



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
of Pennsylvania**

**January 2022**



## **A Note from the President.**

*aka Greg Lehman*

Happy New Year!

If you're reading this, I very much appreciate you getting this far. Opening the attachment is half the battle.

A little about myself: I've been on the board of MCBA for 6 years (previously as VP), and started my bee career like the majority of our members – by taking the MCBA Beginners class with Mark Antunes. I work for Forest & Main Brewery in Ambler, and alongside my wife (high school teacher) we run Kara Jo Skin Care & Bee Farm utilizing our 20 (and growing) hives. We beekeep using organic methods with a priority on making sure our decisions positively impact native pollinators. I understand that there are countless methods of beekeeping, however I believe that we need to keep the health and well-being of our native pollinators at the forefront of our practices.

I'm honored to be the current president and appreciate Dan Boylan's previous 7 years at the helm where the club grew substantially.

What do I hope to see from MCBA? It comes down to three main things for me:

1. Growing available resources for our membership.
2. Cultivating community and teaching opportunities.
3. Working to educate and protect more than just honey bees. We can't forget about the 500 native bees we have in PA and countless native pollinators.

This club means the world to me. My wife and I wouldn't be successful beekeepers without all the help this community has provided, and I hope that every member can have that same experience. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [montcopabees@gmail.com](mailto:montcopabees@gmail.com). Cheers everyone!

## **Bees by Normal Gale**

**You voluble, Velvety,  
Vehement fellows  
That play on your  
Flying and  
Musical cellos,  
All goldenly  
Girdled you  
Senerade clover,  
Each artist in  
Bass but a  
Bibulous rover!**

**You passionate,  
Powdery  
Pastoral bandits,  
Who gave you your  
Roaming and  
Rollicking mandates?  
Come out of my  
Foxglove; come  
Out of my roses  
You bees with the  
Plushy and  
Plausible noses!**

# A New Board for 2022!

## *And new committees!*

Our Board consists of a President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, Past President and 8 General Board members. This year we have five new Board members and voted on the board appointees for the first time in recent history - a great thing for MCBA!

We currently have a number of different committees. Each is chaired by a Board member, and we HIGHLY encourage general membership to get involved. We appreciate the folks who recently showed interest when renewing their 2022 memberships. These committees will be reaching out to you; don't you worry! *If you'd like to be included as well, you can update your profile on our website by logging in, going to your profile and editing profile. At the bottom of the "edit profile" screen there is a list of volunteer activities you can check boxes for. They are as follows:*

Queen Cell Committee  
General Meeting Planning Committee  
Wax Dipping Committee  
Banquets Committee  
\*Nomination/Election Committee  
\*Grant Committee  
Website Committee  
\*Grafting Class Committee  
\*denotes new within the past year

President: Greg Lehman  
VP: Regina Rhoa  
Treasurer: Melissa Natale  
\*Secretary: Melissa Shainline  
Past President: Dan Boylan  
General Board Members:  
Dr. Vince Aloyo  
Scott Famous  
Jeanne Gable  
Kelly Downs  
\*George Balock  
\*Derek Pruyne  
\*Bob Buswick  
\*Robert Brooks  
\*denotes new to the board

Special Shoutout to the Banquet Committee. Y'all did a phenomenal job with the 2021 Banquet held November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Variety Club!

Special Shoutout to current board member Dr. Vincent Aloyo and Mark Antunes for being named 2020 and 2021 Beekeepers of the Year by PSBA. Your contributions to our community are unmeasurable.

# Education with Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association

## **Beginners Class with Mark Antunes – registration currently open.**

- 8 Classes (once a month) starting February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- More details can be found on the website (<https://www.montcopabees.org/page-18094>)
- In-person starting with the first class (vaccination required).

## **Intermediate Class with Dr. Vincent Aloyo – registration currently open**

- 8 Classes (once a month) starting February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Designed for the person who has kept bees for at least one year and who wants to advance their beekeeping skills to the next level. Vince does an amazing job updating his teachings with new information every year.
- The first couple meetings will be via Zoom until weather permits in-person meetings and being in the beeyard (vaccination required).
- Main Topics (by month)– Honey Bee Biology and Winter Survival Mechanisms. Swarm Control methods and important sources of nectar/pollen. Catching Swarms and preparing for the honey flow. Biology of the colony after the swarm has left. Varroa control and preparing summer nucs. Honey bee diseases and pests. Using beeswax and preparing for fall. Preparing for winter and more on varroa treatments and overwintering small colonies.
- Spread the word, we could use some more enrollment and this class is amazing!

## **Queen Grafting Class (level I and II) with Scott Famous and Dr. Vincent Aloyo**

- Currently in planning phase so be on the lookout for more details. The goal is to have these classes in early May.

# General Meetings

Thanks to our hardworking General Meetings Committee: the main presenters lined up for 2022 are better than ever! We are planning to have the General Meetings in person again (\*masks required) at the 4H Center in Skippack. We will be “broadcasting” these meetings via Zoom for those that can’t make it (an email will be sent out the week of the meeting with those details) heck out the events on our website for dates and more information (<https://www.montcopabees.org/events>).

## Current Speakers from January – June:

Dr Juliana Rangel	Honeybee Wax Pesticide Contamination and Its Impact on Queen Physiology and Reproductive Health
Dr Tom Seeley	Hive thirst: how does a honey bee colony regulate its water collection?
Mike Palmer	A Year at French Hill Apiaries.
Chris Cripps DVM	The veterinarians all asked me why the beekeepers wanted them, and the beekeepers all ask my why they have to deal with veterinarians, but the FDA is the one arranging the marriage and we can talk about their rationale and how that has manifested itself in bees.
Dr David Tarpy	Diagnosing queen problems: is it the queen, the colony, both, or neither?!
Dr Katie Lee	Varroa and Risk Factors

Montgomery County Beekeepers' Association of Pennsylvania (MCBAPA) is a 501(c)3 non profit organization located in Montgomery County, PA. Our membership consists of individuals who are both commercial and hobby beekeepers. The MCBAPA encourages and promotes active involvement within our community and our organization. Membership is open to an individual who is a beekeeper or has an interest in beekeeping, and who wants to promote honeybee health.

**Our Mission:** *Providing educational outreach to the public, supporting fellow beekeepers and working to promote sound beekeeping practices and honeybee health.*