



BEE LINE

January 2015

Volume 29

Issue 1

Newsletter of the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association (SABA)

www.adirondackbees.org

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Washington - Tom Wells,
thom12162@yahoo.com

Notable Volunteers

Librarian Nancy Wicker librarian@adirondackbees.org

Open Hive Events: Amy Carman,
smallbluehouse@gmail.com

Acting Secretary Aaron Morris
filled in since spring. Thanks very
much, Aaron!

Christopher O'Connor has stored all
the SABA Fair paraphernalia at his
home for many years. Thanks Chris!



President's Column

As we make the transition in leadership of SABA, the first thing I need to do is thank the outgoing officers for a job well done. They put together many good meetings and activities. They saw the club grow over the years and have left us in a strong financial position. Great job everyone!

The next thing is to thank the people that stepped up and are going to be the officers for the next 2 years. There is a lot of excitement among your new officers, so we are going to have a great club with lots of services and activities.

If you are sitting back thinking you might want to help out, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with SABA. There are people that contact the club for swarm or colony removal, there are two county fairs where we maintain booths (Saratoga and Washington), there are many meetings where people look for books, information, and snacks, there are many open hive demonstrations (and there could be more!), there is a large seminar in March that draws beekeepers from far and wide, there are beekeeping classes in the winter, and there are always requests for help by non-beekeepers with things like talks to school children or garden clubs. If you are interested in volunteering, just let an

officer know and we will line you up with a project. If you don't want to volunteer for a project we are currently working on, but have some ideas for new ones, let us know. We may be able to find some volunteers to help!

To experience some of the excitement of the new officers, stop by and see Nancy Wicker at one of the meetings or email her at Librarian@adirondackbees.org. Look to the web also for listings of books that our library offers. She is also putting together other information for obtaining more books from the public library system and for doing online research. There is a lot more information available to us as beekeepers than what is in the library. Beekeeping offers us tremendous opportunity to learn. Jack Rath talks about starting out knowing a quarter of what there was to know, and that number grows exponentially every year. Currently, I figure that means he is at about .2550 or about one nonillionth (30 zeros) of what is out there (trouble is I know a quarter of what he does!).

If you have ideas for speakers, talk to Gregory Stoddard. He has some good ideas for speakers and will be working to line them up. He is also looking for ideas so we can provide the information the membership

Calendar - Use One This to Mark Yours!

Board meetings and General Membership meetings held at
Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension,
50 West High St., Ballston Spa.

January 12 SABA General membership meeting:

*Meet and Greet with speaker at Augie's Restaurant
(17 Low St. in Ballston Spa) for dinner at 5pm if
you like!*

Please bring a snack or dessert to share.

7:00 -7:30 pm, the *Start Up Time*.....

- * Attendance, Sign-In and Dues Renewal,
- * Ask A Beekeeper Advice in Cornell Room
- * Lending Library, Refreshments

7:30 - 9:15 pm, the *Meeting Itself*.....

(short) Business Mtg ., then guest speaker Aaron
Morris will speak on the topic of candle making.

February 23 SABA Board meeting 7pm

March 16 SABA General membership meeting
7:30 pm, with beginner Q+A/Ask a Beek at 7:00.

March 21 9am-5pm SABA's **Annual Seminar**,
at HVCC's TEC SMART facility in Malta NY.
See pages 2 (to the right) and 7 (registration).

President, continued from page 1

wants. We will be making a new SABA membership packet. This will help the new members (and established members) navigate the services offered through the club. We're hoping to have a number of Open Hive demonstrations throughout our area through the spring and summer. If you are willing to host one, let Amy Carman know so you can get on the schedule. These are great opportunities to have some experienced beekeepers look through your hive(s) with you if you are new!

We have also set up to have the meeting room at Ballston Spa Cooperative Extension for a meeting in July. Typically the club doesn't meet in July, but some of us are thinking we should, so we have the room scheduled. Let us know if you want to have this meeting set up.

I am looking forward to the year and hope you are too! See you on January 12!

- Chris Cripps

Spectacular Seminar Slated for Spring

Please join us on **March 21** for a full day of bee-keeping education and camaraderie! It's a great way to get the bee part of your brain satisfied before you can really get into the hives in the spring. The Annual Seminar will be held in Malta at the HVCC TEC-SMART Extension building at 345 Hermes Rd. This is a lovely facility set up for classes and conferences. The lectures, breaks, lunch, vendors, and Bee-Cup fundraiser will all fit in with plenty of room to spare. Everything is contained in one building, with no stairs. It's easy to get to, close to exit 12 of I-87 (the Northway). The annual SABA seminar is a super way to get a concentrated dose of bee education, without the cost and travel of going to EAS or ABF. Quite a bit of the fun is just being with 150 other beekeepers all day.

This year SABA has Allen Dick, Meghan Milbrath and Wyatt Mangum for our guest speakers.

Allen Dick of Swalwell Alberta has kept bees since 1972 and was a commercial beekeeper until 2003. He is a former Bee Inspector and contributes to Bee Culture magazine.

Meghan Milbrath is the founder of the Northern Bee Network - an organization designed to promote access to local bees. She runs a small queen rearing operation (75-100 hives) in Munith, Michigan.

Dr. Wyatt Mangum of Fredericksburg, Virginia is author of the new book Top-Bar Hive Beekeeping: Financially Sustainable and a frequent contributor to American Bee Journal.

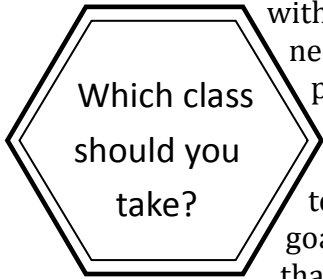
Please join us for dinner with Allen and Meghan Friday 3/20 at Carney's in Ballston Lake.

The Bee-Cup Auction is one of SABA's main fundraisers, and we will have many items donated from dealers to tempt you.

Volunteers Get in at a Discount, which varies depending on the size of your task. Please contact Seminar Organizer Anne Frey 895-8744 or annef2525@gmail.com to find out about volunteer opportunities.

See page 7 for registration form.

SABA's Beekeeping Classes



Classes will start soon, but there is still time to sign up. Which class should you take? If you will start with bees this spring, or have had bees a few years but have never taken a class, you need the beginner class. You'll learn how to buy and assemble equipment, where to place your hives, how to acquire bees, how to care for your growing colonies and how to prevent, identify and treat diseases. Though the first summer's honey is mainly left for the bees to get through their first winter, harvesting will be touched upon briefly. Swarms, beeswax, flowers, queens, stings and more. The goal of this class is to help you begin beekeeping more confidently and successfully than if you were on your own.

If you've had bees for at least 3 years and want to learn more, the intermediate class is the one for you. Topics include bee life cycle, advanced diseases/parasites, basic queen rearing, making splits, Ross Rounds comb honey, nuc creation and upkeep, swarms and their prevention and use, finding, catching and marking queens, and cut-outs from buildings. The goal of this class is to bring you past the level of simply keeping your bees alive and perhaps harvesting some liquid honey each year, and go further to get you on the road to becoming a true beekeeper.

The required books for both classes are Hive Management by Bonney and The Beekeeper's Handbook by Sammataro and Avitabile. We will use the books in greater depth for the intermediate class.

Beginner Series : 1/15, 3/26, 4/2, 9, 16. 6:30 – 9 pm

Intermediate Series : 2/5, 12, 19, 26. 6:30—9 pm

For each series, a final class (open hives in a bee yard) will be in the spring, date and location TBA.

Classes will be held in our usual meeting site, the Saratoga County CCE at 50 West High St., Ballston Spa.

Class fees : Beginner \$80, Intermediate \$80 (includes classes, books, handouts and a 1 yr. SABA membership). Youth Award applicants can take the class for free, and should just buy books or borrow from the SABA library.

— Bee School Organizers, Anne Frey and Ian Munger

(Anne 895-8744 annef2525@gmail.com , Ian beekeeper@bluelinehoney.com)

Please mail payment *made out to SABA* to : Ian Munger 2271 Sweetbrier Rd., Niskayuna NY 12309.

Winter Ideas

by Jennifer Ford

It's that time of year again. When the bustle of the holiday season dies down, I start to really miss going out and working in my beehives. So, what to do when honeybee withdrawal sets in? Here is a sampling of a few ideas to occupy your time until spring arrives!

Bundle up and visit the hives in spite of the cold! I don't open them up, but if I press one ear against the side of the hive and tap, I can hear a steady hum that tells me the bees are doing fine in the cozy beehive. No hum? I listen on different sides – sometimes you can't hear them if they are against the opposite wall. If I don't hear a hum at

all, I make a note to open that hive on a warmer day to see what is going on. If the hive has died, I do a "post-mortem" to try and figure out what went wrong. This can tell me if I need to address any problems prior to winter.

Start getting ready for spring. Even if you are an experienced beekeeper, there is a lot of work that can be done now to get ready. Inventory equipment – decide what needs to be replaced, what you might need more of, what is in need of repair, etc. Check over your records from last season. Is there anything you would like to change for the coming year? Anything new you want to try?

Winter Ideas (continued from page 3)

Try out some beehive related crafts. Candle making is a lot of fun, and not very hard. There are a wide variety of candle molds available to suit every taste – from tapers and pillars to trees, bears, and beehives.

Homemade beauty products made from beeswax are another fun craft to try. These can range from fairly complicated to quite easy. I haven't tried out soap making yet, although I would like to someday. But with a fairly inexpensive kit, I made enough beeswax lip balm for my friends and family in just a few hours.

If you enjoy wine, you may also want to try out mead making. I have managed to make a decent orange blossom honey mead, and a very nice apple cider mead. Local wine supply shops are a great place to get started.

If you enjoy baking, try out some new recipes that use honey. Friends and family are usually eager to help taste test any new recipes.

Take a look through a beekeeping supply catalogue and you will find lots of ideas for interesting crafts and projects, and the supplies to get started. There are many resources on the web as well.

Another idea is to catch up on your beekeeping related reading! Winter is a great time to learn about or refresh your memory on beekeeping. A few that I have found helpful and informative are **Beekeeping for Dummies** by Howland Blackiston, **Bee-Sentials** by Larry Connor, **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping** by Dean Stiglitz and Laurie Herboldsheimer, **Natural Beekeeping** by Ross Conrad, and **The Backyard Beekeeper** by Kim Flottum.

There are also many books out there that are just plain entertaining! Here are some of my favorites when I am just looking for a good read. **The Beekeeper's Lament** by Hannah Nordhaus is the story of beekeeper John Miller, and the challenges facing all beekeepers today. It is informative, entertaining, and written in an engaging manner. I found it hard to put down once I got started. **Confessions of a Bad Beekeeper** by Bill Turnbull made me laugh out loud, and feel a lot better about the mistakes I've made in beekeeping! **Bees Don't Get Arthritis** by Fred Malone contains lot of great information about the health benefits

of honey and products of the hive, and also an entertaining story. **Honeybee: Lessons from an Accidental Beekeeper** by C. Marina Marchese is full of great information about getting started in beekeeping, but told as a story as the author is learning the art of beekeeping. A fun read!

Following the Bloom by Douglas Whynott : I honestly never thought I would be all that interested in a book about migratory beekeeping. This book proved me wrong – it is a fascinating story with a lot of great information.

Bees Besieged by Bill Mares has many stories of beekeepers, the challenges they are facing today, and why they still love keeping bees. Full of information, it was another book that once started, I couldn't put down.

Letters from the Hive by Stephen Buchmann This book really has it all! History, mythology, stories, science, and recipes, something for everyone.

A Book of Bees by Sue Hubbell is the story of one beekeepers' adventures in beekeeping told through the seasons. This book reminds me of why I love beekeeping, even on the most frustrating days.

Or, how about watching a good movie about bees or beekeeping? One of my favorites is "*Sister Bee*" by Laura Tyler. "*Sister Bee*" is not your usual how-to beekeeping video. It is a documentary - a series of interviews with six women beekeepers, interspersed with general information about bees, and some beautiful musical background. These beekeepers share what they enjoy about beekeeping, what they find frustrating about beekeeping, and why they love keeping bees in spite of those frustrations. The musical score and the visual images are amazing. It is one of my favorite videos to watch when I can't go out and get into my beehives myself!

Some other videos that I have enjoyed watching are "*The Monk and the Honeybee: Brother Adam and the Buckfast Superbee*," "*NOVA's Bees in the Hive*," and "*Vanishing of the Bees*."

I hope these ideas help with any honeybee withdrawal symptoms you may be experiencing. Have fun, and remember, only a few more months before you can get back into those beehives!

SABA Promotes Young Beekeepers

Congratulations to the 2014 Young Beekeeper Award Winners. Patrick Peters, last year's Wolf/Lounsbury Young Beekeeper Award winner, presented the awards.

The Wolf/Lounsbury Young Beekeeper Award was presented to Guilderland resident **Atticus Matkin**, 14 years old. Brian Cuttler will mentor him this year. Atticus is interested in botany and plant identification, participates in Astronomy Club and Future Engineer program. He is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout and is a pre-competitive swimmer. He has great interest in the behaviors of the honey bee and would love to sell honey.

The Bob Stevens Young Beekeeper Award was granted to **Jordie Quickenton**, 14, of Burnt Hills. Dan Kerwood will be his mentor. Jordie is a member of the local rod and gun club and holds down a part-time job at a local cider mill. . He has helped his aunt extract honey and loves watching documentaries about honey bees.

Seek them out at the next meeting to give them hardy encouragement.

The Youth Beekeeper Award Committee: Anthony Antonucci, Brian Cuttler, Betsy LaClair, Patrick Peters, Tess Smith, Marsha Williams (Chair)



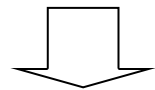
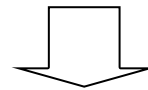
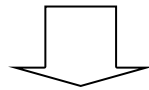
Atticus Matkin has just received the 2014 Wolf/Lounsbury Young Beekeeper award.

Photo by Brian Cuttler

Photo Pages

Please send your interesting beekeeping photos to the Editor. Include a caption and photographer's name.

Thank you!



Remember, Spring Will Return

I took this photo at the end of June.

Spring will return! — Anne Frey

Jordie Quickenton accepts the Bob Stevens Young Beekeeper Award at the November 17 SABA meeting.

Photo by Brian Cuttler



You can find out more about the two Young Beekeeper Awards on our website, www.adirondackbees.org.

SABA Library Report

by Nancy Wicker, librarian@adironackbees.org

As the newly-named Librarian I have spent the last month sorting, cleaning and re-organizing the collection. And also thinking a bit about what new books to add to those we already have.

However, it turned out that nearly 40% of all the books the club owns are currently checked out and long over due. Many of them have been borrowed and kept out for years at a time.

Now's the time to check your shelves and see if you have a long-forgotten SABA Library item and plan to return it as soon as possible. If you aren't expecting to attend the next General Meeting on January 12th, please email me at librarian@adironackbees.org so we can work out an alternate method to get the items returned to the Library.

Remember, there are no over-due book fines or late fees. It's just important to get the materials back so they can be loaned out other members. Replacing the missing items will cost the club thousands of dollars – money that could be better spent acquiring new books.

Which brings me back to where I started: I would be delighted to hear your suggestions for books (or CDs, DVDs or whatever) to be added to the Library. When I was recruited to become the librarian the principal carrot that was offered to me by the Board was that there would be some funds available to buy books. I'm hoping we can add interesting *new* titles, not merely keep replacing ones that have gone missing.

Will you help by giving your bookshelves a close look to make sure you don't have one of the SABA books? (It's easy to overlook a borrowed book. When I was clearing out space to put the SABA books I discovered a public library book that I had borrowed quite awhile ago. Oops!)

Thanks for your help on this first task on the way to getting the Library re-energized and becoming even more useful to the members.

SABA Seeks Saratoga County Fair Booth Organizer

SABA extends many thanks to Linda Armour, who coordinated the efforts of SABA's booth at the Saratoga County Fair for 2013 and 2014. She injected a dose of new ideas into the long-held spot in the Townley Building, and spruced up the display.

Linda is stepping down, and we now need another enthusiastic person for this position. This is not a Board position, but is certainly very important. The Fair booth Organizer is busy during early July preparing for the Fair (This year it runs July 21—26 with set-up on July 19 or 20 and tear-down on July 27), with some preparations happening as early as the March and May meetings (alerting the meeting attendees of the Fair, and making sure the sign-up sheet for volunteers gets filled in). Members must be found who can provide honey for the booth volunteers to sell. A few Beeline articles, perhaps one before and one after, are needed. Three people with observation hives need to be found who can provide them at the booth.

Linda has all documentation saved and is willing to advise the new person on any matter. The Fair Booth Organizer could even be two Co-Organizers, for example one who deals with the actual fair things like set-up and tear-down, and the other who handles prep work, which generally is done by computer and phone.

Someone who is used to the Fair Booth might be a good person for this, or someone who is simply excited about SABA. Please contact Chris Cripps, President, or Linda Armour at 895-2962.

Please cut out or copy this form and mail with your check or money order, made out to SABA, to:
Anne Frey, 4808 Skyline Dr., Delanson, NY 12053-3932 . Or: you may register on our website
www.adirondackbees.org.

Name(s) of those attending _____

Address in full _____

Phone, home _____ Phone, cell _____

Email (Please only fill in if you use email a lot!) _____

Seminar entry (\$35 per non-SABA member, \$30 per SABA member,
and free for all student applicants to SABA Youth Awards) \$

If you have checked with Anne Frey about a volunteer discount, please make a small note here and fill in your
discounted entry fee on the line above. _____

Lunch on site (Panera Bread boxed lunch, \$10/person)..... \$ _____

Renew SABA membership here if you like! (\$15/year or \$60/5 years) \$ _____

Friday night dinner with speakers Dick and Milbrath(\$35 / person deposit) \$ _____

Check # _____ (to SABA) Total Payment enclosed..... \$ _____



Advertisements: 3 lb. package bees with Italian queen for \$115, marked queen add \$3 per queen; \$50 deposit required to reserve package; \$5 discount per package if full payment accompanies order.

5 frame nucleus colonies with marked New World Carniolan queen for \$175 (limited quantity). \$5 discount per nuc if full payment accompanies order.

Tentative pick up date for packages and nucs is May 2, subject to spring build up weather.

Hot wax dip your new, unpainted wooden ware. No more painting! Waterproof your wood. \$5 per piece, per dip. Tentative dates April 4 and April 11. Dipping days must be rain free. **Reservations required.** Contact Aaron Morris @ (518) 899-6113 or email aaronqmorris@gmail.com (email is preferable).

Three pound Italian packages scheduled for pick up in Colonie April 2, \$125 before \$10 discount for SABA members. 5-frame nucs with Carniolan queens about May 10, \$170. To reserve and for more information, beegood@gmail.com. 518-573-8246. Lloyd Spear

Don't Forget: Seminar Volunteers get discounted entry into the seminar or a free T-shirt. Contact Anne for a job! 895-8744

Interest in Microscopy Class Gauged

SABA is investigating having a microscopy class on March 22 in Ballston Spa. The teacher would be Karen Thurlow of New Moon Apiary in Maine (www.newmoonapiary.com) The class would be 3 hours long and include hands-on instruction with at most two people per scope. Topics could include Nosema, tracheal mites, pollen and bee anatomy. The cost would be \$80 per person. It's possible a member could use the SABA Education Scholarship Fund to offset the costs, if the application was filled out in a timely fashion (see our website) Are you interested? Please let Anne know at annef2525@gmail.com or call 258-7503.



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Treasurer Trish Manning
442 Van Patten Rd.
Duanesburg NY 12056

For Sale / Wanted / Reminders

FOR SALE: 2 cedar hive stands for 8 frame hive – used just over 1 year. Paid \$14 each. Asking \$10 each.

Contact Linda Armour by email :

larmour1@nycap.rr.com or call 895-2962.

HoneybeeLives Organic Beekeeping Classes introduce students to Organic/Natural Beekeeping with a Biodynamic influence. This two-day winter weekend class taught by Chris Harp and Grai Rice is available on three weekends in the Hudson Valley. Learn a gentle way to tend them while respecting their instincts and understanding their complex and beautiful lives. This class is also helpful for current beekeepers who are looking for a culture of nurturing to advance their skills. The Hudson Valley location offered January 24 & 25, February 7 & 8 or March 7 & 8. \$200 for the weekend. Please visit www.HoneybeeLives.org for more info on class and registration, or call 845-255-6113.

Beeline Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 26 at noon. Please submit your articles, photos, announcements, etc. to the Editor, preferably via email: annef2525@gmail.com. Photos should be reduced in size before sending.

SABA Memberships run out this month. Please check your address sticker or contact the Treasurer to see if you need to renew your membership.

Online Payment of dues is now possible on the SABA website. www.adirondackbees.org. Or, mail to the Treasurer at address above, or pay before a meeting at the greeting table.

Wanted: Volunteers for March 21 seminar. Tasks include buying cold drinks, snacks; providing coolers with ice; providing folding tables; selling raffle tickets; stuffing packets; selling T-Shirts; bringing in boxes; taking photos. Call Anne at 258-7503.

www.Honeybeesuite.com is a great site. Take a look!