamb's Ear in the United States (Vorisek). Charlie Vorisek of Vorisek's Backyard Bee Farm has been working with Ernst Conservation Seed and has been granted permission to put hives in this field. His honey has been tested by Texas A&M to be sure of its authenticity (Vorisek). Texas A&M analyzes the pollen content in a honey and identifies the plant species that the pollen came from (Schneider). Testing the pollen content of the honey allows the beekeeper to market the honey as a varietal truthfully.

Not only is the honey of Lamb's Ear uncommon, the plant itself is unique. The leaves are white or silver and velvety (Still). This feature is comparable to the ears of a lamb, hence the name Lamb's Ear (Britannica School). Lamb's Ear, Stachys byzantina, blooms from May to July (Missouri Botanical Garden). This is different from many other honey varietals because it blooms for an extended length of time instead of just a week or two. The long blooming season of the Stachys makes it much easier to collect the varietal because of how much longer the bees can collect nectar and pollen from the plant. The flowers of Stachys byzantina are purplish-pink and are usually ½" to 1" long (Still). Bees find the flowers of Stachys byzantina very attractive because the nectar and the violet flower color are irresistible (Noonan; Barbercheck).

Figure 1. Honey bee on Lamb's Ear flower. Image by Charlie Vorisek.

Lamb's Ear honey is good for cooking. It is a light honey and has a mild flavor (Vorisek). Usually, light honey has a milder flavor as opposed to dark honey (National Honey Board). Having a mild flavor makes a honey good for replacing sugar without overpowering other flavors in a food. When cooking with honey in place of sugar, there are steps that you must follow to make the recipe successful. This includes reducing the liquid, using less honey than you would sugar, reducing the oven temperature and increasing the baking soda (Buchmann). According to Buchmann, "Cooking with honey can make a big difference in your enjoyment of many foods. It adds to and brings out the flavor of the other ingredients it's mixed with. It keeps breads and cakes moist and flavorful and extends their normal shelf life." When a food is cooked with honey, it does change the flavor, but it does not make the food taste like honey (Kimball).

In order to better understand the way honey affects a recipe, I conducted a couple of experiments. In the first experiment, I made oatmeal cookies with three different honey varietals. The varietals I used were Japanese Knotweed, Goldenrod and Lamb's Ear. Japanese Knotweed produces a dark honey. Goldenrod honey is a medium honey. Lamb's Ear honey is light. The conclusion to this experiment was that Japanese Knotweed honey added the most flavor to the cookies. The Goldenrod and Lamb's Ear cookies were very similar. In the second experiment, I made my family's traditional chocolate chip cookie recipe with honey instead of sugar. The end result was cookies that had more flavor and were moister. They also cooked in less time at a lower temperature.

Beekeepers must be observant and knowledgeable of the plants growing in their local area. They need to realize when a flower is blooming and if the bees are attracted to it in order to collect a varietal honey (Smithers). These observations allow them to gain knowledge of the plant so they can inform the customer. Beekeepers also need to observe what products consumers like the best and be creative to successfully market their honey.

Mr. Vorisek sells honey varietals in a six-pack of 8-ounce honey bears in a small wooden crate. He creatively markets these six-packs as "Beewizers." The consumer can try six different kinds of honey

varietals with one purchase. He also provides a sheet of information about each varietal he sells to help educate the consumer about the flower from which the honey was produced. When a consumer shops at a farmers market and goes to the honey vendor, the first sight they see is an array of different colors of honey. They are greeted by a friendly beekeeper who eagerly answers questions, provides information about the honey product and offers samples for the consumer to try before buying. This consumer-beekeeper interaction makes the difference between buying local varietal honey and buying honey from a grocery store.

Lamb's Ear honey is not just a cookie ingredient. It has a story. The story starts in a field of blooming Lamb's Ear and ends on the shelf in the consumer's kitchen. There are many events along the way, and each one contributes to the final product, a honey varietal.

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Honey-Yogurt Chocolate Chip Cookies

- ½ Cup Lamb's Ear honey
- ¼ Cup butter
- ¼ Cup shortening
- ¼ Cup plain or vanilla yogurt
- 2 Teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1¾ Cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ Teaspoon baking soda
- ½ Teaspoon salt
- 2 Cups semisweet chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. In a medium bowl, cream together honey, butter and shortening until light and fluffy.
3. Stir in yogurt and vanilla.
4. Combine flour, baking soda and salt. Stir into mixture until incorporated.
5. Mix in chocolate chips.
6. Drop by rounded teaspoons two inches apart onto prepared cookie sheets.
7. Bake for eight to ten minutes, until edges begin to brown. Cool for one minute on cookie sheets before moving to cooling racks.

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HONEY INDUSTRY SUMMIT CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO DENVER

Eighty percent of consumers are trying to limit/avoid sugars in their diet according to the 2019 Food & Health Survey from the International Food Information Council Foundation. Unfortunately, honey is getting swept up in consumers' avoidance of sugars, but there are opportunities to break through the anti-sweetener movement, according to several speakers at this year's Honey Industry Summit.

The National Honey Board's (NHB) 2019 Honey Industry Summit proved to be its biggest and best yet, with more than 40 attendees taking in a full day of presentations focused on honey's opportunities in the retail and food and beverage industries.

This was the third annual Honey Industry Summit, which took place in Denver and coincided with the NHB's fall board meeting. The goal of the summit is simple: Help honey processors, handlers, packagers and importers sell more honey. A team of food and beverage industry experts provided the educational core of the event, which also featured two industry panels and a honey-themed menu for breakfast, lunch and happy hour.

"This year's Honey Industry Summit had everything from in-depth consumer research to insight into honey's popularity in the alcohol industry," Margaret Lombard, the NHB's chief executive officer said. "We moved the event to a bigger location this year to accommodate more people, and the industry responded. The new space allowed us to expand our educational program and feature more interactive sessions focused on the foodservice industry."

The Honey Industry Summit was heavy on data analysis focused on who is buying honey and why. Consumers who are food involved, health oriented and highly educated tend to buy more honey than other consumer demographics, the data show. These consumers are mainly using honey during the morning daypart as a sweetener in coffees and teas or atop English muffins and toast.

Not surprisingly, honey purchasers view honey as a pure, natural source of energy that is unprocessed and has a clean ingredient label. These attributes are key to marketing honey in the current environment where consumers are trying to reduce overall sweetener usage.

To combat these trends, many speakers at the Honey Industry Summit talked about how to position honey in an increasingly competitive natural sweetener marketplace.

"Honey has a unique story to tell from the beekeepers to the minimal steps needed to deliver honey from the hive to consumers," Catherine Barry, the NHB's director of marketing, said. "It's time to start telling that story in addition to promoting all of the great flavor and functional benefits that honey delivers."

The story of honey was on display throughout the 2019 Honey Industry Summit, especially during these five moments that stood out from a busy day of learning and networking.

Food and beverage makers detail honey usage.

One of the most informative and enlightening sessions at this year's Honey Industry Summit was a panel consisting of food and beverage manufacturers who use honey in a variety of products ranging from distilled spirits and beer to bakery foods and sparkling beverages. One of the panelists, Josh Galliano of Companion Bakery in St. Louis, summed up the sentiment of most processors that use honey on a large scale.

"We love to use honey because it has so many benefits beyond just sweetness and flavor," Galliano stated. "In our products, honey has functional uses such as naturally extending shelf life, as well as being a great marketing tool."

Companion Bakery uses honey in many of its breads and recently launched a new honey Brioche in partnership with Fresh Thyme Markets. The new bread was a seasonal offering to promote National Honey Month and the importance of honey bees.

Another panelist, Dominic DeSano of Domelez distillery in Madison, Wisconsin, spoke about the rapid growth of honey in the spirits category, mainly as a sweetener, but also as a primary distillate. In these applications, distillers are creating a mead and then distilling it into a neutral spirit that carries the aromatics of honey.

Honey bee health is important to consumers, manufacturers and the honey industry.

Danielle Downey, executive director of Project Apis m., provided an update on her organization's efforts to fund and facilitate research projects that address problems with beekeeping and create tools to address them.

Downey provided a sobering statistic during her presentation, estimating that there were 1.208 million colonies lost in the United States from October 2018 to June 2019, which accounted for 45% of all colonies. The losses can be blamed on the four Ps, Downey stated, which includes parasites, pathogens, poor nutrition and pesticides.

An engaging conversation about various research projects followed the presentation and offered optimism that the industry was responding to honey bee health issues through organizations like Project Apis m.

Tabletop displays spotlight NHB programs.

New to this year's Honey Industry Summit were tabletop displays of various programs the NHB conducts throughout the year. These programs are designed to increase honey usage with consumers, foodservice operators and consumer-packaged goods companies.

One table-top that garnered significant attendee attention focused on how the NHB uses consumer influencers to promote honey awareness and usage for busy moms and dads. The tabletop included several recipes showcasing honey's versatility in snacks, beverages, meals and more. Another favorite of attendees was the Mead Crafters Competition table, which featured samples of winning meads from the NHB's first mead competition.

Honey is perfect for every eating occasion.

Honey's versatility is one of its key assets, and this was on display throughout the Honey Industry Summit. For breakfast, attendees noshed on honey-infused sausage, overnight oats with honey and almond and honey macaroons. For lunch, sweet and spicy was on the menu with hot honey fried chicken. For attendees wanting a savory option, bourbon and honey braised short ribs were served with crispy onions.

Natural sweeteners are here to stay.

The Honey Industry Summit ended with a presentation detailing consumer attitudes toward natural sweeteners. To stand out in a crowded natural sweetener marketplace, honey's messaging should focus on the following attributes:

- Honey is all-natural and unprocessed.
- Honey is sweet and flavorful.
- Honey bees are a cause to support.
- Honey is an ingredient with an amazing story.

The Honey Industry Summit closed on a high with attendees and presenters realizing honey's significant opportunities in the food and beverage marketplace, and with consumers.

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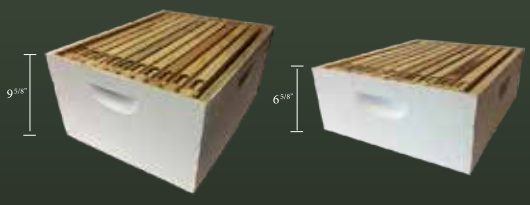

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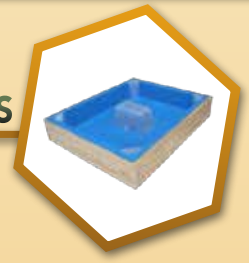

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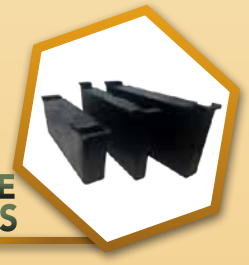

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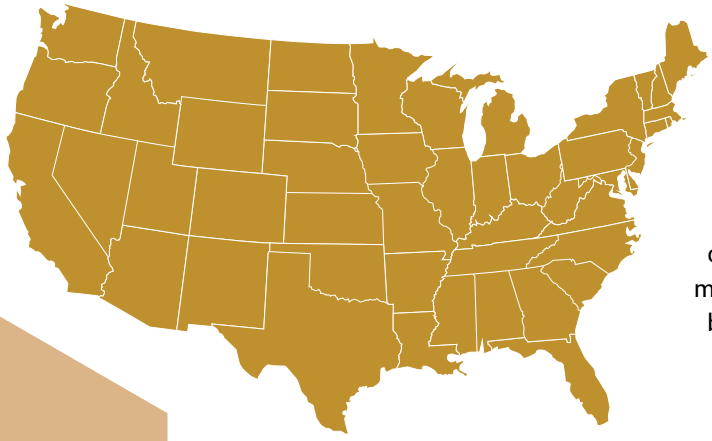

Each state having ABF members may appoint a State Delegate to serve as a liaison between ABF and its state association and local clubs. Each State Delegate acts as a membership and legislative coordinator, communicating important membership and legislative information between ABF and these organizations.

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

Let us know if you want your state more involved with the membership and legislative happenings of the American Beekeeping Federation.

STATE DELEGATES

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

CALIFORNIA
2019 CSBA Annual Convention
November 19-21, 2019
Pechanga Resort & Casino
Temecula, California

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.californiabeekeepers.com

CONNECTICUT
Southern New England Beekeepers Assembly
November 23, 2019
Groton Inn and Suites
Groton, Connecticut

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.ctbees.org

GEORGIA
GBA 2020 Spring Conference
February 21-22, 2020
Augusta University
Augusta, Georgia

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.gabeekeeping.com

IDAHO
2019 Idaho Honey Conference
December 4-5, 2019
Red Lion Downtowner
Boise, Idaho

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.idahohoney.org

LOUISIANA
2019 LBA Annual Convention
December 5-7, 2019
Country Inn and Suites
Pineville, Louisiana

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MASSACHUSETTS
MASSBEE Fall Meeting
November 16, 2019
VFW Hall
Medway, Massachusetts

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.massbee.org

UTAH
2020 UBA Convention
February 21-22, 2020
Hyatt Place Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.utahbeekeepers.com

STATE DELEGATE **SPOTLIGHT:**

ALABAMA STATE DELEGATE CONNECTS KIDS WITH BEEKEEPING

Congratulations to Alabama State Delegate David Kelton and his wife Lynne for successfully launching Alabama's first-ever Kids and Bees event!

David and Lynne Kelton, Lookout Mountain Honeybees, Gadsden, Alabama.

Planning for the event began back in March, and through the summer and fall, David and Lynne used Kids and Bees program chair Sarah Red-Laird's recently published *Kids and Bees Handbook* to develop the content for their Alabama program. In September, David and Lynne's vision became a reality.

Clanton Elementary School brought 250 students to the Alabama Beekeepers Association's annual conference to take part in the program. A series of stations had been set up with activities and presentations for the students to enjoy and learn more about honey bees. "There are 12 stations set up, and each one has a different aspect of beekeeping," said David Kelton. "Anything from keeping live bees in a hive to making candles to beekeepers in other countries."

The Keltons created this blacklight booth from solid pallet wood which comes apart for traveling. It was tall enough for the children to stand up. The booth contained a wooden basket on the back wall for flowers, and the blacklight was mounted on the ceiling of the box. This was a big hit with the kids.

Students participated in crafts, such as making a beeswax candle, learned to identify a queen bee in an observation hive, tried on bee suits and tasted honey. At the station where students learned about the communication system between bees, a volunteer led students in the dancelike movements of a scout before demonstrating what the other bees would do.

A thirteenth station gave students a chance to reflect and write about something they learned. "I learned about the queen bee makes eggs and then when the babies are done born, then I learned that when they are ready to leave they will go," student Timorian Simon said. He said getting a bee painted on his cheek was his favorite activity of the day.

Student Zosie Ray said making bees out of paper was her favorite activity. She learned, "the nurse bee takes care of the baby bee until they are older, and then they become something." Zosie also said she learned about the queen bee flying.

Students learned about all the equipment beekeepers use to care for honey bees. Photo by Joyanna Love.

David and Lynne approached the event with the goal of getting the students interested in becoming beekeepers when they are older. "I used to keep bees when I was 13 years old," David said. "I was beekeeping in Boy Scouts for the beekeeper merit badge. Lynne and I still teach a beekeeping class every year."

If you take a peek inside the Kids and Bees event during the upcoming ABF Conference & Tradeshow, you're guaranteed to see the Keltons volunteering their time to teach Chicago-area students. Lynne says, "I love it because if we don't teach kids now, they are not going to know about honey bees—this is the future." She hopes the students leave with knowledge of the importance of honey bees to our everyday life.

David and Lynne approached the Alabama Beekeepers Association with the idea of adding a Kids and Bees program to the state conference, and everyone loved it. When planning begins for your state's next conference or annual meeting, think about taking a page from the Keltons' playbook. They've offered to give advice to anyone who's looking to follow their lead. Way to go, David and Lynne!

DRONES

by: Dewey M. Caron

If you use your computer's search engine and enter the word drone, you get hits for the artificial drones of technology, almost never finding references to the drones we know in our bee colonies. Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, has five subheadings of drones. The Animal subheading includes honey bee (and ant) drones, but the other subheadings, Science and Technology, Arts, Entertainment and Media each have many more references.

The use of artificial drones in agriculture is enjoying a steep growth phase. Dropcopter, www.dropcopter.com, a company advertising their mission as "Aerial Pollination for Agriculture," reports producing "way more fruit using a drone than when using honey bees … a 25-60% pollination set on cherries and almonds and significantly increasing the pollination of king blooms on apples."

May Berenbaum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, discussed drones in her *American Entomologist Buzzwords* column titled Bot-Flying. She reported that Walmart (yes, that Walmart) has received a patent on pollinator "drones" because of the wish for "control over its future food supply chain in the post-bee-apocalypse hellscape." Hmmm, is this something we need to begin to plan for?

You may recall Barry B. Benson from the 2007 DreamWorks film *Bee Movie* starring Jerry Seinfeld. Barry, following graduation from college, considered the predestined job option to make honey a boring life. Barry sure looked like a drone but, in fact, must have been a female and certainly did not understand that as a drone, he would have had an entirely different future "job" in the bee colony.

Beekeepers are well aware drones don't pollinate flowers or gather honey. They likewise do not perform typical worker bee behaviors such as foraging, nursing, honey ripening or hive construction. Like workers, drones pass through complete metamorphosis but need an average of 24 days to complete development, compared to 21 days average for workers, which reproducing Varroa mites take advantage of. Did you sacrifice capped drones as a non-chemical alternative to Varroa control this past spring?

Drones are seasonally raised only during spring and summer. Plentiful resources and abundant worker populations (at least 4,000 in one study by Cornell Ph.D. student Michael Smith) are a prerequisite for workers to begin building the larger drone-sized hexagonal cells. Colonies begin drone rearing three to four weeks before initiating queen cells in swarming behavior.

In feral colonies or those where comb building is not subject to a foundation, more than 20,000 drones may be produced during a season (the exact estimate from one study by Rob Page was 22,560). In managed colonies, drones may number from a few hundred to a few thousand. Small colonies under poor environmental conditions may not rear any drones during a season. Queenless colonies or those that recently had a queen event may still contain drones into autumn. Drones are only rarely found in a winter colony.

The critical function of drones is to supply sperm to newly reared (virgin) queens, once they leave colonies on their mating flights. A dozen up to as many as 50+ might complete this task. A good resource summarizing drone and queen mating biology is the book *Mating Biology in Honey Bees* by Koeniger and Koeniger.

It stands to reason for drones to perform this vital function they must be healthy. Our understanding of the key factors affecting drone health is not great. Juliana Rangel, with recent Texas A&M Ph.D. Adrian Fisher II, recently summarized a number of environmental and biotic factors that can affect drone reproductive health (*Factors affecting the reproductive health of honey bee (Apis mellifera) drones—a review. Apidologie* (2019). DOI: 10.1007/s13592-019-00684-x).

Not surprising, drone health is influenced by a multitude of factors. Age, the temperature during development and when adults emerge, seasonal variations, genetics (and influences of the degree of relatedness of sister populations within their colony), pesticides (external to the hive and beekeeper applied) and other environmental contaminants may singly or act in combination. Healthfulness of drones is measured by the quality and quantity of drones' sperm and their mating fitness within the Drone Congregation Area (DCA).

The fall months are hazardous for a drone when mating is no longer a colony priority. Most drones don't die mating with a virgin queen; in the fall, when resources diminish, day length shortens before temperatures drop, drones become just another mouth to feed. Care-giving worker bees stop feeding and attending drones. Most colonies actively physically remove drones from the hive and keep them from reentering.

By now, time's up! Fall is the normal time for drones to "disappear." One of my favorite (highly anthropomorphized) accounts of fall colony drone exclusion is that of Nobel Literature laureate Maurice Maeterlinck in *The Lives of Bees* (1901). Below is an excerpt from chapter three, Massacre of the Males.

> IF SKIES REMAIN CLEAR, the air warm, and pollen and nectar abound in the flowers, the workers, through a kind of forgetful indulgence, or over-scrupulous prudence perhaps, will for a short time longer endure the importunate, disastrous presence of the males. These comport themselves in the hive …Indelicate and wasteful, sleek and corpulent, fully content with their idle existence as honorary lovers, they feast and carouse, throng the alleys, obstruct the passages, and hinder the work; jostling and jostled, fatuously pompous, swelled with foolish, good-natured contempt; harboring never a suspicion of the deep and calculating scorn wherewith the workers regard them, of the constantly growing hatred to which they give rise, or of the destiny that awaits them……But the patience of the bees is not equal to that of men. One morning the long-expected word of command goes through the hive and the peaceful workers turn into judges and executioners. Whence this word issues, we know not; it would seem to emanate suddenly from the cold, deliberate indignation of the workers; and no sooner has it been uttered than every heart throbs with it, inspired with the genius of the unanimous republic. …The great idle drones, asleep in unconscious groups on the melliferous walls, are rudely torn from their slumbers by an army of wrathful virgins… Before the bewildered parasites are able to realize that the happy laws of the city have crumbled, dragging down in most inconceivable fashion their own plentiful destiny, each one is assailed by three or four envoys of justice……No defense is attempted by the enormous, but unarmed, creatures; they try to escape, or oppose their mere bulk to the blows that rain down upon them. …Some succumb to their wounds, and are at once borne away to distant cemeteries by two or three of their executioners. Others, whose injuries are less, succeed in sheltering themselves in some corner, where they lie, all huddled together, surrounded by an inexorable guard, until they perish of want. Many will reach the door, and escape into space dragging their adversaries with them; but, toward evening, impelled by hunger and cold, they return in crowds to the entrance of the hive to beg for shelter. But there they encounter another pitiless guard. The next morning, before setting forth on their journey, the workers will clear the threshold, strewn with the corpses of the useless giants; and all recollection of the idle race disappear till the following spring.

HONEY BEE HEALTH: WHAT CAN WE REALLY INFLUENCE

by: Peter Berthelsen, Partnership Director,
The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund

As the 2019 season is wrapped up and the honey is extracted and hives are prepared for winter, this is a great time to start planning for the 2020 season and the health of your beehives. During this time, beekeepers often are forced to face the realities of an unsustainable future of 35% to 45% annual hive losses and all the factors that contribute to those losses. The factors impacting annual hive losses seem to come at beekeepers from every direction and without an end in sight. Let's take this time in the beekeeper's year to consider how best to address those factors.

The primary challenges to honey bee health can typically be broken down into five broad categories: 1) Weather, 2) Parasites/Varroa, 3) Diseases, 4) Pesticides and 5) Forage. While there are many factors that affect honey bee and hive health, these five represent the main challenges that beekeepers are forced to deal with as they plan for a successful 2020. Let's take a quick look at these five issues and think about what our ability is to influence how they impact honey bee health. As we consider each factor, we'll score our ability as beekeepers to influence how each factor affects honey bee health (0 = No Influence to 5 = Great Influence):

Weather: This is a factor that has a great influence on honey production and hive health, but we obviously don't have the ability to control when it rains, what the temperature is or how long the winters are. This is simply a factor we have no control over and are forced to deal with what Mother Nature delivers each season.

Ability to Influence Score = 0

Parasites/Varroa: Obviously, this is a hugely important factor and one that the industry and researchers have been working on for decades. While we've made great strides in our understanding of Varroa and how it works, the ability to truly control one parasitic insect living on another insect seems to be an elusive, complicated and challenging task. Our efforts continue, but a final solution remains ever elusive.

Ability to Influence Score = 2.0

Diseases: Like the summary for Varroa, we've come great strides in our understanding and the tools we have to control honey bee diseases, yet this remains a burden on honey bee health that continues year after year and without an end in sight.

Ability to Influence Score = 2.5

Pesticides: As innovations in agricultural technology continue to advance, the application of pesticides and fungicides has become more precise. We're moving towards a system that will eventually apply ag chemicals at specific rates on individual plants in the future. That's an improvement for the health of all pollinators, but we still have significant issues where pesticides and their application can and do impact the health of honey bees and/or whole hives.

Ability to Influence Score = 3.0

Forage: Research has documented that when honey bees have access to highly nutritious forage, they are more equipped to withstand the negative impacts of weather, parasites, disease and pesticides. The overall hive health that goes hand-in-hand with great forage demonstrates a great resilience to the other factors influencing hive health. Unfortunately, access to highly nutritious forage seems to be harder and harder to come by each year. More and more hives travel to the northern Great Plains each year in an attempt to access their forage during the critical summer months.

Ability to Influence Score = 4.8

The purpose of this exercise was to review the broad factors that impact honey bee health and consider which of the factors listed beekeepers have the best ability to influence. Without question, it remains accessible to high quality and nutritious forage.

The "Ability to Influence Score" for forage is so high because beekeepers have more ability to impact the type of forage available for their bees than you probably realize. Here are a few options to consider using to make sure your bees have access to high-quality forage in 2020:

1. **Just Ask:** If you keep your bees on another landowner's property throughout the year, you shouldn't be surprised to know that those landowners really care about your bees. They often want to know how they are doing and are willing to help provide healthy forage for them if they just know how, high-quality and where to provide it. As a beekeeper, it may be as simple as having a conversation with them about your bees and asking if they are willing to help provide forage on a few acres. Just ask. You may be pleasantly surprised by the answer you get.

2. **Provide the Best Forage Possible:** Where honey bee forage is concerned, not all habitat is created equal. When you get an acre of honey bee forage, we need to make sure it's the best acre of forage it can be. The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund (BBHF) has designed forage mixes that will support 2.5 hives/acre for a full year. These are mixtures that are cost-effective, establish quickly and perform well. If you are located in a 12-state region of the Midwest and Great Plains, you may be able to obtain FREE pollinator seed mixes from the group. Learn more about the BBHF pollinator programs and forage efforts at *www.beeandbutterflyfund.org*.

3. **Plant Your Own Honey Bee Forage:** If you own or have access to land, you can convert areas that are currently grass to healthy bee forage. Think of a large area that you routinely mow and you would rather have it converted to honey bee forage. That can happen! Across the country, more and more people are converting mowed areas to bee forage. When considering a project like this, it is critically important to get the correct guidance on how to fully prepare the site so your honey bee forage planting will be a success.

4. **Make Sure New Solar Projects Benefit Pollinators:** By 2030, there will be an estimated 3+ million acres of ground-mounted solar sites in the country. That represents a phenomenal opportunity to provide key pollinator habitat (honey bee forage) associated with those acres. Instead of a new solar array being established with turfgrasses under the solar panels, think about a planting that provides honey bee forage and reduces the solar corporations' costs to routinely mow the site! When a solar site is being proposed in your area, get involved in the discussion early to push for the project to also benefit pollinators. The BBHF can help with those discussions and may be able to provide the seed mixture for the project as well.

As winter begins to settle in and you plan for 2020, now is the time to think about how you can plan and work to get more forage onto the landscape that your bees will benefit from. It's the one factor that we have the best opportunity to influence and may also be the one factor that impacts your honey bee and hive health the most.

QUEEN Committee Report

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

It's the time of year when I provide the ABF membership an update on the American Honey Queen and Princess's goals and results to date. I'm pleased to report on Hannah and Nicole's performance in their personalized goal areas this year.

Both have worked hard in media interviews, social media outlets, with groups of students, in fair booths and many other outlets. As of September 30, they have visited a collective 24 states, 15 on multiple occasions, with many more stops planned through January!

Below is the progress report on Hannah and Nicole's performances to date based on the goals they developed during our training session in January.

Hannah's Goals & Results to Date

1. **GIVE 25 PRESENTATIONS IN 4-H, FFA AND AGRICULTURE-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.**
   As of September 22, Hannah has had several opportunities to reach these types of groups. She's given 14 such presentations and is well on track to meet her goal before the end of the year. Hannah's family began their beekeeping business based on her father's 4-H project many years ago. It's amazing how such a project can spark a thriving business!
2. **CREATE THREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES RELATED TO MEDICINAL USES OF HONEY.**
   Hannah is a third of the way toward the completion of this goal area. As a nursing student, medicinal uses of honey are a source of fascination for our American Honey Queen. She composed an article in June for the www.buzzingarossamerica.com blog, which is geared toward younger honey consumers. Her article focused on using honey for wound care and cough care. Watch for an upcoming YouTube video on this topic from Hannah and another educational resource.

Nicole's Goals & Results to Date

1. **GIVE 25 PRESENTATIONS IN SPANISH.**
   Nicole is fluent in Spanish, which has opened up another avenue of promotions for the American Honey Queen Program. To date, she has used this skill in 23 presentations, including YouTube videos and teaching students beekeeping words in Spanish. Check out her video on the American Honey Queen Program's YouTube channel! Nicole is easily on track to exceed this goal by yearend.
2. **PARTICIPATE IN 30 MEDIA INTERVIEWS.**
   Nicole has exceeded this goal already as of September 22, with 37 media interviews under her belt. She's had multiple newspaper, radio and television interviews and has participated in interviews on Facebook and in podcasts as well! These interviews equate to tens of thousands of dollars in media publicity for the ABF.

This year, Hannah and Nicole set a joint goal to reach one million people through product demonstrations. This includes presentations demonstrating the use of honey through cooking, medicinal and cosmetic purposes, bee beard demonstrations, open hive demonstrations, demonstrations using beeswax and other demonstrations using the many versatile products of the hive. To date, the queens have reached an estimated 1.5 million people through these demonstrations, some of which occurred on media outlets and social media outlets. Please help them exceed this goal further when they visit your state!

The queens met and exceed their goals due to the endless support of the ABF and those who schedule promotions. I encourage you to talk to the queens about their experiences, how they developed their goals and what their goals' statuses are when they are in your state!

We are excited to greet our 2020 American Honey Queen and Princess applicants in Illinois in January! Turn to page 33 to learn more about our applicants this year. To schedule additional promotions for Hannah and Nicole during 2019 or one of our 2020 representatives next year, contact me at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or 414-545-5514.

2020 AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN
CANDIDATES:

2019 PENNSYLVANIA HONEY QUEEN
KAITLYN STAUFFER

Kaitlyn "Kati" Stauffer, 20, is the daughter of Jerry and Melissa Stauffer of Elizabethville, Pennsylvania. She is a junior at Juniata College studying Early Childhood and Special Education. Kati has a strong agricultural background, having served as vice president of her local FFA chapter, Gratz Fair Queen, Dauphin County Miss Agriculture USA and Miss United States Agriculture State Alternate. Kati is an active member of Juniata Instructors of the Future, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and her college's archaeology club. In her free time, Kati enjoys hunting, hiking and reading as well as volunteering with various nonprofit organizations, such as Camp Kydnie and Habitat for Humanity.

2019 TEXAS HONEY QUEEN
MARY REISINGER

Mary Reisinger, 19, is the daughter of Peter and Stephanie Reisinger of Parker, Texas. She is a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, studying speech-language pathology. Since she was given her first hive in eighth grade, she has been performing backyard experiments with her bees and likes to keep up with current research. In her spare time, Mary enjoys reading, hiking, camping and volunteering with her church.

2019 WISCONSIN HONEY QUEEN
SYDNIE PAULSRUD

Sydnie Paulsrud, 19, is the daughter of Jack Paulsrud of Augusta, Wisconsin, and Thea Weinberger of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Before serving as the Wisconsin Honey Queen, she completed one semester at Chippewa Valley Technical College, studying Childcare Services. Sydnie works at DHL-Fleet Farm Distribution Center in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. She enjoys spending time with her family, exploring and adventuring and playing board games.

AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN REPORT

Hannah Sjostrom

June through September was the busiest time of the year for promotions! Rounding out June, I presented to the Pierce County board meeting (my home county) on June 25. The board issued a proclamation honoring my work as American Honey Queen. What an honor!

My first July trip took me to Door County in eastern Wisconsin for a variety of promotions arranged by the State Department of Natural Resources. I presented to the Door County Beekeepers Club as well as the Northern Sky Theatre, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Nature Center and Egg Harbor Library on beekeeping, honey's antibacterial properties and ways to use honey. Additionally, I greeted attendees and answered many industry questions at the Peninsula State Park Golf Course and Lautenbac's Orchard. On July 13, I reunited with the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association for the annual summer meeting, updating the 80 attendees on my year's work.

I then headed to Arizona for a jam-packed week of adventures with Arizona (AZ) Queen Bee, Audra Waddle! Upon arrival, I jumped right in to help Audra pull honey from her hives. Being used to Wisconsin weather, it was quite a shock to pull honey in 116°F heat! AZ Queen Bee has honey for sale at the local Sprouts grocery store. Audra and I spoke to 35 Sprouts corporate officers on why they should support a local beekeeper and how that local beekeeper can affect the lives of everyone. Not only did we talk about the importance of honey bee pollination, but also the importance of Africanized honey bees and their positive characteristics. Audra has bees within the Fountain Hills Community Garden, and we presented to garden members on various ways to use honey through a cooking demonstration.

My main promotion in Arizona was the Maricopa County Home and Landscape Show, where approximately 23,000 attendees visited over three days. I presented daily on various ways to cook with honey and provided a general overview of the honey industry. I also sold honey, talked about an observation hive and interacted with attendees in the AZ Queen Bee exhibit. I had a three-minute live TV interview with KSAZ, with an estimated publicity value of $4,000 for the industry, highlighting where consumers could buy local honey and the importance of supporting local beekeepers. A huge thank you goes to Audra Waddle for hosting me and arranging the many promotions!

The University of Minnesota held a fabulous Pollinator Party on July 25. More than 1,000 people joined us to celebrate Minnesota pollinators. This event had live hive demonstrations, local beekeeping club exhibits, local native flowers for sale and more to promote pollinators. I hosted a game quiz to expand people's knowledge of the beekeeping industry. If the children answered the questions correctly, they received a stamp for a free ice cream cone. Thank you to Gary Reuter for arranging my visit.

I made two trips to New Jersey to promote with the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association. July 27-31 took me to the Warren County Farmers Fair with an attendance of 15,000. My second trip was August 22-24 for the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair with an attendance of 25,000. At both fairs, I sold honey, promoted education through the observation hive, gave live hive demonstrations and assisted with honey show judging. Thank you to my hosts, Rick and Idria Knecht and Jim and Jackie McCaulley, for hosting me during my trips to New Jersey!

August 1-8 sent me to the Clark County Fair in Ridgefield, Washington. With 130,000 people in attendance, this fair was buzzing with activity. To start my visit, I had two live television interviews. On KATU, I gave a six-minute live cooking demonstration and highlighted various ways to use honey. The other three-minute television segment was on KOIN, promoting what fairgoers would learn about the honey industry. KPAM 860 radio gave me a one-minute live segment to promote the beekeeping exhibit. These three interviews were valued at over $10,900 of media publicity!

I spent most of my time working in the Clark County Beekeepers' Bee Barn. Whether it was talking about the observation hive or quizzing people about the industry, there was constant learning happening! I also got to help judge the fair's honey show. One entry was an educational

Queen Hannah presents to Ohio elementary students about how honey bees benefit the food supply.

Queen Hannah conducts an open hive demonstration at the Warren County Fair in New Jersey.

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 Nicole or me to your event, please contact Anna Kettlewell at (414) 545-5514 or *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com*. Have a sweet day!

piece featuring honey varieties of the Northwest, giving me the thrill of tasting meadowfoam honey—an extremely unique honey that tastes like marshmallows! My judging at the fair didn't stop with honey either. I also judged the goat cheese contest and the pretty baby competition. To end each night, I introduced myself from the grandstand before the nightly concert headliners performed. My favorite part was participating in meet-and-greets with the stars (especially Randy Houser, who gave me two of his guitar picks). I send huge thanks to John and Mary Ann Morrison for hosting me and providing many unique opportunities!

I embraced home and the Wisconsin State Fair on August 9-10. With Wisconsin Honey Queen Sydnie Paulsrud, I sweetened up the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association booth, selling honey, talking about honey varieties, answering questions at the observation hive and giving two-hour cooking demonstrations together. I capped off the promotion with a four-minute live radio segment on WTMJ, Wisconsin's biggest radio station, talking about all things honey bees! Thank you to the Kettlewell family for hosting me and arranging my promotions.

I made a quick drive to Des Moines for the Iowa State Fair, held August 12-13. My short visit was packed with promotions! I had help during my presentations from county honey queens and Iowa Honey Queen Brooklyn Pardall. I worked many hours at the Iowa Honey Producers exhibit. WHO 1040 radio honored us with two live radio interviews, during which I stressed the importance of honey bees and promoted the beekeeping exhibit. I had 11 minutes of airtime, giving our industry a huge presence at the fair. Thank you to Belle Hemesath (2015 American Honey Queen), Heidi Love and Rhonda Heston for hosting me and arranging the details of my trip!

The Kentucky State Fair was my next stop. I joined the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, working and selling honey at the Kentucky Certified Honey booth. Kentucky Certified Honey is a recently designed program geared toward guaranteeing honey sold under a Kentucky label comes from Kentucky. To enter this program, one must be inspected and be verified by another beekeeper. Kentucky beekeepers hope to expand the program to allow for random pollen tests to ensure honey is from the area. Besides selling honey, I participated in three agriculture stage presentations, where I was interviewed by fairgoers about honey-related topics, and a state fair isn't complete without a media interview! I had a 30-second interview on Louisville's WDRB to direct people to the fair's two honey booths. Thank you to Tammy Horn Potter for arranging my promotion and to the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association for inviting me.

The honey industry was well represented at the "Great Minnesota Get-Together," also known as the Minnesota State Fair. I spent August 25 through September 2 with the Minnesota Honey Producers Association and the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association at the honey exhibit in the agricultural building. I demonstrated honey recipes twice each day and interacted with the 1.2 million attendees.

Queen Hannah demonstrates many honey recipes during the Minnesota State Fair.

The fair afforded three television interviews. The first was two minutes with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, discussing wildlife outdoors, what more the department can do to promote actives outside and how the honey industry ties into outdoor wildlife. The second was a four-minute live segment on WCCO about the state fair exhibit, why the industry is important and the various types of honey. The last television segment was on Kare 11, and I directed people to the honey booth to learn more about our industry. These three TV interviews were valued at over $7,800 of media publicity.

The sweetest part is that the media opportunities didn't stop there! I also had two live radio interviews on 102.9 the WOLF and Garage Logic. Both interviews covered the importance of the honey industry, my role as American Honey Queen and promotion of the American Beekeeping Federation. Thank you to Emily Campbell (2013 American Honey Princess) for hosting me and arranging my promotions during the fair and to the Minnesota Honey Producers Association and the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association for inviting me to promote with them!

I kicked off National Honey Month with a trip to Ohio for the Lithopolis Honeyfest—a festival completely dedicated to the honey bee! More than 15,000 people and 80 vendors participated in the festival, including 10 honey vendors. My responsibilities included hosting a honey bee fact game, giving live hive demonstrations, judging the honey baking contest, selling honey, extracting honey and more. My favorite event was demonstrating my second bee beard!

Before the festival, I promoted it throughout the community. My promotions included a 12-minute radio interview on WLOH and a presentation to a local garden club about the various uses of honey, emphasizing honey's antibacterial properties and uses throughout history. I spent time with a local 4-H group, telling the members how 4-H inspired my family's beginning with beekeeping. I also gave two presentations to students at a local elementary school which included participating in a hive inspection of the school's two beehives. The students asked if I would show them how to do a mite count. Together, we completed a mite check on their hives, and I showed them the honey in the hives.

The last promotion in Ohio was a series of TV interviews on Fox 28 of Columbus for 12 minutes of airtime. I talked about honey bees and the Lithopolis Honeyfest, concluding with putting bee beards on the reporter as well as the mayor of Lithopolis. These promotions garnered great attention for the festival and the industry. Thank you to Anne Blackwell for hosting me and to Barry and Carmen Conrad for arranging all these wonderful promotions during my stay!

While writing this column, I am promoting in California at the Palo Cedro Honeybee Festival. To promote the festival, I have given seven school presentations to nearly 450 students. The rest of the week will be filled with radio interviews and the festival's grand finale. Over the next few months, I look forward to events in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, Texas, Georgia, Wisconsin, South Dakota and more. I will update you all on the rest of my trips during the ABF Conference & Tradeshow and through the American Honey Queen Program's Facebook page.

As my year is coming to an end, I extend my deepest gratitude to the American Beekeeping Federation for the amazing opportunity to serve as American Honey Queen. It is such an honor to represent you and an industry that is so near and dear to my heart. Without you, this year would not have been possible. I thank each and every one of you for your contribution to this industry and this program. Whether your contribution was financial, physical or spiritual, the American Honey Queen Program and I thank you deeply. I absolutely love sharing information relating to honey, the beekeeping industry and the ABF.

If you have an event or promotion coming up in your area, please contact Anna Kettlewell at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or 414-545-5514 to arrange for Princess Nicole or me to attend.

AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS REPORT

Nicole Medina

They say time flies when you are having fun, and that statement could not be any truer about this past year. It has been an extraordinary experience with each new event. All the people you meet, all the things you see—it is impossible to measure what it is like to be a part of the American Honey Queen Program.

I rounded out June with promotions in New Jersey. On my birthday, June 22, I gave a presentation in one of my favorite places, a library! Marsha Roemer of the Sussex County Beekeepers Association arranged for a honey bee display at the library that complimented my presentation, which included a cooking demonstration for library patrons. As I finished the presentation, Marsha surprised me with cupcakes! Thank you to Marsha, who made my birthday a perfect celebration.

On June 29, I appeared at the Chatham Farmers Market in New Jersey. Before the market started, I visited the community bee yard with local beekeepers, and the mayor joined us as we opened the hives. We showed him the queen bee and taught him about the hive. Later that day, I ventured to the Hilton Hotel of Short Hills. The hotel chefs had just started beekeeping and were eager to show me their property hive. I conducted a live hive demonstration for the staff, and everyone was intrigued.

On July 11, I hopped on a plane to Fargo, North Dakota, for a joint meeting of the Minnesota Honey Producers Association and North Dakota Beekeepers Association. This weekend-long event kicked off a long stretch of promotions in the best way possible. I met many new people and saw a few familiar faces. I helped with the organizations' fundraising efforts and presented on my many months of promotions. I thank all attendees for making me feel welcome, with special thanks to Greg Renstrom and Liz Schroeder, who hosted me and made my stay warm and welcome.

I then headed to South Carolina for the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) annual conference. I kicked off my time at EAS, working alongside Cathy Vorisek at the Kids and Bees program she ran. Cathy is a dynamic presenter, making sure the kids and volunteers had a blast. We read a couple of books, had bee gear for the children to try and even did the waggle dance! I also participated in judging the black jar portion of the honey show. I saw the Welsh honey judges at work, and it was an incredible learning experience.

Princess Nicole judges the black jar portion of the Eastern Apicultural Society's Honey Show in South Carolina.

Additionally, I participated in EAS's first-ever Bee Olympics. Teams of three were given tasks, like finding the queen bee, guessing the weight of the boxes and assembling a frame using a hive tool. Although my team lost, it was still a great and entertaining activity for everyone. On the last day of EAS, I spoke to the general assembly about my year as Honey Princess. A big thank you to Buddy May, Dewey Caron and Lou Naylor for arranging my schedule during EAS.

On July 20, I drove to Delaware with State Apiarist Meghan McConnell for the Delaware State Fair. At the Department of Agriculture building, the Delaware Beekeepers Association had an exhibit with an observation hive and a lot of literature. A stage and kitchen were also in this building, and I gave two cooking demonstrations. When I wasn't on stage, I was working alongside the Delaware beekeepers, giving kids honey sticks whenever they found the queen bee in the observation hive. I had the honor of spending a day with Delaware's governor and lieutenant governor during the fair, walking the grounds, discussing the beekeeping industry and showing them the observation hives. I also attended the New Castle County Beekeepers meeting, where I discussed the American Honey Queen Program and assisted with the honey extraction demonstrations. Thank you to Meghan for arranging my visit and hosting me.

Next, I promoted in Ohio from July 26 to August 1. On my first day, I promoted at the Clintonville Farmers Market, where I rang the bell to open the market! Carmen and Barry Conrad set up an observation hive and some honey to sample with the marketgoers. It was a wonderful morning, and everyone who stopped by was so excited to see the bees. The next day, I attended the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association summer picnic, which was a great opportunity to speak with members about the ABF.

Princess Nicole and Delaware State Apiarist Meghan McConnell uncapped honey during a local beekeeping meeting.

My main event was the Ohio State Fair, promoting the Honey Bee Pavilion. It was a tent that had all sorts of beekeeping equipment, tools, exhibits, various vendors and beekeeping clubs. Ohio State Beekeepers Association member Zale Maxwell hosted walks in the bee yard. He explained how the items worked and introduced vendors to promote their products. We did the first few together until I was comfortable enough to manage the walks on my own.

I also had the opportunity to help with bee beard demonstrations. I put one on Barry Conrad and

then did my own beard! The fair's beard contest found out about our bee beards and awarded us with the "best fake facial hair" award! You can watch my bee beard through the American Honey Queen Program Facebook page. Thank you to Nina Bagley for filming the amazing video! Special thanks to Zale for arranging for me to see comedian Gabriel Iglesias at the fair and to Carmen and Barry for hosting me and arranging my award-winning bee beard and first-ever helicopter ride. Thank you to the Ohio State Beekeepers Association for all the fascinating tips, tricks and pieces of advice. It was a pleasure to work with you all!

Children enjoyed playing on a honey bee hopscotch course created by Princess Nicole at the Honeybee Pavilion of the Ohio State Fair.

I spent the first week of August at the New Jersey State Fair. For years, my family would host either the American Honey Queen or Princess for the fair, so it was surreal to return as the American Honey Princess. During the fair, I helped with live hive demonstrations. The media always cover these demonstrations, and this year was no different. I interviewed with News 12 New Jersey, WNNJ radio and The New Jersey Herald. When I was not being interviewed or in the demonstration hive, I manned the observation hive, gave cooking demonstrations and participated in contests like the skillet tossing contest. Thank you to the Sussex County Beekeepers Association for the constant support! It was a pleasure to work with you again.

Next came the Indiana State Fair. The Beekeepers of Indiana have two booths at the fair—one in the Purdue Ag and Hort Building and one in the Pioneer Village. The sales booth in the Ag and Hort Building had honey from beekeepers throughout the state. We provided fairgoers with samples of the honey before making a purchase. In addition to the honey, this building had an observation hive and honey lemonade and a freezer full of honey ice cream for sale. Daily, we hosted a quiz show for children and gave a beekeeping presentation. In the Pioneer Village, the beekeepers and I demonstrated dipping and decorating beeswax candles. We sold candles, lotion bars, lip balms, soaps and honey in this building. I had many opportunities to speak and present during this fair, and I teamed up with Indiana Honey Queen Sophie Cannon for some of the presentations. Thank you to The Beekeepers of Indiana for an amazing week and to Lacy and Kristy Dooley for hosting me.

August 16-18 brought me to Florida for the Queen of America Beekeeping Club's National Honeybee Awareness Day celebration. Immediately upon arrival, I had a television interview with WCJB TV in Gainesville at the University of Florida Bee Lab. Before the interview, I toured this beautiful facility. Thank you to the bee lab for allowing us to host the interview there and for giving a great tour. August 17 was National Honeybee Awareness Day, and Queen of America's event offered honey and beeswax sales. Despite a rainy day, we received publicity from an interview with the St. Augustine Record. The reporter spent an hour with me (far more than the originally planned 20 minutes). The beautiful article highlighted the beekeeping industry and the status of honey bees. Thank you to Joaquin Mantovani and Shannan Sweeney for arranging my promotions!

I went to Nebraska next to work alongside the Nebraska Beekeepers Association at the Nebraska State Fair. This was one of the most well-stocked booths I have ever worked. We sold a variety of products, including Queen Bee caramels, honey, pollen and honey ice cream. The University of Nebraska provided four observation hives that had all three of the bees marked rather than just the queen. Every day, Brian Nilson and I gave a live honey extraction demo. He uncapped and spun the frames while I narrated. This demo was even filmed and broadcasted on KSNB television that evening, increasing the value of this presentation by approximately $7,000! I also had a radio interview, where I promoted the honey exhibit.

The fair has a kitchen with a gorgeous setup of stainless steel counters and cameras to display whatever one demonstrates. I had the opportunity to demonstrate honey recipes three times. I was also featured on Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts's Facebook page, which is shared on the American Honey Queen Program's Facebook page! One day, I traveled to Loup City to visit Cook and Beals to help celebrate the company's 60th anniversary. It was amazing to see how they made every part of their extractors by hand. My visit and their anniversary were featured in the local paper! Thank you to Brian Nilson for all his work at the fair and for setting up an amazing schedule. Thank you to the Kuehl family for inviting me to Cook and Beals and to the many members of the Nebraska Beekeepers Association for making my trip unforgettable.

I spent Labor Day weekend with Lloyd, Ruth Ann and Laura Snyder and members of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association, promoting at the Maryland State Fair. We provided some of the nearly 100,000 weekend fairgoers samples of six honey varietals that were for sale. It was a short yet very sweet stay, and I send a huge thank you to the Snyders for being wonderful hosts and to the Maryland beekeepers for being a fabulous group.

My next promotion was the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona, California, held September 3-9. This fair was huge, and the misters and air conditioning in the beekeepers' building made us more popular than we already were! In the middle of the building was a four-frame observation hive. Fairgoers who found the queen were given a sticker that proudly said, "I found the queen bee at the LA County Fair." A lot of school groups passed through in the morning on field trips to the fair. Many of the kids were quick to spot our queen and were very excited to show her off to parents and chaperones. There were seven varieties of honey for sale, including avocado, orange blossom, wildflower and a wide range of honey sticks. I also attended the Orange County Beekeepers Association meeting, speaking about the ABF and participating in the extraction night led by local bee suppliers. I had many memorable opportunities during this fair, and I thank my hosts Melody Wallace and Mark Haag for all the tours and experiences!

I am presently in Iowa, promoting with Bill and Louise Johnson. We covered quite a bit of northeastern Iowa in a week. I gave my first school presentations of the new school year for middle and elementary school students. We had the groups outdoors, showing the students the observation hive before starting the presentation. We promoted and sold products at the Decorah, Dubuque and Dyersville Farmers Markets. I interviewed with a local paper during one of these markets, and I was featured in other publications before my visit!

I also spent an afternoon at Savour the Barn in Monticello providing samples of all nineteen flavors of creamed honey that Johnson Honey Farm makes. My main event was the Plagman Barn Days for three days, speaking to children and adults with an observation hive. I send special thanks to Bill and Louise for a wonderful week in Iowa. Congratulations on 40 years of marriage and many more to come!

The year is not over quite yet, as I have trips scheduled in Maryland, New Mexico, Montana and Pennsylvania. It will be bittersweet to end the year, but I am incredibly thankful to everyone who touched my life in the past year. Each and every person I came in contact with changed my life in one way or another. I always dreamed of being an American Honey Queen or Princess, but never did I believe I would be. Thank you to everyone who supported me every step of the way.

It has been the biggest honor to be your 2019 American Honey Princess. May you and your bees be blessed in the next year to come. See you soon at the 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow!

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