



PROPOLIS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
MONROE COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
www.monroecountybeekeepers.com

President's Message

Hello and welcome to 2011!

Winter in the Pocono's is upon us. The bees are nestled in their hive planning their moves for spring. We should also be preparing for spring. The upcoming year looks like a good year. Not only did the groundhog call for an early spring but also a great year for beekeeping. I would, as pres, like to see more hands-on activities at the meetings such as candle making, lip balm, soap making and other ideas coming from the membership.

I would like more social time at meetings, as I always say to new beekeepers: listen and learn from the experienced beekeepers! This will be done with topics being brought up and discussed. I would like to thank Father Mike and the officers from last year. A lot of good things happened in the last couple of years. We have our own apiary. We do need volunteers to maintain these.

If the events are too far to travel, let's get a project close to you started. I will see you at the meetings and do not be afraid to voice your opinion or comments - it's your club.

Bee Happy!

- Glenn

Vice President's Message

Greetings all and think spring. My Name is Bob Armstrong and I was elected your VP of the club for 2011. I'm writing this the day after our first meeting. It was great to see some of the old members from previous years and its great to see new members. By the sounds of the meeting Glenn has a lot planned and it's going to be an exciting new year. Remember it's all about the Bees and the Beekeepers. Did I say Think Spring already!

- Robert Armstrong

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

March 9, 7 PM

Jan.Feb.Mar - 2011

In This Issue . . .

President's Message	pg 1
Vice President's Message	pg 1
Hive Helpers	pg 2
Gearing Up For 2011	pg 3
Contact Info	pg 4

For Honey Recipes go to the
National Honey Board website:
www.honey.com



A Farewell Thank You!

I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank all the members for your support the past two years and especially the officers who served with me for making my task that much easier. You have a good president in Glenn and I hope you will support him and the other officers as our club continues to move onward and upward. Remember, don't wait to be asked but volunteer willingly. See you in the Bee Yard! Bee well! - Fr. Michael

**PA BEEKEEPERS HIVE
STERILIZATION SCHEDULED
FOR MARCH 7
SEE GLENN FOR INFO**

HIVE HELPERS *Hints and Tips For Our Members*

DO's

- DO check your bees once this month on a mild day (upper 40's to low 50's) to see if they are still alive and maybe at the top of the inner cover – quickly place fondant over but in contact with the cluster and close up (you don't want to chill and kill the brood).
- DO seal up any dead-outs to prevent robbing and cross contamination. These hives should be removed and cleaned up when the weather breaks.
- DO clean stored supers and frames of burr comb and propolis.
- DO paint and repair equipment; replace with new equipment when necessary.
- DO order any packages or queens you may need.
- DO take some time to read up on beekeeping topics and to make a management chart of what you want to accomplish this year and a schedule of how you plan to do it!
- DO start a journal NOW and record your observations of the daily temps, weather, the bees, and important events such as maple budding times. A simple calendar to record daily info can help.
- DO order and assemble new equipment:
 - a) New brood frames and foundation – your goal is to replace all brood comb every 5 years so plan on two new brood frames for each brood chamber each year and remember to mark the frames the year you install them;
 - b) Extra brood chambers, bottom boards, and covers so that you may do increases or splits or hive a swarm. Top covers for hives do not have to be fancy – you may even use a simple piece of exterior plywood as some commercial beekeepers do (just make sure it covers tightly). Every beekeeper is recommended to have at least two hives to assist in making hive management easier (being able to switch brood and stores between hives). A full size hive body can always substitute as a nuc in a pinch.

DO NOT's

- DO NOT open the hive unnecessarily (only once this month, weather-permitting) or keep it open any longer than necessary (30 seconds) to glance at the cluster and place fondant. Then CLOSE UP!
- DO NOT look for the queen or brood or break up the cluster for ANY reason!
- DO NOT allow bees to rob any die-outs – SEAL THEM UP!
- DO NOT get discouraged if you lose a hive – typical winter losses average 20% even among the best beekeepers so they plan for this by making increases in the summer! Another good reason to have two (or even three) strong hives going into the winter!

MCBA APPAREL AVAILABLE!

Thanks to our 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

You can also order through our website:
monroecountybeekeepers.com

Association Material For Presentations

We have a teaching hive and laminated posters that you can borrow to use in your presentations

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
- Beekeeping For Dummies
- 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)

Gearing Up For 2011

Winter is the perfect time to perform maintenance on your beekeeping tools.

<i>Smokers</i>	<i>Hive Tools</i>	<i>Bee Suits and Veils</i>
<p>Smokers can be scraped to remove those deposits of tar and charcoal that eventually make the lid hard to open and close. After scraping the hardest deposits, I usually spray the inside with a heavy-duty oven or bbq grill cleaner and let it soak for a bit. Then I rinse it well several times to make sure there is no residue left and dry it thoroughly. To keep it rust free, I spray a light coating of cooking spray over the metal parts and wipe them down with a paper towel. The hinges receive special attention. A light coating of leather wax applied to all areas of the bellows, including the wood, finishes the job. A galvanized pail is great for storing the smoker.</p>	<p>Most hive tools are made of spring steel and have a tendency to rust if not properly taken care of. I wash my tools in hot soapy water with bleach to remove any honey (and disease spores) then I scrub my tools with a non-metal abrasive pad to remove all the propolis and wax. Then it is washed again in the water above, rinsed, and dried. You may repaint the handle with enamel paint or a plastic-type coating. I finish by spraying the steel with a cooking spray or wiping it down with a paper towel soaked with a little canola oil. Wiping with a dry paper towel finishes up. I perform the same treatment on my other tools.</p>	<p>My bee suit gets pretty filthy and smells like my smoker after a few uses. Perspiration also adds its aroma. There are also bee droppings and a few stingers here and there as well. There is nothing quite like spritzing the bad areas with a little laundry stain remover and giving it a good soak and gentle wash to get it sparkling white and fresh smelling again. The bees seem to agree. I also check the seams and zippers and get any damaged areas repaired. This also goes for my veil, which seems to acquire a little tear now and then. I know that I'm a better beekeeper when I don't have a little lady crawling around inside my veil or suit!</p>

National Honey Bee Day

A day for honey bees...

...a program for the entire year.

AUGUST 20, 2011 - National Honey Bee Day



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.

- March Meeting begins at 7 PM on Wednesday March 9th.
- Beginner Beekeeping Class Saturday March 19th.

FIELD DAYS - To Be Announced
CLUB APIARY Work Days - To Be Announced

Contact List

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<i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Sudnik	570-223-1239	spanky@epix.net

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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