

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 92 Issue 4 - October 2010

MCBA Motto: "*Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers*"



Fall & Winter 2010 Calendar of Events:

October

October 2 -2nd Annual BEE FEST, the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Honey Bee Symposium** – 8:30am-4:30pm at Temple University's Ambler campus at 580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler, PA. Presenters are listed on the attached flyer. The symposium will provide a full-day beginner beekeeper course, the latest honey and queen bee research, information on breeding productive and hardy queen bees, and the opportunity to purchase honey and other hive products. **A registration form is attached.**

TBA- Fall Hive Irradiation

November

November 6 - MCBA Annual Fall Banquet and Awards Ceremony – 5pm-9pm at the Plains Mennonite Church, 50 W. Orvilla Road, Hatfield, PA. **See the attached flyer for more details and registration information.** Remember, students who took the new beekeepers course in 2010 have already paid for their tickets and only need to send in their menu choice.

November 12 and 13 - PSBA Annual Meeting – November 12th: noon-5pm, November 13th: all day, at the Country Cupboard, 101 Hafer Road, Lewisburg, PA

December

No Meeting, see you in 2011!



Communications with MCBA

Our 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, we may not have your correct email address. Send a note to montcobee@yahoo.com with your name and email address and we will update our records.

PSBA Info

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



Observations from the Apiary

I hope this note finds all of you doing well with healthy colonies that produced wonderfully for you this season. What a year it has been up to this point! Record snow and huge amounts of precipitation in the winter and early spring caused problems for many beekeepers with whom I have spoken. Winter losses seem to have settled in at about 35% when the survey results were compiled – unfortunately another difficult year for many of us.

If your hives were not up to par coming out of the winter season the record early warm up that popped out flowers, foliage, and spring weather three weeks ahead

of schedule may have been just the thing to allow your hives to build up. The problem that many beekeepers expressed to me was that their colonies were not up to full strength when the nectar flow came on, and as a result their hives could not fully take advantage of it. That resulted in a less than spectacular honey crop. As the summer progressed, with record heat and extremely dry conditions and just a few showers to provide moisture, the bees had lots of excellent flying weather. But if you are like me, you may have shied away from suiting up and going out to inspect hives when it was 95 to 100 degrees in the shade, and as a result your hives may not have received the timely attention they needed. I must forget the temperatures. I must become more task oriented and accomplish goals more effectively. Well maybe. . . .

For me beekeeping was supposed to be a relaxing diversion that provides fun and enjoyment. Let me take a paragraph or two to reflect upon what I just stated. I think relaxing is one of those terms that is interpreted by the person who is experiencing whatever is supposed to provide the relaxation. I know many members of the general public would never consider sticking their hands into a bee hive as a form of relaxation. Probably something like I think working on a volunteer bomb squad would be like. As I reflect on it, beekeeping actually may not be relaxing for me. I probably have too many hives, (about 50) and all of them require a minimal amount of management so maybe relaxing is not the way I should think of beekeeping for me.

Well how about considering beekeeping as a diversion? Yes it definitely is my diversion - to the point that I sometimes seem to exist in a state of low level worryment about all of the things that I need to do for my hives that I have not done.



In an effort to keep on top of things I make lists of tasks that need to be accomplished. I figure organizing tasks on that list will help me get more done and make me feel better. But when I can not cross off enough of the items on the list, the list itself becomes just another reminder that I am not accomplishing as much as I need to with the time I have. And that just piles onto my anxiety. I probably really need to consider that I have put myself in a position where I have more to do than I should be attempting.

Perhaps it is my failure to accept that I no longer can drive myself like I did when I was in my 20s, 30s and 40s to accomplish as much as I think I need to each day. Is there a 12 step program for over-committed beekeepers that have yet to come to terms with the reality of what they have done to themselves and their loved ones? Then of course if such a program exists there is the whole process of breaking the compulsion to become so immersed in beekeeping that everything and everyone else around me suffers. In fact if I think about, perhaps I even suffer.

Suffering. Hmmm. But what about fun and enjoyment? Yeah! Forget suffering . . . those two are definitely attainable. Perhaps the most rewarding thing for me in actual beekeeping is opening a hive and seeing frames of beautifully drawn capped honey comb in a medium or shallow super. That sight provides me with a really positive inner feeling and sense of satisfaction. That is especially true if the weather is right and the bees are working nicely. If I see a lot of that beautifully capped honey in numerous hives I of course start to worry about the time, effort, and big sticky mess of extracting it. But I still get that great feeling when looking at capped honey.

Then there are all of the wonderful people I have met and continue to meet because of beekeeping. Being able to interact with the kind of quality folks I now know because of beekeeping and having the friends I have made because of it has certainly been enjoyable and added to the quality of my life. The help I have received from others has allowed me to realize whatever success I have attained in beekeeping. The help I try to provide to others makes me feel as though I am doing something, however small it may be, to benefit those with our common interest. That makes me feel good.

So maybe that is it. I should not focus so much upon the quality of my colonies, hive beetles, varroa mite counts, foul brood, wooden ware that need to be constructed, medications that need to be applied, honey I have to extract, and other beekeeping related tasks I need to accomplish. Perhaps I should look at the friends I have made and others I have helped. In the end that may not be relaxing in the sense of sitting still but it sure is a diversion that has provided a positive aspect to my life and enriched me by the association with those I have met through beekeeping enough to compensate me for the work, frustration, and failures I have experienced with my bees along the way.

Sincerely,

Mark Antunes

MCBA Participates in Philadelphia Honey Fest

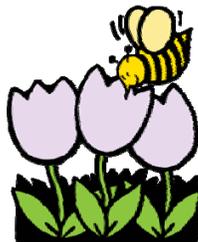
What a great event and a great day it was! On Saturday September 11, MCBA members manned a booth at The Wyck Association on Germantown Avenue during the first Philadelphia Honey Fest. A large crowd attended the event and kept us busy answering questions and selling our honey and t-shirts.

Our honey tasting table was a big hit. Participants were able to taste samples of each honey and pick out their favorite to purchase and take home. Of course whoever was working the table at the time was able to promote their own honey as the best in town.

Brian Marcy, Linde Lauff and Charlie Breinig answered bee questions non-stop. It was exciting to see people get excited about beekeeping. Several people were interested in attending our upcoming Bee Fest on October 2nd.

Thank you to Sandy White for creating a beautiful display and Ann Breinig, Mark Antunes, Margaret Zittel, Priscilla Bonsell, Mitsy Lauff and Joe Koller for your hard work in making this a great event. Also thank you to Suzanne Matlock from the Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild for inviting us. We hope to be back again next year.

Priscilla Bonsell



HELP WANTED

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.

Join the Bee Fest Planning meeting!

Planning for Bee Fest 2011 is underway and we need your skills to keep this great event happening. Monthly meetings will be held every second Monday at 7 PM. The first meeting is November 8th. Call or e-mail Priscilla at 215-643-2418, cillab@earthlink.net for meeting location and to be added to the meeting notice list. The executive board will meet immediately following the Bee Fest meeting, all are welcome to attend.

Help Wanted - MCBA Secretary

After several years of being the club secretary Allison Auehling would like to retire. Please consider filling this position.

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



Wanted: Local Pollen

I am seeking a source for local pollen. If you have pollen available, or are able to advise me on where to obtain it, please contact Josh Cottom at JCottom@yahoo.com

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>October 2010</u>				
	TBA			Fall Hive Irradiation Date, TBA
<u>November 2010</u>				
Sat	November 6	5:00 pm- 9:00 pm	Hatfield, PA	MCBA Annual Fall Banquet and Awards Ceremony, Plains Mennonite Church, 50 W. Orvilla Road, Hatfield
Fri and Sat	November 12 & 13	12 th - Noon-5pm 13 th - All day	Lewisburg, PA	PSBA Annual Meeting at the Country Cupboard
<u>December 2010</u>				
				No Meeting

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association 2011 Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

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

New membership _____ Renewing membership _____

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

PSBA DUES \$20.00 or \$25 for household per year \$ _____ (Recommended *)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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



MAIL CHECKS TO : MCBA PO BOX 203 HATFIELD, PA 19440

MCBA Annual Banquet November 6, 2010 – 5 to 9 PM

New Location: Plains Mennonite Church
Corner of Welsh (Rt 63) and Orvilla Roads, West of Lansdale
For directions call 215-643-2418

**** Registration is Available Using This Form, or On-Line at www.montcobeekkeepers.org Fall Banquet****

The annual banquet is fast approaching. It is promising to be another great night of entertainment and fun. We will again have our old favorites: white elephant, raffle and door prizes. We will also be selling our exclusive MCBA t-shirts.

We have an excellent speaker this year. Dr. Beatriz Moisset has a Doctorate in Biology and has done extensive research on our native pollinators. Her presentation will be **Native Pollinators, Wild Flowers Best Friends**.

Club members are requested to bring either an appetizer or desert. It is suggested that those whose last name begins with A – L bring dessert and those whose last name begins with M – Z bring an appetizer.

Reminder: Students who took the new beekeepers course in 2010 have already paid for their tickets and only need to send in their menu choice. You may also email your choice to cillab@earthlink.net.

Registration and Menu

There are three choices for entree:
Beef, Chicken, Pasta (vegetarian selection)
Each meal will also be served with a selection of side dishes, coffee, punch and/or birch beer.

BANQUET REGISTRAION & MEAL ADULT MEAL SELECTION \$20 each:

Beef # _____
Chicken # _____
Pasta (vegetarian selection) # _____

CHILD MEAL SELECTION \$10 each:

Beef # _____
Chicken # _____
Pasta (vegetarian selection) # _____

TOTAL: _____

Names of Registrants: _____

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MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2010

President	Mark Antunes	Perkasie	president@montcobeekeepers.org
Vice President	Brian Marcy	Doylestown	vicepres@montcobeekeepers.org
Secretary	Allison Uehling	Glenside	secretary@montcobeekeepers.org
Treasurer	Priscilla Bonsell	Hatfield	treasurer@montcobeekeepers.org
Exec Comm Mem	Charlie Breinig	Dresher	Charlienspam-bee@yahoo.com
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	
Exec Comm Mem	Vince Aloyo	Blue Bell	Vincent.aloyo@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Denise Adamucci	Philadelphia	news@montcobeekeepers.org
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	

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.

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