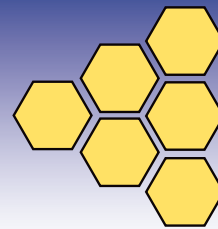




The Producers



The Newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association

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

Fall 2016 | Issue 102

2016 Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc.

ESHPA Fall Meeting

November 4, 2016 - November 5, 2016

Embassy Suites

6646 Old Collamer Rd

East Syracuse, NY 13057

315.446.3200



To Register visit ESHPA.org

2016 ESHPA Fall Meeting Speakers



Bret Adee



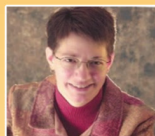
Phil Craft



Dr. Lundgren



Paul Cappy



Michele Colopy



Emma Mullen



Darrel Rufer



Dr. Scott McArt



Eric Wenger

Plus reps from NY FarmNet and NYS DOT

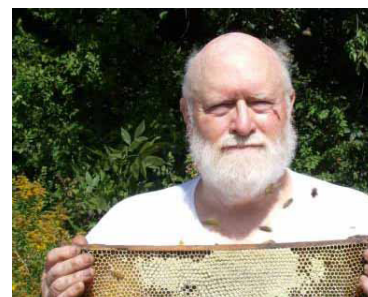
- Register for one of our beginner beekeeper classes
- Honey & Mead Contest - \$2000 in Cash Prizes!
- 2016 Beekeeper of the Year Award
- Banquet & Live Auction Friday Evening
- 2 FULL days of Beekeeping Presentations
- Large Vendor Show of Beekeeping Supplies & Gifts

Visit our website for special rate on your hotel room at Embassy Suites www.ESHPA.org

If our speakers are not enough to tempt you, check out our vendor show Friday and Saturday.



President's Message



Our newsletter editor asked me to write about the New York Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP), how it came to be, the process that produced it, and perhaps what it will mean to NY beekeepers going forward. [Please see article on page 6 for more background on the PPP - editor]

I don't know that I am really up to the task of fulfilling that request thoroughly and intelligently. But I will say this:

How the Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP) came about, where it came from and why it came into existence is still somewhat a mystery to me. There are always things we don't know and things that we don't know that we don't know. There is always more to the story.

What originally caused Governor Cuomo to set in motion the assembly of a task force given the responsibility to inform and advise those ultimately responsible for writing the PPP?

I'm sure that politics played a part

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2016 Fall Meeting *AGENDA*

Friday November 4

- 8:15 am** Mark Berninghausen, ESHPA President
- Welcome
- 9:00** Dr. Scott McArt – “Cornell Research Update”
- 9:45** Onondaga County Health Department representative – “Lyme disease prevention and detection”
- 10:15** Break
- 10:45** Bret Adee
- 11:45** Hal McCabe, NY FarmNet – “What is FarmNet and what can we do for your business?”
- 11:45** Paul Cappy, NY Ag & Mkts – “The new European is here”
- 12:00 pm** Lunch
- 1:00** NY State Motor Carrier Safety Program representative – “Laws that affect motor vehicles used in beekeeping”
- 1:30** Jonathan Lundgren – “Non-chemical varroa control on Blue Dasher Farm”
- 2:15** Break
- 2:30** Phil Craft, “Ask Phil” – “When beekeeping goes bad”
- 3:00** Darrel Rufer – “Minnesota Hygienic bees”
- 3:45** Break
- 4:00** ESHPA Business Meeting
- 6:00** Social Hour
- 7:00** Banquet – Silent auction, Beekeeper of the Year award, Honey and Mead awards, Live auction
Speaker: Phil Craft – Beekeeping in Bangladesh slide show

Saturday November 5

- 9:00 am** Michele Colopy – “Pesticides wintering in your hives”
- 9:30** Jonathan Lundren – “Bio-diversity and risks of pesticides”
- 10:15** Break
- 10:45** Jerry LeClair, NY FarmNet – “Where do we go from here”, business action plans
- 11:14** Phil Craft – “Varroa monitoring and control”
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:00** Eric Wenger, True Source Honey – “How clean is your honey?”
- 1:30** Bret Adee
- 2:15** Break
- 2:30** Emma Mullen, Cornell Honeybee Extension Associate – “NY Bee Tech Teams update”
- 3:15** Darrel Rufer
- 4:00** Mark Berninghausen, ESHPA President - Wrapup and thank you for attending.
See you at the Summer Picnic



New Beekeeper Sessions at the Conference

FREE! Beginning Beekeeping Classes

New! Free! Sign up at the meeting for one or more breakout sessions with our experienced beekeeper vendors. Each session will cover the “basics” of beekeeping and the equipment you’ll need. Sessions are limited to 15 people each so sign up early at the registration desk.

Friday November 4

10 am – 12 pm presented by Hungry Bear Farms

1 pm – 3 pm presented by Betterbee

Saturday November 5

10 am – 12 pm presented by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

1 pm – 3 pm presented by Mann Lake

**Fall Meeting
Honey Swap!**

Bring up to three bottles of your honey to the Fall Meeting and swap them for the same number of bottles brought by other folks. Bring your bottles to the registration desk and receive tickets to be redeemed for the same number of bottles after lunch on Saturday.

The Roger A. Morse Honey and Mead Show Competition

Enter the ESHPA Fall Meeting Honey and Mead Show and win cash and ribbons! Blue ribbons for first place winners come with a \$100 cash award, red ribbon and a \$50 cash award go to all second place winners, and a \$25 cash prize will be given to all third place winners. A \$200 cash prize will be awarded for the best of show. Additionally, each person entering the show will be awarded points as follows: ten points for first prize entries, six points for second prize entries and three points for other entries. The person awarded the most points will also receive a \$50 cash prize.

The Best of Show winner will be auctioned on Friday night at the banquet!

The 2016 show will feature four classes of liquid extracted honey: light, light amber, amber and dark. There will also be three classes of beeswax: a one pound block, molded taper candles and dipped taper candles.

So here is the deal for the four liquid extracted classes:

- Three samples should be entered for each color class. Don't worry about matching Pfund grade specifications. The judge will determine the class. However if you plan to enter more than one color class, enter a significant difference in colors.
- Submit three samples per class in one pound queenline or similar style jars.
- There shall be no labeling on the jar; however; a twenty dollar bill taped to the bottom will be allowed.
- Plastic or metal lids may be used.

Judging criteria: samples will be judged on the following: 1) moisture content (density); entries over 18.6% moisture will be disqualified 2) absence of crystals 3) cleanliness (absence of dirt, wax, foam, lint or air bubbles) 4) flavor (lack of off flavor such as burned, fermented) 5) container appearance (glass, lid flaws) 6) accuracy/ uniformity of filling.



2015 Honey Show judging

Continued on Page 4

And here is the deal on the three beeswax classes:

- **For the one-pound block of beeswax shall be EXACTLY one pound. Points will be deducted for non-compliant weight.**
- For the two beeswax candle classes, a pair of each should be submitted. The drip end of the dipped candles should be left intact and wick between the two candles should not be cut.
- Again, no identifying markings are allowed on the beeswax products. It is recommended that all beeswax entries be submitted in a clear plastic wrap that can be easily removed for judging.

Judging criteria: the samples will be judged on: 1) cleanliness 2) aroma 3) uniformity of appearance 4) cracks and shrinkage.

ESHPA Mead Competition Guidelines

The same awards for first, second and third place winners will be given as those in the honey and beeswax classes. Rules and judging criteria are as follows:

One 750 ml bottle, cork or screw top, per entry. No labels or other identifying marks.

Ribbon categories will be kept simple: Sweet, Semi-sweet and Dry. The perceived sweetness is largely a function of the final specific gravity, but other variables such as the acidity will also have an effect. Roughly, a dry mead will have a final gravity less than 1.010, a medium mead will fall in the range from 1.010 to 1.025, and a sweet mead will be greater than 1.025.

These broad categories will allow for various Mead styles noted below. Please include honey variety and carbonation level as well as fruit, herb, spice, etc.; if used in one of the styles below. This information helps the judges know what to expect and look for. Mead is a fermented honey beverage, so honey needs to be expressed in the taste and the aroma.

Varietal modifier: The brewer should specify the varietal honey (for example, clover or orange blossom). The mead should have some character from the varietal honey, especially if it is traditional mead.

Carbonation Level (Still/Sparkling) modifier: Still meads should have little or no carbonation. Some slight carbonation is acceptable. Sparkling meads should have a definite effervescence and tingly mouth-feel. Tiny bubbles are preferable to large bubbles.

1. Traditional Mead – mead made primarily from honey, water and yeast. Honey should be expressed in aroma and flavor. Additives of any type are allowed at sub-threshold levels (spice or fruit character is considered a flaw). The mead should have a neutral acidity-sweetness-tannin balance.

2. Melomel – mead made with fruit. The fruit should be expressed in the aroma, the taste and the color of the mead. Honey should be expressed in aroma and flavor. There should be a good balance between the honey and the fruit character in both the aroma and taste. On entry form, indicate fruit used. This also includes Cyser (apples) and Pyment (grapes).

3. Metheglin – mead made with spices or herbs. The spices

should be expressed in the aroma and flavor of the mead, but usually won't appear in the color. Honey character should be apparent in the aroma and flavor. There should be a good honey-spice balance in the mead. Metheglins containing more than one spice should also have a good balance between the different spices. Often, a blend of spices may give a character greater than the sum of its parts.

4. Braggot – mead made with malted barley or wheat. The majority of the fermentable sugars should come from honey (otherwise it is really more of a honey ale). A braggot should have good malt character in the aroma and flavor. Hop bitterness, flavor and aroma may be present, but are not required. There should be a good balance between the beer aspect and the mead aspect of a braggot, especially with regard to maltiness and bitterness vs. honey character.

Entries will be accepted at the Fall Meeting until noon on Friday, the day of the show. Samples may be submitted in person or by a trusted friend. All submissions must be the product of the entrant and produced in NY. There is no entry fee; however, all entrants must be current members of ESHPA. This includes those paying dues on the day of the show. Awards will be given at the banquet Friday evening.

Comments and suggestions for improving the honey and mead show will be greatly appreciated. Please submit them to any Association board member.

~Jon Ryan and Bob Talkiewicz

Block of Rooms Reserved for Fall Conference

Special conference rates are available at the conference hotel, the Embassy Suites, Syracuse.

Please make room reservations by
noon, October 17,

to be sure of the reduced rate. Mention that you are with the Empire State Beekeepers to get the group rate of \$122 (King), \$129 (Double).

Register Online or By Mail

Register online on the ESHPA website, ESHPA.org, or mail in the paper registration form in this newsletter. Mailed and online registrations must be received by October 21.

Please mail registrations with check or money order made out to ESHPA to Alayne Doan, ESHPA Secretary, 343 Morton Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464.

Beekeeper of the Year

Awarded at the Conference Banquet

In 1953, ESHPA established the tradition of the “Beekeeper of the Year” award. At each annual Fall Meeting, the Empire State Honey Producers Association presents the Beekeeper of the Year Award. This award is presented to that person or couple who has—over a period of years—contributed in a substantial and positive way to beekeeping in New York. Some examples of criteria that would make a good nominee are:

- Reached out to the non-beekeeping public to explain the value of honey bees in our lives
- Been a member in good standing of ESHPA for a minimum of five years
- Been involved in the beekeeping community, locally, regionally and or nationally
- Influential in new beekeepers by teaching or mentoring new beekeeper(s)
- Contributed in some substantial and positive way to beekeeping in NY.

Some nominees may not fit into some or all the above criteria and that is ok; we understand that some nominees are inspirational in their passion of beekeeping or have made such an impact on beekeeping in the New York that they must be recognized. These individuals, too, would make a great nominee for this award.

The nominee could be a member of your local branch or bee club, but does not need to be. You may wish to announce a request for nominations at your beekeeping meetings and in newsletters. Feel free to contact officers of ESHPA and other local beekeeping organizations to request their suggestions for possible candidates and letters of support.

The nomination process is easy. Write a letter outlining how the candidate has impacted beekeeping in New York, using examples listed above as a guide.

The deadline for submissions/nominations is September 30 each year. Nominations and letters of support should be emailed to our secretary who will forward them to the committee members. The beekeeper of the year committee may also nominate someone, with or without a nomination letter or letters of support. All nominations will be treated fairly and equally through the process of determining a final nomination, which is up to the committee to decide.

The Beekeeper of the Year committee, Dan Winters, Ben Carpenter and Jon Ryan, have selected an individual for this year’s award. The Beekeeper of the Year recipient will be announced at the Friday evening banquet.



Sam Hall 2015 Beekeeper of the Year

President’s Message from page 1 in this. How could it not? But, politically, what is there to gain? Votes from citizens impressed that concern is shown about bees, beekeepers, and the environment? Donations from individuals and corporations involved in the process or impacted by the Plan? These things are somewhat beyond my knowledge.

Over the past couple of years the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc (ESHPA) has been approached by Legislators who ask that ESHPA advise and support some proposed legislation intended to help “the bees” or “beekeepers.” All of these proposals struck me as “feel good legislation.” Legislators wanted to be able to show their constituents that they “did something for the bees, for the environment.” Which in and of itself is not a bad thing. Except other than appearing to address the problems that beekeepers face today, does any of it really do anyone any good?

I believe that the situation that we are in as beekeepers, and as New Yorkers, and as human beings for that matter, is too complex for us to fully realize and understand. We can only do our best to look at where we are and what we are doing, how we live our lives and how we keep our bees, and make the best decisions we can make for ourselves, and then hope for the best outcome.

I choose to believe that is where the NY PPP is coming from and what it is ultimately designed to do.

The PPP is an attempt to look at the world we live in and then to suggest ways in which we might take action towards living in this ever-changing environment, which only grows ever more crowded with people, crowding out agriculture and the natural landscape where our bees forage. This environment continues to become more polluted by chemicals and plastics. Our world’s climate seems to be shifting and

changing in ways that are hard to predict and are hard to deal with.

The PPP is not a document that is going to “Save the Bees.” I hope that this “living document,” as it has been called, will bring us together in conversation of mutual concern. It may be used by some as a means of dividing us into conflicting camps of “us and them.”

One of the results of all of the time and effort that went into the production of the NY PPP is the greater funding of research and the extension at Cornell University. The pursuit of knowledge is a great and wonderful thing. Without hard data we have only what we think we know, not what we actually know. The research that Dr. Scott McArt is doing should give us information which may guide us in our management of our hives, and perhaps inform those who use pesticides how those pesticides are impacting the honeybees of NY.

We must work to keep the funds flowing for years to come so more research and more extension can be done in the future.

This is where you, the members of ESHPA, come into play. I am calling on you to do something. Educate yourselves about what is going on in NY regarding bees and beekeeping. Besides being an ESHPA member, join a local club and get to know your fellow beekeepers. Learn about what is going on at Cornell. Participate in the research and extension when possible. Check their website. Write letters and go visit your legislators. Tell them your bee story. Tell them to further fund those things at Cornell that are of interest to you and others.

Another thing you can do is invite someone to the next ESHPA meeting and invite them to join. What we cannot accomplish alone we can accomplish together. The Board of Directors is looking into learning how to

Continued on Page 6

President's Message from page 5

be more effective in Albany. We need you and all of the other beekeepers to join in ESHPA's efforts in Albany, not only to get continuing funding for Cornell, but also to counteract legislation which may have negative impacts on NY beekeepers.

ESHPA needs your membership and your participation. Stand up, step up, and speak up. Share your voice and vision. You are necessary to the survival, growth, and relevancy of ESHPA going forth into the future.

What we cannot do alone, we can do together.

Sincerely yours,
Mark Berninghausen

NY State Pollinator Protection Plan Released

Background: June 2014, a "Presidential Memorandum -- Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators" was issued by the White House. Part of that plan was creation of a task force and the development of a federal Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP). That plan, "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators" was released in May 2015. Links to these documents are available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/19/announcing-new-steps-promote-pollinator-health>.

The Federal plan, in turn, promoted the development of state level PPPs.

NY set about establishing a PPP task force in April, 2015. The final report, "New York State Pollinator Protection Plan", was released in June, 2016 and is available for download here: <http://www.eshpa.org/home-page/2016/6/27/nys-pollinator-protection-plan-2016> (44-page pdf document).

Emma Mullen, Cornell Honeybee Extension associate, provided the following information about the PPP process during her ESHPA summer picnic talk.

The NY PPP task force members included:

Government:

- Department of Ag and Markets
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Beekeepers:

- Apiary Industry Advisory Committee
- Empire State Honey Producers Association (Mark Berninghausen, ESHPA president)

Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Nature Conservancy
- Audubon New York

Agriculture:

- New York Fruit Sector

- New York Vegetable Growers Association
- New York Farm Bureau

Agro-chem:

- NYS Agribusiness Association
- Responsible Industry Supporting the Environment
- CropLife America

The final report contains Best Management Practices (BMP) for

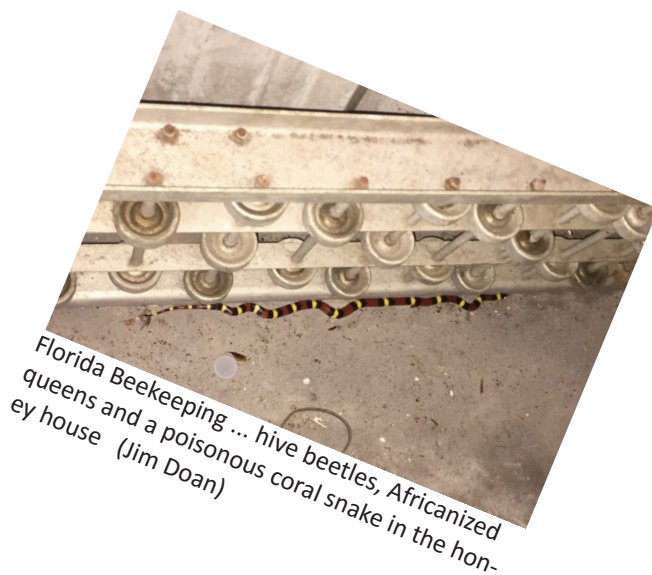
- Beekeepers
- Landowners
- Pesticide Users
- State Agencies
- Outreach & Education.

[Perhaps the most controversial of which may be in the Beekeeper BMP "Keep hives ready to relocate quickly and have a plan that includes how and where to move them if unexpected pesticide application occurs." - Editor]

The 2016-2017 NY State budget includes a \$500,000 line for PPP related projects including:

- Pollinator habitat (\$50,000)
- Research (\$300,000)
 1. Status and distribution of native pollinators
 2. Impact of pesticides and pathogens on New York's wild pollinators
 3. Impact of pesticides, pathogens/parasites, and best management practices on managed honey bees
- Tech team (\$150,000).

For addition information: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2016/06/new-state-pollinator-protection-plan-announced-cornell>



2016 Spring Board Meeting

Minutes - Final

ESHPA members may attend ESHPA board meetings.

Officers and directors welcome your suggestions at any time.

Location: Embassy Suites, Syracuse, NY
February 19, 2016, 10 am

Members present: Mark Berninghausen, Chuck Kutik, Jon Ryan, Michelle Fuller, Sue Garing, Bill Roome, Eric Sprout, Jim Doan, Ben Carpenter, Ben Rulison, Dan Winter.

Andy Card and Alayne Doan were absent.

Guests were Hans Junga, Karen Kutik, Steve Wilson, Scott McArt, and Emma Mullen.

Scott McArt and Emma Mullen spoke about the progress made at Cornell and the status of the future. Emma showed the website she has worked on. The address for the new Cornell pollinator site is pollinator.cals.cornell.edu. She is looking at a 10- week online program. Prerequisite of three years is needed to take the program. This program will consist of a field and written test and a presentation. Plans are to have it available January, 2017.

Scott McArt discussed his work on "Threats to Wild and Managed Bees," and his blog: Cornell.edu/mcartlab/news. Funding is needed for Emma's position (extension) and research. Registration for beekeepers was discussed.

The fall board meeting minutes were amended. Motion #5 was amended to reflect a roll call vote of 8 yea; 2 no and 1 abstention. Minutes were then passed. Minutes of the post board meeting were also passed. Discussion was held on the meeting schedule. The fall board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016. The conference will be Friday and Saturday. A post board meeting will be held Saturday after the conference to review the conference and discuss concerns.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Hans discussed the changes at the state fair. A motion to approve \$1,000.00 maximum to be spent on a tower display for the honey show entries was approved.

Chuck discussed the theme for the fall meeting as "Successful Honey Operation." Speakers include Jerry Leclar- Retired DOT officer, Barkman Honey, Sandra Burnett-phages, Dr. Jonathan Lundgren and others to be announced. The fall meeting is scheduled for November 4-5 at the Embassy Suites in Syracuse, NY.

Discussion was held on the summer picnic to be held July 23, 2016, at Dyce Lab. There were questions on space in the warehouse for meeting, and if a tent is needed along with port-a-potties will be answered by Jon Ryan. Discussion was held on plans for breakout sessions with final decision by April 1. This will allow for the information to be in the newsletter.

The newsletter will be two printed editions and two digital or web-based to help spread out the information and to keep the number of pages down. Sue is willing.

The website is being improved with more information and links (legislative). Motion for \$500 to be used boosting Facebook and budget for the fall meeting.

The membership committee approved student membership being half price with a current student ID. Help is needed at the registration desk at the fall meeting. Registration forms need to be filled out for individuals and name

tags needed for entrance into meetings.

There is \$50,000 in the State budget for Honey Bee Health. We need to send support letters to legislators and senators requesting that the budget show \$250,000 for Honey Bee Health. Letters, e-mails and phone calls should request the money be sent to Cornell for research and extension for Honey Bee Health.

There is a pollinator protection meeting in Washington, DC, on March 10-11, 2016. Steve Wilson and Chuck Kutik will be attending.

Mark Berninghausen will contact Michelle Colopy for assistance in running a board meeting.

Motion approved to accept Tom Tyrell as Long Island board member.

Motion approved to allow the president of ESHPA to award for one year a non-voting complimentary membership which entitles the member to the newsletter and e-mails, and to be added to the e-mail official listing.

The president council (presidents of bee clubs) has been started. This allows the clubs to get together and discuss needs and concerns. There is a blog which lists meeting times. The speaker bureau was again mentioned as a need, and along with a mentor bureau.

The need for more interaction among the board members has led to conference calls once a month with the first being March 10 at 7pm. It will be limited to one hour. Ben Carpenter is in charge of setting this up. Danny Winter remarked it is important to have the phone on mute when not talking. The president will send the agenda and committee reports will be a standard item. The goal of ESHPA should be discussed. Legislation and membership are important concerns. The policy committee will work on setting goals.

The interest in creating a resolution coordinator was discussed. Jim Doan will search out the resolutions from the past 10 years.

Wellesley Island State Park is looking for an observation hive and Honey Bee Programs to be given in the parks. Dan Winter asked for someone to give a presentation to a home school group. Mark gave him a name of someone from the Syracuse bee club.

Motion was made by Bill Roome to use the education fund of \$1,500 to purchase a computer, projector, observation hive and a sound system. The motion passed. Ben Carpenter will purchase these items.

A volunteer coordinator position was suggested for the many aspects of the meeting. Alayne Doan was recommended.

Thank you to Karen Kutik for taking notes for the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alayne Doan
ESHPA Secretary



Doan Honey Farm bees headed into pumpkins

Ag & Mkts Antibiotic Policy Changing

Paul Cappy

Chris Cripps is part owner of BetterBee, he is a veterinarian and is on our Commissioners AIAC group at the Department of Agriculture and Markets. He has been working on the details for the new rules to follow when purchasing antibiotics for honey bee colonies. He has had conversations with an FDA rule maker on how beekeepers will be able to purchase antibiotics when the rules go into effect January 1, 2017.

The New York State apiary laws still apply: that all positive American Foulbrood (AFB) disease cases will need to be destroyed by burning the diseased colony and not treated with antibiotics to “cure” AFB disease. When you buy antibiotics, it is to prevent the breakdown of AFB disease in your colonies. Feeding the antibiotics should occur in the early spring, or applying the treatment after the last of the surplus honey crop is removed in the fall. There are three drugs available to prevent the breakdown of AFB disease.

NY has used the same AFB disease program for as long as I can remember. I started as a field apiary inspector in the summer of 1966, or a half century ago. I had started as a hobby beekeeper when I was 12, keeping bees for seven years and working for a commercial beekeeper in those seven years prior to becoming a “bee inspector.” As a result, over the 50 years, I have some experience in the bee inspection program. It was always said back when I started, that the control of the AFB disease was based on the three-legged milk stool principle. Each of the three legs stood for a part of the bee disease control program, and the Department had over a dozen inspectors looking at thousands of colonies each year and maintaining a 2% to 5% disease rate for NY. Today, the inspection program has two apiary inspectors to certify over 40 beekeepers who migrate to other states for the winter or to do pollination of several commercial food crops in other states. The NY inspection program reciprocates by providing disease certificates to the bee operations that travel back to those states each year. These states have certified the same bee operations to be able to enter our state during the active bee season, and the colonies have been examined for AFB disease. The inspection program still uses the three legged stool principle for commercial migratory beekeeper certification, and for several years they have less than a one percent AFB disease rate in their operations.

The legs of the stool stand for 1) the beekeeper inspecting his own colonies, 2) the apiary inspector today examining about 10% of each operation to verify they are free of AFB disease, and 3) the possible use of an antibiotic drug program to prevent the breakdown of AFB disease. It was successful back then and

Continued on Page 11

2016 STATE FAIR REPORT

ESHPA Honey Booth

Many thanks to all the NY beekeepers who supplied and donated honey, and also to the volunteers who made honey sales, and shared their knowledge of beekeeping. This year saw many changes to the NY State Fair fairgrounds and the new ESH-PA honey booth location. Good weather and record attendance this year helped us increase our sales to \$26,159.



Hans Junga

ESHPA members supplying honey this year were Mark Berninghausen - Brasher Falls, Laura Doan - Brockport, Mark Fiegl - Marion, Sue Garing - Kirkwood, Joan Ann & David Howland - Berkshire, Mike Johnston - Eaton, Chuck & Karen Kutik - Norwich, Christina Wahl - Thousand Islands, Mark Rulison - Amsterdam, Don Streib - Marcellus, Earl Villecco - Port Crane, and pure beeswax and candles were provided by Jonathan Ryan & Ann Sill - King Ferry, and Judith Doan - Hamlin.

The honey competition was judged for the fourth year by Sue Garing, assisted by Christina Wahl. The best of show was awarded to Hans Junga of Alexandria Bay, NY, for his light amber honey. Blue ribbons in other categories for extracted honey and beeswax were awarded to Mark Fiegl, and Lucinda Van Vleck. The entries were shown for the first time in the new lighted, glass hexagonal display case.

The biggest change for us this year was the re-location of the honey booth from the spot we occupied for nearly 50 years. Initially there was some skepticism whether it would be beneficial or not. But by the last few days of the fair it became clear that we have a very loyal following among honey consumers, young and old. It was good to hear from people that a stop at the honey booth was one of the main reasons they come to the fair year to year. Being close to other agriculture educational displays and the “Taste of NY” booths proved to be a good move in the long run.

We were fortunate this year to have Kim Kester, the American Beekeeping Federation Honey Queen, spend some days with us at the fair. She had an active schedule giving talks at the 4-H Youth Building, giving cooking demonstrations, participating in parades, giving demonstrations in the bee gazebo, and working at the honey booth. It was a pleasure to have her with us to help promote honey and beekeeping.

The educational portion of the honey booth, which was maintained by Christina, continues to draw a lot of attention. The

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NY Bee Business Profile: Wakefield Apiaries

Amy and Rich Wakefield

In March of 1981, Rich and I, (newlyweds at the time), purchased the beekeeping operation of the late Charles M. Leshner of Northumberland, PA. Charlie, as he was known, had about 800 hives on location in Jefferson and Lewis counties, as well as a honey house in Deer River. Neither Rich nor I had grown up in a beekeeping family, though both of us did have agriculture in our backgrounds: Rich's father was a potato farmer on Long Island, and I grew up in Ithaca and had many family connections to the Cornell Ag school. Somehow, we both got the bee bug!

At the time, Rich had about 200 of his own hives, which he had built up over five years while working for Jon E. MacDonald of Sauquoit. I had worked for Charlie, as well as Larry Winter of Wolcott, and also Jon MacDonald. We knew it would be a big change, and it was.

The first year was an eye-opener in many ways. We were unprepared for the reality of running 1,000 hives. (I was also working as a NY bee inspector so I was usually available only to work on weekends.) In some ways we were lucky that the first year was not a good honey year: we would have been overwhelmed if we'd had a bumper crop to deal with. Of course, many hives were not heavy for winter, something we did not discover until November. I remember trudging through early snow trying to feed bees (not recommended!).

The honey house, originally a grain mill, sits by a picturesque waterfall that once powered the mill. When Rich and I bought the property, there were rough living quarters upstairs, but nothing was winterized. The first winter we spent thawing pipes, replacing broken pipes, shoveling snow (learned about lake effect!), and trying to heat our space with a tiny wood stove. Now, 35 years later, we can laugh about it.

We were fortunate to have Charlie work with us closely the first few years and share his beekeeping knowledge. He once memorably said that you don't need to be an expert to tend to your bees in the most basic ways: give them room when they are crowded, and feed them when they are starving. (This was before mites; now, we would add, treat for mites when they need it.) Sounds simple, but often hard to accomplish!

He had been in the Navy, the Merchant Marine, worked for a large beekeeping outfit in North Dakota, taught school in the Midwest and been a NY bee inspector. (After selling to us, he joined the Peace Corps at the age of 72!) Charlie also had a terrific understated sense of humor and a repertoire of jokes

always told (badly) with his accompanying giggle. After all his years of beekeeping, he could still never put on a veil correctly and was forever getting stung. He was absent-minded, a terrible mechanic and housekeeper, and a great mentor and friend.

We have made many changes in our business over the years. Our living quarters (upstairs above the extracting room, a bit too convenient for work!) are now fully winterized with a woodstove and back-up heat. We have gradually upgraded the extracting equipment to



Putting on the first supers in the spring.

now include four 60-frame Hubbard extractors, a Dakota Guinness uncapper and an 800-gallon stainless steel bulk tank. The original Cook and Beals spin-float was recently rebuilt. Two older workers (Rich and I) can extract 250 medium depth supers in a day -more if we want to be really really tired.

In 1992 we bought a Bobcat and palletized about 50% of our hives. In 1998 we bought the neighboring property, tore down the existing house, and put up a 40' X 80' Coverall

storage building.

Currently we are running 800–900 hives in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, down from a high of 1,400 ten years ago. About half are over-wintered on location (wrapped, in 2 deeps), and the rest are trucked to SC for the winter. In mid-March we make up two or three frame splits in SC and give them queen cells (we also do some nucs). We do not try for any honey in SC; all our effort is for increase.

In mid-to late-April, we bring the SC hives North as singles. (For years we pollinated apples in the Peru, NY, area, but we have recently given that up.) Once up North, we prepare for honey production. The main honey flow usually starts around mid-June and we aim to have all hives ready to go well before this (doesn't always happen.)

We have never been interested in retailing honey—90% of our honey is sold in barrels, and the balance is sold in 60's to local stores or from our honey house directly. We are open one day a week, in season, for customers to bring a container to be filled from a bulk tank. We also sell comb honey and assorted bees-wax candles and ornaments. This has worked well for us over the years, as it gives us a chance to meet our customers face to face without sacrificing too much of our beekeeping time.

We've certainly had some

Continued on Page 11

State Fair from page 8 displays featured insect specimens to help people identify and differentiate between the many types of bees, hornets and wasps they see in their yards. People were also



interested in the various late summer wildflowers that bees depend on to make honey in New York State. Our observation hive seems to be a magnet which draws nearly every person closer to take a look. We were very grateful that Ray Lowe of the local Syracuse Club spent time every day of the fair answering many questions about bees and the hive.

We should also recognize all our faithful volunteers who spend a day (or two, or three...) helping us keep the honey booth going. Special thanks to the local clubs (Mid

York, Syracuse, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes) who continue to support us. We would not have the success we are enjoying without you.

The list of volunteers is long: Mark Berninghausen, Jennifer Bittner, Peter Bizzoso, Pam Brown, Paul Cappy, Alayne Doan, Laura Doan, Mark Dunning, Brian Evans, John Ferguson, Melissa Flinn, Warren & Ann Gallaway & Family, Larry Giglio, Janice Grzesik, Chris Hart, Jeffery Hopson, Larry & Leo Huggins, Mike John-



ston, Sandy & Dave Komoroff, Chuck & Karen Kutik, Ray Lowe, Brenda Mahar, Matt Mallory, Laura McGetrick, Shawn & Bernie McNinch, Barbara Murphy, Ole & Laurel & Zachary Pettersen, Shakira Rodriguez, Jake Schieferstine, Conrad Sigona, Reinald Smith, Rick & Denise Smith, Don Streib, Marv & Betty Swartzen-truber, Anne Thierry, Robert Thomas, Earl Villecco, Rodney Whitaker, Dan Winter, and Dean Zalman.



We appreciate all of your efforts, and hope to see you at the ESHPA Fall Meeting, and next year at the 2017 New York State Fair.

Hans Junga & Christina Wahl

ESHPA sponsored the American Beekeeping Federation's Honey Queen's visit to the 2016 NY State Fair. Kim Kester is from Nekoosa, WI. Kim is pursuing a master's degree in Ag Education at Iowa State University. She also owns six hives.

Our reason for this sponsorship was to have her assistance educating the public about the importance of honey bees in NY. Kim gave a live honey demonstration at the Wegmans Food Theater to over 75 people, and gave a live presentation to 4-H members at the Youth Building stage. Kim also gave a live hive demo at our booth's bee gazebo each day, and gave a daily presentation at the "ag theater" located in the Horticultural Building. Kim spent much time at the ESHPA booth standing by the observation hive teaching the public about the workings of a hive, and answering many questions the public had on honey bees. The last day Queen Kim rode in the Fair's annual evening parade on an antique tractor.

~ Alayne Doan



JUDGING RESULTS

- Champion Honey
Hans Junga
- Reserve Champion Honey
Mark Fiegl
- Honey, light extracted
1st Mark Fiegl
2nd Hans Junga
- Honey, light amber extracted
1st Hans Junga
2nd Maxwells Honeybee Farm
- Honey, amber extracted
1st Mark Fiegl
2nd Raymond Lowe
- Honey, dark amber extracted
1st Mark Fiegl
2nd Lucinda Van Vleck
3rd Lucinda Van Vleck
4th Maxwells Honeybee Farm
- Cut Comb honey, 4" square
2nd Mark Fiegl
- Single piece, pure beeswax, 1 lb.
1st Lucinda Van Vleck
2nd Mark Fiegl

2016 American Honey Queen Visits NY State Fair



2016 ESHPA Summer Picnic

Cornell's Dyce lab overflowed with enthusiastic beekeepers on a hot day in July for the annual ESHPA summer picnic. Embassy Suites, Syracuse, location of the ESHPA fall meeting, donated two free one-night stay certificates that were raffled off to participants. Lots of door prizes were given out; and attendees ate roast chicken and all the fix'ns.

With the help of several box fans, and accompanied by the delightful warm smell of stacked bee research equipment lining the walls, 65+ members enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Scott McArt, Cornell entomology researcher, and Emma Mullen, Cornell Honeybee Extension Associate.



Lynn Barton teaches queen rearing to an eager crowd.

They spoke on ongoing applied honeybee research into major stresses on bees in NY. Emma described active efforts to create a NY State Tech Transfer Team. Emma also gave an overview of the NY Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP) development process and the distribution of PPP project funding at Cornell. Would you like your hives to be a data point? They're recruiting for research and tech team participants.

After lunch, participants donned their bee suits and moved outdoors for in-the-hive sessions on "Questions and Answers" by Jon Ryan, "Queen Rearing" by Lynn Barton, and "Making Splits" by Jim Doan.



Scott and Emma give their briefing

Honey Queen Kim finds the other queen at the NY State Fair



Honey Queen Kim works bees at the NY State Fair



Antibiotics from page 8

it is still successful today, based on the low rates of AFB disease we have under the same system. We are looking at improving the inspection program to address the backyard beekeepers and how to keep the AFB disease under control, since we no longer have a general inspection program for the beekeepers.

Paul Cappy, Apiculturist, Division of Plant Industry
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235
Phone: 518-485-8760
Fax: 518-457-1204
e-mail: Paul.Cappy@agriculture.ny.gov

From Bee Culture's "Catch the Buzz" August 29, 2016:
UPDATE: Animal drugs for minor species, including honey bees, remain subject to the requirements of their FDA-approved label, including withdrawal periods, despite any changes in categorization. This direct final rule will preserve the availability of medicated feed drugs intended for therapeutic use in minor animal species by ensuring that these products can still be produced by both licensed and unlicensed feed mills.

(As we understand this, antibiotic use for minor species, including honey bees, will remain unchanged, so that beekeepers needing to purchase antibiotics may continue to do so without a vets prescription. Thanks to Chris Cripps for pointing this out to the beekeeping community)

Wakefield Apiaries from page 9 discouraging times over the years. We have lost hives to starvation (beekeeper error), fire (twice), flood (also twice), theft (sad but true), vandalism (always a problem), pesticides, disease, mites, fallen trees, bears, lightening... and probably something I've forgotten. And that's not even counting the honey spills, stuck trucks, equipment failures, and epic stings. On the other hand, we've had tremendous crops, made good beekeeping friends, had some very interesting adventures, and stayed married!

Rich with a load of bees just up from SC.



So, what have we learned? A few parting thoughts:

1. Keep records. Your memory is not as good as you think it is.
2. Remember, it's almost as hard to handle a really good year as it is a bad one-you must be ready for both.
3. Think optimistically but be prepared for the worst.
4. Always carry an extra hive tool.

Alan Clark, 69

Alan Clark, 69, of Moravia, passed away in April, 2016. He was a self-employed NY beekeeper and NY apiary inspector, and operated his business, Blossom Sweet Honey Company. He had served as a radioman with the Navy from 1967 to 1969 before being honorably discharged, and was a former member of the American Legion.

Alan enjoyed flying small aircraft and was a ham radio enthusiast. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 45 years, Celestia (Munn) Clark, two sons, Eric Clark of Moravia, and Jeffery Clark of Tennessee, five granddaughters, whom he loved and cared very much for, and two great-grandsons.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Long Hill Fire Department, 2513 Long Hill Road, Venice Center, NY 13147.



Reporting Pesticide Kills

Suspected pesticide incidents involving pollinators (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Bureau of Pest Management. Contact the Pesticide Control Specialist at the DEC Regional office that serves your county at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>, or at PesticideCompliance@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-8727. To report environmental violations in progress, contact an environmental conservation officer who patrols your area by calling toll-free 1-844-DEC-ECOs (1-844-332-3267). Contacting the department directly will ensure prompt investigation into the source of the incident.



Honey Queen Kim

CLASSIFIED AD

(free for ESHPA members!)

BEE TRUCK FOR SALE: 2005 F450 XLT Ford 4 x 4 diesel. 73 K miles. 6 speed standard trans., 12 ft. flatbed w/ 1600 lb. tailgate lift. Michelin tires. Well maintained. \$17,500. Available after the 2016 season.

Rich Wakefield 315-493-0347



"TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT" Booklet Available

A new booklet is available to help in the fight against the Varroa mite: "Tools for Varroa Management, A Guide to Effective Varroa Sampling & Control," released February, 2106.

The "principal drafter" is Dr. Dewey M. Caron, Western Apicultural Society, Emeritus Professor University of Delaware, and Affiliate Faculty at Oregon State University.

The booklet can be downloaded for free from <http://honeybee-healthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Topics include:

- IPM and Varroa Mite Control
- About Varroa Mites
- Monitoring Varroa Mites
- Selecting Control Methods
- Descriptions of Varroa Controls
- About the Honey Bee Health Coalition
- Additional Resources

The Honey Bee Health Coalition was formed in 2014 as a cross-sector effort to promote collaborative solutions to honey bee health challenges. The diverse Coalition brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers and brands, and other key partners dedicated to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators. The coalition's mission is to collaboratively implement solutions that will help to achieve a healthy population of honey bees while also supporting healthy populations of native and managed pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems.

WE NEED you!!

To be our next secretary

Are you looking for some way of being more involved with ESHPA? Are you a good listener? Can you take notes well? Can you make three board Meetings and two general membership meetings per year? Can you handle Excel membership and meeting registration databases, e-mail, and send a letter?

Yes? Then maybe you are our association's next secretary. Come to the Fall Meeting and your name will be put on the ballot.

Welcome our new Long Island Director

Please welcome Long Island native Tom Tyrrell to the ESHPA board as Long Island director.

Tom is an experienced beekeeper and owner of Tom's Honey Bees since 2003. He runs 85 hives for honey, pollination, nuc, and queen sales.

In addition to his ESHPA duties, he is a member of the LI Farm Bureau, NY Farm Bureau and LI Bee Club.



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Contact Sue at sgaring@verzion.net

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Webmaster		
Historian	Hans Junga	hans@castletv.com



Send memberships and address corrections to aedoan@rochester.rr.com

ESHPA Newsletter Deadlines

The ESHPA newsletter is expanding! We'll continue to publish two paper newsletters in advance of our Summer Picnic and Fall Meeting, but check your inboxes for more current events mailings from ESHPA. Have a regional meeting or a bee class that NY beekeepers need to know about? Let ESHPA know and we'll help you get the word out.

Summer Newsletter deadline: April 1

Fall Newsletter deadline: August 1

ESHPA Voting Bylaws Extracts

"Annual and life membership dues are set by the board of directors and approved by the general membership. Only paid-up members are eligible to vote on corporate business."

"Spouses of members must take out a separate membership if they wish to vote."

"A paid-up membership is entitled to one vote."

"A membership roll showing the list of members as of the record date, certified by the secretary of the corporation, shall be produced at any meeting of members upon the request therefore of any member who has given written notice to the corporation that such request will be made at least 10 days prior to such meeting. All persons appearing on such membership roll shall be entitled to vote at the meeting."

Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc.

2016 Fall Meeting Registration Form

November 4 & 5, 2016

Location: Embassy Suites, 6646 Old Collamer Rd., East Syracuse, NY 13057 www.Syracuse.EmbassySuites.com

Name _____

Date _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Number of hives (optional) _____

<u>Pre-Registration (Deadline: October 21):</u>		REGISTER ONLINE AT ESHPA.ORG
Member	\$60.00	_____
Member One day	\$30.00	_____
Non-Member	\$90.00	_____ (includes membership)
Non-Member One day registration	\$60.00	_____ (includes membership)
Student (includes non-voting membership)	\$30.00	_____

<u>Registration at meeting:</u>		
Member	\$80.00	_____
Member One day	\$50.00	_____
Non-Member	\$110.00	_____ (includes membership)
Non-Member One day registration	\$80.00	_____ (includes membership)
Student (includes non-voting membership)	\$30.00	_____

2016 Dues: Commercial \$100, Sideline \$50, Hobby \$30 Student \$10 _____
 2017 Dues: Commercial \$100, Sideline \$50, Hobby \$30 Student \$10 _____

Conference Meals:

Friday Luncheon: No. people x \$20.00 _____

Friday Banquet: No. people x \$30.00 _____

Saturday Luncheon: No. people x \$20.00 _____

Total _____

Mail registration and dues form to
 Alayne Doan, ESHPA Secretary, 343 Morton Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464
 Check or money order should be made payable to **ESHPA.**

* Please make room reservations by noon, October 17, to be sure of the reduced rate. Mention that you are with the Empire State Beekeepers to get the group rate of \$122 (King), \$129 (Double).



Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc.

Membership Form

Please complete this membership form and send it along with a check (payable to E.S.H.P.A.) to
Alayne Doan, Secretary
343 Morton Rd.
Hamlin, NY 14464

Or join **online** at www.ESHPA.org

Please select a membership year:

- Dues for membership year January 1- December 31, **2016** see list below
- Dues for membership year January 1- December 31, **2017** see list below

Please select a membership level:

- Commercial (300 + hives) \$100.00
- Sideline (50-299 hives) \$ 50.00
- Hobbyist (0-49 hives) \$ 30.00
- Student \$ 10.00 (nonvoting)

You can also pay for your ESHPA dues online. Membership is individual, one membership one vote. ESHPA bylaws require membership to be paid in full 10 days before a General Meeting to vote at that meeting. Thank you for joining/renewing.

\$_____ Total amount enclosed

Only individual dues-paying members may vote. One vote per member.

Member Name	
Business Name	
Mailing Line 1	
Mailing Line 2	
City, State, Zip	
E-Mail	
Phone 1	
Phone 2	

- I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail.
- Please mail my newsletter.

Revised 3/4/2016 SCG



ESHPA
 343 Morton Road
 Hamlin, NY 14464

Calendar of ESHPA Events

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