



Serving Beekeepers and Friends in NE Pennsylvania

Volume 24 Number 2

June - July 2018



#### MEETINGS & EVENTS

Claverack Meeting Room  
unless noted otherwise

June 8 Friday at 7:00 PM  
July 28 Sat. Work Day, Picnic & Meeting  
Aug. 20 - 25 Harford Fair  
Sept. 14 Friday at 7:00 PM Meeting  
Oct. 13 Board Meeting  
Oct. 27 Sat. at 6:00 PM Annual Dinner,  
Election & Guest Speaker

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## Harford Fair Honey Show

### Tip Sheet... An Overview of Dos and Don'ts



The most important thing an exhibitor should do first is read the rules carefully. Great exhibits have been disqualified due to the exhibitor not following the rules. It is paramount to re-check the rules or if in doubt contact the Show Superintendent.

Do use escape boards or shaking/ brushing or use a blower for getting bees off combs.

Don't use smoke to clear bees from honey supers - it puts little tiny black specks in the honey and on the surface of comb honey. In extracted honey they end up on the underside of lids. Don't use Bee Go in a fume board -- if left a bit too long the honey may stink.

For the extracted honey entry, some people use comb honey, crushed carefully so not to introduce air, and strained through nylon cloth. This precludes tiny bubbles being created in an extractor....They believe entries for extracted class should never be extracted! If using an extractor warm the combs slightly and spin on a low speed.

Honey should be heated to 140 F for 30 min. and then cooled. to melt crystals and give it a pristine get up and go look.

When using a nylon strainer hang it near to the base of the bucket. Fill with honey then slowly pull the strainer up towards the top. If it is too

high the honey will fall like rain and add plenty of air.

Do fill honey jars correctly. (See below) Honey must cover the bead and be about 3/8 to 1/2 inch below top with no gap visible between lid and honey. Make sure the THREADS of the jar are honey free -- it seeps down and gets the jar sticky.

If you fill the jars with warm honey go just above the leveling mark, the reason being that when the honey cools it will shrink.

If the honey is too thin with too much moisture, remove the lid and place in a dry warm room or near a dehumidifier which will remove some excess moisture.

Don't put honey in a carry-on if you fly. The Security people will have your nice honey after they confiscate it. If you fly, give honey entries to a friend who is driving with your handling instructions and packing.

Don't forget to protect your products in a hot vehicle. If you aren't careful extracted honey will expand and leak. Creamed honey will go soft. Candles will warp, and don't even get us started on comb honey. Wrap candles in silk or fine tissue paper to prevent scratches. When you take candles out of ice chest the "bloom" disappears on warming up, or you may rub the candle with silk or your palm of your hand; rub left to right and not in circles. Keep comb honey containers in plastic bags so condensation that appears as they warm up will be on the bag, not on the comb package.

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Do replace caps. Just before entry time, remove caps the entries traveled with with 3 perfect caps brought tied individually in a nylon knee high. Or use a large piece of cling film underneath the lids and folded over the tops to help stop them scratching.

Do polish the jar at entry table with the nylon to remove finger prints. A little methylated spirits is ideal for cleaning glass. The smell will disappear quickly.

Chunk Honey should have 50% comb, and make sure the comb is facing the correct way up. The comb should be the same honey as in the jar.

Do replace cut comb in a new container just before entry, paying attention to drops of honey that might have leaked.

Do clean the comb honey in frames. The frame can be scraped carefully with a knife or a blade. Remember the frame is a plate with the honey being the food, so no dirty plates.

Do have the right consistency for Creamed Honey. A good test for ideal texture would be to take the lid off the jar and place the honey on its side. The honey should show a slight bulge like that on a wheel of a car. And not run out. Or stay flat.

Do take care when heating wax. Too much heating of the wax removes the aroma and darkens the wax. Try not to go to much past the melting point which is 143 degrees F.

If using silicone moulds place these in the freezer for 30 minutes to get them ice cold. This will give your candle a perfect surface crisp and clean.

Wicks on candles should be centered. For poured and molded candles, wicks also should be trimmed properly and uniformly (½ in) with a slight tilt for ease of lighting . Try to use a braided wick that has been dipped first in wax. This gives a better and more even burn.

Do finish your candle bottoms. The biggest goof in poured candles is the bottom -- holes not filled, not flat, just not “finished.” Put a little washing up liquid around the side of the candle near the base, but not underneath the base. Place the base on a tilted hot saucepan. This will level the base of the candle. The melted wax will not stick to the side of the candle that has the washing up liquid on it.

Do make dipped candles in draft free area. If not the candles will bend when cooling and there will be a difference in thickness due to the cold part of the candle cooling the melted wax more quickly when being dipped. On the bottom, dipped candles should have a last drip.

*Thank you to Ann Harman, Mike Palmer and Michael Young MBE for contributing to the Tips Sheet.*

Entries deadline is August 1st

[blueribbonfair.com](http://blueribbonfair.com)

## SBA Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2018

Number in Attendance: 28

Dave Taylor, President: Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary report - none

Treasurer report -Dave Taylor gave the report as sent from Kathy Swepston. \$1000 was sent toward SBA investment as decided in last month's meeting. Checkbook balance to date - \$6571.25. Report accepted.

No information regarding the association shirts; Ginny waiting a call-back from the company's rep.

Ginny suggested an apron to be used at the fair. A sample apron (same color as shirts) was presented to the group. Motion was made to purchase 4 aprons by fair time. Motion seconded; motion carried.

No More Old Business.

### New Business:

Dave Taylor talked about the SBA website page for swarm removal; if you would like to have your name on the page or not, let Dave know. This page has been updated as of April 13, 2018.

Information leaflets about the Spotted Lantern Fly was passed to the members; Dave is asking that we all try to keep a close watch on this insect; it destroys almost every living plant. Let's try to slow it down.

Next meeting date is: May 11, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Claverack Bldg. Topic TBA.

Field day is: May 12, 2018 - 1:00 P.M. - John Fiore Apiary - Lemon Twp. Directions will be forthcoming.

No more business at this time for the good of the club.

Programs began with Jim Perkins providing information on Comb Honey Production. He showed various systems of the comb honey process. Cut comb can go into several types of boxes including clam shell form. He emphasized the must of having a strong colony, heavy flow, right equipment, etc. He spoke of harvesting, marketing and entering into competition.

Richard Sheldon mentioned that extracted honey needs more equipment than comb honey. He showed different equipment for production and told of places closer to this area to have the comb cutter manufactured. He demonstrated how to remove the whole frame and then cut the comb to fill containers and described how to fill the containers for the fair (or to sell).

Q & A followed.

Jim Perkins brought a display of equipment used in the above - mentioned productions plus various containers for comb honey to pass for members' viewing. He brought supplier books on same.

The survey from last month showed 30% loss from 13 beekeepers (145 hives).

Dave Taylor showed a poster of different types of bees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Ginny Wood, Acting Secretary

Refreshments provided by Arlene & Joe Taiairol & Kris Kantz



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## SBA Meeting Minutes - May 11, 2018

Dave Taylor, President: Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions all around.

Secretary report - April 13, 2018 meeting minutes read and approved.

Treasurer report - Dave Taylor gave the report as sent from Kathy Swepston. Checks have been issued to Harford Fairgrounds in the amount of \$355 (SBA ad in the fair book & rental of building (honey hut); also, a check to Erie Insurance for SBA annual coverage. Checkbook balance to date - \$6083.25. Report accepted.

Shirt company rep has not responded to phone messages so thought maybe better to inquire with the person making the aprons. Find out the details (pricing) before asking members if interested in purchasing SBA shirts.

The aprons are in production (4 for SBA during fair week) and 8 ordered for individuals. Ginny to ask if we can order more if wanted.

No More Old Business.

### New Business:

Notice of the posters used for the school & other presentations have become somewhat frayed and are in need of attention. Ginny asked if someone would like to take this task on and repair or purchase new where needed; also maybe a trifold back prop. This was agreeable with all; Kristie Congdon and Ginny Wood to undertake this during the summer.

Dave asked if the members would like to have a hive give-away again at this year's fair week and all was in acceptance. Dave to look in to this.

James Wood had been approached regarding a 4-H group who may need financial aide in purchasing bees for their beekeeping project. Jim Moronski will be making splits and possibly can help that way, as is Kevin Baker. James is to find out more details before any decision will be made.

Richard Chapin talked about the program presented at the schools and each year a children's book (about bees) is given for the school library. He showed one book that cost \$7.99 from Amazon. He has and will continue to

check other places for pricing. There are 17 to 20 schools that receive this presentation each year.

Dave Taylor talked about the SBA website page for swarm removal; if you would like to have your name on the page or not, let Dave know.

Kathy Swepston has received information about a beautification program at the Harford Fairgrounds. More details to come.

There are some different fairground rules & regulations this year per Jim Moronski which he will be talking about at the June meeting.

Field Day tomorrow (May 12, 2018) is postponed due to predicted rainstorms. Moved to Saturday, May 19, 2018 depending on weather... also, a possible site re-location. Members will be notified closer to that date. Ginny will e-mail the particulars after tonight's meeting.

Next meeting date is: June 8, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Claverack Bldg. Topic TBA. Field day for hive check pending.

As no more business at this time, Jim Perkins opened the program for the evening.

The program was about "Free Bees". The presentations were interesting with Dave Taylor's "Capturing a swarm on a branch"; James Wood showed a DVD of his removal of bees from a building; Richard Sheldon spoke of using a bait hive to catch a swarm; and Jim Perkins showed his method of a trap out from a tree.

Q & A followed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Ginny Wood, Acting Secretary

Refreshments provided by Arlene & Joe Taiairol & Ginny Wood





## HARFORD FAIR

August 20 - 25

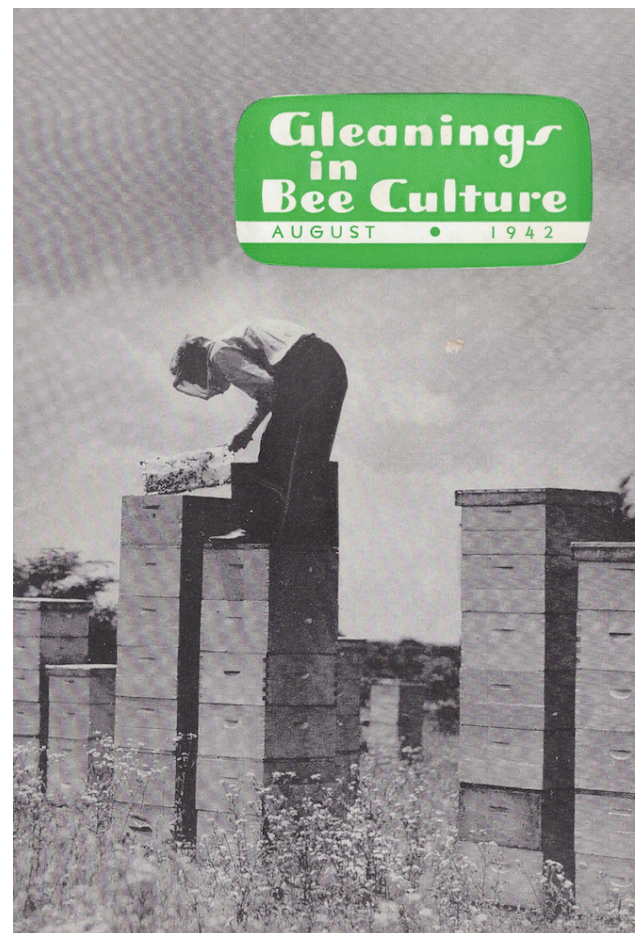
As summer approaches, it's not too early to make up your mind that you will enter some of your products into our friendly competition. By then you may have some great honey, or some from last Fall's harvest, good looking beeswax, dipped or molded candles, and even a creative display "collective exhibit".

We need your participation so that we may continue this tradition, and you will benefit from the experience and perhaps be rewarded with additional pride in your bees and your creativity.

Your "gentle judges"

### Adult Education Program

Our beginner beekeeping course for adults, conducted for the past ten years by Jim Barber, James Wood & Dick Chapin, coordinator, at the Montrose Adult Education School is undergoing a re-organization, with a planned increase in hands-on experience.



If you would like to be listed  
as a swarm gatherer  
or colony remover from structures,  
please contact Dave Taylor

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## Our School Program

2017 - 2018 to date

Lynnie Anderson, Jim Barber,

James Wood & Dick Chapin, coordinator

10/4 Blue Ridge 2nd grade  
10/11 Lathrop St., Montrose 4th grade  
10/17 Choconut 5th grade  
10/25 Wyalusing 3rd grade  
11/1 Mt. View 4th grade  
11/13 Roslund, Tunkhannock 4th grade  
11/15 Lackawanna Trail 5th grade  
12/6 Elk Lake 2nd grade  
12/13 Our Lady of Peace grades 3&4  
1/24 Mehoopany 3rd&4th grades  
1/31 Evans Falls 3rd& 4th grades  
2/9 Mill City 3rd& 4th grades  
2/28 Carbondale 3rd grade  
3/21 N. Rome Christian grades 2-5  
5/14 Summit Christian Academy K-3  
5/21 Forest City 3rd grade

## Our Field Day Program

4/21 - Towanda Earth Day  
4/26 - Elk Lake Science Fair  
4/28 - Sayre Public Library  
5/8 - Towanda (Conservation Project)  
(secondary students)  
5/11 - Canton (Conservation Project)  
5/16 - Troy (Conservation Project)  
5/18 - SRU (Athens) (Conservation Project)  
5/23 - Wyoming County Field Day  
5/24 - Wyoming County Field Day  
5/30 - Sayre (Conservation Project)  
6/1 - NE Bradford (Conservation Project)



### Officers & Directors 2018

**President: Dave Taylor**

378-3728 [drt105@aol.com](mailto:drt105@aol.com)

**Vice Pres. Aubrey Elbrecht**

879-4733 [aubrey.elbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:aubrey.elbrecht@gmail.com)

**Recording Sec: To Be Filled**

**Financial Sec: Ginny Wood**

**934-1166 [jimnginw@epix.net](mailto:jimnginw@epix.net)**

**Treasurer: Kathleen Swepston**

675-8306 [kathyswep@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyswep@yahoo.com)

**Directors:**

**Jim Barber, , Past Pres.**

767-1312 [jbeekeeper@hotmail.com](mailto:jbeekeeper@hotmail.com)

**John Brunner, Past Pres.**

278-1774 [elsejohnmolly@gmail.com](mailto:elsejohnmolly@gmail.com)

**Richard Chapin, Past Pres.**

432-4007 [oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com](mailto:oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com)

**James Wood, Past Pres.**

934-1166 [jimnginw@epix.net](mailto:jimnginw@epix.net)

**LeJune Ely**

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**Jim Perkins**

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**Richard Sheldon**

727-2045 [sheldon@nep.net](mailto:sheldon@nep.net)



### **Our Facebook Page**

Lori Wallace, Coordinator

465-7863

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

SusquehannaBeeKeepersAssociation

When you log onto your Facebook account you can search for Susquehanna Beekeepers Association and it will take you to our page. Then you can "Like" our page.

### **The Buzzer**

Newsletter of the

Susquehanna  
Beekeepers Association

Richard Chapin , Editor

570-432-4007

[oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com](mailto:oldbeekeeper83@gmail.com)

### **Free Sources of Beekeeping News and Tips:**

"ABJ Extra" (American Bee Journal)  
e-newsletter

[www.americanbeejournal.com](http://www.americanbeejournal.com)

"Catch the Buzz" (Bee Culture)  
e-newsletter

[www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz)

### **SBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**SBA Membership Year- Nov. 1 to Oct. 31**

+

First year \$15.00 Every year following \$10.00

Life Membership \$100.00 for each beekeeper

Honorary membership for ongoing members at  
70 years of age

Membership dues are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>

Late payments revert to first time membership  
fee \$15.00

Optional – PA State Beekeepers dues: \$20.00  
(PSBA can be paid through our  
SBA Financial Sec.)

Payment by check or money order to:

Susquehanna Beekeepers Assoc.

% Ginny Wood, Fin. Sec.

4466 State Route 367

Montrose, PA 18801

-

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Address:

Phone:

e-mail

### **Our Website**

[www.SusquehannaBeekeeping.com](http://www.SusquehannaBeekeeping.com)

Dave Taylor, Webmaster

570-378-3728

[drt105@aol.com](mailto:drt105@aol.com)

