



# The Producers



The Newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association

A Statewide Organization to Promote and Protect the Interests of New York State Beekeepers

Summer 2021  
Issue 107

## President's Message

In today's Presidential address, I would like to discuss the current National Anti-dumping lawsuit. The American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association and the Sioux Honey Association are suing the five countries that are involved with this; Argentina, Brazil, India, Ukraine and Vietnam. It is widely known that these five countries are sending honey produced in China to the United States.

The International Trade Commission has ruled that U.S. Honey Producers have been injured by low imported honey prices (an estimated 381 million pounds of honey estimated at \$300 million worth was imported in 2020 alone). Adding insult to injury, these honey imports are often adulterated with "extenders" that affect the quality of the product which reflects on those of us who take pride in our pure U.S. honey.

This honey is trans-shipped at extremely low prices to avoid tariffs placed on Chinese "honey". American beekeepers cannot compete with imported honey entering the United States as low as 0.78 cents a pound from Vietnam. With prices low, it is devastating to our honey market.

In order to return to fair trade to the US Market, beekeepers across the country are joining this lawsuit. This affects every beekeeper who sells honey produced here in the US. I am asking every NY Beekeeper to join this movement. We at ESHPA and the American Beekeeping Federation are asking our members to sign in to [ABFnet.org](http://ABFnet.org) to donate. This is critically important! The Honey Defense Fund online donation form can be found there. Every dollar donated will help!

Thank you for supporting US Honey!  
Remember, "Know where your honey is produced"

Thank you,  
**Dan Winter – ESHPA President**



American Honey  
Producers Association

## Summer Picnic - Wrap Up from the Event Committee

The Annual ESHPA Summer Picnic 2021 is in the books!

We had a wonderful day of some great speakers sharing the knowledge that they have on Varroa Mite and winter success rates. So thank you to Tom Nolan from NOD and Emma Mullen from the Cornell Tech team , a guest appearance of Commissioner Ball , as well as a round table discussion on varroa treatments. All of the talks gave us some new insights.

The turn out of our membership was great, considering it was our first in person post COVID event. It was wonderful to see beekeepers of all levels chatting, networking and just laughing and sharing stories.

Thanks to the Altamont Fairgrounds for the use of the Dutch barn, what a beautifully restored building. We did announce the Fall Meeting will be November 5 & 6 at the Embassy Suites - Destiny, Syracuse NY. Look for more information shortly!!



**Emma Walters from the Cornell Tech Team discussing their varroa research**



**Commissioner of the NYS Dept of Ag & Markets; Richard Ball**



**Tom Nolan from NOD discussing their different varroa treatments**



**It was a beautiful day, even the dinosaurs were enjoying out meeting!**



**Some of our Board Members with Commissioner Ball; Chuck Kutik, Stephen Wilson, Commissioner Ball, President Dan Winters and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mark Fiegl**

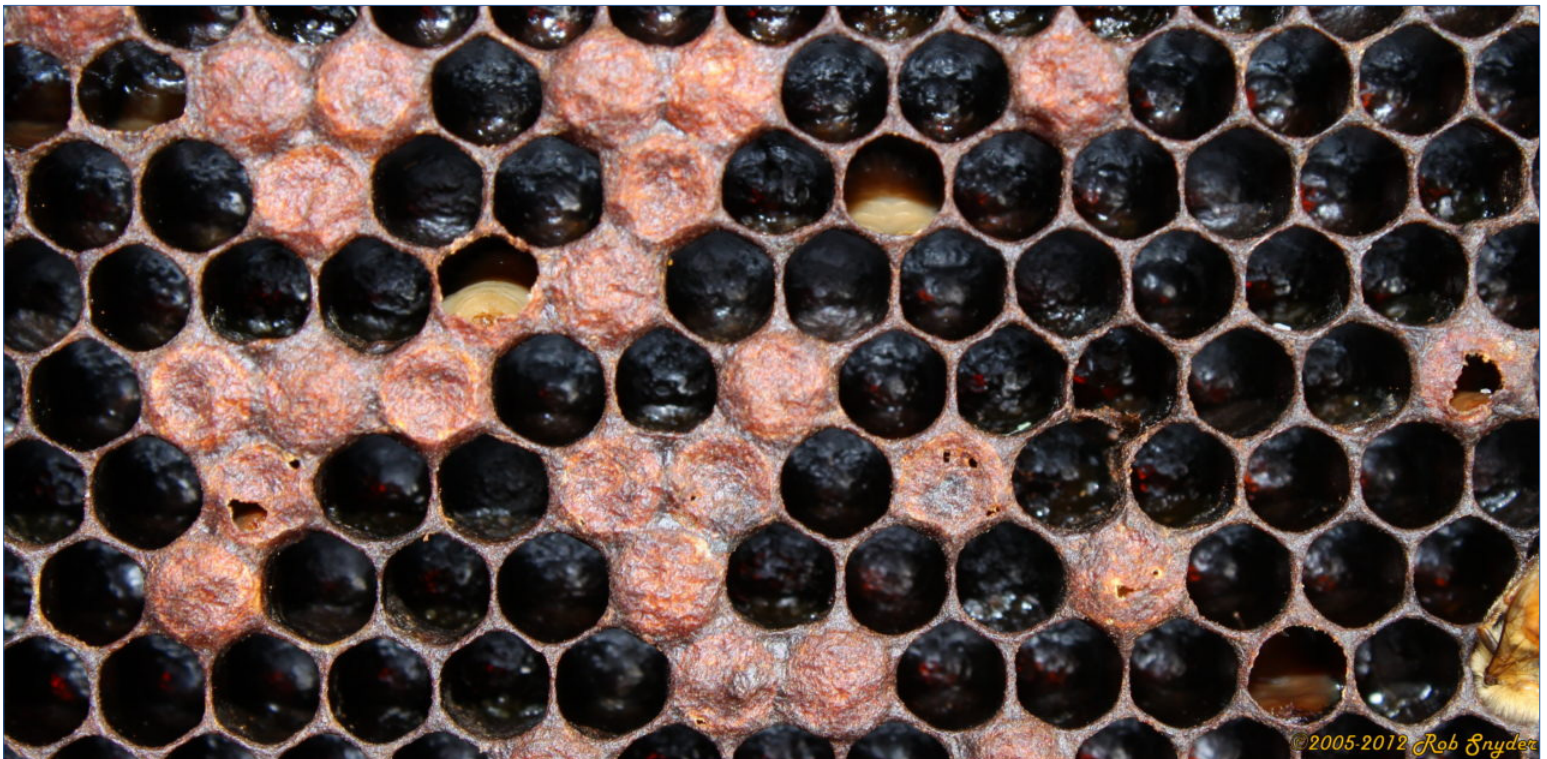
## **Foul Brood in New York State** by State Apiculturist Joan Mahoney

Summertime in New York is the best time for keeping bees. It is also a time when the New York Apiary Inspection Program sees an increase in American Foulbrood (AFB) disease. In the past two weeks, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' apiary inspectors have found AFB in eight beekeeping operations in nine counties. While the percentage of AFB found in New York is still very low, it is important for all beekeepers to familiarize themselves with the signs of AFB and report suspected cases.

Beekeepers should look closer when finding a spotty brood pattern and perforated brood cappings as these may be the earliest signs of AFB in a colony. Other symptoms such as discolored larvae or larvae lying flat in the cell, followed by brown or coffee colored larvae with mucus-like consistency and a foul odor, may be a cause for concern. There are other diseases such as European Foulbrood and Parasitic Mite Syndrome that can mimic some of these symptoms. A Vita© test kit made for AFB can help provide a quick determination or a sample can be submitted to the USDA Beltsville Lab.

State apiary inspectors are available to help rule out or confirm an AFB infection. The Department appreciates that many new cases of American Foulbrood have been brought to our attention by the beekeeper. These prompt disclosures help inspectors get AFB in check quickly and eliminate repeat infections.

**Any inquiries or suspected cases of AFB can be reported to [joan.mahoney@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:joan.mahoney@agriculture.ny.gov) or 518-457-2087, ex 3.**



AFB symptoms in open brood  
Photo courtesy: Rob Snyder – Bee Informed



In a colony heavily infested with AFB, you will see moisture on the sealed brood.  
You will also see brood oozing from perforated cells at this stage.  
Photo courtesy: Rob Snyder – Bee Informed



AFB symptoms in open brood  
Photo courtesy: Rob Snyder – Bee Informed

## Hello Fellow Beekeepers!

It is that time of year when we all are busy producing honey and taking care of our bees to keep them healthy and happy. It is also time to get ready for The Great NYS Fair! Yes, the fair will happen this year. This year's dates are August 20th thru September 6th, 2021. Yes, we will be there for 18 days!!

ESHPA is looking for volunteers to help out for the whole fair. Our first shift will run from 10:30am-4pm. Our second shift will run from 4pm to 10pm. Our last day, Monday the 6th will end at 9pm. I am in need of volunteers **everyday** except Monday August 23rd. We also need some help setting up on Thursday August 19th and tearing down the booth on Tuesday September 7th. Volunteering is a requirement only if you are donating/selling honey to ESHPA.

ESHPA is also looking for liquid honey for the booth. Everyone will have two options this year;  
Option 1: Donate your honey to ESHPA and have a retail write off for your business at \$10 per pound.  
Option 2: Sell your honey to ESHPA at a wholesale cost of \$5 per pound.

### Requirements for 2021:

- 1) Must be an ESHPA member before your honey is acquired,
- 2) must provide your Accord-Insurance Liability Form (min of \$1M Coverage),
- 3) must designate one volunteer shift per \$500 of honey donated/sold to the club (if someone from your business is volunteering in your place, they must be a member and the state fair director must have documentation of the volunteers name and contact info before the start of the fair).

If any of these requirements can't be met then we will be unable to accept honey from our fellow beekeepers. Membership is required due to our liability insurance policy requirements.

**If anyone has any questions please feel free to call me, message me or e-mail me.  
Here's to the 2021 NYS Fair! Thank you everyone!!**

**Heather Dodds  
State Fair Director  
ESHPA Secretary  
607-377-6923  
hdodds621@gmail.com**



## 501C3 Status

The Board Of Directors is happy to announce that the formation of our sister organization, ***New York State Beekeepers Association***, is well under way. We have received our 501c3 non-profit number and are awaiting the final paperwork from the IRS. The formation of this will allow you as a member to belong to both organizations and if you wish to make a honey donation to our fair booth, you can take the donation at **full retail price**. The new organization will have some crossover board members, but the board itself will be smaller than ESHPA.

**ESHPA** will continue to work on legislative matters, as well as put on both a Summer picnic and Fall meeting.

**New York State Beekeepers** will offer educational information for all levels of beekeepers and be a non-profit that will oversee the State Fair honey and educational booth.

Both organizations will have a symbiotic relationship with each other.

Look for more information to come, if you wish to make a donation of honey please reach out to Heather Dodds- State Fair Manager. Her info is on the previous page



**Commissioner Ball discussing what NYS is doing to help the bees and other pollinators**

# Pollen-sized technology protects bees from deadly insecticides

\*News courtesy of the Cornell Chronicle

By Krishna Ramanujan | May 21, 2021

A Cornell-developed technology provides beekeepers, consumers and farmers with an antidote for pesticides, some of which may kill wild bees and can contribute to beekeepers losing around a third of their hives every year on average.

An early version of the technology – which detoxified a widely-used group of insecticides called organophosphates – is described in a new study, “Pollen-Inspired Enzymatic Microparticles to Reduce Organophosphate Toxicity in Managed Pollinators,” published May 20 in *Nature Food*. The antidote delivery method has now been adapted to effectively protect bees from all insecticides, and has inspired a new company, Beemunity, based in New York state.

Studies show that wax and pollen in 98% of hives in the U.S. are contaminated with an average of six pesticides, which can potentially lower a bee’s immunity to devastating varroa mites and pathogens. At the same time, pollinators provide vital services by helping to fertilize crops that lead to production of a third of the food we consume, according to the paper.

“We have a solution whereby beekeepers can feed their bees our microparticle products in pollen patties or in a sugar syrup, and it allows them to detoxify the hive of any pesticides that they might find,” said James Webb, M.S. ‘20, a co-author of the paper and CEO of Beemunity.

First author Jing Chen is a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of senior author Minglin Ma, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). Scott McArt, assistant professor of entomology in CALS, is also a co-author.

The paper focuses on organophosphate-based insecticides, which account for about a third of the insecticides on the market. A recent worldwide meta-analysis of in-hive pesticide residue studies found that, under current use patterns, five insecticides posed substantial risks to bees, two of which were organophosphates, McArt said.



*A Beemunity employee, Abraham McCauley, applies a pollen patty containing microsponges to a hive as part of colony trials*



The researchers developed a uniform pollen-sized microparticle filled with enzymes that detoxify organophosphate insecticides before they are absorbed and harm the bee. The particle's protective casing allows the enzymes to move past the bee's crop (stomach), which is acidic and breaks down enzymes.

Microparticles can be mixed with pollen patties or sugar water, and once ingested, the safe-guarded enzymes pass through the acidic crop to the midgut, where digestion occurs and where toxins and nutrients are absorbed. There, the enzymes can act to break down and detoxify the organophosphates.

After a series of in vitro experiments, the researchers tested the system on live bees in the lab. They fed a pod of bees malathion, an organophosphate pesticide, in contaminated pollen and also fed them the microparticles with enzyme. A control group was simultaneously fed the toxic pollen, without the enzyme-filled microparticles.

Bees that were fed the microparticles with a high dose of the enzyme had a 100% survival rate after exposure to malathion. Meanwhile, unprotected control bees died in a matter of days.

Beemunity takes the concept a step further, where instead of filling the microparticles with enzymes that break down an insecticide, the particles have a shell made with insect proteins and are filled with a special absorptive oil, creating a kind of micro-sponge. Many insecticides, including widely-used neonicotinoids, are designed to target insect proteins, so the microparticle shell draws in the insecticide where it is sequestered inert within the casing. Eventually, the bees simply defecate the sequestered toxin.

The company is running colony-scale trials this summer on 240 hives in New Jersey and plans to publicly launch its products starting in February 2022. Products include microparticle sponges in a dry sugar medium that can be added to pollen patties or sugar water, and consumer bee feeders in development.

“This is a low-cost, scalable solution which we hope will be a first step to address the insecticide toxicity issue and contribute to the protection of managed pollinators,” Ma said.

Jin-Kim Montclare, a researcher at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, is a co-author.

The technology is licensed through Cornell's Center for Technology Licensing (CTL). Ma and McArt are advisors for Beemunity. The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

*Beemunity sugar bars that contain microsponges, for use with a bee feeder that is under development.*



## Practical Beekeeping: Brood Talk

*Christina Wahl, Ph.D.*

Here in New York in July, the honey season is in full swing. As a responsible beekeeper, you are most probably looking through your hives once a month to evaluate the mite load and to check for swarm cells.

You should also be checking the “brood pattern”. This is important because there is a bewildering variety of brood diseases, pesticide sicknesses, and other ills that are not always apparent when just looking at bees flying in and out at the entrance....the “brood pattern” will reveal much to you about the hive’s health.

Normal, healthy brood is solidly packed in the brood nest, with only a few open cells that nurse bees use to store a bit of nectar and/or pollen while feeding open brood. During cool weather there will be a few more unoccupied cells among the brood, where “heater bees” park themselves to generate warmth for the brood nest. Capped brood is a uniform light tan color, without punctures, moisture, or depressions on its surface. Open brood is pearly white in color. The larger larvae are nice and plump, curled on their sides in the cells until shortly before they start spinning their cocoons. The borders between open brood and capped brood are ideally circular...as brood of the same age hatches, housekeeper bees clean the cells and the queen lays fresh eggs there, in concentric rings or “bands” around brood that is younger or older. (see photo)



Photo of two frames of healthy brood. Note the concentric band of capped/open brood in the lower frame.

Photo Credit: W.C. Wahl archives

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Stressed or sick brood looks strikingly different (see photo below). The first thing one notices is a “shotgun” pattern to capped cells...they are not closely packed, and there are many empty cells amongst them along with brood of all ages all mixed up. This is a sign that nurse bees have been removing unhealthy larvae. The queen will fill empty cells as she finds them, so the ages of the brood in a sick hive are not uniformly distributed. When you see this pattern it is time to look more closely to determine what other signs may be present. Are there bees with abnormal or oddly positioned wings? Are some of the larvae dull looking, brownish, or dead? Are there supercedure cells?

You can inform yourself about the diagnostics of bee and brood diseases by using this handy field guide, found at:

[https://nybeewellness.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Field\\_guide\\_to\\_honeybees\\_and\\_their\\_maladies.pdf](https://nybeewellness.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Field_guide_to_honeybees_and_their_maladies.pdf)

It is also wise to ask a more experienced beekeeper for help in evaluating suspect colonies. You can start by taking photos of your brood and sharing them with your mentor or experienced beekeeping friend. Often this is enough for feedback and advice.

**Vigilance is key to success with your colonies. Happy Beekeeping!**



*Stressed frame of brood showing “shotgun” pattern of capped brood. Photo credit—Christina Wahl*

# Earl Blumenauer Wants to Ban Bee-Killing Pesticides. Is Congress Listening?

The Oregon Democrat just reintroduced the Saving America's Pollinators Act, which could put a new spotlight on the crisis facing pollinators.

BY Lisa Held  
JUNE 24, 2021

Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) has long pushed for policies that would make U.S. agriculture greener, including linking crop insurance subsidies to conservation practices and making agriculture a central component of the Green New Deal.

For over a decade, he's been doggedly sounding the alarm on threats to bees and other pollinators, and proposing legislation to address those threats. On Wednesday, he introduced the Saving America's Pollinators Act for the third time (with some changes made along the way), with Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) as a co-sponsor and strong support from conservation groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Friends of the Earth, and the Center for Biological Diversity.

In addition to establishing a Pollinator Protection Board explicitly free from pesticide industry representation, the bill would make sweeping changes to the commodity agriculture status quo by immediately canceling the registration of neonicotinoids until they undergo further review. These systemic insecticides, called neonics for short, are used to coat the vast majority of corn and soy seeds planted in the U.S. and farmers spray them on many fruit and vegetable crops.

Although Blumenauer admits the bill has little chance of advancing or becoming law, a lot has changed since he first shone a light on the issue in 2007. Neonics' devastating impacts on bees and other pollinators are now well-established, while more recent research is showing the chemicals can leach into soil and water and negatively affect aquatic animals, birds, mammals, and entire ecosystems. Policymakers in the European Union, Canada, and some U.S. states have also instituted various bans and restrictions on their use.

Still, the U.S. has allowed most farmers in most places to continue using neonics, and while evidence shows their use as treatments on commodity corn seeds may not ultimately benefit crops or farmers, it hasn't slowed down their use. And in places like Florida and California, citrus growers rely on them to battle pests.

The day before he introduced the bill, Blumenauer spoke with Civil Eats to discuss why he's convinced banning these pesticides is critical and what the path forward looks like.

***You've introduced this bill a few times. What makes you want to keep bringing it back session after session?***

Pollinators play a critical role in the food supply. Three quarters of the foods that make life interesting and healthy involve pollination. On a global scale, we're talking about upwards of \$200 billion dollars a year, and we continue to see pollinator populations struggling. We lost an estimated one-third of honeybee colonies between 2016 and 2018. National honey crops have remained at record low levels, and the scientific evidence that we are creating this with nicotine-derived pesticides, neonicotinoids, [is increasing]. To be clear, it also exposes humans, especially farmworkers [to health risks].

Other parts of the world are moving: The E.U. has permanently banned the outdoor usage of several neonicotinoids, and we've got some [laws] in Oregon, in Portland and Eugene, and Maryland that have restricted the use. [California may also soon restrict use.] But the federal government has not. And in fact, Trump's EPA allowed bee-killing pesticides back on the market—and announced it was suspending data collection for its annual honeybee survey, which gives us the information to track the honeybee population.

So, as public awareness grows, the problem continues to be vexing, and it's getting worse and we're falling behind the rest of the world. We're trying to get the federal government back in the game. We're establishing a Pollinator Protection Board, which I think will be extraordinarily useful for monitoring. [The bill] is just a way for us to refocus on how pollinators and the food system are in crisis.

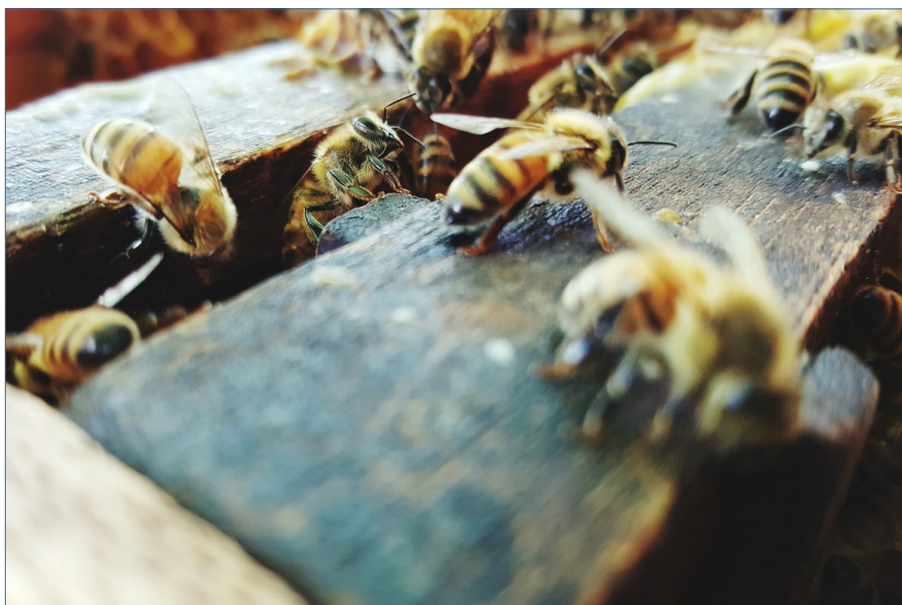
***The proposed requirement that the Pollinator Protection Board not include pesticide industry representatives seems unprecedented. The industry obviously has a lot of power in D.C. and fights any regulation of neonicotinoids, and they're used to having a seat at the table. What kind of pushback do you expect?***

Well, I don't think that they have a lot of credibility. I want to start with the people who really need to be there. The people who are dealing with keeping bees, farmers, conservationists, scientists. Those are the people who are most important to be a part of this process. If we end up having to add an industry representative, so be it. But there's not a strong position on their part in terms of trying to protect pollinators. It's business as usual, full speed ahead, and resisting reasonable approaches. So I didn't start with them.

***The other thing that industry groups and the Farm Bureau argue whenever regulations on neonics are proposed is that they're a vital tool to protect crops. How do you respond to that argument?***

We don't need to be involved with practices that actually jeopardize our food supplies. Putting pollinators at risk creates problems. We have a pretty good record—when we put our minds to it—on developing non-toxic alternatives, more approaches that are in keeping with natural predator control.

Instead, we get into a cycle where we use more chemical applications, become more dependent upon them, and have more and more negative consequences. I hope that we can break this cycle. I mean if it's killing pollinators, it's not good for farmers, farmworkers, or people who are in the vicinity of the applications of these products.



***Have you been keeping up with the new science that extends beyond pollinators to other animals and human health?***

Yes, I think the case is stronger and stronger, but it's also more and more disturbing. We want to try and get ahead of this curve. I have co-sponsored the bill with the head of the powerful Rules Committee; Representative Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) has been a champion here. And it's fascinating to me as we continue this work that more and more people are concerned about food systems. People are concerned about limiting chemical pesticide applications. We're kind of caught in a vicious cycle here and this is a way to try and break it.

***And from a procedural standpoint, do you see a path forward for this legislation?***

Well, I'm hopeful that increased awareness [will help], and frankly there's a different attitude with the Biden administration. They're much more interested in regenerative agriculture and providing environmental protections. David Scott, the new chair of the Ag Committee, is much more open-minded. I've had several great conversations with him about where he wants to take our agricultural policies, and he is much more open to new ideas than what we have had in the past.

**ESHPA is a proud sponsor  
of the Hives for Heroes program!**



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**save bees - save vets**



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## 6/10/2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes

Called to order at 8:05pm by Mark

Attendance: Heather D, Eliazara, Kim E, Mark F, Tom W, Dan W, Stephen W, Steve D, Ted E, Hans J, Chuck K

Absent: Tom S, Terry K, Andy C, Christina W, Bob D (excused)

Kim E motioned to approve minutes as written from May. Tom W 2<sup>nd</sup>. All passed  
--note: add date to bottom of notes for next meeting

### **Dan: Presidents Report**

- Senate and House passed the Bill. Registration of hives will be implemented in the future months after the Gov. signs off on the Bill. 63 total votes: 43 to 20 in favor
- Birds and Bees Legislation passed the Senate, waiting for the Assembly (House to pass)
- hours of service to haul bees across country was not changed
- will continue to be exempt from DOT regulations until August 31, 2021

### **Kim: Treasurer Report**

- no changes, no checks written, some registrations for the summer picnic have come through
- Tom S is finalizing the list of speakers and will get back to us shortly

**Dan:** 5 companies are currently being sued for transship of honey and sales

- more info can be found at [www.ABFnet.org](http://www.ABFnet.org)
- honey producers also for donations are adding to those suing the companies

### **Mark: Research Committee**

- no Andy, no report
- he is however, doing research with bees and blueberries

### **Summer Picnic: no Tom S, no update**

- watch e-mails for further info
- he is still working with NOD from Canada for a speaker about the Mite Away Strips
- Emma and the Tech Team: Mites and Surviving the winter in NY, will be a speaker
- Beemunity: Bob D contacted them about antitoxins and pesticides with bee speech
- Scott is the co-author from Cornell
- Lunch (Saturday): either Dinosaur BBQ Catering or a local lady
- Kim is still waiting to hear back from the local lady
- Friday's BOD meeting will be at 10 and going until about 4pm
- Square POS should be here in time for the picnic
- No Christina, no inventory checklist and unsure about status of PA system
- need dollar amount approved by BOD to purchase new PA

- Kim will be buying it
- Motioned by Mark to approve \$500 limit. Tom W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, all present approved
- Kim is still looking into RV rental space at Altamont Fairgrounds
- Kim is checking on the pricing links for the hotels that are listed on the ESHPA website for the picnic
- at the moment Hilton Garden Inn/Albany is \$99 for a single King bed and \$119 for 2 queen beds
- there is a board room for us to meet at on Friday right in the hotel and an in-house restaurant as well for dinner Thursday and/or Friday night
- the Plum Blossom is a good restaurant for anyone that likes Chinese food too
- motioned was made to have the Friday meeting at the hotel (Hilton Garden Inn) and everyone present agreed

### **Mark: State Fair Update**

- Christina Tuff states that the Horticulture building is open and we do have the same booth location as of right now. The buildings will be open from 11am to 10pm every day of the fair except Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> which is Labor Day and it will close at 9pm that day
- yes, to samples being handed out, unless the DOH says no when they do their inspection. We will have small spoons and squeeze bears again
- the whole fair grounds are open—no split up into 4 quadrants. 18 days long from 11am-10pm, except Labor Day 11am-9pm
- Dan W will be donating honey straws again. We just need to get a number to him
- Hans should be able to help with this
- Dan W and Kim E will be inventorying the trailer at Dans house to see what needs to be ordered for supplies and retail merchandise

### **Stephen W: Legislature Report**

- Assembly (House) and Senate passed the Registration Bill and the AFB (American Foulbrood) treatments
- Birds and Bees Legislation passed the Senate—waiting to still hear from the House (Assembly). Farm Bureau opposed greatly of the legislation, there is still a way to go before it will be palatable
- DEC Bureau of Pesticide should be in control of this legislation, not Farm Bureau
- Chlorpyrifos insecticide/pesticide is going to be stopped from being sold also

- Dan W: press statement from ESHPA to the legislature was created by Mark and Dan
- this was e-mailed to all of us and approved before it was sent to the Senate
  - AAIC-Apiary Industry Advisory Committee. Dan and Chuck K are both members
  - just an opinion committee and to answer questions from the beekeeper community
  - they meet usually 1x a year
  - they do not bully no matter what anyone has said about this committee

Bob D: not present, no report

- solicit members from local bee clubs in each district to communicate with ESHPA as a face of the club



## **New Business??**

- Ted E is not getting e-mails from Heather or anyone else about club and BOD info
- asked to check spam folder for group e-mails...they may be there

## **Kim E: 501c3 update**

- no charter statement yet that she knows of
- mission statement is complete though

## **Fall meeting:**

- Yes, we will have one
- 2 Day Conference Event that includes guest speakers and the trade show
- will be on a Friday and Saturday in November. Most like 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with a BOD meeting Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Syracuse
- Mark motioned for meeting to happen, Tom W 2<sup>nd</sup>. All present approved the meeting

## **Next Monthly Meeting:** July 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm via Zoom

- will only touch base on the important stuff
- other stuff we can talk about at the BOD meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **Newsletter:**

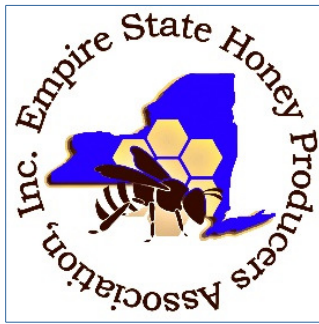
- Eliazara needs articles before the end of JUNE
- get them to E ASAP!!
- everyone needs to contribute something

Tom W motioned to end meeting, Kim E 2<sup>nd</sup>. All present approved to end at 9:21pm

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