

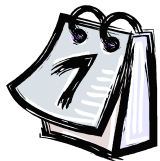
Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 92 Issue 1- January 2010

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

Winter & Spring 2010 Events:



Calendar of Events

January

Jan 9-16- PA State Farm Show. Harrisburg Farm Show Complex www.farmshow.state.pa.us

Jan 21- Langstroth Birthday Meeting- Unitarian Church, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Phila. (See below for details)

Jan 30 Sat.- 5:00-9:30. Family Pot Luck Dinner & Movie Night. "Antz" a movie for all ages. Bring a dish or dessert to share. 4-H Center Maple Room.

February

Feb 10- Wed. 7:00 pm. General Meeting **4-H Center- Honey House s** – What to have and what the State requires; and **Honey Crop Preparations** – How to prepare for Spring & how to maximize your honey crop. Speaker: Vince Aloyo

Feb 17- Wed. 7:00 pm. **4-H Center New Beekeepers – Hands On: Assembling Equipment** See attached schedule for details.

Feb 20- All Day Chester County Beekeeping Seminar, Westtown, PA www.chescobees.org/seminars.htm
Speaker: Mark Antunes

March

March TBA Spring Hive Irradiation Date TBA. Watch MCBA Website.

March 10 Wed. 7pm. -General Meeting **4-H Center – Commercial Beekeeping** – Pollination as a Sideline or as a Full Time Business. Speakers: Ted & Becky Jones, successful Connecticut beekeepers who manage several hundred hives with a practical approach.

March 17th Wed. 6:00 pm. **4-H Center New Beekeepers** – In the Beeyard: Lighting smokers. **7 pm** In the classroom - Preparing for packages, lighting smokers, hive assembly review.

March/April- Date to be Determined-Packages Arrive from Georgia. Special Saturday Class at Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Landsdale, PA. Installing Package Bees Demo, Feeding Packages Demo, Lighting Smokers (optional bring your smoker)

Date & time subject to change based on weather and bees. Call Jim Bobb to confirm at 610-584-6778

April

April 14- Wed. 7:00 pm. General Meeting- **4-H Center Hive Inspection** – How to Properly Inspect Your Hives and Spot Trouble. Speaker: Rob Snyder (former Inspector Bucks, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester Counties and current Penn State Research Assistant)

April 21- Wed. 6:00 pm- 4-H Center New Beekeepers – Feeding Bees (bring veil, no gloves) **6 pm** In the Beeyard: Feeding Bees. **7 pm-** In the classroom: Bee Equipment, Splitting Bees, and Swarming.

May

No General Meeting in May.

May 19- Wed. 6:00 pm- 4-H Center New Beekeepers – Working Bees (bring veil, no gloves) **6 pm** In the Beeyard: Working Bees **7 pm-** In the Classroom: Summer Management – Feeding Bees, Supering, Swarming Prevention & Warning Signs.

June

June 16- Wed. 6:00 pm- 4-H Center New Beekeepers – Sugar Rolls & Mites (bring veil, no gloves) **6pm** In the Beeyard: Sugar Rolls **7 pm** In the Classroom: Introduction to Mites.

June 17- 7:00 pm 4-H Center- General Meeting- **Note- This is a Thursday.** General Meeting – **Queen Rearing** – Queen Rearing on a Small Scale. Speakers: Mark Antunes and Brian Marcy; and **Beekeeping in France.** Speaker: Margaret Zittel.

July

July 17- Saturday- 11 am- 4 pm- MCBA Summer Picnic for the whole family at the **Militia Hill Day Use Area of the Fort Washington State Park.** Hotdogs, hamburgers and the fixings will be provided, bring a salad or desert. Games and contests will also be held.

July 21- Wed. 6:00 pm- 4-H Center New Beekeepers – New Beekeepers – Treatments & Harvesting 6 pm -In the Beeyard: Treatments (bring veil, no gloves) **7 pm** -In the Classroom: Harvesting Honey, Extraction.

July 23- 24- Friday & Saturday- All Day- PSBA
Summer Picnic www.pastatebeekeepers.org Erie
County, PA.

August

Aug. 2 – Aug. 6- Monday – Friday- Eastern Apiculture
Society Annual Meeting www.easternapiculture.org
Boone, North Carolina.

Aug. 11 Wed.- 7:00 pm. General Meeting- **4-H Center**
Healing Qualities of Honey, Allergies, Venom
Therapy and More. Speakers: Vince Aloyo,
Michaeleen Pacholski, and Rebecka Drew.

Aug. 25 Wed.- 6:00 pm-4-H Center New Beekeepers –
Diseases & Treatments

6pm In the Beeyard: Working with Bees (bring veil, no
gloves) **7pm** In the Classroom: Bee Diseases &
Treatments.

September

Sept. 8 Wed. 7:00 pm. General Meeting- **4-H Center**
Africanized Honey Bees – Their Current Status in the
U.S. and the PSBA Response Plan. Speaker: TBA.

African Top Bar Hives – Construction and
Maintenance. Speaker: Linda Swyderski. **Tower Hives**
and Other Hive Constructions. Speaker: Mark
Antunes.

Sept 22 Wed.- 6:00 pm-4-H Center New Beekeepers –
New Beekeepers – **Fall Management** (bring veil, no
gloves) **6 pm** In the Beeyard: Mouseguards & Fall
Managements **7pm** In the Classroom: Feeding Bees,
Over-Wintering Bees, Over-Wintering Supers, The
Beekeepers Year.

October

TBA -2nd Annual **Bee Fest** – Date, Speakers and
Location TBA

TBA- Fall Hive Irradiation

November

TBA-MCBA Annual Fall Banquet and Awards
Ceremony –

TBA- PSBA Annual Meeting at the Country Cupboard

December

No Meeting, See you in 2011!

Beginner Beekeeping Class SOLD OUT!

The Beginner Beekeeping Class is a sell-out again for
the second year in a row! The class is now closed with
an official enrollment of 62 new beekeepers! We think it
is wonderful that so many people have taken an interest
in getting to know about bees and beekeeping. Honey
bees have been in the forefront of the news for the past
couple of years and there is a much greater awareness
the importance of honey bees and other pollinators to
our lives and environment. Let's all welcome the latest
class of "Newbees!"

Mark Antunes at honeyhillfarm@verizon.net is taking
names and contact information for a waiting list in case
there are cancellations.

Communications with MCBA

Our new address: MCBA PO Box 203 Hatfield, PA
19440. Use this address for any communication with
MCBA. Remember, we send newsletters to you by email
if you gave us your email address. Members who prefer
a paper copy will still receive the newsletter by US Mail.
If you don't receive event reminders by email, maybe we
don't have your proper email address. Send a note to
montcobee@yahoo.com with your name and we will
update our records.

Combined Planning Meeting

On Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 PM, at the Unitarian Society of
Germantown, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia, Science
Friday Initiative's Carl Flatow comes to town, to kick off
national celebrations of Philadelphia's own Lorenzo
Langstroth. The gathering in Mt. Airy will be the first of
many events throughout the United States. Locally, the
inaugural event at the Unitarian Society of Germantown,
in Mt. Airy, will feature presentations by Carl Flatow,
Barbara Ceiga, and Marc Hoffman, "The Bee Man." The
evening's hosts, the Philadelphia Beekeepers' Guild,
Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association and the
Chester County Beekeepers' Association will use this
opportunity to further plans for the 1st annual Langstroth
/ Philly Honey Fest, September 2010, and other
Langstroth-centered events at regional institutions.
There is more info on www.phillyhoneyfest.com
and www.phillybeekeepers.org

PSBA Info

The PSBA website, www.pastatebeekeepers.org, has
articles and announcements of beekeeping classes and
other issues of concern to the PA beekeeping
community. To join PSBA, contact the MCBA treasurer
or email treasurer@pastatebeekeepers.org.

Fall Banquet Recap

It was another great banquet in November. See Mark's
article for details of the fun we had. In addition to all the
food and presentations, we elected some new officers.
We want to welcome Priscilla Bonsall as the new MCBA
Treasurer and Charlie Breinig and Vince Aloyo as
Executive Members. Our many thanks goes to Anne
Brennan, outgoing MCBA Treasurer, and Tara Purcell
and Robin Kugler, outgoing Executive Members.

Observations from the Apiary

I hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well and your
bees tucked away for the winter. I am sure you are
aware that this was not a banner year for local
beekeepers. Abundant spring rain (23 days in June
alone) really reduced the time bees could forage. When
they did get out of the hive, the blossoms already had

most of the nectar washed out by the rain. We had poor spring/summer nectar flow and the honey crop was less than we normally get in this area. By contrast, I heard nectar flow was excellent in western and central PA.

To my chagrin, the late summer and fall flow was poor as well. I could smell aster and golden rod being processed and stored by the bees but the amount of honey they produced was not enough to survive the winter. Like many beekeepers I spoke to, I fed my bees this fall with heavy sugar syrup, and will have to supplement them during winter with fondant. For the 60 or so new beekeepers in this year's beginner class, it was a difficult year to start beekeeping. If they survive this season, I hope next year will be easier.

This past year was my first full year as president. We went beyond our normal slate of activities to cooperate with Temple U Ambler Campus to put on the Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium (AKA Bee Fest). All attendees I spoke to were delighted with the program. The presentations, level of organization, and diversity of information presented were all high quality. Hive products were displayed and sold. Our members were fantastic dealing with the public! We almost broke even. We plan on doing Bee Fest this year, too. I hope all of you who did not attend this year will be able to do so in 2010. I will keep you posted as we confirm speakers and arrangements for the next symposium.

Our fall banquet was another great event due in large part to two beginner beekeepers that organized and ran the event. Margaret Zittel graciously accepted my request to organize and manage the event with her friend Heidi Shiver. This proved to be a two-for-one arrangement because both of their husbands Mike and John, both beginner beekeepers as well, joined in and rolled up their sleeves to prepare and serve the food. They did a great job! The food was excellent and the entertainment was great. Local reptile specialist Leonard Knapp displayed and lectured about his large collection of turtles, lizards, and snakes. The door prizes and raffle items were the best I have ever seen at our banquet. I must thank Margaret and Sandy White, both of whom did an outstanding job getting local merchants to part with gifts of such fine quality.

Moving into 2010, we have a great schedule of events for new and experienced beekeepers. Please read the calendar in this newsletter and save it for future reference. It has been rewarding working with so many of you to expand our programs and maintain the level of success that has been a hallmark of MCBA. I hope to see you at general meetings and Bee Fest 2010 as we move into a new year of beekeeping and the mutual support provided by MCBA.

Sincerely,

Mark Antunes

Beginner Beekeepers Share Experiences

We asked 2008-2009 new beekeepers to send in their musings on their first year of beekeeping, which are full of bravery and pathos. Seems like there was a lot of re-queening going on this year!!

My husband Norman & I started in April 2009 with two hives as recommended. Shortly thereafter we jumped all the way ahead to Chapter 9 of Beekeeping for Dummies when we realized we had drone-laying workers in one of them. With frequent phone consultation to MCBA Pres. Mark Antunes, we learned how to "shake down the hive" and re-queen, all before our 3rd class! The most surprising thing I've learned so far is that each hive has a personality of its own; I've only gotten stung by the "cranky" hive that had drone-laying workers. When our second hive got "cranky" after weeks of our not seeing a queen, we were afraid she was missing. Taking no chances on developing a drone-laying hive again, we ordered another queen. By the time she arrived and we started to put her in, we spotted a virgin queen in that cranky hive! What a thrill it was to be able to identify a queen even though she was not wearing the green dot like the original queen we purchased. Now what to do? We couldn't bear to kill either the virgin or the new \$20 bug, so we set up hive #3! We are looking forward to surviving the winter and seeing what the bees will teach us in 2010.

Suzanne Matlock

(Wow, it sounds like you had a full year's experience in a couple of weeks! Way to go! Ed.)

We learned that beekeeping is difficult. We started with our first two hives. One hive had an unfertilized queen and we got all drone cells. The other hive was missing its queen. So, we got two new queens and re-queened our two hives. The next time we looked in both hives had very little going on--very little food, brood (and of course no honey). One of our hives had THREE queens at one point . . . all seemed to be happy and moving around within inches of one another. The other hive had no brood. So, we squashed the queen of the struggling hive and combined the hives. By end of the summer, we still had a queen but no pollen, food, and very little brood. There was never any evidence of mites etc. When the cold weather came I checked the hive again and the few bees left were frozen on the comb and dead. There was no sign of the queen.

It was very sad for us and felt like we could not figure out what to do to save or help our hives.

I have cleaned up all the hive boxes and have thrown out all the comb from the dead hive (just in case) and plan to order new comb and order more bees for the spring and begin again. There is ALOT to know about bees.

Laurie Jenkins & Lisa McCurdy

(Hang in there, ladies. I lost my hive at the end of summer, too. Ed.)

This year we decided to keep bees at the Ambler Arboretum of Temple University. Our campus has a long history of beekeeping, with classes being taught when we were the original Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women. We wanted to make a connection to our history as well as educate our students and the public about the honeybee's essential role in pollination. We were mentored by Vince Aloyo and we also attended the MCBA beginner beekeeping course. In addition to what we learned in the course, Vince was a wonderful teacher for us who took the time to teach us what was going on in the hives, what to look out for, and when to do certain tasks throughout the season. Many Temple students became interested in beekeeping and we bought extra veils so they could help us with hive inspections. The hives are located near our organic community garden and the gardeners were thrilled that they had little pollinators near-by to help them with their vegetable plot. The beehives were very well received by the campus community. Many of the visitors, students, staff, and faculty were curious about the hives and wanted to know all about them. We harvested our honey in the summer and sold it as a fundraiser to continue the beekeeping program. Months after we sold over 200 pounds of honey, we still get calls asking for more. We had such fun this year, we learned so much, and we are very thankful to MCBA for holding the beginners beekeeping course and for introducing us to Vince. We can't wait to apply the knowledge that we have learned for year two as beekeepers!

Grace Chapman

(You were definitely one of the lucky ones! Ed.)

I was drawn to beekeeping because it's something that I've always wanted to do. But I never had a home with a yard that was big enough to keep bees. I have since found out that the size of land is not a factor in beekeeping. My success is simply getting my bees this year and getting started. The winter is proving to be a difficulty. It is really just another experience to learn how to handle the bees. It was unexpected how easy bees are to handle and conquering my fears related to handling them. Most of my neighbors do not know I have bees. I think I'll keep it that way. I like the learning process that beekeeping continually presents. I consider myself a professional student and I enjoy the challenge of learning something new. The hands-on work of beekeeping is a lot of fun. I also like the fantastic people that I have met in beekeeping. Everyone is willing to share the knowledge they have. This is a real community of beekeepers. Not just a club.

Steve Gagnon

Family Fun for All- MCBA 2nd Annual Movie Night

It may be cold and dreary outside, but it will be warm and friendly when we all get together for our 2nd Annual Family Movie Night at the 4-H Center Maple Room on January 30. This year's movie is the animated feature,

"Antz" in keeping with the insect theme. Come and join the adult and 4-H beekeepers for a fun and tasty evening. Bring a dish or dessert to share. We'll start the festivities at 5:00. After the movie, we'll probably talk about some of the insect faux pas!



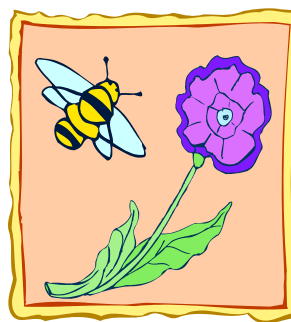
Montgomery County 4-H Beekeeping Club

MCBA also sponsors a 4-H Beekeeping Club that meets at the same time as the beginner's course. All kids ages 8 to 18 as of January 1, 2010 are eligible to join. Owning hives is not necessary; there are hives at the 4-H Center in Skippack. Experienced 4-H kids will lead activities like cooking with honey, bee anatomy and flower dissection. This year all 4-H meetings will be held on Wednesdays.

Join us for fun and educational activities. Contact Michaela at FourH@MontCoBeekeepers.org or 610-409-0284 (evenings) if interested in joining the 4-H Beekeeping Club.

Bring Your Paper Recyclables to 4-H

Please help 4-H to raise funds to keep their programs going. Bring your paper recyclables to the center when you come for meetings and place them in the Papertriever in the parking lot. 4-H offers many excellent youth programs that teach our children about the environment, animal care, and crafts.



MARKETPLACE



Marketplace is a feature to our newsletter. If you have beekeeping-related products to sell or services to offer, send your advertisement to the newsletter editor at:

News@montcobeepers.org

Deluxe observation hive for Sale

Two deep frame observation hive with Plexiglass windows for enhanced safety. Features a built-in feeder. Also, built-in sliding covers on both sides to provide a dark nest for your bees when you are not observing them. See Betterbee catalog for picture. Used two seasons; excellent condition. \$110

Vincent Aloyo- 610-278-1621 Aloyo@verizon.net

Southeast Pennsylvania SPRING PACKAGES



Available for Pickup Saturday, April 3* or Friday, April 30*.

(* Actual date depends on weather.)

Order your packages now for pickup Saturday, April 3* or Friday, April 30*. At 2:00 P.M. on the day of pickup, see a demonstration on installing package bees. Conveniently located in the exact center of Montgomery County near Valley Forge, Norristown, and Lansdale turnpike exits. Package includes 3-pound workers with Italian queen. For questions or ordering information, contact Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 or JimBobb@GCT21.net.

Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale, PA 19446

Wanted: Someone to share a book order

The International Bee Research Association located in England sells numerous books on all aspects of Honey Bees. Check out their wide selection of books at http://ibrastore.org.uk/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=1

Postage on each individual book is very expensive. However, a combined order for several books can be shipped at a much more reasonable price. I plan on purchasing the 'Anatomy and Dissection of the Honey Bee' by H.A. Dade and 'Form and Function in the Honey Bee' by L. Goodman. Anyone interested in sharing shipping please contact

Vincent Aloyo at aloyo@verizon.net or 610-278-1621.

Wooden ware for sale - assembled and unassembled - For pricing and information call Mark Antunes at 215-257-7121.

The MCBA Marketplace is provided as a convenience for MCBA members and others. The inclusion of ads is at the discretion of the MCBA editors, and is neither an express nor an implied endorsement of any particular product or seller.

MCBA Beekeeping Course Calendar 2010

<u>February 2010</u>				
Wed	Feb. 17	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Hands On: Assembling Equipment Welcome to Beekeeping – Sign In and Introductions, Equipment, Packages, Assembly and Location of Hives
<u>March 2010</u>				
Wed	Mar. 17	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Lighting Smokers & Installing Packages 6pm In the Beeyard: Lighting Smokers (bring yours!) 7pm In the Classroom: preparing for package arrival, equipment, packages, assembly and location of hives (review), Installing packages, When and How to Use Smoke
Sat*	Late March-early April	9:00 am - Noon	Worcester Honey Farms	Packages Arrive from Georgia. Special Saturday Class at Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Landsdale, PA Installing Package Bees Demo, Feeding Packages Demo, Lighting Smokers (optional bring your smoker) *Date & time subject to change based on weather and bees. Call Jim Bobb to confirm at 610-584-6778*
<u>April 2010</u>				
Wed	Apr. 21	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Feeding Bees (bring veil, no gloves) 6pm In the Beeyard: Feeding Bees 7pm In the Classroom: Bee Equipment, Splitting Bees, and Swarming
<u>May 2010</u>				
Wed	May 19	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Working Bees (bring veil, no gloves) 6pm In the Beeyard: Working Bees 7pm In the Classroom: Summer Management – Feeding Bees, Supering, Swarming Prevention & Warning Signs
<u>June 2010</u>				
Wed	Jun. 16	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Sugar Rolls & Mites (bring veil, no gloves) 6pm In the Beeyard: Sugar Rolls 7pm In the Classroom: Introduction to Mites
<u>July 2010</u>				
Wed	Jul. 21	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Treatments & Harvesting 6pm In the Beeyard: Treatments (bring veil, no gloves) 7pm In the Classroom: Harvesting Honey, Extraction
<u>August 2010</u>				
Wed	Aug. 25	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Diseases & Treatments 6pm In the Beeyard: Working with Bees (bring veil, no gloves) 7pm In the Classroom: Bee Diseases & Treatments
<u>September 2010</u>				
Wed	Sep. 22	6:00 pm	4-H Center	New Beekeepers – Fall Management (bring veil, no gloves) 6pm In the Beeyard: Mouseguards & Fall Managements 7pm In the Classroom: Feeding Bees, Over-Wintering Bees, Over-Wintering Supers, The Beekeepers Year

Montgomery County Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Dues are applied on a calendar year basis.

MCBA DUES \$10.00 per year \$ _____

PSBA DUES \$20.00 per year \$ _____ (Recommended *)
(\$25.00 per household)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to M.C.B.A
and mail to:
MCBA PO Box 203
Hatfield, PA 19440



* 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.

News Release MCBA VOLUME 92 ISSUE 1
January 2010

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2010

President	Mark Antunes	president@montcobeekeepers.org
Vice President	Brian Marcy	vicepres@montcobeekeepers.org
Secretary	Allison Uehling	secretary@montcobeekeepers.org
Treasurer	Priscilla Bonsell	treasurer@montcobeekeepers.org
Exec Comm Mem	Charlie Breinig	charlienos-pam-bee@yahoo.com
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins	--
Exec Comm Mem	Vince Aloyo	aloyo@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor	Judith Finkelstein	news@montcobeekeepers.org
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins	--

MCBA WEBSITE! www.montcobeekeepers.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.

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
MCBA PO Box 203
Hatfield, PA 19440
Return Service Requested

