



# PROPOLIS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MONROE COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
[www.monroecountybeekeepers.com](http://www.monroecountybeekeepers.com)

## President's Message

August is called the dog-days of summer. According to the Kalevala, the national epic poem of Finland, the dog was created by the virginal fingers of the purest maiden of Pohyola. She was engaged in melting virgin honey, when some of it hardened on her fingers and from that the first dog was created. It was a neat, sweet, white-collared creature that did not bite "in the very least."

This story reminds me that August is the perfect time for removing the first crop of honey and getting the hives set up for the autumn honey flows right around the corner - whether it is to get a fall honey crop or to let the honeybees build up their winter larder for the cold days ahead.

Speaking of honey, there has been a rush on honey this past month that I could not believe - I bottled and sold over 240 pounds of extracted honey as well as all of my comb honey. I was also cleaned out of my buckwheat honey left over from last year.

The fundraisers for the club have gone very well - I have \$600 to turn over to the treasurer in net profit just from church functions, bazaars, and camps that I provided with club honey. Four cases were also provided to the Ed Center and four cases to the Bangor event - Rich will give us a report on the status of those sales. I think we have done well this year.

I have an insurance agent familiar with both beekeepers and clubs scheduled to give a presentation at the monthly meeting and he will answer your questions and give you information on the policies available for the hobbyist beekeeper. *Fr. Mike*

**MONTHLY MEETING:  
AUGUST 11, 7 PM**

**August, 2010**

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For Honey Recipes go to the  
National Honey Board website:  
[www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)



## Honey Proverbs From Around The World

If you want to gather  
honey, don't kick over the  
beehive. - Abraham Lincoln

Who collects honey and  
roses must bear the stings  
and the thorns. - Unknown

A drop of honey will not  
sweeten the ocean.  
- Unknown

It is dearly bought honey  
that is licked off a thorn.  
- French Proverb

## HIVE HELPERS *Hints and Tips For Our Members*

### August Tasks For The Beekeeper

#### DO's

- DO record your observations of the daily temps, weather, the bees, and important events such as any blooms-or lack thereof. A simple calendar to record daily info is a great help. A photo journal is very nice too!
- DO check your bees at least twice this month.
- DO check your mite load with a sugar shake to see if treatment is needed
- DO treat at this time for Varroa if necessary, reading all directions and precautions
- DO feed pollen patties, and sugar syrup, if needed, to get the bees in shape for the Fall nectar flow and help raise those 'fat' bees needed to make it through winter.
- DO dust your bees with powdered sugar before you close up the hive – it helps promote grooming behavior in our bees and makes it tougher for the Varroa mite.

#### DO NOT's

- DO NOT hunt for the queen but rather examine the brood pattern to check her out.
- DO NOT apply any treatments or sugar syrup when honey supers are on.

## OPEN HOUSE & PICNIC AT THE CLUB APIARY AUG 21<sup>st</sup> !

#### MCBA APPAREL AVAILABLE!

Thanks to our Vice-President Glenn Bachman we have MCBA hats, t-shirts, aprons, mugs, and other items with our official club logo available for purchase. A percentage of the proceeds are donated back to our Association.

[www.cafepress.com/mcbeekeepers](http://www.cafepress.com/mcbeekeepers)

Glenn is also working on the same deal with another site: <http://thehive.imprintsite.com>

#### New Beekeeping Woodenware For Sale

Local beekeeper Larry Tuttle of Wayne County Beekeepers has very good quality woodenware. Call him at 570-253-4124.

#### Association Fund Raisers

Our Treasurer Rich Sudnik has a supply of the book "Beekeeping For Dummies" available for purchase at five dollars below cost with all proceeds donated back to our Association. Beekeeping CD disks prepared by Michael Weller are also available for \$10.

#### MCBA LIBRARY

**Books/DVD's/Video's available for free loan to our members:**

- Backyard Beekeeping by Kim Flottum
- The Honey Handbook by Kim Flottum
- Contemporary Queen Rearing by Harry Laidlaw
- Anthology of Beekeeping (CD)
- National Honey Board Culinary Library (CD)
- Introduction to Beekeeping by Ed Weis (DVD)
- The Bee Movie (DVD)
- Silence Of The Bees (DVD)
- Life Of The Honeybee (DVD)
- Making Splits and Divides (DVD)
- Producing Comb Honey (DVD)

#### Association Members Needed as Speakers

We have been receiving many requests for giving presentations on honeybees and beekeeping. Most of these involve presentations to youth groups. If you can help, see Fr. Michael. We also have our teaching hive and laminated posters that you can borrow to use in your presentations.

## YOUR HONEY LABELS WANTED!

VP Glenn Bachman reminds all to bring in one of your honey labels for him to use in his new display of all of our members on a map of our Association members. It may be a nice idea to include the number of hives/locations that you have (if you tell him where he may be able to include it on his map display)!

## IMIRIE REQUEENING METHOD (ALMOST FOULPROOF)

*George Imirie was a Master Beekeeper from Montgomery County, MD, who passed away three years ago. He was a firm believer in beekeeper education and published a monthly newsletter called the Pink Pages. I had the honor to converse with him several times and know that he loved beekeepers almost as much as he loved his bees. Here is a reprint of his famous requeening method:*

1. Select an exact date for your new queen to arrive and make it known to your queen breeder, and get a MARKED QUEEN. TEN days before the new queen is to arrive, insert queen excluders in between any two boxes where your old queen can go. When your new queen arrives, water her and store her in a cool dark place until needed.
2. Gather up a double screen board, an empty hive body, 10 drawn combs, and a feeder with a gallon of 1:1 sugar syrup. Find the OLD queen in the colony you want to requeen (which ever brood box has uncapped larva is where the queen will be found). Set her with her frame ASIDE away from the colony, so that you free to manipulate all the other frames in the colony.
3. Select 3 frames of brood: 1 capped and 2 of eggs and larva, all with the covering nurse bees. Place these in the center of the empty hive body. Now add 6 more frames, as follows: 2 empty drawn comb, (one on each side of the brood frames), 2 frames of pollen and honey, (one on each side of the drawn comb), then 2 more empty drawn comb, (one on each side of the honey-pollen frames). This totals 9 frames leaving space for the queen cage.
4. Now take several frames of brood ...remaining in the old colony...and shake the nurse bees into the new 9-frame nuc. Cover the nuc and set it aside for a while.
5. Return the frame with the OLD queen to her home hive and replace the 5 frames you removed (3 of brood + 2 of honey-pollen) with empty drawn frames
6. Now put the double screen board on top of the old colony so that its entrance faces to the rear of the parent colony
7. Set the new 9-frame nuc on top and install the new queen (making sure you remove the cork from the candy end). Start feeding the new nuc immediately.
8. After about 3-5 days, check the queen cage very quickly using little or no smoke to see if the queen has been released. If she has not, you release her from the cage. Remove the queen cage and add the 10th frame on the end as gently as possible. Do NOT disturb for another 5-7 days and then check with as little disturbance and smoke as possible looking for eggs and larva.
9. During the next few weeks (I like about 5-6) check the brood pattern of the new queen. If you like it and want to accept that new queen, find the old queen down below the double screen, kill her, and remove the double screen board. (Editor's note – you may wish to replace the double screen board with a single sheet of ordinary newspaper with some slits cut into it so that when the brood box with the new queen is placed over the old colony it will give the bees in the lower box time to mingle with the bees in the upper box while the paper is being removed from the hive by the bees.)

This method has a couple of advantages: 1) if something is wrong with the new queen, you kill her and the colony has a backup with the old queen; and you requeen the colony at a later date, and 2) for about 5-6 weeks, you have 2 queens laying eggs that increase the number of bees which will make the hive stronger for winter and reduce the stresses of Winter.

Note: If you don't have a Double Screen Board - You should. If you are not sure how it is made, imagine a wooden queen excluder frame without the metal wires, covered on both sides by 8-mesh wire - A DOUBLE SCREEN BOARD. Brushy Mountain Bee Farm in North Carolina makes and sells a fancy, very, nice one. (GI) (See *George, you're still teaching . . .* Editor)

The agenda for the August Monthly meeting has been set. If you desire to have something put on the agenda for the September meeting you must let me know by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Mike

### Schedule

Monroe County Beekeepers Association meets at the Monroe County Conservation District Education Center on Running Valley Road in Stroudsburg the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 PM from February through November. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

- August Meeting begins at 7 PM on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- September Meeting begins at 7 PM on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>

### FIELD DAYS - OPEN HOUSE AND CLUB PICNIC

Saturday August 21 – At the Association Apiary at Smithfield Waterfront Park, Smithfield Twp.

### Contact List

<i>President</i>	Rev. Michael Salnicky	570-595-3265	<a href="mailto:pocbkpr@earthlink.net">pocbkpr@earthlink.net</a>
<i>Vice-President</i>	Glenn Bachman	570-722-3671	<a href="mailto:bkeeper@ptd.net">bkeeper@ptd.net</a>
<i>Secretary</i>	Laurel Bishow	570-223-1760	<a href="mailto:laurelbishow@yahoo.com">laurelbishow@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Sudnik	570-223-1239	<a href="mailto:spanky@epix.net">spanky@epix.net</a>



JOIN THE PA STATE BEEKEEPERS AND HELP ALL BEEKEEPERS IN PA!

PROPOLIS – A glue-like substance which honeybees use to structurally strengthen their home to keep it snug and safe. It also has certain properties that protect against some pathogens.



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