

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 93 Issue 1 - January 2011

MCBA Motto: "*Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers*"



Winter 2011 Calendar of Events

January

January 6 – Pre-build and Set Up for Pennsylvania Farm Show Exhibit, contact Joe Duffy for details at 215-885-1681

January 8-15 – Pennsylvania Farm Show at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, North Cameron and Maclay Streets, Harrisburg, PA. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. January 8-14, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 15.

January 11 – Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting at the Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m. Beverages and refreshments are welcome.

January 15 – Bucks County Beekeepers Association One Day Beginner Beekeeping Course at Silver Lake Nature Center. Registration from 8-8:30, class from 9-4:30. Cost is \$50 at the door, \$45 for registration prior to January 14. Registration form at buckscountybeekeepers.com

January 20 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Side-line Commercial Beekeeping and Queen Rearing. Speaker Dennis Keeney will tell us how he raises queens, manages 800 hives, and works a full time job. Dennis has over 40 years of experience in beekeeping and raising queens.

February

February 8 – Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting at the Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m. Beverages and refreshments are welcome.

February 9 – Beginner Beekeeping Course, 4-H Center in Creamery, PA at 7:00 p.m. Ordering and assembling hive equipment and ordering packages of bees or nucs.

February 17 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Solitary Bees, How to Propagate and Maintain Them. Speakers Scott Famous and Joe Fitzpatrick will talk about native

pollinators you have probably never met, and will likely enjoy having in your yard.

February 26 – Family Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, 4:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Feature Animated Film *Wall-E* - the 2010 Academy Award Winner for Best Animated Feature Film, and documentary film *A Chemical Reaction* - the award winning film about the origin of the natural lawn care movement in Canada.

March

March 8 – Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting at the Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m. Beverages and refreshments are welcome.

March 9 – Beginner Beekeeping Course, 4-H Center in Creamery, PA at 6:00 p.m. Preparing for packages and lighting smokers.

March 10 - General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 pm. Swarm Control – A must for all novice and 2nd year beekeepers. Don't lose the bees you worked so hard to keep alive all winter.



2011 Beginner Beekeeping Course

Once again the MCBA will provide a beginning beekeeping course for area residents interested in learning how to get started in beekeeping. For the past two years the course has sold out with 70 students taking the course. For 2011, like last year, the large Maple room at the 4-H Center has been reserved to accommodate what is expected to be another beginner class that is filled to capacity. In 2010, many of the beginners were able to harvest a honey crop. Let's hope that success continues in 2011. Make sure to tell anyone interested in learning about beekeeping about the course and encourage them to sign up on our website at www.montcobeekkeepers.org or mail their check in to M.C.B.A., Box 203, Hatfield, PA 19440.

Please see the accompanying schedule for more details and registration instructions.

Mark Antunes



Observations from the Apiary

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope 2010 was a good year for you, whether you are an experienced, intermediate, or beginner beekeeper. Please take a moment as you read the newsletter to check the calendar of events and mark your personal calendars with the dates of our meetings, the picnic, the Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium, and the fall banquet. I urge all of you to attend as many of these events as you can. There are numerous club members who put a lot of time and effort into making these events happen and it is always rewarding to have folks like you come out and take part.

I find attending these events worthwhile if for no other reason than to have the opportunity to talk to fellow beekeepers in the area and compare notes about how our hives have been doing up to that point of the year. It is always good to have a local comparison when you are trying to figure out if it is you, the bees, or the local conditions that are influencing the results you are getting from your colonies.

As I look forward to 2011, there are problems that may impact all of us as beekeepers. The State Apiarist position has been restructured. As you know by now, our previous apiarist Dennis vanEngelsdorp stepped down to pursue his doctoral degree. He is an expert in honey bees and his position was dedicated completely to helping beekeepers, honey bees, and improving the level of beekeeping in the state.

Our new state apiarist is Leo "Rick" Donovall who is not a honey bee expert. We as beekeepers are fortunate that we have a Secretary of Agriculture, Russell C. Redding who is an ally and supporter of beekeeping. But as a result of budgetary constraints our new state apiarist will also serve as the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council Coordinator and Leo Donovall's background has been focused upon that area of critical concern for all Pennsylvanians. So where does that leave you and me? In my analysis we are in a weaker position than we were before now. We now have a state apiarist who must spend half of his time dealing with invasive insect species and not honey bee problems. It remains to be seen if that reduction of top level honey bee expertise can be offset. Fortunately we have several people at Penn State who have great abilities and knowledge when it comes to beekeeping but they are not dedicated to us.

The next, and just as critical an area of concern, is the inspection program. It was slated to be completely shut down last year but Secretary of Agriculture, Russell C. Redding managed to get funding for a reduced program that had fewer inspectors and fewer hours per inspector. This is of particular importance for beekeepers in the five county area in and around Philadelphia because we have a much higher incidence of American Foul Brood than most of the rest of the state. In the past it was six times higher than most of Pennsylvania. The inspection program is of particular value for beekeepers because having someone who sees hundreds of hives and has greater experience in beekeeping is a real benefit. I always appreciate what the inspector does in finding problems or identifying things I know are a problem but about which I am uncertain. The impending government economic belt-tightening and deficit reduction will result in less bee research and field support. If we are to maintain what we have gained and make up for the impending shortfall, it may have to come from within our own ranks.

The third thing that has my attention is the continuing inexorable spread of Africanized bees northward. There was a second confirmed colony of Africanized bees found in Georgia. The first resulted in the stinging death of a man. This event took place fairly close to a major queen breeder and package producer in Georgia. Not that European honey bee stocks cannot be maintained in areas that have Africanized bees; but it adds one more negative element into the witch's brew of things we are facing.

So what am I looking forward to in 2011? First and foremost is the PA queen breeding program which is run in co-operation with Dr. Christine Grozinger, Mary Ann Frazier and others at Penn State along with PSBA, and already established queen breeders in the state. As the Penn State Pollinator Research Center website states, Pennsylvania beekeepers "*will begin to evaluate different stocks of honey bees as a first step in developing more sustainable beekeeping practices with bee stocks which will not only survive but will thrive in our Commonwealth. Our efforts will evaluate many different traits such as: Varroa, Nosema and other disease levels, honey production, gentleness, brood pattern and build-up, but most importantly the ability to thrive without the use of chemicals.*"

In speaking with Warren Miller, the new president of PSBA, he said that the plan for 2011 is to bring together all interested parties and come to a consensus as to the breed of bee that is going to be used to start the program. Then they will sign up beekeepers that are willing to buy or receive queens. Those who receive the selected queens will take part in a rigorous evaluation program done in a consistent and scientific manner. For those who take part it will entail having as many as 10 hives, with queens from the selected strain of bee that the beekeeper must evaluate for specific things in a consistent manner and within a prescribed time period

on intervals from which he/she cannot deviate. Sound like fun? Perhaps getting there will not be a picnic but achieving a selective breeding program that can offer all of us better bees sounds good to me. If I could just have 10 hives that are mite resistant, sensitive to American Foul Brood, gentle to work with, and produce 200 pounds of honey per hive; I would be satisfied.

In addition to that there is more good news from the Penn State Pollinator Research Center in the form of the queen rearing class at Penn State that is happening this coming May. It is sold out, but there is a waiting list one can sign on to and if anyone of us who have already signed up decides not to attend our spot will be filled by those on the waiting list.

Another bright thing on the horizon is the potential new crop of beginner beekeepers that will hopefully provide more public support for funding of beekeeping research as everyone competes for the fewer government dollars that will be available. We are at a curious intersection of more adversity in beekeeping and more interest in it. As I reflect upon the state of what we hold as a common interest my hope is similar to my perennial thoughts about beekeeping. Things can get better this season, if I stay more focused, keep better records, do things in a timely fashion, and the weather is reasonable. Good luck to all of you as we go through the winter ahead. See you at the next meeting

Sincerely,

Mark Antunes

4-H Beekeeping Club For Children and Young Adults

Did you know that there is a 4-H beekeeping club associated with MCBA? 4-H is an organization for 8-18 year olds with the following mission "*4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.*" Our club meets monthly from February through October at the same time as the popular new beekeepers course. We do all sorts of activities including cooking with honey, bee anatomy, equipment building, candle making and honey extraction. This year we are looking forward to developing a flower bed at the 4-H center. We could not do this work without our adult volunteers and appreciate all of their help.

The 2 hives behind the 4-H center are owned by our club and are expertly maintained by Harold Jenkins. We do all of the fundraising necessary to run our club, including everything necessary to keep our hives healthy. Our favorite time of year is the 4-H fair in August. We show off our projects, enter honey and garden veggies, and have a beekeeping tent to teach the public about bees.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, or joining our club, please contact Michaeleen at FourH@MontCoBeekeepers.org

Second Annual South Eastern Honey Bee Symposium- A SUCCESS!!!

October 2, 2010 at the Temple University Campus

Following the great success of MCBA's first ever "Bee Fest" in 2009, we again held our highly anticipated Honey Bee Symposium event at Temple University and Arboretum, Ambler Campus, on Saturday, October 2. With an increase in attendance and the rave reviews that continue to be received by the organizers of this year's event, MCBA has now established an annual affair that will continue to be the 'must-attend' event for beekeepers and interested "wanna-bees" in SE Pennsylvania for years to come!

This year's program was revised to include an all-day beginner beekeeping course along with the usual timely presentations by renowned speakers from the world of beekeeping and apiculture research. Our two-tiered meeting allowed the public, beginner beekeepers and more advanced beekeepers, to come together to learn from some of the most knowledgeable beekeepers and researchers in the country.

Advanced Program

Following a brief welcome by MCBA president, Mark Antunes, the program started with a presentation by the Adam Finkelstein and Kelly Rausch of VP Queen Bees; commercial queen breeders from Fredrick, MD who have not treated their honey bee stock for varroa or other bee maladies since beginning their breeder program. Adam discussed how beekeepers can develop their own queen breeding program, emphasizing the importance of setting measurable goals. He stressed that culling queens that do not meet set goals must be done without exception to ensure short-term and long-term success. He also warned of the dangers of inbreeding. Adam presented amazing photos of Kelly performing artificial insemination of queens that were restrained in straws and treated with CO₂ gas to put them to sleep during the insemination. Their carefully run queen breeding program was effectively explained by Adam as one that emphasizes an easily adopted scientific approach to queen breeding.

Next Jerry Hayes, Chief of the Apiary Section of the Florida Department of Agriculture, spoke about the Pollinator Decline. His broad knowledge of beekeeping that is obvious in his monthly column in American Bee Journal was clearly evident when he spoke. He discussed the many challenges our honey bees face including diseases, pests and pesticides. He reported that many pesticides are found in bee hives. Even though the level of each pesticide was very low, the impact of the combination of these pesticides on our

honeybees is still not completely understood. He pointed out that in some cases combining chemicals increased their toxicity by as much as a 100 times. Jerry's command of a vast amount of beekeeping knowledge combined with his passion for honey bees, beekeeping and great public speaking skills made his talk a real treat for everyone.

The mid-day hit of the event was led by Jenny Rose Carey, Director of the Landscape Arboretum. The beautiful fall weather allowed many individuals to participate in the Temple Arboretum Garden tours from which much interesting and practical botanical information was taken away by everyone who participated. These tours which took place during the lunch break emphasized plants important to honey bees and other pollinators. Many who took the tour said they are planning to return to Temple to take classes there.

Following lunch, Christina Grozinger, PhD, Associate Professor at Penn State University, discussed her research concerning the queen's mating status and her ability to produce pheromones. Dr. Grozinger's research indicates that poorly mated queens produce less queen pheromone which may lead to early supersedure. Her second presentation was about the newly established Center for Pollinator Research at Penn State, of which she is the current Director. In July, the Center hosted the first International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Heath and Policy. Top researchers, government officials and representatives of organizations from around the world traveled to University Park to present their latest findings on honey bees and other pollinators at the inaugural international conference. The Center for Pollinator Research is comprised of a dynamic group of 27 independent faculty members, including researchers, educators, extension specialists and outreach coordinators, spanning multiple departments and colleges. The Center's consortium of researchers is committed to studying the factors impacting pollinator health and developing and implementing creative approaches to pollinator conservation. Additionally, Dr. Grozinger, in conjunction with Warren Miller (current VP of the PA State Beekeepers Association) will be developing a Pennsylvania queen breeding program. She is seeking Pennsylvania queen breeders interested in developing a line of Pennsylvania queens that are suited for our regional conditions which can be reliable produced and made available for local beekeepers.

Beginner's Program

Mr. Jim Bobb, past President of the MCBA, PSBA and current Chairperson of the EAS, who also happens to be a local beekeeper and master gardener, presented an all-day class for those individuals thinking about starting beekeeping as a hobby. The capacity crowd who registered for the Beginners' course took advantage of Temple University's state-of-the-art classroom facilities that included the latest audio visual technology.

Combined Session

The final planned Q&A session of the program was revised during the event to include all of the day's presenters to take advantage of their combined wealth of information and to bring together all attendees, including the beginner beekeepers. The combined session allowed both beginner and advanced beekeepers to interact directly with each of the day's quest speakers. There was a lively discussion of many aspects of beekeeping in which the panel of experts provided timely and practical responses on a wide range of beekeeping and honey bee subjects.

Third Annual South Eastern Honey Bee Symposium

As a result of the success of this year's event, we will be continuing with our Bee Fest symposium again in 2011 and would welcome suggestions of topics and/or speakers.

Vincent Aloyo



Meet Your Local Beekeeper – Introducing Larry Nolt

This edition's local beekeeper is Larry Nolt. In this article, Larry offers some winter hive maintenance advice. Larry has been a beekeeper for approximately 14 years. Starting out, his goal for his first hive was to increase the production of some of his fruit trees. Today he maintains 12 hives with a friend. The hives are located in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Who assisted you in obtaining your first hive?

Larry had been growing concerned with the lack of production of his fruit trees. Around that time, Larry's teenage son found an old beehive on a friend's land and had a great idea. In order to help with fruit production, his son brought the hive home, repaired it and gave it to Larry as a gift.

What steps do you take to protect your hives from the winter cold?

In trying to protect the hives from freezing weather and winds, Larry has had success with wind breaks. He creates his wind break with burlap bags. Burlap bags can be found at retailers/manufactures that use burlap for goods or food products, such as coffee. He drives long tomato stakes into the ground, cuts a burlap bag open and staples it to the tomato stakes. This protection should be placed to block prevailing winds (generally from the north/west in the winter). He has found that cold wind is one of the worst things for a hive and in his experience a wind break is more effective than wrapping a

hive. This past year, he also bought a roll of Tyvek and stapled the Tyvek onto the burlap for added protection. If the front of the hive is facing south, the hive will also benefit from solar heat during the winter. Larry also props open the top cover for ventilation.

When do you install your wind breaks?

In general, Larry tries to put up his wind breaks by Thanksgiving each year and take them down in March.

Any winter tips for new beekeepers?

Larry tries to make sure his bees have enough honey stored going into the winter (60-65 pounds in the top deep), and starts using pollen patties in February. He usually provides Honey Bee Healthy and fumagillin in the spring.

As a long time beekeeper, what is something you find interesting about bees?

To Larry, the life of a hive is analogous in many ways with human sociological structure, and the life of a bee is analogous to the life and sociology of humans. When explaining bees to children, Larry likes to compare human lives with the life of a bee - from birth, to the nursery, to work in the pantry, to work out of the home.

If you have a suggestion for the next featured beekeeper, please contact the newsletter editor at: News@MontCoBeekeepers.org

Bee Fest Planning Meetings For Next Year Are Underway – All that is missing is You!

Planning for Bee Fest 2011 is already underway and we need your skills to continue this great event. Monthly meetings will be held every second Tuesday of the month at 7PM with the exception of May when we will meet on the 19th. The meetings will be held at the Lansdale Library, 301 Vine Street in Lansdale. The executive board will meet immediately following the Bee Fest meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Apiary Inspection

Summary for Eastern Pennsylvania

During the summer of 2010 I was apiary inspector in 11 Eastern Pennsylvania counties (Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike and Wayne). Due to the large number of counties covered, the State mandated that priority be given to beekeepers with a previous history of American Foul Brood (AFB), to newly registered beekeepers and to beekeepers that had not been inspected in the last several years. In addition to apiary inspection, the job also entailed sampling for native pollinators and for exotic wood boring beetles. Over the

course of the summer, I inspected over 700 colonies. During these inspections I identified 7 colonies with AFB, which was identified primarily by visual observation (punctured cappings, ropy larvae) and a field test (Holst milk test). The AFB infection was confirmed by culturing at the Apiary Lab in Harrisburg. None of these cases of AFB were discovered in the hives of beekeepers that had previous cases of AFB. An important note is that **ALL 7 cases were determined by the lab in Harrisburg to be resistant to TERRAMYCIN (oxytetracycline)!** These 7 cases of AFB were not confined to any one county, but were widely distributed over my territory (please note that I am not at liberty to indicate the exact locations). This suggests that prophylactic treatment with terramycin in any form (e.g. Terra-Pro Pre Mix, Terra Bee Mix, etc) is probably no longer useful for preventing AFB in our area, and its application in the bee hive is likely playing an important role in maintaining resistance. Thus, I highly recommend against the routine use of terramycin in bee hives.

Since another priority was to inspect new beekeepers, I was able to observe the level of their skill and knowledge. Although many were doing a good job maintaining their colonies, many others exhibited a profound lack of knowledge of honey bee biology and behavior. One common mistake was a failure to appreciate the concept of BEE SPACE. Some beekeepers had shallow frames in medium or even deep boxes, leading to excessive amounts of honey filled burr comb. Some new beekeepers did not know how to install foundation, resulting in warped comb that the bees joined together. In extreme cases, beekeeper lack of knowledge of and/or respect for bee space led to problems such that some beekeepers no longer had moveable frame hives. With the increased popularity of backyard beekeeping, I think that we experienced beekeepers and our local beekeeping organizations need to increase our educational efforts so that new beekeepers have a successful experience. Perhaps we need to consider mentorship efforts or “beyond beginner” (intermediate?) level classes. Please note that this report expresses my personal views and is not an official report of the PA Department of Agriculture.

Vincent Aloyo

Help Wanted - MCBA Secretary

After serving as our wonderful MCBA secretary for several years, Allison Auehling has retired. We are seeking a new secretary and hope you will consider filling this position. For more information, please contact Mark Antunes at honeyhillfarm@verizon.net

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

Yule's Apiaries

Providing chemical free, northern bred bees!

Available near the end of May

Northern raised bees:

Nucleus colonies.....\$105

Queens..... \$25

For more information:

www.yulesapiaries.com

yuleluder24@msn.com

267-626-6523

Can't wait for Northern bred bees?

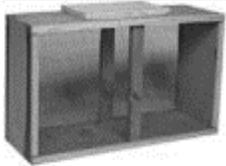
We will have Russian and Italian 3# packages with mated queens available for pick up April 11th.

Russian hybrid.....\$85.50

Italian.....\$82.50

Pickup packages in Schuylkill Haven, PA (Schuylkill County) or Green Lane, PA (Montgomery County).

Early to mid May there will be a limited amount of five frame deep nucleus colonies (Koehnen carni queens) \$105



Southeast Pennsylvania SPRING PACKAGES

Available for Pickup Saturday, April 2* or Friday, April 22*.

(* Actual date depends on weather.)

Order your packages now for pickup Saturday, April 2* or Friday, April 22*. 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

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 2011

January 2011

January 6 - Pre-build and Set Up for Pennsylvania Farm Show Exhibit

January 8-15 Pennsylvania Farm Show

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, North Cameron and Maclay Streets, Harrisburg, PA. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. January 8-14, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 15

January 11 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

January 15 – Bucks County Beekeepers Association One Day Beginner Beekeeping Course

Silver Lake Nature Center, 9-4:30, Registration form at buckscountybeekeepers.com

January 20 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Side line commercial beekeeping and queen rearing - speaker Dennis Keeney

February 2011

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

February 9 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

4-H Center, PA at 7 p.m.

February 17 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Solitary Bees, How to Propagate and Maintain Them – speakers Scott Famous and Joe Fitzpatrick

February 26 – Family Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner

Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, 4:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

March 2011

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

March 9 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

March 10 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Swarm Control

April 2011

April 2* – Packages Arrive

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

April 12 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

April 13 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

April 21 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Pollinator Gardens and Native Plants for Pollinators

Speaker Grace Chapman, Horticulture and Landscape Arboretum Supervisor, Temple University

April 22* – Packages Arrive

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

* depending on the weather

May 2011

May 3 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

May 11 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

May 19 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Mead Making

Speaker Marc Johnson, local mead making expert

June 2011

June 8 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

June 14 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

June 16 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Special Hive Tour of 4-H hives and classroom discussion

Speaker Dr. Vince Aloyo, beekeeper for over 50 years

June 28 – Tri-County Meeting

Ziegler Apiary, Bethel, PA, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

July 2011

July 12 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

July 13 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

July 16 – Annual Summer Picnic

Ft. Washington State Park, Militia Hill, PA, 11 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

July 22-23 – PSBA Picnic York County

For information, go to www.pastatebeekeepers.org

July 25-29 – EAS in Warwick, RI

For information, go to www.easternapiculture.org

August 2011

August 9 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

August 13 – Hive Tour with Possible Cook Out Lunch or Field Trip

August 17 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

September 2011

September 13 - Bee Fest Planning Meeting and Executive Board Meeting

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

September 14 - Beginner Beekeeping Course

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

September 15 – General Meeting in the Maple Room at the 4-H Center in Creamery

Wax Processing, Candle Making and Home Made Cosmetics and Soaps

Speakers Joe Duffy and Grace Crawford

October 2011

October 1 – Southeastern PA Honey Bee Symposium

October 11 - Executive Board Meeting

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

November 2011

November 5 – MCBA Fall Banquet

Plains Mennonite Church, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November 8 - Executive Board Meeting

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

November 11-12 – PSBA Fall Meeting

Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA

December 2011

December 10 – Holiday Gathering (to be determined)

December 13 - Executive Board Meeting

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



News Release MCBA VOLUME 93 ISSUE 1 January 2011

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2010

President	Mark Antunes	honeyhillfarm@verizon.net	
Vice President	Brian Marcy	brian.marcy@ono-usa.com	
Secretary	open		<i>Help Wanted!</i>
Treasurer	Priscilla Bonsell	cillab@earthlink.net	
Exec Comm Mem	Charlie Breinig	Charlienospam-bee@yahoo.com	
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins		
Exec Comm Mem	Vince Aloyo	Vincent.aloyo@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Denise Adamucci	News@montcobeepers.org	
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins		

MCBA WEBSITE!

www.montcobeepers.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 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)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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



Pennsylvania Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

2011 Beginners Beekeeping Course

Are you interested in raising honeybees but are a little nervous about getting started? Have you just started raising honeybees and are interested in learning modern management techniques? Perhaps you have been raising honeybees for a few years and just want some refresher techniques. Or, maybe you have questions about what your hive is doing. For the 17th year, the Montgomery County Beginners Beekeeping Course offers classes that are timed to meet to your seasonal beekeeping needs.

The 2011 course continues hands-on beekeeping at the 4-H Center Apiary!

WHEN: Classes start Wednesday February 9th (one night a month), and are held on the second Wednesday of each month from February to September (August is the 3rd Wed.)

- Hands-on activities in the apiary start at **6:00pm**. Veils are **mandatory** at the apiary. **Anyone who does not have a veil will not be permitted near the hives.**
- Classroom activities start at **7:00pm**.

ATTENDANCE: The 6:00 pm activity in the apiary is optional – if you cannot attend just come for the classroom portion at 7:00 pm.

WHERE: The Montgomery County 4-H Center, 1015 Bridge Rd, Collegeville, PA 19426
Located on Route 113, just south of Skippack Pike, Creamery, PA. [Directions](#)

COST: A single student receives membership to the **Montgomery County Beekeepers Association**, membership to the **Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association**, one ticket to our fabulous fall **banquet**, educational materials, and eight great classes with hands on apiary experience for only \$80. The “couples” class rate offers an upgrade to a family membership to the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association and an additional banquet ticket for a total fee of \$120. Do not expect to walk in and be seated, we normally sell out! Class size is limited and enrollment will be allotted on a first to register-first enrolled basis.

Register now ! We normally sell out! Go to: www.montcobeekkeepers.org

E-mail any questions to us at: Inquiries@MontCoBeekeepers.org

*****(cut here)*****

MCBA New Beekeepers Course

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Make Checks Payable to “M.C.B.A.” How did you hear about course? _____

Class size is limited and enrollment will be allotted on a first registered-first enrolled basis.

New Beekeepers Seminar Individual \$80 \$_____

mail to: M.C.B.A.

New Beekeepers Seminar Family \$120 \$_____

**Box 203
Hatfield, PA 19440**

2011 New Beekeeper's Calendar

Wed, Feb. 9, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Hands On: Assembling Equipment Welcome To Beekeeping – Sign in and Introductions - Equipment Needed - Ordering Equipment & Packages - Assembling Equipment - Hive Locations
Wed, March 9, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Lighting smokers – bring your smokers Preparing for Package Arrival - Equipment Needed (Review) - Ordering Equipment & Packages (Review) - Assembling Equipment (Review) - Hive Locations (Review) - Installing Packages -When and how to use smoke
<u>Sat, April 2, 2011</u> <u>and Fri, April 22, 2011</u> Pick up at 12:00 Noon Installation class at 2:00 P.M. each day	Packages arrive from Georgia. Special Saturday class at Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale Installing Package Bees Demonstration Feeding Packages Demonstration Lighting Smokers (optional – bring your smoker) * Subject to change based on weather and bees. Call Jim Bobb at 610-584-6778 to order bees.
Wed, April 13, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Feeding Bees – bring veil – no gloves -Bee Equipment -Splitting Bees -Swarming
Wed, May 11, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Working Bees – bring veil –no gloves Summer Management - Feeding Bees - Supering - Swarming – Prevention and warning signs
Wed, June 8, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Sugar Rolls – bring veil – no gloves -Introduction to Mites
Wed, July 13, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Treatments – bring veil – no gloves -Harvesting Honey -Extraction
Wed, August 17, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: bring veil -Bee Diseases & Treatments
Wed, Sept. 14, 2011 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Mouse Guards – bring veil – no gloves Fall Management - Feeding Bees - Over Wintering Bees - Over Wintering Supers - The Beekeepers Year

Topics subject to change based on group interest.

4-H Beekeeping Club for Kids

4-H Beekeeping club meets same days and times as above. All kids ages 8 to 19 as of January 1, 2011 are eligible to join. Owning hives is not necessary, interested kids who cannot own their hives can have access to the hives at the 4-H Center. Join us for fun and educational activities. Contact Michaelen at FourH@MontCoBeekeepers.org or 610-409-0284 (evenings) if interested.