



LANCASTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY



www.lancasterbeekeepers.org

also

LCHP@yahoogroups.com

Officers for 2015

President:

Jim Pinkerton
127 Park Avenue
Mount Joy, PA 17552
717-653-5911
jim@gatheringplacemj.com

Vice President & Webmaster

Matt Libhart
2 Kitty Dale
Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-6568
mathew@libhart.com

Secretary:

Steve Houser
1401 Mission Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-397-2002
stevekimmarlo@verizon.net

Treasurer:

Kris Gosling
322 Kelly Ave
Mount Joy, PA 17552
717-653-4933
treasurer@lancasterbeekeepers.org

Past President:

Dan Chambers
58 River Road
Pequea, PA 17565
717-284-3418
danielchambers@verizon.net

Librarian:

Donna Brice
donnabrice@live.com

Newsletter:

Jim Pinkerton

Meetings for 2015

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February 17
Tri County Meeting
See Page 2 for details

February 24
Annual Beekeepers Banquet
The Gathering Place
6 Pine Street
Mount Joy
See below for more information

March 17, 6:00 pm
North Museum of Science and
Natural History
400 College Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

April 21, 6:00pm meeting
North Museum
400 College Ave
**We will talk about spring work,
swarm prevention, making splits
and all the other spring concerns
of a beekeeper. We'll also get to
see our new observation hive at
the museum along with their
newly renovated digs.**

May 19, 6:00pm
Southeast Ag Research and
Extension Center
1446 Auction Road
Manheim, PA 17545
Open Hives... make or check splits and
nucleus hives.

**Club Member's Yard Sale and Plant
exchange.** You can sell your extra
equipment or supplies and exchange
seeds and plants from your yard.
Always a well attended and fun
meeting.

Meetings Continued.....

June 16 & July 21

Southeast Ag Research and
Extension Center
1446 Auction Road
Manheim, PA 17545
Open hives, Splitting hives and setting
up and managing nucleus hives.
Methods of raising your own Queens.
No speakers or formal meeting, just
hands on experience in our apiary on the
farm.

August 22 **National Honey Bee Day**

Plan to do something to promote
Honey Bees

Farm Hives

This year we are planning to
have a Farm Hive check between
our regular meetings. There will
be no meeting, just checking
hives. These will consist of
opening hives, checking for eggs,
brood, queens and checking the
general health and wellbeing of
each hive. A good chance to
work with bees even if you don't
have your own or to compare
how your hives are doing against
the hives at the farm.

Please do not come expecting
to watch others check hives. If
you attend you will need to bring
your veil/jacket/suit, a hive tool,
and your smoker full of fuel. This
will be led by an experienced
beekeeper and is a chance to
learn from others but not by
watching, you will be in hives
yourself. Check back nearer the
date as the date/time may
change...April 14...May 5...June 2
6:00pm

Tri-County Meeting

February 17, 2015 - 07:00 PM
Stager Hall - F&M College
Stager Hall
Lancaster, PA



The Lancaster County Beekeeper Society hosts the 2015 Tri -County Bee Meeting, February 17 @ 7pm on the Campus of Franklin & Marshall College in Stahr Auditorium in Stager Hall. There is no street address for Stager Hall but it's located just off the north side of the 500 block of College Ave, Lancaster PA. You can search directly in Google Maps for Stager Hall and it can also be located on this campus map:

<http://www.fandm.edu/map>

Dr. Tarpy's presentation will focus on his research into queen quality. The official title of the presentation is *Sperm Viability in Queens and Factors of Diminished Queen Reproductive Quality*. This is a great topic of interest for all as quality queens bring us quality bees.

Dr. Dave Tarpy will give a remote presentation on current research topics from his home base at NC State University. Even though remote, the presentation is fully interactive and those in attendance will be welcome to pose questions to Dr. Tarpy.

The Lancaster Beekeepers hope attendees will bring along any unwanted beekeeping books & magazines to share with others who may find them useful & will have a table out for people to help themselves.

11th Annual Honey Banquet

Our annual HONEY BANQUET will be held on February 24, 6:30pm at The Gathering Place located at 6 Pine Street in Mount Joy. Come out and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and camaraderie with fellow beekeepers. The cost is \$15 per adult, while children (ages 12 and under) eat for free with paying adults.

Our Speaker this year will be *Wendy Brister* speaking on **the Top Pollinator Plants for Central PA**

We are planning just an enjoyable evening of good food and conversation, with a silent auction thrown in for fun. Bring something for the auction, if you wish, but most important, come and enjoy the evening with friends and families of beekeepers.

**The menu will include: Tossed Salad, Ham loaf, Boneless Skinless Chicken, Steamed Red Potatoes, Fresh Broccoli, and Baked Corn.
*Build Your Own, Ice Cream Sundae Buffet, for Dessert.***

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by Feb 21.



Reserve your dinner at The Gathering Place on February 24, 2015.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER of adults _____ NUMBER of children (ages 12 and under eat for free!) _____

AMOUNT of PAYMENT Enclosed = \$15.00 x number of adults (ages 13 and over) _____

Send this form (or a paper with your count) and payment by Feb 21 to:
Jim Pinkerton, 6 Pine Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552
(Make checks payable to 'Lancaster County Beekeepers Society')

See you on Feb 24th at 6:30 pm!



Personal Beekeeping Philosophy

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A lot of decisions on equipment or methods depend on your personal philosophy of life and your personal philosophy of beekeeping. Some people have more faith in Nature or the Creator to work things out. Some are more interested in keeping their bees healthy with chemicals and treatments. You'll have to decide where you stand on these kinds of things.

Organic

If you're the type to take an herbal remedy before you run to the doctor, you probably fall into this category. True organic would be no treatments whatsoever. Some will say this can't be done, but there are many people including me doing it. Many are online and help each other through it. After that there are "soft" treatments like essential oils and FGMO, and then slightly "harder" treatments like Formic Acid and Oxalic acid for Varroa.

Chemical

If you're the type who runs to the doctor for antibiotics the second you get a sniffle this is probably more your style. Some in this group treat for prevention. In my opinion the wiser ones treat only when necessary. Most of the recent research shows that treating for prevention has caused resistance to the chemicals on the part of the pests and has done little to help the hive and often hurt them. Chemical buildup in the wax from Cumaphos (Check Mite) and Fluvalinate (Apistan) used for Varroa mites, is suspected to be the cause of high supersedure rates, and known to be the cause of infertility in drones and queens.

Science vs. Art

"Those who are accustomed to judge by feeling do not understand the process of reasoning, for they would understand at first sight and are not used to seek for principles. And others, on the contrary, who are accustomed to reason from principles, do not at all understand matters of feeling, seeking principles and being unable to see at a glance."--Blaise Pascal

If you see beekeeping as an art or you see it as a science it will change your perspective a lot. I think it's a bit of both, but since bees are quite capable of surviving on their own and since we really can't coerce them into doing anything, I see it as more of an art where you work with the bees natural tendencies to help them and yourself. Part of this is also the ability to see intuitively the whole picture instead of seeing each individual piece as if it stands alone.

Scale

This is another thing that changes your philosophy on many things. When you have time to spend with the hives and the hives are in your backyard, then methods that require you to do something every week are not a big problem. For instance, when I requeen in my own yard, I don't mind if it takes three trips to the hive to get it done if that improves acceptance. But if it's at an out yard 60 miles away, I want to do something one time and be done. The same is true of the number of hives. If you have only two hives to deal with on a certain issue, you may not mind how complicated it is. When you have hundreds of hives to deal with, you have to have a streamlined system.

Reasons for Beekeeping

A lot of your decisions will be guided by this. If you have bees as pets you have a different agenda than if you have them solely to make a living. **Michael Bush**