

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 94 Issue 2 – April 2012

MCBA Motto: *"Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"*

Spring 2012 Calendar of Events

April

April 3 – Beginner Beekeeping Course, 4-H Center in Creamery, PA at 6:00 p.m. Feeding Bees

April 5 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Herman Danehower, the best cut comb honey producer in PA, will explain how to manage colonies in order to make beautiful cut comb honey.

April 10 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

May

May 1 – Beginner Beekeeping Course, 4-H Center in Creamery, PA at 6:00 p.m. Spring Management

May 7 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. "The History of Beekeeping" (speaker to be determined)

May 8 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

June**

June 4 – Beginner Beekeeping Course, 4-H Center in Creamery, PA at 6:00 p.m. Mite Control

June 5– General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Honey House Planning and Regulations" Judith Miller from the Department of Agriculture will explain what is required of a beekeeper to pass inspection for the extraction of honey at home that will be sold.

June 12 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

*** See below for July MCBA Picnic Details*

Check out this article – Massive Bee Die-offs a Warning About Our Own Health

http://www.alternet.org/food/154039/have_bees_become_canaries_in_the_coal_mine_why_massive_bee_dieoffs_may_be_a_warning_about_our_own_health/?page=entire



Tip and Tidbits

By Mark Antunes Feeding Pollen Patties

With pollen substitutes readily available on the market, many beekeepers are taking advantage of them for late winter and early spring colony build up. The strategy behind their use is to make sure the bees have all the protein in the hive they need to make as much early brood as they can. In our region, with a nectar flow that starts when dandelions bloom in April and frequently shuts down by early July, it is important to have your hives operating at peak levels by May. That means your queens must be laying prolifically in early April.

I frequently get asked about the value of pollen substitutes, how, and when they should be applied. Patties are the most commonly used form of pollen substitute because they are easy to apply and not messy for the beekeeper. In the case of an over-wintering hive, if you want to optimize your spring build up it is best to apply patties by mid-February or early March at the latest.

In southeastern Pennsylvania there is generally an abundance of quality pollen for the bees to forage on in the spring. But like everything related to bees foraging, the weather conditions have to be right to allow them to get out of the hive and gather resources. I use pollen patties to ensure that my hives have enough protein to build up as effectively as they can - in hopes of making splits, pulling brood from a strong colony and adding it to a weak one, and facilitating maximum population build up to make as large of a honey crop as is possible.

Typically, a one pound pollen patty is large enough to be cut into smaller pieces and fed effectively. I frequently cut them into long strips that about two inches wide - leaving the wax paper on the top and bottom to help

keep it moist. One or two strips per colony seem to work fine depending on the strength of the hive. Extra patty I cover in food wrap and freeze it in a sealed food storage bag.

African small hive beetle are a complication for beekeepers in this area. Hive beetles love to lay their eggs in pollen patties. I deal with that by checking the pollen patty strips on a weekly basis to see if beetles have laid eggs in them which have hatched into beetle larvae. If I see beetle maggots crawling in the patty strips I pull them out of the hive and place them in a sealable plastic sandwich bag labeled for that hive. I always bring along some of the patties from the freezer to replace any infested patties I find. Then I simply freeze the infested patties for three days or more - thus killing all of the beetle larvae and eggs. At that point I will swap out the replacement patty I had placed in the hive with the no-longer-infested patty. I keep making that swap every five days or so to eliminate the patty as a medium for hive beetle propagation.

The net result is that I enhance the growth of my bee population and suppress the growth of the African small hive beetle population. Ultimately, once the colony builds up enough they will police the beetles and keep them in check. But first they have to get to that strength to fight that battle effectively, and pollen patties will help them get there.

Mark Antunes

4-H Beekeepers



4-H beekeepers

This year the 4-H beekeeping club is working on pollinator friendly certification for our garden outside the 4-H center. We have included the text from our sign below. If you would like to have your own garden certified, check out <http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/public-outreach/cert>

Welcome to our Pollinator Friendly Garden

Our 4-H Beekeeping Project this year is to obtain Pollinator Friendly Certification for our garden bed. Our goal is to create a welcome environment for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, wasps, moths and flies. We researched flowers and chose those with large amounts of nectar and pollen and also included larval host plants. You might notice that some of the plants have simple flowers and might not be as showy as other gardens; this is because we selected plants that insects prefer. We have raised many of these plants from seed ourselves. Depending on when you visit our garden you might see native plants golden rod, bee balm, cone flowers, New Jersey tea or milkweed in bloom. This sign is attached to native bee houses. Native bees come in all sorts of sizes, which makes natural bamboo and other hollow plant stems great places for them to nest. These are solitary, gentle bees and there is no need to fear them! Getting a close look might even provide you with the opportunity to spot some of the showier species, which bring their bright colors and iridescent metallic sheens to this, and your own garden.



4-H beekeepers' garden flower



4-H beekeepers



You Can Do it Too! Improve your Marketing Skills, Enter a Show

by Anne Frey

How good are your honey, candles, mead, photos and baked goodies? Bring your efforts with you to EAS in Burlington and show them off! Have you ever had a customer tell you your honey was the best he had ever tasted? Are you proud of your candles? Join in with others this summer and strut a little.

Don't worry if you're unsure of how to get ready to enter a Honey Show. The Honey Show Committee has made a new page on the EAS website. It includes everything from why not to use smoke when harvesting comb honey (tiny bits of soot end up on the comb surface) to how to transport your jars of liquid honey (not in a carry-on bag on a plane). The education that is gathered together on the EAS Honey Show page has many uses. Learning to get hive products ready for a show is the same as learning how to prepare them for market. By investigating and using the material collected for you on the site, you'll develop skills that improve all your hive products.

Just how are great candles made, including finishing the bottoms? How long should a bottling tank or bucket of honey be allowed to settle before you bottle? Not only will you learn to improve your products for market and for the EAS Honey Show, but it's also fun exhibiting at County Fairs, or State Beekeeping meetings.

Check out the EAS website for this new Honey Show page and get answers to these and many other questions. There are contributions from former judges, as well as webinars from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, links to high quality websites, a list of the best books and more. The website could be used as part of a meeting, by connecting a laptop to a projector. If your club has someone who has judged shows, or enjoys entering shows, perhaps those people will give a presentation at a spring or summer meeting, and more members will enjoy entering the next competition.

Be sure to read the rules carefully. I didn't before my first EAS show, and only brought one jar of honey for each class (three are needed). At our local County Fair, a new exhibitor was saddened to find she couldn't enter her honey because it had her own label on it. Later, I

was so proud to see my entries among the others at another EAS show, and that teenage beekeeper won first place the next year at the fair.

Learn more, have fun and let's bring our entries to EAS and show everyone what we've got!

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012/2012-honey-show.html>

Remember, the EAS Short Course and Conference will be held August 13-17 in Burlington, VT.



Photo by Cynthia MacFarland

Recipe

Kutja (from the Ukraine)

Contributed by Irene Zitter

According to Irene, traditionally a portion of this dish was thrown onto the ceiling to ensure a good harvest or to predict the next year's crop production.

Ingredients:

1 cup of wheat berries

Honey to taste (approximately ¼ cup or more)

Shelled and coarsely chopped walnuts (approximately ¼ cup or more)

Optional ingredient: poppy seeds

Directions:

1. Sort the wheat berries and remove any stones. Rinse in a colander and let drain.
2. In a cooking pot, mix the wheat berries with approximately 3 cups of water; add a small amount of salt if desired.
3. Bring the wheat berries to a boil then lower the heat, cover the pot and simmer until tender (about 45 minutes to 1 hour, add water if needed).

4. Drain the wheat berries if there is water left in the pot, and put the dry wheat berries into a serving bowl.
5. Mix the honey and walnuts into the wheat berries. Add poppy seeds if desired – poppy seeds are a traditional ingredient in the recipe.

Enjoy with your meal or as a dessert!



4-H Apiary - Hive Assistance Needed. Walt Fitzgerald, our new 4-H hive steward, is looking for volunteers to help maintain the 4-H apiary. He will be holding informal monthly meetings at the 4-H apiary midway between the regular beginner beekeeper classes. The meetings will usually take place on a weekend, weather permitting. You can help give back to the 4-H and get to know some of your fellow beekeepers better. This is also an excellent opportunity to learn more about beekeeping by getting into the 4-H hives and becoming a volunteer in the management of the 4-H apiary. Contact Walt Fitzgerald fitzgerald106@comcast.net or 609-709-2411 for more details or to sign up.

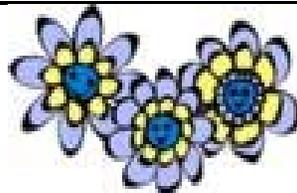
YOUR HELP NEEDED

Southern PA Honeybee Symposium is in need of volunteers to chair committees and accomplish related tasks. If we cannot get enough support from our membership to do what needs to be done, this event will not be held. Please contact Mark Antunes at honeyhillfarm@verizon.net to volunteer and make this event happen.



Photos by Denise A

MARKETPLACE



To advertise in Marketplace: If you have beekeeping-related products to sell or services to offer, please send your advertisement to the newsletter editor at: News@montcobeepers.org
In order to promote or advertise beekeeping classes or products and services in the MCBA newsletter or on the MCBA website, you must be a member in good standing.

MCBA Annual Potluck Picnic July 21, 2012 11:30 AM

NEW LOCATION.....NEW LOCATION.....NEW LOCATION

Evansburg State Park
Picnic Pavilion
851 Mayhall Road
Skippack, Pennsylvania 19426

Directions from the 4-H Center:

Turn right onto Bridge Road (Rt. 113)

Left onto Mill Road

Left onto Mayhall Road

Second right

Pavilion is on the right

Be sure to enter the park from Mill road- the other roads are blocked off and you cannot get to the pavilion from them.

What to bring:

Dish to pass.

Entries for the honey baked goods contest with copy of the recipe.

Smoker and fuel for the smoker lighting contest.

Your kids, relatives and friends.

MCBA will provide:

Hamburgers, hot dogs & drinks.

Paper goods and utensils.

Come meet your fellow beekeepers and tell us your latest adventures in beekeeping! In addition to the smoker lighting contest we will have fun family games with prizes. **RSVP** (helpful but not necessary) to cillab@earthlink.net

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Dues are applied on a calendar year basis. January 1st to December 31st

New membership _____ Renewing membership _____

MCBA DUES \$10.00 per *household per year \$ _____

**PSBA DUES \$20.00 for one person per year or \$25.00 per household per year \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Household = 2 adults and all children living at one address.

**PA State Beekeepers Dues are recommended in order to encourage research on bee health, and promote efforts to dissuade local township and boroughs from restricting beekeeping. You will also benefit from the 10 annual state newsletters and information sharing.

Mail to: MCBA PO Box 203, Hatfield, PA 19440 or renew online at www.montcobeekers.org

April 2012

March/April* – Packages Arrive

Worcester Honey Farm, pick-up at noon, installation class at 2 p.m., contact Jim Bobb

Contact information: Email: packages@pabeekeeper.com Phone: 610-584-6778.

April 3 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

April 5 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Speaker Herman Danehower on “Cut Comb Honey”

April 10 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

* depending on the weather

May 2012

May 1 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

May 7 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. “The History of Beekeeping”
– Speaker to be determined

May 8 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

June 2012

June 4 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

June 5 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. “Honey House Planning and Regulations” – Judith Miller, Department of Agriculture

June 12 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

July 2012

July 2 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

July 10 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

July 21 – Annual Summer Picnic *NEW LOCATION*****

Evansburg State Park, Skippack, PA, 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

See above for details and directions.

July 30 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

August 2012

August 14 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

August 13-17 – EAS, Burlington VT, www.easternapiculture.org

September 2012

September 4 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. “Organic Beekeeping and Bio-dynamic Beekeeping” – Speaker to be determined

September 10 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 6 p.m.

September 11 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

October 2012

October – Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium (To be determined)

October 2 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. “Judging Honey” – Dr. Berthold will explain what criteria is used to judge honey and judge all entries submitted

October 9 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

November 2012

November 3 – MCBA Fall Banquet, Plains Mennonite Church, 50 W. Orvilla Road, Hatfield, PA, 4-9 p.m.

November 9-10 – PSBA Fall Meeting, Country Cupboard, Lewisburg PA

November 13 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

December 2012

December 8 – Holiday Gathering (location to be determined)

December 11 - Executive Board Meeting

Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: The advice provided in this newsletter is the relevant writer’s opinion and should only be taken as a guideline. Always seek several answers to your questions and review professionally written resources. The articles in this newsletter may not represent the general views of the MCBA or its membership.

**News Release MCBA VOLUME 94 ISSUE 2
April 2012**

MCBA Motto: “Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers”

MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2011

President	OPEN			
Vice President	Brian Marcy	brian.marcy@ono-usa.com		
Secretary	Annabelle Butterworth	skyfire1320@hotmail.com		
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Exec Comm Mem	Charlie Breinig	Charlienospam-bee@yahoo.com		
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins			
Exec Comm Mem	Vince Aloyo	Vincent.aloyo@gmail.com		
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins			

MCBA WEBSITE!

www.montcobeekkeepers.org

Check out the MCBA website for news updates and items of interest. Pass the address to anyone you know that may be interested. Email addresses have also been set up so you can communicate with the board.

Contact the Newsletter Editor at News@montcobeekkeepers.org

**MCBA
PO BOX 203
HATFIELD, PA 19440**