



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail form with payment, bring to any meeting, or join online at <http://www.adirondackbees.org>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Many communications with members are through email.
To stay informed, please provide your email address.

Are you already a beekeeper?

_____ No

_____ Yes, since _____

Number of hives, if any: _____

Membership Type: _____ New Member

_____ Renewal

Dues: _____ Annual Membership - \$15

_____ Five-Year Membership - \$60 (save \$15)

_____ Lifetime Membership - \$150

Make check payable to **SABA** and return this form to our Treasurer:

KIRT COONRADT
471 Waterbury Road
Nassau, NY 12123

Dues are per calendar year. Members joining after Sept. 1 will have dues paid through the following year.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Goals of the Organization:

- Education of the general public about the importance of honey bees.
- Learn about beekeeping at meetings, workshops and seminars, and through SABA's bi-monthly newsletter, **The Beeline**.
- Representation at State and National levels in matters pertaining to the beekeeping industry.
- Interaction with other beekeepers and beekeeping associations.

Meetings. General Membership and Executive Board meetings are held monthly at: Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, 50 West High St., Ballston Spa, NY. For exact dates, times and programs, check the **Meeting and Event Calendar** online at: <http://www.adirondackbees.org>.

Good Public Relations for Hobby Beekeepers

(Source: A leaflet from Dadant & Sons, Inc., Hamilton, Il. 62341)

On a fair summer's day, a typical suburban lot may contain thousands of honeybees going quietly about their business, foraging for nectar and pollen and pollinating food-producing plants. Men and bees have lived in harmony for centuries and chances are the lot owner doesn't even know the bees are there. However, because of sensationalized publicity surrounding "scare" movies and the Africanized honey bee (the so-called "Killer Bees"), the appearance of a beehive in your backyard may unexpectedly alarm your neighbors. Backyard beekeeping means that every beekeeper must practice good public relations as well as good beekeeping.

- **Before you start** – Check local ordinances to make sure you're allowed to keep bees on your property. Talk to your neighbors, find out if anyone has an extreme sensitivity to bee stings, and stress the positives of beekeeping: fresh wholesome honey, increased pollination, and the fascination of your beekeeping hobby.
- **Start with one or two colonies and use gentle hybrid bees.** Re-queen as needed to keep the bees working and gentle. Stay small the first year. At the end of the first year you'll be able to judge neighbor reactions to expanding or changes. Perhaps expansion of your new business requires an out-of-town bee yard.
- **Locate the bees carefully** – away from patios, play areas, swimming pools, confined pets, and neighboring doorways and driveways. Direct bee flight upwards by locating hives behind shrubbery, fences or in the light shade of open trees so that flight is at least seven feet above the ground at boundary lines. "Out of sight – Out of mind" is a good policy. Locating hives in quiet areas will calm the bees, avoid the danger of vandalism, and calm everybody's imagination. Always provide a continuous source of water such as a hydrant slowly dripping onto a board. Don't let bees get started using your neighbor's dog's water dish.
- **Keep your bees calm** – If possible, work the bees when there is little or no neighborhood activity. Open hives only on warm sunny days when there is some nectar flow to prevent robbing which can irritate the bees. Wear protective clothing and use your smoker to calm the bees. Work carefully with no sudden movements. Remember that your calm attitude towards bees will also calm anxious neighbors who'll be watching.
- **Prevent swarming** – Beekeepers know that swarming is a safe and perfectly natural occurrence but neighbors may be reminded of sensationalized special effects in "scare" movies. Be prepared to handle swarms as quietly and efficiently as possible. Don't try to compete with the movies and other spectacular publicity – your first obligation is to be a good neighbor.
- **Share your hobby** – Giving an occasional jar of honey to the neighbors is good for public relations. Read and keep informed so you can talk about your bees in an informed manner. Chances are you'll be invited to share your hobby with various groups. Use these opportunities to point out the value and importance of bees and beekeeping.
- **Remember** – Sometimes one small incident can create a lot of bad publicity. The tips on this page make good beekeeping sense wherever you keep bees.