



A Note from the Pres:

Hello Everyone,

So, the big question is; "How has the warm weather been affecting our bees?" I've heard both arguments. "It has been an easy winter" or "They are more active and consuming their stores more quickly than they would in colder weather". At least we can add more food via fondant or winter patties so my plan is to be checking hive weight and adding food as a precaution.



We have added a new section to the newsletter this month called "Community Requests". It's a list of requests for beekeeping presentations or tables at shows or other community events. We get these all the time through the web site and by other connections. We plan to treat these on a "first-come, first-served" basis so, if you see a request that you would like to fill, please feel free make contact and see if you can work a deal with them. Let us know that you've made the offer (email me or Bill). We expect everyone would represent the club well.

The LVBA "Beekeeping for Beginners Class" is underway and well attended with 57 students on the first day! Lee Fleischman is doing a great job pulling it together. If you are interested in helping out with future classes, we could use it. Let us know.

Steve

2012 Calendar

February 16, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *"Small Hive Beetle"*
Speaker: *Joe Fitzpatrick*
Location: *L.C. Ag. Center*

March 15, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *"The Honey Bee's Sun Compass"*
Speaker: *Prof. Will Towne*
Location: *L.C. Ag. Center*

April 19, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *Increasing colony numbers by splits/swarms*
Speaker: *Ron Bogansky*

May 17, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *Queen Rearing, Cloake Board method.*
Speaker: *Vince Aloyo*

***June 23., Saturday**
Symposium info: **T.B.A.**
Location: *Penn State L.V. 2809 Saucon Valley Rd., Center Valley*

***July ?? Picnic**

***August 16**, Thursday, 7 pm

Sept. 20, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *"To treat or not to treat?"*
Speaker: *Warren Miller*

October 19, Friday, 6 pm
Banquet

Nov. 15, Thursday, 7 pm
Topic: *Making Beeswax Candles*
Speaker: *TBA*

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From the Observation Hive!

By: Chuck Maddux

It was shortly after the late October snow storm that I received a call about bees in a tree and the tree had been damaged from the snow storm and would have to be cut down. I immediately recognized the name of the caller and he explained that the big old Catalpa tree that has had bee colonies in for many years was now on the cutting block. It made me sad that this old tree was now the victim as so many other trees in our area of an early snow storm. With leaves on so many trees yet and the weight of the snow, it caused considerable damage to the area, some of which still has to be cleaned up including my own trees.

Now let me digress for a moment and tell you a little history about the bees in the Catalpa tree. Probably about eight years ago we received a call from up in Plumsteadville about a swarm of bees in a tree. The caller was concerned about the bees, so Bev and I responded to check out the swarm along with ladder, boxes and everything else needed to hive a swarm. When we arrived at the location the bees had already settled into the tree, this old Catalpa. After a closer examination I realized that these bees were going to stay right where they were if I had anything to do about it. The cavity was about twelve feet above the ground and then expanded way up in the tree. A good home for the bees if the owners agreed. After talking with the owners we all agreed that the bees would stay and be kind of neat to observe and would not be in the way of people. Thus began the annual observation and monitoring of the bees in the Catalpa tree. Every spring Bev and I would observe the tree to see if bees were still there and much to my surprise each summer we would see an active colony in the tree. Whether they survived the winter or a new swarm moved in we do not know except that come late spring the bees were there.



Now nature had struck and the tree was beyond saving. The owner called and on Thanksgiving weekend the tree removers came and we got the call to come and save the bees. We loaded up the truck and upon arriving we discovered that there were no live bees to be seen even though the day was warm and sunny. The owner assured us that bees had been in the tree in the summer so we waited as the tree experts worked cutting down the old Catalpa. When the final section of trunk was laid down we finally got to inspect the inside as the loggers cut open the section where the colony was located. No bees were to be found but the evidence of a recent colony was there. We found comb and a section of new comb with capped honey. Not a lot of honey but enough to know that there were bees in the old Catalpa this past season. Examining the inside of the tree as it was cut up indicated that bees had been in the tree for many years. There was old comb in a large section of the big hollow cavity in the tree. I believe that the bees were probably in the tree till a large section split away in the snow storm. It was a sad ending to a long history of bees in a tree. Something that Bev and I would observe as we went back and forth to the Wawa for our daily coffee.

I imagine that as the first leaves open and early flowers are in bloom that as Bev and I drive past where the bee tree once stood we will still be looking for the bees but then realize that there will be no more. I hope that there is another big old tree nearby that nature has provided for the bees to call home.



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Meeting Locations

Most of our regular monthly meetings will take place at:

**Lehigh County Ag. Center
4184 Dorney Park Rd.,
Allentown, PA 18104-5798**

If a meeting is scheduled at another location it will be listed on our website and in our newsletters.

A Glimpse of History

Pete Thomson



I've grown to expect the reaction when I mention to non-beekeepers that the honey bee as we know it (European!) is not native to North America; "Really", they say in a surprised tone. Of course, there are a great many native pollinating insects including other indigenous *bees* but that's another story. Science tells us that what we now know as the European honey bee evolved from the wasp about 130 million years ago. At that time, many of the individual continents as we know them today were combined as one giant land mass. Plants were evolving also and pollen and nectar producing flora and our beloved honey bee developed in complimentary ways. We're told that about 120 million years ago, the honey bee exhibited increased fuzziness to collect pollen, pollen baskets, longer tongues for retrieving nectar and colonies to store supplies. When the giant land mass broke apart and temperatures cooled dramatically, the Indo-European honey bee somehow survived. Open nesting bees are thought to have probably pre-dated the cavity-nesting bee. About 2-3 million years ago, during the Pleistocene warming period, the cavity nesting bee spread into Europe to become *Apis mellifera*. The genus *Apis* is composed of 10 species, nine of which are confined to Asia. The one exception, *A. mellifera*, is distributed from sub-Saharan Africa to Central Asia to Northern Europe, and has more than two dozen distinct geographical subspecies.

Early civilizations mastered beekeeping as one of the first examples of animal husbandry. (Check out our Website for an article about bee hive discoveries in Israel) Honey bees expanded to North America with human-assisted migration during the 17th century. The introduction of the western and northern European subspecies, *A. mellifera mellifera*, the *dark* bee, began in North America as early as 1622. Historical records from Jamestown, Virginia in the 1620s note the existence of managed bee colonies. This was followed by introductions of subspecies, such as *Italian*, *A. mellifera ligustica*, and others from different parts of Europe, the Near East and northern Africa. Many Europeans fleeing wars or religious persecution brought extensive beekeeping skills to the United States during the next two centuries. Of course, in these earlier times, the value of the honey bee was primarily for the honey and wax. Pollination, while appreciated, was not as significant an issue until later. The vast majority of vegetation in North America prior to the coming of settlers was wind pollinated. The arrival of colonists resulted in imported crops that depend on the honey bee for pollination. It was the advent of more scientifically based agriculture and mechanized farming that drove the need for controlled pollination and more advanced beekeeping methods. The movable-frame-hive and other relatively recent inventions made commercial apiculture possible which in turn supports modern agriculture. As we know, approximately a third of our food is dependent on the existence of the honey bee and modern beekeeping practices.

So how has *Apis mellifera* fared in recent history? All indications are that the species is struggling. Are we pushing them too hard? Can they adapt as they have done so many times over millions of years? What can we do?

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\$12.25/cs. of 6

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Bill Mondjack

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Lehigh Valley
Beekeepers
Association

General Information

Editor's note: some of the advice articles in this newsletter are written by Bill Mondjack. Bill's an EAS certified Master Beekeeper but his advice is his opinion and should only be taken as a guideline.

Always seek several answers to your questions and check professionally written resource manuals such as "ABC and XYZ of Beekeeping", "The Hive and the Honey Bee" or the MAAREC website at:

<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/>

Please keep in mind contributed articles and the opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and may not always be the general views of the "Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn." or its membership.

L.V.B.A. Exec. Board Members

If you have any suggestions for future meetings please call any member of your executive board.

Jeff Barndt - 610-282-8008

Jeanette Berta - 610-360-8954

Ron Bogansky - 610-756-6716

Steve Finke - 610-737-7676

Phil Hartranft - 610-966-4636

Bob Milot - 610-285-6217

Bill Mondjack - 610-264-0494

Sheryl Roland - 610-327-8247

Pete Thomson - 610-346-7875

Ann Wertman - 610-298-3254

Committees

Picnic - Pete Thomson

Joe Zeller

Banquet - Joe Zeller

Club Hives - Bob Milot

Steve Finke

Phil Hartranft

Special Needs - Ron Bogansky,

Steve Finke, Pete Thomson

Nominating - Joe Zeller, (Chairman)

Pete Thomson

Refreshment List

If you signed up for a meeting please fulfill your promise or call our Pres. in advance if you must cancel.

Keep in mind approx. 30-40 members attend a monthly mtg.

Feb. - Sarah Jacobs

Mar. - Ann Wertman

April. - ?

Newsletter entries

Anyone wishing to submit an article for the L.V.B.A. newsletter please e-mail all info to me at:

billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com

or place in the U.S. mail and send to:

Bill Mondjack

2236 N. 1st Ave.,

Whitehall, PA 18052-3906

Deadline for next newsletter is:
March 1st.

Beginners Course Announced!

A staff of seasoned beekeepers from L.V.B.A. are instructing "An Introduction to Beekeeping for Beginners" course at Lehigh Carbon Community College, 4525 Education Park Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078

Dates: The classes will run on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 9:30 pm and the dates are: Feb. 1, 15, 29th and March 14, 2012

Cost: \$45.00/person. Books and reference guides will be included.

Info & Reg.: Info and registration form can be downloaded from our club website:

www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org

Or: Email: Lee Fleischman,
Class Coordinator at:

lee@fleischmanfamily.org

Class is FULL!

Honey-Graham Fruit Pizza



Ingredients:

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup whole wheat or graham flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted
- ⅓ cup Honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk, lightly beaten
- ¼ nonfat milk
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) Neufchatel or reduced-fat cream cheese
- ¼ Honey
- 3 cups assorted sliced or whole fresh fruits
- Toasted coconut or granola, optional
- Honey or chocolate syrup

Dirctions:

To make crust: In a large bowl, combine flours, baking powder, baking soda and salt; mix well. In a small bowl, mix together melted butter, honey & vanilla; stir into flour mixture. Stir in egg yolk and milk; form into ball with hands. Place on a lightly greased pizza pan or baking sheet. With floured hands, press dough to form 12-inch circle. Bake at 375°F for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pan, cool on wire rack. To make topping: In a small bowl, combine Neufchatel cheese and honey; mix until well blended. To serve, spread topping onto crust to within ½ inch of edge. Arrange fruit over top; sprinkle with toasted coconut and drizzle with honey, if desired.

Are you thinking of testing for “**Master Beekeeper Certification**” at EAS next year? There are currently **17 Master Beekeepers in PA** & we are privileged to have **5 of them in the Lehigh Valley**. Next years EAS conference is scheduled to take place in Burlington, Vermont at the University of Vermont. The dates are Aug. 13-17th. For more info go to:

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

Here are some questions taken from previous Master Beekeeper exams written by: Dr. Clarence Collison

January's Q's & A's

1. Division of labor within the worker caste of the colony is dependent upon the age of the worker and the needs of the colony. Listed below are six possible duties of a worker, arrange them in the order they would be performed by an individual bee.
 - a. **3** Producing wax & building combs.
 - b. **2** Serving as nurse bees.
 - c. **4** Handling incoming nectar from foragers.
 - d. **6** Field bees collecting nectar & pollen.
 - e. **1** Cleaning brood cells, preparing them for the queen to lay in.
 - f. **5** Serve as guard bees.
2. Name two way in which a honey bee colony uses water.
Answers: Maintain temperature & humidity in the hive, liquefy crystallized & thick honey, use in their own diet and for feeding brood.
3. **T** The survival of drones during late fall and earl winter in the north usually indicates an abnormal colony. (True or False)
4. **T** Drones die after mating with queens. (True or False)
5. **F** Drones are not capable of

- feeding themselves. (True of False)
6. **T** Within the hive, young drones are normally found in the central broodnest and the older drones are found on the peripheral combs. (True of False.)
 7. **B** Drone honey bees normally become sexually mature at the ago of:
 - A. 6 days.
 - B. 12 days.**
 - C. 3 days.
 - D. 15 days.
 - E. 9 days.
 8. **A** If a virgin queen is prevented from going on her mating flight, she will lose the urge to mate in approximately:
 - A. 3 weeks**
 - B. 5 weeks
 - C. 2 weeks
 - D. 4 weeks
 - E. 1 week
 9. **E** Average life span of a drone during the summer is:
 - A. 10 weeks
 - B. 6 weeks
 - C. 2 weeks
 - D. 4 weeks
 - E. 8 weeks**
 10. Queen honey bees have two major functions in the honey bee colony; please list them,
Answers: Egg laying, and pheromone production.

February's Questions

True or False?

1. ___ Individual bees are capable of doing a rather wide variety of work regardless of their age.
2. ___ In the fall when a colony expels the drones, the queen's egg laying activity is drastically reduced or ceases.
3. ___ In the north shortly after

- the winter solstice, the queen begins laying fertilized eggs.
4. ___ The queen will begin laying eggs as it is warm enough for the bees to break winter cluster and they can begin foraging for nectar and pollen.
5. ___ Each spring the queen replenishes her supply of semen by going on a mating flight.

Laying Workers (False Queens)

True or False

1. ___ Lay multiple eggs per cell.
2. ___ Lay both fertilized and unfertilized eggs.
3. ___ Produce eggs that are smaller than those produced by the queen.
4. ___ Glue their eggs to the sides rather than the bottom of the cell.
5. ___ Are most prevalent in the hive when a colony is hopelessly queenless.
6. ___ Both queen and worker bees develop from fertilized eggs.
7. ___ A drone honey bee receives all of his hereditary factors from the mother.
8. ___ Only queens that have gone on a successful mating trip are capable of laying eggs.
9. ___ Queen cells will inhibit the development of worker bee ovaries just as a live queen will.
10. ___ Supercedure queen cells are normally smaller than emergency queen cells.
11. ___ Worker honey bees over four weeks of age cannot lay eggs if the queen is lost.
12. ___ Queen honey bees produce three different kinds of eggs which become workers, queens, and drones.
13. ___ Only one queen is found in a honey bee colony.

Community Requests

Message: Kempton Fair

From: Donald Bercaw

Ph: 610-428-2448

E-mail: racerdrb@aol.com

As president of the Kempton Cny. Fair, is there any possibility of getting someone to have a display at the fair? Our fair is Jun 12-16.

Message: Speaker @ Garden club

From: Nicole Folino

Ph: 610-223-2193

E-mail: nsells4u@gmail.com

I am a parent volunteer with the Garden Club at Willow Lane Elementary in East Penn School District. We are looking for a speaker on a Thursday afternoon at 3:30 for about an hour to speak about bees and how they affect our gardens, etc. After visiting your website I would like to know if one of you would be available on either May 10th or 17th. We may have a Thursday in April if either of these two days do not work out for one of you. Please let me know if you are interested and what fees, if any, you would require by responding to this email or I can be reached at 610-223-2193.

Message: Lecture @ Mayfair

From: Tom Gorr

Ph: 484-554-7233

E-mail: gorrte@gmail.com

I am the site supervisor for Kidspace and also on the board of Mayfair. Mayfair is looking for educational organizations that might be willing to set-up a display and lecture kids on educational subjects such as yours. Mayfair is held every year during the Memorial Day weekend at Cedar Beach. Please call for more information.

Thanks

Message: Beehive Wanted

From: Wes Loder

Ph: 570-640-2660

E-mail: MWL2@psu.edu

Wes Loder is looking for a single beehive as a loaner or rental on his property in Kutztown to pollinate his small orchard and garden.

Message: Lehigh Valley Zoo

From: Alan Raisman

Phone: 610-799-4171 x224

E-mail: araisman@lvzoo.org

After talking it over with our staff at Lehigh Valley Zoo, we are hoping someone from the Beekeeper's Association would be interested and able to come to Lehigh Valley Zoo on the following three days:

April 7: Farm in the Zoo

Grand Opening

April 14: Farm Fest

April 21: Party for the Planet

On these three events we would like the Beekeeper's Association to bring your bees in the glass case and talk about their benefit to farms and our planet. Lehigh Valley Zoo will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all three days. If you could have a table display with the bees and other information, we think you would be a big hit with our guests. We could also have the students from LCCC come and present on what they have learned. I think this would be a great

learning experience for our guests, and it would give the students at LCCC a day (or three) of community service and public speaking experience. I look forward to hearing from you. I am very sorry for the variety of dates in our previous emails, but I hope that the Beekeeper Association can join us for these three Smart FUN events at Lehigh Valley Zoo.

Thank you, Alan

A Poem About Bees

*Come to my garden little bumblebees
I've grown so many flowers for you to
please, I have lupins, foxgloves and delphiniums too,
Hundreds of borage seeds
I collected especially for you.*

*It is so easy to grow my own seeds which
are organic, You won't be poisoned here
dear bees, no need to panic! My lawns
are covered in flowers all over, I know
how much you bees love clover!*

*I have a pesticide free zone for you to
discover, It's All of my garden, as I'm a
bee lover! Come to my garden little
bumblebees, I've grown so many flowers
for you to please.*

By: Sandra M. Bright

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(billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com)

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Renew your membership NOW!

Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Association membership runs the typical calendar year, meaning from Jan. through Dec.

2012 Dues are due now.

Please consider renewing your membership with us for another great year of learning and fun.

We have another great year planned so don't miss out on the latest information and helpful hints from our local experienced beekeepers.

L.V.B.A. OFFICERS

President	Steve Finke	610-737-7676	<i>e-mail</i> - sjfinke@msn.com
V. President	Bob Milot	610-285-6217	Cell Ph: 484-788-1912
Treasurer	Sheryl Roland	610-327-8247	<i>e-mail</i> - sheryl.roland@comcast.net
Recording Sec.	Ann Wertman	610-298-3254	<i>e-mail</i> - annawertman@verizon.net
Corr. Sec.	Jeanette Berta	610-360-8954	<i>e-mail</i> - jeanetteberta@yahoo.com

PA. State Delegate - Steve Finke

Video/Book Library - Bob Milot, Ph: 610-285-6217

Find us on the web at: www.lehighvalleybeekeepers.org

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Newsletter Publisher/Editor: *Bill Mondjack*

E-mail - billzbeez@mondjackapiaries.com

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Membership Dues

L.V.B.A. DUES - \$10.00 / year Individual \$15.00 / year Family \$100.00 Lifetime†

PA. State DUES (Optional) - \$20.00 yr. Individual \$25.00 yr. Family \$200.00 Lifetime

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*Phone () _____ - _____ *Total Encl. \$ _____

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Beekeeping Videos available for loan to members of the L.V.B.A. in good standing.

- * 1. Honey Bees and Beekeeping, A year in the life of an Apiary, Part I
- * 2. Honey Bees and Beekeeping, A year in the life of an Apiary, Part II
- 3. Why Honeybees (Penn State - 1993)
- * 4. Finding and Treating Bee diseases, 1991
- 5. A look at Queen & Package Bee production (Brushy Mtn. 1991)
- * 6. Introduction to Beekeeping with Ed Weiss
- * 7. Miraculous Honeybee
- * 8. Controlling Varroa Mites & Small Hive Beetles in Honeybee Colonies
- * 9. Free Bees for You (Brushy Mountain)
- * 10. Tracheal Mites on Honey Bees, Detection, Life Cycle, Treatment
- * 11. The Mysterious Bee (Australia) and The Honey Harvest (Discovery Channel)
- * 12. Swarm Boxes, A Revolutionary Tour (Brushy Mountain)
- * 13. Ulee's Gold, Drama type motion picture with Peter Fonda
- * 14. The Honey Files, A Bee's Life - National Honey Board (Children's Video)
- 15. How Well are you Willing to Bee? Bee Sting Therapy - Pat Wagner
- * 16. Taking the Bees for a Ride - Migratory Beekeeping (Dave Hackenberg)
- * 17. Honey in the Comb - Comb Honey production (Gene Killion)
- * 18. The Four Seasons of Charlie Mraz
- * 19. Varroa Mites, Detection, Life Cycle & Control - Penn State
- * 20. Queen Rearing Video
- * 21. What's Buzzin? - National Honey Board (Children's Video)
- * 22. Africanized Bees, Bees from a building, Yellow Jackets, Hornets nests - Dr. Jim Tew
- * 23. Controlling Honey Bee Emergencies - Root Productions
- * 24. P.B.S. - "Silence of the Bees" and 60 Minutes - "What's wrong with the Bees?"
- * 25. "City of Bees", A Children's Guide to Bees
- * 26. "The Killer Bees", National Geographic
- * 27. Successful Queen Rearing. (University of Minnesota)
- * 28. Beekeeping in Northern Climates (University of Minnesota)
- * 29. Vanishing of the Bees (NEW)

IF YOU WISH TO BORROW A CLUB VIDEO - CALL: Bob Milot - 610-285-6217

*** Now available on DVD Due to non-returned videos in the past, a \$10.00 deposit is required!**



**Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Assn.
C/O Bill Mondjack
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