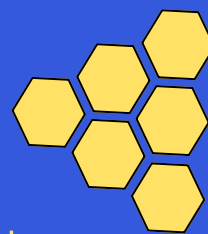




The Producers



The Newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc.

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

Fall 2014
Issue 98

ESHPA – 2014 Fall Meeting November 21—November 22, 2014

Location: Embassy Suites 6646 Old Collamer Rd.,
East Syracuse, 13057 www.Syracuse.EmbassySuites.com
Hotel reservation link: <http://bit.ly/1qtZU1E>

The Empire State Honey Producers Association is dedicated to promoting and preserving the common interests and welfare of honey producers in NY. This includes the large commercial operators, serious sideliners, backyard hobbyists, and anyone else seriously interested in beekeeping. The ever increasing challenges facing beekeepers can be most effectively met by a unified and cohesive strategy of cooperation, education and networking among all members of the beekeeping community.

This year's meeting will feature:

- Two full days of informative and stimulating presentations by distinguished guest speakers.
- Gourmet banquet
- Live auction
- Honey judging show with cash prizes totaling \$1,300. (4 categories in liquid honey, 3 categories in wax). See 2014 summer newsletter on the webpage for full rules. Entries deadline is noon on Friday, November 21.
- Vendor trade show
- ESPHA business meeting Friday afternoon

OUR SPEAKERS

David Mendes has been a commercial beekeeper for 35+ years. He is the owner of Headwaters Farm, of North Fort Myers, Fla., which provides hives to pollinate California almonds, Maine blueberries, and Massachusetts cranberries. David has been an active proponent of bee research and extension to improve beekeeper management. Recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and articulate beekeepers in the industry, Mr.

Mendes is frequently invited to speak in domestic and international forums, as well as to provide the beekeepers' perspective to government entities who are assigned to deal with the bee crisis. He is the

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President's Corner

Dear Friends, those I know, and those I haven't yet met,

As of the writing of this newsletter, here in the North Country anyway, we are in the midst of the goldenrod bloom. My bees may actually get some aster honey this year—they usually don't. Goldenrod, Purple-loosestrife, the asters, knapweed, and knotweed, are all in bloom. So far I am seeing better honey production from my hives this year than the past two years in a row. What I hear from older beekeepers who pay attention to such things is that the last two years may have been the poorest honey production years on record. I hope you have had a good year production-wise and that your bees are healthy and ready for winter.

ESHPA is in need of a few things from its membership. We need an archivist/historian. Our longtime and steadfast archivist, Fred Ludewig from Schenectady, has asked, actually asked a couple of years ago, that we find someone else to take possession of the association records and paraphernalia. I have no real idea what all this entails, but someone needs to meet a couple of times with Fred, find out what he has, take possession of what he has, store it and keep it safe. Please, whoever you are, please step up.

ESHPA also needs two regional directors to fill out the board of directors. We need someone from the western and southern regions. If you are interested in helping run and direct this organization, please step up. You are needed. (See page 15 for a definition of the geographical regions.)

As president of the board of directors and therefore ESHPA, I have the privilege to appoint someone as member-at-large. Ben Carpenter had a desire to be put on last year's ballot for the western director position, but a technicality prevented his nomination. That didn't set Ben back in his desire to be of service to this association. When it came time to find someone to set things up for the 2014 summer picnic Ben's name

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former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, a member of the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, a board member of Project Apis m, and a trustee of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. He is also a life member of the Florida State Beekeepers Association and the Eastern Apicultural Society. When not tied up in conference calls and board meetings, he operates 20,000+ beehives for pollination and honey production.

Topics will include:

- Supplemental feeding of protein and carbohydrates
- The future of commercial bee pollination in the U.S.



Karen Rennich is project manager of the Bee Informed Partnership and the APHIS National Survey. Based out of the University of Maryland's Entomology Department, she works closely with all members of the BIP team and other organizations throughout the U.S., and gets to tackle everything from

data analysis to field work and all jobs in between to keep BIP's goals in sight and to keep the project moving forward. She has been a beekeeper for seven years and manages 12 colonies at home.

Topics will include:

- Beekeeping on the back of a truck - what it takes and why?
- BIP – News from the front lines.



Gregg Hannaford is a 20-year beekeeper and retired businessman. He and his wife Shelly are the owners of Ozark Bee Supply in Tulsa, Okla. and operate around 150 hives. Greg is also one of the largest nuc producers in Oklahoma. As a speaker, Greg has a unique way of cutting through the hype

and getting down to the basic principles of bees. A frequent speaker at the Serious Sideliner Symposium at the American Beekeeping Federation, Greg generally focuses on marketing and economics, which is just a fancy way of saying "making the most income possible." But, by far, most of his work is at the local level teaching hobby beekeepers to be better, more intuitive beekeepers.

Topics will include:

- Making the jump. Hobby to sideliner to full time: Are you ready for this?
- Be the beekeeper they know. Low cost strategies for personal marketing. (Image matters)
- \$500/hive: An overview of beekeeping / Beekonomics
- Record keeping and accounting for beekeepers
- Spit in one hand, wish in the other; see which one fills up first. Setting and achieving your goals



Bob Talkiewicz has applied his diverse marketing background to the sale of bee products and beekeeping supplies. He shares his passion for beekeeping by teaching introductory beekeeping at SUNY-Broome Community College. He is an award winning mead maker and producer of innovative

beekeeping tools and related gifts.

Topic: Introduction to mead making



Paul Cappy is head apiculturist for the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Plant Industry. He will be providing updated information on the current status of the New York State Bee Inspection Program.

Also speaking:

Farm Bureau Representative
Lyme Disease Physician

ACCOMMODATIONS

Enjoy the luxury of the spacious all-suite accommodations at the Embassy Suites Hotel in East Syracuse. Room rate includes:

- Spacious two-room suite
- Complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast
- On-site fitness center, heated indoor pool and whirlpool
- Complimentary evening reception with drinks and appetizers.

DINING

This year's banquet is a gourmet honey themed treat:

- Soup du jour and warm rolls with honey butter
- Seasonal greens and blanched vegetables tossed with honey-balsamic vinaigrette
- Honey brined French-cut chicken with seared young spinach and cumin-scented rice
- Vegetable lasagna
- Dessert—port-poached pear filled with honey - sweetened mascarpone.

..... AND MANY MORE EVENTS

Honey and Wax Judging contest Lots of ribbons and \$1,300 in prizes! Bring three one-pound queenline jars for each color class (judges will assign the class). For the wax classes, bring at least a one-pound block of wax, two matching molded taper candles, or two connected dipped taper candles with drip ends unclipped. No identifying labels on any submission. See summer newsletter for more details.

Live auction at the banquet. Please bring items for the auction, and your wallet, of course!

Vendors Vendors Vendors. The vendor area will be open all day Friday and Saturday. Vendors include [Betterbee](#), [Brush Mountain](#), [Hungrey Bear Farms](#), [Dadant](#), [Mann Lake](#) and [Ozark Bee Supply](#).

A select group of NY producers will provide mead for the banquet. Come and enjoy a mead tasting with dinner.

NY Products "nosh" table. Donate your pre-packaged NY-produced food and/or honey products to our "hospitality" table. Get your name out there and help sooth the grumbling tummies of folks who traveled far to the meeting.

Introduction to Beekeeping table with an observation hive. People don't get tired of the "find the queen" game, do they? Volunteer to talk bees with other hotel guests and the media.

Bring a food pantry donation. We will have a barrel set out for local food pantry donations.

2014 ESHPA Fall Meeting

ESHPA Meeting Schedule – Friday, November 21, 2014

- 8:15 am Registration
- 8:45 am Welcome & Introduction of Directors & Officers
– Mark Berninghausen
- 9:00 am New York State Bee Inspection Program Update - Paul Cappy
- 9:30 am (Session topic to be determined)
– Randy Verhoek, AHPA President
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am News from the front lines - Karen Rennich
- 11:15 am Setting and achieving your goals - Gregg Hannaford
- 12:00 pm Honey Contest deadline. Entries must be at the judging table
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Farm Bureau
- 1:30 pm Do you like to eat? So do bees! - Dave Mendes
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Record keeping and accounting for beekeepers
– Gregg Hannaford
- 3:00 pm ABF (Dave Mendes) & AHPA (Randy Verhoek) Representatives
- 3:45 pm Break
- 4:00 pm Business Meeting
- 6:00 pm Social Hour with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages
- 7:00 pm Banquet / Silent Auction / Live Auction / Awards
Banquet Speaker– Dave Mendes

ESHPA Meeting Schedule – Saturday, November 22, 2014

- 8:15 am Registration
- 9:00 am Introduction to Mead Making (Including Judging Criteria)
– Bob Talkiewicz
- 9:45 am Making the jump: Hobby to Sideliner to Full Time
– Greg Hannaford
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Be the Beekeeper They Know – Greg Hannaford
- 11:15 am Future of Commercial Bee Pollination in the U.S.
– Dave Mendes
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm (Session topic to be determined) – Randy Verhoek
- 1:30 pm Beekeeping on the Back of a Truck – Karen Rennich
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm \$500 per Hive/Beekonomics
- 3:15 pm (Session topic & speaker to be determined) Lyme Disease?

The fall board of directors meeting will take place Thursday, November 20, 7 pm at the hotel. *ESHPA members may attend ESHPA board meetings. Officers and directors welcome your suggestions at any time.*

New York Beekeeping Business Profile:

Wixson's Honey

by Eric Sprout,
East Coast Pollination



In 1912, Roscoe Wixson Sr. kept honey bees and raised chickens in Dundee, NY. Two years later, in 1914, he decided that he would only keep honey bees. In 1927, "Wixson's Honey" became an official business. Today, Wixson's Honey is still operating at the same Dundee location where it was started by Roscoe Wixson.

In 1991, Jerry Howell answered an employment ad in the local newspaper. Jerry had gone to college to become a teacher and also wanted to become a basketball coach, but was happiest doing physical work. Jerry telephoned about the ad, but when the voice answered "Wixson's Honey" he hung up. A short time later he called back, was interviewed and hired by Roscoe Wixson Jr. Jerry worked very closely with Roscoe Wixson Jr. until his death in 2006. The business was left to Roscoe's family and Jerry. Since 2008, Jerry has been the full-time owner and manager. During the past four years, the Wixson's Honey enterprise has been renovated to meet FDA standards. A 9,000 square foot warehouse was erected last summer to accommodate the increased demands of the honey business. This summer Wixson's Honey became British Retail Consortium (BRC) certified; BRC is a world-wide retail product standard.

Wixson's Honey sources honey from local hobby beekeepers, Jerry's own hives, and from commercial beekeepers all over the world. When honey is delivered to Wixson's, it is graded, checked for moisture content, color, and flavor. Samples are randomly sent to be tested for pesticides, antibiotics and adulteration of C4 sugars. Wixson's Honey is a component in beers, cough syrups, and bakery products.

Jerry has seen many changes over the years in beekeeping and honey production. Over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of hobby beekeepers. Overall interest in the well-being of honey bees has increased. But the number of commercial beekeepers has decreased.

Several challenges are currently affecting the honey industry. The use of pesticides has increased and there is a decrease in the availability of wild bee forage. Beekeepers are also experiencing harder winters.

Wixson's Honey sells honey in the Northeast United States, as well as providing bees, beekeeping equipment, and containers. See Wixson's Honey website at <http://www.wixsonhoney.com/>

was suggested. He turned out to be just the person to get things done. Ben and his wife, Kim, actually, but I can only appoint one person.

Ben and Kim did what I call Herculean work reserving the location for our picnic and getting all sorts of things organized and delivered on site. And for that I rewarded them by appointing Ben as member-at-large. Ben has also agreed to take responsibility for our website from long-serving webmaster Greg Kalicin. This is Ben's line of work and he has agreed to revamp our website and other electronic communications.

If you have seen the eye-catching 2014 fall meeting flyer, you have already seen the benefit of having Ben Carpenter's presence in this organization. Our secretary, Alayne Doan, and the fall meeting committee gave him great support. We may not be able to count this as a twofer, but Kim is right there too. I am glad they are with us.

We are going to have a great meeting come November. I hope each and every one of you will be there. Without the membership what are we, what is ESHPA? If you can't be there, maybe you could send someone as your representative. Someone new to the organization perhaps. But, mostly, I hope you, the members, will come.

A number of people have been working long and hard at finding a new meeting place and getting a roster of speakers to fill two whole days for your education and enjoyment. So please honor them by showing up.

Later in this newsletter you will find State Fair Honey Booth Committee chair Hans Junga's report of what went on at the fair. Suffice it to say, the list of those who worked the booth and provided honey for sale is a long one. Thank you all. We hope to see you all again at the fair next year. And we hope more of you will volunteer also.

I especially want to thank those folks who repaired and painted the "Bee-zebo"; Kathy Finnerty, Ted Elk, and Hans Junga really spruced it up. It looks great, and it was really attractive to passersby at the booth. Thank you.

I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the fall meeting. Be sure to say "hi" and bend my ear if you wish. But be warned: bring a problem? Better bring a solution too. Bring an idea? Bring a plan too. If there is something you want ESHPA to do, let's run it up the flag pole and see who salutes. What's to lose?

Yours truly,
MarkB

Mark Berninghausen
2014 ESHPA President

Proposed NY Legislation of Interest to NY Beekeepers: "The HIVE Act"

http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&bn=S07453&term=2013&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y&Votes=Y

SO 7453 IN SENATE May 15, 2014

Introduced by Sen. GIPSON www.nysenate.gov/senator/terry-gipson

-- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to bee diseases

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "honeybee
- 2 infectious disease verification and eradication (HIVE) act".
- 3 S 2. Section 174 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by
- 4 adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:
- 5 10. ANY PERSON WHO OWNS BEES OR HIVES KNOWN OR DETERMINED BY THE
- 6 COMMISSIONER TO BE INFESTED WITH, OR EXPOSED TO, CONTAGIOUS OR INFEC-
- 7 TIOUS DISEASES SHALL CAUSE SUCH SAMPLES OF SUCH BEES OR HIVES TO BE
- 8 PLACED IN A SEALED CONTAINER TO BE HELD FOR COLLECTION BY THE COMMIS-
- 9 SIONER OR HIS OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. THE COMMISSIONER
- 10 OR HIS OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES SHALL COLLECT SUCH SAMPLES
- 11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING, ANALYSIS AND RECORD-KEEPING. THE COMMIS-
- 12 SIONER SHALL MAINTAIN DATA ON, AS A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING:
- 13 (A) THE DATE SUCH SAMPLES WERE ACQUIRED;
- 14 (B) THE LOCATION FROM WHICH SUCH SAMPLES WERE ACQUIRED;
- 15 (C) THE ORIGIN OF THE HIVE FROM WHICH SUCH SAMPLES DERIVE AND ALL
- 16 LOCATIONS OF SUCH HIVE WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS;
- 17 (D) THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY THE HIVE FROM WHICH SUCH SAMPLES DERIVE;
- 18 (E) THE TYPE OF DISEASE OR DISEASES IDENTIFIED IN THE SAMPLES;
- 19 (F) THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE PERSON OR BUSINESS THAT
- 20 SUPPLIED SUCH SAMPLES; AND
- 21 (G) ANY FURTHER INFORMATION DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE APIARY INDUSTRY
- 22 ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR THE COMMISSIONER TO ASSESS THE HEALTH OF THE
- 23 WILD AND CAPTIVE HONEY BEE POPULATIONS IN THE STATE.
- 24 S 3. Section 169-d of the agriculture and markets law is amended by
- 25 adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:
- 26 5. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL PREPARE A REPORT ON THE WILD AND
- 27 CAPTIVE HONEY BEE POPULATION IN THE STATE. SUCH REPORT SHALL ADDRESS NO
- 28 FEWER THAN THE FOLLOWING ISSUES RELATED TO SUCH BEE POPULATIONS:
- 1 (A) THE ESTIMATED TOTAL HONEY BEE POPULATION;
- 2 (B) SEASONAL BEHAVIOR OF BEES;
- 3 (C) MOVEMENTS OF HIVES;
- 4 (D) ANY CAUSES OF DISRUPTION IN HONEY BEE POPULATIONS;
- 5 (E) DATA MAINTAINED AND RESULTS OF TESTS PERFORMED PURSUANT TO SUBDI-
- 6 VISION TEN OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR OF THIS CHAPTER;
- 7 (F) AGRICULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, AND OTHER USES OF THE HONEY BEE POPU-
- 8 LATION;
- 9 (G) ECONOMIC VALUE AND IMPACT OF THE HONEY BEE POPULATION;
- 10 (H) THE IMPACT TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY THAT RESULTS FROM A SIGNIF-
- 11 ICANT DECREASE IN THE HONEY BEE POPULATION; AND
- 12 (I) ANY OTHER ISSUES AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER.
- 13 IN ADDITION TO THESE ISSUES, THE REPORT SHALL ALSO INCLUDE, AS A MINI-
- 14 MUM, THE FOLLOWING:
- 15 (I) A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACTS AND CAUSES OF DISEASES AND WAYS TO
- 16 ALLEVIATE THEM;
- 17 (II) THE IMPACT OF CHEMICALS SUCH AS PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES, INDUS-
- 18 TRIAL EMISSIONS AND AIR QUALITY ON BEES;
- 19 (III) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND POLICY OPTIONS TO PROTECT
- 20 HONEY BEE POPULATIONS.
- 21 SUCH REPORT SHALL BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE EFFEC-
- 22 TIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION AND SHALL BE UPDATED EVERY FIVE YEARS
- 23 THEREAFTER. SUCH REPORT SHALL BE MAINTAINED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE
- 24 DEPARTMENT AND DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
- 25 AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY.
- 26 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Report to the Empire State Honey Producers

By Paul Cappy

"What's happening" is a \$50,000 grant through the Legislature for Cornell to do a pilot research project on pesticides and honeybees. Agriculture and Markets oversees these contracts, and the department has had input on this grant, along with Cornell establishing a beekeeper committee as advisers to their project. An extension associate will be hired full-time this fall to start to develop a more detailed work plan for the project.

Cornell felt this is important to start, since five beekeepers in NY had 72.5% bee loss in the active bee season of 2013. The feeling was it is not mites or Nosema, but pesticides that is at the base of the bee loss problem. Secondly, Cornell has done three years' work with mason bees and pesticides and has found 24 pesticides in the pollen samples collected by the bees.

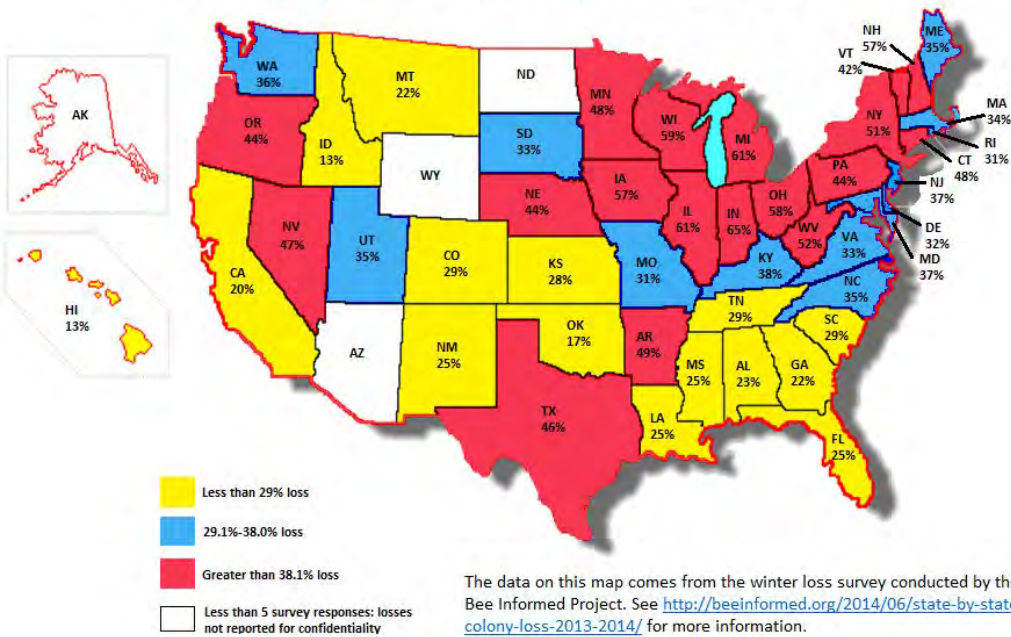
This information has set the pattern of pesticides from a specialty crop and now it needs to be confirmed with honey bees. The mason bees had 12 insecticides of the total 24 pesticides. This documentation by mason bees helps open the door so honey bees will not be a surprise when pesticides are reported. The hope is to add additional funds to this \$50,000 project to be able to gather more information in the initial sampling.

Paul Cappy,

NYS Apiculturist

518-457-2087 paul.cappy@agriculture.ny.gov

State Colony Losses for the Winter of 2013-2014



Paul Cappy presented this Bee Informed Project data at the 2014 ESHPA summer picnic. Colony loss data gathered by BIP indicates a 51% loss rate in NY and 44% in Pa.

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Contact Sue at sgaring@verzion.net

AIAC Update

By Stephen Wilson

The following information is extracted from the NYS Apiary Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) draft meeting minutes. This committee's purpose is to provide the commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets with up-to-date data on the conditions of the state's apiaries (honey bee health), to advise Ag & Mkts on bee-keeper needs, with special emphasis on how honey bees support agriculture.

AIAC met on June 19, 2014, at the NYS Fairgrounds. Through a direct telephone conference with the commissioner, we asked him to continue to express the dire need to continue the honey bee biology research and teaching programs at the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell. Additionally, we asked that he investigate the suggested possibility that state lands be made available as honey bee forage areas. Further, with respect to enhancing forage areas, he asked that AIAC provide a brief description of the suggestion that NYS DOT might substitute wildflower planting for the frequently-mowed grass median and rights-of-way strips along our state's highways.

AIAC approved a draft scope of work for applied research on the impacts of pesticides on colonies in NYS. This effort, which has been partially funded by a \$50,000 appropriation through Ag & Markets, is to be conducted by an extension research associate at Cornell. An advisory committee, which includes three members of ESHPA, has been formed to assist Cornell in project design and general oversight. While Cornell expects to be announcing this new position shortly, it is quite apparent that additional funds and human resources will be required for successful completion. The state apiculturist and I are pursuing viable sources to fulfill these needs, both immediate and long-term.

AIAC also reviewed the State Apiculturist's Summary and Analyses of major colony losses in western NY, which many attributed to pesticide applications in the summer of 2013.



Brownie Beekeepers (S. Garing)

Proposed Federal Legislation of Interest to NY Beekeepers

Organic Apiculture Practice Standard

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget
<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201404&RIN=0581-AD31>

Title: National Organic Program, Organic Apiculture Practice Standard, NOP-12-0063

Abstract: This action proposes to amend the USDA organic regulations to reflect an October 2010 recommendation submitted to the Secretary by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) concerning the production of organic apicultural (i.e. beekeeping) products. Instead of continuing to allow certifying agents to certify apiculture to the organic livestock standards, this action would establish certification standards specifically for organic bees and bee products. The scope of this action includes provisions for: transition to organic apiculture production, replacement bees, hive construction forage areas, supplemental feeding health care, pest control practices, and an organic apiculture system plan. This action would also add a new scope of certification and accreditation to the USDA organic regulations. This action does not regulate the use of bees for pollination of organic crops.

Final Action 11/2015

Agency Contact:
Melissa R Bailey
Director, Standards Division
Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
14th & Independence Avenue SW., Room 2646-South Building,
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Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Pollinator Protection Act

Introduced in House (05/30/2014) by Representative Alcee L. Hastings (D-Florida).
Eleven Co-sponsor but none from NYS

Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Pollinator Protection Act - Authorizes as an eligible project cost for the construction of a federal-aid highway the cost of improving habitat and forage for pollinators (i.e. bees, birds, bats, Monarch butterflies, and other butterflies) on rights-of-way adjacent to such highways.

Directs the Secretary of Transportation (DOT), in conjunction with willing states, to carry out programs that encourage: (1) integrated vegetation management practices on roadsides and other transportation rights-of-ways, including reduced mowing; (2) the development of habitat and forage for pollinators through planting of native forbs and grasses, including noninvasive, native milkweed species; and (3) research and demonstration projects on economic and environmental benefits and best practices for integrated vegetation management, reduced mowing, and planting of native forbs and grasses for pollinator habitat, forage, and migratory way stations for Monarch butterflies and other migrating pollinators.

Authorizes the use of federal funds for the provision of habitat, forage, and migratory way stations for Monarch butterflies, other native pollinators, and honey bees that is related to a federally-funded transportation project.

More information and text of bill:

<https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4790>



2014 New York State Fair
ESHPA Honey Booth



We had another successful state fair at the ESHPA booth this year thanks to everyone who supplied honey and all the volunteer help. Gross sales once again exceeded last year. The total earnings amounted to \$22,135.

ESHPA members supplying honey this year were Mark Berninghausen - Brasher Falls, Kim & Ben Carpenter - Middlesex, Tammy & Jeff Danielwicz - Cicero, Warren Gallaway - Westerville, Joan Ann & David Howland - Berkshire, Mike Johnston - Eaton, Chuck & Karen Kutik - Norwich, Lloyd Spear - Schenectady, and Christina Wahl - Thousand Islands. Pure beeswax and candles were provided by Jonathan Ryan - King Ferry. The honey competition was judged for the second year by Sue Garing. The best of show was awarded to Mark Fiegl of Marion, NY, for his cut comb honey. Blue ribbons in other categories for extracted honey and beeswax were given to Mark and Pat Bono, raising the bar for excellence in the honey show. Wait until next year...

The success of the honey booth is made possible with the help from all the volunteers. We are especially thankful to all who came in for two or more shifts during the 12 days. People visiting the fair this year were fortunate to be able to gain knowledge from our beekeepers, who have anywhere from 2 to 2,000 hives. Earl Villecco, as usual, saved the day many times delivering product to replace the fast-selling honey.

Special thanks go to Christina Wahl with her contributions in setting up and maintaining a new part of the display. The pollination exhibit was enjoyed by many interested in identifying wildflowers important for nectar and pollen, see-



Taste of NY and the Dairy Producers cooperate with the Empire State Honey Producers at the NY State Fair "Yo2Go" yogurt bar promotion.

Dan Winters samples a NYS yogurt parfait mixed with NYS honey.



ing how it is stored in the honeycomb, and observing bees and flowers up-close through a microscope.

Improvements were made to the bee gazebo with a lot of hard work by Ted Elk, Kathy Finnerty, and others. The newly painted colors made for an attractive addition to the Horticulture building. Ted was instrumental in negotiating for the extra space given to us by the fair this year.

Hopefully, with good ideas from all willing to contribute, we can continue to develop and improve the honey display.

Hans Junga



Congratulation to the 2014 New York State Honey Products competition winners!

Light Extracted	Pat Bono
Light Amber Extracted	Hans Junga
Amber Extracted	Mark Fiegl
Dark Amber Extracted	Pat Bono
Cut Comb 4"	Mark Fiegl
Circular Sections	Kenneth DeWolfe
Wax Single Piece	Pat Bono
Beeswax Candles	Pat Bono

Photos from the 2014 State Fair ESHPA Honey Booth



The refreshed
"bee-zebo"

BEFORE ...

... AFTER



Curious visitors
of all ages look
through
microscopes at
bees and
flowering plants
at the newly
expanded booth.

And the
winners
are...



Honey sales are brisk and eagerly anticipated by returning customers. Everyone loves to sample honey from across NY.





New York Bee Wellness Program Update

Three Years of Bee Disease Identification Workshops

In 2014 two “trainer the trainer” workshops were held, one in June at the Stony Kill Farm in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County, the other in August at Genesee Community College in Batavia. Both workshops incorporated lecture, lab, and field work designed to teach beekeepers skills for identifying honeybee disease. We were very fortunate to have Larry Connor, Diana Sammataro, and the Ontario Tech Transfer team impart their beekeeping knowledge as instructors. Beehives from the Stony Kill Apiary group, led by Danny Girton, were permitted to be inspected by the workshop students. In Batavia, an apiary owned by Don Seames was supplemented by a couple of pallets of bees from Todd White.



About NY Bee Wellness

NY Bee Wellness, Inc. is an independent educational not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to educate new, beginning, and small scale beekeepers in honey bee disease recognition, and to provide services for beekeepers for maintaining healthy honey bee colonies in NY and the surrounding region. The organization conducts intensive, skills oriented workshops, including “train the trainer programs.” It provides educational printed material, surveys beekeepers for disease incidence and bee survival, maintains an educational website, and writes a quarterly newsletter, along with many other services.

As author of the grant proposal and project director, I initiated the program in response to the large number of new beekeepers entering the challenging vocation of beekeeping. While there are many pests and diseases affecting the honey bee, the most damaging is the Varroa destructor mite and the viruses they transmit; assessing bees for the level of Varroa infestation helps the beekeeper develop a management strategy.



NY State Bee Wellness Workshops have been going on these past three years, training many trainers from almost all of the local bee clubs across NY. We have also included participants from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Quebec, and Ohio. Ohio has since started its own program inspired by NY Bee Wellness at Ohio State University.



Drone Brood Inspection

To date, about 100 NY Bee Wellness trainers have completed the intensive two day workshops, and they in turn have educated over a thousand new beekeepers.

The program was funded through a \$59,000 grant from the USDA-NIFA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program in 2011, and from donations from individuals and bee groups like the Western NY Beekeepers Association and the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc, which has just sent a generous donation \$4,000.

It is a volunteer run organization, and donations, ideas, and support are gratefully accepted. We also have t-shirts and caps to sell as fundraisers to help continue this program.

Look for a Fall newsletter and a Fall survey from NY Bee Wellness soon.



Please visit NYBeeWellness.org. If your club or group would like printed info on honey bee disease, contact: pat@nybeewellness.org, 585-820-6619
Thank you!

Pat Bono, Project Director



Sugar Dusted Bees Returning

Summary of the 2014 Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: March 1, 2014 - 10:30 am

Location: Kutik's Honey House, Norwich, NY

Attendees: Mark Berninghausen, Chuck Kutik, Eric Sprout, Donal Peterson, Bill Roome, John Ryan, Sue Garing, Alayne Doan, and ESHPA member observer Steven Wilson.

President Mark Berninghausen called the meeting to order. Mark presented an address stating his views on ESHPA's future.

The first motion was made by Donal Peterson to accept the 2013 fall board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Sue Garing and was passed.

The second motion was made by Chuck Kutik to approve the general 2013 fall meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by John Ryan and was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The State Fair Committee formed with Hans Junga as chairman, Rob Sorenson, and Bill Roome also on the committee. Hans will handle all State Fair paperwork going forward. ESHPA will fund new displays at the State Fair booth. The board agreed to allow Hans to spend money on new display fixtures. The board decided to allow only sale of honey and wax products at the State Fair booth.

The Meeting Planning Committee was formed with Chuck Kutik as chairman, Alayne Doan and Eric Sprout also on the committee. The ongoing summer meeting plan was presented by Chuck. It is being hosted by the Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeeper Association in Canandaigua, NY. John Ryan and Sue Garing will present a class on Honey Judging. Tools used by the competition will be discussed and on display. This talk is to encourage members to sign up for the honey show being held at the ESHPA annual fall meeting this coming November. Chuck Kutik has ordered a digital refractometer for ESHPA. A volunteer signup sheet will also be on hand at the summer picnic seeking help with this fall honey show. (See Summer newsletter for honey show rules).

The third motion was made by Bill Roome to approve the \$1,750.00 budget needed to cover the 2014 honey show expenses and prize monies. It was second by Chuck Kutik and was passed.

Alayne Doan presented a report on the upcoming fall meeting in November 2014. Chuck Kutik suggested asking for sponsorship from vendors to offset some meeting costs (meeting breaks, etc.). In return sponsors would be posted on the web site, brochures, and in newsletters.

The fourth motion was made by Chuck Kutik to approve the 2014 meeting registration fees, second by Alayne Doan. The vote passed. A \$5.00 discount will be given to for pre-paid (10 days in advance) registration by members.

A Bylaws committee was formed with Mark Berninghausen as chairman and Jim Doan and Bob Bauman also on the committee. No report at this time.

A Website and Newsletter committee was formed with Sue Garing as chairman and Greg Kalicin, Alayne Doan, and Ben Carpenter also

on the committee. The committee will update and freshen up these two information sources. A suggestion was made by observer Steven Wilson to make Sue Garing the editor of ESHPA newsletter going forward. Sue graciously accepted this new role.

The Beekeeper of the Year committee was formed with Donal Peterson as chairman and Amy Wakefield also on the committee. Mark Berninghausen suggested that Donal come up with honoree criteria, looking at Hans Junga's memos and past listings. There was a discussion that this award could be used for public relations with the general public, local, and state government.

The fifth motion was made by Jon Ryan: "If B.O.Y. committee could not arrive with a suitable recipient to that year's B.O.Y., as defined by the committee criteria, then there need not be a recipient for that given year." The motion was seconded by Donal Peterson. The motion passed.

The NY BeeWellness program was discussed. Pat Bono will be asked to speak on the program's status at the fall meeting. She will also have a free space in the vendor area to showcase this program.

A Membership Committee was formed with Mark Berninghausen as chairman, committee open. A discussion followed about sending out postcards and e-mails to past members. Also discussed were the eligibility criteria for the USPS bulk mailing rate, possibly resulting in a large savings when doing mailings. A discussion followed about what date someone had to become a member in order to vote at the general membership meetings. A decision was made to clarify when the cut off dates for yearly membership were. It was concluded that membership runs from January 1 to December 31 for the year for which it is paid. This was to be added to the membership form to make sure everyone understood it.

A Nominations committee was formed with Mark Berninghausen as chairman, committee open. It was discussed that the slate of nominations should be set by the summer picnic.

An Outreach and Promotions Committee was formed with Chuck Kutik as chairman, and Sue Garing also on the committee. Sue is currently working on a PowerPoint presentation that, in a fun, light and positive way states: "What is ESHPA? What are our goals for NYS Beekeepers?" It also would contain the summer and fall meeting information. Sue passed out the PowerPoint draft for review by the board at this meeting. Discussion followed that all board members try to make personal appearances to their local bee clubs and groups to promote ESHPA with this tool when completed. They will ask on how ESHPA can help them.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liability insurance policies were discussed. Mark Berninghausen asked Alayne Doan to look into this matter and report back to him. Chuck Kutik purchased the honey judging equipment needed. He will give it to Jon Ryan, as head of the 2014 Honey Show for storage.

A discussion on honey promotion noted that the current "Pride of NY" program has not included honey in their listing of NY products produced and sold. Mark Berninghausen will write to our NYS Commissioner of Agriculture asking the program to include honey in the listing.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue Garing gave the treasurer report. Sue suggested creating an ESHPA budget. All committees must report their full expenses in order to complete a successful budget. In addition Hans Junga as State Fair Chairman needs to be added as a bank card holder to help him oversee the State Fair booth. An audit on ESHPA financial records was discussed. Sue Garing suggested 2-3 board members audit the books.

The sixth motion was made to accept this report by Alayne Doan and seconded by John Ryan. The vote was passed.

Changing the 2015 dues structure was discussed. Chuck Kutik stated that both national beekeeping organizations maintain their dues structure in a 3-tier format. Chuck suggested ESHPA also use a three tiered structure: Commercial (300+ hives) \$100.00, Sideliner (50-299+ hives) \$50.00, Hobbyist (0-49 hives) \$30.00.

The seventh motion was made by Chuck Kutik to change the current dues structure to a 3-tier schedule as stated above and Eric Sprout seconded the motion. The vote passed.

The eighth motion was made in response to Mark Berninghausen's concern about eligibility for office. The motion stated "He or she should be a member of ESHPA for 4 consecutive years and have had been a director on ESHPA board for 2 consecutive years in order for them to be eligible for President or officer of ESHPA." This would be a change to ESHPA current by-laws. The by-laws do not specifically say who is eligible for office. This proposed change must be published in the ESHPA newsletter (also see Spring Newsletter). The general membership will vote on the change at the general membership meeting in November 2014. The motion was seconded by Chuck Kutik. The vote passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Alayne Doan
ESHPA Secretary

Summary of the 2014 Summer Board Meeting Minutes—Draft

Date and Time: July 18, 2014 – 6:30pm

Location: Tinker Park, Rochester, NY

Attendees; Mark Berninghausen, Chuck Kutik, Sue Garing, Amy Wakefield, John Ryan, Dan Winters, Bill Roome, Ben Carpenter, Eric Sprout, Jim Doan, Alayne Doan.

The first motion was made by Bill Roome to approve the board minutes from March 2014 as amended. The vote passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Fair Committee- Ted Elk reported that they wanted to do some much needed repairs on the gazebo. He also stated that the Fair gave us an additional 20 feet of sales space. Hans and Ted are looking into making a video: "The Year of a New York State Beekeeper".

The second motion was made by Amy Wakefield to allocate \$1,000.00 for these State Fair projects. The vote passed.

Meeting Committee- Chuck Kutik reported that everything was on track with the Syracuse-Embassy Suites hotel arrangements, and that information on hotel and meeting registrations would be posted in this coming newsletter and also posted on our website. He said that the committee decided to plan two full days of speakers for the enjoyment for all NYS Beekeepers. Other meeting events include: a gourmet banquet, live auction, honey judging show with cash prizes totaling \$1,000.00, vendors representing the biggest suppliers of beekeeping equipment on-site for both days. Chuck also said that the speakers lined up were as follows (also see fall meeting article) David Mendes, a commercial beekeeper speaking on Supplemental feeding of protein and carbohydrates, and the future of commercial bee pollination in the US.

Karen Rennich, the project leader of the "Bee Informed Partnership" and the "APHIS National Survey". Ms. Rennich topics will include; "Beekeeping on the back of a truck- what it takes and WHY". "BIP- News from the Front Lines."

Gregg Hannaford, owners of Ozark Bee Supply in Tulsa, OK.. Mr. Hannaford is a frequent speaker at the Serious Sideliner Symposium at the American Beekeeping Federation. Mr. Hannaford topics will include:

-Making the jump from Hobby to sideliner to full time; "Are you ready for this"?

-Be the Beekeeper they know/low cost strategies for personal marketing.

-\$500.00/Hive: An overview of beekeeping or "Beekonomics"

-Record keeping and accounting for beekeepers

-"Split in one hand, wish in the other, see which one fills up first/ Setting and achieving your goals."

Bob Talkiewicz, teaches introductory bee-keeping at SUNY-Broome Community College. He is an award winning Mead maker and producer of innovative beekeeping tools and related gifts. Mr. Talkiewicz topics will include:

-Introduction to Mead making.

Paul Cappy is the head apiculturist for the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets division of Plant Industry. He will talk of recent activity in the NYS Bee inspection program.

Ms. Lauren Williams, is the Assistant Director of Public Policy for NYS Farm Bureau.

A Lyme disease Physician

By Laws Committee- No Report

Website/Newsletter Committee- Sue Garing reported that for the fall 2014 newsletter she would be requesting board member biographies. Sue would like a full report on this year's State Fair, and asked for any pictures taken please be sent to her.

Beekeeper of the Year Committee- A request for information on missing names on the history list of BOY was made to board members.

NY Bee Wellness Committee- Pat Bono, Chairman of Bee Wellness submitted a written report that said "USDA BFRDP Award (NY Bee Wellness) Year 3: 2 day workshop in Dutchess County successfully completed with positive reviews; last workshop will be in August 2014; Grant period ends 8/14/2014. Final USDA report due by November 2014. All ASAP funds have been withdrawn."

Membership Committee- The committee reported that there will be four ESHPA board vacancies in fall of 2014. The committee will give an updated report with nominations at the annual meeting in November.

Nominations Committee- No report

Outreach and Promotions Committee- Sue Garing and Chuck Kutik along with Ben Carpender are working on an educational flyer promoting our fall meeting. It is to be sent to NYS bee clubs and handed out at the State Fair.

Treasurer's Report- Sue Garing submitted her report.

AIAC Liaison Report- Jim Doan reported on the latest AIAC Meeting.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alayne updated the board on the liability insurance application status. Alayne will proceed forward now after concerns were discussed and addressed by board members.

The third motion, "The board is recommends to keeping the name Empire State Honey Producers' Association, Inc." was made after discussion of a previous proposition to change the organization's name. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

There was no request for future funding of BeeWellness at this time.

The forth motion was made to pay Sue Garing \$1,000.00 a year for editing our newsletter. The vote passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Doan led a discussion about appointing someone to represent the association on the Advisory/Oversight Committee which is overseeing new researcher into NY honey issues and research at Cornell. This position is funded by a \$50,000.00 NYS grant. The appointment would be made by the ESHPA president. No motion was made.

Board stated that they wished to see additional reports on past work before giving additional monies to the Pollinator Stewardship Council.

A discussion followed of State Senate Bill #S07453 aka; "The Honeybee Disease Identification Verification and Eradication Act." (The Hive Act). It was decided that no further action needed at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alayne Doan
Secretary

Summary of ESHPA Summer Picnic Minutes—Draft

Date and Time: July 19, 2014 - 1:30 pm

Location: Tinker Park, Rochester, NY

Welcome by ESHPA President Mark Berninghausen.

Roll call was taken- A quorum was not present and therefore no new business was conducted by the Association.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Fair- Hans Junga had a signup sheet for folks wanting to volunteer at the fair. Hans and Ted Elk reported on changes being made such as an extra 20 feet of sales space at the fair booth given by the State Fair.

Ted mentioned that the committee was looking into working with the Apple Growers Association in combining their efforts in some areas for 2015. Ted also discussed creating a promotional honey bee video and hands on educational area at our booth for 2015.

Hans advised that the price per pound on honey sold at the Fair would increase this year. He recommended that we increase the price by one dollar. Of that, 50 cents per pound would go to ESHPA, and 50 cents per pound would go to the beekeeper. A comment was made that ESHPA booth is selling us as beekeepers and not just honey.

Nominations Committee- Bill Roome announced there were two board positions available at this time from the western and southern regions. There will be a total of four board positions available at the fall annual meeting.

Beekeeper of the Year Committee- A list of all known BOY's was handed out, and a request for information on missing names was made.

Meeting Committee- Chuck Kutik stated that everything was on track with the Syracuse-Embassy Suites, and that information about hotel and meeting registration would be posted in this coming newsletter and also posted on our website. Chuck provided a list of speakers (see fall meeting information article for the current list of speakers).

By Laws Committee- A discussion was held on board eligibility and changing of the ESHPA By-laws. The board is investigating further at this time.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Fred Ludewig is not well, Secretary Alayne Doan will send out card. Mrs. Rodger Morris not well, and in a nursing home. John Ryan will send contact information to Alayne so she can send a card. Bill Crowell's son passed away. Alayne will send card.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Earl Villecco expressed interest in a joint meeting between ESHPA and the Ontario Beekeepers Association, or the Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association. He will look into it further.

Karen Kutik asked about the proposed Honey Bee Habitat Program by President Obama. This proposed program will be worked thru FSA. Farmers, state, and towns may receive funding to plant Honey Bee Habitat. Ted Elk requested donations for the upcoming auction at ESHPA's fall meeting.

Adjourn- 2:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alayne Doan
ESHPA Secretary

Board Seeks Advice on Continuing Support for Organization

At the fall 2012 general membership meeting the membership voted to donate \$2500 to the Pollinator Defense Fund. Since that time they have changed their name to be the Pollinator Stewardship Council (<http://pollinatorstewardship.org/>.) We have received additional requests for support. The ESHPA board seeks feedback on continuing support for this organization.

Their stated mission is (from their website About Us/Our Mission):

As pollination is required for one-third of the nation's food supply, we strive to accomplish our mission through the following activities:

- Affect regulatory processes of pesticide risk assessment, label, and enforcement
- Provide advocacy, guidance and tools to document the detrimental effect of pesticides on pollinators.
- Raise awareness about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators critical to the supply of food and the ecosystem.

Additional information on accomplishments is available on their "Annual Report" webpage.

Honey Banana Nut Muffins From the Kitchen of Lucinda V. Van Vleck

Beat together:

- 2 eggs
- ½ c. shortening
- ½ c. honey
- 2 mashed bananas

Mix together and then stir into above ingredients:

- 1 ¾ c. flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt

Stir in ½ c. chopped walnuts.

Bake at 325° in greased muffin pan. Makes 1 dozen muffins or 2 dozen mini muffins.

ESHPA 2014 Summer Picnic

The ESHPA Summer Picnic was held at beautiful Tinker Nature Park in Henrietta just south of Rochester, NY. Our hosts are the Ontario Finger Lakes Beekeepers Association. Special thanks to Ben Carpenter for making the arrangements.



Scenic Tinker Nature Park



Fall Meeting show prizes on display



Lots of time to catch up with friends across the state, enjoy a potluck dinner, and listen to speakers



Beekeeper of the Year Award

In 1953 ESHPA established the tradition of the "Beekeeper of the Year" award. This honor, usually represented by an engraved plaque, is awarded at the banquet held during the fall meeting. Each year's selection is chosen by the committee appointed for that year. Nominations are solicited from the membership at large. It is understood that each BOTY recipient will meet the following criteria:

- Be a member in good standing of ESHPA for a minimum of five years, and
- has contributed in some substantial and positive way to beekeeping in NY.

Contact Amy Wakefield amywake@twcny.rr.com, (315) 493-0347 for addition informational and nominations.

New York Beekeeper of the Year Awards 1953 - 2013

The following list of beekeeper of the year awards has several gaps and may have some errors. If you can fill in any of the blanks or have corrections, please contact Sue Garing, 607-775-5041, sgaring@verizon.net

Year	Name	Residence
1953	B. B. Cogshall	Groton
1954	Harold Merrel	Wolcott
1955	Howard N. Myers	Ransomville
1956	Lavern Depew	Auburn
1957	Howard Norton	Limerick
1958	George Walthousen	Schenectady
1959	Earl Westfall	Howes Cave
1960	?	
1961	Howard B. Webb	Port Crane
1962	Claire C. Newton	Watertown
1963	J. Earl Mann	Lockport
1964	Claude Stevens	Venice Center
1965	(None - E. J. Dyce Honored at a joint meeting with Ontario)	
1966	Archie L Cogshall	Ithaca
1967	?	
1968	?	
1969	Harry T. Gable	Romulus
1970	Raymond Churchill	Watertown
1971	Paul Engelhardt	Antwerp
1972	?	
1973	Burel Lane	Trumansburg
1974	Julius Seewaldt	Johnsonburg
1975	William Summick	Gardiner
1976	Arthur Colvin	?
1977	Roscoe Wixson	Dundee
1978	?	
1979	?	
1980	?	
1981	Gifford Miller	Endicott
1982	Charles Leshner	Deer River
1983	Gerald Stevens	Moravia
1984	Roger A. Morse	Ithaca
1985	Dan Davis	Union Springs
1986	Howard Rulison	Amsterdam
1987	Mary Seewaldt	Johnsonburg
1988	Paul Ballard	Roxbury
1989	Judith Doan	Hamlin
1990	Robert Kime	Romulus
1991	Richard Taylor	Trumansburg



1992	Duane & Wanda Waid	Interlaken
1993	Edward Doan	Hamlin
1994	Robert Stevens	Greenwich
1995	Fred Ludewig	Ballston Spa
1996	Sherri McCann	Camillus
1997	None selected	
1998	None selected	
1999	Roberta Glatz	Feura Bush
2000	Earl Villeco	Port Crane
2001	William Crowell	Rome
2002	David Pawlowieh (postumously)	Little Falls
2003	Joe Rowland	Owego
2004	Aaron Morris	Round Lake
2005	Paul Cappy	Homer
2006	Richard, Amy Wakefield	Deer River
2007	Peter Bizzoso	Manorville
2008	George Lyke	Ontario
2009	Joan & Dave Howland	Berkshire
2010	Mark Rulison	Amsterdam
2011	Laurence W. Winter	Wolcott
2012	Art Gerber	Corfu, NY
2013	Hans Junga	Alexandria Bay
2014	– maybe you!	

EAS liaison Bob Talkiewicz talks about the EAS Conference

EAS, the Eastern Apiculture Society, lists its mission as Education and Conferences, Master Beekeeper Certification, and Honey Bee Research Grants. The territory covers the East coast of the USA and Eastern provinces of Canada.

The five-day annual conference is in a different state each year and features some of the most highly regarded experts and researchers, local and international! You will get to hear lectures, attend workshops, do hands-on training and even get into some hives! Time well spent to become a better beekeeper. I haven't missed one since 2009.

There are 40 vendors. Not only the big guys who have been around for decades, but you may find the latest new thing to make beekeeping easier.

The 2015 event is in Guelph, Canada, about 90 minutes from Niagara Falls. My goal is to bring it back to New York in a couple years, perhaps with the assistance of ESHPA.

Poke around the website at <http://www.easternapiculture.org/>.

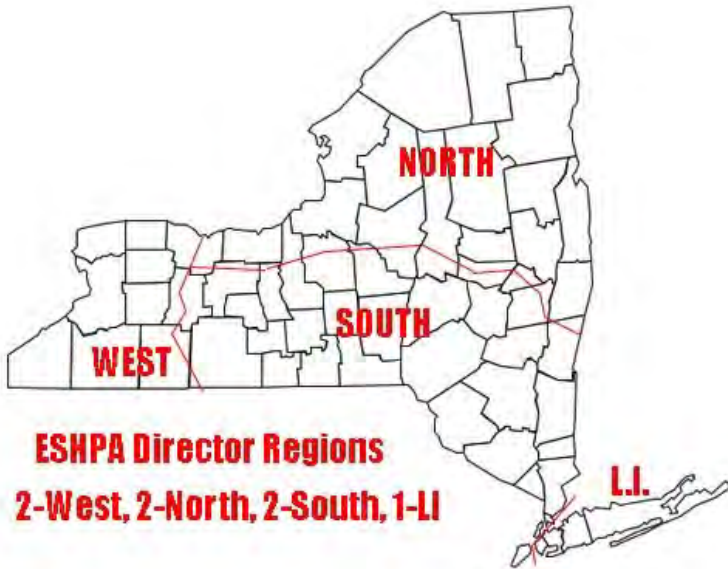
Nominations for ESHPA Directors

Elections for four ESHPA directors will take place at the November general membership meeting.

The following positions are currently vacant: West Region director, South Region director. The term for both North Region directors will have expired (current directors may run again).

All paid-up ESHPA members, at the time of the election, may vote as long as their membership was current 10 days before the meeting. Please note: you cannot pay for the 2014 or 2015 membership year, or renew a 2014 lapsed membership, at the meeting and vote due to the 10-day restriction.

Nominations will be accepted at the meeting. If you wish to nominate someone, or just learn about the director's role, contact Bill Roome (willjroome@hotmail.com, (315) 322-5490).



From the Bylaws: Directors will be elected to a three-year term (limited to two consecutive terms) and seven will represent the different areas of New York state as follows: two from Western New York (west of the Genesee River), two from the Southern Tier (south and west of the New York State Thruway) and two from Northern and Eastern New York (north and east of the Thruway), and one from Long Island. The eighth director is at-large and is to be appointed by the president. The newsletter editor is appointed by the board of directors and then becomes a voting member of the board.

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Empire State Honey Producers Association 2014 Officers and Directors

President **Mark Berninghausen** (315) 769-2566
437 Hurley Rd., Brasher Falls, NY 13613
markberninghausen@yahoo.com

1st V-P **Chuck Kutik** (607) 316-0474
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2nd V-P **Eric Sprout** (315) 480-5554
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3rd V-P **Daniel Winter** (315) 594-2634
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Secretary, Newsletter Mailer **Alayne Doan** (585) 732-2870
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Treasurer, Newsletter Editor **Susan Garing** (607) 775-5041
294 Ostrum Rd., Kirkwood, NY 13795
sgaring@verizon.net

Directors
Past-Pres. **Aaron Morris** aaronqmorris@gmail.com

West **James Doan** jdoan@rochester.rr.com

West Vacant

L. Island **Donal Peterson** threebeesapiary@hotmail.com

North* **Bill Roome** willjroome@hotmail.com

North* **Amy Wakefield** amywake@twcny.rr.com

South **Jonathan Ryan** jprl3@cornell.edu

South Vacant

Member-At-Large **Ben Carpenter** ben@hungrybearfarms.com

* term expires in 2014

Please submit email and postal address updates to
Alayne Doan, aedoan@rochester.rr.com, (585) 732-2870

This is for You, Mead Makers and Mead Drinkers

We hear our members have been brewing up their best so we plan to expand the 2015 fall meeting honey completion to include MEAD JUDGING.

Mead Judging

By Bob Talkiewicz

So, what is mead, anyway? Honey wine is the easiest way to describe it. Basically honey and water, though not quite that simple. Like grape wine, it ranges from bone dry to dessert sweet. Then consider recipe variations that may include herbs, spices, fruit and fruit juices.

Mead is what got me into beekeeping. I've been a competitive home brewer for more than 20 years and decided it would be cool to make mead from my own honey.

When you look into making mead, you might read that it takes many months to ferment, then many more months of aging to become drinkable! Like so many things in beekeeping, tradition sometimes obscures the truth. It turns out that Roger Morse at Cornell figured out around 1970 that honey and water made an inhospitable environment for healthy yeast fermentation. With pH adjustment and the addition of proper nutrients, fermentation will proceed to completion in 10 days or so. A time frame comparable to that of wine or beer.



Competitions offer more than ribbons! Most important is the feedback given by the experienced judges. It is meant to help the brewer make a better beverage the next time. Judging focuses on two general criteria: technique and style.

Technique is process related. Some examples are off flavors resulting from improper sanitation and mishandling the mead (resulting in oxidation flavors). Style criteria have to do with how closely the particular mead matches the well-defined style guidelines. Think of this as recipe related.

The Beer Judge Certification Program is a volunteer run organization dedicated to homebrew judging. Hard ciders and meads are included with the dozens of beer styles. In order to become a homebrew judge in the BJCP program, you have to pass a written and tasting exam. A fairly recent development is the particular certification for mead judging.

Follow this link and you will find more honey information than most beekeeping or honey related websites offer. That's just how geeky these folks are!
<http://www.bjcp.org/mead.php>

Take a look at the mead score sheet that is used in competitions. You will get a sense of the aspects judges look for and the flavor descriptors will be helpful in analyzing your own mead.

If you have entered mead in any honey shows, you will find these score sheets to be a lot different. The main difference is that BJCP focuses on what is inside the bottle! Imagine that. That, and the helpful feedback. For those interested, the New York State Fair Homebrew Competition is held in June. Sanctioned by the BJCP, styles include beer, ciders and mead. Most major cities around the state have homebrew clubs and there are a quite a few competitions for you to enter, or even get exposed to the judging process!

ATTENTION LOCAL BEE CLUBS!

Put your NYS bee club *on the map* on the "New York Club Links" page of www.ESHPA.org.

Users hover over a map of NYS and link directly to your club's webpage or Facebook page.



Email Greg Kalicin
(greg@harmonyfarm.net) with your club name, target counties, and link.

CLASSIFIED:

Ted Elk (315) 382-2909. 200-250 drawn wood mediums - take all: \$15, less than 50: \$20 each. Some Pierco, most wood with Dadant plastic foundation. 100 new wood deeps with Dadant plastic foundation, \$15 each. 21 frame extractor + 400# tank + two 600# tanks, \$2800 (incl. honey gates, stands, covers, all stainless steel, no water jackets).



Pesticide Free Forage . . . in your front yard!

By Michele Colopy

As beekeepers, we need to set an example, and start planting forage for our bees. Whether you live on a city lot, have an acre in the suburbs, or a small farm in the country, you too can provide, should provide, pesticide free forage for your honey bees and native pollinators.

Here's my story. After clarifying city regulations I learned lawn grass could not exceed eight inches in height in my city, but flowers had no height restriction. So, I could provide pesticide free forage for pollinators in the city.

I killed the grass in the front yard by covering it with clear plastic. The lawn was solarized over eight weeks. After eight weeks, after which the plastic was removed, the dead grass mowed and raked off. No herbicides were used, nor was the soil tilled. A path across the yard was made for the postal carriers so they would not trample any flowers.

Seeds were mixed, per the directions, with sand, and spread across the "yard." A pollinator mix and a butterfly and hummingbird seed mix were combined. Within 10 days the seeds had sprouted. Within a month the yard was filling in with a variety of flowers. By the end of July I can see a floral variety has blossomed. All of the pollinators are enjoying the flowers. A bumble bee nest has developed at the side of the house, so they can easily access pollen and nectar. The front yard is visited by large and small native bees, my Italian honey bees, butterflies, sulfurs, and more.



Solarizing the front yard--April-June 2014.



After removing the plastic.



Flowers sprouting
June 18., 2014

Flowers on
July 1, 2014



Flowers on August 3, 2014.

Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc. 2014 Fall Meeting Registration November 21 & 22

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

Name

Date

Spouse's First/Last Name (only if attending)

Company Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

Pre-Registration:	Member (& Spouse)	\$50.00
	Non-Member (& Spouse)	\$50.00
	Saturday only (& Spouse)	\$25.00
Registration at Meeting:	Member (& Spouse)	\$55.00
	Non-Member (& Spouse)	\$60.00
	Saturday only (& Spouse)	\$30.00

2014 Dues: \$20.00

2015 Dues: Commercial \$100, Sideline \$50, Hobby \$30.00

Friday Luncheon: No. people x **\$20.00**

Friday Banquet: No. people x **\$30.00**

Saturday Luncheon: No. people x **\$20.00**

Total _____

Discounted pre-registration must arrive no later than November 11.

Pre-registration forms should be mailed by November 15 to:

Alayne Doan, ESHPA Secretary, 343 Morton Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464

Checks or money orders should be made payable to ESHPA.

* Please make room reservations by noon November 4 to be sure of the reduced rate. Mention that you are with the Empire State Beekeepers to get the group rate of \$123 (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, **2014** \$20

Dues for membership year January 1- December 31, **2015**: see list below for membership level*

Please select a membership level:

Commercial (300 + hives) \$100.00

Sideliner (50-299 hives) \$ 50.00

Hobbyist (0-49 hives) \$ 30.00

\$_____ 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.

* new 2015 dues structure will be voted on at the 2014 fall meeting



ESHPA
 343 Morton Rd
 Hamlin, NY 14464

CALENDAR OF ESHPA EVENTS

ESHPA Fall Meeting November 21-22, 2014
 New Location— Embassy Suites Syracuse, 6646
 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057

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