

“The Value of Beekeeping”

A 1999 Cornell University study of U.S. agriculture concluded that the direct value of honeybee pollination is over \$15 billion. This is a 56.7% increase from 1989! Each year it takes 1 million colonies of honeybees just to pollinate California’s Almond groves!



But the honeybees are under attack by mites and diseases so each year there are fewer and fewer of these wonders of nature to perform their pollination task. That is why keepers of bees are needed right now more than ever!

Why not start Beekeeping today?

“Honeybee trivia”

- All of the worker bees in a hive are female and they only live about 40 days!
- In the summer months there are 50,000-70,000 honeybees in each colony of which only a few hundred are male bees (drones) and only ONE QUEEN!
- A Queen begins her life as an ordinary worker larvae but by only being fed Royal Jelly she becomes a queen and mates with up to 17 drones!
- The Queen honeybee lays about 2,000 eggs a day during warm weather!

Aren't honeybees great?

Why not start Beekeeping today?

“Membership has its Privileges”

The Monroe County Beekeepers Association is comprised of beekeepers of all ages from the Pocono, Slate Belt, and Lehigh Valley regions of northeastern PA and provides:

- ◇ *A monthly beekeeping newsletter with hints and tips, recipes, etc.;*
- ◇ *10 meetings per year to learn from, share ideas and socialize with other beekeepers as well as nationally known guest speakers;*
- ◇ *A chance to experience & learn about honeybees by watching them in our club observation hive;*
- ◇ *A free Beekeeping book and video lending library;*
- ◇ *Annual Field Day for hands-on experience with a PA State Bee Inspector;*
- ◇ *A Summer Picnic & an Annual Banquet with raffle and beekeeper door prizes;*
- ◇ *An endless and varied supply of suggestions and answers to your questions from beekeepers in your area that “know from experience”!*

For more information on our club and membership details check us out at:

www.monroecountybeekeepers.com

*Brochure layout & content by: Fr. Michael Salnicko
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**Been Dreaming Of
Bee-keeping?**

Then Look Inside ...

**Got You
Interested?**



"Why Beekeeping"

Beekeeping can be a very fulfilling and rewarding pastime. Most beekeepers are nature lovers and gardeners too so if you're a gardener you'll be delighted to know that the honeybee will increase your bounty through her hard work at pollination.

Honeybees, sometimes called the "Angels of Agriculture," pollinate about 80% of insect-pollinated food crops. Without honeybees there would not be enough meat, milk and cheese, vegetables or fruit to feed a hungry world. They must be saved and protected!

Beekeeping can fit in almost anywhere: a small backyard, a farmer's field, or even a patio deck. Some beekeepers in New York City keep their hives on high-rise balconies and rooftops and produce several TONS of honey each year!

Unfortunately, most folks identify any stinging insect as a 'bee' when the true culprit is often a wasp, hornet or yellowjacket. Honeybees are gentle and only sting when their life or hive is threatened! Some stings are expected in beekeeping.



Why not start Beekeeping today?

"Getting Started"



Beekeeping can be a hobby, sideline business, or fulltime profession. Getting started costs an average of about \$100 per hive for woodenware and \$50 for hat, veil, smoker, and hive tool. Buy it as a kit and get a discount. Add \$75 for the bees. But like any hobby, the sky is the limit!

Essential woodenware items are:

- 1) **Screened Bottom Board** – this is the honeybee's front door and the base of the hive;
- 2) **Brood Chamber(s)** – where the queen lays her eggs and baby bees are born and raised;
- 3) **Honey Super(s)** – where sweet nectar from trees and flowers are turned into delectable honey and stored for future use;
- 4) **Inner Cover** – the top of the interior of the hive;
- 5) **Outer Cover** – Goes over the inner cover and protects the honeybees from the weather;
- 6) **Frames** – holds the wax comb.
- 7) **Foundation** – base of the comb.

The veil protects your face and head, the smoker calms the bees, and the hive tool helps you manipulate the frames!

Why not start Beekeeping today?

"A Honey of a Hobby"

The honeybee is the only insect that produces a food for humans. European cave drawings made about 7000 BC show early cave dwellers collecting honey from wild honeybees! Honey is the world's oldest sweetener! Honey is natural, wholesome and pure! Honey contains important carbohydrates in an easily digestible simple form. Athletes add honey to their water bottles for a quick energy boost.

With today's concerns for health and the quality of the foods we eat why not keep honeybees and harvest from your own hive the finest and purest honey you've ever tasted.

Did you ever hear the saying, "Busy as a bee?" Worker bees fly 35,854 miles in 80,000 trips visiting 2 million flowers to produce 1 lb. of HONEY - each worker bee making about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey during her life.



But honey is only one product of the hive. There is also the pollen, propolis, beeswax and royal jelly – used to make soaps, candles, cosmetics, and natural cures!

Why not start Beekeeping today?