

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

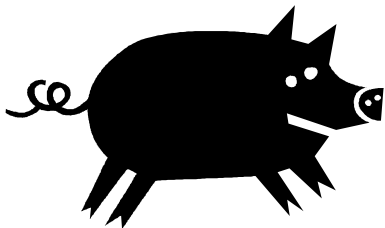
News Release MCBA

Vol. 89 Issue 3-October 2007

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

Sign up NOW for the Annual Banquet and MCBA Elections on November 3rd!!

Save the Date for the MCBA 89th Anniversary Annual Banquet & Awards Presentation



By popular demand, this year we have again decided to have a pig roast (vegetarian options are available). Get out your Caribbean and Cruise wear and join us in celebrating our 89th year as an organization by signing up for the annual banquet! This has been a busy year for all of us but we hope you can join us and will SIGN UP right away!

Complete the registration form included in this newsletter and send it to our treasurer, Grace Crawford, by October 19th. The banquet is to be held at the Lower Providence Fire Hall on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Socializing over the punchbowl and appetizers starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:15. Come and enjoy seeing old beekeeping friends and make new ones while eating a hearty pig roast.

By popular demand we are again asking you to bring a dessert to share and a "white elephant" gift to put on the trading table. For those not familiar with white elephants, if you bring a low cost (looks like a value of \$5.00- \$10.00) gift, you will receive a ticket. The tickets will be

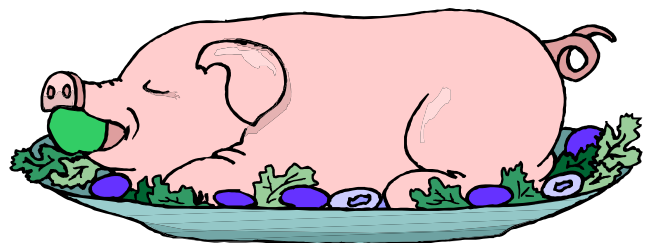
drawn and then those called will be able to choose their gift. All people bringing a gift will go home with one. Please pre-cut desserts and bring a serving utensil to make serving easier.

After the meal, Jim Bobb will edify and delight us with a fifteen minute talk with over 4,278 pictures of the Australian wild life.

At the banquet, we will auction off the honey from the 4-H hives as a 4-H fundraiser.

So take a break from raking leaves and fixing gutters and come out for a relaxing evening among good food and good friends and share stories about how much (or how little) honey per hive, your biggest and highest swarms and how you retrieved them!

For more information, see the registration form inside or contact Carmen Venezia at 610-489-8487.



Elections

This is an election year for MCBA and we are seeking some folks to serve as officers and board members. The election will be held at the fall banquet, although banquet attendance is not

necessary to run for office. A brief description of the open positions and general responsibilities follows. Each position requires about 1 hour per month. Please feel free to self-nominate or suggest someone for these positions. Beekeeping expertise is not necessary. The term for all positions is two years. Board meetings are typically held at a board member's home and often include either potluck dinner or snacks.

President: Hold board meetings and help the vice president with programming.

Vice President: Serves as program chair (although the board and members generally help plan activities).

Secretary: Records board meeting minutes and handles club correspondence

Treasurer: Maintains club financial records

Board Members: Members at large who attend board meetings and assist the board as needed.

Newsletter Editor Needed

After several years of high quality newsletters, our editor has stepped down. We desperately need your help for replacement editor. Short postcard reminders have become very popular with our members, so we only anticipate mailing three or four full newsletters out a year. Contact Dale Tyczka to volunteer or e-mail montcobee@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Meetings

Saturday November 3, 2007 at 5:00 pm – MCBA Annual Banquet (Pig Roast) Please mark your calendar for the Annual MCBA Banquet and Awards presentation at the **LOWER PROVIDENCE FIRE HALL**, Mt Carmel and Ridge Pike. See Page 1 for more details and please fill out registration form NOW so we get a headcount!

2007 PA Farm Show is coming up on January 5-12, 2008. Volunteers needed. Call Jim Bobb for more information. (610-584-6778)

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.



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 or is about to expire, please complete the membership form at end of this newsletter. The dues are the \$10.00, the same as last year.

You may also wish to join the PSBA (Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association) for an additional \$15.00. Although membership in the state is optional, the PSBA newsletters are filled with useful beekeeping information.

4-H Club News This year, in midAugust, MCBA participated in the Montgomery County 4-H Fair. We had a great time talking to folks about bees. Live music, educational displays, lots of animals and a party-like atmosphere brought many people to the fair. The MCBA would like to thank everyone for volunteering at the table. We found a few people interested in next year's beginner class and several kids were interested in joining the 4-H Beekeeping club! If you know of any child between the ages of 8 and 18 who might also be interested in joining us, please give Michaela a call.

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. Many of our members like event reminders that

would have been sent out on postcards in the past; however, we now send out electronic reminders to all members who provide e-mail addresses. 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 with your name and we will update our records. We appreciate your willingness to help. If you don't have e-mail, you will continue to receive paper mail.



Special 4-H fundraiser at Fall

Banquet- We will auction a partial bucket of honey and some bee keeping equipment during the banquet. This is the major fundraiser for our 4-H club. Please be as generous as you can for this worthwhile cause.

Banquet Reminders

- Potluck Dessert
- White Elephant Gift
- Hawaiian Clothing
- Money for Honey Auction and Raffle
- Hearty Appetite
- Beekeeping Tales to Share



SUMMER EVENTS

Below is a summary of some of the club events held over the summer. The board has been trying some different types of activities that we hope the members enjoy. If you missed one of the events below, but it looks interesting and you would like to attend something similar in the future, let us know and we will try to schedule another. If you attended any of the events, we would love to hear your feedback (both good and

bad). We welcome and listen to all suggestions from our club members.



Spring Management

Panel Discussion

Robin Kugler, Bill Mondjack and Harold Jenkins fielded questions from the audience with Jim Bobb as moderator. We all learned a lot and had a good time learning and laughing. The board would like to thank these gentlemen for sharing their knowledge and expertise so willingly. We anticipate a similar format this spring.



Morris Arboretum

Anne Brennan gave a great tour of the bee garden at Morris Arboretum where we learned about bee plants in that section of the garden and saw the beehives at the arboretum. We gathered for some potluck snacks and drinks and caught up about how our bees survived the winter.



Anne Brennan discussing some of the plants at Morris Arboretum



Summer Picnic

Our annual summer picnic was held on a beautiful summer day in July. Many thanks again go to Mark Antunes for putting together a first class picnic. No one went home hungry (I'll bet most of us skipped dinner!). Special thanks go to everyone who pitched in and helped clean the facility. They say that many hands make light work and this was surely true. We also really appreciate everyone's participation in the honey baked goods contest and for bringing in so many wonderful potluck dishes.

Beginner Class Wrap Up

Congratulations to all of the students who have successfully completed the beginner beekeeping class. Special thanks go to Jim Bobb and all of the experiences members who have helped throughout the year. We wish you the best of luck, minimal swarms and lots of honey as you enjoy your new hobby!



Farm Show

The farm show is just around the corner. It is not too early to start thinking about your entries and our MCBA display. Once again Robin Kugler has some great plans for a prize winning display. If you are willing to help, give him a call or drop him an e-mail note. Robin does need honey with individual labels, candles and other products made products from the hive. Diversity of bee products does help make an award winning display.

This year the Pa Department of Agriculture has asked Pennsylvania beekeepers to host a beekeeping information booth in the hall where the honey and hive products exhibits are displayed. There are plans to have an observation hive available. Why not help out and spend a couple hours asking questions at the information booth? Contact Jim Bobb if you might be able to assist working the booth.

PSBA will also be maintaining the Ice Cream booth and the Commodities booth. Contact Stu Mathias, 717-533-2231, if you would like to help in either of these booths.

PSBA November Annual Meeting and Banquet



Mark the dates for the PA State Beekeepers Annual Meeting and Banquet, Friday - Saturday, November 9-10, 2007. This year's meeting should not be missed – we will have many of the key players on the CCD working group presenting and answering questions. Look for the meeting agenda on the website, www.pastatebeekeepers.org.



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 October 2007

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MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2007

President	Dale Tyczka	Collegeville	(610) 409-0284	DTyczka@yahoo.com
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 Return Service Requested



Sign Up for the Banquet NOW!