

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

News Release MCBA

Vol. 90 Issue 4-October 2008

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

Fall/Winter Events:



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.

Sat, Nov 1 MCBA Banquet, Lower Providence Fire Hall

Tue, Nov 11 Board Meeting

Tue, Jan 10th – MCBA board meeting

Feb. 10th – Commercial beekeeping Speaker TBA

Feb. TBA– Movie Night. Pot luck dinner will start at 5:30 p.m., followed by a showing of Bee Movie with prizes.



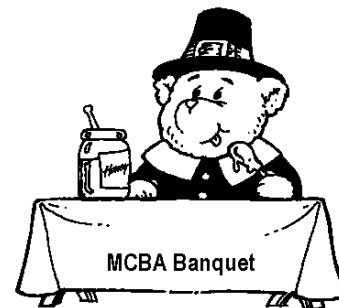
MCBA Annual Banquet

November 1, 2008 Doors open at 5:00 for appetizers, dinner at 6:00

Join us for a wonderful end-of-year banquet and program as we wrap up another season of beekeeping. Another great event is planned this

year, with a few changes from the last couple of years. This year there is a new menu including great appetizers and a variety of side dishes (Vegetable Lo Mein, Smashed Red Potatoes, Harvest Vegetable Medley, Garden Salad, Bread & Rolls) and you must decide your entrée choice (Honey Brined Turkey Breast, Chicken Marsala or 3-Cheese Ravioli with Baby Spinach and Arrabbiata Sauce) in advance. The cost of the banquet is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (12 and under). You can make your dinner choice and RSVP at: RSVP@MontCoBeekeepers.org, fill out the form at the end of this newsletter or call Brian Marcy and leave a message at 609-613-0737 until October 24 with # adults, # children (12 & under) and entrée selections..

There will be appetizers (Wheat Wrap Swirls - (Variety of swirls including Beef with Provolone, Ham with Swiss, Turkey with Pepper Jack & Roasted Vegetables with Provolone), Deviled Eggs, Various Party Snacks), a raffle, great tales of beekeeping, and of course, the 4-H honey auction that benefits the young and upcoming beekeepers. Once again we will have the popular white elephant event. Bring an item with a value of about \$5 and join in the exchange. Honey judging awards from this year's competition will be presented. Please bring a dessert to share. We hope to see you there!



MCBA's NEW WEBSITE!

MCBA has entered the 21st century with a new website. It looks great and contains lots of information and pictures. Please pass the address on to anyone you know that might be interested to learn about us. Email addresses have also been set up so you can easily communicate with the board.

www.MontCoBeekeepers.org



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.



Club News

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 with your name and we will update our records. If you don't have e-mail, you will continue to receive paper mail.

MCBA July Picnic and August Picnic at Mark Antunes' House

The summer picnics are over and it was great to get together with everyone who made it to one or both of the picnics. There was a honey recipe contest at the July picnic, with many delicious baked goods. The results and recipes are on our website. Check out the 2nd place winning recipe at the end of this newsletter!

The picnic at Mark Antunes' house featured more great food and also the bee inspector. Mark has several races of bees, which added much interest to the proceedings. You can find pictures of Mark's picnic on the website.



PA State Beekeepers' Association Annual Meeting November 7-8

Join us for our annual meeting at the Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg. The program begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m.; our banquet will be held Friday evening. The latest news, lecture sessions, and workshops, along with our PSBA business meeting and election of officers, will be on Saturday. An **Executive Meeting** will be held **Friday at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room at the Inn. **Representatives from local and county organizations are urged to attend.**

There will be a \$20.00 registration fee (includes both days) to help cover the program expenses. Cost to attend one day is \$15.00.

The Annual Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Country Cupboard Friday evening, Nov. 7, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the Banquet (which includes a buffet dinner) is

\$21.00 for adults, \$9.00 for ages 6-12, 5 & under, free. These prices include tax and tip. Please make your reservations with Yvonne Crimbring, (570) 673-8201, **before November 1st**. Door prizes are being given out during the banquet and we are looking for donations. If you wish to donate door prizes, please send them to Dave Hackenberg at 1456 Crossroads Dr, Lewisburg, PA 17837 or bring them with you to the meeting.

On Saturday, a box lunch will be available. The lunch will consist of a ham and cheese sandwich, roast beef and cheese sandwich, or turkey and cheese sandwich; potato salad; celery and carrot sticks; an apple; bag of chips; cookie; and a drink for \$8.00 each. **These MUST be preordered before Friday, October 31st.** Please contact Yvonne at the phone number listed above if you have any questions or to place your order.

The Country Cupboard Inn is located on Rt. 15, 3 miles north of Lewisburg. When coming in from the East or West—take I-80 to Rt. 15S exit and travel south approximately 10 miles.

Don't forget about our **Apiary Products Show** where your best honey, beeswax, and honey-baked goods can win a ribbon. This is a friendly show that is great for new-bees and show veterans alike. Look for the show rules and class descriptions in the PSBA newsletter or on the web site, www.pastatebeekeepers.org. We will take entries Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, 1:00-5:00 p.m. No late entries will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. Friday. If you cannot attend Friday, send your entries with another beekeeper from your organization. Winners will be announced and presented with ribbons on Saturday afternoon.

Need a Place to Stay? If you are interested in staying overnight, rooms are available at the Country Cupboard Best Western, 524-5500. Rates are \$99.00 including tax. Be sure to mention you are with PSBA. Make your reservations early!! They will be holding a block of rooms for PSBA until October 17th. Other places to stay include: Country Inn Suites, 570-524-6600; Hampton Inn-Lewisburg, 570-522-8500; Days Inn University, Rt. 15, Lewisburg, 523-1171; Econo-Lodge, Rt. 15 South, Lewisburg, 523-1106; Comfort Inn,

New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I-80 & Rt. 15) 568-8000; and Holiday Inn Express, New Columbia, (5 mi. N. of Lewisburg, I80 & Rt. 15) 568-1100. For Bed and Breakfast accommodations: Brookpark Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn, 523-0220 and Pineapple Inn, Market St., Lewisburg, 524-6200. All above phone numbers are in the 570 area code.

PSBA Apiary Products Show Rules

These rules follow the general format of the Apiary Products Show at the statewide Farm Show in Harrisburg, EXCEPT entries should not be labeled with exhibitor's name and address. This is to eliminate any possible bias in judging if names were to be identified, since our judge is likely to know some of our exhibitors. Instead of labels, exhibitors will be provided numbered tags to identify their entries. If you wish, you may bring labels and apply them after entries have been judged.

- 1) Entries will be accepted at the PSBA Annual Winter Meeting on Friday, Nov. 7 from approximately 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. **No entries will be accepted after 5:00 p.m.** Judging will take place Saturday morning and winners will be announced during PSBA business meeting.
- 2) All apiary products exhibited must have been produced in Pennsylvania and must have been produced by the exhibitor during 2008.
- 3) Exhibitors may submit only one entry per class, but they may enter as many classes as they wish.
- 4) An entry must fulfill all of the requirements of the class in which it is exhibited. (see class descriptions, below).
- 5) All entries will be handled and placed on the show table by the honey show committee.
- 6) The judges may open and sample any exhibit. Moisture readings will be taken for all extracted honey and these will be recorded on your scorecard. Honey with moisture content above 18.6% will be disqualified.
- 7) The show committee will provide a score card for each entry which contains a record of the judge's scores. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three places in each class.

COMB HONEY CLASSES

Class 1. Comb Honey (3 sections, either 3 square sections or 3 Cobana rounds, no labels).

Class 2. Cut Comb Honey (3 12-ounce sections, no labels).

Best Exhibit of Comb Honey

EXTRACTED HONEY CLASSES

The color divisions for classes 3, 4, and 5 are approximate. The show committee and/or judge may shift an extracted entry to another class to provide more consistent color ranges in each class.

Class 3. Light Extracted (Extra White to White, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 4. Medium Extracted (Extra Light Amber to Light Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 5. Dark Extracted (Amber to Dark Amber, 3 one-pound jars, no labels).

Class 6. Creamed or Finely Crystallized (in glass, 3 jars, each 1 pound or less, no labels).

Best Exhibit of Extracted Honey

BEESWAX CLASSES

Class 7. Commercial Block (single piece of pure beeswax not less than 3 pounds).

Class 8. Molded or Designed (not less than one pound of pure beeswax, i.e. ornaments, fancy candles, bar cakes, sculptures, etc.).

Class 9. Dipped Candles (one pair made from pure beeswax).

Class 10. Molded Candles (one pair made from pure beeswax).

HONEY BAKED GOODS CLASSES

The baked goods must use honey for at least 50% or more of the sweetening with the following exceptions: Frostings, fillings, glazes, dusts and meringue may contain up to 100% sugar. This percentage is in line with the NHB contests. Mixes and packaged prepared foods are not permitted.

The baked goods must be presented in a non-returnable container and submit two recipe cards with each entry. One for judging (no name on card) and one for PSBA newsletter with name and address.

Class 11. Cake (One unsliced cake that may be frosted, unfrosted, filled, glazed or dusted).

Class 12. Cookies (13 drop, refrigerator, rolled or filled cookies that may be unfrosted, frosted, glazed or dusted); brownies, date bars, baked granola, etc. (that may be frosted, unfrosted, glazed or dusted).

Class 13. Pie (One unsliced pie).

Class 14. Candy (13 pieces. May be cooked or uncooked).

Class 15. Yeast Breads (One unsliced loaf, coffeecake, tea ring or 7 danish rolls).

Class 16. Quick Breads (One unsliced loaf, coffeecake, tea ring or 7 doughnuts).

Class 17. Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Conserves (One half-pint or one pint in a glass jar, sealed with lid or paraffin).

Class 18. Muffins (7 muffins).

Best Exhibit of Honey Baked Goods

The PSBA website, 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.



Beginner Beekeeping Class

The Beginners Beekeeping Class is over for the year. It will start again in February 2009. **The 2009 course will continue a tradition of hands-on beekeeping at the Montgomery County (Skippack) 4-H Center Apiary!**

When: Classes are usually held on the **last Tuesday** of each month from **February to September**. Classroom activities start at **7:00pm**. Hands-on activities in the apiary start at **6:00pm**, but not until the March class. You must bring and wear a veil to join the apiary portion of the class.

Costs: A single person may attend the new beekeeper's class for \$80, which includes a book, PSBA and MCBA memberships, and a banquet ticket. A couple may attend for \$110, which includes the same as above, and in addition, a family PSBA membership and a second ticket to the banquet. Experienced beekeepers who stop by will be expected to be dues-paying MCBA members and may be asked to help out.

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

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

4-H Fair Success

The 4-H club would like to thank everyone who showed up at our table to help us at the Fair.

These adults took time to help us talk to people about bees and sell honey sticks and we just can't thank them enough! Dale Tyczka, Charlie Breinig, Vince Aloyo, Tom Duffy, Allison Uehling, Alison Jackson, Karen Bennion, Keith Snedeker, Becky Brewer, Maria and Linde Lauff, Sadie, John Jr. and John Sr. Snodgrass, Wendy Squadrito and Judith Finkelstein.

Kids Corner- Article **The 4-H Fair**

Here is an article written by Carly Uehling, one of our 4-H beekeepers.

Every year in August, there is a 4-H Fair in Creamery. When my family gets there, we always see how we did with our honey and posters. Next, we love looking at the quilts, dresses, and other sewing projects. There is a fabric sale in the gym. There are many fabrics and I love looking at them.

When you work in the 4-H beekeeping booth, you can talk to people about bees and sell honey sticks. The money goes to the 4-H beekeeping club. People usually ask questions like, "How do you tell the difference between queens and other bees?"

Sometimes you can watch animals being judged. You can also look at already judged animals and other clubs.

The 4-H fair is very fun to go to, and has many cool things to see.

Market Place

Bee Supplies and Equipment for Sale: Jim Bobb has supplies of glass honey jars, plastic bears, and Mite Away II (Formic Acid) mite treatments for sale. Wooden treatment rims, hive-top feeders,

and other limited wooden equipment made by MCBA club members is also available or can be specially ordered. Starting the first of the year, you may order 3 lb packages of bees for pickup March 28, 2009. Please call or e-mail before stopping in so that the guard goat can be caged. Please e-mail JimBobb@GCT21.net or call 610-584-6778.



Plastic frames: are they useful?

By Vincent Aloyo

These days we are all too busy. Who has time to assemble frames and wire foundation? And maybe we don't have to, since plastic frames are readily available.

In May of 1985, when I first moved to the Philadelphia area, I needed more frames and, with a new job, didn't have time to build them. The solution: purchase plastic frames! Just open the box and put them in the super! Again two years ago, I found my self in the same situation, needing frames but having no time to build them. The difference between 1985 and 2006 is that this time I decided to purchase plastic frames from several different companies to determine which were best for me. In addition, I had a few supers of wooden frames with wired wax foundation for a comparison. I purchased frames from Pierco, Mann Lake and John Seets (Seets Apiaries, National/International PermaComb Distributor). Pierco and Mann Lake plastic frames have incorporated plastic foundation, whereas those from Seets have fully formed plastic cells. All the frames I purchased were wax coated.

During the spring nectar flow, I placed the plastic frames and the wooden frames on strong colonies. The bees quickly built comb on both the Pierco and Mann Lake foundation. The wax foundation in wooden frames was also rapidly built into

comb. Since the frames from Seets were fully formed, they were quickly filled with honey and capped. By the end of spring, some colonies were rearing brood in the plastic frames.

Compared to traditional wooden frames, the plastic Pierco and Mann Lake frames hold more honey, due to their thinner top bar. However, this thinner top bar makes these frames less ridged; I found uncapping these frames slightly more difficult compared to uncapping wooden frames. In contrast, Seets combs are very rigid. However, the fully drawn frames from Seets have two major disadvantages. They require a special frame rest/spacer and thus are not interchangeable with other frames (either wooden or plastic from Pierco or Mann Lake). In addition, if the bees do not extend the preformed plastic combs of Seets frames, the frames are impossible to uncap! Thus I have abandoned Seets combs. However, the Pierco or Mann Lake frames performed well both for the storage of honey and the rearing of brood. By the way, I still am using some of the Pierco frames I first started using in 1985, so these combs hold up well over many years.

And what do the experts say about plastic comb? In November 1996, Professor Seeley of Cornell University published the results of a small, but well controlled experiment (*American Bee Journal* volume 146 issue 11, pages 955-957). He used wooden frames with wired wax foundation, wooden frames with Pierco snap-in plastic foundation and Pierco 1-piece frame/foundation. He placed these frames into small colonies in the spring. He reports that wooden frames with bees wax foundation were significantly better than the other two types of comb for the variables of amount of comb built and weight gained. Since he carried out his experiment for only one season, he could not indicate whether this difference continued when the colony reused the already drawn comb.

Grant Gillard wrote an informative article concerning plastic frames in the February 2008 issue of *Bee Culture* (volume 136 issue 2 pages 49-52). His article entitled "Overcoming resistance to plastic" indicates that to get bees to

utilize plastic frames he used "a good, healthy hive of young bees and emerging brood, headed by a young, vigorous queen, during an intense nectar flow...." Indeed, the conditions mentioned are required to get bees to build comb on any foundation. In the same issue of *Bee Culture* (page 46), Roy Hendrickson indicates that plastic foundation requires more wax than is commercially applied in order for bees to build comb.

My conclusion is that, if I have time, I will use wooden frames with wax foundation. But, if I don't have time, I will use Pierco or Mann Lake plastic frames.

2nd Place Winning Recipe from Abby Uehling

Chewy Monkey Bars Makes 2 dozen

3 cups miniature marshmallows

1/2 cup honey

1/3 cup butter or margarine

1/4 cup peanut butter

2 teaspoons vanilla

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 cups rolled oats

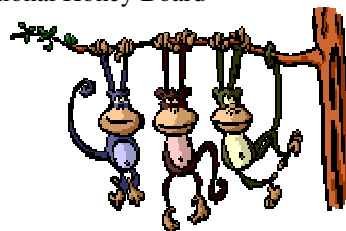
4 cups crispy rice cereal

1/2 cup flaked coconut

1/4 cup peanuts

Combine marshmallows, honey, butter, peanut butter, vanilla and salt together in a medium saucepan. Heat mixture over low heat, stirring constantly. In a 13x9x2-inch baking pan, combine oats, rice cereal, coconut and peanuts. Pour honey mixture over dry ingredients. Mix until thoroughly coated. Pack mixture firmly into the pan. Cool and cut into 24 bars.

Recipe © National Honey Board



Banquet Reservation

Adults \$20.00 \$ _____
Children 12 and under \$10 \$ _____

Entrée Choices How many total? _____ Honey Brined Turkey
_____ Chicken Marsala
_____ 3-Cheese Ravioli with Baby Spinach and Arrabbiata Sauce



Things to remember

- Dessert to share
- White Elephant Prizes
- Some cash for our raffle and honey auction
- Great tales of beekeeping from 2008!

Montgomery County Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Dues are for the 2009 Season

I prefer electronic newsletters and meeting reminders.

MCBA DUES \$10.00 per year \$ _____

PSBA DUES \$20.00 per year individual, \$25.00 for family

\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

and mail to:

Anne Brennan

145 Cedar St

Jenkintown, PA 19046

Thank you!

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October 2008

MCBA Motto: "Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers"

MCBA OFFICERS and Executive Committee Members – 2008

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