



Susquehanna Beekeepers' Association

Serving Beekeepers of N E Pennsylvania

Volume 19 Number 5 December 2013



Friday, December
13th Meeting
7:00 PM



*Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Blessed
New Year to All our Members and Friends*



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SCHEDULE - 2013 - 2014

Dec 13 Friday - 7:00 PM Meeting
Claverack Building, Rt. 706 Montrose
Roundtable discussion on
the latest methods
from the PA State Assoc. Conference
All Meetings Open for Questions & Help

Feb. 14 Friday - 6:00 PM

Annual planning meeting

Place to be announced

Members are welcome

Robinson's Apiary

Bobby & Jack Robinson
Members of our Association
PO Box 1
Stevensville, PA
Spring Nucs & Pollination
ordered in advance
Honey, Honey Products
Pollen, Candles,
Gift Baskets, Beeswax

570-746-3235

robjw@epix.net



**Welcome to our new members
for 2013**

Raymond, Cheylyn & Davia Adams-
Meshoppen
Lynn Anderson- New Milford
Kate Bouman - Brackney
Bill & Ruth Cassidy - Uniondale
Elisabeth Esmenger - Springville
Lucinda VanFleck - Kirkwood, NY
Tom & Anne Dooley - Susquehanna
Joseph & Sandy Murphy - Clarks Summit
Bill Sparks - Thompson
Sara Swepston - Dallas
Tina Wood - Johnson City, NY





The Cup of Warm Water

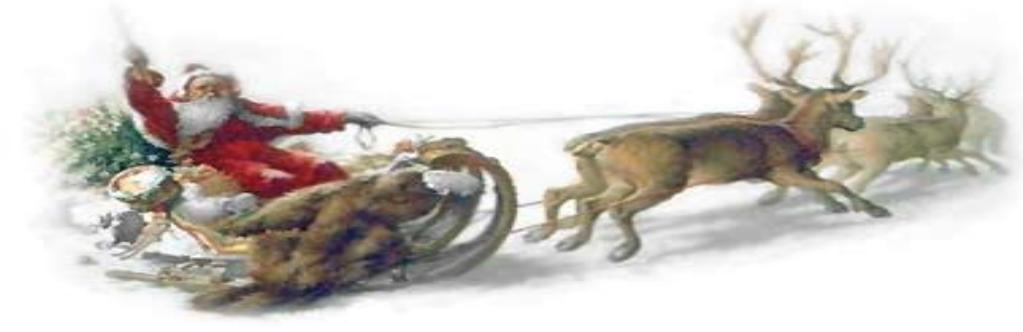
Our Yearly "Buzzer" Message

“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 summer. 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, 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 American Bee Journal- Dec. 1932



MEETING MINUTES 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

The September 13, 2013 meeting of the SBA was called to order by President James Wood and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports:

The Secretary's Minutes from the last meeting were not available because the Secretary was home with her new baby. Congratulations to Kandy and Dave Taylor on the birth of their son, John Emory Taylor, born August 2, 2013.

Treasurer's Report:

Ginny Wood reported that close to \$9600.00 was raised during the Harford Fair. 80% went to the vendors and 20% (less expenses) will remain in the club treasury. During the Fair, 2,000 plain honey and 3,300 flavored honey sticks were sold.

New Business:

Dave Taylor sends his thank you to everyone that entered the Harford Fair in the Honey category. There were numerous ribbon winners from our club. James Wood thanked everyone that helped not only on clean up day, but during and after the Fair.

EAS was attended by several members of the club. Richard Chapin won a ribbon for his mead entry. Lucinda VanVleck, Southern Tier beekeeper, won 13 ribbons including an award for winning the most. Frank Licata finished the requirements for Master Beekeeper certification. Congratulations to all.

Adult School

Dick Chapin reported that the Adult School has started and there are 8 students in the class. The class is taught by Richard, James Wood and Jim Barber. They also visit many schools and leave a book *The Magic School Bus, Inside a Bee Hive* for each school library they visit.

Upcoming Events:

The SBA and STBA will have a combined event on Sept. 28, 2013. This will be held at the Cooperative Extension Office on Front Street, Binghamton NY. At noon there will be a potluck lunch followed by Jennifer Berry at 1:30. Jennifer is an Apicultural Research Coordinator and Lab Manager at the University of Georgia. She will present a program on "Natural Beekeeping" and "Practical tips on keeping bees alive in today's world". Posters were handed out to be displayed in local businesses to promote the event.

Please plan to attend. There will be a \$5.00 donation to help defray the cost of the event. Please contact Arlene Taiariol at 570-785-5353 and let her know

what potluck food you will be bringing and how many will be in your group.

At 2:30 there will be a raffle and at 3 PM a round table discussion time for questions to Jennifer Berry.

Association Dues will be due Oct 31, 2013. The cost is \$10.00 for one year. Please contact Ginny Wood or pay at the annual dinner on Nov 2. State dues are also due at this time at \$20.00. Members are eligible for a reduced rate for the American Bee Journal Magazine. Ginny has forms for that discounted subscription.

Officer's Meeting will be held on Oct 11, at 6pm at the home of James and Ginny Wood.

The Annual Banquet is November 2, 2013
Reservations are a MUST and need to be made by Oct 24.
Call Ginny Wood at 570-934-1166 or jimnginw@epix.net
Our guest speaker will be Landi Simone a Master Beekeeper from New Jersey.
The banquet will be held at the South Montrose Community Church at 6:pm.

State Beekeepers Conference will be held in Lewisburg, PA on November 8 & 9.

The club will pay for anyone attending for the first time. Contact Ginny for details.

The event starts on the 8th at 1:00pm

Other new Business:

There was much discussion about herbicides and pesticides being sprayed in our area and also seeds that are being coated with chemicals that are causing harm to not only humans but also bees.

Report from the Nominating Committee:

Jim Barber reported the following slate of officers has been presented and will be voted on at the Nov 2 meeting following the banquet:

President-James Wood
Vice President- Dave Taylor
Financial Secretary- Ginny Wood
Secretary- Kandy Taylor
Treasurer- Jane Robinson
Directors:
James Barber, Past President
John Bruner, Past President
Richard Chapin, Past President
Lejune Ely
Aubrey Elbrecht



Nominating Committee:

Jim Barber, Chairman
John Bruner, Richard Sheldon *Continued next page*

Program: 13 Sept.

Club member, Sue Garing, (also, President of the STBA), had a very informative presentation on wax. She showed a drawing of a solar wax melter she made and talked about several methods of straining and preparing beeswax for use in products such as cosmetics, candles or to paint on frames or hive bodies. Thank you Sue.

The meeting was adjourned by James Wood, President

Minutes taken by Marcia Perkins in the absence of Secretary, Kandy Taylor.



Our School Program

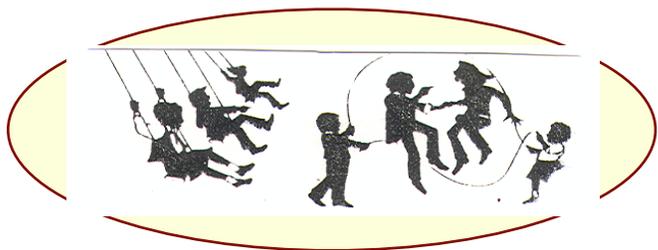
Report to Date for 2013 - 2014

Jim Barber, James Wood,
Dick Chapin, Coordinator

- 10/1 Sullivan Co. Elem. 4-6th grades
- 10/8 Blue Ridge Elementary 2nd grade
- 10/15 Roslund Elementary 4th grade
- 10/22 Lackawanna Trail Middle 5th grade
- 10/29 Mehoopany Elementary 4th grade
- 11/13 Lathrop Street Elementary 4th grade
- 11/19 Mt. View Elementary 4th grade
- 12/17 Choconut Valley 5th grade

FIELD DAYS 2013

James Wood, Coordinator
Mehoopany



AN EYEWITNESS REPORT

Seven year old Luciano's report on what he learned in our honey bee program at Blue Ridge Elementary School. There are some terms and facts that we don't remember teaching him, but nevertheless he is an eager learner. We find many kids who also are eager and ask great questions! They are fascinated when James shows them the bees in the observation hive, when Jim leads the bee dance group in a "conga line" and throws the bee toy into the crowd, and when Dick leads the nurse bees in feeding the larvae mouth to mouth, and the funeral procession of pall bearers carrying out the "dead bee". Our program is adapted, with permission, from a program developed by the famed Pennsylvania Master Beekeeper Cliff Sunflower.

"Bees suck nectar into their abdomen. Then they bring it back to the bee hive and spit into the pods in the hive. They stir it with their tongue and it turns into honey. Bees communicate by dancing. It tells the other bees where to find honey. There is a queen bee, a drone bee, and a worker bee. Larva's are created by queen bees. That's how bee hives get bigger and bigger.

"Beekeepers use smoke to calm bees when they are collecting honey. There are about 20,000 different species of bees in the world. The worker bee and the queen bee are females. All the drone bees are males. The worker bees clean the hive. The drone bee's job is to mate with the queen bee. The queen's job is to lay the eggs. Female bees only sting. Queen bees use their stinger to lay eggs. That's all I learned. What did you learn about bees?"

Luciano, Blue Ridge 2nd grade student

Holiday Honey Caramels



Line bottom and sides of 9-inch square pan with plastic wrap; set aside. Melt butter in medium-sized heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add honey, cream and brown sugar; mix well. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and continue boiling, stirring frequently, until candy thermometer registers 250°F to 255°F, about 45 minutes. ... [read full recipe below]

YIELD: 30 CARAMELS
PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 50 MINUTES



Ingredients

- 1 cup - butter (no substitutions)
- 2 cups - honey
- 2 cups - whipping cream
- 1 cup - brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon - vanilla extract
- finely chopped almonds, optional

National Honey Board Recipe



Directions

Line bottom and sides of 9-inch square pan with plastic wrap; set aside. Melt butter in medium-sized heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add honey, cream and brown sugar; mix well. Cook over medium-high heat until mixture comes to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and continue boiling, stirring frequently, until candy thermometer registers 250°F to 255°F, about 45 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla; pour into prepared pan. Let cool completely in refrigerator before cutting into individual caramels with very sharp knife. Roll in chopped nuts or coconut, if desired, and wrap each individually in clear plastic wrap. Store, tightly wrapped in refrigerator up to 1 month. Caramels will be soft at room temperature and firm if kept chilled.

SERVING SUGGESTION

Drop one into a cup of hot coffee or tea or enjoy this delicious treat on its own.



Bee Culture Magazine

Box 706
Medina, OH 44258
800-289-7668

Bee Culture has a free
e-mail newsletter
called "Catch the Buzz"

SBA Annual Dinner Banquet/Meeting

(South Montrose Community Church)

November 2, 2013

Number in Attendance: 47

Ginny Wood: Collection of dues and fees

James Wood, President: Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Aubrey Elbrecht: Prayer before dinner

James Wood: Thanked the ladies for preparation and serving a very good dinner.

Jim Barber, Nominating Committee Chair:

Same as 2013 with exception:

Kathleen Swepston as Treasurer

No secretary was nominated at this time.

Open Nominations: There being no other nominations – the vote was called for and cast by Ginny Wood, Financial Secretary

Ginny Wood & Marcia Perkins: Conducted award of door prizes

James Wood: Asked that everyone retire to the church sanctuary for the evening presentation.

Richard Chapin introduced speaker for the evening: Landi Simone

of Boonton, NJ. Landi is a Certified master beekeeper; past president of Essex Co. Beekeepers Society (NJ) & maintains 100-150 hives in several locations in Northern NJ.

The topic for the evening was about nucs.

More information can be found elsewhere in the next Buzzer.

Question and Answers throughout presentation

Respectfully,
Ginny Wood, Acting Secretary
for Kandy Taylor

Keeney and Ziegler

Dennis C. Keeney

9351 Old 22

Bethel, PA

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Honey Jars & Caps

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Or subscribe through our
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Ginny at 570-934-1166

Also, ABJ has a free e-mail newsletter

NEWS ALERT

*Since our annual meeting,
Cheylyn Adams has accepted
the position of Secretary,
succeeding Kandy Taylor*

Sore throat?

Make Jello, but instead of chilling it, microwave it for about 30 seconds, then add a teaspoon of honey.

Warm gelatin will coat and soothe your throat. Honey's antimicrobial properties will help kill bacteria.

MEASURING THE BUZZ IN THE HIVE

Honey bees may soon be able to communicate their poor health to beekeepers as a result of major new UK research project that aims to transform beekeeping....

The researchers have developed a hi-tech method of using accelerometers – devices sensitive to minute vibrations – to detect and translate the vibrations caused by bees during their activities and as they communicate with one another.

This means the researchers now can monitor when a hive is about to swarm and as a next step they are investigating changes and patterns in buzzing which may indicate specific health disorders, or deterioration in the hive.

They are developing methods to transfer wirelessly instant alerts to the beekeeper, either via email or SMS, so that they can intervene and manage their colonies....

Bee populations and beekeeper numbers in Europe have been falling at an alarming rate and honey imports to the EU, from countries such as Argentina and China, have risen by 20% since 2001....

“Action to bring modern management tools to beekeeping and action to halt the decline of the European beekeeping sector is urgently needed, particularly as bees play such a vital role in agricultural productivity. We now have the potential to achieve this.

“Our tool will allow us to remotely diagnose colony status without the need for systematic invasive opening of individual hives for inspection. Commercial beekeepers will be able to keep more hives over greater geographical distances, which will both increase their efficiency and profitability.”....

“For years we have been struggling to improve the health of our bees,” he says. “We know early intervention is crucial. This research could give us those vital, lifesaving early signs of problems allowing us to tend to our bees much sooner – giving us the equivalent of the golden hour in human first aid.”

Alan Harman, “Measuring the Buzz in the Hive”, selections from Bee Culture’s “Catch the Buzz”

Some Beekeeping Suppliers:
Brushy Mt. NC & PA) 1-800-233-7929;
Betterbee (NY) 1-800-632-3379;
Dadant (IL & NY) 1-888-922-1293
Rossman (GA)(1-800-333-7677
Mann Lake (MN) 1-800-880-7694
Walter Kelly (KY) 1-800-233-2899

Brushy Mt. has some very good free U-Tube helps. See: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLULmyvKFHmg1r-sf7eZkh5Lp0V0gWihmP>



Tip:

Tractor Supply in Montrose is carrying Kim Flottum’s “The Backyard Beekeeper”, and occasionally issues of Bee Culture magazine.



Beekeepers: A reminder from Karen Roccasecca, PA State Apiarist, to save some honey and other products to enter into the Farm Show contest in January. Prize winning entries into our Harford Fair Honey Show might well be candidates for the state Farm Show.

Officers & Directors 2014:

President: James Wood

934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Vice Pres. Dave Taylor

378-3728 drt105@aol.com

Recording Sec: Cheylyn Adams

965-2289 cheylina@live.com

Financial Sec. Ginny Wood

934-1166 jimnginw@epix.net

Treasurer: Kathleen Swepston

675-8306 kathyswep@yahoo.com

Directors:

James Barber, Past Pres.

767-1312 jbeekeeper@hotmail.com

John Brunner, Past Pres.

278-1774 elsejohnmolly@gmail.com

Richard Chapin, Past Pres.

432-4007 oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com

LeJune Ely

278-2170 jlely8@frontiernet.net

Aubrey Elbrecht

879-4733 aubrey.elbrecht@us.army.mil

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Local dues- \$10.00

(includes newsletter)

PA State Assn. dues - \$20:00

(Optional)

(includes state newsletter)

Name:

Address and Zip:

Tel. #

E-mail:

Payment Method:

() check or () money order

Check payable to

**Susquehanna Beekeepers
Association**

Send to Ginny Wood

4466 State Route 367

Montrose, PA 18801

Required by law if you have bees:

PA State Registration \$10.00 / 2 years

Bureau of Plant Industry – Apiary Section 2301 North

Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 717-110-9408 Phone

717-772-5225 Fax

717-705-6518 forms at meetings or online: [http://](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/inspection.htm)

www.pastatebeekeepers.org/inspection.htm



BETTER DAYS ARE COMING

The Buzzer Staff:

Editor: Richard Chapin

432-4077 oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com

Production Manager: Valerie

Hotchkiss

553-2086

valeriehotchkiss54@gmail.com

Our Website

www.susquehannabeekeeping.com

Dave Taylor, Webmaster

Our Constitution

“I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your Union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; **that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained;** that its Administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and Virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete, by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

“With slight shades of difference, you have the same Religion, Manners, Habits and political Principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts; of common dangers, sufferings and successes.”

President George Washington: from his Farewell Address

