



Commissioner Patrick Hooker, President Ted Elk, and Beekeeper of the Year George

## Summer Picnic

The weather could have been a little warmer for the third weekend in July. I brought my wading sneakers, as George had warned me that the mussel shells might cut my feet. But the point was moot; it was too chilly for water sports. But the sun shined, the company was good, the speakers informative, the chicken was delicious, and the pot luck members brought to share made the meal! George and Joyce were the most gracious host and hostess. Further adding honor to the day, NYS Commissioner of Agriculture, Patrick Hooker attended the event and addressed our association.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Memories of the afternoon include food, friends, libations, speakers, silent auction and the highlight of the afternoon being the awarding of Beekeeper of the Year to George Lyke. It is a bittersweet task to write this article as we mourn the passing of our dear friend.

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## Obituary

Lyke, George H.

Ontario: George H. Lyke passed away peacefully on August 31, 2008 at the age of 64 after a courageous battle with cancer. George was a graduate from the Finger Lakes Community College with a degree in Natural Resource Conservation. He was a public servant for the New York State Health Department specializing in lead investigations. As first Vice President of the Empire State Honey Producers Association, he was actively involved in the Colony Collapse Disorder that plagues our honey bees. He was awarded "Empire State Honey Producer Association's Beekeeper of the Year" award of 2008. Survived by his beloved wife Joyce; children, David and Mary Jo Lyke, Susan and Jeff Jasak; grandchildren Abigail, Alexander, Elizabeth and Madeline; brother in-law Bill Shortsleeve; brother, Terry Lyke; sisters, Linda Fess and Nancy Demo; niece Lindsay Steele; nephews, David Fess, Daniel Demo, Michael Demo and Robert Fess; uncles, Fredrick and Harry Lyke; Aunt Eva Durfee; close friend Galen Fairgraves. Expressions of sympathy may be directed in his memory to the American Cancer Society.

## Meeting Minutes

Following are five sets of minutes, some approved, some merely drafts yet to be approved, but none previously published in the newsletter.

## Approved 2007 Fall Board Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2007

Members Present: Joan-Ann Howland, Lloyd Spear, George Lyke, Bill Crowell, Ted Elk, Debs Kalicin, Mike Griggs, Greg Kalicin, Rob Sorensen, Aaron Morris, Judy Doan,

Rick Wakefield, Art Gerber, Peter Bizzoso. Guests included Ed Lord and Ed Doan.

President Joan-Ann Howland called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm at the Comfort Inn and Suites, Liverpool, New York.

The minutes were read and Lloyd moved to accept them and Greg seconded and they were passed.

Lloyd motioned to have the next president appoint a committee of three or four to work with the AIAC. Aaron seconded and the motion did not carry. Judy Doan motioned to have resolutions sent to the AIAC. Ted seconded and three were against 5 for and it was passed. The AIAC held meetings May 16 and September 3, 2007 and the third meeting will be in January, 2008.

Paul Cappy needs to relax the number of bee colonies a bee inspector may have to 10-75. Paul will discuss the beekeeping yard registration at the general meeting. The following items were discussed and need to be sent to the AIAC, continued state funding, why beekeeping yard registration, tech procedure problems need to be addressed, remove owning of bees from employment criteria of bee inspectors, and the burden of inspection on commercial beekeepers also needs to be addressed

EAS will be the first full week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Murray Kentucky. EAS will be hosted by Bee Culture in New York in 2009 August 2<sup>nd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> in Holiday Valley.

The Spring Board meeting will be on April 5, 2008 at the Trinity Church in Rome, New York at 11 am. As in the past bring a dish to pass.

The summer meeting will be last Saturday in July 26, 2008.

The winter meeting was left undecided. An exploratory committee consisting of Aaron, Greg, Judy and George was named to looking in to having a joint meeting with Pennsylvania since we seem to have our meetings on the same date.

The issue of newsletter mailing was brought up and it was decided to keep the same rules, if no dues paid up for more than 2 years no newsletter will be sent.

Look in to dummy insurance for the board members through our Farm Bureau insurance policy. Aaron made the motion and Bill seconded, passed.

Nominations Committee report will be made tomorrow at the general meeting.

Registration of the organization name needs to be done. According to the New York State web site it could cost up to

## Empire State Honey Producers Association Officers and Directors

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And address here!

**VACANT, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**  
Imagine your name  
And address here!

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MIGEUL VAENTIN (LI)	(631) 588-6102
RICHARD WAKEFIELD (N)	(315) 493-0347

\* Director at Large

\$2000 for registration and incorporation. With Dummy Insurance we would not need incorporation with it expenses and added work for the Secretary/ Treasurer each year. Greg made the motion for Judy to look into the name registration Aaron seconded and it was passed.

Rob Sorensen reported on the State Fair. It was a good year but we need to raise prices. Joan-Ann asked Rob to have the Fair committee raise the prices.

The motion to adjourn was made by Lloyd and seconded by George. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debs Kalicin, Secretary/Treasurer

## Approved Fall 2007 General Meeting Minutes

November 9<sup>th</sup> 2007

President Joan-Ann Howland called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Liverpool, New York.

The Minutes and Treasurers reports were read. Bill Crowell motioned to accept the two reports, Pete Bizzoso seconded and they were passed.

Rob Sorensen gave his report on the State Fair and mentioned that the prices needed to be raised.

Nominations Report and Vote Outcome.

Lloyd Spear	President - Accepted
Ted Elk	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President - Accepted
Greg Kalicin	3 <sup>rd</sup> vice President - Accepted
Hans Junga	Sec. /Treas. - Accepted

Director for the north district	
Bill Crowell	Not Accepted
Mark Berninghausen	Accepted

Aaron told the members that EAS will be in New York at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville in 2009.

Program suggestions for next years winter meeting:

- Speaker on: Bee viruses
- Nutrition of Honey bees
- Queen breeding

Judy Doan spoke on the National Honey Board and that the organization is in flux until a vote comes in on whether it will remain or be replaced as Honey Importer Board.

John Tauzel a Farm Bureau Lobbyist spoke on what he and four others do in New York. His suggestion for us is to contact Farm Bureau about any questions on the new Law to require registrations of beekeepers and their yards. He may be contacted by email at [Jtauzel@NY.FB.org](mailto:Jtauzel@NY.FB.org)

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Debs Kalicin, Secretary/ Treasurer

## Approved 2008 Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Place: Trinity Church, Rome, NY  
Date and Time: April 8, 2008, 11:00 am

President Ted Elk called the meeting to order. Minutes of the Emergent Board meeting were presented by Hans Junga.

Bill Crowell was appointed the new Director at Large.

Aaron Morris suggested an executive session should have been called for the emergent board meeting. A motion was made by Aaron to append the emergent meeting minutes. Bill Crowell seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Aaron made a second motion to approve up to \$1,000 for summer picnic expenses. It was seconded by Bill and was unanimously approved.

Greg Kalicin made a third motion to charge \$5 dollars admission per person to summer picnic to offset expenses. Mike Griggs seconded. Motion was passed by majority vote.

A fourth motion was made to allow \$250 to be spent for an ESHPA display by Aaron. It was seconded by Greg and passed.

There is still an open assistant position at Cornell Dyce Lab. The hobby courses are full for the upcoming season.

Aaron pointed out a need for dummy insurance for ESHPA. With our present policy, directors can be liable for suits against us. The current policy covers for losses of bee equipment, but not for losses of bees.

The majority of directors and officers oppose the AG & Market's registration of bee yard legislation passed recently. A survey form will be sent with the newsletter to see where the membership stands on this issue.

Mailing cost of newsletter is now \$2.50 apiece. Members with computer access are encouraged to receive the newsletter via email in the future. Newsletters will only be available to members with dues paid since 2006.

There was a discussion on the eligibility of people allowed to sell honey at the NY State Fair. It was agreed that all persons should have a current membership with ESHPA.

The sixth motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm was made by Ted Elk, and was passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer

## DRAFT 2008 Summer Board Meeting Minutes

Place: George Lyke's Cottage, Oneida Lake  
Date and Time: July 19, 2008, 9:30 am

President Ted Elk called the meeting to order. Minutes of the Spring Board meeting, and Treasurer's Report were presented by Hans Junga.

Greg Kalicin make first motion to accept minutes of previous meeting, as appended. Bill Crowell seconded. The motion was carried.

A second motion was made by Greg to restate the criteria for sale of honey at the State Fair. It is to read "Only ESHPA members are permitted to sell New York State produced honey at the NY State Fair." Mark Berninghausen seconded and it was carried, with one abstention.

Aaron Morris made a third motion to request review of the incorporation document at the fall meeting for a final decision. Judy Doan seconded the motion and it was passed.

George Lyke is in contact with Sam Hall on the progress of incorporating. Benefits will include not having to pay taxes. The down side is more recordkeeping.

A fourth motion by Aaron was made to allocate \$1500 to Rob Sorensen for State Fair expenses. It was seconded by Bill Crowell and was passed.

Rob reported there would be 100 complimentary tickets for the Fair this year. Rich Linck will supply bees for the gazebo. George is looking into nuc box observation hives.

Judy made a fifth motion to send the survey results of ESHPA member's reaction to bee yard registration to AG & Markets. Aaron seconded and it was passed.

Aaron reported no response from advertisers in our newsletter. Suppliers such as Wixon need more reminders of ESHPA's meetings. Judy suggested suppliers should be on complimentary list for mailings.

Greg offered ideas for an ESHPA display for AG Days in Albany. Logos, photographs, and a brochure including a mission statement are some elements considered.

The sixth motion to adjourn at 11:15 am was made by Ted Elk, seconded by Mark and was passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer

## DRAFT 2008 Summer General Meeting Minutes

Place: George Lyke's Cottage, Oneida Lake

Date and Time: July 19, 2008, 1:00 pm

President Ted Elk called the meeting to order.

Ted encouraged members to receive the newsletter via email. The cost has risen to \$2.50 per copy to send in the mail. Updated email addresses may be sent to Aaron Morris or Hans Junga.

Greg Kalicin explained that the newsletter will be in .pdf format. He also encouraged members to make reservations as soon as possible for the fall meeting

Ted gave the results of our survey on bee yard registration. It showed most commercial beekeepers disagree with the new law, and there was more agreement among hobbyists. The results will be sent to the state to show where members of ESHPA stand on the legislation.

Rob Sorensen has the sign up sheet for State Fair volunteers and has tickets for parking and admission. The position of State Fair Director is still available. Rob is willing to help out the new person as much as possible.

Richard Linck will supply the bees for the gazebo at the State Fair.

Hans Junga presented a treasurer's report.

At the picnic: Ted presented the *Beekeeper of the Year Award* to George Lyke.

NYS Commissioner of Agriculture, Patrick Hooker was a guest speaker. He remarked on the great deal of public interest in the well being of the honey bees. He spoke of a need for farmer's markets in down state NY. The high energy prices are resulting in a higher demand for locally produced food.

Nick Calderone announced a position filled at Dyce Lab by Paul Kozak. Updates on current research of bee parasites and diseases were discussed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer



Peter and Laura  
at the summer  
picnic

## Apiary Registration Legislation

Since ESHPA last met last fall, implementation of the enacted Apiary Registration legislation has continued. After meeting with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Director of Plant Industry, State Apiculturist, and Chair of the AIAC, ESHPA Officers were given to believe that avenues of communication would improve and ESHPA would be included in the implementation. Unfortunately this has not been the case. Rather it's been business as usual. Apiary Registration letters were mailed in August. The survey results from the spring newsletter show an unfavorable reaction to the legislation, and a local

Albany newspaper, The Times Union, published a negative article not only on the legislation but on the entire Apiary Inspection Program.

Survey analysis follows, as do excerpts from the Times Union Article, the original legislation creating the Apiary Industry Advisory Committee, and the original recommendations from the AIAC to then Commissioner of Agriculture, Nathan Rudgers.

Somewhere along the line, the vision of a new, rejuvenated Apiary Inspection Program got sidetracked. The program we

have today seems very much like the program that fell to budget cuts in the Cuomo era, and beekeeper input seems to have little impact on the dictates from Albany.

Some have opined that the point is moot; the legislation has been enacted and we beekeepers must make the best of it. Others have observed that unpalatable legislation can always be overturned; if you don't like the law, work to have it repealed. Still others have offered an arguably extreme solution is available in the dire times surrounding the upcoming budgeting cycle.

### "And the Survey Says....!!!"

In an effort to gauge how ESHPA members feel about the passage of BILL NUMBER: A7543A, the Spring Newsletter (Issue 85) included a survey asking how agreeable is "establishing a database of beekeepers, yard locations and the number of colonies at each location for the purpose of conducting more effective and efficient surveys for existing pests and new emerging pests such as CCD."

Editor's note: the previous quote is taken verbatim from the **APIARY SURVEY INFORMATION** letter dated March 7, 2008 and sent to all beekeepers of record in New York State, outlining "several benefits associated with this process."

Survey results were tabulated and presented at the summer picnic, and are published to the right.

**Analysis:** Most noteworthy of the survey results is the number of respondents. There was nearly a 50% response to the survey; statistically an average response to such surveys is 30.4%, so obviously ESHPA members feel a need to be heard on this issue.

I'm not sure what to conclude from the "no opinion" column other than 7 respondents have no opinion. More interesting is an analysis of the data across the rankings.

### I support establishing a database of beekeepers, yard locations and the number of colonies at each location.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Commercial	11	2	3	2	1	19
	57.90%	10.50%	15.80%	10.50%	5.30%	100%
Sideline	9	6	3	3	1	22
	40.90%	27.30%	13.60%	13.60%	4.50%	100%
Hobby	6	3	1	5	5	20
	30.00%	15.00%	5.00%	25.00%	25.00%	100%
Total	26	11	7	10	7	61
Percent	42.60%	18.00%	11.50%	16.40%	11.50%	100%

In the "Commercial" ranks, agree and disagree responses cancel each other out and strongly disagree outnumbers agree by 52.6%<sup>1</sup>

Sidelineers are heavily weighted on the disagree side with a net of 13.7% disagree and 36.4% strongly disagree.

Hobbyists are mixed, with a slight leaning towards the agree side; the strongly disagree net is 5%, balanced against a 10% net on the agree side.

Based on this analysis I conclude that the more a beekeeper considers their operation to be an occupation, the less they are inclined to see a need for the enacted legislation.

Finally, looking strictly at the numbers without making any distinctions of commercial/sideline/hobby rank, **the overall response is not in favor of the legislation by a margin of more than 2 to 1!**

**Disclaimer:** As a statistician I am keenly aware that there are four kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, maps and statistics! It's noteworthy that the sample size is small. Yet the results clearly show a lack of support for the enacted legislation. This is a contrary conclusion to what we are being told are the results of straw polls taken when the State Apiculturist addresses local associations and beekeeping gatherings around the state. I am at a loss to reconcile that claim with this survey's results.

<sup>1</sup> Commercial "Strongly Disagree" is 57.9%; subtract Commercial "Strongly Agree" of 5.3% nets 52.6%. Subsequent figures are calculated in a similar manner.

## Inspection Program's Goal to Create Hive Registry Stirs Fears of Fees, Bee-nappers

By RICK KARLIN, Capitol bureau

First published: Monday, September 22, 2008 ALBANY -

Times Union, Albany, NY

<sup>3</sup>Used By Permission. <sup>2</sup>

It's been more than a year since New York's agriculture officials started rebuilding their bee inspection program after finding it riddled with conflicts of interest, and after it was stung by an unemployment insurance scam. But as another honey-making and pollination season draws to a close, the effort is drawing criticism from some beekeepers, who view the state's stepped-up efforts to police them as a major bureaucratic bumble. Moreover, beekeepers fear the state's plan to compile a beehive registry could be a prelude to new fees, or even serve as a roadmap for thieves.

While talk of ethical conflicts, bee rustlers and bureaucracy may sound strange to the uninitiated, New York's aging and shrinking beekeeper population has battled the state for years.

"It's unfortunate when politics and biology mix -- and you have probably the biggest mess of politics and biology in New York State of any state that I'm aware of," said Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture*, an Ohio-based publication that follows the beekeeping industry nationwide.

The buzz about bee or apiary inspections dates back more than a year, after the state Department of Agriculture and Markets -- following the advice of the state Ethics Commission -- concluded that inspectors shouldn't own their own hives.

Beekeepers had long complained that some inspectors used their positions for unfair advantage by ordering the destruction of competitors' hives and by poaching the best spots to build colonies.

To avoid these conflicts, the state tried to hire inspectors who had no hives of their own -- only to discover that, other than beekeepers, there are few people willing to take on the seasonal inspection job, which involves traveling through woods and farm fields, enduring stings and physical labor -- all for \$16.45 to \$20.53 per hour. So far, only 9 of 38 newly created inspector slots have been filled.

"We're talking about a very small universe of people," said Jessica Chittenden, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Agriculture and Markets. Chittenden said only a dozen inspector slots would be filled this year.

The pool of inspectors shrank even more last year when some were caught collecting unemployment checks when they were working during the off-season.

Adding to the recent turmoil, though, was the way beekeepers learned of the new registry.

"There was no real consultation with the industry, none whatsoever," said Bob Brachmann, a western New York beekeeper.

While the law has a confidentiality clause, it also calls for signs to be posted, with the owner's ID number at the hives. Even so, apiarists like Brachmann worry that those locations may get out.

"There's a long history of stealing bees," said May Berenbaum, a University of Illinois entomology professor, who explained that beehives are valued for both their honey and their ability to pollinate crops. "It's yet another reason that beekeepers aren't anxious to be 'on the grid.' "

Others fear that inexperienced inspectors may err in identifying maladies such as mites or American Foulbrood, a spore forming bacteria that has wreaked havoc since the 1930s.

"I'm a gardener, but nobody comes around from the government and says, 'Yeah, that's blight on your tomatoes,'" said Harry Whitehead, a commercial apiarist in Allegany County. "The whole thing, from my perspective, is more empire-building than productive," he added.

Not all beekeepers oppose the new law. The state Farm Bureau supports it, hoping it may help slow the decline in New York's bee production. "We've seen a lot of hive drop-offs," said Bureau spokesman Peter Gregg.

State officials estimate there are about 1,600 apiarists, or beekeepers, in the state, a steep decline from decades ago. About 80 percent are hobbyists.

Nationally, the number of managed hives has fallen from 5 million in the 1940s to 2.5 million today, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New York isn't the only state where inspections have been controversial. Beekeepers in Ohio took a case to the U.S. Supreme Court three decades ago, said Flottum, and Arizona abandoned its inspections a few years back in light of protests.

In California, inspections were turned over to the counties for similar reasons. But New York's situation is particularly contentious.

"There's some real distrust out there," said Brachmann.

### Legislation Creates AIAC (1998)

§ 169-d. Apiary industry advisory committee.

1. There is hereby established within the department an apiary industry advisory committee which shall consist of no more than fifteen members to be appointed by the commissioner on the basis of their experience and expertise in the apiary industry. Of the members so appointed, at least two members shall represent each of the three sectors of the apiary industry, commercial beekeepers, part-time beekeepers and hobbyist beekeepers; at least one member shall represent the horticulture or vegetable industry and one member shall be an officer or employee of the Cornell cooperative extension service. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years and may serve until their successors are chosen provided, however, that of the members first appointed, five shall serve for a term of one year, five shall serve for a term of two years, and five shall serve for a term of three years. Members shall serve without salary. A chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of members of the committee.

2. The duties and responsibilities of the apiary industry advisory committee shall include providing advice, comments and recommendations to the commissioner in regard to state government plans, policies and programs affecting the apiary industry and

such other matters as the commissioner may request in relation to this article.

3. The advisory committee shall meet at least once annually at times and places set by the commissioner.

4. The commissioner may ask other individuals to attend the committee's meetings or work with it on an occasional or regular basis.

## Bee Culture

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

Here's what you'll get

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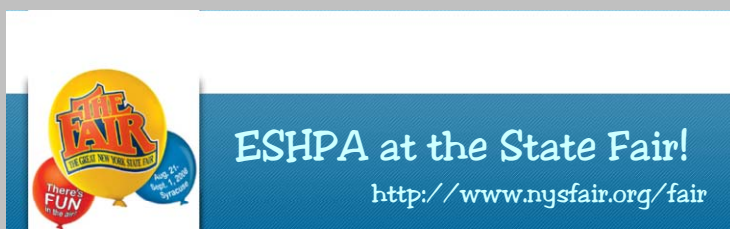
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**Recommendations approved by the  
Apiary Industry Advisory Committee  
at the July 24, 1999 meeting**

- A. Inspection of Migratory Beekeepers – All colonies entering New York State shall be inspected within 14 days of arrival. This would require the inspection staff to be on board by April 1.
- B. Certificates- Inspection certificates would be issued upon completion of inspection. Certificates would be valid through the calendar year.
- C. Moving Permits- Seasonal moving permits should be provided in conjunction with no-fee registration of all apiary locations within New York State by individual owners of said apiaries.
- D. Treatment procedures and threshold recommendations.
  - a. At the time of inspection the following pest threshold levels shall constitute grounds for treatment or possible abatement in severe cases.
    1. Treatment threshold for Varroa mites shall be set by the NYS Department of Ag & Markets based on their best estimate of what levels constitute a clear hazard to the industry in New York State.
    2. Any colonies or equipment found to be infested with small hive beetle or small hive beetle larva shall be treated in accordance with NYS Department of Ag & Markets recommendations.
  3. American foulbrood infected colonies should be destroyed according to NYS Department of Ag & Markets recommendations.
  - b. Inspection personnel shall be authorized to apply an approved treatment, at the expense of the owner, should treatment be deemed necessary.
  - c. If treatment is advisable, all colonies at that apiary location should be treated.
  - d. Each truck load or apiary should be sampled at a 5-10% level or such as is deemed adequate by the to NYS Department of Ag & Markets.
  - e. The owner of the bees or their appointed representative should be present at the time of inspection.
- E. Dumping by Migratory Beekeepers: A new apiary may not be established within two miles of an existing apiary of fifteen colonies or more without permission of the established beekeeper. Property owners will not be prohibited from establishing an apiary with their own colonies on their own property. An apiary will be considered abandoned if bees are not kept at that location for a period of two years.
- F. Full Time Apiculturist- It is recommended that NYS Department of Ag & Markets re-establish the position of full time Apiculturist to deal with items A through R above as well as providing regulations to protect the apiary industry in New York State.



This years honey sales got off to a very slow start. The first 6 days sales were way off. The last 6 days were super! Two of those days were record sales. At fairs end we ended up with gross sales of approximately \$16,500 which was about \$3500 more than last years sales. We also saw a slight increase in our net sales over the previous 2 years. This year's net was about \$4800 compared to about \$4500 the previous 2 years.

We raised prices this year at both the booth and to the beekeepers who supplied the products. This was the first increase paid to the beekeeper for their products since 2004. We also had more beekeepers providing honey. There were 11 beekeepers providing honey compared to 7 last year. This was good because it gave the customers more choices. Hopefully, this will encourage more beekeepers to sell their product at the fair next year. The new beekeepers supplying honey were Joel Babcock, Mike Griggs, Duane Waid, and Richard Washburn.

The other producers who have been supplying honey and wax products year after year were Dave & Joan Howland, Chuck & Karen Kutik, Bill Crowell, Rob Sorensen, Joe Rowland, Jon Ryan, and Lloyd Spear. Without your generous supply of products, the association would not have a successful year at the fair.

Dave & Joan Howland and Richard Linck also supplied bees for the gazebo and the observation hive. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank each one of you for providing the products and bees to the State Fair.

I also want to thank all those volunteers who worked at the fair booth. Without your sacrifice spending time at the booth, the association would not have the success it has experienced year after year. There are just too many of you to include your names in the newsletter. Thank you!!

Once again a big thank you to Peter Bizzoso, Hans Junga, and Joe Rowland who have been doing this for years helping to get the booth ready for the fair and dismantling the booth after the fair is over.

I want to thank Rob Sorensen and his good friend Leslie Berry for their dedication and tremendous job as always of overseeing the booth and making sure everything went smoothly. Thanks again, Rob and Leslie!!

Finally, after 8 years working multiple days at the fair, this will be my final year. I will still be involved but on a limited schedule. It's been a pleasure and I've enjoyed every minute. Now it's time for more members to step up and get involved and help support our association. For those who have not volunteered, you would find this experience a rewarding time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Earl Villecco  
State Fair Volunteer

## News from Dyce

Submitted by Dr. Nicholas Calderone

Dyce Lab welcomes Paul Kozak from the University of Manitoba. Paul is working with Dyce Lab (50% applied research) and with the NYS Integrated Pest



Management Program (50% extension). Paul received his MS degree this past April after completing a research project on indoor fumigation with formic acid and joined the lab this past April.

### **Master Beekeeper Program:**

On the extension front, we held a number of Master Beekeeper Workshops this past spring and summer, including two sessions of the Apprentice Level spring workshop and a single session of the Apprentice Level fall workshop. Plans are in the works to expand the workshop schedule for 2009. We will hold the Apprentice Level Spring and Fall workshops at Dyce Lab and at Betterbee. In addition, we will be holding the Journey Level Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding Workshops and the Journey Level IPM. These will be held at Dyce Lab, and the IPM workshop will also be held at the EAS Summer Meeting in western NY (see below). We are also working on an advanced class for those interested in the laboratory diagnosis of tracheal mites, nosema and American foulbrood. Right now, the plan is to run that workshop at the EAS Summer Meeting as well.

### **Working with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets:**

We will be delivering a number of two-page extension fact sheets to Ag and Markets early next year. These fact sheets cover topics on Varroa mites, American foulbrood, wax moths and small hive beetles, among others. Ag and Markets will reproduce and copy the fact sheets and the inspectors will have them available for beekeepers when they are out in the field inspecting colonies. They will also show up on our website where they can be viewed or downloaded in pdf format.

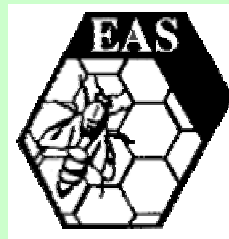
This past spring, we developed a survey to better evaluate colony health in NY. Our survey goes into considerably more detail than the current survey

conducted by the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). Ag and Markets included our colony health survey along with their apiary survey in the package they mailed out to beekeepers this summer. We have received a number back and are waiting for the rest. I am looking for a student to score them. The plan is to make this an online survey next year with automatic scoring capabilities.

I also sent out a letter with the survey asking beekeepers to let Ag and Markets share their email address with Cornell for the purpose of generating an email list for electronic delivery of fact sheets, newsletters and any other information affecting bees and beekeepers in NY. If you have not yet done so, please go to our website and register with CU BEES.

### **Eastern Apicultural Society:**

*Bee Culture* and Dyce Laboratory are co-sponsoring next year's Eastern Apicultural Society's Annual Summer Meeting. The meeting will be held the week of August 3-7, 2009 at Holiday Valley Resort in western NY. The event will feature a 2.5 day Short Course and a 2.5 day



convention. The short course is divided into a beginner's section and an advanced section. Dyce Lab will be organizing and participating in the advanced section. Both Paul and I will also be making presentations during the convention portion of the event as well. This is a great opportunity to learn about a wide range of beekeeping topics. In addition to the short course, the event will include a number of speakers (Tom Rinderer, Dave Tarpy, Steve Sheppard, Tom Seeley, Jim Tew, Larry Connor, Jennifer Berry, Michael Palmer, Kirk Webster, Dee Lusby and more), a dazzling array of vendor displays and site visits to a couple of New York state commercial beekeeper's operations. I think that a pig roast is in the works. More on that later.

### **Research:**

This past summer, we have been working on a project with SUPERCELL combs (small cell plastic combs) to determine what impact if any they have on Varroa



levels, cluster size and honey production. If it turns out that the combs reduce mite levels, this will probably turn into a two or three year study to determine the mechanisms involved. Possible mechanisms include reduced drone production due to the lack of drone cells in the SUPERCELL combs (mite produce about twice as many offspring on drone pupae as they do on worker pupae) and reduced development time of the worker brood which would reduce the number of mites that are able to mature before the workers emerges. Of these mechanisms, the drone brood mechanisms is the less exciting as that means you could only get the desired reduction in mite levels by using the plastic combs. Why? Because if you transferred your bees to small cell foundation, it would be only a matter of time before they turned about 15-20% of the cells into drone cells.

This fall, Dyce Lab began a major study of nosema in NY colonies. The study goals are to determine if this parasite is damaging bees in NY and, if so, how to best control it. With the help of three participating NY beekeepers, Paul Cappy, the State Apiarist, and two of the state's apiary inspectors, we have begun collecting samples of bees from over 100 colonies. We are evaluating sampling location (entrance, inner cover, brood nest, and honey supers), the effect of spore counts on honey production and cluster size, and the dynamics of *N. apis* and *N. ceranae* populations. We plan to follow these colonies for at least one year. During that time, we will also be experimenting with the

effects of Fumigillin-B on nosema levels. Hopefully, we can attract some additional funding to allow us to expand the study to include more beekeepers and a wider range of control measures.

#### Teaching:

I am teaching two classes this fall. One is the Biology of the Honey Bee. This class focuses on the basic biology of the honey bee. The other class, Practical Beekeeping, focuses on; you guessed it, practical beekeeping. We do a lot of field projects, including a sting class to show that bees can discriminate among patches of leather of different colors, hobbyist extracting and processing, AFB identification, ways to remove the crop, candle making and many more. We end up with a honey tasting lab with honey from all around the world. Both class are well attended, with 39 students registered for the lecture class and 22 registered for the lab class (more than I can handle). Students from these classes go on to a wide range of careers, many entering the area of public policy, so it is always good to get them to understand the importance of beekeeping while they are in college.

I plan to talk at the upcoming ESHPA meeting on the results of our research with package bees. Paul will be talking on indoor fumigation with formic acid. I hope to see you all there this coming November.

Nick Calderone  
Dyce Laboratory  
Cornell University



(Firestone, Colo.) The new honey packers and importers board held its first meeting on Sept. 4 in Denver, Colorado. After an orientation presentation by representatives from USDA, the new board voted to operate under the name National Honey Board and to continue operations out of the same office as the previous honey board in Firestone, Colorado.

To ensure a smooth transition of operations, the new board purchased the assets of the old National Honey Board. As instructed by USDA, the new board will set aside a percentage of the value of the acquired assets - 35% or \$58,753 based on proportionate assessments paid - to be held for producers and a possible future producer-funded U.S. honey board.

The board also voted to pick up the National Honey Board's ongoing bee research projects and to begin promotional programs and other activities as of October 1st. Promotional materials that have been available to the industry in the past will continue to be available as usual.

Elected officers for the new board include: Buddy Ashurst, Chairman; Clint Walker III, Vice-Chairman; and Nancy Gamber-Olcott, Secretary- Treasurer. The board hired Bruce Boynton as Chief Executive Officer.

The next meeting of the new National Honey Board is scheduled for Nov. 17 and 18 in Denver, Colorado.

# Empire State Honey Producers Association

## Fall 2008 Meeting Registration

November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Comfort Inn & Suites \*  
6701 Buckley Road  
North Syracuse, New York  
(315) 457-4000

\* Please call the hotel to make room reservations. Mention that you are with the beekeeper to get the group rate of \$89.00 per night

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's First/Last Name (only if attending) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pre-Registration \_\_\_\_\_

Member (& spouse) \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member (& spouse) \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration should be mailed

**no later than 10/31 /2008** to:

ESPHA  
C/o Hans Junga  
46527 County Rte 1,  
Alex Bay, NY 13607

Registration at Meeting

Member (& spouse) \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member (& spouse) \$45.00 \_\_\_\_\_

2008 Dues \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

2009 Dues \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Hot Italian Luncheon

\_\_\_\_\_ attending @ \$17.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Buffet

\_\_\_\_\_ attending @ \$26.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to ESPHA

You CAN get there from here!



The fall 2008 meeting will be held on November 7 & 8, 2008 at the Comfort Inn & Suites 6701, Buckley Road North Syracuse, New York. Please contact the Comfort Inn @ **315 457-4000** for your room reservations and mention that you are with the "Beekeepers" to get the group rate of \$89.00. It is **important** that you make your reservations prior to October 24th to receive the group rate.

## WINTER MEETING 2008

### Friday November 7th

- 8:15 *Registration*
- 8:45 AM *Welcome*  
Ted Elk, President ESHPA
- 8:50 AM *Update on Apiary Inspections*  
Paul Cappy, N. Y. State Apiarist, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
- 9:30 AM *Dyce Lab Update*  
Dr. Nicholas Calderone, Professor of Apiculture, Cornell University
- 9:45 AM *Break* - Beverages available in the Syracuse Room
- 10:15 AM *Indoor Fumigation for Varroa destructor with Formic Acid*  
Paul Kozak, Dept. of Entomology, Cornell University
- 11:00 AM *Options to Keep your Bees Alive*  
Doug McRory, Ontario Provincial Apiarist
- 12:00 PM *Hot Lunch Buffet* for those who prepay
- 1:00 PM *Managing Parasites and Expectations with Package Bees*  
Dr. Nicholas Calderone, Professor of Apiculture, Cornell University
- 1:45 PM *The Bees Bounce Back - The 2008 Season in Ontario*  
Alison Skinner, Tech. Transfer Team, Ontario Beekeepers Association

- 2:30 PM *The Root Cause of CCD: Beyond Disappearance Disease*  
Dr. Malcolm Sanford, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida
- 3:15 PM *Break* - Beverages available in the Syracuse Room
- 3:30 PM *Business Meeting*
- 6:00 PM *Cocktails* - Cash Bar
- 7:00 PM *Banquet and Silent Auction*

### Saturday November 8th

- 8:45 AM *Nosema*  
Paul Cappy, N. Y. State Apiarist, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
- 9:30 AM *Keeping Bees Without Chemicals*  
Peter Borst, Former NY State Apiary Inspector
- 10:15 AM *Break*
- 10:45 AM *Why Developing a Standard of Identity for Honey Makes Sense*  
Dr. Malcolm Sanford, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida
- 11:30 AM *Overview of Beekeeping in Canada*  
Doug McRory, Ontario Provincial Apiarist
- 12:15 PM *Closing*  
Ted Elk, President ESHPA

### Board of Directors meeting

Officers and Directors are reminded of the **Board of Directors meeting** that will commence **Thursday evening at 6:00PM**. Recall that **review of the incorporation document** distributed at the summer meeting was tabled for review so it can be acted upon at the fall meeting. *Please do your homework!*

### Classifieds



**FOR SALE:** 18' tag trailer, two 7,000 lb. Dexter Torflex axles, new tires, no ramps. \$1800 or best offer.

250 deep honey supers w/ comb. \$12 each or all for \$2500.

Rich and Amy Wakefield 315 493-0347 or [amywake@twcny.rr.com](mailto:amywake@twcny.rr.com)

### Vendors!

At press there were three vendors slated to be at the fall meeting. **Betterbee** will be selling beekeeping supplies, **Wixon Apiaries** (Dundee, NY) will be selling jars, and "**The Bee Girls**" (the Tech Transfer Group with the Ontario Beekeepers Association) will be selling T-Shirts, "Save Our Bees" lapel pins, and hopefully the popular "Bee Girls" calendar (if it is back from the printers in time). Orders placed reasonably ahead of time (Monday before the meeting) with Betterbee and Wixon may be picked up at the meeting (pending stocking and room on their truck). This is a good opportunity to save shipping charges!

**FOR SALE:** 100 five frame nucs from Squeak Creek Apiaries of Brasher Falls, NY

Available after May 10<sup>th</sup> for \$100.00 each. Call Mark Berninghausen at 315-769-2566 to place an order.

First come, first served.



# EMPIRE STATE Honey Producers Association

*Protecting the Interests of New York Beekeepers since 1867*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a newsletter to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this membership form and send along with a check (Pay To The Order of: E.S.H.P.A.) in the amount of \$20 to:

Hans Junga,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
46527 Co. Rt. 1  
Alexandria Bay, NY  
13607

## Silent Auction!

Please support the Silent Auction which will be held concurrently with the banquet. Your generous donations help defray costs of the annual meeting.

### Return Address:

Hans Junga, Secretary/Treasurer  
46527 Co. Rt. 1  
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

**Mail to:**

