

"The Buzzer"

Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association

1977 - 2008

Serving Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna & Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania

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December, 2008



FROM THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
A JOYOUS, BLESSED CHRISTMAS, HANUKKAH, AND
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, SPONSORS, AND CORRESPONDENTS,
AND TO OUR COLONIES OF HONEY BEES

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OUR SCHEDULE

NEXT:

***Feb. 13, 2009, Fri. 6:00 pm Covered Dish Supper and Planning Meeting
at the home of Jerry & Junie Ely***



Honey Bees Don't Hibernate!

Over the years, several adult people have asked “*Do bees fly south for the winter?*” Many more, including kids, ask “*Do bees hibernate in winter?*” Then we explain the winter cluster, and all the work required to keep the colony alive.

Beekeepers should not hibernate either! Winter is a good time to sharpen our tools. The holidays are a good time to give beekeepers a good manual, or one of the latest revisions of the classic books. If you have access to the internet, spend some worthwhile time searching for “honey bees”, or “beekeeping”. Contact our librarians for the selection of reading materials & VCR tapes. Subscribe to one or both of the two journals advertised in our newsletter. Actually, you will get a discount through our association.

This Christmas/Hanukkah issue of The Buzzer will be the first with the ads of our sponsors included, and without a full list of our members, with addresses, etc. for purposes of privacy. Our officers and directors are, of course listed with phone numbers, etc. If you need to contact any other

members, just give us a call.

As we enter into winter cluster, please remember that our February planning meeting is open to all members ready to help. Our first spring meeting will probably be a field day at Jerry Ely's apiary. Then we will meet at Claverack on the second Friday of April, May & June.



Susquehanna Beekeeper's Association

Minutes from 10-24-08 meeting and Annual Dinner (Prepared by Kandy Taylor)

Constitution Revision

Revision and updates are being made to the constitution adopted on November 8, 2003

Creation of a new position – Financial Sec.

Discussion of job descriptions

Financial Secretary will be responsible for receiving monies, dues, and gifts and will deposit the money in the bank.

Treasurer will communicate with the Financial Secretary, get the bills and pay the bills.

Other recommended changes

President and Vice President will be the only officers limited to a four-year term.

The Scholarship Fund, which used to be a separate fund will be combined with the other finances.

Past presidents will be on the board of directors in addition to other directors.

Election chaired by Earl Villecco – Pres. of the Southern Tier Beekeepers Association

Nominations by James Barber

President – Richard Chapin

Vice-President – James Wood

Secretary – Catherine Hines
Treasurer – Jane Robinson
Financial Secretary – Ginny Wood

Board Members

James Barber
John Brunner
Jerry Ely
Junie Ely
Dave Taylor

Community Fund information was presented by John Brunner and Dick Chapin. The spring meeting was referenced and the board has been given a template for the fund. A “Donor Advised Fund” was recommended. The Community Foundation will give investment reports. The title of “Scholarship Fund” was seen to be too narrow, so the fund will be entitled an “Education Fund”. The current monies are from donations different schools have made over several years for demonstrations put on by SBA. The fund currently stands at \$2,200 and cannot gain interest because we are not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for tax purposes. The Community Fund will allow for interest and our board will decide when and how the money shall be allocated. The monies can be given to any nonprofit organization, such as a school, library, 4H, government entity, university, or a young person through those agencies. The idea is to establish a trust fund to which any individual can choose to contribute through a gift or bequest. *Continued on Page 4*

Check It Out:

The **MAAREC** interstate beekeeping website has several improvements:

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

The **PA State Beekeepers Association**
website is worth looking up:

<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/index.html>

See the **Eastern Apicultural Association**

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

Bee Culture

<http://www.beeculture.com/>

American Bee Journal

<http://www.dadant.com/journal/>



Nucs for Sale (when available)

Jerald Ely, Master Beekeeper

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Secretary's Minutes continued:

Further discussion on the matter detailed that The Community Foundation is a local organization centered in Montrose. They have averaged about 10% increase since its inception in 1998 and have seen steady growth overall. The balance of cash and stocks within the fund were not known at the time, but SBA is looking at this as a long-term investment. Also, SBA will receive publicity through the different publications circulated by The Community Foundation. Earl Villecco made the motion and James Wood seconded. The motion carried with one opposing vote.

Notes of thanks and closing information

Acknowledge Jerry Ely as the founder and Junie Ely as the constant supporter. Welcome to the new directors. Thanks to Valerie Hotchkiss and Dave Smith who are concluding their services as directors. Valerie to continue as production manager of the printed *Buzzer*.

Board Meeting to be held February 13 at the home of Jerry and Junie Ely.

Jim Bobb, President of the State Beekeepers Association, spoke and led a question and answer discussion.

Thanks to Jim Barber for the honey bears on each table, and to members of the So. Montrose Community Church for hosting us again this year.

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Dr. Roger Morse wrote, in his book entitled Honey Shows, "A judge in a honey show searches for all the errors beekeepers can make when they prepare their products for sale."

Since we need you to consider participating in the Harford Fair competition, we plan to have a program this Spring to help you get prepared. Once you know the facts, it's not that hard, and you'll have the satisfaction of offering a product of which you can be proud.

Our fair theme chairman has suggested some form of recognition for winners to be posted in the honey house. We'll work on that.

NOTE:

The subscription rates listed below are for last year. ABJ rates for association members, through our Fin. Sec. are now: \$19.10 for one yr., \$36.15 for two yrs., and \$50.95 for three yrs.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL		ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION		SAVE 25%
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Return to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341				

The Cup of Warm Water

He whose birth we will soon celebrate once assured us that He would remember even a cup of cold water given to the least of His creatures. That He loved birds is evidenced by His frequent references to them during the recorded years of His life. Charity to the birds would seem, therefore, a most fitting Christmas benevolence.

We often think to give birds food in winter. It involves no more than scattering table crumbs on the snow, though if our benevolent instincts be more fully developed we may build feeding trays more or less elaborate. But water is no less necessary to birds than food, and they are often harder pressed for something to slake their thirst than they are for something to eat. This is especially so in severe weather, when the chance pools that usually afford them a supply are frozen solid. It is then that a pan of water set out in a sheltered spot (but one clear of cat danger) will be most welcome to the birds. And do not set out merely a pan of cold water if the weather be freezing. It will immediately seal itself with ice, perhaps before all the bird clients that visit your yard shall have had a chance to drink. Let it be warmed up -- make it as warm as you like your own tea or coffee. Then it will be a long time freezing, for water has an astonishing capacity for heat and loses it more slowly than any other common substance. Birds do not have the same prejudice American humans have in favor of ice water, especially in winter. They are glad to get something warm to drink. There is no charity bought so cheap that can make so many living creatures happy as cup of warm water. -From
ABJ-Dec. 1932

An Old Saw

“A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay;
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm of bees in July
Is not worth a fly”

-Author Unknown



School Program to Date

Blue Ridge 2nd grade classes Sept. 26th
Elk Lake 5th grade classes Nov. 14th
Mt. View 5th grade classes Nov. 21st
Lakeland 3rd grade classes Nov. 26th
Lathrop St. 4th grade classes Dec. 5th

Our “varsity team”, including Jim Barber, Dick Chapin & James Wood, have been joined so far by Mike Sheridan and Rich Johnson.SP

NOTE

Bee Culture rate is \$21. for one yr. and \$38. for two yrs. if you subscribe through our Financial Sec., Ginny Wood. Same with Amer. Bee JPSPournal whose association rates are \$19.10 for one yr. and \$36.15 for two yrs. (25% off!)

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Return white copy to: Bee Culture, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44238 *Please discard any other forms. Use only this form.* Prices subject to change without notice.	

Wish You Had Been There!!

Ten of us attended the November meeting of the Pennsylvania Beekeepers' Association (PSBA) at the country cupboard in Lewisburg on Nov. 7th and 8th. It was really worth it, and we hope you will consider attending next year. On deck were: Jim Barber, Rich Blohm, Dick Chapin, Jerry Ely, Rich Johnson, Phil and Penny Reid, Dave and Susan Smith, and James Wood.

One of the speakers impressed us so much that we plan to present his method of winter survival and queen production at one of our meetings after trying it ourselves next spring!

Jim Barber and Dick Chapin helped Lee Miller with the honey show. After serving for many years as judge, Lee is the new President of PSBA, succeeding Jim Bobb, and has appointed Dick chairman of the 2009 honey show, with Jim as associate judge.



Adapted from:

Honey Judging and Standards

Malcolm T. Sanford

Professor/extension apiculturist, Entomology and Nematology Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611

Judging honey is not like evaluating other commodities. The product itself is not examined so much as the care the exhibitor takes in putting it up for show. Criteria in judging livestock include conformation, weight distribution and behavior. The knowledge to expertly judge livestock is acquired only after a great deal of experience and specialized training.

Not so with honey, a product that is infinitely variable because of differences in floral source. A typical score card for extracted honey lists the following:

1. Container: appearance (10)
2. Density (20)
Water content above 18.6% is disqualified
3. Freedom from crystals (10)
4. Cleanliness and freedom from foam (30)
5. Flavor (20)
Downgrade for objectionable flavor or
- ...6. Accuracy of filling (10)
Headroom: 1/2 inch maximum,
3/8 inch minimum; no visible gap between honey level and cap
If multiple entries: uniformity of filling

Density is perhaps the most objective measurement of the above criteria. It is measured with a refractometer and numbers can be assigned with accuracy.

The rest of the judging categories are extremely subjective. In this example, appearance of the container is awarded 10 points. This boils down to suitability and uniformity if multiple entries are provided. Usually, shows request three identical jars for comparison.

Freedom from crystals, foam and overall cleanliness are 40% of the score. This can be judged using a bright light. Many judges use polarized light. The amount of foam usually is easily observed by

taking off the cap.

Perhaps most controversial is judging honey flavor. The judge cannot let preferences for certain flavors prejudice the case. Only honey that tastes alcoholic (fermented) or burned can be marked down.

Finally, accuracy of filling is judged. Some contests may include a category for color/clarity. Subjectiveness in honey judging, therefore, implies a great deal of evaluating based on common sense. Expert know-how is not needed, except perhaps in use of the refractometer.

Every contest has distinct rules and the score card should be obtained to see what criteria are being judged. Other classes of honey that might be entered include; comb honey, chunk honey and finely granulated (crystallized, creamed) honey.

In addition, artistic or culinary creations and wax candles or blocks are categories found at many fairs or shows. Observation beehives and exhibits or displays advertising honey or honey bees are also judged at many fairs.



Christmas Honey Fritters (*Struffoli*)

A plate of these sweet bites on the coffee table means only one thing: Christmas week has arrived.

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 5 large eggs
- 1 large egg yolk
- Grated zest of 2 lemons
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon limoncello or grand Marnier
- 4 cups extra-virgin olive oil, for deep-frying
- 2 cups HONEY
- confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, eggs, yolk, half the lemon zest, the orange zest, salt, and limoncello. Stir with a wooden spoon to mix well, then knead into a firm dough, 8 to 10 minutes. Cover and allow to rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
2. Cut the dough into golf ball-sized pieces. One at a time, roll each one into a 1/2-inch-thick rope,

and cut into 1/2-inch-long pieces, and roll each piece into a ball. Place in a floured tray.

3. In a large deep pot, heat the oil to 375°F. Working in batches to avoid crowding the pan, fry the balls until dark golden brown, using a slotted spoon to turn them often; they will puff up while cooking. As they finish, transfer them to a tray lined with paper towels, to drain.

4. When all of the struffoli are cooked, combine the honey, lemon juice, and the remaining lemon zest in a wide 6-to 8-quart pot until quite warm (about 150°F) and substantially thinner. Add the struffoli and stir carefully until well coated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool for 5 minutes in the pot, stirring frequently.

5. Pour out the stroffoli onto a large serving tray in the form of a pyramid or a ring. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and serve.

Hanukkah Honey Cake

From About.com:Busy Cooks

This moist and delicious honey cake recipe is so easy to make and keeps well for several days.

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup HONEY
- 1/2 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp. grated orange peel
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2-1/2 cups flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup ground almonds

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 13x9" pan and set aside. Mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon and stir with a whisk to blend.

In large bowl, combine sugar, honey, oil, eggs, and orange zest and beat well until combined. Alternately add the flour mixture and orange juice, mixing well after each addition, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Fold in almonds. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 45-50 minutes, or until top springs back when lightly touched in center and edges begin to pull away from sides of pan. Cool on wire rack. Serve by cutting into squares and drizzling with warmed honey. Serves 10-12

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

(If you are already a member, you will receive your renewal notice by mail when due)

Local dues- \$10.00
(includes newsletter)

+Optional, but recommended:
PA State Association - \$20:00
(includes state newsletter)

+Required if you have bees:
PA State Registration \$10.00 / 2 yrs.
Forms available at meetings
or at PA State website (PSBA)

**Send to Ginny Wood, Financial Sec.
RR4, Box 123D
Montrose, PA 18801**



Officers & Directors

Pres. Richard Chapin

(570) 278-1094 oldbeekeeper@epix.net

Vice Pres. James Wood

(570) 934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Recording Sec: Catherine Hynes

(570) 942-0341 zbeekeeper@epix.net

Financial Sec. Ginny Wood

(570) 934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Treasurer: Jane Robinson

(570) 746-3235

Directors:

James Barber, Past Pres.

(570) 553-2209 jbeekeeper@hotmail.com

John Brunner, Past Pres.

(570) 278-1774 elsejohnmolly@gmail.com

Jerald Ely, Past Pres. & Founder

(570) 278-2170 jlely@epix.net

LeJune Ely

(570) 278-2170 jlely@epix.net

Dave Taylor

570-378-3728 drt105@aol.com

The Buzzer Staff

Editor: Richard Chapin

(570) 278-1094 oldbeekeeper@epix.net

Production Manager: Valerie Hotchkiss

(570) 553-2086 valeriehotchkiss@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://susqbkeepers.g2gm.com/>

~

Webmaster: James Jumper flyer@echoes.net

BEES by Frank Hurley
referring to Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees".

I think that I shall never see,
A poem as lovely as a tree.
So Kilmer wrote, but as for me,
I'd rather choose the honey bee.

You may well question such devotion,
That follows beekeepers ocean to ocean,
But this isn't just a silly notion,
For a bee is poetry in motion.

The way she flies among the flowers,
Working tirelessly, for endless hours,
Using almost magical powers,
To store sweet honey, in waxy towers.

A bee, that may in summer wear,
A crown of pollen in her hair,
Fertilizing crops without a care,
Her only enemy's the bear.

The more a beekeeper watches the more-he
Appreciates the hive in its wondrous glory,
Its countless cells built story on story,
For nursery, warehouse, and dormitory.

To make a poem about a tree,
Is a wonderful thing, most certainly,
Speeches are made by fools like me,
But only God, can make a bee.

From the "Beeline" of the Long Island Beekeeper "Bee Line", Conni Still, Editor



God Bless America

*And May God Bless All Beekeeper Families,
Their Honey Bees, and All His CREATURES*