



NEWSLETTER

Presidential Musings on Spring 2018



Hi everyone, spring may actually be here and I hope everyone had their hives make it through to this point. There is still a chance that they may be light in weight so make sure they don't starve before the flow really gets moving. Get ready to put your supers on, reverse boxes as long as you're not splitting up the brood nest, and be ready for the mites. Those that know

me well, know that I work at Limerick Generating Station, so this will be a short comment session. We're refueling and work has been demanding for a while. I'm so looking forward to making new splits, re-queening, supering, etc. See you all at the next meeting. Keep your smoker lit, hive tool at the ready, and veil sealed up tight.

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!

NAMETAGS!

In an effort to help everyone get to know each other (and especially for us older beekeepers who forget names), we furnish nametags at meetings. Please pickup and wear your nametag at meetings and other MCBA events.

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MCBA spring 2018 Calendar of Events

April 25- Fundraiser All Day, Iron Hill Brewery in North Wales- MCBA will receive 20% of your food bill (including everything!)

April 26 - General Meeting 7:00PM, 4-H Center, Speaker: Lester Shimp will discuss cut comb techniques and Scott Famous will discuss MCBA's Queen Cell Program

May 1- Second Year Beekeeper's Class 7:00PM, 4-H Center

May 10- Beginner Beekeeper's Course 6:00PM, 4-H Center

May 24 - General Meeting 7:00PM, 4-H Center, Speaker: John Kutzner will discuss production and marketing of creamed honey

and Bass Saaman will discuss "Pros, Cons and How to Set-up a Flow Hive"

June 5- Second Year Beekeeper's Class 7:00PM, 4-H Center

June 13- Beginner Beekeeper's Course 6:00PM, 4-H Center

June 28 - General Meeting 7:00PM, 4-H Center

July 12- Beginner Beekeeper's Course 6:00PM, 4-H Center

July 21- MCBA Annual Picnic 12:00PM-4:00PM, Hallman's Grove Park

URGENT: NEW Guidelines for Pennsylvania Beekeepers In or Entering Spotted Lanternfly Quarantined Areas

Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive insect (a planthopper) which was discovered in Berks County, PA. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. This insect has the potential to greatly impact many plants and businesses, including the grape, hops and logging industries. While it prefers Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, it has been found feeding on over 70 host plants including apples, peaches, cucumbers, and blueberries.

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) pierce the stems, trunks, and vines to feed on the plants' phloem. Trees will develop weeping wounds which leave a grey or black trail along the trunk. Other insects come to feed at these wounds. Black sooty mold and honeydew also occur, creating problems and potentially destroying the crop and killing the plant. In late fall, adults lay egg masses on host

trees and nearby smooth surfaces including beehives, cinder blocks, wooden stands, stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, trailers, and structures. Additional information and pictures may be found at www.agriculture.pa.gov (click on "Spotted Lanternfly" found under "Hot Topics").

This quarantine is necessary because SLF can easily hide and/or "hitchhike" on items stored outside, including vehicles and trailers. The quarantine will be expanded to new areas as SLF specimens are detected and confirmed. A complete and up-to-date list and additional information can be found at www.agriculture.pa.gov (click on "Spotted Lanternfly" found under "Hot Topics", and then in the blue box labeled "Quarantine").

Information about obtaining the free permit, and when a beekeeper will need it, follows.

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Beehives and Their Diversity by Ann Breinig

All of us these days are used to seeing the Langstroth hive. Some of us use 10 frame, some use 8 frame hives and some of us use 5 frame nucs. Many in Russia use 12 frame hives. We don't think about how bees were kept in history or how they are kept in other countries today, unless we travel to those places. My curiosity about how bees are kept around the world was piqued when I visited Tanzania in 2016 and saw this:



Logs hanging in the trees, which we found out were beehives.

The variety of beehives throughout history and in the world of today is amazing. Ever since peoples were aware of bees and honey, they have been hunting for it. We have evidence of honey hunting from at least 7000 BC from cave paintings of people harvesting honey and wax from bee's nests in trees.



The Egyptians surely harvested honey and knew of bees, because their hieroglyphs depict bees, and honey was found with the mummies in their tombs.

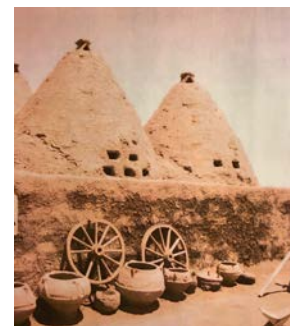


The actual keeping of bees was also shown in the paintings of The Egyptians. They used a horizontal clay vessel and, most likely, the colony needed to be destroyed in order to harvest the prized honey. But as time went on, ancient peoples learned to use smoke to push the bees further into the hive, so that the honeycomb could be harvested and the brood comb could be saved. This way the colony could rebuild and survive for the future. This was an important discovery, for it allowed people to actually "keep" bees.

Where there were bears, beehives were built with rocks protecting them, so that bears could not rob.



Where there was a lot of mud, beehives were made of mud, such as these in Turkey.



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Beehives

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Where there were a lot of trees, beehives were made of logs, like this one in Russia.



In England and Ireland, where it was cool and wet, beehives were kept in niches in stone walls, called bee bolls.



In the 17th and 18th centuries, straw skeps started to be used for keeping bees. Many were simple with just a small opening for the bees, like this one.



Beehives, Continued

But some of these skeps even had a honey “super” and a base, like the one below.



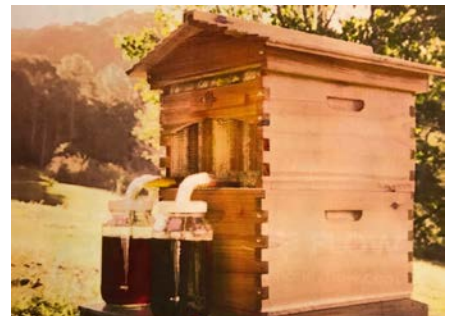
The main problem in the beginning was finding the bees and their honey. Once bees were semi-domesticated in logs and skeps, the problem became how to extract the honey without killing the hive or damaging it seriously, because the combs were fixed in place. Then, in the summer of 1851, Lorenzo Langstroth, after having studied the “movable frame” book like design of François Huber, designed a hive box with totally removable frames. This design is, of course, the basis for the boxes we use today. In fact, now it is law to have removable frames in your hive. This allows for the beekeeper and inspectors to inspect the hive for diseases and pests and manage hives from swarming.

Today the beehive has been developing even further. First, there are observation hives,

which allow us to further study and enjoy the community of bees.



And there is a new hive that has recently come on the scene, the flow hive. This type of hive allows us to harvest honey without ever entering the hive or bothering the bees. The interior frames are engineered to move to open the chambers and allow the honey to flow to the outside of the hive into a jar!



How far we have come, from hunting for honey in the woods or in rocky cliffs, to have it practically served to us by the bees. Amazing!!

Our First Year as Beekeepers

By Justin Humes

In the winter of 2104, we bought a property with a beautiful farmhouse, circa 1790. When spring came, we could not resist fulfilling a “farm like” dream. We started a large garden and bought a few chickens and tossed around the idea of what having honeybees may look like.

Justin was hired to do some contracting work at a fellow local farmhouse...and guess what? They kept honeybees! He asked to observe a hive inspection and was pretty much hooked.

In the winter of 2017 our 3rd son had just turned a year old, and we realized that 99% of our conversations as husband and wife were about our kids. It was hard to talk about anything else. Justin decided that we needed a hobby together, without the kids, so he signed us up for beekeeping classes through MCBA and our “date nights” began.

Every month we would enjoy dinner out and beekeeping class. We really had very little clue, as most do, about what we were getting into. The first class was a tornado of terminology and information. We took notes, read as much as we could and inspected our hives weekly. We purchased our initial 2 hives from Mark. Justin also started building

some hives out of cypress. He bought every gadget and contraption that you could think of from Brushy Mountain. I told him we didn’t need extracting equipment and 600 honey jars in our first year, but he didn’t listen as usual. With three kids under the age of 5, beekeeping was not an easy task, but, with nap times and family’s support, we made it work. Our 5 year old even helped us out in the bee yard with his veil on. What an experience to have as a kid!

We did all the inspections together every weekend.

Shortly into our beekeeping journey we seemed to have a good handle on things, taking good notes, checking on the status of drawn comb and eggs, larvae and capped brood. We did all the inspections together every weekend. The bees were building and taking the feed we put in the hives. Then just a few weeks in, early one morning, our yard filled with the loud, loud sound of a swarm! What an awesomely amazing and super disappointing site, all at the same time. Justin got to witness it while it happened and the bees clustered about 50 feet up in a tree that was inaccessible by ladder. They were gone

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First Year (continued from p. 5)



90 minutes later. We believe we had at least 1 secondary swarm, maybe even a 3rd. A few weeks later Justin got a call that a friend of ours had a swarm by her pool and he captured it taking us from 2 hives to 3. He installed it in one of the custom-built cypress hives.

We experienced multiple queens emerging at the same time from Hive #2 after it swarmed and even got to hear one queen piping during that inspection.

Toward the end of the season our bees were very industrious. We put top feeders on and were going through 5 gallons of 1:1 syrup a week. Among the 3 hives, they fully drew comb in 8 of our 10 frame supers (80 frames of drawn comb), as we would constantly rotate the capped sunny to the bottom of the hive so they would extract and set a new empty super on top, then freeze the emptied frames that had drawn comb.

We battled yellow jackets, ground bees, and baldfaced hornets. We had a mite explosion, from single mite counts all season to double digits in October. We treated the hives and were back to a manageable count soon after.

We asked several beekeepers for advice and, boy, did we ever get their advice! It just never seemed to be the same advice.

Beekeeping is certainly a roller coaster ride and turned out to be nothing like what we expected, but it has brought us closer together as a couple and has become our favorite thing to talk to people about. When someone hears that we keep bees, they have a million questions and they all usually have the same misconceptions about bees. It is fun to educate them and to continue to educate ourselves as we continue to learn about new techniques and management styles.

Our bees have successfully made it through winter and even though it is snowing in April this year, we are officially second year beekeepers. Now we are in the 2nd year beekeeping class and very excited to see what this year brings.

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The Wax Dipping Experience

by Ann Breinig



Our wax dipping event weekends this spring were a grand success! Every time I looked out the window of my studio (the wax dipping takes place at our house), there were many people bringing woodenware to be wax dipped. First year beekeepers were able to protect their new hive boxes and veteran beekeepers were able to protect their used or new hive boxes.

The wax dipping committee is made

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First Year (continued from p. 6)

With all of that drawn comb in the freezer for our honey supers, we are hoping to harvest a ton of honey this year. Hopefully the April snow doesn't hit again and the nectar flow starts soon.

Our first full inspection for 2018, April 6- a tiny window of 55 and sunny and we ran outside! (Thankfully it was naptime). Wow, our hives look great! It is so cool to inspect after your first year, seeing what the bees have done through the winter, how they used the already existing comb, how they moved stores and how they're getting ready for the work ahead of them. We had visuals on queens in two of our three colonies, a fair

amount of drones and drone brood, beautiful frames of capped brood, pollen and beebread! With a few frozen frames of "sunny" remaining, we decided to place a super on the bottom of each hive, then the two overwintered deep brood boxes, a queen excluder and 9 frames of frozen comb from last spring / summer evenly spaced in a medium at the top. We will likely conduct a sugar shake next week. However, visual inspection of some burr comb with drone larvae in it, showed no mites at this time, which is hopefully a good sign!

We would like to thank Mark Antunes for all of his guidance and his excitement for beekeeping. He has been a great mentor and he was always there to answer our questions. He works tirelessly to help all of the students in the class as well as the MCBA. Thanks Mark!

up of three hard working people: Don George, Jeanne Gable and Charlie Breinig. They schedule, set up for and work at the events. They also clean up afterwards. Please thank these people for their dedicated volunteer work.



Wax dipping allows beekeepers to protect their woodenware from the weather without paint or stain. It is a quick, safe, painless process. Many of the people that get their boxes dipped, mark or decorate them in some way before they arrive.

One of those people this year was Kim Thornton from Phoenixville. She was always interested in beekeeping, but she talked to a friend, Alan Gephart,

during the summer of 2017. One day she went to his home to see his hives. He suited her up and, after her first experience, she was hooked. She immediately signed up for the beginning beekeeping class. When she received her first beehive box for Christmas from her son, she couldn't wait to begin the classes. At the classes, she purchased another hive and ordered her bees.

Various people at the classes mentioned that hives needed to be marked before wax dipping. She started thinking about wood burning. She came up with a very detailed design, drew it on the box and started the laborious wood burning. Kim says, "It took more time than I thought, and these old fingers were aching, but it was well worth it. I totally enjoyed doing it." You can see her extraordinary results below.



She has now painted her other hive bright yellow and pink and she says that waiting for the bees is like "waiting for a birth!!" she says, "I can't wait until they get here :)"

New Guidelines For Spotted Lanternfly Quarantined Area Beekeepers

Information for beekeepers moving within Pennsylvania:

For the purposes of the SLF permit, a commercial beekeeper is any beekeeper who sells, trades, makes money on their bees or related products, and/or has the bee business listed on their taxes. Information concerning commercial beekeepers will follow.

Information concerning noncommercial/backyard beekeepers is also included.

Commercial beekeepers moving honey bees and/or equipment out of quarantined counties ANYWHERE IN PENNSYLVANIA, FOR ANY REASON, (moving to a new yard, sale, trade, pollination, overwintering, etc.) MUST have a permit.

The permit is easy to obtain and is available at NO COST. The State Apiarist and Regional Supervisors will be offering the necessary training and testing. They will also be able to issue the permit. Please remember that this is a very new permit and not all the details may be in place at each regional office.

Currently, to obtain a free permit, beekeeping organizations or commercial beekeepers should call or email Karen Roccasecca, State Apiarist, at 717-346-9567 or kroccasecc@pa.gov. She will work to schedule a training and testing session. Commercial beekeepers may also be able to attend a session scheduled with their Regional PA Department of Agriculture Office as the Regional Supervisors present this information to local businesses. The training lasts approximately 2 hours and features a Power

Point presentation and discussion with questions and answers. A 20-question paper test follows. If the applicant passes the test, an orange tag, which is hung on the rear-view mirror holder of their vehicle, is issued, as well as a small training certificate card. One hang tag is issued for each vehicle used in the commercial bee business. **After passing the test, and following the guidelines, the commercial beekeeper is then free to move his or her hives around PA. If the commercial beekeeper has paid or unpaid helpers and/or employees, it is his or her responsibility to train them about SLF and what to look for to avoid transporting this insect.**

Noncommercial/backyard beekeepers

are strongly encouraged to attend the educational portion of the SLF presentation, but they do NOT NEED TO TAKE THE TEST AND APPLY FOR THE PERMIT (hang tag and small training certificate card). For ALL residents living in the quarantined areas, there is a checklist available and they must follow the checklist - searching for, removing and destroying any living life stages of the SLF as directed. This checklist is a legal document which residents should print, complete, and sign. The checklist should be taken along when moving certain item(s).

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

FOR SALE

Medium wooden frames (Forrest Hill) with Rite-cell plastic foundation @ 3.00 each

5 gallon bucket Pro Sweet (Mann Lake) @ \$40.00 ea

Apiguard bulk tub (barely used any) \$50.00

ProDFM 3.5 oz (100 g & 10 treatments) \$10.00 ea

Pure Oxalic acid wood bleach @\$5.00

Vita Honeybee Foulbrood EFB Diagnostic test kit (exp 2018-12) \$10.00 ea

Vita Honeybee Foulbrood AFB Diagnostic test kit (exp 2018-12) \$10.00 ea

Fischer Portable Beekeeper Hive Scale @ (\$119.00 value) @ \$50.00

Honey tight 5 gallon bucket lid @ \$5.00 ea

BetterBee telescoping cover reconfigured to cover 2 5 frame nucs @ \$25.00 ea

Double screen board with 3 entry ports one each side @ \$10.00

Wood 10 frame colony hive stand @ \$7.00 ea

Email or call Margaret Zittel to inquire or purchase

mzittel1@verizon.net

215-534-6503

MCBA LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017-2018

MCBA Leadership Team

President	Dan Boylan	dpboylan@comcast.net
Vice President	Kimberly Baccari	kimberly@baccariprowriters.com
Secretary	Regina Rhoa	rrhoa1033@verizon.net
Treasurer	Geoff Anders	geof.anders@gmail.com

MCBA Board of Directors 2017-2018

Past President	Mark Antunes	honeyhillfarm@verizon.net
Queen Rearing Project	Scott Famous	famous55@verizon.net
Website Liason	Elinor Spring	T5Springer@aol.com
Queen Rearing Project	Dr. Vince Aloya	vincent.aloya@gmail.com
Membership	Mick Newby	iammicker@yahoo.com
Communications	Rachel Newby	buchanan.1978@gmail.com
Others on the Board:	Don George	wilddad84@outlook.com
	Greg Lehman	glehman22@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Ann Breinig	annbreinig@me.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: MCBAPA PO Box 203, Hatfield, PA 19440 or join/renew online at www.montcopabees.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 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.montcobeekers.org/Pages/NewBeekeepers.aspx>

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