



The Producers



The newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association

A statewide Organization to Promote and Protect Interests of New York State Beekeepers Spring 2011
Issue 91

The President's Corner, Spring 2011

Greetings,

Our fall 2010 meeting was very well attended, and from the many favorable comment the speaker were extremely informative. Thanks to all that assisted in planning this meeting. Special thanks go to Peter Borst and Mike Griggs for organizing the Saturday morning workshops. It is our endeavor that you share what was presented with your fellow beekeepers and hopefully this will encourage them to attend our future meetings. At the Friday night banquet, two recognition awards were presented. The 2010 Beekeeper of the Year Award went to Mark Rulison a past president of ESHPA and a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Ed and Judy Doan in recognition for many years of dedicated service and lasting contribution to the New York State Beekeeping Community. Both of these awards recipients were very deserving of the honor.

The fall business meeting was historic since we formalized the incorporation process. This should have been done many years ago

In late December the yearly USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Bee and Honey Inquiry arrived. Participation in (the survey) is very important because government and agricultural leaders use the information needed to make sound decisions that impact the future of farmers, their families, their businesses and their communities.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring no individual respondent or operation

can be identified. By participating in this survey, our industry gets counted and numbers established. The data reflects trends as to the health of our industry. We are critically are of the importance of honeybees in our economy and to our agricultural leaders it is numbers that count. It is not enough to say we are losing enormous colonies of bees, but these losses have to be quantified. NASS is where the data comes from.

It is imperative that ESPHA be recognized by our Legislators in Albany. Recently the NY Maple Producers received \$100,000 for the promotion of maple syrup. We as beekeepers received \$0.00. As beekeepers, we not only produced excellent honey, our bees provide a critical service to the agricultural community that of pollination. We must rally and have our collective voices heard by the folks in Albany. So we can receive funding to promote our fine New York honey and the invaluable service of honeybee pollination.

The summer picnic will be held at the VA Medical Center in Canandaigua, NY on July 23, 2011. The committee consisting of Pat

Continued on page 2



Mark Rulison honored as 2010 Beekeeper of the Year

Bono, Sam Hall, Mark Berninghausen, and Bob Brachmann are working on a program for this event. Please bring a covered dish to pass and a beverage of your choice. Directions and a map are included in this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

It is not too early to consider volunteering at the ESHPA booth at the State Fair. This year the fair will run from August 25 to September 5th. We would be delighted to have as many of you as possible help us man the booth.

On, April 27th we were saddened to learn of the passing of Ruth "Debbie" Crowell. Debbie was the wife of Bill Crowell a past president of ESHPA. Our sincerest condolences are extended to the Crowell family. At the spring board meeting the board voted to send a contribution to the Floyd Fire Department in memory of Debbie Crowell. Debbie was a faithful volunteer at the ESHPA state fair booth, we will certainly miss her.

In the North Country, as well as most of New York, this has been a prolonged cold winter and a cold wet spring. Hopefully the weather will warm up and the bees and everything will explode.



Spring At Last

Hope to see many of you at our Summer Meeting
Greg

Classified Ad:

For Sale: 112 palletized cols, 1 1/2 stories tall, 2 medium supers each for honey, Maxant 20 Frame Extractor, Kelley 60 Gallon Tank, 4 yards near New Hartford, NY, plus other misc. items. Contact Mark Berninghausen at [315-769-2566](tel:315-769-2566) for details. Owner would like to sell soon. Equipment maintained in Excellent shape, as are colonies.

Empire State Honey Producers Association Officers and Directors

<p>Greg Kalicin, President 273 Randall Rd. Lisbon, NY 13658 (315) 322-4208 greg@harmonyfarm.net</p>	<p>Aaron Morris, 1st Vice President PO Box 246 Round Lake, NY 12151-0246 (518) 899-6113 aaronqmorris@gmail.com</p>
<p>Vacant, 2nd Vice President</p>	<p>Peter Borst, 3rd Vice President 128 Leib Rd. Spencer, NY 14883 (607) 280-4253 peterborst@gmail.com</p>
<p>Hans Junga, Secretary/Treasurer 46527 Co. Rte 1 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 (315) 482-6438 hans@castletv.com</p>	<p>Aaron Morris, Newsletter Editor PO Box 246 Round Lake, NY 12151-0246 (518) 899-6113 aaronqmorris@gmail.com</p>

Directors:

Ted Elk, Past President	(315) 382-2909	bee-ted@excite.com
Richard Linck, Director at Large	(315) 673-2981	richrena@twcny.rr.com
Mark Berninghausen (N)	(315) 769-2566	sqkcrk@yahoo.com
Bob Brachmann (W)	(716) 699-4145	foxbrachmann@hotmail.com
Art Gerber (W)	(585) 599-3795	
Mike Griggs (S)	(607) 564-0656	mhg3@cornell.edu
Robert Sorensen, Jr. (S)	(315) 585-6670	
Miguel Valentin (LI)	(631) 588-6102	mike16397@gmail.com
Richard Wakefield (N)	(315) 493-0347	rjwakefield13627@gmail.com



Bee Culture

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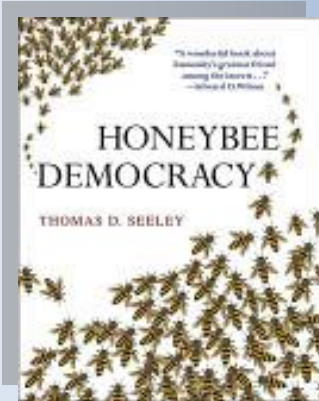
Summer Picnic



The summer picnic will be held on Saturday, July 23 at the VA Medical Center, 400 Fort Hill Avenue, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Officers and Board members should arrive at 9AM for a business meeting. The general membership meeting will follow at 11AM. Barbeque chicken will be served at noon. Please bring a side dish or dessert items to share, and don't forget your own place setting and lawn chairs.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Seeley as our guest speaker this year. For those who have never heard Tom speak, this is an ideal opportunity!

Tom's book, *Honeybee Democracy* was released in 2010, and is now in its fourth publication! Widely available on the internet, those who bring their copy to the picnic will have an opportunity to have it signed by the author.



Honeybees make decisions collectively--and democratically. Every year, faced with the life-or-death problem of choosing and traveling to a new home, honeybees stake everything on a process that includes collective fact-finding, vigorous debate, and consensus building. In fact, as world-renowned animal behaviorist Thomas Seeley reveals, these incredible insects have much to teach us when it comes to collective wisdom and effective decision making. A remarkable and richly illustrated account of scientific discovery, *Honeybee Democracy* brings together, for the first time, decades of Seeley's pioneering research to tell the amazing story of house hunting and democratic debate among the honeybees. In the late spring and early summer, as a bee colony becomes overcrowded, a third of the hive stays behind and rears a new queen, while a swarm of thousands departs with the old queen to produce a daughter colony. Seeley describes how these bees evaluate potential nest sites, advertise their discoveries to one another, engage in open deliberation, choose a final site, and navigate together--as a swirling cloud of bees--to their new home. Seeley investigates how evolution has honed the decision-making methods of honeybees over millions of years, and he considers similarities between the ways that bee swarms and primate brains process information. He concludes that what works well for bees can also work well for people: any decision-making group should consist of individuals with shared interests and mutual respect, a leader's influence should be minimized, debate should be relied upon, diverse solutions should be sought, and the majority should be counted on for a dependable resolution. An impressive exploration of animal behavior, *Honeybee Democracy* shows that decision-making groups, whether honeybee or human, can be smarter than even the smartest individuals in them.

Driving Direction to the VA Medical Center in Canandaigua

From the East (approximately 4 hours from Albany):

1. Take the thruway (I-90) west to exit 43 to State Route 21/Manchester/Palmyra
2. Turn right onto NY-21 S/State Route 21 S
3. Turn right onto Charlotte St

From the West (approximately 2 hours from Buffalo):

1. Take the NY State Thruway to exit 44 and merge onto NY-332 S/Rochester Rd toward Canandaigua
2. Continue to follow NY-332 S
3. Turn left onto Fort Hill Ave

More directions on page 10

2010 Fall General Meeting Minutes

COMBINED FIRST MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS OF EMPIRE STATE HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Date and Time: Friday, November 19, 2010 - 3:15 p.m.

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites, Syracuse, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report were provided by Hans Junga.

Roll call was made via signup sheet, and is listed on page 3 of meeting minutes. Officers present were Greg Kalicin - President, Aaron Morris - 1st Vice President, Mike Griggs - 2nd Vice President, Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer. Directors present were Mark Berninghausen, Judy Doan, Ted Elk, Art Gerber, Richard Linck, Rob Sorensen, and Richard Wakefield.

Revisions to the bylaws were made, adding "telephone or email" to Article III, and combining the position of secretary and treasurer in Article V. The first motion to accept the bylaws as presented was made by Peter Bizzoso. It was seconded by Aaron Morris, and passed by a majority vote of 50 for, 0 against, and 1 abstained.

Greg Kalicin appointed existing directors of the corporation, and fixed the principal office of the corporation at 46527 County Route 1, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.

The second motion to approve the Consent to Action Taken In Lieu of Organization Meeting was made by Aaron Morris. It was seconded by Bill Ferris, and carried by unanimous vote.

The third motion to accept the election of officers of the corporation was made by Aaron Morris. It was seconded by Mike Griggs, and carried by unanimous vote.

The fourth motion resolving that a corporate seal, record book, and roll book have been adopted; and removed was a paragraph concerning the issue of certificates to members, was made by Mark Berninghausen. It was seconded by William Crowell, and carried by unanimous vote.

The fifth motion resolving that the treasurer open a checking account in behalf of the corporation at HSBC Bank in Alexandria Bay was made by Aaron Morris. It was seconded by Rob Sorensen, and carried by unanimous vote.

The sixth motion resolving that the signing of the minutes by the directors and members shall constitute full ratification thereof and waiver of notice of the meeting by the signatories was made by Mark Berninghausen. It was seconded by Aaron

Morris, and carried by unanimous vote.

The security of corporate records was discussed. Making duplicates and storing in fireproof locations were recommended.

The seventh motion to adjourn was made by Aaron Morris. It was seconded by Mike Griggs, and was approved.

The First Meeting of ESHPA as a New Organization 11/19/2010, 3:57 p.m.

Bill Ferris expressed thanks from himself and members of ESHPA for the great progress made by all involved leading up to the accomplishment of incorporating.

The eighth motion to accept the summer meeting minutes was made by Aaron Morris, seconded by Peter Bizzoso, and was passed.

The ninth motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jim Howard, seconded by Peter Bizzoso, and was passed.

Pat Bono reported she is scheduled to receive updates in December on progress for establishing New York State Standard of Identity for Honey.

Spring board meeting date is set for April 2, in Rome, NY. The summer picnic will be on July 23, at the VA Hospital grounds in Canandaigua, NY. The fall meeting date is not yet determined, and is dependent on the availability of speakers. The majority of membership feels the same weekend and location best suits most involved. An effort will be made to hold the summer picnic in different locations each year.

A limit of bank account balance was discussed. Bill Ferris suggested designating funds for any excess income received during the year. Stephen Wilson mentioned a profit of \$25,000 as a limit. No restrictions are in place if filing Form 971 form with the IRS.

Vacancies in Officer Positions were announced. 2ND Vice President will be filled at the next director's meeting. Peter Borst agreed to be considered for 3RD Vice President. The tenth motion to accept Peter's nomination was made by Mike Griggs, seconded by Art Gerber, and passed.

Vacancies in Director Positions were announced. Greg Kalicin will contact Miguel Valentin to determine if he wishes to remain as Long Island Director. If not, Peter Bizzoso has expressed interest in filling the position. The Western NY Director position was open. An election was held, and Bob Brachmann won over James Doan by a vote of 24 to 19. The Southern NY Director position was open. The eleventh motion was made by Rob Sorensen to elect Mike Griggs to the position. It was seconded by Jim Howard and carried with a vote of 50

for, 0 against, and 1 abstained.

A draft letter co-written by Ron Phipps for ESHPA was discussed. It calls for the Department of Homeland Security and Congress to stop the import of illegal “laundered” Chinese honey. Amendments made were to the name, substituting “Honey Producers” for “Beekeepers”, “perpetrator” for “crook”, and inclusion “of NY” following “state”. The twelfth motion was made by Joan Ann Howland to accept the letter as amended. It was seconded by Bill Ferris and carried by a vote of 49 for, 1 against, and 1 abstained.

The resolution letter will be sent to Farm Bureau, EAS, political officials, and brought to the ABF Convention in January by Ed and Judy Doan.

Bob Brachmann gave some information concerning the nuisance bear law. The law states that if a bear may be taken if it becomes a menace to people, livestock, and bees. DEC Officers may give permits and should be notified when a bear is killed. Due to the sensitivity of the public on this matter, it is important that we get support from all Farm Bureaus with upholding the current law as written. Bill Crowell is the Oneida County Representative of Farm Bureau.

Special Local Needs Permits for “Mite Away Quick Strips” are still an interest to many beekeepers. The product has not yet been released yet due to some labeling issues. Allen Dick also described shelf life problems encountered in Canada.

Aaron Morris and Mike Griggs are interested in receiving evaluations of the fall meeting and Saturday workshop. Ed Doan similarly would like to see what would attract various state bee clubs to future ESHPA meetings. All three are designed to increase membership.

Greg Kalicin thanked Rob Sorensen, Leslie Berry, Earl Villecco, and Hans Junga for all the time they devoted to the operation of the ESHPA honey display at the NY State Fair.

Pat Bono brought up applying for grants for specialty crops to help promote honey. The writer used last year requires no money up front, and charges a 10% fee if a grant is awarded.

Stephen Wilson is in the process of organizing, and is looking for support of an extension based foundation to further the education of beekeepers and fund leading edge research.

Jim Doan spoke of the Tester & Management Bill No. 510 in which Senator Schumer is voting for no reduction in benefits for farmers selling produce to local markets.

Aaron Morris reminds that April 15TH is the deadline for newsletter submissions.

The thirteenth motion to adjourn was made by Peter Bizzoso. It was seconded by Ted Elk, and was unanimously passed.

**Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga
Secretary/Treasurer**

First Meeting of Members and Directors Roll Call

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Bob Brachmann | 18. Arthur Gerber | 35. Tim Pylman |
| 2. Wayne Bryan | 19. Roberta Glatz | 36. Gary Rulison |
| 3. Catie Callaghan | 20. Mike Griggs | 37. Mark Rulison |
| 4. Paul Cappy | 21. Sam Hall | 38. Jonathan Ryan |
| 5. Lynn Barton | 22. Jim Howard | 39. Al Saracene |
| 6. Mark Berninghausen | 23. Joan Ann Howland | 40. Nicholas Shilliff |
| 7. John Bishop III | 24. David Howland | 41. Rob Sorensen |
| 8. Peter Bizzoso | 25. Michael Johnston | 42. Don Streib |
| 9. David Boise | 26. Hans Junga | 43. Bob Talkiewicz |
| 10. Pat Bono | 27. Debs Kalicin | 44. Ron Tweedie |
| 11. Chris Clyne | 28. Greg Kalicin | 45. Leslie Berry Umbehauer |
| 12. William Crowell | 29. Charles Kutik | 46. Earl Villecco |
| 13. Ben Doan | 30. Karen Kutik | 47. Amy Wakefield |
| 14. Ed Doan | 31. Richard Linck | 48. Richard Wakefield |
| 15. James Doan | 32. Fred Ludewig | 49. Stephen Wilson |
| 16. Judith Doan | 33. Aaron Morris | 50. Laurence Winter |
| 17. Kathleen Finnerty | 34. William Perry | |

2010 Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, November 18, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites, Syracuse, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's report, and Director's List were presented by Hans Junga.

Officers and directors also present were: Aaron Morris, Mike Griggs, Mark Berninghausen, Peter Borst, Judy Doan, Ted Elk, Art Gerber, Richard Linck, Rob Sorensen, and Richard Wakefield. Members in attendance were: Peter Bizzoso, Pat Bono, Ed Doan, Joan Ann Howland, Bob Talkiewicz, Earl Villecco, and Amy Wakefield.

The first motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Mark Berninghausen. It was seconded by Art Gerber, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The second motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ted Elk. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The third motion was made by Ted Elk to allow an officer to be eligible to serve simultaneously as a director. This will make the newsletter editor's position available to a president or vice-president. It was seconded by Aaron, and the motion was unanimously carried.

In review of the incorporation bylaws: "telephone or email" is to be added in Article III, Number 2 - Membership Meetings, and Number 3 - Special Meetings. This enables the Secretary to contact membership by telephone, postal mail, or email for notice of upcoming meetings. In Article V - Officers, the duty of Secretary and Treasurer will be combined into one officer position. The Combined First Meeting of the Members and Directors document was reviewed before completion at the next day's general membership meeting.

A draft letter co-written by Ron Phipps for ESHPA was discussed. It calls for the Department of Homeland Security and Congress to stop the import of illegal "laundered" Chinese honey. Considering the letter doesn't include provisions to destroy seized honey, and the low priority of this issue to the nation's security - a fourth motion was made by Richard Linck to accept the resolution, as amended. It was seconded by Rob Sorensen and approved by a vote of 17 for, 0 against, and 2 abstained.

ESHPA is continuing its support of the current nuisance bear law. Approval by some local farm bureaus includes Onondaga County.

Opposition to the law is present and delegates are needed to fight for the existing law with their representative farm bureau. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is inconsistent in the law enforcement, and in some locations, requires a permit to kill bears.

Mite Away Quick Strips are still not available despite being advertised in some magazines. Distribution has been put on hold due to a binder ingredient not listed on the label. The fifth motion was made by Richard Linck to apply for a Special Local Needs Permit (SLN) when the product becomes available. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and approved.

Ed and Judy Doan are willing to be delegates to the American Beekeeping Federation Convention. They asked for new interested members to consider becoming representatives for future meetings. An important part of attending the meeting is presenting the resolution committee with a consensus of voting membership on resolutions drawn by ESHPA for strong east coast representation.

Meeting dates have been scheduled for 2011. The spring director's meeting will be held April 2nd, tentatively in Rome, NY. The summer picnic will be on July 23rd in Canandaigua, NY. The meeting will be located on the VA Hospital grounds and will be open to veterans residing there. There will be no rental expenses for tables and toilets next year, and Mark Berninghausen, chair of the meeting committee, suggested a donation be made to an appropriate organization to benefit the veterans. The date and location of the fall meeting will be discussed in the general membership meeting.

Rob Sorensen provided sales figures for the NY State Fair. The net profit was \$5,469 this year. Earl Villecco mentioned the profits have remained consistent through previous years. Hans Junga has volunteered to manage the honey display next year. With Rob's assistance, we anticipate continued success at the fair.

Updating the ESHPA membership database has been planned. Aaron Morris placed emphasis on acquiring current email addresses for the newsletter distribution. Ted Elk pointed out incomplete data for beginning membership dates.

The sixth motion to adjourn was made by Art Gerber. It was seconded by Ted Elk, and was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga
Secretary/Treasurer

Apiary Inspection 2010 Annual Report

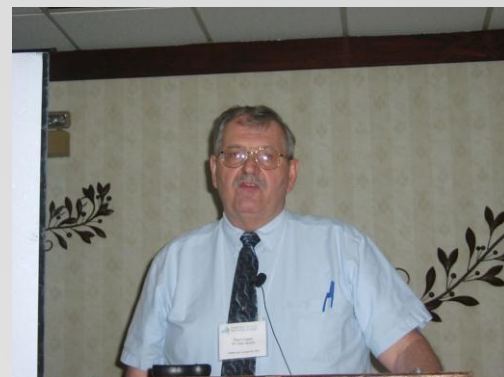
Submitted by Paul Cappy, State Apiculturist

The Apiary Inspection program had three apiary inspectors during the season from July to early part of November. These inspectors were responsible for certifying colonies of bees to go to eleven other states. They also checked twenty five beekeepers colonies for the federally funded National Honey Bee Survey (NHBS). Apiary inspectors have also been involved with the federally funded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). The inspectors act as the third party to verify dead colonies of bees that have died from Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) or extreme bad weather conditions. The purpose of the Federal programs is to provide information and financial assistance for beekeepers and ultimately improve Pollinator Health. Beekeeper colonies increase the commercial fruit and vegetable production in NY by nearly \$300 million. The health of bee colonies is critical in being able to provide pollination service each year.

Spring 2010 fifty seven beekeepers entered New York State from twelve states with a total of approximately 38,000 colonies. Inspectors certified 3,331 migratory colonies in 2010 to go to other states. Inspectors found 0.24% American Foulbrood and those colonies were destroyed. The general inspection program had found 8.6% AFB in 2001 after a five year lapse of the program. The disease rate has decreased annually to .8% by 2009 because of the apiary inspection program. This bacterium kills the bees and contaminates the bee equipment. The disease will spread to surrounding colonies and kill those colonies. Forty nine beekeepers were issued certificates to move approximately 30,000 colonies out of state. Colonies are also checked for varroa mites and bee samples are taken to be tested for the fungus disease *Nosema ceranae*. Moderate varroa mite levels were found in all operations and *Nosema ceranae* results showed 40% to 60% level for each of the four months and were over the economic threshold of 1.0 million spores. This sampling program assists the beekeeper monitoring levels of pests and pathogens they have in their colonies. This information enables them to adjust their treatment programs accordingly.

The National Honey Bee Survey (NHBS) provided funding to NYS to survey twenty five apiaries for pests and pathogens. The survey included other states to determine if the US has a new parasitic mite called *Tropilaelaps*. The mite was not found in the US in 2010 and they are increasing the survey in 2011 to include more states. The survey is establishing a base line of pests and pathogens that exist in the US. They will be adding new invasive species into the 2011 NHBS to watch for other issues. NYS apiary inspectors successfully completed the NHBS survey in the short season and accomplished two other program goals.

The Apiary Inspection program inspected thirteen beekeepers in 2010 in conjunction with the federally insured ELAP program. Many NYS beekeepers



are losing 50% or more of their colonies each year for the last five years because of CCD and extreme bad weather conditions. Before the 1980's beekeepers were normally losing three to five percent of their colonies each year and occasionally bad weather would increase the losses to 10% or 20%. NYS Apiary Inspection is providing verification of colony losses and which is required by the guidelines of the federal funded program. The beekeepers are partially reimbursed from the federal program for their losses to help reestablish new honey bees in their dead colonies. Two additional NYS operations reported high losses this past summer and they plan to enroll in the ELAP program to help assist them with their possible 50% losses in 2011.

The Apiculturist has kept in contact with the state beekeepers by attending local club meetings and the state organization, Empire State Honey Produces Association to update beekeepers on what is going on in the state apiary inspection program as far as disease and pathogens. The national organization Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) had their annual meeting in Orlando, Florida in 2010 to discuss bee issues and make resolutions to advise the Federal government of the beekeepers needs concerning bee disease and pest issues. This was a good opportunity to discuss similar problems with other states and get their perspective on issues concerning honey bee disease issues.

Tsunami of Indian (Chinese) Honey Now Arriving on U.S. Shores -- Threatens to Drown Rebounding U.S. Honey Market

Much of this honey is believed to be illegally transshipped Chinese honey that is contaminated with heavy metals and antibiotics and has been routed through Indian companies in order to circumvent the U.S. tariff enacted to prevent Chinese honey dumping.

In just the first half of this year, "Indian" honey exports to the United States surged to over 60 million pounds, including large amounts of Indian white honey, which are atypical of tropical countries such as India . Much of this honey is believed to be Chinese honey illegally transshipped through India to circumvent the U.S. tariff on Chinese honey. These huge amounts of honey exported to U.S. buyers follows a ban by the European Union (EU) on June 15, 2010 of honey imports from India due to a lack of traceability regarding origin, adulteration and contamination by heavy metals and antibiotics. This tsunami of "Indian" honey, coming just prior to the arrival of the American and Canadian honey crops, can be interpreted as a deliberate effort to push down U.S. wholesale honey prices.

During the period of March 1-June 5, 2011 62.7 million pounds of honey were shipped from India to the United States . The previous highest average 3-month quantity from China was 19 million pounds. Such an unimpeded colossal flow of honey from India portends catastrophic consequences to American beekeepers and in the final analysis to American Agriculture, which depends for one-third of its food supply on pollination by the bees.

This is a real blow to U.S. efforts to curb Chinese circumvention after officials were able to curtail illegal Chinese honey imports from Indonesia and Malaysia . It seems that these illegal honey shipments have been able to keep one step ahead of U.S. Customs officials. As soon as shipments are curtailed from one country, Chinese exporters find a different country for illegal honey transshipments. Current shipping manifests reveal that several packers are direct and significant importers of honey from Indian exporters, long regarded as major players in the fraudulent circumvention of Chinese honey by India . In addition, during the first quarter of 2011 imports from Vietnam have surged to 13 million pounds and much of this honey also is believed to have been produced in China.

Chinese "honey laundering" is generally acknowledged as a common practice to avoid U.S. tariffs on Chinese honey that were originally instituted to stop honey dumping. Chinese companies originally began re-routing their U.S.-bound honey exports through other developing countries such as Indonesia ,

Malaysia , Thailand , and the Philippines . However, when these and other avenues were discovered and blocked, Chinese exporters switched to India and Vietnam as their main partners in this effort to circumvent the U.S. antidumping law.

It is important to realize that almost all Indian honey exporters are located in Punjab . About 10,000 metric tons of honey were produced in Punjab, according to reports in February of this year. However, within a few months in 2011 this honey production quantity has been superseded by several fold, according to reports. Astonishingly, this supposed production increase has occurred despite reports from the Indian press in February, 2011 that the honey crop in India would be late and reduced by up to 40%!

This is the largest food fraud in U.S. history, a "growing multimillion-dollar laundering scheme designed to keep the endless supply of cheap and often contaminated Chinese honey moving into North America and is putting the domestic industry on the verge of crisis," according to an article in Toronto's The Globe and Mail. "U.S. agriculture suffers as a result since less domestic honey production means fewer managed bee colonies to pollinate crops," according to Richard Adee, president of Adee Honey Farms, past president of the American Honey Producers Association and current chairman of the Association's Washington Legislative Committee.

Both the Indian and Chinese press have acknowledged China's honey exports to India . In an article in the May 22, 2011 AgriMatters published in India, writer Sanjeev Chopra states, "Our honey commands a premium in the world market, though of late it has faced problems in the EU on three counts: admixture with Chinese honey which is quite inferior (on account of organized admixtures, presence of antibiotics and heavy metals, and lack of traceability). Readers may also recall that over six months ago, the Centre for Science and Environment had carried out a big 'expose' on the traces of antibiotic in honey marketed by some of the leading brands in the country. It had also been pointed out that India did not have the necessary protocols, or the infrastructure to test honey, which is sold in the market."

An article in the September 2010 Down to Earth, an Indian publication, says that Indian consumers are also worried about illegal antibiotics and heavy metals in their honey. The author states, "The government doesn't test for antibiotics and other contaminants in honey meant for Indian consumers. The only test results available are for those destined for exports. They could be used as an indicator for how contaminated the honey sold domestically is."

European governments banned honey from India after

numerous contaminated honey shipments were turned away. The Down to Earth article says, "Substances found in these consignments included antibiotics like nitrofurans, tetracycline, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, and benzoic acid, used to treat fungal infections and as a food preservative. Another consignment belonging to Lee Bee Impex, a big exporter based in Ludhiana in Punjab, was barred from entering the US market in 2007—the honey was found to have originated in China and had residues of fluoroquinolone." The author states, "An industry insider said that the samples for export could be a mix of China and Indian honey. The same could be true for the honey sold in the domestic market as well...A government official said the rejected batches are either sold domestically or exported to countries with lax health regulations."

According to tests conducted by the Indian Agriculture Processed Food Product Export Development Agency (APEDA) and the Export Inspections Council (EIC), "Of the 362 honey samples it tested in 2009-2010 by the EIC, 29.2 per cent samples had more than the prescribed limit of antibiotics and heavy metals."

The following graph of rejected honey for export, provided by the Indian Export Inspection Council, was printed in the Down to Earth article. Much of the heavy metal contamination is from lead, which is a tell-tale sign that some of this honey originated in Chinese provinces where use of containers without food liners to prevent heavy metal migration into the honey is common among smaller beekeepers.

GRAPH HERE!

Meanwhile, an April 16, 2011 article in a Ludhiana , India newspaper proudly proclaimed and showed a photo of two trainloads of honey headed for market. "This is not only an achievement for the company, but also a special occasion for the whole food sector," according to Jagjit Singh Kapoor, managing director of Little Bee Group, the honey marketing company. According the Mr. Kapoor, Little Bee Group plans to process nearly 70 million pounds of honey this year. He says that currently his company is the third largest honey processor in the world, only eclipsed by number one Sue Bee Honey in the United States and number two Langnese Honey in Germany.

This is a stark contrast to a decade ago, when India exported zero pounds to the US , and almost nothing to the world. In evaluating the antidumping petition, the Department of Commerce had enormous difficulty finding cost valuations for Indian honey because there was virtually no export to the world and only minimal domestic production.

"There is a huge opportunity in the honey business and its

other value-added products. After setting up warehouses across three countries, we now plan to set up honey processing units too with packing and blending facilities," said Mr. Kapoor in a 2009 Economic Times interview. "The company already has a base in the USA , Middle East , Australia and Europe and is supplying Wal-Mart, Norma and Metro (retail chains). It will now be entering France, Italy, Spain, Japan and the African countries of Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya and Sudan," the Economic Times article stated.

New FDA Law May Help With Enforcement

In a June 20, 2011 news release the FDA unveiled a new global strategy to help ensure safety and quality of imported products. Its new strategy calls for coalitions of international regulators and increased data sharing. The report called "Pathway to Global Product Safety and Quality" calls for the agency to transform the way it conducts business and to act globally in order to promote and protect the health of U.S. consumers.

Highlights of the report include four key elements needed to make the change:

- 1.The FDA will partner with its counterparts worldwide to create global coalitions of regulators focused on ensuring and improving global safety and quality.
2. The coalitions of regulators will develop international data information systems and networks and increase the regular and proactive sharing of data and regulatory resources across world markets.
3. The FDA will build in additional information gathering and analysis capabilities with an increased focus on risk analytics and information technology.
4. The FDA increasingly will leverage the efforts of public and private third parties and industry and allocate FDA resources based on risk.

In addition, effective July 3, 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending its regulations on prior notice of imported food. As required by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, FDA is issuing this interim final rule to require an additional element of information in a prior notice of imported food. This change requires a person submitting prior notice of imported food, including food for animals, to report the name of any country to which the article has been refused entry. The new information can help FDA make better-informed decisions in managing the potential risks of imported food into the United States.

Each year about 48 million people (1 in 6 Americans) are

sickened, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from food borne diseases, according to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is a significant public health burden that is largely preventable. (In the case of transshipped Chinese honey, health officials are worried about previously discovered heavy metals, as well as contamination with antibiotics and adulteration with new undeclared and sophisticated adulterants.)

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) (Pub. L. 111-353), signed into law by President Obama on Jan. 4, 2011, enables FDA to better protect public health by helping to ensure the safety and security of the food supply. It enables FDA to focus more on preventing food safety problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides FDA with new enforcement authorities to help it achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention--and risk-based food safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gives FDA important new tools to better ensure the safety of imported foods and directs FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with State and local authorities.

Section 304 of FSMA amends section 801(m) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 381(m)) to require that additional information be provided in a prior notice of imported food submitted to FDA. This change requires a person submitting prior notice of imported food, including food for animals, to report, in addition to other information already required, "any country to which the article

has been refused entry." (This would be especially important in the case of transshipped Chinese honey coming from India since the European Union has already banned Indian honey imports due to concerns cited in the first paragraph of this article.) Section 304 of FSMA also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue an interim final rule implementing this statutory change no later than 120 days following the date of enactment of the legislation and provides that the amendment made by section 304 of FSMA takes effect 180 days after the date of enactment, which is July 3, 2011.

The U.S. government needs to take a clue from the European Union and immediately ban the import of Indian honey into the United States, not only to stop illegal transshipment of Chinese honey, but also to protect the health of U.S. consumers. Let's derail this illegal honey train and stop it dead in its tracks! You can help by letting your Congressmen know that this illegal practice is occurring and that it is not only damaging the U.S. honey market, but is a potential threat to U.S. pollination if beekeepers are forced to reduce their colony numbers due to a depressed honey market. In addition, this illegally transshipped Chinese honey poses a potential health risk to consumers due to heavy metal and illegal antibiotic contamination.

CPNA International, Ltd.
1043 Oyster Bay Road
East Norwich, New York 11732
Tel: (516) 935-3880
Fax: (516) 628-3959
e-mail: info@cpnaglobal.com

From the South: (approximately 2.25 hrs. from Binghamton):

1. Take I-81 N (approx. 15.2 mi)
2. Take the exit toward NY-26 N (approx. 0.2 mi)
3. Turn right onto NY-26 N (0.5 mi)
4. Turn left onto NY-26 S/US-11 N and continue to follow US-11 N (2.3 mi)
5. Continue onto NY-79 W/Main St and Continue to follow NY-79 W (28.3 mi)
6. Slight right onto Seneca Way (1.0 mi)
7. Slight right onto W State St (0.1 mi)

From the North: (approximately 2.5 hours from Potsdam):

1. Take I-81 to Syracuse and follow directions "From the East"

8. Continue onto Hector St (0.6 mi)
9. Turn right onto Vinegar Hill (427 ft.)
10. Turn left onto NY-96 N/Cliff St and continue to follow NY-96 N (24.2 mi)
11. Continue onto New York 96A N/North St and continue to follow New York 96A N (17.3 mi)
12. Turn left onto NY-5 W/US-20 W/Waterloo Geneva Rd and continue to follow NY-5 W/US-20 W (17.7 mi)
13. Turn right onto S Main St (1.3 mi)
14. Turn right onto Fort Hill Ave (0.6 mi)

Driving Directions were taken from Google maps. Readers are advised to double check directions, or consult an atlas, or step up to the 21st century and invest in a GPS!



Volunteers are needed at the ESHPA booth for the State Fair. To sign up, please contact either Hans Junga at 315 482-6438 or hans@castletv.com or Rob Sorensen at 315 585-6670. You can sign up also at the summer picnic in Canandaigua.

August 25th - September 5th 2011

Members are also encouraged to prepare entries for the honey competition. Get full details at: <http://www.nysfair.org/competitions#farmproducts>



ESHPA members Pat Bono and Aaron Morris serve honey samples at A Taste of New York

Say "yes" to pure honey!

Do you want honey cut with corn syrup or do you want pure honey?

Legislation is in the NYS legislature to define pure honey (S3321). Due to adulterated Chinese honey entering the US food stream, a more definitive description of pure honey is needed. This Bill is needed to protect the image of pure honey and to protect the consumer from adulterated honey or honey pretenders.

New York beekeepers also need a level playing field to compete with cheap adulterated imports by having an established reasonable standard for all products labeled "honey".

This legislation should not affect the majority of honey producers in New York, but may weed out and discourage those seeking to sell substandard honey in New York.

This legislation has the support of major beekeeping organizations in New York and is almost identical to the California standard of identity for honey, which has been in place since 2009.

For more information see: RochesterHoney.com

**Saturday, August 20, 2011
is National Honey Bee Day!**

Full details at:

<http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.com/>

**Building a Sustainable Future,
One Flower at a Time.** 
www.nationalhoneybeeday.org

Petition:

Honey is a natural sweetener and should be pure and unadulterated. When a container labeled as containing "honey" is bought in New York State it should meet the requirements as outlined by the Empire State Honey Producers Association.

Therefore, we support the New York legislature bills A5164 and S3321. We, the undersigned, propose that section 205, Defining Honey, which is inadequate, be repealed and replaced by A5164 and S3321, a more expanded definition for honey.

To sign this petition online go to:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/support-pure-honey-in-new-york-state.html>

Pat Bono, Senator Michael Fitzpatrick, and Aaron Morris at New York Farm Bureau's Taste of NY, 3/25/2011, Albany, NY



**On July 7,
2011
ESHPA
received
approval of
501(c)5 Tax
Exempt
Status!**



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

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Return Address:

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

Mail to:



Royal Honey Bear Wedding
Courtesy of Joe and Liz Rowland