



A Note from the Pres.:

Hello Everyone,

Well, the dust has mostly settled with the arrival of new bees to the valley. Lots of members have replaced dead hives or added new ones. I get the comment "I hate to bother the bees" quite a bit from new beekeepers but I think it's very important to be looking in the new hives regularly, at least once per week if not more, to be sure they are getting organized and they have accepted the queen. Without new worker brood showing up very soon, the package or nuc will collapse or laying workers will gear up within about 3-4 weeks. If you wait and hope it's doing well, it will be a mess to recover from. So, please look in your new hives often. It only takes a few minutes and, if you are careful and you replace the frames in the same location and orientation, the hive will not be significantly "bothered" and they will get back to work quickly.



The club hives are all doing well. We added supers to most of the hives and really cleaned out the shed. We should really have a good harvest this summer to work on so we can look forward to that.

I'm already getting calls to remove colonies from houses and other structures and swarm season hasn't even really kicked off. It could be a crazy swarm year. I am seeing some swarm cells in some of my strong hives so it's time to get the swarm traps out in the trees and start watching for swarms after rainy days.

It's a great time of year to be a beekeeper!

Hope to see you at the next LVBA event.

Steve

2015 Calendar*

General Mtg. times 7 - 9 pm
(*Except for picnic & banquet)

***May 21st - Nucs & Splits**

Presenter: TBA

Location: Lehigh Cnty. Ag. Bldg.,
4184 Dorney Park Rd., Allentown

***June 18th - Honey harvesting & Mite Treatments.**

Presenters: Panel Discussion

Location: Lehigh Cnty. Ag. Bldg.,
4184 Dorney Park Rd., Allentown

July 16th - Picnic, 5:30 - 8 pm

Location: Lenape Park, 6102
King's Highway South, Zionsville

***Aug. 20th - Meadery Visit
Colony Meadery (Tentative)**

**Aug. 22nd - Nat. Honey Bee
Awareness Day Time: 11-4 pm**
Pool Wildlife Sanctuary
3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus

***Sept. 17th - Movie Night**
Beekeeping movie (title TBA)
Kutztown University (Rm. TBA)

Oct. 16th - Banquet
Location: Fullerton Fire Co.
821 2nd St., Fullerton (Whitehall)

Nov. 19th - Scale-up Beekeeping
What has to change as your colony numbers go up.

Location: Lehigh Cnty. Ag. Bldg.,
4184 Dorney Park Rd., Allentown
Presenter: TBA

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◆The following dates are set for outings at our Club Apiary.

June 6th - 9 - 11 am
 July 4th - 9 - 11 am
 Aug. 1st - 9 - 11 am
 Sept. 5th - 9 - 11 am
 Oct. 3rd - 1 - 3 pm
 Nov. 21st - 1 - 3 pm

◆All dates weather permitting!
 Keep an eye on the club website
 'Calendar' page for up-to-date
 info at:

www.Lehighvalleybeekeepers.org

Refreshment List

Please consider signing up to bring snacks to a monthly meeting. You are NOT responsible for the cost, the club will reimburse you for any expenses incurred. Keep in mind approx. 30-40 members attend a monthly meeting.

May - Mark Fujita

June - Deborah Quinn

July - Picnic

Aug. - Paul Lilienthal, Jean Ziegler

Sept. -

Oct. - Banquet

Nov. - Caryn & Greg Chrin

If you must cancel please call: 610-737-7676 in advance.

Honey French Toast w/ powdered sugar & Lime



Ingredients:

- 12 - slices (¾ inch) - Challah bread
- 1 cup - whole milk
- ½ cup - any light-bodied honey such as clover, etc., plus additional for drizzling.
- 3 - eggs
- ½ teaspoon - ground cinnamon
- Nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon - vanilla extract
- 4 to 6 Tablespoons - butter, divided
- 2 - limes, each sliced into 4 wedges lengthwise (8 wedges total)
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300°F. Lay bread on a cutting board or other surface to dry out slightly. To prepare the French toast batter, heat the milk with the honey over medium heat until the honey dissolves; cool slightly. With a fork, lightly whisk the eggs. Add the milk mixture, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla; continue mixing until uniform in color. Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Add ½ Tablespoon of butter and melt. Quickly dip 4 bread slices into the egg batter, coating both sides. Add to hot skillet and cook for about 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown and cooked through. Place French toast on a plate and keep warm in the oven. Wipe out skillet with a paper towel and repeat with the remaining batter and bread.

Nutritional Information - per serving

- Calories: 444
- Carbs: 59 g
- Fat Total: 18 g
- Dietary Fiber: 2 g
- Cholesterol: 178 mg
- Protein: 12 g
- Sodium: 447 mg

Notice!

Subscriptions rates for **Bee Culture Magazine** are as follows:
 1 yr. \$25.00, 2 yr. \$48.00
 1 yr. Digital edition cost: \$15.00
 Bee Culture does not do the reduced club rate anymore.
 Mail to:
 BEE CULTURE
 Subscription Dept.
 P.O. Box 706
 Medina, OH 44258-9986
 Or Call in your order:
 1-800-289-7668 Ex. 3220

Notice!

Subscriptions rates for **American Bee Journal** (ABJ), for association members are: 1 yr. \$21.00, 2 yrs. \$39.75, 3 yrs. \$56.25
 Send your subscription order to:
 American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St.,
 Hamilton, IL 62341
 You MUST inform them you are a member of Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assoc. to received the special Assoc. member subscription discount rate.
 You can also ph. at: 1-888-922-1293

Newsletter entries

Anyone wishing to submit an article for the L.V.B.A. newsletter please e-mail all info to:

billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com
 or place in the U.S. mail and send to:

Bill Mondjack, 2236 N. 1st Ave.,
 Whitehall, PA 18052-3906

**Deadline for next newsletter is:
 June 1st.**

Interested in Organic Beekeeping?

Several of us are. We've started an information sharing group for those interested in organic beekeeping practices. Send your contact info (name, phone number and email address) to Karen Winkler to be included in the conversation.

Karen O'Brien Winkler
 610-317-9611

Email: thecitydog@yahoo.com

Let's help each other!

Do you have a "Tip" to share?, something that you think may help someone else in their beekeeping endeavors. Send it to:

billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com



**5 Gal. Bottling Bucket
with 1½” bottling gate
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2003 Ford E-250 Cargo Van

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**Bill Mondjack
2236 N. 1st Ave., Whitehall
Ph. 610-264-0494
E-mail:
billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com**

May is the beginning of our main nectar flow (in my opinion). It is also the time honey bees provide the much needed service of pollination in return for the much needed nectar and pollen for the survival of the colony.

Beekeepers can add to their income by providing honey bee colonies to orchards to pollinate the crops that are dependent on insects for cross pollination. For quite a few years I’ve loaded hives into my truck and unloaded them into the orchard for pollination, with the help of our grandson Zach, all by hand. What back-breaking work, I couldn’t have done it without help. Over the past few years I’ve been feeling my age and gave much thought of using a trailer to make the job easier. I don’t do pollination on a large scale like the commercial beekeepers so I’m not using a 18-wheeler flat-bed just a small trailer pulled behind my pick-up or van. Getting the hives onto the trailer still required lifting so I’ve gone mechanized for this also, eliminating the help (sorry Zach). I’ve invested in a battery powered lift hand truck to save my back.

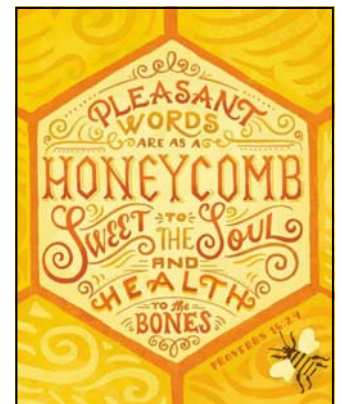


Community Request

“Honey for Hero's” donation to benefit “Lehigh Valley Gold Star Mothers”

The Lehigh Valley Gold Star Mothers organization is seeking donations of 1 lb. jars of honey to assist in their support of veterans here in the Lehigh Valley. Please label your honey if you usually do so, we will also place a specially designed “Honey for Hero’s” label on the reverse side.

Gold Star Mothers is an organization of Mothers who lost a son or daughter in the service of our country. Anyone interested in helping with a donation of honey can contact Blaine at: 610-767-0306 or bring your honey donation to our L.V.B.A. meetings. Submitted by: Blaine Holden, L.V.B.A. executive board member.





**Lehigh Valley
Beekeepers
Association**

General Information

Editor's note: some of the advice articles in this newsletter are written by Bill Mondjack. Bill's an EAS certified Master Beekeeper but his advice is his opinion and should only be taken as a guideline.

Always seek several answers to your questions and check professionally written resource manuals such as "ABC and XYZ of Beekeeping", "The Hive and the Honey Bee" or the MAAREC website at:

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/>

Please keep in mind contributed articles and the opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and may not always be the general views of the "Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn." or its membership.

L.V.B.A. Exec. Board Members

If you have any suggestions for future meetings please call any member of your executive board.

Jeanette Berta - 610-360-8954
Ron Bogansky - 610-756-6716
Brett Dyer - 484-553-2967
Steve Finke - 610-737-7676
Phil Hartranft - 610-966-4636
Blaine Holden - 610-767-0306
Bill Mondjack - 610-264-0494
Sheryl Roland - 610-310-9916
Pete Thomson - 610-346-7875
Ann Wertman - 610-298-3254

Committees

Picnic - Pete Thomson
Joe Zeller
Banquet - Joe Zeller
Club Hives - Steve Finke
Phil Hartranft
Special Needs - Ron Bogansky,
Steve Finke, Pete Thomson
Nominating - Joe Zeller, (Chairman)
Pete Thomson

Meadow View Beekeeping, LLC.

25 Dunkels Church Rd., Kutztown, PA 18530 Ph. 610-737-7676

www.meadowviewbees.com Also on Facebook



Steve Finke's beekeeping company: Beekeeping Hardware, Clothing, Supplies, and feed, plus honey, beeswax, soaps and lip balms.

NOW CARRYING "INVERT" THICK SUGAR SYRUP

This stuff won't crystalize or ferment, it's just about as thick as honey, and it's already partially "inverted" to simple sugars so it's more like honey and easier for the bees to process or store. \$40. per 5 gallons (about 57 lbs.). Bring your own bucket or get a nice one from me for \$5 and then just get it refilled as you need more syrup. You can dilute it by 50% in the spring to make thin syrup so a new hive might need only 2 buckets. Save all that sugar buying & mixing hassle!

(Paid Advertisement)

GreenWay
Apiaries & Beehive Supplies
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(570) 325-8947



Like us on facebook!
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Purple Loosestrife
© Bill Mondjack

Need Bees? We have Bees!

Taking orders for 2015 Spring Nucs!

**5 Frame Deep nucs consisting of: 2015 laying queen
2 frames of her own brood, 2 frames honey/pollen, one frame for
expansion, placed in your equipment.
\$145.00 per nuc, payment with order
Call Dennis @ 610-216-8522 - for May - June availability.**

See website at: www.ccrdbeeyard.com

Crisscross Road Bee Yard, 616 Crisscross Rd., Fleetwood, Pa. 19522
(Member of Lehigh Valley & Chester County Beekeepers)

"Pa. licensed and inspected nuc seller."

(Paid Advertisement)



Queens For Sale!

**Northern Bred mated queens from our
best overwintered stock!**

Limited Quantity - Available Mid-May
Taking names only...please get on our list!

Selection

No Dead bees on bottom board in spring. Good spring build up. Cool weather foraging. Frozen brood method selection for Varroa Sensitive Hygiene.

Pa. Dept. of Ag. Registered & Inspected Queen breeder!

wildcreekbeefarm@gmail.com for details!!!

Face Book: wildcreekbeefarm Contact: Chris @ 570-527-0863

(Paid Advertisement)

Are you thinking of testing for: **“Master Beekeeper Certification”** at EAS this year? There are currently **21 Master Beekeepers in PA.** & we are privileged to have following **4 Master Beekeepers** as members of the **L.V.B.A. (Paul Krepicz, Bill Mondjack, Dr. Robert Roeshman & Cliff Sunflower).** This years EAS conference will take place at Guelph University, Guelph, Ontario Canada. Aug. 10th, - 15th 2015. For more info go to: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>
Here are some questions taken from previous Master Beekeeper exams written by: Dr. Clarence Collison

April's Q's & A's

True or False?

- T** Skunks may seriously deplete colony populations since they may feed for hours in front of colonies and return nightly to feast at an apiary.
- F** American foulbrood is a serious brood disease found only in North America. **Answer: American foulbrood disease is found almost worldwide, N. America, Europe, Asia & Australia with limited distribution in S. America & Africa.**
- T** American foulbrood spores remain viable for at least 35 years.
- T** The principal cause of dysentery in honey bees is excess water in their food supply.
- T** Package bees are capable of transmitting both American foulbrood and European foulbrood.
- T** Queens infected with Nosema disease cease egg-laying and die within a few weeks of infection.
- T** Honey bee resistance to American foulbrood is primarily related to differences in hygienic behavior.
- T** Brood infected with American foulbrood die during the last two days of the larval period or the first

- two days of the pupal period.
- If a colony is exposed to American foulbrood, what is the shortest possible time before a colony will show recognizable symptoms?
Answer: 12.5 days
A. 5.5 days
B. 10.5 days
C. **12.5 days**
D. 21.5 days
E. 35.5 days
 - Fumagillin (Fumidil B®) treatments are most effective when the drug is: **C**
A. mixed in powdered sugar
B. mixed in pollen cakes
C. **fed in sugar syrup**
D. dispensed in sugar cakes
E. fed in antibiotic extender patties.

May's Questions

May is a time for pollination, which is accomplished by many types of bees.

True or False?

- ___** The blue orchard bee or orchard mason bee (*Osmia lignaria*) is native to the United States.
- ___** Bumble bees have annual colonies with queens and workers overwintering in the temperate climates.
- ___** Leafcutter bees, bumble bees and honey bees provide parental care during brood rearing.
- ___** Hornfaced bees (*Osmia cornifrons*) nest in hollow reeds, tubes and holes in wood.
- ___** Bumble bees, like honey bees, recruit each other to food sources with communicative dances.
- ___** Bees of the genus *Osmia* work faster than honey bees.
- ___** Alfalfa leafcutter bees and honey bees are susceptible to chalkbrood disease.
- ___** The majority of species of wild bees are solitary and nest in the soil.
- ___** Bumble bees tolerate bad weather and often forage during rain and strong winds.
- ___** Bees of the genus *Osmia* pack

- and carry pollen back to the nest on their hind legs.
- ___** Races of honey bees (workers) in the tropics live longer than races found in temperate climates.
 - ___** Honey bees now live in all parts of the world except the extreme polar regions.
 - ___** Leafcutter bees carry their pollen loads back to their nest on their hind legs.
 - ___** Alkali bees nest in hollow stems.
 - ___** Honey bees are indigenous to North America.
 - ___** Italian honey bees were the original race of bees brought over by the colonists.
 - ___** Honey bees and bumble bees have perennial colonies.
 - ___** Queen bumble bees mate in the spring.
 - ___** Yellow jackets like honey bees can sting only once.
 - ___** Drone honey bees and male bumble bees visit flowers for nectar and pollen.
 - ___** The social wasps and hornets depend on pollen for the rearing of their young.
 - ___** In temperate regions, bumble bee colonies are annual with only young fertilized queens overwintering.
 - ___** Female leaf-cutter bees pack pollen on the ventral surface of the abdomen rather than on the hind legs.

Multiple choice

- ___** Bees that are known for cutting holes at the base of the flower petals of blueberries and other flowers, then stealing the nectar without coming in contact with the flower sexual parts.
A. Hornfaced Bees
B. Carpenter Bees
C. Bumble Bees
D. Honey Bees
E. Shaggy Fuzzyfoot Bees

2. ___ Most widely distributed honey bee species in the world.
 - A. *Apis cerana*
 - B. *Apis mellifera*
 - C. *Apis florea*
 - D. *Apis dorsata*
 - E. *Apis laboriosa*
3. ___ Have a strong tendency to cut holes in the bases of flowers that have long slender corolla tubes.
 - A. Carpenter Bees
 - B. Leafcutter Bees
 - C. Honey Bees
 - D. Alkali Bees
 - E. Bumble Bees
4. ___ All of the following belong to the order hymenoptera except:
 - A. Termites
 - B. Wasps
 - C. Hornets
 - D. Ants
 - E. Sawflies
5. ___ The dwarf honey bee is known as:
 - A. *Apis dorsata*
 - B. *Apis florea*
 - C. *Apis cerana*
 - D. *Apis mellifera*
 - E. *Apis laboriosa*
6. ___ Honey bees belong to the order _____.
 - A. Insecta
 - B. Arthropoda
 - C. Hemiptera
 - D. Hymenoptera
 - E. Homoptera
7. Name three other insects that belong to the same order as honey bees. _____
8. Compare the larval diets of bees and wasps. _____



Warre Hive... A new addition to our club apiary. Left, Steve Finke installing a pkg. of bees into the club's new Warre hive.



Right Pkg. installed with queen cage & feeder can added.



At our most recent club apiary meeting Steve demonstrated how to install beeswax foundation into wood frames. Our club apiary meetings are attended by many. Something to learn for everyone at a club apiary meeting. We're glad to have all of you.

Our 4th "Springtime Get Together" at Youell's Oyster House on Apr. 6th was a huge success with great food and company. We would like to thank Chris Filipos, owner of Youell's Oyster House, for his generous donation of four \$25.00 gift certificates.



Chris showing us his 'Roof-top' apiary on top of his restaurant. Chris keeps his colonies in mostly Styrofoam equipment and they all wintered well. Maybe keeping them on the roof (not on the ground like many of us keep ours) helps. The black rubber roof covering may also help by absorbing radiant heat. Lower right...Chris showing us the height of the colony when they are supered up for the nectar flow.



L.V.B.A. OFFICERS

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Treasurer	Phil Hartranft	610-966-4636	<i>e-mail - jachart@ptd.net</i>
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Corr. Sec.	Jeanette Berta	610-360-8954	<i>e-mail - jeanetteberta@yahoo.com</i>

PA. State Delegate - Steve Finke

Video/Book Library - Richard & Norma Cusick, Ph. 610-791-2738

Richard's *e-mail - richardcusickmd@rcn.com*

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Ron Bogansky	Phil Hartranft	Sheryl Roland
Brett Dyer	Blaine Holden	Pete Thomson
	Ann Wertman	

Newsletter Publisher/Editor: *Bill Mondjack*

e-mail - billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com

Find us on the web at: www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org

L.V.B.A. Membership Dues

New Renewal

L.V.B.A. DUES - \$10.00/yr. *Individual \$15.00/yr. *Family *(Receive newsletter by email attachment)

U.S. Mail \$20.00/yr. Individual \$25.00/yr. Family (Receive newsletter by U.S. Mail)

L.V.B.A. \$100.00 Lifetime† (Receive newsletter by email attachment)

Pa. State Dues (Optional) - New Renewal - \$20.00 yr. Individual \$25.00 yr. Family \$200.00 Lifetime

Check appropriate box for Individual, Family, Email or U. S. Mail, Local and /or State membership.

†Article VIII of our By-laws: (Min. 5 consecutive yrs. before eligible)

Membership in the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn. runs a typical calendar year - Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

*Name _____

*Street _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____ *County _____

*♦Dept. of Ag. Beekeeper I.D.# _____ *License expiration date _____ ♦ I DO or do NOT keep bees.
(Please CIRCLE one)

*‡E-mail address _____

*Phone () _____ - _____ *Total Encl. \$ _____

*Required information! ‡Used to correspond in case of mtg. cancellation or updates.

**Make your checks payable to: L.V.B.A. and mail to: L.V.B.A. C/O Mr. Phil Hartranft
P.O. Box 433, Old Zionsville, PA. 18068-0433**

Beekeeping Videos available for loan to members of the L.V.B.A. in good standing.

The video library is being reconstructed. Here is a short list of the current videos available on DVD

1. **An Introduction To Keeping Bees. Second Sight Productions. (2004) 70 min.**
2. **Organic Beekeeping. (2010) 90 min.**
3. **Natural Beekeeping with Ross Conrad. (2012) 3 hrs.**
4. **Bees - Tales From the Hive. Nova. (2007) 54 min.**
5. **More Than Honey. (2012) John Hurt, Markus Imhoof. 91 min.**
6. **Bee Move (2008 Widescreen Edition), Jerry Seinfeld. 90 min.**
7. **Vanishing of the Bees (2010) 87 min.**
8. **Top-Bar Beekeeping w/Les Crowder & Heather Harrell. (2012) 90 min.**
9. **Honey Bees and Beekeeping, Parts I & II, 2014, Univ. of Georgia**
10. **Getting Started, The Bee Works, Ontario, 2011**
11. **Spring to Summer, The Bee Works, Ontario, 2011**
12. **Summer to Winter, The Bee Works, Ontario, 2011**
13. **Nicot System, The Bee Works, Ontario, 2011**
14. **Queen Rearing, The Bee Works, Ontario, 2011**

Here's a list of books in our library.

1. **ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture, A.I. Root, 1966**
2. **The Hive and the Honey Bee, Dadant & Sons, 1966**
3. **Honey Bees and Beekeeping, K. Delaplane, 2006**
4. **How Well Are You Willing To Bee?, P. Wagner, 1997**
5. **Successful Queen Rearing, Spivak and Reuter, 2006**



Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn.
C/O Bill Mondjack
2236 N. 1st. Avenue
Whitehall, PA 18052-3906

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"FIRST CLASS"

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