AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

QUARTERLY

VOL. 78, NO. 1, 2020

THE POWER OF A BEE YARD

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Call to Action: Low Honey Prices

Taming of the Beekeeper

Commercial Beekeeper Spotlight: Jay Miller, 2J Farms

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AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION
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If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, be sure and contact the ABF at info@abfnet.org or (720) 616-4145 to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information. If you wish to contribute content to the newsletter, contact Tim Tucker, *ABF E-Buzz* editor, at tuckerb@hit.net.

ABF e-buzz

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There's Work to Be Done

JOAN GUNTER, ABF PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the ABF membership for a fantastic convention in Schaumburg, Illinois. It was a well-attended event with ABF members, want-to-be-members, speakers, exhibitors, Honey Queens (past and present), scholars and kids interested in bees. The addition of the Healthy Hives Symposium was a complete success. Thanks to the Project Apis m. team for an excellent program.

The "Vision of the Future" theme holds many hurdles for our industry. As promised, the ABF will be looking into honey pricing and the reasons for the decline. Working as individual entities will not work. We, as an industry, must work together to create a better pathway to handle this unfortunate event. Creating a group of industry leaders in which all are represented seems to be the best path. The ABF is a part of that. We will do everything we can to forgo this unfortunate turn of events.

Better labeling laws have been on the to-do list for way too long. Our industry must stand up and change these laws to keep U.S. honey at higher standards. We create some of the best honey in the world. Let's do what we can to keep it that way.

In the near future, ABF will be working to get the farm bill implemented which is a major stepping stone for us. Also, we have the new ELAP (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fished Program) rule in hand. See Fran Boyd's Washington Update on page 10 for an overview. ABF will continue working on a better H-2A Temporary Agriculture Employment of Foreign Workers Program as well as pollinator plantings in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), better pesticide controls and indoor storage solutions. These are just a few of the things ABF does for its membership.

Remembering May Berenbaum's keynote presentation, What's New and Old, should remind us that a lot of the old fights still exist. ABF will renew its efforts to fight the old fights with our government agencies. ABF Vice President Dan Winter will continue to report on these issues.

Pollination is an important part of the honey industry. Beekeepers are heading to the almonds with their bees to influence the almond industry's end results. Let's not forget the importance of that. There are times the almond industry needs to be reminded of our importance. It wouldn't hurt to remind your growers of this the next time you see them. Maybe they will think twice about protecting the interests of beekeepers and their bees.

It's no secret that our bee population is in a steady decline. It is harder than ever to keep bees alive and even harder to keep them healthy.

As we continue to fight the fights for the industry, the importance of the American Beekeeping Federation to the beekeeping industry has become increasingly apparent. The legislative actions, our work with Meeting Expectations and consistent communication with industry-related groups keep us all in the loop.

Joan Gunter

> "AS WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE FIGHTS FOR THE INDUSTRY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION TO THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT"

for October, November, December 2019

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DAN WINTER,
ABF VICE PRESIDENT

> “NOTHING MAKES ME FEEL BETTER THAN HELPING LOCAL FARMERS GET THE BEST POSSIBLE CROP”

THE FOREFRONT IS CALLING - WE WILL ANSWER THE CALL

Hello, everyone—I am Dan Winter, your new ABF Vice President. I am a second-generation commercial beekeeper from Wolcott, New York. I graduated from the Natural Resources and Conservation Program at the State University of New York at Morrisville. After college, I went back to the family farm and have been a migratory commercial beekeeper for the past 26 years.

I have always tried to be active in New York State’s beekeeping practices. I am the current president of the Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA). I am also on the New York State Apiary Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC). The AIAC helps the New York State Department of Ag and Markets make decisions on bee-related concerns. I have also been active on the ABF Board of Directors, representing commercial beekeepers, and serving on several committees.

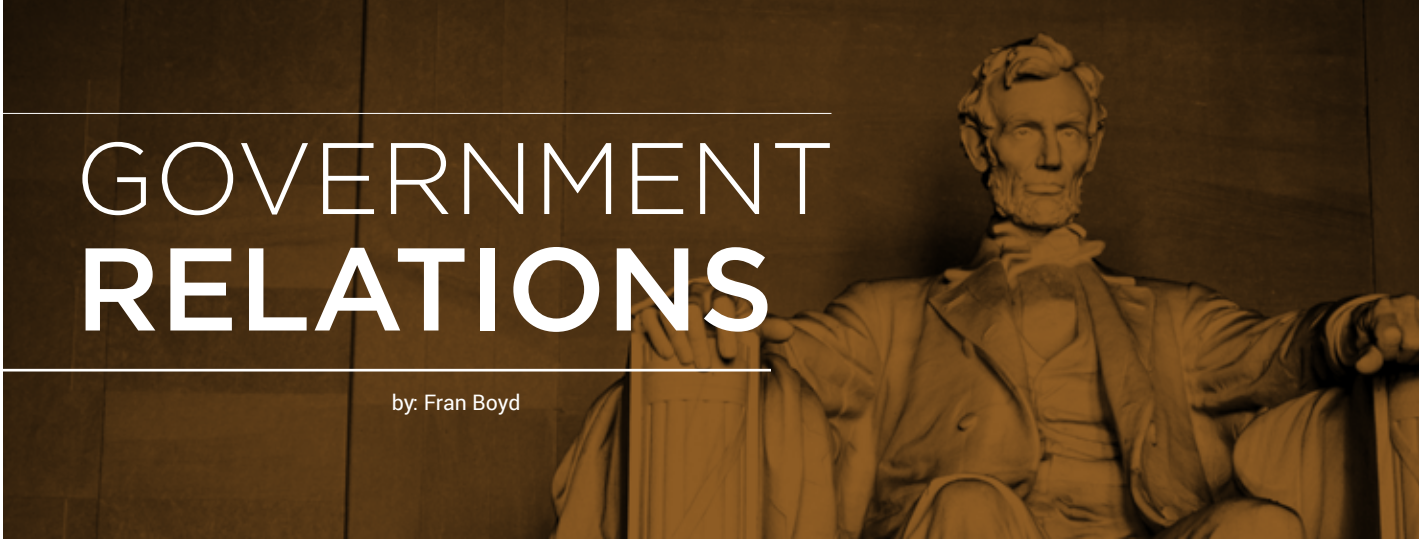
I would like to first congratulate Joan Gunter on being elected as the first woman president of the ABF. I am very fortunate to have her wealth of knowledge and experience as we move forward. Her years on various committees and her beekeeping experience are true benefits to all members of the ABF. I have met very few people who work as hard as Joan. I look forward to working with her in the coming years.

I have always enjoyed beekeeping and mentoring. Over the years, Winter Apiaries LLC has mentored seven New York State inspectors, including both current, active inspectors. I can’t stress enough how beekeeping is a lifestyle and not just a job. It’s very gratifying doing pollination. Nothing makes me feel better than helping local farmers get the best possible crop. Farming is a tough occupation.When the farmers I pollinate for are successful, then my company is successful. The farmer-beekeeper relationship is a win-win.

I am developing more contacts in Washington, D.C., and feel I can help spread a positive message about beekeeping in the United States. On March 2, I was in Albany, New York, at the annual Farm Bureau lobby reception. I was fortunate enough to spend a few minutes with Richard Ball, the Commissioner of Agriculture for New York State. I expressed the ever-growing concern over the low prices of imported “honey.” Mr. Ball agreed that U.S. beekeepers couldn’t compete with the low price and asked that we keep him informed as the ABF moves forward.

I also learned that Cornell University has received $700,000 acquired through the New York budget to renovate its honey bee lab (Dyce Lab). Cornell agreed to match the funds bringing the total for renovations to $1.4 million. Beekeepers are very excited because Cornell’s bee research has improved dramatically in the past few years under Dr. Scott McArt. You can follow Cornell on Facebook (Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies) or on the web at *www.cals.cornell.edu*.

I truly look forward to representing ABF on some very important issues in the upcoming years. Thank you for the opportunity to help move ABF forward.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

by: Fran Boyd

USDA Announces Final ELAP Rule

The last week of February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) released the much-anticipated final rule updating and amending the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) (85 F.R. § 10959 2020). The ELAP program, administered by the Farm Services Agency, provides financial assistance to eligible beekeepers for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions including blizzards and wildfires.

The final rule published by the agency announced changes to the program required by the 2018 farm bill as well as changes made to the program by the agency. These changes to the program were said to be necessary to improve the administration of the program and clarify existing ELAP program requirements.

The 2018 farm bill amended several ELAP provisions which were reflected in the recent rule. These changes were effective with the 2019 program year. The changes in the farm bill that pertain to beekeepers were:

- Removal of the ELAP program from the $125,000 payment limitation; and
- Reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning or veteran beekeepers.

The final ELAP rule also made changes to the program beginning in the 2020 program year that beekeepers need to make sure they understand when dealing with their local FSA office to make a claim. The ELAP program was previously administered on a fiscal year basis, but now, under the new rule, will be run according to the calendar year. The deadline for calendar year 2020 losses is January 30, 2021.

Beginning this year, honey producers will have 15 days starting once a loss is apparent to file a honey bee notice of loss. Previously, the reporting deadline was 30 days. The new ELAP rule also requires participants in the program who were paid for the loss of a honey bee colony or hive in either of the previous two years to provide USDA with additional documentation to substantiate how current year inventory was acquired.

For reported colony losses due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), beekeepers will need to provide a producer self-certification that the loss was a "direct" result of at least three of the five symptoms of CCD included in the final rule. The symptoms include:

- The loss of live queen and/or drone bee population inside the hive;
- Rapid decline of adult worker bee population outside the hive, leaving brood poorly or completely unattended;
- Absence of dead adult bees inside the hive and outside the entrance of the hive;
- Absence of robbing collapsed colonies; and
- At the time of the collapse, Varroa mite and Nosema populations are not at levels known to cause economic injury or population decline.

ELAP is the federal program available to beekeepers that covers colony losses, the loss of hives (actual structure) and bee feed losses where the colony or bees have been destroyed by a natural disaster or colony loss due to CCD. Under the rule, losses must reach a threshold of 22 percent. Beekeepers who experience losses that meet this threshold in 2020 need to file a notice of loss at their local FSA service centers within 15 days of noticing the loss.

Please make yourself aware of the changes to the ELAP program for calendar year 2020. Keep complete records to document loss and report any claim to your local office within the 15-day period.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

APRIL 7, 2020

Special LIVE Webinar and Q&A with USDA-FSA

New ELAP Rule and What It Means for Beekeepers

Presented by: Amy Mitchell, Special Programs Manager, USDA Farm Service Agency

ASK HOOPIE

Q. ***What causes Colony Collapse Disorder?***

A. In the last 60 years, we have accidentally imported several diseases and parasites from overseas—two fungal parasites, two mite species along with beetles and viruses. Add pesticide poisoning and stress from moving bees across the country for pollination to the equation, and there you have a troubling mix of maladies. In my opinion, CCD is caused by the Varroa mite transmitting several viruses. These viruses are spread throughout the colony and finally reach a critical level that causes the colony to try to purge itself of the problem, and the colony absconds or dissipates, leaving an empty hive. This absconding can occur at any time but usually happens in late fall.

Since we have no easy treatment for virus diseases, the only control is to keep the Varroa mite level as low as possible. This will keep the virus titer low enough to prevent the colony collapse.

The short answer to what "caused" CCD is worldwide commerce that brought these diseases and parasites to the U.S. in the first place.

Q. ***I am re-landscaping my yard. I want to make sure I plant bee-friendly flowers. How do I know which flowers will benefit the bees the most?***

A. Bees and flowering plants have evolved over the last 100 million years with a relationship that plants offer the bees a nectar reward for transmitting their pollen to another plant of the same species. The evolution has been so successful that now about 85 percent of all plants use bees or other insects as a method of reproducing via seeds. However, horticulturists (man) have sometimes selected varieties to be showier, often without regard for the nectar reward that was originally there. A good example is tulips. Here, the breeders can produce more tulips via the bulb-lets that mature bulbs bud off and thus bypass the seed method of reproduction.

Now we come to your garden. For the most part, the decision in a garden is for color or show and not nectar. Maybe, that is as it should be. Plant your tulips (bees sometimes get a little pollen from them) or other colorful flowers. Most flowering plants provide some nectar and pollen, but some garden plants—for example, globe thistles (Echinops sp.)—provide an abundance of nectar. Gardens normally do not have the abundance of flowers that provide an economical nectar trip for the bee. However, you can provide lots of bee-friendly flowers by letting the white clover grow in your lawn (maybe even a few dandelions)!

Q. ***How do I get my bees ready for spring?***

A. The bees are already doing that for you, and the only thing that you need to do is be sure the colony will not run out of food before they can find some spring flowers with nectar and pollen.

About the first of January, the bees detect that the day-length is getting longer. Don't ask me how they can determine that today is a couple of minutes longer than yesterday, but they can! When the bees detect this increase in day length, the colony increases the broodnest temperature to 95 F, and the queen starts to lay eggs. If the outside temperature is very cold, the size of that warm broodnest area may be very small. As the outside temperatures gradually get warmer, the size of the broodnest also increases as the bees can keep a larger area heated to 95 F. The bees know that spring is coming and are preparing for it by rearing more new bees.

As I indicated above, the beekeeper's job is to ensure that the colony does not run out of food. It is not enough to heft the back of a colony and determine that there is enough food. That honey may be at the bottom of the hive, and the bees cannot leave the cluster to get it. The honey must be within the cluster area. If you lift off the cover and inner cover and the bees are at the top of the hive, the bees may be in trouble. If the bees are at the top of the hive in January or February, you should provide honey, a candy board or sugar to allow the bees to feed to maintain the colony. Honey bees will stop rearing brood if the food supply drops to about 15 pounds (3 deep frames). You do not want that to happen even if only for a short while. The colony recognizes that the 15-pound reserve is necessary to keep the colony alive.

A local beekeeper friend put me onto an easy way to feed colonies or nucs. He takes table sugar and wets it with enough water so that it will stick together. Then, putting a shallow beehive rim on the top of the hive, he adds the sugar onto the top bars of the hive. Moisture from the cluster's metabolism helps liquefy the sugar, and the bees do not starve.

Q. ***Do I need to clip and mark my queen bees? And how do I do it?***

A. By marking and clipping a queen, you can keep track of your stock and the age of the queen. If you clip the queen, it will also prevent a swarm from leaving the hive. A marked queen is easier to find and thus, you may be more careful of a frame that she is on and not accidentally kill her during your manipulations.

There is a five-year color code that, if used, will keep track of the age of the queen. Most beekeepers do not mark their queens and thus have no idea of the age of the queen. Since Varroa and CCD, there has been a lot more supersedure of queens. If you do not know the age and source of the queen, it is almost impossible to select for Varroa resistance, for example.

Marking a queen is not hard, and the easiest way to learn is to go out to a colony during the summer and mark a couple dozen drones. I come up behind a queen, or drone, as she is walking on a frame and pick her up by her wings. Then, with my other hand, I hold her between my fingers while I clip and mark her. She is tougher than you might think. You can purchase queen-marking paints from bee supply dealers or use model enamel paint that you can buy from the hobby stores. Practice on drones. I clip the outer third of the queen's wing—the left wing in odd years and right in even—as that way if the paint accidentally comes off, you still have a good idea of the age.

2020 ABF CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW RECAP

The 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow was a smashing success with a record 1,072 participants in attendance from 15 different nations. Held January 8-11, 2020, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, the conference theme, "Vision of the Future," truly came to life. Attendees enjoyed spending time with each other, sharing tips and techniques as well as challenges they incur while beekeeping in their respective areas of the U.S. and the world.

We kicked off this year's event with the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion and a welcome by Corky Schnadt, President of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. General session followed with presentations from industry experts including keynote speaker Dr. Samuel Ramsey from the USDA-ARS Bee Research Lab in Beltsville, Maryland, whose presentation, Tropilaelaps Mites: A Fate Worse Than Varroa, was awarded with the coveted Hoopingarner Award after being voted the best scientific program of the conference. The day concluded with a welcome reception in the tradeshow with entertainment provided by the 2020 American Honey Queen candidates.

Thursday's agenda featured SIG meetings for the Small-Scale/Sideliner, Package Bee & Queen Breeders, Honey Producer-Packer and Commercial groups. Each group offered programs unique to its members, during which ideas were exchanged and new information was presented. The ABF Auxiliary luncheon and meeting featured presentations from the 2020 American Honey Queen candidates, offering fresh ideas around marketing honey and promoting the work of beekeepers across the country. The day concluded with a social night out at the IMPROV for a comedy show by Last Comic Standing's Rocky LaPorte packed full of bee puns that are sure to live on well beyond their prime.

The ever-popular Kids and Bees program was held on Friday morning, coordinated by the Bee Girl, Sarah Red-Laird. Hundreds of Chicagoland children participated in hands-on, interactive activities with devoted ABF volunteers there to assist. Everyone—children, teachers and parents alike—walked away with a greater understanding of the honey bee and its importance to the human experience.

Nearly 100 attendees participated in the luncheon of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees where Jerry Hayes was honored with the prestigious Founder's Award. Jerry is the new editor of *Bee Culture*—a fitting role after having written the "Classroom Q&A" column of the *American Bee Journal* for almost 40 years as well as his book *The Classroom*. He is author or co-author on 23 research papers and a variety of honey bee articles in a variety of publications. Congratulations to Jerry and to our 2020 Foundation Scholars who each received a $3,000 scholarship from the foundation to continue with their course of study:

- Emily Carlson, Oregon State University;
- Pierre Lau, Texas A&M University;
- Sofía Romero, The University of British Columbia; and
- Garett Slater, Purdue University.

During the ABF annual business meeting, Joan Gunter (North Dakota) was confirmed as ABF President for 2020 and Dan Winter (New York) was confirmed as Vice President. Newly elected members of the ABF Board of Directors were also confirmed and can be viewed on the ABF website at www.abfnet.org. Adding to the air of anticipation, American Honey Show Chair Mary Kettlewell announced the results of the 2020 American Honey Show and presented awards. Eager to get their hands on some award-winning honey, conference participants bid and outbid each other during the honey show auction to benefit American Honey Queen Program. Special thanks to Mary and the judges for their time and expertise. For a complete list of winners, please see page 13.

The final day of the conference began with the commercial breakfast and deep dive into issues currently being faced in the industry. More than 200 commercial beekeepers participated in this session to share information and ideas. Saturday also featured an array of interactive workshops, where attendees had the opportunity to learn:

- Practical Beekeeping Advice;
- Solutions to Problems and Challenges;
- Bee Breeding and Trait Selection;
- Maximizing Your Hive Harvest;
- Encaustic Painting;
- Nutrition Management; and
- Much, much more.

The ABF annual banquet closed out the event on a high note. With more than 250 members in attendance, the evening was spent celebrating the ABF. Outgoing president Tim May honored living legend Lee Heine with the President's Award to a standing ovation by those who've been touched by Lee's outstanding work on behalf of the ABF and the beekeeping industry (in other words, everyone). Before the end of the night, 2020 American Honey Queen Mary Reisinger and 2020 American Honey Princess Sydnie Pauslrud took the stage with enthusiastic expectations for the coming year. Many thanks to all!

Be sure to join us for the **2021 ABF Conference & Tradeshow, scheduled for January 6-9, 2021,** at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. We look forward to seeing you there! To reserve 2021 sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, visit: ***www.abfnet.org/2021***

2020 AMERICAN HONEY SHOW - SCHAUMBURG, IL

Congratulations to All Our Winners!

Class A: Water White Honey

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- First Place: Cathy Carter – Moweaqua, Illinois
- Second Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Third Place: Chris Beck – Breckenridge, Michigan

Class B: Extra White Honey

Sponsored by Dutch Gold Honey

- First Place: Karl Geiger – Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
- Second Place: Chris Beck – Breckenridge, Michigan
- Third Place: Charles Lorence – Aurora, Illinois

Class C: White Honey

Sponsored by Barkman Honey

- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Nick Thill – West Bend, Wisconsin
- Third Place: Tony Rekeweg – Decatur, Indiana

Class D: Extra Light Amber Honey

Sponsored by Acorn Bee

- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Chris Beck – Breckenridge, Michigan
- Third Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio

Class E: Light Amber Honey

Sponsored by Ashurst American Honey

- First Place: Tony Rekeweg – Decatur, Indiana
- Second Place: Stephanie Slater – Elkhorn, Wisconsin
- Third Place: Melissa Holuhan – Northville, Michigan

Class F: Amber Honey

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- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Monica Siwiak – Richmond, Texas
- Third Place: Trey Nelson – Lincoln, Nebraska

Class G: Dark Honey

Sponsored by May's Honey Farm / Sunny Hill Honey

- First Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Second Place: Chris Beck – Breckenridge, Michigan
- Third Place: John Piechowski – Redgranite, Wisconsin

Class H: Chunk Honey

Sponsored by Gene Brandi Apiaries

- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Third Place: Charles Lorence – Aurora, Illinois

Class I: Round Comb Sections

Sponsored by Ross Rounds

- First Place: Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, Montana
- Second Place: Judy Schmaltz – Clarkson, Michigan
- Third Place: James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, Illinois

Class J: Comb Section Honey

Sponsored by Tuckerbees Honey

- First Place: James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, Illinois
- Second Place: Jim Rodenberg – Wolf Point, Montana
- Third Place: Lloyd Schmaltz – Clarkson, Michigan

Class K: Cut Comb Honey

Sponsored by Gunter Honey Farm

- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Dan Piechowski – Redgranite, Wisconsin
- Third Place: Charles Lorence – Aurora, Illinois

Class L: Creamed Honey

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- First Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Second Place: John Piechowski – Redgranite, Wisconsin
- Third Place: Charles Lorence – Aurora, Illinois

Class M: Beeswax Block

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- First Place: Mark Fiegl – Marion, New York
- Second Place: Chris Beck – Breckenridge, Michigan
- Third Place: Tony Rekeweg – Decatur, Indiana

Class N: Artistic Beeswax

Sponsored by Texas Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.

- First Place: Carolyn Gerberding – Rochester, Illinois
- Second Place: Judy Schmaltz – Clarkson, Michigan
- Third Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio

Class O: Beeswax Candles

Sponsored by Ellingson's Inc.

- First Place: Derald Kettlewell – Greenfield, Wisconsin
- Second Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Third Place: Dan Piechowski – Redgranite, Wisconsin

Class P: Artistic Beeswax Candles

Sponsored by Bee Culture

- First Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Second Place: James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, Illinois
- Third Place: William Brancato – Des Plaines, Illinois

Class Q: Beeswax Art

Sponsored by Bee Culture

- First Place: George Hansen – Colton, Oregon
- Second Place: James & Karen Belli – Wadsworth, Illinois
- Third Place: Nancy Deason – Locust Park, Alabama

Class R: Honey Gift Box

Sponsored by Central Life Sciences

- First Place: Monica Siwiak – Richmond, Texas
- Second Place: Carmen Conrad – Canal Winchester, Ohio
- Third Place: Barbara Rhoads & Randy Eisenhauser – Elizabeth City, North Carolina

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"The commercial beekeeper panel discussing business types, insurance, trucking, pollination practices and on and on was phenomenal!"

"The exposure to the field is truly something you cannot get anywhere else"

"As a newbie beekeeper, I was pleased with the variety of information presented. I got a great education in all aspects of beekeeping."

"Thank you for the wealth of information and networking (exchange of practices and ideas)!"

"Each year we tweak our beekeeping based on what we learn at ABF."

"I am so glad I attended!"

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ABF AUXILIARY

Another conference has come and gone, and spring is right around the corner. Now is the perfect time to begin thinking about entering the next ABF Auxiliary Photo Competition taking place during the 2021 ABF Conference & Tradeshow next January. The committee has been hard at work updating the competition submission criteria. Look for these updates in the next issue of *ABF Quarterly*!

While you are planning out your perfect photo, why not try these Honey Apple Oatmeal Cups:

INGREDIENTS

FOR MUFFINS:

2 Eggs
1½ Cups milk
½ Cup apple butter
3 Tablespoons coconut oil, melted
⅓ Cup honey
1½ Teaspoons vanilla extract
3 Cups rolled oats
1 Teaspoon baking powder
1 Teaspoon cinnamon
½ Teaspoon salt
1 Apple, peeled, cored and diced
⅓ Cup golden raisins
⅓ Cup pumpkin seeds, reserved

FOR HONEY CREAM:

2 Tablespoons honey
4 Ounces cream cheese, softened
¼ Teaspoon cinnamon
⅓ Cup powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F, spray muffin tin with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Combine all muffin ingredients except the pumpkin seeds and let the batter sit for about 15 minutes.
3. Whip together the honey cream ingredients and set aside covered.
4. Fill muffin tin cups with the batter to the top, sprinkle with the pumpkin seeds.
5. Bake until golden and dry on top, 25-30 minutes. Let them cool for about 10 minutes and remove the muffins immediately from the tin to prevent them from sticking. Do not let them cool completely in the tin. You may need to run a knife tip or icing spatula around the edges of the muffins to help them release.

Yield: Makes 12 Honey Apple Oatmeal Cups.

Tip: Store these muffins in the refrigerator if keeping more than a day. This will keep them moist. You may also freeze them individually for a quick breakfast later.

Recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board.

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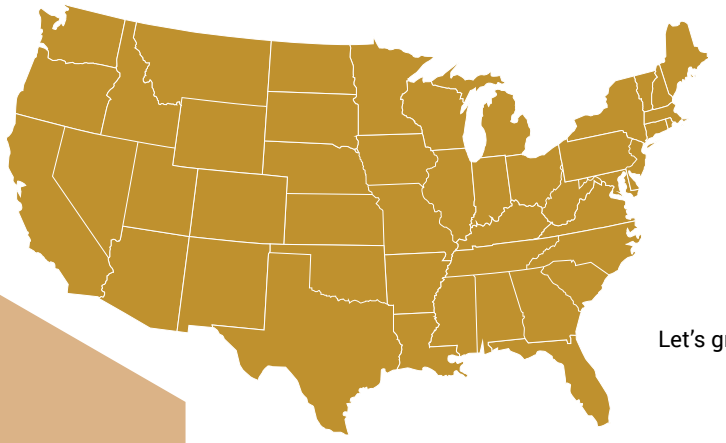
If you are a member of Facebook, you can be a fan of the ABF Facebook page. All you have to do is simply search Facebook for "American Beekeeping Federation" to access the page and click the "Like" button to become a fan.

Everyone is welcome. To date, we have more than 34,000 fans and are reaching new fans each day.

If you have a Facebook fan page for your business or local beekeeping association, let us know and we'll add you to our line-up.

Please feel free to post your beekeeping photos on our page, write on our wall and keep sending your friends to our page. Stay tuned for ABF updates, fun facts, recipes and photos of our ABF members doing what they do best!



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

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

State Delegates meet bimonthly on March 10, May 5, July 7, September 8 and November 10, 2020.

Let us know if you want your state more involved with the membership and legislative happenings and consider becoming a State Sponsor of the ABF.

STATE DELEGATES

DON'T SEE YOUR STATE MEETING LISTED?

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

STATE MEETINGS

ALABAMA
North Region Spring Picnic
May 2, 2020
Cullman County Fair Grounds
Cullman, Alabama

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.alabamabeekeepers.com

INDIANA
Purdue Field Day
June 20, 2020
The John S. Wright Forestry
West Lafayette, IN

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.indianabeekeeper.com

MINNESOTA
MHPA Annual Convention
July 9-11, 2020
Holiday Inn & Suites
St. Cloud, Minnesota

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.minnesotahoneyproducers.org

OHIO
43rd Annual Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School
March 28, 2020
Oasis Conference Center
Loveland, Ohio

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org

RHODE ISLAND
RIBA Spring Banquet
April 25, 2020
Kirkbrae Country Club
Lincoln, Rhode Island

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.ribeekeeper.org

VIRGINIA
VSBA Summer Meeting
June 26-27, 2020
Smithfield, Virginia

FOR MORE INFO OR DETAILS:
www.virginiabeekeepers.org

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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Alabama Beekeepers Association
Empire State Honey Producers Association
Kansas Honey Producers Association
Louisiana Beekeepers Association
Maryland State Beekeepers Association
Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association
Pennsylvania State Beekeeping Association

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEES, INC.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees is a charitable research and education foundation organized with a mission of preserving and protecting honey bees to ensure a quality food supply and environment.

Support the Foundation:

The foundation is supported by donations from the beekeeping industry, allied agricultural businesses, agricultural associations and others interested in the preservation of honey bees. The foundation is organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions qualify for tax-deductible treatment.

For more information or to donate visit: *www.preservationofhoneybees.org*.

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEES

Molly Sausaman, Executive Director
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2020 Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees Scholars

Thanks to scholarships awarded by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, four emerging scientists were able to present their research during the 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow. The $3,000 awards also enabled these graduate students to meet fellow honey bee researchers and people in the industry they hope to serve.

EMILY CARLSON

Emily Carlson is a graduate research assistant and PhD candidate at Oregon State University in the Honey Bee and Pollinator Health Extension Labs. Her project involves understanding changes in pesticide risk to pollinating insects with varying landscape context and pollen nutrition. Emily holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Gonzaga University. Her previous experience includes riparian restoration and science education. She has a passion for working with diverse stakeholders towards the common goal of pollinator conservation.

PIERRE LAU

Pierre Lau is now completing his PhD research at Texas A&M under the direction of Dr. Juliana Rangel. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Systems from the University of California, San Diego. His doctoral work is focused on using honey bee foraging preferences to better understand their nutritional preferences, with a focus on bees' preferences for specific ratios of protein-to-lipid within pollen resources. In addition, Pierre has explored variation in the types of pollen collected by bees at different places across the U.S. and characterized bee salt preferences.

SOFÍA ROMERO

Originally from Mexico, Sofía Romero is currently a Master's student of the Genome Science and Technology program at The University of British Columbia. She works in the Foster Lab, which specializes in proteomics and honey bees. Sofía's research project focuses on finding alternatives to antibiotics to fight against American foulbrood. In particular, she is working with naturally occurring antimicrobial peptides and commensal bacteria of the adult honey bee.

GARETT SLATER

Garett Slater is a PhD candidate at Purdue University. His research focuses on using genomic techniques to understand drone fertility and is poised to create a means to predict if colonies will produce viable drones. Garett is an experienced beekeeper and, over the course of his career, has strived to create sustainable change in the field. He has used his expertise to create outreach material and inform beekeepers, students and the broader community about bees and beekeeping. Prior to his time at Purdue University, Garett spent four years with The Bee Informed Partnership's (BIP) Midwest Tech-Team where he worked with 30 beekeepers to improve their colony health and reduce annual losses.

Pesticide Risk to Bees in Context: Considering Pollen Diversity, Quality and Quantity

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEES, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ESSAY

by: Emily Carlson, Oregon State University

Background

Timely pesticide applications are intended to protect crop yields. While beneficial insects are not the targets of these pesticides, the proximity of pollinators to blooming agricultural fields makes them vulnerable to pesticide exposure. Declines in pollinator health are associated with pesticide exposures as insecticides are highly toxic to bees and herbicides kill weeds, reducing alternative forage available in the landscape.[1] Investigations into pesticide exposures in honey bee colonies show that bees are exposed to toxic cocktails of multiple pesticides.[2] Bees return pesticides to the hive, and pesticides have been found in bee-collected pollen, honey and colony wax.[3–5]

The Hazard Quotient (HQ) is a term used in ecotoxicology which calculates pesticide risk using pesticide exposure and pesticide toxicity. Exposure is the likelihood that bees will encounter a pesticide in their environment. Toxicity is the measure of the damage to a honey bee or honey bee colony from a pesticide. This estimation does capture some of the subtlety in pesticide risk; for example, a small amount of highly toxic pesticide could have a more detrimental effect than a large amount of moderately toxic pesticide. However, HQ does not account for the field contexts.

Project Overview

To understand pesticide stress in a field context, researchers must also consider the interactions between foraging effort of bees, pollen nutrition and pollen diversity. This project seeks to understand how these landscape-scale factors influence pesticide exposure in honey bees and compare this with native bee reproduction in the same landscape. The project will combine knowledge of forage species and pollen nutrition analysis to provide a wholistic picture of stressors influencing honey bees exposed to pesticides.

Pesticide exposure profiles from field experiments will then be tested in a lab environment to examine how pesticide risk in the field relates to pesticide risk in cage studies. In other words, this experiment seeks to understand how colony-level health impacts, foraging efforts and pollen nutrition translate to individual bee mortality under acute toxicity conditions. Cage studies are commonly used, and it will be impactful to understand how these approximations of pollinator toxicity do or do not correlate to in-field changes in colony health.

Research Questions

Pesticide risk estimations will be more effective when landscape context is considered. This project will compare pesticide risk across differing landscapes and between bee species. The goal of this project is to understand how pesticide risk changes with variation in pollen nutrition (protein content, lipid content), pollen diversity (monofloral or polyfloral) and pollen quantity. The relationship between these factors and honey bee health will be compared in both field and lab experiments. Field conditions varying in above-mentioned factors will be tested for three groups of pollinators (honey bee colonies, alfalfa leaf cutting bees and native bee communities) to understand if there is a difference in how pollinator groups respond to pesticide pressures under different conditions.

Benefits

Pesticide exposure does not happen in isolation. Bees are exposed to pesticides within a variable foraging landscape, and these contexts could change how bees are impacted and respond to pesticide stress. This project seeks to understand the impacts of pesticide exposures on bees in different realistic scenarios (landscape level and pollen nutrition). The insights gleaned from this project will potentially advance our understanding of realistic pesticide exposure to bees and assist in formulating best management practices to mitigate pesticide exposure to bees.

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2. Mullin, C. A. et al. High levels of miticides and agrochemicals in North American apiaries: implications for honey bee health. *PLoS One* 5, e9754 (2010).

3. Stoner, K. A. & Eitzer, B. D. Using a Hazard Quotient to Evaluate Pesticide Residues Detected in Pollen Trapped from Honey Bees (Apis mellifera) in Connecticut. *PLoS One* (2013). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0077550

4. Woodcock, B. A. et al. Neonicotinoid residues in UK honey despite European Union moratorium. *PLoS One* 13, 1–15 (2018).

5. Calatayud-Vernich, P., Calatayud, F., Simó, E. & Picó, Y. Occurrence of pesticide residues in Spanish beeswax. Sci. *Total Environ.* 605–606, 745–754 (2017).

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEES, INC.

Honey Varietals of Ohio

4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY

by: Aaron Prescott

Little known to so many, honey bees are a critical component and fragile part of our ecosystem and lives. Those of us who are involved in agriculture or who have a direct connection to a honey bee-related industry realize the vital role that the bee has in our lives. The life cycle of the bee fulfills a necessary step of pollination for our fields and forests. Many of my friends who farm full-time have beehives just for this purpose. The honey bee is in danger, though. Their numbers are decreasing, and it is not completely clear as to why.

This makes understanding bees and taking care of them even more crucial. Additionally, most people including myself do not realize how hard and complicated raising bees for honey really is.

My family does not raise bees for honey, but we do feed the bees and are conscientious about not killing them. My aunt who owns "Julie B Honey" raises bees, and there are members of my 4-H club who raise bees too. I have interviewed them about why they raise bees, and both said they started working with bees solely because they are becoming so endangered. Maybe public awareness is increasing.

My Aunt Julie, who is located in Cleveland, said her honey is mostly clover and would be classified as wildflower honey varietal. She said that bees can fly up to six miles to gather nectar, so she cannot say for sure from where her bees are gathering. Based on the color, smell and flavor of her honey, she thinks it is mostly clover. Her honey is lighter in color and flavor in the late spring compared to the fall.

In recent years, she has only collected in the fall. Her reasoning is that she wants to make sure she does not hurt her queen and to help ensure the larvae have enough nutrients to get through the cold winters in her region. Additionally, she has read the more you collect, the greater chance there is for mites and disease to get into the hives. She does not want to risk hurting the hive since preserving bees was her purpose for starting.

The Bailey family in my 4-H club also only collects once a year in the fall in order to help keep the bees healthy. They said most of their honey comes from local area's trees and wildflowers. Their honey is much darker and richer than my aunt's. This is a sign that it may be more of a tulip poplar honey or forest-related honey according to my research. We live in a very forested area along the Ohio River, so this would make sense.

My mom and I visited the "Jungle Jim's" store in our area in order to do research for this paper. They have a honey section which showcases varietals from around the United States and even from other countries. I was able to try a number of different varietals of honey. I could see the difference in color based on the type and the time of harvest. I always thought all honey pretty much tasted the same, but that was because I had only tried wildflower honey.

One varietal that I found to be particularly interesting is lavender honey. I am not referring to honey infused with lavender oil. True lavender honey is made from lavender flowers and is sometimes infused with lavender buds. There are a couple of large lavender farms near us in southwestern Ohio. I interviewed Vivian from Jaybird Farms in Sardinia, Ohio.

Vivian said lavender honey must be harvested in July to get the best flavor, and, even then, she will often infuse it with lavender buds (but never oil). This flower creates a unique honey that smells so much like the flower. The reason I like this particular type is the effect it has had on my family. My mom bought some to bring home for my brother with whom she uses lavender oils. My brother is autistic and has trouble falling asleep. He loves the smell and flavor and seems to calm down with it. This might be an effective marketing use for this type of honey. She uses it in tea, but I also found a recipe for lavender honey butter and for lavender honey ice cream.

Lastly, I interviewed my great-uncle who I found out used to be a honey bee inspector for Butler County, Ohio. He said that in our area, the varietal is very dependent on the time of year you collect the honey. In the spring, it is mostly Black Locust, and then the honey transitions to Dandelion. By late summer, most of the honey in our area is clover.

According to my great-uncle, it is very difficult to sell honey as a particular varietal. This is one of the reasons why specific varietals are so expensive. Some of the types are very specific to an area or season. You have to collect after bloomings to prevent the types of honey from mixing. You also run a larger risk of damaging the hive because you have to collect at times that might not be ideal for the bees. This is why people like my aunt, who only collect in the fall, have to call their honey "wildflower." It is a mix of all types of honey from throughout the year.

This essay, along with the tasting and interviews I have done have been very informative. Not only did I learn more about the dire state of our bee population, I also learned about the hard work and effort that beekeepers put into their hives. Raising bees and selling honey is much more difficult than I realized. They have to put a great deal of thought and planning into how to obtain the best and correct product and also keep their bees safe and healthy.

Resources

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2. Bengough, Julie L. "Raising Bees." 10 Jan. 2019.
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4. Jaybird Farms. Vivian. "Raising Lavender and Bees." 12 Jan. 2019.
5. Jungle Jim's. Robert. "Taste Testing Honey." 3 Jan. 2019.
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LAVENDER HONEY ICE CREAM

- 6 Egg yolks
- ¼ Cup sugar
- 2 Cups milk
- 5 Tablespoons lavender honey

Directions

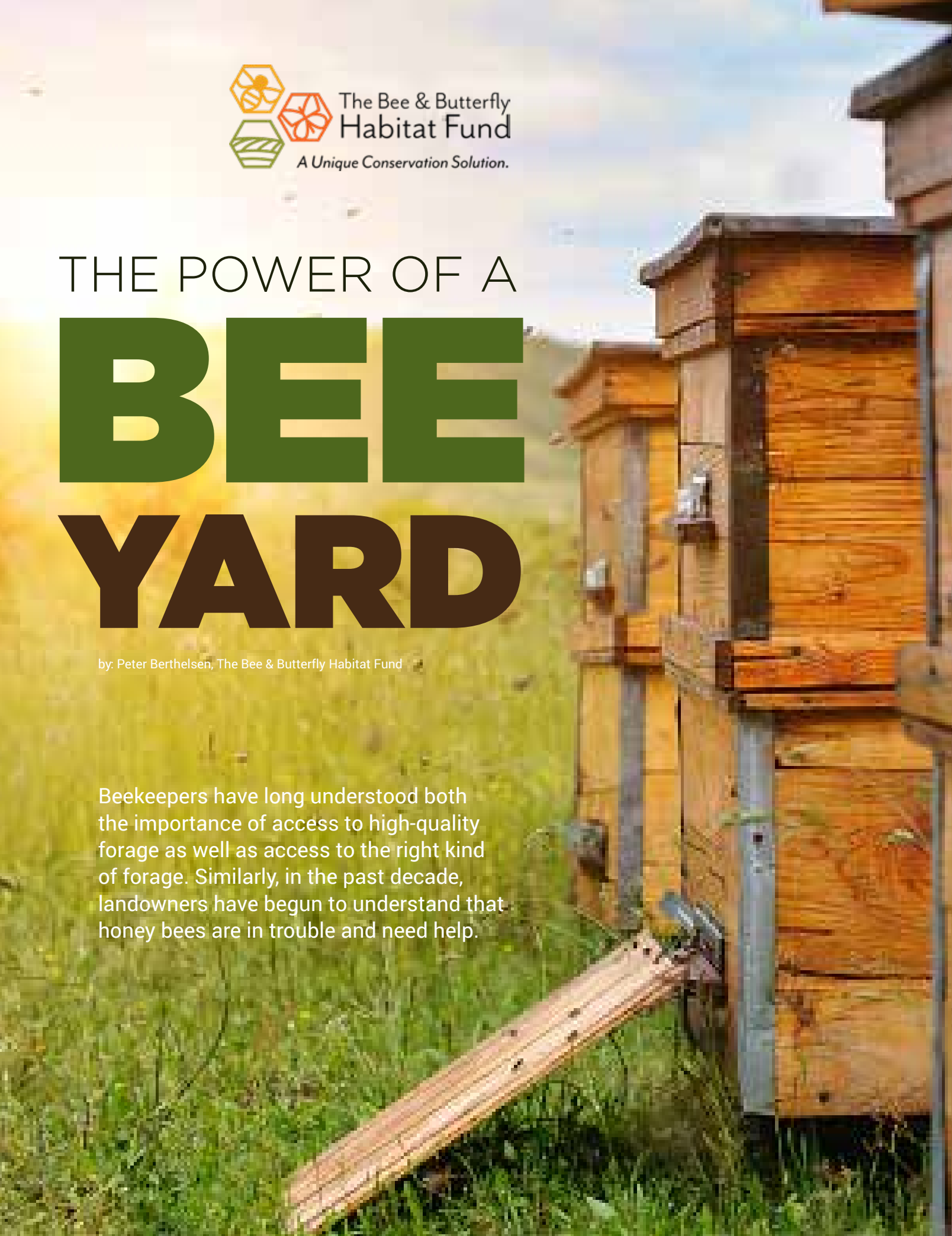
Beat egg yolks until thick and yellow, then slowly add sugar. Scald milk, then slowly pour into eggs, beating with a whisk. Add honey and whisk until dissolved. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Cool and refrigerate until cold. Pour into an ice cream maker and process according to manufacturer's directions. Keep ice cream frozen hard until use.

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund

A Unique Conservation Solution.

THE POWER OF A BEE YARD

by: Peter Berthelsen, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund



Beekeepers have long understood both the importance of access to high-quality forage as well as access to the right kind of forage. Similarly, in the past decade, landowners have begun to understand that honey bees are in trouble and need help.

Perhaps the best example of the growing public understanding of the critical needs for bees comes from a recent survey conducted by the National Geographic Society when they asked the question, "If you could dedicate your life to saving one species, which would you choose?" The most common answer provided: "Bees." When bees beat out by far—bees scored 127% more votes than the 2nd place answer—the most charismatic animals that often come to mind like elephants, tigers, whales and polar bears, it's a clear indication that the general public is beginning to understand the stresses being faced by the beekeeping industry. They want to help.

Beekeepers with a history of having a bee yard located with a landowner have more ability to influence honey bee forage opportunities than you may think. It could be as simple as asking a landowner to help your bee with access to high-quality forage!

That brings up a natural question: Just how can a landowner or someone from an urban area help? The best, most effective answer is by supporting, establishing, managing or protecting pollinator habitat. This is where the message to beekeepers comes in. We have a moment in time where the public is interested and engaged in issues affecting bees and other pollinators. You may be surprised at just how willing and interested your bee yard landowners would be in supporting your honey bee forage needs—if you just asked them!

Human nature dictates that most of us are not very inclined to ask others for something. Beekeepers are certainly no exception. Approaching a landowner to ask them to consider planting honey bee forage may be something you've never considered. Because of how important this can be to your honey bee health and honey production, we wanted to provide you with a few suggested steps to make this request a bit easier to ask and produce a successful outcome.

Here are five important steps to consider in that conversation:

1. **When to ask:** The best moment to have the conversation with the owner of a bee yard about forage is most likely when they ask you, "How are your bees doing?" That question may come up when you see them at the grocery store, when you are setting up your bee yard for the year or when you're delivering "rent honey." Regardless of when or where this happens, you have just been handed a great opportunity to nudge the discussion towards the importance of honey bee forage and seeing if they can help. Make sure you follow up the question about your bee health with a conversation about what they need the most—access to great floral resources. You may just open the door to a productive conversation that impacts your bees.
2. **Where and how much:** Obviously, we would all love to have access to hundreds of acres of great honey bee forage, but that may not be realistic in this conversation. Let your landowner know that just a few acres of the right kind of forage can produce great results for your bees. Most landowners have a grassy area they are currently mowing, an "odd area" not performing well or other locations where they could help by providing one to four acres of honey bee forage. When the right seed mixture is established, one acre of great forage should be able to support 2.5 hives for a full year.
3. **Not all pollinator habitat is created equal:** Beekeepers know very well what plant species produce the best forage, but your bee yard landowners probably don't. Make sure your seed mixture is being designed by a pollinator expert aware of what the preferred plant species are that honey bees, native bees and butterflies can all benefit from. This means designing a seed mixture that will include clover species that honey bees prefer. If the seed mixture design is left to someone without the experience of crafting forage for honey bees, you could easily end up with a planting that contains lots of flowers that provide little to no value to honey bees.
4. **Help with honey bee forage seed mixes:** If your bee yard is located in one of 12 states located in the Midwest and Great Plains that are critical to honey bee health and monarch butterfly population recovery, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund (www.BeeAndButterflyFund.org) can provide free pollinator seed mixtures and one-on-one technical guidance on projects two acres in size or larger. This generous offer is open to projects that are located on private, public and corporate lands, so think big and broad. Is there a new solar energy project happening in your area? Let's make it a Solar+Pollinator habitat project that will benefit bees and have broader public appeal. Have a city park or other municipal area that could be pollinator habitat? Let's reduce public mowing costs, produce a great looking wildflower area and provide great forage areas for your bees. The opportunities to provide great pollinator habitat support are only limited by your ability to be innovative when thinking about what could be great habitat.
5. **This is really important—you have more influence than you think:** How much longer can beekeeping sustain annual hive losses that hover around 40%? Beekeeping has never faced the struggles and challenges like it does right now—reduced honey prices, parasites, pesticide impacts, pathogens, loss of forage. The challenges just don't seem to ever slow down or stop. That makes the importance of asking bee yard landowners for support even more important. Seeking high-quality forage may well be one of the few things that beekeepers can actually influence and impact.
6. **Bonus step—your "rent honey" package:** If you deliver an annual "rent honey" package to your bee yard landowners, you have another great opportunity to encourage the planting of honey bee forage. Think about including with your delivery some information that encourages and offers options for the landowner to plant some pollinator habitat. The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund has items that can be included in your package that deliver that message and provide options. Is there a better time for a landowner to consider supporting the health of your bee yard than when they are enjoying the sweet taste of your honey?

Hopefully, this summary of some steps to consider when having a conversation with a bee yard landowner highlights both the importance of forage and the opportunity to have forage planted. This has never been more important, and you've never had so much of the public interested.

Not all pollinator habitats are created equal. When designing and establishing forage for your bees, make sure that seed mixtures being used will provide what bees want and need. This 14-month old planting is providing great forage for a wide range of pollinator species and looks great!

"Strike while the metal is hot" is an old saying that comes to mind. Beekeepers have never had a public that is so concerned with honey bee health, and that creates an opportunity. Opportunities like this don't come around often and don't last very long. Let's make this an opportunity we seize. All you have to do is ask!

CALL TO ACTION:

LOW HONEY PRICES & WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Varroa destructor is our #1 problem. If that were not bad enough, low honey prices are affecting us so dramatically we need action.

Problems:

1. The United States and Europe are being flooded with fake or adulterated honey from India, China, neighboring nations and other third-world countries enlisted by India and China.
2. Less honorable importers and a few U.S. honey packers are buying this fake or adulterated honey and labeling it as U.S. Grade A Honey. They might be applying a country of origin statement too.
3. Fake honey is being packaged in other countries and then marketed as real honey in U.S. grocers.
4. U.S. beekeepers are suffering a 21-70% price decline for U.S.-produced honey, while the shelf price has remained unchanged or has increased over the last two years.

Methods of producing large quantities of low-cost, fake honey:

1. Ultra-filtration of undesirable honey through resin technologies.
2. Adulterating honey with rice syrup, beet sugar and other sugars that are hard to detect in honey.
3. Extracting immature honey at 40%+ moisture then vacuum drying it.

Results:

1. U.S. beekeepers maintain a first-world standard of living with a real product, competing against third-world locals who are dumping a very cheap, fake product.
2. To make up for not selling our honey crop, pollination fees must go up significantly. How will this help U.S. farmers compete?
3. As more U.S. beekeepers are pushed out of the business due to low incomes and high production costs, the entire ecology of the United States is adversely impacted.

The American Beekeeping Federation wants to be on the forefront of this issue and address it with all stakeholders at the table. To solve this problem effectively, we need all ABF members to do a few things:

1. Read Apimondia's "Statement on Honey Fraud" here: *https://www.apimondia.com/docs/apimondia_statement_on_honey_fraud.pdf*
2. Consider the statement and then send well-thought solutions to this problem to ABF headquarters at *info@abfnet.org*.
3. As a state association or local club, discuss how best to bring both your state and national elected officials up to speed on this fraud and be prepared with suggestions for how best to address this issue.
4. Share Apimondia's statement with friends and family to encourage awareness—no hysteria, just the facts. We need to do a better job educating our customers.

This is a dire situation that needs your attention now! Every stakeholder needs to act. Be assured this is going to annoy some players and there may be serious pushback. The ABF wants to address this with a clear voice of reason to protect honey, a way of life and our environment.

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Our continued relationship with the Bee Informed Partnership ensures we are selecting the highest quality Park Italian Queens that will be more tolerant of bee viruses, varroa mites, and nosema disease.

Our Beekeeping family wishes all of you the best in 2020!

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Commercial Beekeeper SPOTLIGHT

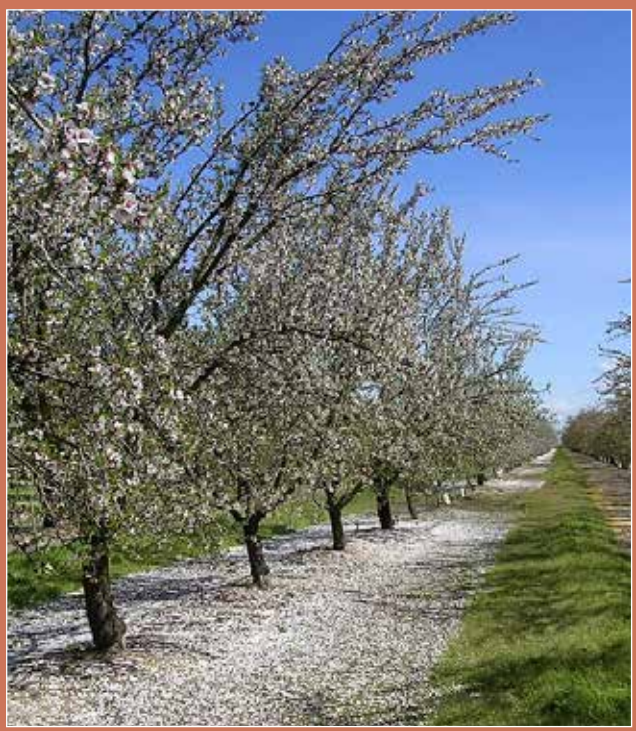
JAY MILLER
2J Honey Farms
Blackfoot, Idaho

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU GET INTO THE BEEKEEPING BUSINESS?

I am part of a small group of families that have done this for four generations. I was more of a honey packer than beekeeper for the first five years of my married life. Before Jim Powers asked my father to look at his Florida packing business, we had sold honey in the Intermountain West. We sold honey in Florida for four years, and I decided it was not a life I liked.

We sold the business and returned to Idaho where I completed a degree in Business. After starving for a year while working in marketing, I was invited to share operation responsibilities at Miller's Honey Farms when my father decided to retire. I worked at that for twelve years and then accepted an opportunity to go on my own. I bought Dave Nelson's operation in Williston, North Dakota.

In going from a medium-sized operation to a small-count operation, I learned I needed to network with other bee guys and gals to grow, compete and survive. I have some very good friends as a result of taking that leap of faith.



DESCRIBE WHAT YOUR BUSINESS CURRENTLY DOES IN THE INDUSTRY.

We have two bee businesses. 2J Honey Farms is named after my wife Jeanna Jones (she didn't want to re-do the stationary if she fired me). Round Valley Honey Co. is a joint venture with my son-in-law Brody. We pollinate almonds and produce honey in northwest North Dakota and in a small valley in Challis, Idaho. We also store bees in the fall in an air-conditioned facility for those needing early bee storage. For those who can wait until Thanksgiving, we store bees in fresh-air facilities called "potato cellars." Last fall we sent some singles to central Texas in hopes of growing them into pollination units for almonds. We made enough mistakes that we will try again this fall.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU MADE TO ADAPT YOUR BUSINESS TO THE CURRENT INDUSTRY CLIMATE?

Our biggest adjustment was extreme mite control. We have struggled for years with losses over 20% until this year. Our dud rate in California for 2020 was 12%. Our goal is a 10% out-of-cellar death loss. We live by a schedule.

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE GOALS OF YOUR BUSINESS?

We want to get really good at running 6,000 hives of bees. Our bee storage service is stressful and can be distracting. We can't afford to not give the best service to our customers nor can we miss a treatment, so we live by a schedule.

WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR CONCERNS ABOUT THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY AND HOW THEY WILL AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS?

My beefs are fake honey and cheaters. I also find the growing nanny state we live in to be expensive and ineffective. My biggest reality is that, being 62 years old, it is not possible to gracefully jump on or off a truck, and my wrist finds a hive tool an aggravation.

WHAT IS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE CROP OR FLOWER THAT YOU'VE SEEN YOUR BEES WORK?

I have always enjoyed a good Orange Blossom flow. I like how the Sunflower florets bloom from the inside out, or is it outside in? A full honey super of anything we chase is a good event.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF HONEY?

Orange Blossom and Alfalfa. I think they call it Punk honey in Florida. I find its smell a bit off-putting. Brazilian Pepper honey is my preferred darker honey.

WHAT IS THE BEST BEEKEEPING ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Best: Zip up your coveralls.
Worst: "I think you can make it across that wet field!"

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BEEKEEPING TASK?

Paying off the bank! After that, I'd say robbing or loading bees. I think I enjoy the most out of watching staff do the job better than I can.

WHAT BEEKEEPING TOOL OR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH THE MOST?

I like a quiet syrup pump with a light hose. I hope to find one someday. My best friend is a good garage door opener.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY WILL LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

I've taken notice to how many operations are now being run by women. I'd also expect to see more foreign labor as our youth are deprived of real work opportunities or the reality of having a good work ethic.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE TO A YOUNG AND FUTURE COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPER?

Watch your fixed costs. Cooperate with other smarter bee guys and gals. Be nice—we already have enough of the other kind.

WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ABF?

I've been attending ABF conventions since childhood. Grandfather Earl said, "Don't complain, get involved." I really enjoy those who support the ABF and consider them friends.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH SHOWS **PROMISING RESULTS FOR BEE HEALTH**

Beekeepers, Farmers Encourage Others to Try Bee Integrated Model

by: Alli Langley

Scott Krogstad grows sugar beets, soybeans, wheat, corn and other crops on about 8,000 acres. A few years ago, he learned about a nearby bee health project, recruiting participants, and decided to join because he wanted to learn more about beekeepers' concerns.

"I realized they have just as many or more challenges as we do," he said.

Encouraging Results

The Honey Bee Health Coalition started the Bee Integrated Demonstration Project in 2017 in North Dakota, the nation's leading honey production state and the home of apiaries that provide pollination services across the country.

North Dakota farmer Scott Krogstad participated in the Bee Integrated Demonstration Project to learn more about beekeepers' concerns. He encouraged other growers to try the Bee Integrated approach.

The project's approach pairs beekeepers with a farmer, rancher or landowner. The beekeeper puts hives on their partner's land and follows best practices for hive management, including monitoring and using integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to treat Varroa mites. Meanwhile, the farmer, rancher or landowner establishes pollinator forage nearby and follows best practices for pesticide stewardship. Both partners communicate about management practices and any concerns.

Six pairs of beekeepers and farmers or landowners participated in the demonstration project by putting this approach into practice for three years, and preliminary results are now in.

Compared with control apiaries, the approach increased the size of honey bee colonies and the pollen diversity in the bees' diets. Significantly more managed and native bees were observed in the forage plantings than in other conservation and land-use sites. The farmers and landowners also expressed enhanced motivation to understand and help their beekeeper partners.

American Beekeeping Federation President Joan Gunter was one of the six beekeeper participants, and she praised the way the approach helps beekeepers.

"You have an instant source the bees can go to for pollen and nectar," she said. "It's a great way to boost up your bee health."

Beekeeper John Miller partnered with rancher Estee Nenow and her husband. Nenow said, "When we saw the opportunity for a kind of symbiotic relationship with us and John that was a no-brainer for us."

A Collaborative Solution

The Bee Integrated approach aims to address multiple challenges facing bee health—pests and diseases, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure—by showing how beekeepers, farmers, ranchers and landowners can join forces and take practical steps in their own areas.

"Addressing any one factor by itself is good but working together to address all of these factors is even better," said Julie Shapiro, a Keystone Policy Center senior program director and one of the project's facilitators. "We're trying to show how you can take a multifactor problem and create a multifactor, collaborative solution."

Rachel Wald said the approach fit with conservation-minded activities that she and her husband were exploring for their 900-acre cattle ranch and farm. The pollinator forage took some effort to establish, she said, but it's now flourishing.

Krogstad agreed and said he was glad to see bees and other pollinators feeding on the forage he planted.

"If you weren't making any money on that ground in the past, it's just a good decision," he said. "It's just a win-win."

Beekeeper Zac Browning also participated in the demonstration project and encouraged others to try the approach.

"We're working with everybody in agriculture and everybody who has to do with landscape decisions," Browning said. "We've got to show everybody not only what's happening in our business but how it relates to the rest of agriculture."

Learn More and Try It Yourself

In January, the coalition released step-by-step instructions that beekeepers, farmers, ranchers and landowners can use to try all or even parts of the Bee Integrated approach for themselves.

Find the instructions and learn more about the pilot demonstration project and the approach at *www.HoneyBeeHealthCoalition.org/Bee-Integrated*.

More than a dozen organizations provided funding and in-kind support for the demonstration project. They include the Almond Board of California, Bayer Crop Science, The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund, Bee Informed Partnership, Conservation Technology Information Center, Corteva Agriscience, Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association, National Honey Board, North Central IPM Center, North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Project Apis m., Syngenta, U.S. Geological Survey and Veto-Pharma.

Bee Integrated Demonstration Project participant Dylan Wald examines his field shortly after planting pollinator forage.

MEET THE APIARY INSPECTORS OF AMERICA

by: Brooke Decker

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) is a non-profit organization established in 1938 to promote better beekeeping conditions in North America. Members of the association, consisting of state apiarists, business representatives and individual beekeepers, work collectively to establish more uniform and effective laws and methods for the suppression of honey bee diseases as well as a mutual understanding and cooperation between apiary inspection officials. The AIA goal is to provide accurate and helpful information for the successful management of honey bees while seeking new information and ideas in honey bee management and plant pollination.

Members of the AIA had the unique opportunity to organize the International Honey Bee Regulatory Working Meeting which was held during the 2019 Apimondia conference. The goal of this meeting was to network with apiary regulators from other countries and compare general approaches and strategies to factors impacting honey bee health. Approximately fifty apiarists from around the world attended the meeting to discuss six main areas of concern (Asian Giant Hornet, Nosema, Varroa mites, Small Hive Beetles, Tropilaelaps mite and honey bee viruses) and learn more about inspection services across the globe. The meeting provided an opportunity to generate international relationships and contacts as well as opportunities for future collaboration.

In conjunction with the American Beekeeping Federation conference this past January, the AIA held its annual meeting. The representatives from 22 states and two Canadian provinces discussed nationwide honey bee health, inspection best practices, new apiary legislation, state-level pollinator protection plans, nationwide plans for incoming threats and ways to coordinate apiary programs.

State apiarists wear many hats. They are not only regulatory but often provide outreach and education for a variety of stakeholders. Some apiarists conduct research, and many act as the liaison between the research scientist and the beekeeper.

With news that the Asian Giant Hornet has been identified in the U.S. and the threat of Tropilaelaps on the horizon, the AIA has an important role in helping mitigate these threats. Resolutions were submitted to our national stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of continued funding and surveys to monitor for these pests.

Field Museum, January 2020

Chicago Botanic Gardens, January 2020

Apimondia, September 2019

TAMING OF THE BEEKEEPER

by: Albert "Shakespeare" Chubak

As the news and sporting conflicts of today compete with each other, it confuses the mind as it seems one is saying "night is day" and the other says "day is night." We accept one or the other, yet both can be equally false. The mind goes back to William Shakespeare's Taming of the Shew and the mind-altering dialogue between Petruchio and Katherine.

Petruchio convinces Katherine that an old man who is wrinkled and aged, faded and withered is a young maiden! "Why, dear me, Kate! I hope you haven't lost your mind. This is not a maiden, as you say, but an old man—wrinkled, faded and withered." In truth, it wasn't a maiden but an old man. As Katherine's ability to fight back dwindles, she goes along with Petruchio and further claims "the sun is the moon" and other falsehoods. Hence, the title "Taming of the Shew" (essentially recalibrating the mind).

To accept this same train of thought in beekeeping, one could call a queen bee a king bee solely because they viewed it as such. They would be taking no consideration into mating, fertility, size, spermatheca and ability to create a fertilized egg. A vertical double deep can be a horizontal single, solely due to the opinion of the one using it. This would make teaching and mentoring a nightmare. Specific terminology would move to broad terms like "a hive." Unless of course, the "hive" is further converted into a "modern organic or non-organic constructed non-identified living insect habitat" or "MONCNILIH" for short.

The challenge then is to somehow place "truth glasses" on to see the world around us as it really is. As wishful as this seems, leaders and researchers in the beekeeping industry are "truth glasses" to those of us who are learning. Perhaps even their glasses need cleaning as new science revolves around a newly discovered truth.

Beekeeping Has Some Basic Tenants or Truths

1. Beekeepers are to care and manipulate their colonies for a desired purpose.
2. At times a beekeeper has to intervene to assist the colony when threats appear.
3. Not all locations are ideal for raising bees, producing honey, creating queens, etc.
4. Many methods exist, and they all can be successful.
5. Learning never ends as new lessons can be learned as well as old ones relearned.
6. Different honey bees have different traits, and they are NOT all the same.
7. Practice good hygiene and keep tools and clothing clean.
8. Don't just accept a teaching, try it and see if it works.
9. Participate in the beekeeping community, teach, volunteer, attend conferences and meet and talk with others.
10. Written English materials in beekeeping go back to the 16th century—read what is available.
11. Forgive others and move on. Remember we are a family.

Adding the Beekeeping Hat to Your Experiences

Choosing to start beekeeping can be a daunting first step—how, when, what and do I need this, do I need that, but what if I fail, others get stung, WHAT if I get stung? So many questions pop up and have to be overcome. Take a class, read a book, visit a beekeeper, taste local honey, look for bees on flowers, ask around, make it a point of "looking" when most blindly go about their day. A beekeeper sees plants, smells flowers, looks for pollinators and predators, looks up and down to understand the environment, understands weather cycles and how it can affect a colony and will go and work with the bees because it is enjoyable and needed.

A Simple Plan for Starting Beekeeping

- **Set a plan to search for a local or online class for new beekeepers.** Don't just visit YouTube, get real guidance first. Guidance will help in understanding terminology and will demystify the beekeeping craft.
- **Define what your goals are.** This may be honey or just pollination, perhaps apitherapy. The list goes on. Once you know why you want a hive, then you are ready for the adventure.
- **Look for a hive.** Many styles exist and work. Rule of thumb, the larger the hive(s), the greater the area you will need for them. Always keep in mind how neighbors will react or be affected by your adventure.
- **Mentors are vital for successful beekeeping.** Look for someone you can go to for answers or advice or has experience in hive inspections. It is easier learning to drive a car with someone who already knows and can guide you, especially when the hazards appear.
- **The location or placement of your chosen hive is somewhat up to you, but some places are better than others.** In wet regions, bees need full sun. In hot areas, they need shade and water nearby. In deserts, bees need access to forage or feed during dearths. Vandals can find almost anything anywhere, as can rodents and animals.
- Become familiar with your area and those in agriculture around you. Pesticide use is common, and it is to your advantage to know what is going on around you. Residential areas are more prone to not reading the label and can inadvertently cause a threat to your perfect spot.
- **Invest in protective gear.** You can purchase just gloves and a veil, or this can be an "all-in" thing where you want it all and to look the part. It never hurts to have a spare for the car or those visiting.
- **When you are ready, buy your new bees and keep a journal and take photos and videos.** Your friends and family will want to see you in your new element. Documentation is encouraged as to how do you know you are improving if you are not recording where you have already been.
- **As you blossom into a seasoned beekeeper, advanced certifications exist.** Master beekeeping certifications for some show how much they don't know, whereas, for others, it becomes a thrill to learn and achieve a recognized level of beekeeping proficiency.

Go have fun. See the world through the eyes of a beekeeper and the amazing bees that live among us. As William Shakespeare penned in *As You Like It*, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." Play your part and enjoy yourself while doing it!

QUEEN Committee Report

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

Our 2019 American Honey Queen and Princess Hannah Sjostrom and Nicole Media had a fabulous sendoff during the 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Schaumburg, Illinois. On behalf of the American Honey Queen Program Committee, I commend their amazing work. Through nearly 350 promotional days, Hannah and Nicole reached millions of consumers through product demonstrations, generated an estimated $500,000 in media publicity for the industry and expanded honey and beekeeping promotions to Spanish-speaking outlets and on virtual platforms. Thank you, Hannah and Nicole, for your hard work for the American Beekeeping Federation in 2019. We wish you the best for continued success in your educational and professional endeavors.

We look forward to seeing your contributions with our distinguished alumni.

Many former American Honey Queens and Princesses and several former state honey queens were present at the ABF conference. Thanks to the efforts of our American Honey Queen alumni organization, we were thrilled to welcome home many of our former spokespersons from the 1960s and beyond. Thank you all for your continued support of the program, both through encouragement and financially. Many of these women spend countless hours helping with fundraising programs and events during the conference, continuing their contributions to our industry. We are grateful for their support and hard work.

I extend a special thank you to all those who have financially supported this amazing ABF program. Through your donations to the ABF's auction, entries in the American Honey Show, purchase of auction items, raffle ticket purchases and direct donations, the American Honey Queen Program continues to thrive more than 60 years since its inception. These donations fund our American Honey Queen and Princess's travels to generate free, positive publicity for our products and to provide quality, accessible educational presentations and information to the public about beekeeping. I offer special thanks as well to the many beekeeping organizations that make direct contributions to the program, such as the Montana State Beekeeping Association and The Beekeepers of Indiana.

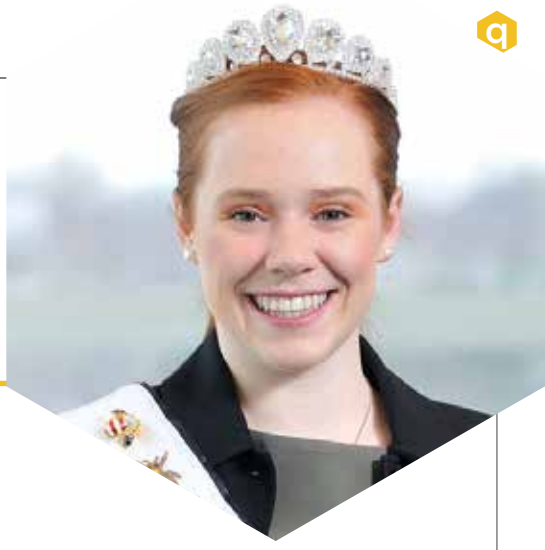
Our 62nd year of ABF honey and beekeeping promotions will be led by 2020 American Honey Queen Mary Reisinger of Texas and Sydnie Paulsrud of Wisconsin. The American Honey Queen Program Committee is excited to see their promotional skills in action, as they have chosen to focus on school presentations, virtual presentations and social media videos this year. Watch closely to the American Honey Queen Program's social media platforms (Facebook: American Honey Queen Program; YouTube: AmericanHoneyQueen) to follow along with their work for the year. Following their training session held January 29 to February 4, Mary and Sydnie will hit the road promoting on our behalf!

Our spring schedule is filling up nicely, and we are beginning to look into early summer promotions. Please contact me soon to schedule your events for the entire year! You may reach me at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or (414) 545-5514.

Best wishes for successful 2020 promotions!

AMERICAN HONEY QUEEN REPORT

Mary Reisinger



I am Mary Reisinger, your 2020 American Honey Queen. I am excited to work with you this year! I am from Parker, Texas, a small city just north of Dallas. I am a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, studying speech language pathology. My interest in honey bees began over ten years ago when I attended a Kids and Bees event. Six years later, I received a scholarship to keep bees from the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association. They gave me my first hive of bees, and John Talbert taught me how to keep them. With my excitement, I could never find enough opportunities to share about their importance with neighbors, friends and everyone I met. When I'm not taking care of my bees or talking endlessly about them, I can be found hiking, swimming or catching up with current research.

I am thrilled for this year of promotions as American Honey Queen. I was fascinated while attending the ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Schaumburg, Illinois, and learning about how beekeeping practices vary across the United States. The ABF community is like none other, and I am excited to work with many of you whom I met and many whom I will meet soon!

Shortly after the ABF conference, I visited New Jersey, January 21-25, for the annual New Jersey honey show. The honey show was at the New Jersey State House Annex in Trenton. Beekeepers throughout the state entered their honey and creations from hive products. I assisted with the judging and met with members of the New Jersey Board of Agriculture. I spoke extensively with New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher about honey bee pollination in the state. I reminded everyone I spoke with about the importance of pollinators for New Jersey's crops such as blueberries, cranberries and apples.

Queen Mary gives honey samples for the New Jersey People's Choice Honey Contest in Trenton.

I also administered the annual "People's Choice Honey Contest," encouraging the public to vote on their favorite flavor of honey. This allowed me to talk about the honey varietals of New Jersey and their origin. I also visited two elementary schools, reaching seven first grade classes and more than 90 students. In my school presentations, I cut open an apple to reinforce the difference in quality and quantity with and without honey bees. The children also sampled the award-winning honey and learned about honey varietals across the nation. I thank the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, New Jersey State Apiarist Meghan McConnell and Nicole Medina and her family for hosting me and arranging my appearances.

As I am writing this, American Honey Princess Sydnie Paulsrud and I are at our queen training, learning about a professional image, media interviews, social media, our blog *Buzzing Across America*, refining our presentations and other topics to make our year most effective. At training, we create goals on which to focus this year. One of mine is to post Facebook videos about my day-to-day encounters while promoting the industry in the states I visit. You can check out one of these videos on our Facebook page. Be sure to like the page after visiting to follow our travels this year!

In addition to working with many Queen Committee members during training, we are also putting our skills into action! So far, Sydnie and I have given two school presentations. By the end of our training, we will have reached six schools and nearly 400 students! Investing in school students is one of the best ways to spread a message. When a student develops a passion for pollination and understands the role honey bees play in our everyday lives, we have created another young spokesperson for the industry. Sharing with parents and friends about their fascinations is what children do best. Often, I hear parents tell of how their students came home telling them all about the presentation. Thank you to all our trainers who helped make our week of training successful!

Queen Mary and Princess Sydnie talk about pollination across the United States in schools in Wisconsin.

After training, I will go straight to Florida for more presentations. I can't wait to see you in your state soon. If you would like to schedule a promotion for Princess Sydnie or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or call (414) 545-5514.

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

AMERICAN HONEY PRINCESS REPORT

Sydnie Paulsrud

My name is Sydnie Paulsrud, and I am beyond thrilled to be your American Honey Princess! The 2020 ABF Conference & Tradeshow in Schaumburg, Illinois, was such a wonderful way to meet so many involved beekeepers and people interested in learning more about bees. I am so excited to continue to get to know many of you this year and not only share my knowledge on honey bees but also receive information from you.

I hail from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Back home, I work at DHL, a distribution warehouse center for Fleet Farm, a retail chain located in the Midwest. I am the eldest of five siblings with whom I love spending time. During my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends—we enjoy roller skating and going on adventures. I also play the flute and love to draw. My parents, Jack Paulsrud and Thea and Brian Weinberger are very proud of my accomplishments and are very supportive of my position as one of your national spokespersons.

Queen Mary and Princess Sydnie tour Henry's Honey Farm in Redgranite, Wisconsin.

I started my journey with the beekeeping industry when I became the Chippewa/Eau Claire County Honey Queen through a scholarship opportunity that led me to grow a deep love for our favorite insect. After nine months, I was interviewed based on my communication skills and beekeeping knowledge which led me to become the 2019 Wisconsin Honey Queen. I had training before I headed off to start my year-long journey of helping people all over Wisconsin to learn more about how honey bees amplify agriculture through pollination. Now, as a national spokesperson, I continue to share the important knowledge and love of our honey bees all over the United States.

A few weeks after being selected as American Honey Princess, American Honey Queen Mary Reisinger and I headed to Wisconsin (January 29 to February 4) for a weeklong training to ensure we have the best information to share about honey bees this year.

We began with Carmen Risi who showed us how to look professional and feel confident. We continued with Rachel Bryson (2008 American Honey Princess) and learned more about fundraising for the ABF and the American Honey Queen Program. Amy Blakeney (2010 American Honey Princess) then taught us how to document everything we do as we buzz around the country. Angie Lundeen (2000 American Honey Queen) showed us how to manage our informative Buzzing Across America blog (www.buzzingacrossamerica.com) which anyone can check out for fun facts, recipes and information.

Facebook is also an important part of social media, and Jolene McNutt (2006 American Honey Queen) showed us how to master our posts for people to enjoy and keep track of our promotions and interviews. Be sure to give our page a like to see what all the buzz is about. You can even see a Facebook live video that Mary and I created during training! Danielle Dale (2012 American Honey Princess) gave us insightful information to help us create YouTube videos that will help the public learn more about who we are and what people can learn from us. Be sure to visit our YouTube channel—AmericanHoneyQueen—subscribe and check out all our videos.

Mary and I need to know how to stay professional anywhere we may be, and that starts with packing. Thanks to Tabitha Copeland (2016 American Honey Princess), we will be neat and organized all year long. About halfway through our training, Dan Piechowski, the owner of Henry's Honey Farm, gave us an informative and helpful tour of his honey farm. Mary and I learned to mark queen bees as a bonus!

Toward the end of the training, Louann Hausner (1996 American Honey Princess) and Anna Kettlewell (1999 American Honey Queen) taught us how to perfect and sharpen our image and important messages on and off camera. I am confident that, after training, we will serve you well as we travel the country on your behalf!

Being the American Honey Princess provides me with all sorts of beneficial ways to use honey in the kitchen. Straight from our recipe brochure, I would love to share with you this delicious Honey Beer Bread. Enjoy!

I look forward to meeting many of you this year, and I am thrilled to be your American Honey Princess! If you would like to schedule a promotion for Queen Mary or me, please contact Anna Kettlewell at *honeyqueen99@hotmail.com* or 414-545-5514.

HONEY BEER BREAD

- 3 Cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 Teaspoon salt
- ¼ Cup honey
- 1 Tablespoon minced garlic
- 4 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 12 Ounces honey-wheat beer

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Whisk to combine. In a small bowl, melt butter in the microwave, then add honey, garlic and butter. Whisk until combined. Pour beer and honey mixture over the flour mixture and stir with a wooden spoon until just combined. Spoon batter into a greased loaf pan and bake 45 minutes.

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