



Greetings from Our New President, Dan Boylan



Now that winter is here hopefully your bees all made it to this point without being overburdened by mites and with sufficient stores to make it until the first nectar source is available in the spring. If your bees are healthy at this point, the next threat is starvation if we have temperature swings that drive them to use more stores than we provided.

November 14, 2014 had a high temperature of 57°F. The high temperature did not leave the 40's over the previous ten days and my bees were not flying at all during that period. Today there were bees everywhere! Every full-size hive and all of my nucs, were bustling with activity. One of my Pol-Line Italian hives even had numerous bees that

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MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

DUES!!

Did you send in your \$15 dues payment in January? Don't miss notices of upcoming meetings because your dues lapsed. Send your check today !

ALERT!

Although Jim Bobb has been having health problems, he wants everyone to know that spring packages will arrive on time. His website is taking orders now. <http://www.pabeekeeper.com>

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MCBA winter Calendar of Events

JANUARY 22- General Meeting- 7PM, 4-H Center, **Speaker: Mark Hannings** from Farm Family Insurance Co. will discuss the benefits of tailored protection for your apiary and assets including liability protection. This information is beneficial for beekeepers with 1 hive to 50+ hives and everything in between.

February 26- General Meeting- 7PM, 4-H Center, **Speaker: Mark Antunes-** "Coming Out of Winter Strong" Mark will present tips and strategies for making the transition in your apiary from winter to spring.

March 19- SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Speaker **Dewey Caron** will be in the area and he has agreed to give a talk to us on **"What Beekeepers are doing to Improve Colony survivorship"** Meeting is at Plains Mennonite Church at 7:00 PM 50 W. Orvilla Road, Hatfield, PA 19440

March 26- General Meeting- 7PM, 4-H Center, **Speakers: Scott Famous and Vince Aloyo-** Overview of the Queen Cell Program with discussion of accomplishments, success stories and statistics from 2014.

April 23- General Meeting- 7PM, 4-H Center, **Speaker: Mark Antunes-** Mark will present techniques and strategies for swarm prevention and retrieval in your apiary. There will also be a question and answer time for the 2015 Queen Cell Program.

May 28- General Meeting- 7PM, 4-H Center, **Speaker: Margaret Zittel-** "Beekeeping Gadgets and Gizmos" Hear the how and when to use, pros, cons, costs, and where to get beekeeping gadgets and gizmos that could help your bees survive, thrive, and be more productive, and your beekeeping activities be easier and more effective.

Greetings from Our New President, Dan Boylan (continued from Page1)

appeared to be performing their orientation flights. My point is that the stores of these hives are being reduced by all of this activity. The forecast is supposed to be cold in a couple of days and the bees will cluster, drawing the store usage back to a normal level. In the following paragraphs I will explain what I do to prevent starvation from this point forward.

I make sure that my hives are provided with an inner cover that allows supplemental feeding. This means that there is sufficient room between the inner cover and the top bars to allow insertion of supplemental feed. I make my own inner covers, but you can buy ones

that provide this room or use a shim.

There are commercial winter feed products that are available for use as emergency, or supplemental feeding; Baker's Fondant is one that many may be familiar with. I have found that it is not as simple to find as other products offered by the bee supply houses. I have used Winter Patties from Dadant for at least the last six years with excellent results. These are patties that are made with 97% sugar and 3% Megabee (pollen substitute). They come packaged like pollen substitute patties between perforated wax paper in ten or forty pound

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*Winter
Beekeeping Tips
From
Our New President*

How Would You Like to Get Your Honey This Way???



"I complain when I get a couple stings. I run and put on my full body suit and then return to the hives. I don't know how he does it, but 130' up in the tree, this native South American father chops a hole in the tree, removes honey, and sends it down below to his family. No Suit, no veil. You gotta see this."

Charlie Breinig

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W_iMve4xvg

A South American man provides honey for his family and village



Queen Rearing Program Update by Scott Famous

To begin, I would like to take this opportunity to recap the program outline, its goals, and where we are headed. We started our program by breeding from local stock and introducing quality queens from a variety of sources. Queen cells were reared from selected queens for distribution to club members. Participants were taught how to make “proper” queen less splits, care for their cells after pickup, including transport & placement in their new colonies, evaluate the cells for proper hatch or non-hatch, timing for follow-on inspections and evaluation of the success of the new queen’s mating efforts or failure, and finally, provide vital feedback for the program. Participants, through ongoing participation in the cell program, will take responsibility to provide their apiaries with all the quality queens they require, while improving our bees’ resistance to varroa-related diseases, productivity and overwintering ability. By distributing cells to many apiaries, queens mate

with local drones, thus enhancing genetic diversity. Over a period of time, we envision the program expanding, reaching more members, and gradually reducing the number of MCBA colonies needing regular treatments. And finally, on a much larger scale, we would like to see the overall quality of the entire county’s bees improve and become naturally more adept to our environment, enhancing everyone’s colonies that keep bees in our region.

Our program realized significant achievements in 2014, with many skills and lessons learned, many great queens being reared, valuable data being gathered, and a great deal of progress made by both the facilitators and participants.

For 2015, we will kick off the new season with instruction and/or review during our March and April regular club meetings so that club members are ready to make proper splits and get busy rearing their own top-shelf queens. We have some of the

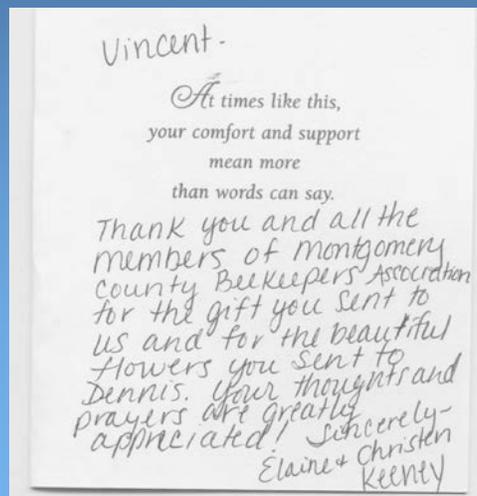
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Queen Rearing (Continued from P. 3)

very best bees available, some Instrumentally Inseminated breeders, and some of the treatment-free bees we were already developing, overwintering now in various areas and hives (successfully, I might add). As an additional incentive for members to participate in our breeding program, we will offer low-cost nuc box setups to help offset expenses. Then, as soon as the weather allows, we will begin grafting from the best colonies that survived the winter and exhibit the desirable characteristics we are looking for to meet program goals.

Once again, queen cells will be distributed to club members for introduction into their queen less nucs. Furthermore, in 2015, we plan to reach out to other bee clubs to share what we've learned, encouraging them to start their own programs. And finally, we are hopeful that the very first overwintered queens, from last year's program grafts, will meet the program's criteria to become the, "proto-mothers" of what will eventually become our own locally adapted survivor line(s). With enough support, participation, and successful queen rearing, I envision our bee club being recognized foremost for its own, locally adept, premium survivor lines, and also for its outstanding

A thank you note
from
the Keeney family
to our club



Queen Rearing, Continued

leadership/membership that made all that possible.

If you haven't gotten involved with the queen program yet, please don't wait another season to do so. At the MCBA, we are committed to helping all our members get a better queen in every hive.

Greetings from Our New President (Continued from P. 2)

boxes. Patties easily fit under my inner covers which provide a 3/4-inch space for supplemental food.

Mann Lake now has "Pro Winter Patties" that are meant to serve the same purpose as the Dadant patties; I have not tried them yet. If you would like to make your own sugar blocks, I have included a link to a Beesource thread started by Lauri Miller. It provides her recipe for making "no cook" sugar blocks. Lauri Miller is a successful queen breeder in Washington State. She is highly regarded, and I will be making these blocks in the future. The link is

<http://www.beesource.com/forums/showthread.php?290641-My-recipe-method-for-sugar-blocks&highlight=lauri%27s+bee+candy>.

Be pro-active about your winter bee care and make sure they have food when they need it. I lift the inner cover just enough to see if it has all been consumed during sunny days in the winter. If it has been, I slide another patty in to make sure they will have it if they need it. I find these actions to be cheap insurance to make sure I don't lose a hive from something that is completely under my control, starvation.

Best of Luck to You and Yours in the new year.

Dan



MCBA Marketplace

Would you like 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: annbreinig@me.com

SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

SPRING PACKAGES



Pickup dates are Saturday, April 4* or Saturday, April 25*.

(* Actual date depends on weather.)

There are packages available for Saturday, April 4* or Saturday, April 25*. At 2:00 P.M and 3:30 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 more information or to download a package order form, visit www.pabeekeeper.com, email packages@pabeekeeper.com, or call 610-584-6778.

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



SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

Hands-on Beekeeping Class

This course is scheduled for five Sunday sessions from February thru July at Worcester Honey Farm and apiaries in the area. Only 25 people for each group of classes will be accepted and advance registration is required.

The instructor is committed to present a knowledgeable and enjoyable, interactive, and intensively hands-on workshop. We are friendly and encourage you to contact us throughout the course for advice, help, or a sympathetic ear.

To reserve a spot or get more information, visit www.pabeekeeper.com and download a registration form, email HandsOn@pabeekeeper.com, or call 610-584-6778.

**Congratulations to the newly elected
MCBA LEADERSHIP TEAM 2015-2017**

MCBA Leadership Team 2015-2017

President	Dan Boylan	dpboylan@comcast.net
Vice President	Tim Cherry	zendiver4@gmail.com
Secretary	Kimberly Baccari	kimberly@baccariprowriters.com
Treasurer	Cindy Yaskowski	cindy@yaskowski.com

MCBA Board of Directors 2015-2017

Newsletter Editor	Ann Breinig	annbreinig@me.com
Queen Rearing Project	Scott Famous	famous55@verizon.net
Hive Steward	Walt Fitzgerald	fitzgerald106@comcast.net
Website Liason	Elinor Spring	T5Springer@aol.com
Queen Rearing Project	Dr. Vince Aloyo	vincent.aloya@gmail.com
2014 PA Beekeeper of Year	Harold Jenkins	no e-mail
Communications	Rachel Newby	buchanan.1978@gmail.com
Others on the Board:	Chris Mancinelli	mancinc@gmail.com
	Charlie Breinig	CharlieNoSpam-Bee@yahoo.com

**Send in your Dues today for
Montgomery County Beekeepers Association**

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 \$15.00 per household* per year \$ _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**** We recommend:** that you also pay dues for PA State Beekeepers 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. (*household = 2 adults and all children living at one address.)

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



PENNSYLVANIA MONTGOMERY COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Beginners Beekeeping Course

The Montgomery County Beginners Beekeeping Course offers classes that are timely to your seasonal beekeeping needs. The course consists of 8 classes from February to September. (once per month)

Classes are held at The Montgomery County 4-H Center, 1015 Bridge Road (Route 113) Skippack, PA 19426.

The 2015 course will be the second Thursday of the month with two exceptions.

The first class will be Wednesday February 11, 2015 and

The August class will be the third Thursday August 20, 2015.

Hands on activities in the apiary start at **6:00pm**. Come as early as you can.

Classroom activities start at **7:00pm**.

Please note the first class begins at 6:00pm in the classroom.

Veils are **mandatory** at the apiary. Anyone who does not have a veil will not be permitted near the hives.

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 \$120. The "couples" rate is for two adults living at the same address and includes all of the above plus an additional banquet ticket for a total fee of \$160.

Class size is limited and enrollment will be allotted on a first to register-first enrolled basis. Do not expect to walk in and be seated.

For more information and to register using PayPal go to: <http://www.montcobeekkeepers.org/Pages/NewBeekeepers.aspx>

----- (to mail a check, cut here) -----

MCBA New Beekeepers Course

Names _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____



Montgomery County Beekeepers Association
PO Box 203
Hatfield, PA 19440

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4