



The Chester County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

February 2012

<p>President: Cindy Faulkner faulknerfive@verizon.net</p>	<p>Vice President: Charlie Karat ckarat54@gmail.com</p>	<p>Treasurer: Howard Frysinger hfrysinger@gmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary: Dan Borkoski dborko9@yahoo.com</p>
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Next Monthly Meeting
Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 PM
 West Chester Borough Building, 401 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA
 Google maps directions at the link below this picture



http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&cp=39&gs_id=o&xhr=t&q=401+E.+Gay+Street,+west+chester,+pa+map&qscr=1&nord=1&rlz=1T4ADRA_enUS447US447&gs_upl=&bav=on.2.or.r_qc.r_pw..cf.osb&biw=1366&bih=618&ion=1&wrapid=tljp1317828629044044&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x89c6f14295950f9f:0x683cd7376b5d6472,401+E+Gay+St.+West+Chester,+PA+19380&gl=us&ei=LHiMT03INc7F0AGVhJDIBA&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=image&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CBsQ8gEwAA

Welcome New Members

Jonathan Callaway, Paul Callaway, Joelle Cutrona-Buzzard, Dan Etheridge, Kevin Henning, Amy Jordan, Alan Larsen, Susan Leandri David Myers, Edmond Notebaert, Keith Perkins, Claire Rankin, Carol Urbanc, Lorraine Williams and Willie Williams

President's Message: Cindy Faulkner

Many thanks to all who ventured out to the January meeting and voted to accept the new slate of CCBA officers presented by the Nominating Committee. I'm both humbled and honored that you've entrusted me with this new role, and I know you all join me in thanking our out-going President, Jan Cauffman, for all her efforts to keep the CCBA going strong over the past two years. As Charlie Karat said at the meeting, Jan's welcoming attitude, her depth of beekeeping knowledge, and her genuine warmth have made her such a great asset to the CCBA. I've so enjoyed getting to know Jan better over the past year and am proud to count her among my most treasured friends. Not one to 'rest on her laurels', Jan has decided to stay active by leading the CCBA Mentoring Committee. Jan has a real passion for mentoring and she is very excited about helping to expand this area of our core aims as an organization. Just in case you need a refresher on what those core aims are, they can be found on the home page of the CCBA website:

The CCBA aims to:

- Assist members in the art and science of beekeeping, including sharing effective techniques, coping with problems and challenges, and supporting each other in our efforts
- Promulgate information to the public about the valuable role of honey bees in nature and agriculture
- Encourage more people to become involved in beekeeping

To meet these aims, in addition to the need for mentors we also need volunteers for our 'Speaker's Committee'. So far, we've had two people say they'd be willing to help out with requests we get from organizations & schools that want someone to come and chat about beekeeping, but we need more than a couple! By agreeing to be on the Speaker's Committee list, you aren't forced into speaking at any individual event. Rather, we will let you know when a request comes in and if the time & location fit your schedule and you are willing to go, you'll be scheduled to give a short talk to a group of people who are curious about bees. We have a number of educational aids to make it easy for you to make a presentation. Remember, you don't have to be an 'expert' to serve as a speaker, just a willingness to learn & to share what you know. Please contact me if you are willing to give it a try at faulknerfive@verizon.net

Speaking of educational opportunities, my husband (Mike) and I attended the Delaware Beekeepers Association's "Beekeeping 101 Workshop" in Smyrna on January 14th. I thought it would be a good opportunity to gather some info that could be incorporated into our Speaker's Bureau materials and at the same time get to know some of the folks in the beekeeping community to our south. It was a great workshop, with presentations by the Delaware State Apiarist, the current and past Presidents of the Delaware Beekeepers Association, and Debbie Delaney, who you may recall gave a great presentation at the CCBA seminar last March. There was

also a really interesting presentation by Susan Yost from Delaware State University on flowering plants that are important to honeybees. Susan provided a plant list (which I'm happy to share) but, more importantly, she talked about the different characteristics of specific flowers that make them attractive to honey bees. This course was a great deal; the \$50 registration fee got both of us a full day of speakers, a yummy lunch, a year's membership in the Delaware Beekeeper's Association and a copy of Kim Flottum's book, "The Backyard Beekeeper"! This is a great resource and, you're in luck, because the CCBA owns a couple of copies & you can borrow it from our CCBA library.

The CCBA Seminar Committee has been working hard on getting everything ready for our Annual Seminar that will take place on March 3rd. I'm really looking forward to that. I'm so sorry that we aren't able to fit everyone who wants to attend the Master's session, but there is still room in the Beginner's session and I encourage you all to spread the word so we can try to get that one filled too.

We also have a number of CCBA folks who are helping to plan and deliver the annual EAS meeting that will be held in West Chester in 2013. Please contact any of the CCBA officers if you are interested in volunteering to assist. The 2012 EAS meeting will be held in Burlington, Vermont, August 13-17. If you definitely want to attend this August, you might think about reserving a hotel room early. Registration for that is not yet open yet, but there is information on the website:

www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012.html.

The opportunities to learn more about beekeeping are just about endless! Elsewhere in this newsletter is an overview of the project briefly outlined by CCBA member Don Coats at our January meeting. Please consider the opportunity to get involved with this very interesting "citizen science" project and let Don know if you are willing to assist.

I'll leave you with this recipe, found at the back of Kim Flottum's book, to help keep you well fed. As you consider making this one, remember your bees might also be a bit hungry this time of year. Indeed, the recent unseasonably warm winter days may have had them using up their winter stores a bit faster than expected, and the spring nectar flow is a long way off, with the potential for plenty of cold snaps before it gets here. Keep a check on the bee candy, fondant, or emergency sugar supplies within your hives to make sure nobody runs short! Winter feeding recipes are on the CCBA website.

Mixed Greens with Shrimp (4 servings)

¼ Cup honey
¼ Cup white wine vinegar
8 Cups mixed greens
½ lb. cooked shrimp, shelled & deveined
2 Tablespoons fresh mint
Salt & pepper to taste

In small bowl, whisk together honey & vinegar. Set aside. In large bowl, combine greens, shrimp & mint. Gently toss salad with dressing. Season with salt & pepper to serve.

Vice President's Message: Charlie Karat

This month I'll chair the meeting on February 9th as our President has a previous engagement.

Last month I spent a day at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. I was scheduled early, earliest I've ever been to the Farm Show, and I arrived well before 8 AM. I drove from Oxford and didn't see daylight until I was well on the other side of Lancaster. When I drove through Harrisburg, traffic was light, and when I got to the Farm Show Complex, I was astounded by the acres of OPEN parking lot. I was afraid the crowd would be light. I parked on the North end, grabbed a coffee inside and walked to the south end. I saw the horses. The beef. The swine, sheep and poultry. I saw the kids, grooming the cows. For the early hour, the swine show was ON! The swine are cleaned and groomed to a luster that would make any hair product producer proud.

I was the first one to the PSBA Learning Center, setup in prime location in old McCauley Hall at the south end. We were near the butter sculpture, wine tables and DNR exhibits, but I barely saw them. The Learning Center table had two observation hives connected to two screened-in cabinets about the size of a small kitchen table. Cathy Vrosiek (State PSBA) had a cute activity for the kids on the right, and to the left I reeled in the wandering bands of FFA kids, old timers with grandchildren, young couples with babies strapped on, like a carnie barker, with stories, saying, "you know , all these bees are *sisters*, you know, they all serve the same queen mother. You wanna see the *queen*?" That led to talk of the egg laying machine, what happens to the colony in the winter, what's the story on the drones...

Next year I'm gonna bring a clicker to count how many people I spoke to, I'm thinking at least 100 in 3 hours. I had a 90 second pitch that was kind of playing on an endless loop until I got interrupted with questions. One woman came early with LOTS of questions. After I realized I spent about 15 minutes with her, I had to give her the "now run along now, kiddo, I got other customers.." she may be back next year, only as a speaker. Starting early, I finished early when Linda and Paul and Warren showed up for the late morning shift. Web Edwards contributed his time later in the week. The PSBA needs LOTS of volunteers for this week-long event, besides the learning able there is a retail sales booth and honey Ice cream on waffles in the food court. The public will be very disappointed if any of these activities ended up being a "no show" at the Farm Show. I'm only there three hours, but every year I see PSBA people from upstate who are there ALL DAY or ALL WEEK. Thanks to them for their service to PSBA. Pay your PSBA dues and better yet, give some of your time to spread the knowledge of beekeeping to the public. It's an easy topic when the public is always eager to learn more.

Next month or thereabouts I'll be heading south of the old Mason-Dixon Line to speak to our friends in Harford County to a meeting of the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association.

Look at this! I've covered a whole page and haven't said a word about the science and practice of beekeeping. I'll have to grab one of these magazines and learn something myself.

Secretary's Message: Dan Borkoski

I've just been beekeeping for a few years, so I'm still pretty much a newbie (and maybe I'll always feel that way), but I was fortunate to join our club right from the start. I've gained a lot since becoming a member, in knowledge and new friendships. It is an honor to have the chance to serve as the CCBA Secretary, and I thank you for the opportunity to become even more involved with the CCBA. I'm looking forward to helping out with our mission in any way possible, and continuing to be an advocate for the club.

Calling for Library Returns: In the New Year, I am trying to refresh the club library. It has recently been reorganized (thanks, Cindy) and updated with several new books and magazines, but we need your help. If you have had a book checked out from the library for more than a couple of months (or years), please try to unearth it and liberate it from your bookshelf or nightstand. We can accept returns at any meeting, as well as the annual seminar on March 3rd.

Also, we would love to receive any donations to the library. If you have any bee-related book or magazine that you'd like to donate, we would be very grateful to add it to our collection.

Treasurer's Report: Howard Frysinger

I just came back from checking the hives, so I am not in a good mood. At least 3 of my 7 hives are dead. I'll be ok if at least two survive, but after having all make it through the previous winter, I was hopeful. I have also heard a couple local reports of no bees being left in the hive, so that is scary.

I counted 44 attenders at our last meeting. It was noted that we need to register quickly for our seminar (too late now for the advanced).

The audit committee reported that our books are in good order. That is good, since I am now the new treasurer.

We need honey for the bread that we have at the seminar, so now you have a chance to show off that creative label that you have. We do get emails from time to time asking where to buy local honey. So if you have some for sale, please let us know.

Better order bee packages soon - they usually sell out early. Or order local nucs.

We always need people willing to talk at functions about bees. You do not have to be an expert, so please sign up.

We had our yearly elections, so now we have Cindy Faulkner as president, Charlie Karat as VP, Dan Borkoski as secretary, and myself, Howard Frysinger as Treasurer.

I enjoyed our presentation of some experiments with bees by Michael Brown, from the Department of Psychology at Villanova University. The experiment that surprised me the most was one where the bees were given one of two odors when entering a container, then in the next, attached container there were two exits, each having their own odor. The odor that matched the entry odor had sugar water in it, the other did

not. The bees learned to always go to the matching odor, to get their prize. Then those same bees were given the same set up, except there were colors in place of the odors. The bees right away knew to go to the matching color. All this with the tiniest of brains. Where do they store all the instincts that they have? Our thanks to Mike.

CCBA Budget:

Category	Amount
Previous Balance	\$ 5,164.60
Income: Dues	+ 544.00
Expense: Postage and Books	- .00
Treasurer's Beginning New Balance	\$ 5,708.60

The seminar figures will be reported separately in April.

Meeting Refreshments:

If you are interested in volunteering to contribute refreshments to an upcoming meeting, please contact Bob Haniwalt at 610-344-9636 or at haniwaltrw@comcast.net

February 9 Monthly Meeting at the West Chester Borough Hall, 700 PM:

Now is the time to get yourself ready for the upcoming bee season! Spring is only 4-5 weeks away! Are you ready? Join other beekeepers who will be bringing their equipment and gadgets to show off that make beekeeping a joy. Mr. Ike Zook from Forest Hill woodworking will be there to show his line of wooden ware and take orders. We'll at least have some fliers for those bringing bees from the South and/ or local stock. I'll have my cool swarm capture machine I won at the PSBA picnic a couple of years ago. Others will be demonstrating feeders, framers, foundationers, wire-ers and other bee-related stuff. Think you got something useful to a beginner or expert? Bring it. Wear your walking shoes. After we have the business session, you'll be free to wander the spacious borough hall and visit the different tables that interest you. Maybe you'll get a good idea and still have time to put it to work for you before bee season begins. See you there, or read about it next month in the newsletter.

Cancellation policy: In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be canceled. Even though we don't meet at West Chester University, we use them as our cancellation barometer. If you hear that evening classes are canceled at West Chester University, we are too.

Remaining 2012 CCBA Meeting Dates:

- February 9 at the West Chester Borough Hall (agenda above)
- March 3 Symposium at the Westtown School
- April 14 at the Stroud Preserve, 900 AM
- May 12 at the Stroud Preserve, 900 AM
- June 9 or 16 Picnic: TBD
- July: No meeting
- August: No meeting
- September 8 at the Stroud Preserve, 900 AM
- October 13 at the Stroud Preserve, 900 AM
- November 8 at the West Chester Borough Hall, 700 PM
- December: No meeting

Nature Notes: Tim Sterrett

For some of us, February is the **lowest point** of winter. We are not skiers or snowboarders. Although we can see that days are getting longer, February still seems gray and dark. The weather is miserable, too: sleet, freezing rain, and snow!

What can we do about February? (Go to Florida!) Bring in **branches of forsythia**, crush the bottom inch or two of each stem and set the stems in water in a cool, dark place for several days. Then set them where their yellow flowers can light up a warm room. Flowering may take a couple of weeks. Fruit tree branches can also be persuaded to bloom when brought indoors.

Step outdoors on one of February's many sunny days to enjoy white **snowdrop** blossoms and the yellow flowers of **winter aconite**. These alien, non-native plants get a lot of attention from our alien, non-native honeybees on days when the temperature rises above 45 degrees F.

Chester County's **great horned owls** and **bald eagles** are nesting now (and not complaining about the weather.) Why do they nest early? Raising large young birds and letting them learn to hunt on their own takes time. **Canada geese** are big, too, but geese are gregarious and forage in large groups except when they pair off for nesting. Owls and eagles spend most of the year on their own.

In the evening, **Venus** is brilliant high in the west, **Jupiter** is overhead, **Orion** is in the Southeast, and **Sirius** is below Orion. **Mars** rises later in the evening.

Obituary

"Please include the attached obit for **Walt Saraga** in the next newsletter. The older members will remember him fondly."

Thanks, Bob Hawkes

Rescuing Feral Bees at Christmas: Warren Graham

Just before Christmas, a feral colony of honey bees was found 60 feet high up in a sweet gum tree being removed from a suburban property in Bethel Township, Delaware County. The tree surgeons reached out to me: "Do you want them?"

The next day in the cold dawn light, we loaded the immense log onto their truck. The colony seemed to be in a 1 foot by 8 foot hollow in the log. We could see good but empty comb in each end but couldn't hear bees inside due to the roaring engines. How many bees are in there?

We then trimmed the log, put screens on the open ends, fitted a base and then stood the log upright. Best of all, we heard the deep primal hum of a big cluster, still intact after all the maneuvers. Conventional equipment placed on top of the log will allow us to feed and house the bees as they move up this winter.

The wonderful hum from within the "Christmas Hive" has inspired good care all through January. For the February CCBA meeting, I hope to be able to show you part of the hollow log with comb and update its progress.

Swarm List: Warren Graham

CCBA members can now register for the 2012 Swarm List. At the February 9 meeting in West Chester, a box and slips of paper will be provided to write your name, phone number and/or email address on a slip of paper under one of the following headings:

- Southern and Western Chester County
- Northeastern Chester County
- Central Chester County
- Main Line and Delaware County
- More localized area if you wish

For those who miss the February 9 meeting, you can

- ✓ Mail your request to:

Warren Graham
841 Sycamore Mills Road
Media, PA 19063

(610) 565-2032, or

- ✓ Email to the Editor: pjohnson1010@gmail.com

The deadline for submission is March 3, 2012 at the Annual Seminar. The 2012 Swarm List will be published in the April newsletter or by a separate email blast.

Presentation to Boy Scouts: Web Edwards

The Scoutmaster who invited Web Edwards to speak to his group of over 100 Scouts sent this note to Web after the presentation:

Web,

Thank you for bringing all of that information along with the great manner that you used to share your passion for bee keeping with the scouts. I think you can tell that they really liked it as they asked a lot of questions. With a lot of the topics that we bring to the larger Pack meetings, it seems we have to skip details and get the main points across. Hopefully, that will raise some interest in some of the boys that will result in future interest in the hobby/profession.

We also have a Pack Picnic usually in a nearby park in the June time frame. Maybe we can catch up then and see if you want to join us and bring some of the gear for an outdoor opportunity. Then you could smoke a hive and other things that you couldn't do inside. If it was set up but not a formal presentation you could get into a deeper discussion with the interested scouts. This is just a suggestion to consider if you feel that it would be another way to connect with the scouts.

Again, thanks for sharing your time with us.

Joe

Scouts II: Jan Cauffman

Dear Ms. Cauffman,

My name is Miles Hannagan. I am a Life Scout with Troop 220 in Exton. I am building an apiary area at Great Valley Nature Center for my Eagle Project. The project consists of clearing the area, installing fences and gates, building a platform that can hold up to 3 hives, installing a hive and planting native flowers.

If you are interested in helping with this project there are three ways to do so:

- Send a donation. Make checks payable to BSA Troop 220 and in the memo put GVNC
- Buy tickets for a fundraiser breakfast on Sunday, February 5th at the Applebee's in Exton. Tickets are \$6.50 each or \$5.00 each for four or more. Breakfast is pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. It will be served from 8 AM to 10 AM. You can buy tickets by mailing me a check to the address below. Checks should be made out to BSA Troop 220 with GVNC in the memo. I can either mail you tickets back or hold them at Applebee's on a will-call list
- Donate all or part of a beehive, or native flowers. The beekeeper at GVNC would like any hive to be all mediums

I can be contacted at miles.hannagan@verizon.net. The address to send checks is 213 Southside Cir, Downingtown, PA 19335.

From, Miles Hannagan

Honeybee research at Coverdale Farm: Don Coats

Coverdale Farm, a non-profit education farm and branch of the Delaware Nature Society is permitting us place beehives on their property and conduct research on them. Many volunteer data collectors and amateur scientists are being given a unique opportunity to learn about honeybee behavior, their many disease risks and even their husbandry, without investing in hives themselves. It's an opportunity to learn and contribute at the same time. With the enthusiastic help of Michelle Whales, Farm Manager, Don Coats, DVM is coordinating a cluster of overlapping citizen science projects on 12 hives on the farm and 4 at his residence.

The research themes are those commonly mentioned in the media, CCD, specific diseases, and pollen as it defines true honey. Recording weight changes in the hives is a core component of the project, as it gives insight to health and relates directly to the flow of nectar in or out of the hive. Varroa mite infestation and Nosema, a gut infection will be regularly quantitated using standard protocol since they are common and serious problems. The procedures involved in collecting this data are not highly technical but they are a little tedious and take time. The average beekeeper would rarely do these things since his or her focus is a short cut to honey production. Hopefully, this project will highlight the methodologies and through publications and demonstrations make them more common practice.

This communal project in citizen science is being presented as a learning experience for adults with innate interest in nature and scientific inquiry. However upper level biology teachers might also recognize some options for applications in their classrooms.

Finally, microscopic study of pollen has become a surprisingly important discovery, even a legal issue. The project survey will be identifying it from the blossom, in the hive and in the honey. By well-respected standards, most of what is labeled "honey" in grocery stores does not qualify. The contents have been strained, diluted or contaminated in various ways that cause it to fail the standard. This project has discovered a very simple method of identifying pollen, qualitatively, directly from a small sample of honey. The test process can absolutely prove that pollen is there and probably quantitatively confirm if it is not.

We need:

- Field forage data collectors – weekly hike schedule to quantitate bees on blooms
- Experience with a light microscope or clinical sample preparations
- Sugar roll or alcohol jar samplers for Varroa

Club members are eagerly invited to comment and to participate in the project. Please do offer questions to doncoats@verizon.net

Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild's February Events:

- February 5 at Penn Charter. Second Annual Natural Beekeeping Symposium. Registration required
- February 18 at Circle of Hope. Short Course: Welcome to Beekeeping. Also: Queen Rearing. Registration required

Full information on both programs at: www.phillybeekeepers.org

Bee Packages: Local Availability

Three suppliers have sent in ads, making package bees locally available to CCBA members. Attached to this newsletter are their flyers:

- Jim Bobb of Honey Hill Farm notes that “I have updated my ad and now have a web site where beekeepers can check the status of package availability and deliveries. I also have a Hands-On Class that I will be running throughout the first half of 2012
- Bill Mondjack from the Allentown area writes that “I'd like you to share that I, along with Steve Finke also sell package bees, as we've been doing for the past few years
- Martin Billingsley sent his flyer for package bee availability and it, too, is attached

Local Honey Suppliers:

CCBA is compiling a listing of honey sources in the local area. If you are interesting in selling your local honey or know of places to purchase local honey, please email the information to either Chuck Dallara cdallaramd@gmail.com or Vidya Rajan vidyarajan@hotmail.com

Articles of Interest:

- An article on zombie bees was sent in by several members. The first link is to a print article and the second link is to a news video:

<http://news.yahoo.com/zombie-fly-parasite-killing-honeybees-230200867.html>

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/environment&id=8489491>

- The article at the link below was sent in by Jan Cauffman. Beekeepers in the Frederick, MD area have developed what they call the “Superbee”:

http://sz0189.wc.mail.comcast.net/service/home/~/Superbee%20-%20washingtonpost.pdf?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=262906&part=2

- Joe Wojciechowski sent in the article at the link below about a large scale farmer in Texas who keeps bees to pollinate his own crops. 2011 was the first year he declined to send his hives to California to pollinate almonds:

[Click here: Beekeepers worry about threats to hives, including chemicals | Local News | News from Fo...](#)

Hives Wanted:

- Bees love lavender. I have a lavender garden and would love to "host-a-hive" in Downingtown. Please contact Debbie at 484 678 3864
- Bill Taylor (610-960-8471) in Kennett Square is looking for a beekeeper set hives on his property. Interested parties should contact Bill directly
- Francine Sella (267-266-8345) would like to be matched with a chemical-free beekeeper who would be interested in placing and tending hives on her property. If interested, contact Francine directly
- George Datto would like to have a beekeeper place and tend hives on his property in Glen Mills. Interested parties should contact George directly at 610-358-5123 or by sending an email to oldbrickfarm@verizon.net

Classified Ads:

- 'I'm looking for **used equipment** to help me get started in the spring. Please email me at majaskibee@yahoo.com
- **Queens and Nucs for Sale:** (\$125) from local Northern Survivor Stock, Queens (\$25). Call Warren Graham (610) 565-2032
- **Will Trade Raw Beeswax for Candles:** Briana Brant makes hand poured candles from local wax and will trade some candles for beeswax. Email to Briana.Brant@gmail.com. Also, take a look at Briana's candles at www.matchstickmade.com
- **I would like to buy a small, radial extractor.** Is anyone willing to sell a used unit? Contact Bobby Salls at ratsncats2001@yahoo.com
- Got Extractor? Daylesford Abbey in Paoli is in need of a used extractor at a good price. Will pick up. Contact David Lawlor at dlawlor@daylesford.org
- I would like to purchase a small quantity (1-2 lb.) of beeswax to use as an ingredient in skin care products (balms, etc.). Please contact David Prettyman (West Chester area) at 610-656-7392