

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 89 Issue 1-February 2007

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

Spring Events-Field Trip to Morris Arboretum and Expert Beekeeper Discussion Panel.



Spring Management Meeting

April 3rd, 7:00 pm Concerns for the not so new beekeepers-a panel discussion. Please join us for an exciting meeting at the 4-H center where we will have a panel of beekeeping experts answer the questions below as well as your questions about Spring Management. This is a great opportunity to learn about swarm prevention, methods to make splits and how to get your bees ready for a great summer honey season. We are lucky to have a distinguished panel including MCBA's newest life member Harold Jenkins. This is *the* Harold of the "ask Harold" column in our newsletters. We also have Robin Kugler, MCBA board member and maker of the beautiful first prize winning Farm Show display featured in this newsletter and Bill Mondjack, EAS Master Beekeeper and board member for Lehigh Valley Beekeepers as well as vice president of PSBA on the panel. Jim Bobb, president of PSBA, Master Gardener and teacher of our popular beginner class will moderate the panel.

Potluck dessert starts at 6:30.

The questions on deck are:

- How and why should we make splits?
- What is an effective method of swarm prevention?
- How do I get my bees to draw comb in honey supers (and fill them with honey)?



Morris Arboretum Field Trip

Come join us at the Morris Arboretum on April 15th to learn about honey bee pollen and nectar plants! We'll gather at noon at Bloomfield Farm, a naturalistic area of the grounds where the Langstroth Bee Garden was established in 1951. The tour will be led by Anne Brennan, new MCBA member and Horticulture Section Leader at the Arboretum. Jim Bobb, who maintains 20 hives at Morris, will also be on hand. Please bring a dessert to share after the tour. After our event, you are welcome to spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the arboretum on your own. RSVP required for free admission -- e-mail Anne at annemb@pobox.upenn.edu or leave a message at (215) 247-5777 x 107. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address, as this list will be used to contact you if we must reschedule to our rain date of April 29th.

Directions: Morris Arboretum's public entrance is located at 100 E Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118. From Route 309 South, exit at Paper Mill Rd and turn right. Pass three traffic lights. Continue straight ahead at fourth light (Bethlehem Pike) to join Stenton Ave. At second light, turn left onto E. Northwestern Ave. Public entrance is on the left, but attendees should instead turn RIGHT into Bloomfield Farm and follow the road back to the parking lot on your right.

Coming Soon-May 10th-Dewey Caron speaks about "Supering - let the nectar flow begin!" at 7:00 pm at the 4-H Center.



President's Column

With the exception of a couple cold spells, it has been a relatively warm winter and everyone is concerned about what it means for the bees. Our bees flew much more than normal for the season and had gotten pretty light. Nonetheless one hive stopped taking food pretty early. Hopefully they have been frugal enough to survive until warm weather. Hmmm...

Last year we tried to spice things up a bit and hold a wider variety of activities including a field trip to Chanticleer, a new picnic location and a pig roast for the banquet. In general we have received a positive response and so we are going to try to do the same sorts of things this year. We recently held a planning session and were happy to see a good turnout from the association. In this session we planned a few new things for this year including a panel session to discuss spring management and a guided tour of Morris Arboretum. In addition, we will again hold a mead-making workshop and a few "classroom-style" meetings. Our picnic and banquet will attempt to repeat last year's successes. Please see the calendar inside for more details on this year's activities so that you can set the dates aside and join us for these fun and educational events.

I regret to say that the 4-H hives did not fare well last year. They produced more than two buckets of honey, but both came down with AFB. Interestingly enough, the two infections were from different strains of the bacteria. One was Terramycin resistant and the other was highly susceptible to Terramycin. It is worth noting that the equipment was brand new two years ago and all of the tools used were dedicated to those hives. There is some controversy regarding the methods by which this disease spreads, with some suggesting that poor management practices, such as reusing diseased equipment and using tools in multiple apiaries, are the

primary cause. Our situation seems to suggest otherwise. The Terramycin-resistant AFB-infected equipment was burned promptly, but we decided to treat the Terramycin-susceptible hive in an attempt to bring it through the winter. We had originally planned to burn that one, too, but instead, we may continue its treatment and take the opportunity to use it as an educational tool to explain the proper use and timing of antibiotic treatments to those who choose to use them in their own hives. Fortunately for the 4-H club (and MCBA), the bids on the 4-H honey were very generous and sufficient money will be available for the 4-H kids to replace the burned equipment and purchase a new package of bees. A great deal of thanks go out to those members who purchased the 4-H honey!

For those who may wish to become more involved in the association, this is an election year. All of the officer positions and executive board positions are up for reelection or replacement. If you would like to nominate anybody (including yourself!) for any of the positions, please be sure to let one of the current officers or board members know. We usually hold about eight board meetings per year at individuals' homes, often with appetizers or dinner being served. We are planning to hold the elections during the picnic this year, with the results to be announced at the banquet, so please be sure to let us know as soon as possible if you would like to run!

Finally, I'd like to thank Sue Barrick for stepping up and helping us to put together the newsletter. With her help, we should be able to keep you better informed of our activities and other happenings in the beekeeping universe.

Until next time, happy assembling bee equipment and good luck bringing the girls through the cold months to come.



You're Invited! Why not attend an MCBA Executive Board meeting? All members are encouraged to join our fun filled board meetings. Call a board member – contact information at the end of the newsletter.



Club News

2007 Membership Dues Now is the time to pay your 2007 membership dues. Check your mailing label to verify that your membership is current. If your membership has expired, please complete the membership form at end of this newsletter. The dues are again \$10.00, the same as last year.

You may also wish to join the PSBA (Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association) for an additional \$15.00. Although membership in the state is optional, the newsletters are filled with useful beekeeping information.

In Remembrance

It is with deep regret to report the news of Jim Steinhauer's passing.

Jim died, surrounded by the love of family, on Friday January 19th 2007. Jim fought his brief battle with brain cancer in the way all who knew him would expect: with grace, dignity, and a determination that each day should be lived to its fullest. Jim's death is a painful loss to the beekeeping industry, which he served as Pennsylvania's State Apiary Inspector for nearly 30 years. Many, many beekeepers had the honor to count Jim as a mentor, confidant, and friend.

Jim's laugh, his gentle strength, and his pragmatic and sage wisdom will be sorely missed.

Condolence can be sent to:

Rose Steinhauer
3380 Armstrong Valley Road
Halifax, PA 17032

4-H Club News Calling all youth ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2007 to join us for 4-H meetings. We hold our meetings at the same time as the beginner class. Our club owns the hives located at the 4-H center, so youth do not need to own their own bees to participate. Children do not need to be members of MCBA. This is a great way to make friends, learn about bees and have a lot of fun as well as to build leadership skills. We had a great year last year and have additional activities planned for this year. The 4-H fair is scheduled for August 9-11th, 2007 this year and we are all looking forward to making posters and entering honey. For more information, please call Michaeleen Pacholski at 610-409-0284 (evenings) or join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:00 pm at the 4-H center.

A special thank you goes out to our generous donors in the honey auction, Joe and Will. We all really appreciate your participation and help in getting young beekeepers started in this hobby.

Electronic Communications

MCBA has been trying to reduce operating costs by sending out e-mail reminders for upcoming events. As postal costs rise, we need to find ways of keeping you informed that are low cost. Many of our members like event reminders that would have been sent out on postcards in the past; however, we now send out electronic reminders to all members who provide e-mail addresses. If you haven't received a reminder, maybe we don't have the proper e-mail address. Just send a note to montcobee@yahoo.com with your name and we will update our records. We appreciate your willingness to help. If you don't have e-mail, you will continue to receive paper mail.





Farm Show Report

The Pennsylvania Farm Show was a big success this year for Montgomery County members, see the list of prize winners below. Robin Kugler put together a beautiful display with the help of some of our members. We really appreciate everyone's participation in the display and helping PSBA with the retail sales and at the ice cream booth. If you tried to contact Robin by e-mail, he had trouble with it and was unable to read your mail before the show. Check out the picture of the MCBA café later in this newsletter

Extracted Honey Youth-White Honey
1st place-
Abby Uehling-Glenside PA

Candy
4th place-Abby Uehling-Glenside, PA

Cake-round/sheet not iced
2nd place-Jennifer Uehling-Glenside, PA
5th place-Carley Uehling-Glenside, PA
6th place-Abby Uehling-Glenside, PA

County or Association Exhibits
1st place Robin Kugler for MCBA
3rd place Nancy Schnarr for Huntington Valley

Extracted Honey
White 1st place-Carmen Venezia Collegetown, PA
Light Amber Helen Eves Doylestown, PA
Amber
5th place Helen Eves Doyletown, PA
9th place Harriton House Bryn Mawr, PA

5lb Dark 5 lb
3rd place Carmen Venezia Collegetown, PA

PSBA - The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association

Since its foundation in 1904, the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association has lobbied against

adulteration of honey, crusaded for research to understand and control introduced parasites, promoted control of diseases and pests through integrated pest management techniques, disseminated information on modern practical apiary management to maintain a healthy honey bee pollination workforce and educated the general public on the importance of honey bees and other beneficial insects.

Today, the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association assists beekeepers in all 67 counties of the State and encourages and assists new members to start beekeeping and increase the honey bee population to provide pollination for both agribusiness and the residential gardens of this Commonwealth.

PSBA members receive a monthly newsletter with timely articles and local advertisements. The association holds a summer picnic that is hosted by local bee organizations around the state and a two day annual meeting and banquet in November with national and international speakers. The PSBA website, www.pastatebeekeepers.org, contains articles and announcements of beekeeping classes and other issues of concern to the Pennsylvania beekeeping community. To join PSBA, please contact the MCBA treasurer or email treasurer@pastatebeekeepers.org.

Colony Collapse Disorder

Perhaps you have been hearing about some terrible losses beekeepers have already had this winter. Maybe one of your friend's has asked you about something they read or heard on the news. A good place to keep up with the latest information about this currently poorly understood affliction is the PSBA website.

EAS 2007 Meeting-August 6-10 in Newark, DE, more details at www.easternapiculture.org. Save the Date!

Beginner Beekeeping Class

Are you interested in raising honey bees but are a little nervous about getting started? Have you just started raising honey bees and are interested in learning modern management techniques? Perhaps you have been raising honey bees for a few years and just want some refresher techniques. Or, maybe you have questions about what your hive is doing. For the eighth year, the Montgomery County Beginners Beekeeping Course offers classes that are timely to your seasonal beekeeping needs. The 2007 course continues the hands-on beekeeping at the 4-H Center Apiary!

WHEN: Classes are usually held the last Tuesday each month from February to September. The March class is the 3rd Tuesday and the June class is the last Monday of the month. Classroom activities start at 7:00pm. Hands-on activities in the apiary start at 6:00pm. Please bring a face veil if you have one.

Banquet Report

A very successful fall banquet was held at the Lower Providence Firehall. We have heard very good feedback about the pig roast and side dishes and are planning a similar banquet for next year. Extra thanks go out to Carmen Venezia for arranging the banquet and Jim Bobb for making the vegetarian options. We also thank Joe Duffy for his talk about his recent trip working with Africanized bees. Vince Aloyo arranged for a great raffle and the Pearson Family decorated the hall.

We were able to surprise our newest life member, Harold Jenkins. Harold has been a long time member of our association and is very active. You will recognize his familiar face in the pictures since he makes the coffee for all of our meetings. Harold is also often featured in the "Ask Harold" column found in our newsletters and is always ready to give us advice about beekeeping with his own brand of humor. Make sure to congratulate Harold next time you see him!

MCBA would also like to thank those listed who generously donated prizes for our raffle.

*Hogg Halfcomb
Kelley
Dadant
Brushy Mountain
Mann Lake
Plastic Packaging Concepts
Better Bee
Ross Rounds
Suzanne Marinell
Global Patties
GloryBee Foods*



VP Carmen Venezia serving up some roast pig.



Jim Bobb and Joe Duffy awarding Harold Jenkins life membership (L-R)



Mark Antunes warming up the crowd for the Honey Auction

2007 Beginners Beekeeping Calendar

Tue, February 27, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Hands On: Assembling Equipment Welcome To Beekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment Needed - Ordering Equipment & Packages - Assembling Equipment - Hive Locations
Tue, March 20, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Lighting smokers – bring your smokers Preparing for Package Arrival <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment Needed (Review) - Ordering Equipment & Packages (Review) - Assembling Equipment (Review) - Hive Locations - Installing Packages - When to use smoke <p>* Note: This is the third Tuesday of the month.</p>
*Sat, Mar 31, 2007 12:00 PM	Packages arrive from Georgia. Special Saturday class at Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale Installing Package Bees Feeding Packages Lighting Smokers (optional – bring your smoker) * Subject to change based on weather and bees. Call 610-584-6778 to confirm actual time & date.
Tue, April 24, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Feeding Bees – bring veil – no gloves Bee Equipment Splitting Bees Swarming
Tue, May 29, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Working Bees – bring veil –no gloves Summer Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeding Bees - Supering - Swarming
*Mon, June 25, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Sugar Rolls – bring veil – no gloves Introduction to Mites * Note: This is not the last Tuesday of the month.
Tue, July 31, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Treatments – bring veil – no gloves Harvesting & Extracting Honey
Tue, August 28, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Removing Honey Supers – bring veil Bee Diseases & Treatments
Tue, September 25, 2007 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Mouse Guards – bring veil – no gloves Fall Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeding Bees - Overwintering Bees - Overwintering Supers - The Beekeepers Year

Topics subject to change based on group interest.



2007 MCBA Farm Show Display

Montgomery County Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Dues are for the 2007 Season

I prefer electronic newsletters and meeting reminders.

MCBA DUES \$10.00 per year \$ _____

PSBA DUES \$15.00 per year \$ _____ (OPTIONAL)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to "M.C.B.A."
and mail to
Grace Crawford
913 Hamilton Rd
Collegeville, PA 19426

Thank you!

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February 2007

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MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2006

President	Dale Tyczka	Collegeville	(610) 409-0284	DTyczka@yahoo.com
Vice President	Carmen Venezia	Lower Providence	(610) 489-8487	
Secretary	M. Pacholski	Collegeville	(610) 409-0284	mpacholski@rohmmaas.com
Treasurer	Grace Crawford	Collegeville	(610) 409-8081	CrawfordG@iconus.com
Exec Comm Mem	Robin Kugler	Douglasville	(610) 326-2406	Rku469@aol.com
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	(215) 855-5613	
Exec Comm Mem	Jim Bobb	Worcester	(610) 584-6778	JimBobb@GCT21.net
Newsletter Editor	VACANT			
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	(215) 855-5613	

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
c/o Grace Crawford
913 Hamilton Rd
Collegeville, PA 19426
Return Service Requested

