

FCBA NEWS



Franklin County Beekeepers Association

franklincountybeekeeperspa@gmail.com <http://fcbapa.com> FB: Franklin County (PA) Beekeepers Assn
February 2020 Volume 3 - Issue 2

Upcoming Events

FCBA Beginner Beekeeping Basics Class

March 5, 12, 19, 26 Snow date April 2
6:30 PM- 9:00 PM, Ag Heritage Bldg., 185
Franklin Farm Ln., Chambersburg, Room 7-8

Spring Meeting

May 28, 2020 - 6:30 - 9:00, Ag Heritage
Bldg., 185 Franklin Farm Ln., Chambersburg,
Room 7-8. Proposed speaker: Jim Bruckart

FCBA Officers

President: Steve Hill

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Vice President: Tim Weller

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Board: Steve Campbell

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Board: Mike Poe

brazilbuzz@gmail.com - 717-462-6281

Board: Jon Deardorff

deardorffJK@gmail.com - 717-642-9083

Treasurer: Georgia Townsend

townsend.georgia@gmail.com - 717-352-3310

Secretary: Diane Small

dsmall2029@gmail.com - 717-360-2288

Digital Media Coordinator: Matt Allen

Mathew.john.allen@gmail.com

Thanks to all that came out for the Winter Meeting.

I counted approximately 70 folks in attendance. Also thanks to all who renewed their membership!

We had Craig Cella as our speaker for this meeting. Craig was a PA Bee Inspector for some time and has been keeping bees himself for about 65 years, shoveling snow to raise enough money to buy his first bees, \$5 for a short driveway and \$10 for a longer driveway. Of course you know he prayed for snow that year.

There were door prizes involved, supplied by Craig and good conversation.

Craig suggested a few good reads: Fifty Years Among the Bees by Dr C.C Miller, The Hive and the Honey Bee and The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture.

Some other notable items, he also brought up, Farm Service Agency - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm raised Fish (ELAP).

ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather and events or loss conditions...

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2019/elap_general_fact_sheet.pdf

Along that topic, you could also look at the possibility of weather insurance if you were so inclined. Finding: "Weather insurance is typically a stated value policy - this means that

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once the agreed upon threshold of rain/snow, ect. is reached or exceeded during the specified date and time, the total limit of insurance is paid out."

I'm not promoting but here is a link to info I found on weather insurance:

<https://spectrumweatherinsurance.com/weather-insurance-products/>

I'm sure you could find others.

Craig supplied several good handouts one of which was "Tools For Varroa Management" you can download a copy at:

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>



TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT
A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE VARROA SAMPLING & CONTROL
HEALTHY BEES · HEALTHY PEOPLE · HEALTHY PLANET™



February in the bee yard

The Bees - The queen, still cozy in the cluster, will begin to lay a few more eggs each day. It is still "females only" in the hive. Workers will take cleansing flights on mild days. The bees will consume about 25 pounds of honey this month.

The Beekeeper - There is not too much to do this month. Attend those bee club meetings. Read. Get your equipment ready for spring.

President's Message

I almost didn't have an article for this month, but some stuff finally came to me. First, I cannot say enough about how hard your board is working for this association. We have some great things happening. The Beginner Beekeeper class has been revised and is really ready to go. That is thanks to a "committee" which included some of your board members but also some previous students who made changes in areas they felt needed improvement.

By the time you read this, the new bylaws will be out for each member to review in hopes of approval at the spring meeting. Every board meeting, I prepare an agenda of items I know we need to address and without fail, new items are added, which proves your board is engaged to improve the association.

Kay Deardorff has taken outreach to a whole new level and has some great things in the works.

We are working to secure speakers at our meetings that can help each member, gain knowledge, no matter their skill level. I personally am pushing to see the Ice Cream Social revamped; I feel we've lost the social part of it.

I'd like to say something to clarify our calendar. Events listed as a seasonal Meeting & the Banquet are general

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association meetings, which may include association business discussions. Events listed as Newbee are more educational in nature. Everyone is welcome to attend all events

Another topic I need to cover is other beekeeper associations. Our bylaws require us to promote and become involved in other associations and we've lost that. I accompanied Jim Bruckart (a previous president) to various beekeeping events, which was very informative; that hasn't been promoted in a few years. One of the big organizations we should be aware of is the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association (PSBA). Tim Weller has been attending some of their activities and I would like to see more of our members involved, not only with PSBA, but also other clubs. Right now I'd like to basically introduce the PSBA and ask you to consider if it's for you. They have a website and I've been asked to share their latest newsletter with our membership. Tim & I attended the picnic last summer and it was a great opportunity to meet other beekeepers from across the state. They also hold a symposium annually with some great speaker topics.

Some other regional events:

<http://www.pennapic.org/> - Penn Apic 2020

Spring Work - March 7, 2020

See other happenings at:

<http://www.pastatebeekeepers.org/events.php>

We encourage you to also join the PA State Beekeepers Association (PSBA).

You may ask, why should I join the state association, when I belong to a local association.

To name just a few reasons to join the PSBA

1. PSBA promotes responsible legislation on beekeeping in PA.
2. PSBA sends representatives of the association to the Pennsylvania Township Supervisors Association conference each year to help educate township supervisors about the value of honey bees and beekeeping on the local level.
3. PSBA provides support to beekeepers and their local organizations facing excessively restrictive local ordinances and legal challenges.
4. PSBA members visit our state legislators in an annual basis.
5. PSBA meets twice a year, summer picnic and late fall banquet.
6. PSBA promotes honey bees, honey and beekeeping through the PA State Honey Queen program.
7. PSBA produces a newsletter 10 times a year in an effort to keep beekeepers informed.

We will also follow this month's newsletter with Feb copy of the PSBA newsletter so you can get a sampling of their newsletter.

Outreach Opportunities

Thank you to all who reached out to offer help to our board and help for the outreach, we do appreciate all offers of assistance.

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The outreach department is looking for volunteers. Kay Deardorff has graciously agreed to head this team.

Kay will need help, contact her at:

deardorffJK@gmail.com.

Or 717-642-9083

The kind of help Kay will need is:

- Set up and tear down of the booth
- Man the booth (even if you can help one time would be great), talking to folks about bees, handing out flyers/honey straws
- possibly helping in a classroom setting among other things.

Events that may include:

Franklin County Fair (July 5-11)

Shippensburg Fair (last week in July)

Franklin Fall Fun Farm Fest (late Sept)

Renfrew festival (Earth day, late Apr)

And others

Please reach out to Kay for more information and to lend a helping hand

deardorffJK@gmail.com.

Or 717-642-9083

Mentor Request

We are also looking for folks who would be able to be mentors for our Newbees this coming year.

We suggest you have at least 2 years of beekeeping under your belt to mentor.

"A newbie, without a mentor, who attends club meetings, may find it difficult to get answers to questions. If the meeting program was about making beeswax candles, that topic is far into the future for someone in their first year. If no

refreshments are given at the meeting then there is no time to mingle with experienced beekeepers. The first year is just more difficult without a mentor. It is possible that some of these Newbees will have problems that could have easily been solved with a mentor. But - no mentor - no more Newbee, too discouraged to continue."

If you are able to become a mentor please email your name, phone number and address to: franklincountybeekeeperspa@gmail.com
Or call me at 717-360-2288

We will use your address to pair you with Newbees closer to your location. I certainly don't want to put someone out of their way to mentor a distant Newbee.

Start cleaning up the equipment for the spring.



If there is something you would like to see in the newsletter please let us know.

franklincountybeekeeperspa@gmail.com

Any suggestion is a good suggestion.

Don't forget to check the website for other upcoming FCBA events.

<https://fcbapa.com/events/>