

# Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 90 Issue 1-February 2008

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

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## Spring Events:

### Movie Night

### Expert Beekeeper Discussion Panel on Swarms

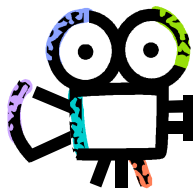
### Field Trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve



#### Calendar of Events

The MCBA board has planned another exciting calendar for our club. Regular general meetings will be held the second Tuesday of even months whenever possible. After the featured event, we will have a brief general business meeting. Board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of odd months.

Fri, Feb 15	Movie Night
Tue, Mar 11	Board Meeting
Tue, Apr 8	TBA, 7:00 pm 4-H center
Sun, May 18	Bowman's Hill Field Trip
Tue, Jun 10	TBA, 7:00 pm 4-H center
Sat, Jul 12	MCBA Summer Picnic
Aug 7-9	4-H Fair
Sun, Aug 17	Picnic at Mark Antunes, RSVP
Tue, Sept 9	Board Meeting
Tue, Oct 14	TBA
Sat, Nov 1	MCBA Banquet, Lower Providence Fire Hall
Tue, Nov 11	Board Meeting



#### Movie Night

Let's get together on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for the classic movie *Ulee's Gold* at the 4-H center. It is a story of a reclusive beekeeper and his family and stars Peter Fonda. This movie is rated R and may not be suitable for children.

Bring some movie snacks to share and let's get together and catch up with old and new friends.



#### Swarm Panel Meeting

Back by popular demand, another panel discussion meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This year the topic is swarms and the panelists are Harold Jenkins, Robin Kugler and Vince Aloyo. Jim Bobb will moderate the discussion; the panel will answer questions:

- What was the most difficult swarm you succeeded in catching?
- How do you prevent swarms in your apiary?
- Do swarm traps work?
- How can I get my name on a swarm list?



## Bowman's Hill

### Wildflower Preserve Field Trip

*When:* Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 (please arrive by 2:15)

*Where:* Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938 (<http://www.bhwp.org>)

*Directions (from points West; this route takes you through New Hope):*

Take U.S. Route 202 North to PA Route 179 (Bridge Street) for 1 mile to New Hope, PA. At the traffic light turn right (south) onto PA Route 32. Continue south on River Road (PA Rt. 32), for 3.5 miles. Entrance to the Preserve is on the right.

*Alternate Directions (This shortcut **does not** go through New Hope):*

Take U.S. Route 202 North about one mile past Peddler's Village to the first traffic light, Aquetong Road. Turn right on Aquetong Road and follow for about 4 miles, crossing Route 232 (Windybush Road). Aquetong ends at River Road (PA Rt. 32). At the stop sign at River Road, turn right. Entrance to the Preserve is immediately on the right.

*What:* Guided tour covering the history of the preserve, native plant identification with a focus on native pollinators. Home to nearly 1000 plants native to PA and over 80 rare and endangered species, trails wind through woodlands along a pond and Pidcock Creek where you'll enjoy an abundance of seasonal wildflowers and other native plants, birds and wildlife.

*Cost:* \$6.00 per person

*Also:* native plants are available for sale, visit an arboretum, a library, the Platt Bird collection, go birding and view other indoor exhibits.

## Chester County Beekeepers Annual Spring Meeting February 23, 2008

The Advanced Seminar, *Thinking Inside the Boxes*, by David Tarpy and Mike Palmer, both beekeeping experts.

Beginner Seminar by Jim Bobb.

The morning and early afternoon programs will consist of individual presentations on the various topics. The day will include morning and afternoon snacks, a sumptuous lunch served in the Westtown School dining room, door prizes, and lots of fellowship. ([www.westtown.edu](http://www.westtown.edu))

Early registration, by Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

\$40 individual

\$60 couple

\$25 children under 16

Additional \$5 after Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

The fee for the seminar includes lunch.

The registration deadline is February 11, and attendance is limited to 120 persons.

Registrations received after the deadline will be accepted (at the walk-in rate) only if seating is available. Regrettably, there's no guarantee that walk-ins can be accommodated—please preregister.

For more information, see:

<http://www.chescobees.org/seminars.htm>,

or call George Biles at 610-873-4599 or email

him at

[gjbiles@yahoo.com](mailto:gjbiles@yahoo.com) or [jeffbryer@comcast.net](mailto:jeffbryer@comcast.net).

### You're Invited!

Why not attend an MCBA Executive Board meeting? All members are encouraged to join our fun filled board meetings. Call a board member – contact information at the end of the newsletter. We will be having board meetings on the second Tuesday of odd numbered months.





## Meet Your Local

### Beekeeper!

A new feature to our newsletter, we will introduce you to some of the beekeepers in our club so we can get to know each other better. If you have suggestions for the next featured beekeepers or some questions you would like to ask them, contact Allison Uehling.

## Dale Tyczka

### MCBA President



*How long have you been a beekeeper?*

My wife Michaelen and I have had bees for five years.

*How many hives do you have?*

We currently have three in one apiary in our backyard, though we have had up to eleven after a particularly active swarm year. We generally split our hives in the spring to help reduce swarming and then recombine them in mid to late summer in preparation for overwintering.

*What influenced you to become a beekeeper?*

It's hard to say what originally put the idea into my mind. Bees have always been fascinating creatures, but keeping them never really seemed like something "normal" people did. The specific trigger was probably the fact that we had been baking a lot of honey wheat bread for a couple years and thought we could save money by having bees instead of buying honey. Still, it was something we really hadn't considered actually doing until we saw Jim Bobb at a public event and talked to him about beekeeping. He mentioned that he taught a beginner's class and I quickly convinced myself that it would be a good hobby to take up. Michaelen was a tad resistant to the whole idea, so we got a few books to read including "Beekeeping for Dummies." This book was particularly reassuring and gave her the confidence that we could keep bees. A few months later we were putting together equipment and purchasing packages. Of course, I'm still not sure that it's something normal people do!

*What is your favorite part of keeping bees?*

Working on the hives on a warm spring day. The smell of the hive, the gentle hum of the bees, and the warmth of the sun make it particularly enjoyable.

*What has been your biggest challenge as a beekeeper?*

Swarms, swarms and swarms. Last summer we did much better, but in our first few years, we seemed to be far better at making bees and climbing up in trees to catch them than we were at producing and harvesting honey.

*Do you have a couple tips you could pass along to less experienced bee keepers?*

- Take Jim Bobb's class and listen to his advice. Don't try to do too many experiments the first and second years. It's best to just get your hives established and strong.

- Learn the signs of disease and be vigilant. Register your hives with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; your inspector is there to help you.
- Wear a veil, stings on the face are one of the worst parts of beekeeping and they are easily avoidable.
- Tell your friends and colleagues about bees and the importance of agriculture to our lives. It's unfortunate that many people don't know the difference between honey bees and yellow jackets, and thus claim to hate "bees."
- Remind people that the best place to keep honey is out on your kitchen table, not hidden away in the cupboard.
- Come to some MCBA meetings and volunteer to help out. There are a lot of beekeepers with experience willing to share advice and help you. This year we are trying some new ideas that you can find in the calendar section of this newsletter. In general, meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month. Even months are MCBA meetings in which we will have a speaker or activity followed by a very brief business meeting. Odd months will be MCBA board meetings during which the officers, board, and anyone willing to volunteer meets to plan meetings and vote on club business.

*What do you do when you're not working with the bees?*

At home I am usually out in the yard taking care of chickens or working in the garden or woods. At work I'm an electro-optical engineer. In my current employment, I work for a small company that is using machine vision, interferometry, and other laser-based measurement to make CNC machine tools and other automated equipment more precise.



## Club News

**2008 Membership Dues** Now is the time to pay your 2008 membership dues. Check your mailing label to verify that your membership is current. If your membership has expired, please complete the membership form at end of this newsletter. The dues are again \$10.00, the same as last year.

You may also wish to join the PSBA (Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association) for an additional \$20.00. Although membership in the state is optional, you will receive ten newsletters each year filled with useful beekeeping information and advertisements.

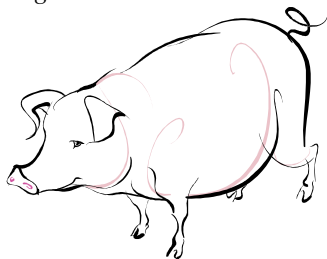
**4-H Club News** Calling all youth ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2008 to join us for 4-H meetings. We hold our meetings at the same time as the beginner class. Our club owns the hives located at the 4-H center, so youth do not need to own their own bees to participate. Children do not need to be members of MCBA. This is a great way to make friends, learn about bees and have a lot of fun as well as to build leadership skills. We had a great year last year and have additional activities planned for this year. The 4-H fair is scheduled for August 7-9, 2008 this year and we are all looking forward to making posters and entering honey. For more information, please call Michaelleen Pacholski at 610-409-0284 (evenings).

A special thank you goes out to our generous donor in the honey auction, Joe Duffy. We all really appreciate your participation and help in getting young beekeepers started in this hobby.

**Electronic Communications** MCBA has been trying to reduce operating costs by sending out e-mail reminders for upcoming events. As postal costs rise, we need to find ways of keeping you informed that are low cost. If you haven't received a reminder, maybe we don't have the proper e-mail address. Just send a note to [montcobee@yahoo.com](mailto:montcobee@yahoo.com) with your name and we will update our records. If you don't have e-mail, you will continue to receive paper mail.

# Top 10 Things You Have to do at the Farm Show

By Abby Uehling



1. Always stop by the honey ice cream booth in the food hall to say hi to Jim Bobb and the other beekeepers!
2. Check the honey competition to find if you've gotten any ribbons. (You have to travel through the forest of Christmas trees.)
3. Stop at all of the food booths in the marketplace for free samples!
4. Watch the High School Rodeo!
5. Remember to try a potato donut.
6. Check out the pigs, cows, sheep, goats, rabbits, chickens, and baby ducklings.
7. Stop by to see what's going on in the show ring.
8. Check to see what the butter sculpture looks like. This year it was sculpted to look like a school bus and a bunch of children with a cow.
9. Try a deep fried mushroom. (Right by the honey ice cream booth!)
10. Always buy a honey ice cream waffle for dinner.

I hope find my tips useful for your next trip to the Pennsylvania Farm Show!



## Farm Show Report

The Pennsylvania Farm Show was a big success this year for Montgomery County members; see the list of prize winners below. Robin Kugler put together a beautiful display with the help of some of our members. We appreciate everyone's participation in the display and helping PSBA with the retail sales and at the ice cream booth. Check out the picture of the MCBA display later in this newsletter

### Extracted Honey

*White*

10<sup>th</sup> Harriton House, Bryn Mawr

11<sup>th</sup> Joe Kohler, Glenside

*Extra Light Amber*

9<sup>th</sup> Larry Nolt, Souderton

*Light Amber*

10<sup>th</sup> Helen Eves, Doylestown

*Amber*

4<sup>th</sup> Helen Eves, Doylestown

### Bees Wax

*Molded or Designed Wax*

7<sup>th</sup> Joe Duffy, Glenside

*Molded Candles (tapers)*

8<sup>th</sup> Joe Duffy, Glenside

### Honey Products

*Cookies (6 cookies)*

3<sup>rd</sup> Carly Uehling

9<sup>th</sup> Jenny Uehling

*Candy (6 pieces)*

3<sup>rd</sup> Abby Uehling

*Cake round/sheet not iced wrapped*

5<sup>th</sup> Abby Uehling

### County or Association Collective Exhibits

1<sup>st</sup> Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

### Semi-dry Mead 1-3% Residual Sugar

4<sup>th</sup> Dale Tyczka, Skippack

### Youth - Extra Light Amber Extracted Honey

7<sup>th</sup> Abby Uehling, Glenside

## **The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) Summer Conference**

*Hello All Beekeepers!*

*As president of EAS for 2008, I would like to extend an invitation to beekeepers to attend **EAS 2008 in Murray, Kentucky, August 4-8!** Murray is located in the extreme western tip of Kentucky. If you are traveling to the conference by car from the North or East you will pass within a few miles of the Walter T. Kelley Company, the Kentucky Horse Park, Mammoth Cave, Fort Knox, The Frankfort Branch of the Dadant Company, and numerous State Parks, National Recreation Areas, lakes, and campgrounds. Murray is home to Murray State University, which has an enrollment in the neighborhood of 10,000 students. The western end of Kentucky - known as the Jackson Purchase region - is definitely "Southern" in lifestyle and attitude, with the accompanying friendliness, hospitality, and cultural foods that are traditionally associated with the South. Murray is located 15 miles from Kentucky Lake, where there are dozens of campgrounds available for those interested in the outdoors. Both Kentucky and Barkley lakes are well known as great fishing territory for any anglers that want to take advantage of the opportunity to fish new waters. For the quilters in the crowd, Paducah Kentucky, with the National Quilter's Museum, is less than an hour's drive from Murray. Those travelling from the Northeast will find traffic almost nonexistent compared to urban areas near the East Coast. The Mississippi River is an hour west of Murray, as is Reelfoot Lake, which was formed by the great mid-west earthquake of the early 1800's.*

*All of these sights are interesting destinations, but the main purpose of EAS is furthering our knowledge of honeybees, beekeeping management, and products/services related to beekeeping. There will be the usual cast of the "best of the best" researchers, teachers, and speakers for our learning needs. I encourage each of you to make the trip to western Kentucky next August 4-8. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere and the genuine hospitality that I grew up with,*

*and increase your knowledge of beekeeping while having a good time.*

*See you in August,*

*Kent Williams,  
President, EAS 2008*

The **Eastern Apicultural Society** has been a leader in beekeeping education and the introduction of new ideas to beekeeping for more than 50 years. Its members come from 26 states and five Canadian provinces and include beekeepers, researchers, and university extension specialists from all parts of the world. Through its network of directors, the ***EAS Journal***, the Master Beekeepers Program and the annual EAS Summer Conference the society provides ongoing education and disseminates new information for its members, member states, and provinces. See [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org) for more information and registration forms.

### **Banquet Report**

A very successful fall banquet was held at the Lower Providence Fire Hall. We have booked the hall for November 1<sup>st</sup> for this fall. We had a delicious meal of roast pig and side dishes. Extra thanks go out to Carmen Venezia for arranging the banquet and Jim Bobb for making the vegetarian options. We also thank Jim for his talk about his recent trip to Australia. The Uehling family arranged for a great raffle and the Pearson Family decorated the hall.

MCBA would also like to thank those listed who generously donated prizes for our raffle:

*Walter T. Kelley  
Dadant  
Brushy Mountain  
Mann Lake  
Better Bee  
Suzanne Marinell  
GloryBee Foods  
The 4-H Bee Keepers  
Morris Arboretum*

## PSBA – The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association

Since its foundation in 1904, the **Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association** has lobbied against adulteration of honey, crusaded for research to understand and control introduced parasites, promoted control of diseases and pests through integrated pest management techniques, disseminated information on modern practical apiary management to maintain a healthy honey bee pollination workforce, and educated the general public on the importance of honey bees and other beneficial insects.

Today, the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association assists beekeepers in all 67 counties of the State and encourages and assists new members to start beekeeping and increase the honey bee population to provide pollination for both agribusiness and the residential gardens of this Commonwealth.

PSBA members receive a monthly newsletter with timely articles and local advertisements. The association holds a summer picnic that is hosted by local bee organizations around the state and a two day annual meeting and banquet in November with national and international speakers. The PSBA website, [www.pastatebeekeepers.org](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org), contains articles and announcements of beekeeping classes and other issues of concern to the Pennsylvania beekeeping community. To join PSBA, please contact the MCBA treasurer or email [treasurer@pastatebeekeepers.org](mailto:treasurer@pastatebeekeepers.org).

## Colony Collapse Disorder

Perhaps you have been hearing about some terrible losses beekeepers have already had this winter. Maybe one of your friends has asked you about something they read or heard on the news. A good place to keep up with the latest information about this currently poorly understood affliction is the PSBA website, [www.pastatebeekeepers.org](http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org).

## Beginner Beekeeping Class

Once again we are offering the Beginners Beekeeping Class. Do you know of anyone that is interested in raising honey bees but is a little nervous about getting started? Have you just started raising bees and are interested in learning modern management techniques? Perhaps you have been raising honey bees for a few years and just want some refresher techniques. Or maybe you have questions about what your hive is doing. For the ninth year, the Montgomery County Beginners Beekeeping Course offers classes that are timely to your seasonal beekeeping needs. **The 2008 course continues a tradition of hands-on beekeeping at the Montgomery County (Skipack) 4-H Center Apiary!**

**When:** Classes are usually held on the **last Tuesday** of each month from **February to September**; exceptions are the March class (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) and the June class (4<sup>th</sup> Monday). Classroom activities start at **7:00pm**. Hands-on activities in the apiary start at **6:00pm**. Please bring a face veil if you have one.

**Attendance:** The course does not need to be taken in its entirety. You can start midyear or attend individual sessions. The 6:00pm activity in the apiary is optional – if you cannot attend, just come for the classroom portion at 7:00pm.

**Where:** Montgomery County 4-H Center, 1015 Bridge Rd (Rte 113), Skipack, PA 19426.

**Cost:** The cost for the course is \$10.00 per household for the year. If you have already attended the class in previous years, there is no additional charge to attend refresher classes this year. It is also recommended that you join the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA) and the PA State Beekeepers Association (PSBA) to receive newsletters and participate in club activities.

**Contact:** Jim Bobb, (610) 584-6778 or [JimBobb@gct21.net](mailto:JimBobb@gct21.net), for more info.

## 2008 Beginners Beekeeping Calendar

Tue, February 26, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Hands On: Assembling Equipment Welcome To Beekeeping - Equipment Needed - Ordering Equipment & Packages - Assembling Equipment - Hive Locations
*Wed, March 19, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Lighting smokers – bring your smokers Preparing for Package Arrival - Equipment Needed (Review) - Ordering Equipment & Packages (Review) - Assembling Equipment (Review) - Hive Locations - Installing Packages - When to use smoke <b>* Note: This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.</b>
*Sat, Mar 29, 2008 12:00 PM	Packages arrive from Georgia. Special Saturday class at Worcester Honey Farms, 2011 Shearer Road, Lansdale Installing Package Bees Feeding Packages Lighting Smokers (optional – bring your smoker) * Subject to change based on weather and bees. Call 610-584-6778 to confirm actual time & date.
Tue, April 29, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Feeding Bees – bring veil – no gloves Bee Equipment Splitting Bees Swarming
Tue, May 27, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Working Bees – bring veil –no gloves Summer Management - Feeding Bees - Supering - Swarming
*Mon, June 23, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Sugar Rolls – bring veil – no gloves Introduction to Mites <b>* Note: This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.</b>
Tue, July 29, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Treatments – bring veil – no gloves Harvesting & Extracting Honey
Tue, August 26, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Removing Honey Supers – bring veil Bee Diseases & Treatments
Tue, September 30, 2008 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	In the Beeyard: Mouse Guards – bring veil – no gloves Fall Management - Feeding Bees - Overwintering Bees - Overwintering Supers - The Beekeepers Year

Topics subject to change based on group interest,



2008 MCBA Farm Show Display

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**Montgomery County Membership Renewal Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are for the 2008 Season

I prefer electronic newsletters and meeting reminders.

MCBA DUES \$10.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PSBA DUES \$20.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Recommended)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to "M.C.B.A."**

and mail to:

**Anne Brennan**

**145 Cedar St**

**Jenkintown, PA 19046**

**Thank you!**

# News Release MCBA VOLUME 90 ISSUE 1 February 2008

*MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"*

## MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2006

President	Dale Tyczka	Collegeville	(610) 409-0284	DTyczka@yahoo.com
Vice President	Carmen Venezia	Lower Providence	(610) 489-8487	
Secretary	Allison Uehling	Glenside	(215) 881-9512	auehling@comcast.net
Treasurer	Anne Brennan	Jenkintown	(215) 376-0230	annemb@pobox.upenn.edu
Exec Comm Mem	Robin Kugler	Douglasville	(484) 955-9240	rku469@aol.com
Exec Comm Mem	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	(215) 855-5613	
Exec Comm Mem	Tara Purcell	Doylestown	215 536-7050	purcelltara@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	VACANT			
PSBA Rep	Harold Jenkins	Lansdale	(215) 855-5613	

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association  
c/o Anne Brennan  
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Return Service Requested

