



The Buzzer

Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association

Serving beekeepers and friends in Northeast Pennsylvania

Volume 22 Number 1 March 2016



Photo by Jennifer Berry, Univ. of GA, appearing on Bee Culture Calendar, January 2016

Meetings Friday at 7 PM

Claverack Bldg., Montrose
 March 11 July 8
 April 8 Sept. 9
 May 13

Field Days Sat. at 1 PM

May 14 June 11

Work Day / Picnic

July 30

“Buzzer” Table of Contents

Page 2 - 3 - 4 - part of 5
 2015 PSBA*
 Page 6 December Minutes
 Page 7 Three Winners!
 page 8 Schools, Field Days & Resources
 Page 9 Who’s Who, etc.

**March 11th meeting will be about
 introducing package bees and other
 spring management ideas!**
*Member suggestions for meeting
 topics always welcome*

** 3 1/2 pages below are devoted to Donna Reagen’s
 report on the PSBA conference and well worth reading!*



Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association Conference Speakers 2015

Report by Donna Reagen

with help from Lynn Anderson & John Reagen, members of our association

CHARLIE VORISEK, President of PSBA is involved and serves on the Apiary Advisory Board at Penn State. His focus centers from urban to commercial in order to save and preserve beekeeping, beekeepers, and bees.

KAREN ROCCASECCA, Pa. Dept of Agriculture, enforces the Bee Law, and monitors Apiary progress. Pa. currently has 7 apiary inspectors. In 2014, registered new beekeepers reached a total of 500. In 2015 the total new registered beekeepers reached 460. We have an approximate total of 3,500 statewide, 6,000 bee yards and 63,000 colonies. The main goal of inspectors is controlling and discovering foul brood and helping beekeepers to produce healthy, strong, thriving hives. If American Foul Brood (AFB) is found a 5 mile radius from the point of origin is checked. AFB is highly contagious and spreads easily. Antibiotics used suppresses spore development but does not kill the bacteria. Spores can be viable for 80+ years. Elimination process involves shaking bees to a NEW hive and foundation, burn entire affected hive.

MARYANN FRASIER, Dept. of Entomology at Penn State, has done extensive research on pesticides, educates on beekeeping, and commits to international development. She insists on the importance of communication among beekeepers, make known your experiences, do your homework and know the limits of your knowledge. Get information and knowledge if needed, it is critical to know the actual science. Honeybee exposure to pesticides causes a great negative impact, also, different pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides synergies with each other becoming even more toxic to bees. Formulation ingredients(inert ingredients) matter as well as the active ingredient in these poisons. Some of the sub-lethal effects of pesticides include, impaired memory and learning of bees, homing becomes difficult, foraging becomes difficult, and 44 days later, eggs laid by the queen most likely will not hatch. Recommends to not recycle comb because these toxins go into the wax as well as the pollen. Herbicides cut the pollen source for bees causing loss of diversity. the foraging range of a honey bee is 3.7 miles, approximately 27,932 acres. If a honey bee cannot find the diversity and what it needs in the 3.7 mile radius they could forage up to 6.2 miles.

MARLA SPIVAK, Dept. of Entomology at the University of Minnesota, focuses on hygienic behavior and breeding disease-resistant strains of bees. Studies and experiments on the benefits of propolis to bee health has produced much knowledge about how bees take care and defend themselves. Propolis (plant resin) works like an immune system containing anti-microbial protein. Bees pack it onto their back legs and take it to the hive, is removed by another bee, mixed with bees wax then used to varnish the walls of the hive. This process helps provide waterproofing and support for the hive. Study has shown when propolis lines the hive, it benefits bee immune system by keeping it stronger and to fight disease easier. Propolis will lose anti-microbial activity over time, a good idea is to scrape off old to make room for new. During warmer weather the anti-microbes in resin are more active. Bees will re-coat the hive at the beginning of the growing season. Bee colonies were challenged with and without the propolis envelope. It was proven that with propolis, young bees had higher level of immunity, genes were amped up when sick, larval food did not allow bacteria to grow. When a colony is weak or sick bees will bring in more resin, the Eastern Cottonwood is mostly used. NOTE: A direct application for beekeepers: use unfinished rough cut lumber in hive boxes to stimulate bees to create a propolis envelope. Or, if hive is unassembled use a saw or grinder to score the inside walls, this will encourage the bees to line the hive even more.

Our landscape provides a great impact on bee health and survivorship. Research proves when bees are well nourished they are more able to fight disease. We need clean foraging areas for bees to feed so they can detox. Pollen provides protein and lipids and the amount brought in each day makes a hive live longer. Support bee health by supplying an abundant clean foraging area for your bees. Seed into lawn, seeds such as Dutch Clover and then allow to grow and maintain 6 inches high. A large variety of species of flowering plants are used for foraging, some include: Prunella, Milk Weed, Joe Pie Weed, Canadian Milk Vetch, Creeping Thyme, Thistle, Borge, Echium, Chupia. (earthseed.com). Pollinator Habitat fields are needed, and of course pesticide free! Working with nearby businesses and landowners could prove beneficial. “Pheasants Forever” and beekeepers unite on this level, since foraging areas supply a great habitat for pheasants also. Varroa mite is a gigantic problem for our bees, if we could get our mite levels lower, we can reduce transmission amounts resulting in saving more bees. We do not like using chemicals (Hopguard, finally registered in PA) to treat our bees but we are faced with this need to control, much like a vaccination program in humans. After a national effort to gather information on Varroa, 10 years of anticipation and hard work, proud to announce that a new Bee Lab and Pollen Research Lab is being built at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus (10,000 sq. ft.) opening the end of summer in 2016. Included in this project a Bee Discovery Center for the public will also be available.

JAMES NIEH, Professor of Ecology, Behavior, Evolution in the Division of Biological Sciences, University of California research focuses on communication, behavior, foraging, and bee health.

Honey bee communication: One way of communicating is the “waggle dance”, the excitation signal in bees on where to find food. All fine tuning occurs in the dance and can be turned higher or lower. The dance is increased for sweeter foraging plants and food unless danger is involved. Another is the smell of pheromones produced by glands in the honey bee. Bees can smell each others alarm to avoid danger. Also, there is a ‘stop signal’ where the bee vibrates it’s wings causing a beeping nasal sound, while bumping it’s head up against another bee. After receiving the warning signal the waggle dancers stopped giving food to the other bees. According to a study, bees can identify a predator (spider, mantis, yellow jackets, hornets) by sight and smell. Bees will avoid predators and if dead bees are present while foraging, waggle for this plant decreases so to avoid other bees going to that plant. Bees apply a referential alarm signal which encodes the type and level of danger. The vibratory sound changes and pulse duration is longer depending on severity and size of predator. Changes in signals notify whether the predator is at the plant source or the hive entrance. If there is a predator at the hive entrance the signal for more bees is needed for defense, an example is a hornet at the hive calls for a ball of bees to enclose on the hornet which results in cooking the hornet. Hornets cannot withstand the heat of a ball of honeybees, temperature could reach 92 to 95 degrees.

CLARE DENSLEY, Head beekeeper at Buckfast Abbey in Devon, England with a philosophy of gentle beekeeping, understanding the colony as a super-organism. and working with that concept as much as possible. She accepts that there is compromise when we take responsibility for a colony’s health and survival but she is respectful of and cooperative with the needs of bees. Educates beekeepers at the Benedictine Order at Buckfast Abbey in Devonshire, England which presently raises bees for honey production only. Brother Adam, famous author, perfectionist, famous for breeding of the honey bee, worked with bees as a young child at the Abbey, also, helped rebuild the Abbey in the late 1800’s. In his lifetime he traveled thousands of miles in search of the perfect bee fit for breeding. Some of his works included, controlled breeding by isolation, used drone choice, did splits and added Italian queens. All this work was in response to the colony collapse disorder in the early 1900’s where the abbey went from 45 hives to 16. Book titled, “The Isle of Wight Disease”, a recommended read.



Clare's belief is, bees need diversity and different characteristics. If there is a perfection in one aspect of the bee, there is weakness in another. The more diverse the drone, produces larger healthier hives, more diverse pheromones, a larger gene pool, resulting in a greater ability to survive. She promotes a more natural hive by using an optional frame with an open comb area allowing the bees to fill it on their own. Frame contains a sheet of luan plywood sized to the frame which is cut out into a large oval in the center, resulting in the bees filling the open oval area with their own comb. "Honey bees bridge the gap between humans and nature", and are her favorite insect. They produce honey, an amazing product containing a source of sweetness as well as good health, energy, and healing properties as well. As people we need to communicate and make the world a better place for the honey bee, more diverse habitats, mates, & foraging fields. Bees know what they are doing, we depend on them for survival. Bees are symbolic for the health of our planet!

ERIN MACGREGOR-FORBES, EAS Master beekeeper in Portland, Maine, she describes artificial swarming as a management technique which works with bees' natural habits to combat pests and diseases, increase honey production, and decrease the need for chemical intervention in the colony. You can actually help bees achieve their goals. Trying to reduce numbers of Varroa mites early, one treatment in the fall recommended and keep treatments at a minimum. Treatment free beekeeping requires more time and intensive management.

Inspect your brood, check quality, also, feed colony to increase digestion and help stress. If you are feeding and nectar is too cold they will not feed, you need to slightly warm the bottle. Swarming means a break in the brood cycle, controlling mites and virus. Swarm season begins in the spring when the violets and dandelions are in bloom, which is the bees first reliable food source. The goal of every colony is to reproduce. A brood cycle break can provide, swarm prevention, Varroa management, and increase in honey production. In a perfect world, in order to stop a swarm, pull the queen 10 minutes before swarm begins...haha! Some steps taken to prevent swarming include: Find the original queen of the hive and remove her, place her in a nuc box at another position in the bee yard along with brood frames containing nurse bees, frames with honey and pollen. This smaller hive is referred to as an artificial swarm. In the original hive a new queen cell will be produced. Or, another approach would be to remove all but 1 queen cell from the parent colony, add 2-3 honey supers and wait 28 days. At the 28 day period you have reached success if eggs are being laid. If no eggs are being laid then it remains queenless. During this queenless period there is no brood to feed, an increased honey production, and the nurse bees use this period to clean up brood nest and break the disease cycle. If a hive remains queenless you can re-introduce the nuc box at the bottom of the original hive. Do not force a colony to re-queen wait for them to be ready.

DEWEY CARON, PhD in Entomology, 40+ years teaching, bee research, Cornell University, Universities of Maryland and Delaware, currently retired in Oregon. He has strong feelings about our bees being in crisis. His belief is that today's removable frames in our hives was a downfall. If we continued to utilize skep hives we would be fine;-) The major challenges for our bees are: Bees are not native to the US, agriculture is ever changing, weather and environment are up and down with the extreme season changes, and the number one challenge is the mite issue. Being informed is a priority, beekeepers need to talk to each other, (Beeinformed.org). Understand your local conditions and seasonal perspective. Understand your expectations and goals in raising bees. Major reasons for bee loss are, starvation, weak colony (poor overwintering), mites, disease, genetic challenged queen stock, and pesticides. A good practice is to test for mites in the colony. A sugar shake is one way, use a cup of bees (300 bees) put them in a ball jar with approximately 2 TBS. of confectioners sugar place the outer ring with a piece of screen replacing the center part of lid onto the jar and tighten.

Roll jar for about a minute until bees are coated with powdered sugar and mites will then begin falling off bees. (Heat builds up when sugar coats the bee's body, mites do not like the heat). Shake contents of the jar with screened lid in place onto a white surface and count the mites, brush off the white surface and repeat process, do this until you do not see anymore mites. Then count up the total of mites which will be your mite threshold number. If you have more than 10 mites (per 300 bees) treatment necessary. Rule of thumb, the first treatment depends on your geographical area, treat April, May, or June and then treat after the honey flow removal in the fall end of September or beginning of October. Treatment choices for mite control include harder chemicals and softer chemicals. Hard chemicals available are, Apiguard, which is sensitive to heat, Apivar strips, and Amitraz 3.3 %. Unfortunately, mites are beginning to resist Apiguard and Apivar. Softer chemicals, organic treatments include Oxalic Acid, Essential Oils, and Formic Acid. Formic Acid is also sensitive to heat. Screened bottom boards are another management device, but at this time these boards fall under a 50/50 if they work successfully or not. (honeybeecoalition.org)

SAVE THE DATE: PBSA 2016 CONFERENCE WILL BE AT THE DAYS INN
IN STATE COLLEGE NOVEMBER 11TH AND 12TH!!

OUR FIRST TIME ATTENDEES ARE ENTHUSIASTIC AND RECOMMEND IT !!



SBA Sec. Minutes Summary - Dec. 11, 2015 - Pres. Dave Taylor - Attendance: 17

No Sec. report Treas. Rep. by president: \$3217.53 checking acct.

Community Foundation education account: \$13,000 for future scholarships

Meeting dates for 2016: Feb. 12 Board of Directors

Regular meetings: Fridays, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Sept. 9, Dec. 9 (if needed) All at: Claverack Building , Rt. 706, Montrose at 7:00 PM

Field Days: May 14 & June 11, Sat. at 1:00 PM at James Wood apiary

July 30, Sat. Work Day 7 Picnic at Harford Fair

Annual Dinner: Nov. 5, 6:00 PM at So. Montrose Community Church

Harford Fair: Aug. 21 - 27

Resolution: approved purchase of carrier for the library books

Reminder to contact Jim Perkins with ideas for desired topics/presentations/speakers

Program: Things learned at Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Conf. in Nov., presented by

John & Donna Reagen & Lynn Anderson, discussion with Q & A

Announcement: Susquehanna Co. Ag Day (formerly Farm Day) in March at Elk Lake HS.

Last year our workers were Jim Barber, James Wood & Kevin Baker. Deadline 1/31/16

Did you know that beeswax candles clean the air when they burn? Beeswax releases negative ions when it burns. Pollen, dust, dirt, pollutants, and any other junk in the air all carry a positive charge, and that is how they can be suspended in the air. The negative ions released from burning beeswax negate the positive charge of air contaminants, and the neutralized ions are sucked back into the burning candle or fall to the ground. Many air purifiers and water filters harness this effective negative ion technology.

SBA Board of Directors Summary

From the minutes of Rae-Ann Marsland, Secretary

2/13/ 16 Town & Country Grill, Tunkhannock/ Attendance

Presiding, Dave Taylor, Pres.

Treasurer's report, Kathy Swepston: Balance in treasury \$ 2,944.40 Sales tax was paid on fair items candles etc. Harford fair rent paid \$ 356.76, Insurance paid \$231.00 Fair program advertisement approved by board

* **New business:** Ginny: blinds to block the sun and a ceiling fan for the honey hut. James will check with the fair committee about the fan Jim Moronski may have a fan we can use

* Ginny discussed new shirt design to be discussed at next meeting. Ginny will get a price color is maroon/gold lettering

* 2006 fair chairman: Jim Moronski

* Dave will see if Mann lake will donate another starter hive for "donation" project money goes to the scholarship fund

* We need more entries for the fair -- honey , candles etc

* Two cases of candy and the honey sticks will be ordered from Betterbee

* Ag Days at Elk Lake School / James does presentation

* Meeting topic options discussed

spring/winter prep

making observation hive/nuc for fair (Jim Barber)

different types of hives top bar, ware hive (sweet valley hives)

gadgets / tools & tricks

* Committee positions are needing to be filled , hospitality etc

schedule for meetings are needed 2 weeks ahead of time for the newspaper

* Meeting dates settled. (see page one)

◆ **Beekeeping Book Reviews** ◆ **New Equipment Articles**

**Don't Miss A Single Issue!
Resubscribe Today!**

See www.BeeCulture.com for our \$15.00 Full Digital Edition. Save 40% off the Regular Price and 75% off the Newsstand price.



Savings Based On Newsstand Price. Foreign Subscriptions Add \$20/year Additional Postage.

**FOR IMMEDIATE
Subscription service**
www.BeeCulture.com

\$25 For 12 Big Issues including Free Annual Beekeeping Calendar

\$48 For 24 Big Issues including Two Free Annual Beekeeping Calendars

\$15 12 ISSUES OF OUR DIGITAL EDITION

Payment Enclosed Bill Me Later (U.S. Only)

Name _____ (Please Print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Required for Digital Subscription

Phone # _____ Required if using Credit Card

Credit Card # _____

You can also send your check or credit card info to
Bee Culture Magazine, 623 West Liberty Street, Medina, OH 44256

◆ **Natural Beekeeping Techniques** ◆ **How-To For Beginners** ◆

Urban Beekeeping Information ◆ Honey Plants

Monthly Honey Report ◆ Kids' Page

2016 Pennsylvania Honey Queen

Sarah McTish was chosen to be the 2016 Pennsylvania Honey Queen during the recent PSBA Fall Conference in Lewisburg, Pa. Sarah will represent PSBA in 2016, attending and speaking at varied events throughout the year. Congratulations, Sarah!



Visit the [Honey Queen Facebook page!](#)

"Pennsylvania Honey Queen Program"

April 8 meeting will be
old fashioned
"SHOW AND TELL"
Bring gadgets, and
equipment you have found
helpful.
Q & A for new beekeepers
and old ones too!

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

www.americanbeejournal.com
Return to: American Bee Journal
51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341



or Call 1-888-922-1293

Association Member Subscription

(Rates listed below are 25% below regular rates.)

U.S.		<input type="checkbox"/> New
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr.	\$21.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr.	\$39.75	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr.	\$56.25	

Prices good through
Dec. 31, 2016

Subscriber's Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

***The Beekeeper's
Companion Since 1861***

*Don't let your beekeeping
fall behind the times!*

Published Monthly

Free sample copy upon request



[Our School Program](#)

[Report to Date for 2015 - 2016](#)

Jim Barber, James Wood,
Dick Chapin, Coordinator

9/23 Blue Ridge, New Milford

9/30 Faith Mountain Christian, New
Milford

10/7 Lathrop St., Montrose

10/14 Lackawanna Trail , Factoryville

10/20 Mt. View, Kingsley

10/28 Roslund, Tunkhannock

11/4 Choconut Valley, Friendsville

11/11 Evans Falls, Tunkhannock

11/17 Mill City, Dalton

12/9 Mehoopany

12/16 Wyalusing

1/6 Our Lady of Peace, Clarks Summit

1/20 NE Bradford, LeRaysville

2/10 Carbondale

James Wood & a helper will be
there:

Elk Lake Science Fair
April 14; 6 to 8 P.M.

Free Sources of Beekeeping News and Tips:

Free "ABJ Extra" (American Bee Journal)
e-newsletter www.americanbeejournal.com

Free "Catch the Buzz" (Bee Culture)
e-newsletter

www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz

[Our Own Website](#)

<http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com/>

Check it out! Try "*Tips & Tricks*", etc.
Lots of good help

[Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association: PSBA](#)

<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/>

[Southern Tier Beekeepers / Broome Co., NY](#)

<http://www.southerntierbeekeepers.org/>

[Lackawanna Backyard Beekeepers](#)

[http://
lackawannabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com/](http://lackawannabackyardbeekeepers.blogspot.com/)



Check this out: NYBeeWellness.org

Newsletter and workshops for beekeepers
on the recognition of diseases & ways to
keep bees healthy. It's a non-profit NY
organization and very likely a good
resource.

Information thanks to Jim Perkins.

Officers & Directors 2016

President: Dave Taylor

378-3728 drt105@aol.com

Vice Pres. Aubrey Elbrecht

879-4733 aubrey.elbrecht@gmail.com

Recording Sec: Rae-Ann Marsland

574-8943 rmrhd@netzero.net

Financial Sec: Ginny Wood

934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Treasurer: Kathleen Swebston

675-8306 kathyswep@yahoo.com

Directors:

Jim Barber, Past Pres.

767-1312 jbeekeeper@hotmail.com

John Brunner, Past Pres.

278-1774 elsejohnmolly@gmail.com

Richard Chapin, Past Pres.

432-4007 oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com

James Wood, Past Pres.

934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

LeJune Ely

278-2170 jlely8@frontiernet.net

Jim Perkins

967-2634 perkmar@stny.rr.com

Richard Sheldon

727-2045 sheldon@nep.net

Our Website

Dave Taylor, Webmaster

www.susquehannabeekeeping.com

The Buzzer

Editor: Richard Chapin

570-432-4007

oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com

Production Manager:

Valerie Hotchkiss

570-553-2086

valeriehotchkiss54@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Local dues-

1 yr. \$10.00

3 years \$25.00

Lifetime \$100.00

Members age 70+ free

(includes newsletter)

PA State Assn. dues - \$20:00

(Optional)

Life Member \$200.

(includes state newsletter)

Name:

Address and Zip:

Tel. #

E-mail:

Payment Method:

() check or () money order

Payable to

Susquehanna Beekeepers
Association

Send to Ginny Wood, Financial Sec.
4466 State Route 367
Montrose, PA 18801



Required by law if you have bees:

PA State Registration \$10.00 / 2 years

Bureau of Plant Industry – Apiary Section

Karen Roccasecca, State Apiarist

2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA

717-3467 9567 Phone 717-783 3275 Fax

forms at meetings or online: <http://>

www.pastatebeekeepers.org/inspection.htm

Our Facebook Page

Cheylyn Adams, Manager

www.facebook.com/

[SusquehannaBeekeepersAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/SusquehannaBeekeepersAssociation)

When you log onto your Facebook account you can search for Susquehanna Beekeepers Association and it will take you to our page. Then you can “Like” our page.



We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thomas Jefferson