



e-Buzz



A monthly publication of the American Beekeeping Federation

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June 2023

Vice President's Message



Dear Members,

We concluded our trip to Washington DC late Thursday, June 22, with Elizabeth Hill facilitating direct in person and zoom meetings with 11 different individuals and departments within the USDA.

The good news is that ARS and Aphis are taking the T mite threat seriously. Dr. Ramsey has received more funding to study this terminator level parasite at its current home versus when it arrives here in the US.

Continued pressure to open the Canadian border to U. S. packages is one of our better defenses as it could reduce imports from south of the equator.

Rep. Kelly Armstrong has a bill called the HIVE act. Yes, it's an acronym, to get FDA to legally define honey so we have a standing against manufactured honey - which is now a real thing. These manufacturers want to use the good name of honey to sell this synthetic concoction.

This is a big deal, as it will aid in a race to the bottom on honey pricing for us as producers. We are working on letters which we will ask you to download, put into your own words (please omit your favorite swear words!) and then forward to your congressional leaders in support of this bill and other important issues.

Here's an interesting observation: An intern was scrambling to answer the phone as we entered the office of a congressman when he pulled up short and let it ring. He said that number was flagged due to foul and abusive language used by the caller to the office. Note to self: don't call and lobby when your fired up. They *will* tag you.

All in all, it was a good visit. Fran Boyd and President Dan Winter did a great job covering the issues. Good questions were asked of us and we left each session having learned a bit better how Washington works, and how it fails to work. We specifically asked for \$9M to prepare against the arrival of the T mite. This is a huge ask, as funding to most programs has or will be cut by three percent. ARS labs so far are being funded at last year's budgeted levels, which is a win. Our purpose is to have the American Beekeeping Federation front and center, in the middle of issues affecting your livelihood or passion. Thank you for your support and interest in making it work.

Jay Miller
Vice President

State Delegates Updates

We are approaching our half-way point for 2023. May's meeting had lower attendance as many were under the weather. Just as our bees get sick and need intervention, beekeepers get sick as well. The 2023 bi-monthly meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday every other month and the remaining schedule is:

July 11th
Sept 12th
Nov 14th

Our calls feature guest speakers, an open forum for discussion on what ABF is doing for beekeepers and our industry, as well as delegates sharing what is going on in their states. We were very fortunate to have Fran Boyd, Lobbyist for the American Beekeeping Federation, join us in May as our guest speaker. In addition, Stephanie Slater, State Delegate Assembly Director, reviewed some ABF management changes and some teasers about our 2024 Conference and Tradeshow.

We welcomed Nikki Bowman from Kansas as one of our newest state delegates. The July 11th call will feature guest speaker, Dr. Garrett Slater. Garrett is the chair of our Research Committee and he will be updating us on what is happening in the U.S.

Regional Associations

Here is the latest on our three regional organizations that meet annually. If you'd like to participate in educational sessions, apiary experience, children's program and a honey show, you should register to attend a regional conference. Each conference is held in one of their member states or provinces. Moving the conference around allows everyone an opportunity to attend a regional conference that is closer to home.

Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS)



**EASTERN
APICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) will be July 31 – August 4, 2023 in Amherst, MA at the University of Massachusetts. Their featured speakers include Drs. Samuel Ramsey, Judy Wu-Smart, Cameron Jack, Tammy Horn-Potter, and Tom Seeley, along with Paul Kelly and many others. Their format will be the same as past years with a short course (Mon – Wed) and the main course (Wed thru Fri). EAS also sponsors a Master Beekeeping Program, Awards and Scholarships. Check out their website for complete details. <https://easternapiculture.org/conference>



Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS)

Registration is now open! HAS returns to the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. The 2023 two-day conference will be held on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29. The program kicks off with a social event on Thursday evening. Featured Speakers include Dr. Jeff Harris, Kent Williams, Dr. Leonard Davis and many more. Pre-registration ends on July 10. Visit their website for more information! <https://www.heartlandbees.org>

Western Apicultural Society (WAS)

Western Apicultural Society (WAS) will be back in full swing for their conference in Calgary, Canada September 29 – October 1, 2023. Topics will include management best practices, hive health, queen rearing, urban beekeeping, over-wintering and much more. See their website for more details. <https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023conference>



State Events

If you have a state event and would like to share it with ABF members, please send it to Debbie Seib at seibshoosierhoney@yahoo.com. Here are some state events in July:

July 14-15 [Illinois State Beekeeping Association - Summer Conference](#)

July 13-15 [Tri-County Summer Conference – MN, ND, SD](#)

July 22 [Washington State Beekeepers Association – Pollinator Knowledge & Fun Fest](#)

In 2022, over 50 percent of states were sponsors of the American Beekeeping Federation. There are four different levels of sponsorship and each level includes different benefits.

State Association Sponsorship Level	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Annual Contribution	\$100 - \$249	\$250 - \$499	\$500 - \$999	\$1,000 +
Sponsorship Benefit per Year				
Organization recognition and website link on ABF website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Organization recognition at ABF Conference & Tradeshow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition on ABF Conference & Tradeshow badge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meetings promoted on upcoming events calendar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Members receive <i>ABF E-Buzz</i> newsletter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Permission to play recorded webinar(s) at meeting	1	2	3	4
Permission to reprint ABF articles in newsletter		Yes	Yes	Yes
Assistance in identifying presenters by topic and expertise			Yes	Yes
President receives ABF legislative updates			Yes	Yes
Virtual presentation(s) facilitated by ABF			1	2
Two free adult registrations to ABF Conference & Tradeshow				Yes

If you would like more information about ABF State Delegates Assembly or about state sponsorships, contact Debbie Seib at seibshoosierhoney@yahoo.com. If you are a State Delegate and would like ABF information to share at your event, send an email including estimated numbers to abfnet.org@gmail.com. Please give us three weeks notice.

Regards,

Debbie Seib, Chair
ABF State Delegates Assembly

ABF 2024 Conference and Trade Show

Come Hear the Jaz, About Bees

January 9-13
New Orleans
Marriott



Exciting Conference News...

Our conference will begin on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, with a welcoming dinner on Tuesday evening, January 9, 2024, during which we will show videos of commercial beekeepers in their apiaries.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the New Orleans Marriott for a discounted rate of \$169 per night (plus applicable tax and fees). The hotel is located on [555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130](#). Several tours have been arranged for Monday, January 8, 2024 at a special rate. For more information, check out our [website](#).

Registration will begin on July 5, with early bird registration rates through October 31. Pre-registration will close on December 26. Full conference registration will include a Tuesday night "Dinner and a Show" and Wednesday night "dinner and ice-cream social." Watch our website for the schedule, more information and a link to the registration page.

Registration	Early Bird Rates July 5 - October 31, 2023		Regular Rates Nov 1 - Dec 26, 2023		On-Site Rates	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Individual Registrants Full Conference	\$245.00	\$305.00	\$295.00	\$355.00	\$345.00	\$405.00
Individual Registrants Day Rate	\$150.00	\$190.00	\$175.00	\$215.00	\$200.00	\$240.00
Student and Educator	\$60.00					

Note:
* 10 percent discount for active military and first responders

We have confirmed 12 vendors already. Are you interested in becoming an exhibitor or sponsor? Send an email to Regina Robuck at partnershiprelations@abfnet.org

Honey Queen Buzz



June marks the halfway point in Queen Selena's and Princess Allison's promotional year, and it is usually a slower month, allowing the Queens to prepare for the busiest promotional time of the year that commences in July.

Part of those preparations include a midyear review of their performance with the American Honey Queen Committee. Much like in the professional business world, the Committee reviews where their performance to date has met or exceeded expectations and highlights areas for improvement.

We have found these midyear meetings to be critical in our representatives' development as professional spokespersons and have helped them become more receptive to receiving critical feedback throughout their upcoming professional careers. I'm happy to report that our Queens accepted their feedback willingly and openly. We are collectively working on strategies to maximize their work for the ABF and the beekeeping industry during the second half of 2023.

As noted above, June is traditionally a quieter promotional time. Allison kept her promotional work close to home, presenting at a local library and to a local 4-H club, working to meet her goals of presenting to agriculturally focused youth groups. When Allison visits your area, try to schedule some evening presentations to the local 4-H chapters or FFA organizations in your community and help her reach one of her goals.

Selena traveled to Connecticut to take part in a series of community presentations for adult and children's groups in preparation for her appearance at the Lyman Orchards Strawberry Festival. This event allowed Selena to connect the dots between honeybees and many agricultural industries with the consumers. It also provided an opportunity to show the consumer how to incorporate honey into tasty dishes using those fresh strawberries!

Agricultural festivals are a great promotional tool, and many of us will have a sales booth at such events. Consider inviting the American Honey Queen or Princess to your event this or next year; it's a way to see your honey sales increase with an extra draw to your sales booth.

Fall scheduling is underway, so please contact me if you have any promotional events, school or educational events, fairs, festivals, or farmers' markets at which the Queen and Princess could help. We'd love to have them speak at your state convention or regional beekeeping meetings, so let me know if we can schedule them on your program to discuss the Honey Queen Program,

effective promotional and media tips, or other topics.

The Queens are still available for virtual presentations, should your local bee club or school need a single presentation. You may reach me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to schedule a presentation or promotion with Selena and Allison. Happy promoting!



TREND REPORTS POSITION HONEY AS "SWEETENER TO WATCH"

Even though honey is thousands of years old, the modern take and fresh mentions prove that it is a versatile all-natural sweetener that stands the test of time. Honey is making a name for itself in 2023's trend report listings in a number of ways:

- As a functional beverage sweetener
- As a versatile ingredient
- As a sweet heat trend
- As a better-for-you sweetener – even in confections

[Click here to check out our Honey Trends Report blog.](#)

Images Credit: National Honey Board

RECIPE for June

Savory Honey Chicken on the Grill

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 tablespoons Dijon Mustard
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- ½ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 teaspoons garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- 3 pounds bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs



Instructions:

1. Prepare marinade - in a small bowl combine honey, soy sauce, dijon mustard, lemon juice, olive oil, and all of the spices, set aside.
2. Place chicken thighs in a 9x13 baking dish.
3. Pour half the honey mixture over the chicken pieces. Cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate. Reserve the remaining marinade.
4. Preheat BBQ to 350 degrees. Spray with non-stick cooking spray.
5. Sear over direct heat. Transfer meat to indirect heat. Continue cooking for 10-15 minutes, cover closed.
6. While grilling, brush chicken thighs with a generous layer of the reserved marinade. Grill until the chicken is golden brown and the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees F.

Variations:

Add some heat to your marinade by adding red pepper flakes, cayenne pepper, or hot sauce before you marinate the chicken.

If you prefer low-sodium recipes, you can use low sodium soy sauce or coconut aminos. You can add more flavor to the sweet honey glaze by using some grated fresh ginger to the sauce. Instead of garlic powder and garlic salt, you can use minced garlic cloves for a fresh flavor. Lime juice can be used instead of lemon juice for a slightly different flavor.

Next time use boneless pork chops with this easy recipe! You can also use boneless skinless chicken breasts or thighs if you prefer. Be sure to adjust the cooking time, though.



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