

# “The Buzzer”

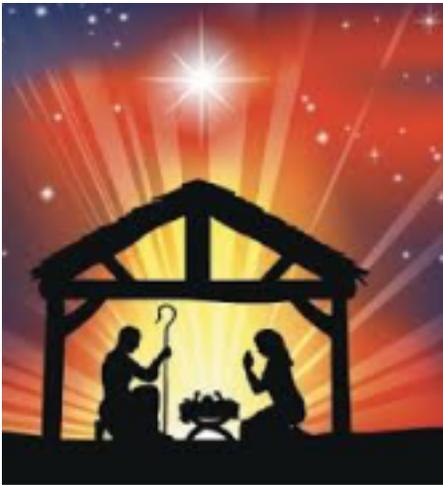
## Susquehanna Beekeepers’

### Association

Serving Beekeepers and Friends in NE Pennsylvania

Volume 23 Number 5

Nov. - Dec. 2017



*Blessed Christmas, Happy  
Hanukkah and Happy New Year to All our*



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**Susquehanna Beekeepers Association**  
Annual Dinner/General Meeting Minutes  
Saturday October 28, 2017  
(Minutes subject to approval at next meeting)

Dinner/Meeting Opened-Dave Taylor @ 6:00 PM at the Springville United Methodist Church  
Invocation/Pledge to our US Flag-Jim Perkins

The Roasted Chicken and all the fixings were excellent, there was an over abundance of food and we thank the ladies of the Springville United Methodist for a job well done!

There were 47 people seated for dinner. We are already looking into planning our dinner here again next year. =)

**Meeting Agenda-Dave Taylor @ 6:50**

Nomination Committee Representative Richard Chapin announced that the nominated SBA officers for 2018 are:

Pres. Dave Taylor

V-Pres. Aubrey Elbrecht

Treas. Kathy Swepston

Financial Sec. Donna Reagen

Recording Sec... to be announced

A ballot was cast for the officers as declared, all in attendance voted yes, motioned by Richard Chapin, seconded by John Reagen, motion was granted.

Gratitude was expressed by all to Ginny Wood for her many years of service.

Happy Retirement Ginny!

At the October Board Meeting, dues were discussed, voted on, and are as follows;

Beginning membership fee for the first year \$15 every year following \$10 for each beekeeper/member

Lifetime membership \$100 per individual member. When a member reaches 70 yrs. of age and has been an ongoing member of the SBA, he/she automatically receives an honorary membership. If a spouse continues membership, dues are payable until 70 yrs. of age. SBA

Membership year- November 1st to October 31st. Dues are to be paid by October 31st for following year membership with a grace period not exceeding December 31st. If dues lapse past December 31st, first time membership fee of \$15 takes effect. All attendees at the Dinner/Meeting voted in agreement for these dues changes.

Richard Chapin announced that the Board is working on Constitutional Revisions over the winter which will include the above clarification on the SBA Membership year.

Jim Perkins announced information and thanks for our great door prizes.

Donations supplied by:

Better Bee - Gift Certificate for Custom Labels

Brushy Mountain - Tool Box

Dadant - "The Hive and the Honeybee" Hard Cover Book

Drapers - \$50 Gift Certificate

Mann Lake - Jacket, hive tool, & PDM

SBA - American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazine subscriptions

Also, a large table of free for all prizes were enjoyed by everyone.

**PROGRAM**

"Tracking Feral Bee Health" by Margarita Lopez-Uribe Unfortunately Margarita had an illness in the family that prevented her from making the trip to our dinner, she expressed her regret and will reschedule another time for her presentation. SBA will keep you informed when and where. Jim Perkins presented some information on Margarita's Feral Bee study. On an average we experience a 40% bee loss each year. Feral bees can help us in discovering how they survive from year to year on their own. It is a crucial study to learn about their genetic make-up and resistance to mites. Margarita's current study took place West of State College, PA and is interested in coming to the Northeast, which will prove beneficial to us.

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If anyone knows of bees in trees or in barns, etc. that have been there for at least 2 years or if they are there in the fall and survive until the following spring please notify either Jim Perkins or go online to Margarita's website and supply information.

<http://lopezuribelab.com/>

Scroll down to Tracking Feral Bee Health click on it to enter information of feral bee location (GPS), phone #, landowner etc.

Meeting Adjourned-7:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Reagen, Recording Secretary

**SBA Happenings For Your Information:**

Dave Taylor will be appointing the SBA Scholarship Committee. Nominees include, Kandy Taylor, John Fiore, and Leslie Foster. Montrose Area Adult School Beekeeping Course Richard Chapin, Jim Barber, and James Wood are retiring. Thank You for your 10 years of teaching service. Jim Perkins and John Reagen will be taking their place for the coming 2018 year.

Continuing education in our area school classrooms by Richard Chapin, James Wood, and currently, Lynn Anderson for Jim Barber.

The Board will be working on Honey Hut By-laws over winter. Members of the Board requested that the proposal for new shelving in the Honey Hut be withdrawn at this time. The Reagen's respected this request. No official vote by the board was taken.

*The SBA is very grateful for all those who dedicate their time, effort and, knowledge in making our association successful, especially our retirees! We are looking forward to a great new year with all good things to come.*

*God Bless our beekeepers and our bees!*



**HEATING HONEY FOR EXTRACTION**

“Honey should not be heated rapidly, over direct heat. Basically, the hotter you heat it, the more potential for reducing nutritional value. Excessive heat can have detrimental effects on the nutritional value of honey. Heating up to 37°C (98.6 F) causes loss of nearly 200 components, part of which are antibacterial. Heating up to 40°C (104 F) destroys invertase, an important enzyme. Heating up to 50°C (122 F) for more than 48 hrs. turns the honey into caramel (the most valuable honey sugars become analogous to sugar).” -Prof. John Skinner, University of Tennessee.

*Quotation from Kathrine Kiefer, Raw Honey or Raw Deal in Bee Culture, Nov. 2017*

Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitrable, authors of “The Beekeeper’s Handbook suggest that if the storage room temperature is between 80 and 90F, honey can be extracted with ease.

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## From the Desk of Ginny Wood:

My notes taken at the 2017 PSBA Conference.

“Planting for Pollinators” by Philip Bauerle, Penn State Master Gardener

**\*\*Native** plants are plants from **pre-Colonial** times.

Plant for insect plant specials, i.e., **parsley** excels at repelling harmful **insects** and attracting beneficial ones. Beetles dislike **parsley** leaves and will avoid it.

Rain gardens are good (like small indents in the soil but not standing water).

### **GARDEN PLANTS** – 1.

- a. Ohio Spiderwort (not to confuse with house spider plants).
- b. Swamp Milkweed (*asccepias incarnate*) larvae source for Monarchs.
- c. Culver’s Root (*veronicastrum virginicum*) derived from Dr. Coulvert of the late 17th to early 18th century, who found laxative properties in the plant.
- d. Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) has veins on petals pointing towards the center.
- e. Perennial Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliana*) related to the Jerusalem Artichoke.
- f. Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicate*) good for Monarchs.

2. a. A Small Toothed Mountain Mint (*pycnanthesusa muticum*) Deer resistant; also attracts wasp, who kills stinkbugs.

3. a. Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) Deer resistant; smells like dirty socks.  
b. Golden Rod attracts insects & Ragweed is wind blown. (for pollination)  
c. Ohio Goldenroad (*solidago ohioensis*)

### **WEEDS**

- a. Silphium (Resin Weeds) possibly from the parsley family; used in classic antiquity for medicine & seasoning; came from ancient Greece.
- b. Compass Plants can grow to 10 ft. tall (a north/south plant) – the leaves point in that direction.
- c. Cup Plant – frogs can lay eggs in the cups; the cups catch water.
- d. Late Figwort (*scrophularia marilandica*) Plants bloom late July to early August; this species was the 11<sup>th</sup> most attractive to natural enemies in the mid-season.
- e. Wind stem or Golden Honey Plant – blooms Aug. to Oct.; VERY aggressive – do not plant in gardens.
- f. Late flowering Boneset (*eupatorium perfoliatum*) of the sunflower family – Praying manthis chases the bees in this plant! This plant also VERY aggressive; The Boneset was a favorite medicine of the North American Indians and it has always been a popular remedy in the U.S. It is also in use to some extent in regular practice, being official in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia tho’ not in the British Pharmacopoeia.

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## SHRUBS

- Button Bush (or Sugar Shack or Sputnik) grows in wet ground or water; it is preferred deer food.
- Ink Berry (Brazilian species) is tolerant of salt; it will wipe out boxwoods! It can be used as a windbreak for the hives; it is deer resistant. Plant male plants only if berries aren't wanted.
- St. John's Wort is a bushy plant - ( NOT the same as the medicinal plant); it is strictly pollen and no nectar.

## TREES

- Tulip Poplar (tulipifera) – related to the Magnolia; it is a nectar factory; can grow to 190 ft. tall.
- American Basswood (makes good honey) – can be a boom or bust crop of nectar; can be toxic to bumble bees if + wrong tree.

## TOOLS

Google Earth pro – they don't update

Google Maps – will continue to update

+ Can find radius when certain trees within range of your hives. Use camera or phone to take (dated) photos so can catch time to work with bees; for instance, first dandelions... etc.

## INFORMATION

Xerces Society.org (Major programs focus on bees and other pollinators)

Heather Holms, Author (Bee & Pollinator Books and other)

Penn State Extension

PS. Again, these are MY notes; hopefully, I wrote correctly; but in the event that something is +confusing – it would probably benefit you to contact Philip Bauerle at PSU.

\*\*NOTE: He orders “native plants” from Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN



## “SBA Bee Informed” Winter Has Arrived!

By now we have done all we can to help the survival of our bees during the winter months. We are grateful to them for providing their sweet golden honey we will enjoy. One may think the job is done for the year as the snow flies and the cold winter winds blow. This is far from the truth.

As a beekeeper, work preparing for the coming year has just begun. This is the opportunity to prepare any unused equipment for the explosion of spring. It is time to clean all used frames, scrape off propolis that has been built up so that the frame will properly seat onto the super.

Clean off any comb from the foundation that is 3 years old or older. The foundation can be popped out of the frame so the slots in the top and bottom rails can be cleaned. Also, the super can be cleaned up by scraping propolis and burr comb that have been deposited by the bees. Using a propane torch, pass a flame over the wood surfaces of the frames and supers to sanitize and remove any spores, tiny insects or debris. Do not apply a flame to the hive foundations, it will melt and warp the plastic. Placing a fresh coat of paint on your hive boxes is very important for this will ensure longevity for your equipment. Importantly, only paint the outside of hive boxes, the interior of all hives where the

bees live, are to remain in their natural state. Have all your queen excluders clean and ready to go.

During the winter it is a good time to plan ahead. It is time for building nuc boxes, swarm boxes and more hive boxes for possible expansion of your apiary next year. Think about possible loss over winter and your need to order nucs, bees, and queens. Using your experiences with your bees this past year you may think about how your bees fared. Did you need to split any hives, did you use swarm boxes and was your placement successful?

Consider the mite control you used this past year and if you may need any changes, if so study up on an alternative method. Think about any changes you may consider for the coming year.

Spring is on the way, so make sure you and your equipment are ready.

A good beekeeper will continue to study, collect data, use common sense, think things through, consider options then make a decision. If you do not know...JUST ASK!

E-mail **John Reagen** with any questions or concerns, and comments  
reag4956@epix.net

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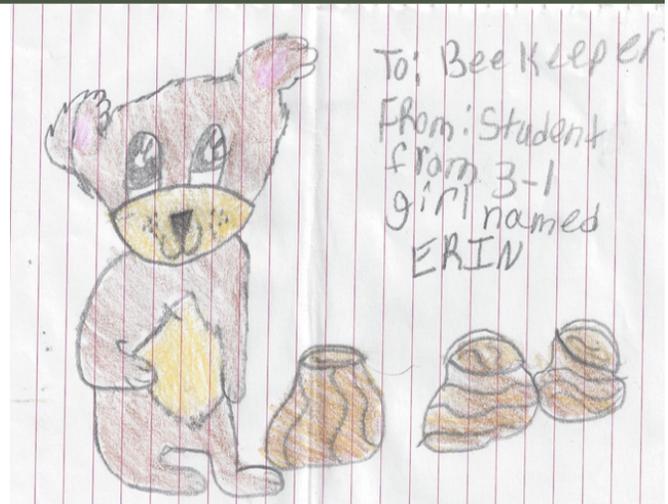


### School Program

Jim Barber, James Wood, Lynn Anderson  
& Dick Chapin, coordinator

*visited or scheduled to date:*

- Oct. 4 Blue Ridge 2nd grade
- Oct. 11 Lathrop Street 4th grade
- Oct. 17 Choconut 5th grade
- Oct. 25 Wyalusing 3rd grade
- Nov. 1 Mt. View 4th grade
- Nov. 13 Roslund 4th grade
- Nov. 15 Lackawanna Trail 5th grade
- Dec. 6 Elk Lake 2nd grade
- Dec. 13 Our Lady of Peace 3-4 grades



Our members attending the Fall Conference of Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association Nov. 10 & 11 at State College, Ramada Inn included:

Lynn Anderson  
Jim & Sharon Mislevy  
Phil & Penny Reid  
James & Ginny Wood

Ginny provided an excellent review of one of the workshops. We hope to hear more from those who attended.

### **Free Sources of Beekeeping News and Tips:**

Free "ABJ Extra" (American Bee Journal)  
e-newsletter  
[www.americanbeejournal.com](http://www.americanbeejournal.com)

Free "Catch the Buzz" (Bee Culture)  
e-newsletter  
[www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz)



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c/o Donna Reagen, Financial Sec.

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against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.”

*Thomas Jefferson*