e-Buzz

A monthly publication of the American Beekeeping Federation

October 2023

President's Message

Dear Members,

This has been one of my busiest summers. Debbie Seib and I went to the Eastern Apiculture Society meeting in Massachusetts. It was a well run meeting and I enjoyed every minute. We were welcomed with a table for ABF and we did a great job reaching out to beekeepers and reaising awareness of the importance of supporting the ABF and explained everything we do as an organization. Using the ABF engraved hive tool and the *Quarterly* 2nd quarter article about fake honey by Blake Shook, we were able to acquire 40 new members.

I also attended the Empire State Honey Producers summer picnic in New York and the New Jersey State Beekeepers fall meeting. I'd like to thank Mark Fiegl from New York and John Gaut from New Jersey for welcoming the ABF. Again, using the hive tools for new mmbers, I signed up 19 new members.

Other states are doing the same things and we are well on our way to hitting 1,000 members by the end of the year.

The ABF will be starting a series of round table discussions with beekeepers nationwide at several events. We are asking beekeepers their opinions about where representation in the beekeeping industry is needed and what, in general, beekeepers woudl like to have ABF work on. The first discussion will be in Temple, TX at the Texas State Beekeepers Association annual conference. We have invited beekeepers in all areas from all associations. If you are in the area and have good ideas, I'd love to hear them. If you just cannot gt away to one of our meetings, then feel free to call me. My information is availalbe on our webiste - abfnet.org.

I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in January. Come down, enjoy the food, and let's talk bees.

Dan Winter
President

New Members

Welcome to the Colony!

We're buzzing with excitement to welcome these new ABF members since September:

Mary Aho

Stacey Elston

Tom Lewis

Mark Carlson

Debora Carpenter

Kathy Clay

Rachel Colegrove

Tonya Garcia

Debbie Komperda

Michal Kulka

James Lee

John Manchester

Susan Maxwell

Scott Poling

Antonio Quinlan

Jeffery Reader

Legislative Update

Hopefully this week we will have a new Speaker of the House. Even if the House Republican Conference is successful in electing a new speaker, I am not sure it will speed up the enactment of a new farm bill or next year's agriculture appropriations bill. It has been over 2 weeks that the country has not had a Speaker of the House and for all practical purpose one side of the Hill has been shut down. Yes, daily work has continued, and meetings have been held but no legislation has moved. This week Republican House members will meet again and hopefully select a new Speaker from among the 9 declared candidates. For a Speaker to be elected they will need 217 votes so a small margin of dissenting votes can halt the entire process. The margin is small. If they are successful, a new Speaker will take the gavel and the Congress will proceed. There is much in the areas of foreign and domestic policy decisions they will need to address. One of the first orders of business before them is what to do about funding the government. Currently, all federal spending is under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which runs out on November 17.

With concern to agriculture policy, the current farm bill expired at the end of September and even though both House and Senate leadership have been working hard on a new draft legislation, the legislative calendar is shrinking and the end of this session of Congress is almost here. The last effort to address a new Agriculture Appropriations bill in the House was unsuccessful due to all House Democrats and several Republicans from agricultural districts being against its passage. The opposition stemmed from the bill cutting agricultural spending by more than 13 percent from last year's agricultural funding and threats from many members of Congress to offer floor amendment cutting spending even more once the legislation reached the House floor. Even with the election of a new Speaker, this situation in the House has not significantly changed. The Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee would like to release a draft of his version of the next 5-year farm bill in November following the election of a new Speaker. Even if Chairman Thompson (R-PA) is successful, this does not leave many legislative days to mark-up the bill in Committee and then take the legislation to the floor and pass a bi-partisan farm bill given the current environment in the House. In the Senate Agriculture Committee, Chairman Stabenow (D-MI) believes a new farm bill still can be completed in this session of Congress, however more members of the Senate are publicly expressing their doubt and calling for an extension of the current law.

In the meantime, we continue to work closely with members and staff of the House and Senate Agriculture committees. It is critical that the issues of importance to our industry are considered. It is important, however long it takes for Congress to complete a new farm bill, they continue to hear from America's beekeepers on the current condition of the our industry and the critical importance beekeeping and beekeepers are to the economic success of all U.S. Agriculture.

Fran Boyd, ABF Washington Representative

State Delegates Updates

Our last meeting of 2023 will be November 14. 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 have many states that are sponsors, and depending on the level, receive different benefits. Our Platinum State Sponsors receive two adult registrations (among many other benefits) to our 2024 Conference and Tradeshow. Our current Platinum State Sponsors are:

- California
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Ohio
- Texas
- Wisconsin

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 upcoming state events:

November 3-4 Wisconsin Honey Producers Association Fall Convention

November 3-4 Virginia State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting

November 3-4 Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Conference

November 4 Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Fall Meeting

November 10-11 Iowa Honey Producers Annual Conference & Tradeshow

November 11 Colorado Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting

November 14-16 California State Beekeepers Association Annual Conference

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

Exciting Conference News...

Online early bird pre-registration rates for our 2024 ABF Conference and Tradeshow are available through October 31, 2023. Pre-registration will close on December 31, 2023.

We have several special inclusions in the registration price:

- Tuesday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 10 social events with meals included
- Honey Judging Class to teach how to judge honey
- Dr. Judy Wu Smart "Science Policy and Advocacy Training for Beekeepers" workshop
- Sold out Vendor Expo
- Friday will include an entire day of 'Beginning Beekeeping Classes'

Some new sessions that will delight you, for additional costs:

- Encaustic Painting workshop by George Hansen
- Forklift Certification taught in both English and Spanish
- Tour of the Baton Rouge Bee Lab
- Commercial Breakfast, proceeds will be given to Research Fund
- House of Blues, offsite social event

See our website for the complete schedule, https://abfnet.org/abf-2024-schedule-2/

For registration, go to https://abfnet.org/2024-abf-conference-registration/

Monday tours: https://abfnet.org/2024-abf-conference-frame/

We look forward to seeing you there!

Janae Becher	William Gartner	Lenny Lacrosse	Tracy Pielemeier
Richard Benson	Elizabeth Griffis	Heidi Marusa	Lawrence Roth
Linda Burkett	Wilson Griffis	Gina Matury	John Schellenberger
Joshua Burns	Gary Haas	Delsey Maus	Peter Scott
Louise Clayton	Richard Hack	Jim Mcmahon	Bill Spurlin
Oliver Costello	Sondra Heiken	Paula Messer	Angela Steinhauer
Nicole Desoto	Joan Houston	Michael Meyer	Dylan Suttle
Paul Dietrich	Mark Johnson	David Miller	Fr. Benedict Whitwell
Conrad Dietzler	Nicky Jones	Maura O'Donnell	Jon Zawislak
Edward Ellis	James Kenney	Don Petry	

For questions, send an email to Debbie Seib at abfnet.org@gmail.com.

Honey Queen Buzz

Over the last few decades, October has become one of the busiest travel and promotion months for the American Honey Queen and Princess. This October continued with that tradition, as Queen Selena and Princess Allison promoted in 11 states during 28 days this month, making this month as busy as pre-pandemic days!

Fall fairs and festivals were a big component of this month's promotions, with stops at the Fryeburg Fair in Maine, the Topsfield Fair in Massachusetts, the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Honey Harvest Festival in Maryland, the Arkansas Honey Festival, the Texas State Fair, and the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Georgia. At each of these events, the Queens had abundant opportunities to promote honey and beeswax. Fall events are the perfect time for extracting demonstrations! They also rolled beeswax candles, sold honey, gave presentations on the varieties and forms of honey, and answered countless honey bee and beekeeping questions using the observation hive as a promotional tool. We appreciate all the efforts that our fall fair promotion planners make in setting up a wide range of activities for the queens in which they interact with the public to best promote our industry's products.

Educational presentations also continued in October. With schools in full swing, the Queens presented to students in Massachusetts, Montana, Georgia, Colorado, and Wisconsin throughout the month. Some school presentations came at fairgrounds, where students were taking field trips. Some came through organized Ag in the Classroom events. Others were in the traditional format, where the Queens visit schools, grades K-12, giving presentations. The Queens' educational presentations typically last 20-30 minutes for students in elementary school and can last as long as a class period and include demonstrations for students in middle and high school. The Queens reached students in all grade levels this month, speaking to thousands of students. You don't need a big event to host the Queen or Princess. Consider working with your local schools to arrange a few days of educational presentations in your area in the upcoming year. Also, remember, that the Queens can give virtual presentations, too, should a local school be interested!

Finally, October begins state beekeeping conventions. The Program reached conventions in Montana, Florida, and Oregon this month. This gives us the opportunity to promote the ABF and membership in our organization with state beekeeping members. The Queens can give presentations about their work throughout the year for the industry and can also touch on other topics, such as effective honey and beekeeping promotions and effective presentations on the industry. They love lending a helping hand at your state beekeeping convention, so make your requests to have the Queen or Princess visit your state meeting, be it a winter, spring, summer, or fall event!

We are wrapping up planning for Selena and Allison's year of promotions and are beginning to develop plans for our 2024 promotional year. Contact me at honeyqueen99@hotmail.com or 414.545.5514 to discuss your 2024 events. We are excited for what the new year will hold for honey and beekeeping promotions. Happy promoting!!

RECIPE for October

Fall is officially here, bringing chilly mornings, deep colors, and bold flavors. From colorful gourds to crisp apples and sweet honey, the autumn harvest is certainly one to be celebrated. In honor of the new season, we're sharing one of our favorite fall recipes that features honey bee-pollinated ingredients and remind us of why we love this time of year.

Skillet Salted Honey Apple Crisp

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 - stick butter, divided
- 1 cup - oats
- 1/4 cup - brown sugar
- 1 cup - chopped peacans
- 2 T - flour
- 1/2 cup - sugar
- 1/4 cup - honey
- 1 tsp. - kosher salt, divided
- zest and juice of 1 small orange
- 4 - crisp, tart apples (such as Granny Smith), cored and cut into 1/2" slices
- 1 tsp. - ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. - ground nutmeg
- additional honey for drizzling

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Cut up 1/2 of the butter into small cubes. In a medium bowl, mix the butter with the oats, brown sugar, pecans and flower until it is crumbly, but starting to clump together. Set aside.

Melt 1/2 of the butter over medium heat, add the sugar, honey, salt, orange juice and zest, cook for 15 minutes until the sauce starts to turn light brown, syrupy and reduced by 1/2.

Add the apples, cinnamon and nutmeg. Toss to coat and continue cooking for another 6-8 minutes.

Turn off the heat and add the crumbled, pecan mixture to the top of the apples. Place in the oven and bake for 10-12 minutes or until the topping begins to brown and the apples start to bubble. Serve warm with additional honey drizzled on top.

TIP:

Add 1/2 cup of fresh or dried cranberries for a seasonal twist to this dish.

Photo and recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board. For more honey recipes, visit honey.com.

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