



**The BUZZER**  
*Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association*

Serving Beekeepers and Friends in NE Pennsylvania

Volume 24 Number 1

April - May 2018



**MEETINGS & EVENTS**  
Claverack Meeting Room  
unless noted otherwise

April 13 Friday at 7:00 PM  
May 11 Friday at 7:00 PM  
May 12 Sat. Field Day to be  
announced  
June 8 Friday at 7:00 PM  
June 9 Sat. 2nd Field Day  
July 28 Sat. Work Day, Picnic &  
Meeting  
Aug. 20 - 25 Harford Fair  
Sept. 14 Friday at Meeting  
Oct. 13 Board Meeting  
Oct. 27 Sat. at 6:00 PM Annual Dinner,

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## **SBA Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2018**

Number in Attendance: 25

Dave Taylor, President: Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

At this time, a Bee Loss Survey was passed for members to report whether any had losses this winter.

The attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Secretary report - none

Treasurer report - As to date - \$6,425.55 in the checking account & \$993.70 in the scholarship fund as reported by Kathy Swepston, treasurer. Also, expenses being paid out was \$14.45 for checks renewal and \$80 for the Harford Fair ad. Report accepted.

Catherine Hynes, librarian, brought a selection of books, magazines & films to sign out if wanted.

No Old Business.

### New Business:

Dave Taylor, president appointed Ginny Wood as Financial Secretary for the remainder of 2018.

Also, Dave spoke of SBA needing a secretary for the remaining 2018 meeting dates as well as both secretary & financial secretary after this year's term is over.

Ginny Wood proposed that SBA add \$6.30 to the \$993.70 from the scholarship fund (for years 2016-17) and send \$1,000 to the

Community Foundation adding to our investment for education. Motion carried. As of December 31, 2017, the SBA fund amount is \$16,639.24. The amount for 2018 that could be granted without reducing the principal is \$835.00.

SBA shirts supply has one left & Ginny asked if anyone is interested in getting more; these shirts with the SBA name on them is good advertisement for the association and lets others know who we are at various events such as in the Honey Hut... She will contact the company and see what offers can be made. Hope to have this information for April meeting.

Dave would like to update the Swarm & Mentor Pages on the SBA website. He will remove all names and start again with a fresh list. He is asking that you let him know if you would like to be involved and what areas you will cover. Also, whether you charge a fee for this service.

Jim Perkins asked if anyone had seen bee trees or walls last fall. The ones he saw have not survived. He would like to ask Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe to come to this area but can only do this if SBA members have knowledge of any bee trees, etc. in this area.

Earl Villecco asked about the scholarship fund and how this works. Dave explained the need to meet the requirements to see if student/s would be interested. Hope to have the scholarship requirements finalized for 2019 students.

Next meeting date is: April 13, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Claverack Bldg.

continued on page 3

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PROGRAM

At this time, Jim Perkins presented the program - recap of speakers \*(1.) Samuel Ramseyh- PhD student - UMD; (2) Michael Palmer - owner of French Hills Apiary, St. Albans, VT; (3) Scott McArt - Asst. Prof at Cornell U.) during the SABA Seminar. Some highlights were \*(1)“Drivers of Colony Loss”; (2)Raising queens in upper VT/Canadian border; (3)Bumblebee study. Thank you to Jim Perkins for giving a very informative and interesting talk & slide show from the speakers. Q & A followed. Following sites listed for further information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7tinVluBJ8>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLqbO\\_EXNmE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLqbO_EXNmE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fyfyi-2047Q>

Dave reminded everyone to contact Jim Perkins if there may be a topic/presentation/speaker they would like at the meetings. “After meeting” suggestions were mentioned, i.e., mead tasting, honey tasting, etc.

Mention of testing in Germany with bees and lithium chloride. There were pros & cons from several members, such as, L.C. is not suppose to get into the honey or comb; it is fed into the sugar water. More research is being done at this time. For further information, there are more than several articles on line, most recent written in January, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Ginny Wood, Acting Secretary

Spring is Here — Well Almost



Rocky Mountain Clover, near Revelstoke, B.C.

**Friday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.**

at the Claverack Bldg. Montrose

Topics:

**Comb Honey Production:** Richard Sheldon &

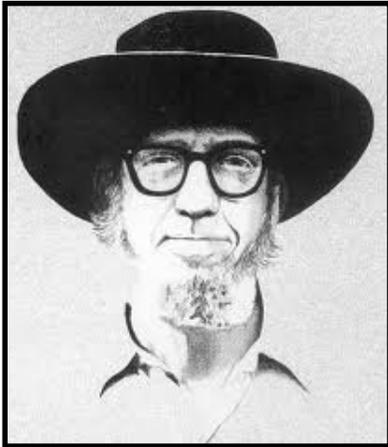
**Bee Produced Products:** Jim Perkins.

Q & A to follow.

Contact Jim Perkins at 570-967-2634  
or visit [www.susquehannabeekeeping.com](http://www.susquehannabeekeeping.com).

Also, there will be a short discussion  
on bait hives and tree stands.

π



### Honey Bee Pheromones

Alarm  
Brood recognition  
Drone  
Dufours  
Egg marking  
Footprint  
Forager  
Nasdonov  
Other

Queen mandibular  
Queen retinue

“Books on apiculture describe how to produce honey but they neglect to note how beautiful it is. They explain how to tend bees but they do not say how joyous this can be.”

-Richard Taylor 1919-2003,

Philosopher & beekeeper in the Preface to his “The Joys of Beekeeping, 1974

Editor’s note: I had the privilege of meeting Richard Taylor at the Eastern Apicultural Society conference in 1994 and his was the first book I read on beekeeping.

Another thought:

...Taylor himself calls beekeeping, “living with the bees. They keep themselves”.

### If you have ideas

About Program topics, please contact Jim Perkins

For our website, contacts Dave Taylor

For facenbook, contact lori Wallace



The latest in home decor

If you would like to be listed as a swarm gatherer or colony remover from structures, please contact Dave Taylor

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Susquehanna Beekeepers Association

March 16, 2018

Jim and Marcia Perkins attended the Southern Adirondacks Beekeepers Association (SABA) Seminar 2018 in Malta, NY. Jim reported on the Seminar at our meeting this evening. He reported that the conference was very informative and worth the time to attend. He also recommended that others should plan to attend future events as well as the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA) meetings.

Jim summarized the presentations from the whole day seminar. The presenters included:

Samuel Ramseyh- a PhD student studying in Dr. Dennis van Engelsdorp's lab at the University of Maryland

Scott McArt- Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health at Cornell University

Michael Palmer- Owner of French Hills Apiaries in St. Albans, Vermont

Samuel Ramseyh's presentation entitled "Drivers of Colony Loss: What Does the Data Really Say?" started by questioning "Is it CCD?" which is shown by a) food and brood, but no bees, b) slow invasion of hive pests, and c) lack of dead bees. He then stated that it more likely is the Convergence of several problems Parasites- Varroa, SHB, Bacteria- AFB, EFB, Fungus- Nosema, Cerinae, Virus, Pesticides, Poor Land Management- food desert, and Poor Nutrition. He concluded with the self reporting causes of losses by Backyard beekeepers as Starvation, Weak in the fall, and Poor winter conditions while Sideliners and Commercial beekeepers reported Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles..

Michael Palmer talked about "Raising Queens in the Northern Champlain Valley" which is in Vermont, up near Canada. He stated that Breeder Queen Selection includes Winter Survival,

Disease, Temperament, Honey Produced, and ability to be fed Sugar. He uses the Brother Adam Method which starts with a Strong Colony, Prolific Queen and Abundance of bees.

You can learn his method by viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7tinVluBJ8>

"How Beekeepers Can Help Improve Pollinator Health in NY" by Scott McArt started with the statement that Bees and Pollinators are in decline. His team at Cornell studied Bumble Bees and Honey Bees in upstate NY. The study showed that Bumble Bee in Floral Areas had different results: Forests- good, Fields- good while Urban- less. Honey Bees showed Neonics highest after fruit bloom because they had spread to other nearby flowers. The biggest takeaway was the Synergistic Interaction between pesticides. Fungicide and mite treatment in combination exceed EPA standards. They have a multiplied effect, not simply additive.

"Samuel Ramseyh opened by stating that Varroa are considered to be the primary agent in trend of colony losses in his talk "Varroa Feed on Hemolymph and Two Other Alternative Facts". Varroa was first found in the US in 1987 and wiped out feral colonies by 1997. Varroa have no eyes, but feed by smell and touch. In his study Samuel expected to find waste products in cells, mite lineage and mites feeding where ever hemolymph is available. He observed mites primarily between plates on underside of abdomen. If found on thorax they are looking for their next food source. He froze bees and sliced them thinly to see that they were attached to bee. Then he fed the bees bio stains for fat and hemolymph and found that the mites were full of fat and not hemolymph. He stated that bee larvae are fat bodies. You can see details on these sites: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLqbO\\_EXNmE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLqbO_EXNmE)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fyfyj-2O47Q>



### FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN

It's March Madness! No, I'm not just talking about basketball. I'm talking bees. If you are in the mid to upper U.S. March can be a crazy month. A "bomb cyclone" just hit the northeast at the same time the Pacific Northwest was getting hit. Here in North Carolina, we were in the 70's during the days and 50's at night barely a week ago. This week they are calling for highs in the 40's and lows in the 20's. We even came into work this morning to snow flurries!

Crazy, right? Now imagine how your bees are feeling. The colonies are trying to ramp up brood rearing and they can do a pretty good job when it is 70. However, when the temperatures plunge the colony struggles to maintain the brood nest. Further the limited resources this time of year make it very difficult for colonies to thrive.

I know there is this notion that if you feed bees you are creating "lazy bees" or you're a bad beekeeper because you perhaps took too much honey. First, you won't create "lazy bees"; you just won't. Second, perhaps you did take too much honey, should you just let the bees starve. That certainly would be bad beekeeping. Last, good nutrition is critical to colony health and is not as prominent as it used to. Be attentive *to the needs of your colony, much the same way you would your dog, cat, or child.*

*Brushy Mountain Bee Farm newsletter*

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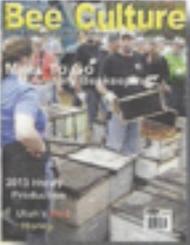


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## **Our School Program**

**2017 - 2018 to date**

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

10/4 Blue Ridge 2nd grade  
10/11 Lathrop St., Montrose 4th grade  
1017 Choconut 5th grade  
10/25 Wyalusing 3rd grade  
11/1 Mt. View 4th grade  
11/13 Roslund, Tunkhannock 4th grade  
11/15 Lackawanna Trail 5th grade  
12/6 Elk Lake 2nd grade  
12/13 Our Lady of Peace grades 3&4  
1/24 Mehoopany 3rd&4th grades  
1/31 Evans Falls 3rd& 4th grades  
2/9 Mill City 3rd& 4th grades  
2/28 Carbondale 3rd grade  
3/21 N. Rome Christian grades 2-5

## **Our Field Day Program**

**2018 to date**

James Wood, coordinator

April 21, Sat. – Bradford Co. Earth Day

April 26, Wed. - Elk Lake Science Fair

May 4, Fri. – NE Bradford

May 8, Tue. – Towanda Elementary

May 11, Fri. – Canton Elementary

May 16, Wed. – Troy Elementary

May 18, Fri. – SRU Elementary

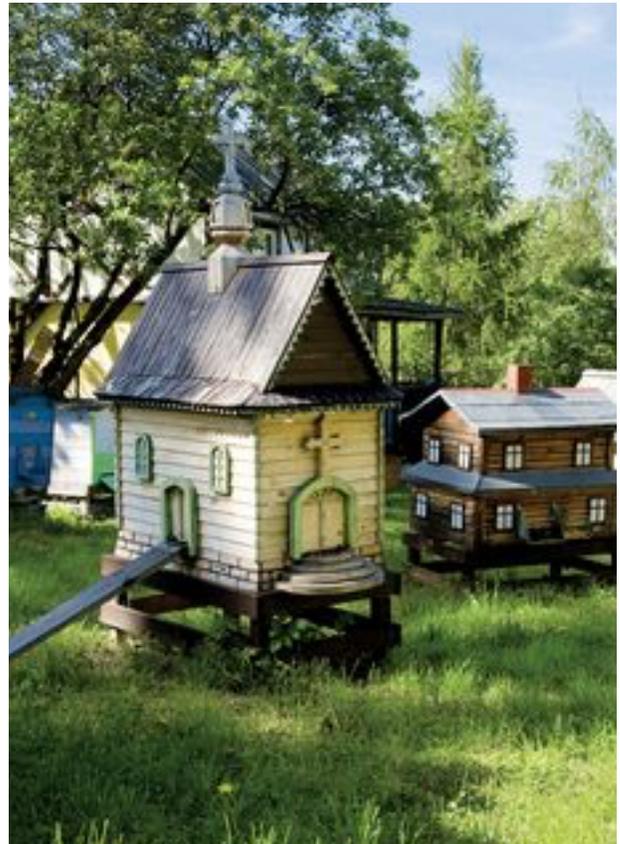
May 25, Fri. – Wyalusing

May 30, Wed. – Sayre

TBA - Sullivan Co. Environmental Day

## **Adult Education Program**

Our beginner beekeeping course for adults, conducted for the past ten years by Jim Barber, James Wood & Dick Chapin, coordinator, at the Montrose Adult Education School is undergoing a re-organization, with a planned increase in hands-on experience.



### **Our Facebook Page**

Lori Wallace, Coordinator

465-7863

[www.facebook.com/](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.

### **The Buzzer**

Newsletter of the  
Susquehanna  
Beekeepers Association

Richard Chapin , Editor

570-432-4007

[oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com](mailto:oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com)

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

"ABJ Extra" (American Bee Journal)  
e-newsletter

[www.americanbeejournal.com](http://www.americanbeejournal.com)

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

[www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz](http://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz)

### **SBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** SBA Membership Year- Nov. 1 to Oct. 31

+

First year \$15.00 Every year following \$10.00

Life Membership \$100.00 for each beekeeper

Honorary membership for ongoing members at  
70 years of age

Membership dues are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>

Late payments revert to first time membership  
fee \$15.00

Optional – PA State Beekeepers dues: \$20.00  
(PSBA can be paid through our  
SBA Financial Sec.)

Payment by check or money order to:

Susquehanna Beekeepers Assoc.

% Ginny Wood, Fin. Sec.

4466 State Route 367

Montrose, PA 18801

Name:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail

### **Our Website**

[www.SusquehannaBeekeeping.com](http://www.SusquehannaBeekeeping.com)

Dave Taylor, Webmaster

570-378-3728

[drt105@aol.com](mailto:drt105@aol.com)



“[The]founders of the American Republic in their Declaration of Independence inculcate as a duty binding upon all worthy sons of America ‘a frequent recurrence to first principles’. Do not let us too readily brush aside the grand, simple affirmations of the past.

**“All wisdom is not new wisdom. Let us never forget that the glory of the American Constitution was founded upon what seemed to be the successful putting down of the twin curses of anarchy and tyranny.”**

-Winston Churchill, 1938