

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 96 Issue 1 – January 2014

MCBA Motto: “Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers”

Winter 2014 Calendar of Events

January

January 4-11 - Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 14 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

January 16 - General Meeting, Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 p.m., presentation by Austin Martin, regional bee inspector. Inspector Martin will discuss the problems he found in the field last season, honey bee performance in our region, what he saw that was working for beekeepers.

February

February 6 - New Beekeepers Class, 4-H Center, Creamery, PA at 6 p.m., lesson to include equipment and gear needed for beekeeping, ordering equipment & bees, and assembling equipment.

February 11 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

February 20 - General Meeting, Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 p.m., presentation by Scott Famous and Dr. Vincent Aloyo. The presentation will address the MCBA queen cell program - its goals, queen stock available, process of operation, and requirements for participation. **Please attend both this and the March meetings in order to take part in this program.**

March

March 6 - New Beekeepers Class, 4-H Center, Creamery, PA at 6 p.m., lesson to include lighting smokers (bring your smokers!), preparing for package arrival, setting up your hives, and installing packages.

March 11 - Executive Board Meeting, Lansdale Public Library, 301 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA at 7 p.m.

March 20 - General Meeting, Maple Room at the 4-H Center, Creamery, PA, at 7 p.m., presentation by Scott Famous and Dr. Vincent Aloyo. The presentation will address how to make splits to receive queen cells, queen cell handling and distribution, cell introduction, queen observation and analysis, and record keeping. **You must have attended both this and the February meetings in order to take part in this program.**



MCBA Membership –The Real Deal!

It is time to renew your membership. MCBA memberships run on a calendar year basis from January 1st to December 31st. If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership using the mail in form included at the end of this newsletter, or renew online at www.montcobeekkeepers.org. You may also pay your dues at the general meetings.

As a convenience to our members, we also collect Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association Dues. If you would like to pay your state dues through us just write one check to MCBA and include your PSBA dues. MCBA dues are just \$10.00 per year and PSBA dues are either \$20.00 for an individual or \$25 for a household. A real bargain!

Montgomery County Beekeepers are Winners at the 2014 PA Farm Show!

From multiple wins within different Apiary Products Department sections to a Best of Show award, MCBA beekeepers had a triumphant presence at this year's PA Farm Show in Harrisburg! **Keith Snedeker** won first place, and Best of Show, for his entry of Light Amber Extracted Honey. **Ronni Menard** and her husband, **Paul**, won several awards, including a first place for Dipped Candles, a

second place for Molded (Taper) Candles and a third place for Extra White Extracted Honey. **Estelle Dolan** won second place for her Individual Exhibit, "What's that you say?", a presentation of the relationship of several everyday expressions and the honey bee, *Apis Mellifera*.

Our Association Exhibit won second place this year, getting just 2.3 points less (of 100) than this year's first place finisher. This year's Association Exhibit theme, "**What's Bugging**



the Honey Bees?", presented how, pesticides, parasites, pathogens, habitat loss and genetics contribute to collapsing honey bee colonies. This year's exhibit was supported by talented old friends and new: **Joe Duffy, Harold Jenkins, Walt Fitzgerald, Vince Aloyo, Michelle Zulkowsky, Bruce Gibby, Debbie Gibby, Dennis Dougherty, Ehren Gross, Ronni Menard and Brian Marcy.** The Association Exhibit premium brings \$300 (less expenses) back to MCBA. Thanks and sincere gratitude to all members who contributed exhibits to the Farm Show and to any of those unsung MCBA members who contributed time and effort at either the educational booth and/or at the PSBA Honey Booth in the Weis Food Court. Congratulations to all!

A Farm Show Win!

What is a beekeeper to do at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in a year when her bees didn't produce any honey? Enter anyway in the Individual Exhibit to educate others on the importance of those little pollinators!

Between small hive beetles, starvation, weak genetics and being robbed out by yellow jackets, our little apiary has had a hard time of it the last two years. But we have hope for 2014! And in the meantime we are still doing our part to move the

honeybee population forward by educating Farm Show goers about *Apis mellifera*. Responding to a prod from Priscilla to enter an Individual Exhibit, I registered for the Farm Show after Thanksgiving and my husband and I pulled together a tri-fold poster presentation in just three short weeks. The result was an astounding second place finish!

Thanks, Priscilla, for the suggestion! And thank you, Montco Beekeepers, for all your continued support! Here's a photo of the Exhibit -



Contributed by Estelle Wynn Dolan

ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION! MCBA ANNOUNCES - Improve your bees!

Are you dissatisfied with queens you received in recent years? Are you experiencing early supersedure? Are your bees failing to survive the winter? Are they limping into spring and not producing a worthwhile honey crop?

To help with these problems and to start developing bees adapted to our area, this year the MCBA will provide queen cells from selected stock to qualified members. Use these queen cells to start nucs and/or requeen your colonies. Our goal is provide queen cells that have superior genetic characteristics, increased tolerance of Varroa mites, increased disease resistance, increased honey production, and increased winter survivability, while also exhibiting gentle behavior.

Don't know how to use queen cells? No problem! Scott Famous and Vince Aloyo will provide 2 lectures at the February and March general club meetings. These presentations will tell you what you need to know to be a success with your queen cells. Topics covered will include how to transport your queen cell home, how to prepare a nuc to receive your queen cell, when to check to determine if your queen cell successfully hatched, when to determine if your queen successfully mated, and how to mark your queens.

To help with our endeavors to breed a locally adapted queen line, recipients of queen cells will be required to provide feedback to the club via a survey. Observations to be made include: measurements of queen cell acceptance, queen mating success, several Varroa mite measurements plus other details to be presented at the February and March general meetings listed on the MCBA calendar in this newsletter and at www.montobeekeepers.org

If you want to take advantage of this great opportunity to improve the quality of your bees you need to attend the February and March General Meetings of the MCBA at the 4-H Center in Creamery, PA. Attend both meeting and you can sign up for the program and get all the details you need to successfully take part in the queen cell distribution program. As always, Harold Jenkins will serve refreshments. We greatly appreciate those who bring treats to share with the group and look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Vince Aloyo, Scott Famous, and Mark Antunes

Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild Press Release - Authors of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping" to Speak in Philadelphia – With a Special Offer for MCBA Members!

The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild (PBG) is thrilled to announce that Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, nationally renowned beekeepers and authors of "[The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping](#)," will speak at the **4th Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium**, February 9, 2014 in Philadelphia. Stiglitz and Herboldsheimer will share valuable information on natural beekeeping based on their extensive experience, including **"Microbial Environment in the Hive"** and **"Raising Queens & Breeding Local Bees."**

Herboldsheimer and Stiglitz live in Massachusetts where they breed and keep bees, produce treatment-free honey, run beekeeping conferences, teach, write, and conduct research.



The Natural Beekeeping Symposium takes place from 10am to 4pm, Feb. 9, 2014 at William Penn Charter School on 3000 W. School House Lane, Philadelphia, 19144.

A box lunch is included in the bargain ticket price: \$35 (adults); \$25 (students with ID and members of PBG). Group rates are available for groups of 10 or more - **if 10 or more MCBA members sign up together, PBG has offered to give them the Guild member price.** For more info or to reserve your space, visit www.phillybeekeepers.org by January 31 to ensure enough lunches. Attendees can participate in a raffle for a garden-size hive and visit a variety of vendors, featuring bee and honey-related products. Join PBG for this amazing day of beekeeping education and camaraderie!

It is Time to Sign-up for the MCBA's Beginner Beekeeper Course!

Now is the time to sign up for the MCBA Beginner Beekeeper Course. See the attached flyer for detailed information. Don't delay, classes start in February!

See the Attached Flyer for Information on the Chester County Beekeepers Association Annual Seminar!

New suspects found in CCD

Below is a link for an article you will find worth reading – it discusses newly published research that attributes CCD to a virus that affects tobacco plants. Check it out! <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/22/us/bee-deaths-may-stem-from-virus-study-says.html>

PLEASE NOTE: The advice provided in this newsletter is the relevant writer's opinion and should only be taken as a guideline. Always seek several answers to your questions and review professionally written resources. The articles and advertisements in this newsletter may not represent the general views of the MCBA or its membership.

MARKETPLACE



To advertise in Marketplace: If you have beekeeping-related products to sell or services to offer, please send your advertisement to MCBA through our website.

In order to promote or advertise beekeeping classes or products and services in the MCBA newsletter or on the MCBA website, you must be a member in good standing.

Meadow View Beekeeping, LLC.

25 Dunkels Church Rd., Kutztown, PA 19530 610-737-7676

Steve Finke's beekeeping company: Supplier of honey bee queens, nucs, and packages, beekeeping hardware and supplies, home-made soaps, lotions, and lip balms, honey and other hive products. Official Brushy Mountain Bee Farm dealer for the Lehigh Valley. Give me a call if you need anything and we can schedule a visit to my "shop" in Kutztown or arrange a place to meet to transfer an order!

www.meadowviewbees.com Also on Facebook 



CALENDAR - MCBA 2014 Meeting Dates

April 8 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

April 3 - New Beekeepers Class– 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Bee Equipment, Feeding, Looking for brood, Checking the queen.

April 17 - General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center - Swarm Prevention and Capture. Mark Antunes will discuss methods and management techniques for those situations, what to be aware of, equipment needed, and how to come out ahead at the end of the spring.

April 5TH & 19th - Package Pick-up Worcester Honey Farm, Worcester, PA

May 1 - New Beekeepers Class – 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Feeding Bees, Growing the colony, Adding brood boxes, - Pollen and Nectar sources, Supering - Reading the honey comb, Analyzing the colony, Swarm prevention

May 13 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

May 15 - General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center

June 5 - New Beekeepers Class – 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Introduction to Mites and Mite control - Mite Controls – IPM, VHS Bees, Treatments (hard or soft) vs. Organic.

June 10 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

June 19 - General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center

July 3 - New Beekeepers Class – 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Harvesting Honey – Moving the bees, Taking the Honey, Wet Supering, -Restricting the Queen.

July 8 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

Summer picnic July 26th To Be Determined – must cancel the 4-H room for July

July 27-Aug. 1 EAS - Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond campus

August 12 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

August 14 - New Beekeepers Class– 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Colony Evaluation - Checking for Colony Health, Stores Assessment, Brood Production, Bee Diseases & Treatments.

August 21 - General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center

September 4 - New Beekeepers Class– 6:00 P.M. at the 4-H Center - Fall Management and over wintering – Fall feeding, Queen management, Winter Preparations, Strength Evaluation, Combining Colonies.

September 9 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

September 18 - General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center

October 14 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

October 16 General Meeting – 7:00 P. M. at the 4-H Center

November 1 - Annual Fall Banquet Plains Mennonite Church, 50 West Orvilla Road, Hatfield, PA. 4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

November 7-8 - PSBA Fall Meeting - Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA

November 11 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

December 6 - Holiday Potluck Party – to be announced.

December 9 - Executive Board – 7:00 P.M. at the Lansdale Free Library public meeting room.

MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2014

Acting President	Mark Antunes	honeyhillfarm@verizon.net	Position Open
Acting Vice President	Brian Marcy	pahomestead@aol.com	Position Open
Secretary	Dan Boylan	dpboylan@comcast.net	
Acting Treasurer	Priscilla Bonsell	cillab@earthlink.net	Position Open
Exec Comm Mem	Charlie Breinig	charlienospam-bee@yahoo.com	
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins		
Exec Comm Mem	Vince Aloyo	vincent.aloyo@gmail.com	
PSBA Rep			Position Open
Communications	Rachel Newby	montcobeekkeepers@gmail.com	
Hive Steward	Walt Fitzgerald	fitzgerald106@comcast.net	
Community Outreach	Scott Famous	famous55@verizon.net	

MCBA WEBSITE!

www.montcobeekkeepers.org

Check out the MCBA website for news updates and items of interest.

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association 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 *household per year \$ _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Household = 2 adults and all children living at one address.

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

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