



Kelley Beekeeping

SERVING THE BEEKEEPER SINCE 1924

ISSUE 49: JULY 2014



Dr. Juliana Posada-Rangel (President of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists), Kristi Kay (Zia Queenbees intern), Ken Henderson (Alamogordo, NM beekeeper), Rob Sheplar (Southern NM beekeepers coordinator, beekeeper from Mayhill, NM)

IN THIS ISSUE

The Buzz by <i>Kevin Harrub</i>	2
From the Queen's Court by <i>Melanie Kirby</i>	5
My Memories of the Kelleys by <i>Mary Doris</i>	7
ABeeCs, FAQs & XYZs by <i>Phill Remick & Dennis Brown</i>	10
2014 Eastern Apicultural Society Conference Info	12
Champaign Valley Bees & Queens - The New Paradigm by <i>Kirk Webster</i>	15
WSU Workshop: Starting Right with Bees	21
Instrumental Insemination Classes with Susan Cobey	22
Walter T. Kelley Reseller Partner Program Brochure	23
Upcoming Events	25



The Buzz

by Kevin Harrub

What's all THE BUZZ this month? Eastern Apicultural Society is coming to Kentucky—that's THE BUZZ this month! If you are new to beekeeping, the acronym E.A.S may not mean very much to you. But if you've been in beekeeping for any length of time than you know it means some of the best and brightest minds in the world of beekeeping will be presenting on all things bees. From July 28th through August 1st, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky will have some of the more renowned beekeeping speakers from the United States and the world presenting on topics from queen production, to pesticide use, bee biology, nosema and top bar hives. Following are some of the speakers:

Dr. Nicola Bradbear
Dr. Jennifer Berry
Dr. Diana Sammataro
Dr. Maryann Frazier
Dr. Dewey Caron

Dr. Wyatt Mangum
Dr. Berry Brosi
Dr. Jeff Harris
Don Coates
Dr. Tom Webster

Dr. Meagan Milbraith
Michael Palmer
Dr. Doug McRory
Dr. Ernesto Guzman



As you can see—it's a distinguished group. In addition to the above leaders in the beekeeping field, you will find that there are additional experts galore (commercial beekeepers, honey production specialists, and seasoned hobbyists) walking the halls, eating meals together and basically making themselves available for any and all exchanges of information and ideas. It's a dream educational week for new and experienced beekeepers alike!



Kelley Company highly recommends this event. You will find additional information in this edition of Kelley Beekeeping. Be sure to check out the E.A.S. website at www.easternapiculture.org.

For many of you it is **extraction time**. Don't miss out on our extracting kits that are on sale. Be sure to take a look at the sale sheet in this issue.

This month we are delighted to introduce you to Mary Doris, another legend here at the Kelley Company. Mary Doris began working for the **Kelley Company** in 1976—so you could say she knows a thing or two about the Kelleys and the company that they founded. I think you'll be delighted by her remembrances of the Kelleys. And as you'll see from her story, she is quite a writer!

The Buzz *continued*

Walter T. Kelley Resale Partner Program: We've received a great response to our communication regarding our Resale Partner program. Just a reminder, the last half of the year is a great time to be planning for the 2015 selling season. Please see the Resale Program brochure included in this edition of Kelley Beekeeping. Contact Kevin Harrub at 800-233-2899 ex. 236 to start the conversation regarding our Resale Partner Program. Make plans for 2015 today!

May your supers be full of honey and your bees varroa free!

Bee full,

Kevin Harrub
Walter T. Kelley Company
kharrub@kelleybees.com
800-233-2899 ex. 236



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DON'T MISS OUT!

**Walter T. Kelley Company
is looking for Resale Partners!**

Ask yourself these questions:

*Is your local beekeeping community
strong and active?*

Do you teach beekeeping classes?

*Would you like to run a business that
aligns with your passion?*

**If you answered YES, we may
have an opportunity for you!**



Contact Us Today

Email: kharrub@kelleybees.com

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Walter T. Kelley Co.

Extraction Made Easy!

Walter T. Kelley's offers top quality to professionals and hobbyist alike. We carry a wide variety of extractors to satisfy all of our customers.



2-Frame Reversible Extractor

This Kelley extractor is made of 24 gauge stainless steel that measures 21" in diameter and 28" in height. Extracts 2 frames of any size. This model comes either as a hand-cranked model or power drive setup - ready for a 1/4 HP motor that you supply. Please state shaft size when ordering a power drive setup. Features a 1-1/2" brass flange. 1-1/2" honey gate sold separate. Motor sold separate from power drive extractors. Dim wt: 132 lbs

Type	Item No.	Price
Hand Crank Extractor	200	\$800.00 (Save \$100.00)
Power Drive Extractor	200-P	\$900.00 (Save \$100.00)



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With your first honey crop, choose an economical extraction kit to get you started. This kit has everything you need to uncap, extract, filter and bottle your honey.

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Item No. MP-S02.....\$829.99 (Save \$42.00)

Sideliner Powered Extraction Kit

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From the Queen's Court

by Melanie Kirby

Sweet Independence

Summertime! Such sweet odors are emanating from the alpine meadows surrounding my small bee farm. We get so excited at this time of year as we are over the spring hump and hit our stride, rearing queens and admiring the bees' collective efforts to gather nectar- turning the sweet sap into deliciousness. We started extracting spring honey from the river woods (bosque) of the northern Rio Grande valleys a few weeks ago. The spring honey consists of willow, wild roses, locusts and fruit orchard blooms. It tastes quite tropical for coming from a place without an ocean.



The summer bloom up in the mountains consists of some of the same blooms but with more Rocky Mountain wildflowers—always a site to see when the rains are good. And they have been this year. They say it is an El Nino year—which should bring more moisture to our neck of the woods, which is highly anticipated and greatly appreciated. Living in an area where water is scarce has promoted cultural undertakings to preserve and share it. There are acequias (ah-say-kee-ahs) which are hand dug ditch canals that carry the water from the mountains to the various parcels all the way down to the river valley. These ancient water ways were first dug by the Native Pueblo peoples and when the Spanish came, they continued these practices and integrated them into farming more diverse patches of cultivars.

I look at these ancient water ways and feel so blessed that history is still around me and has continued to sustain habitat for man and for bees. For without water, there is no life. Without water, there are no plants. Without water, there are no trees. And without trees, there is no family. History, it is what makes us who we are and will help to guide us into who we will be. The history of the **Walter T. Kelley Company** is paramount. From its founding, Mr. Kelley has helped communities both near and far from its home base. Mary



Kelley Beekeeping

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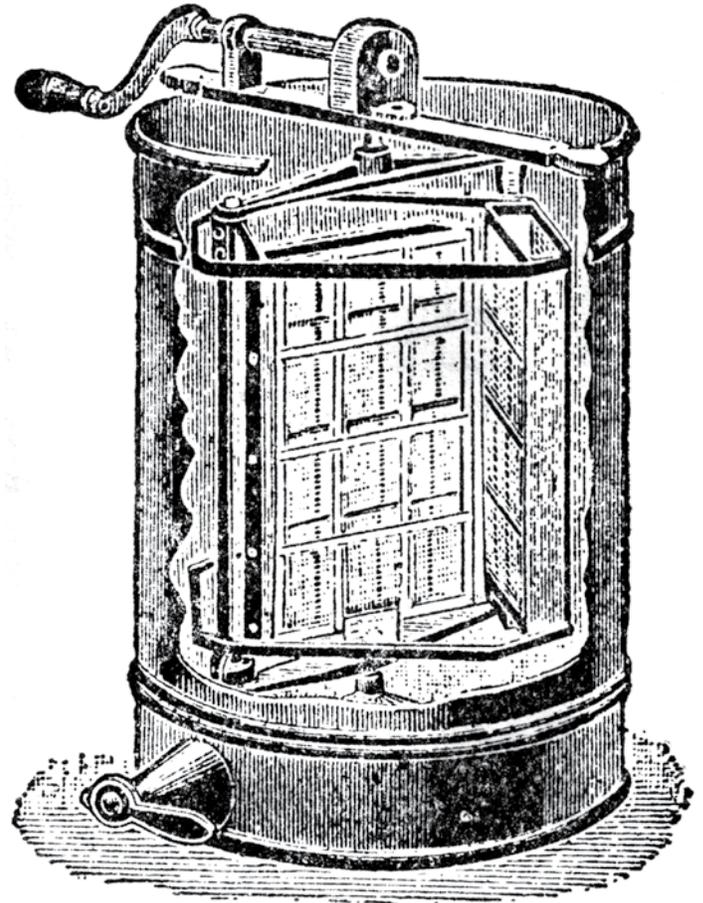
Queen's Court *continued*

Doris shares some her memories of the Kelley's this month...keep in mind the tree—and how it nurtures future generations. Such a beautiful analogy.

This 90 year anniversary is one to be admired. There aren't many companies that have such a beneficial impact on the world. Supporting beekeepers and the bees, the **Walter T. Kelley Company** has helped to feed the nation. Nourishment is what gives us hope and inspires us to take action. It is this hope, born from history, which encourages us to give back. And as Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." **Kelley Bees** is doing just that—supporting the country's beekeepers.

And what is more patriotic than that? I think that we should add a few colors to the red, white and blue...let's add black and yellow, too—like bee stripes—a rainbow nation, worthy of support. Happy Independence Day—may history carry us into the future with respect, camaraderie and stewardship. History has enabled us all to be independent. And like the bees, their independent efforts, give rise to collective grace.

Yours in Beekeeping,
Melanie Kirby



It's summertime, when a beekeeper's thoughts turn to extractors.

Melanie has been keeping bees professionally for 17 years. She breeds survivor stock queenbees in the southern Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico and promotes living laboratory applied research while savoring and sharing enchanted bee products. Email: Editor@KelleyBees.com.

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M-F 7AM-5PM CST
SAT 7:30AM-12PM CST

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My Memories of the Kelleys

by Mary Doris

Mr. and Mrs. Kelley were a unique couple who constructed and established a unique company in an admirable way to help people who were as attracted to the honeybee as they were.

I began work for the Kelleys in January, 1976, left in August of 1991, and returned in January, 1998. Mrs. Kelley was a person who was high-spirited and proud with an inner love for her husband that most people did not know or perhaps understand. She was older when I first met her and, I am sure, different from her younger years. She adored her husband and would tell about how they met with such joy and happiness. She could talk of this with delight from the depths of her soul. When going to the office she would say, *"I'll go help Walter."* She craved to be on the receiving end of his affection. She was a southern Belle who had aged gracefully and who resented becoming less active and having fewer responsibilities in the business. Aging is a process of loss and there were times she felt her identity had been lost because of declining health. There was no ignoring Mrs. Kelley. She was an amazing woman and very special indeed.

Mr. Kelley was incomparable. He believed in being conservative, doing what was right and holding fast to what he believed. He had an outstanding imagination when coming up with ideas and was interested in what was not always possible. He always expressed himself as he felt and did ordinary things his way. He was cool-headed and had the ability to organize, but left ends open for change. He wanted his own business. Being a man of good will, he profited by his own efforts and grew from his own errors.

Walter Kelley was not the type to put a nickel in a parking meter. He would walk a block for health and savings. He did exercises each morning, bending less as the years passed; but he continued just the same, out of habit. He felt this obligation to his body just as he did his daily honey and apple cider vinegar drink. In his later years, he would walk over the acres to drive stakes where volunteer asparagus was growing. The stakes would rot or be run over by the mower and bush hog and the asparagus would never be harvested but



Mary Doris, on the job at the Walter T. Kelley Company.

My Memories *continued*

he did benefit from the exercise and the joy of the outdoors.

Always, he was good to his employees but would say what he thought. Mr. Kelley would visit all his workers at one time or another. After we bought our house, he came to visit and saw that we had no steps. The next day he sent out men to remedy that. When asking how much the office charged he said, *"That was too damn much!"*

After Ida's death, I can remember visiting the grave with Mr. Kelley and he said, *"Do you think that stone is heavy enough to hold her down?"* An active lady she was.

There is a book, *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf* by Leo Buscaglia, PhD. This book makes me think of Walter Kelley. When Freddie's time to die came, he floated gently downward, seeing the whole tree for the first time. How strong and firm his tree was. He felt it would live a long time. He knew he had been a part of its life and he was proud. When Freddie landed on a clump of snow he was more comfortable than he had ever been. He closed his eyes and fell asleep. He was not aware that what he thought was useless, dried self would join the water and serve to make the tree stronger. There would be new leaves and another beginning.

Mr. Kelley left The Walter T. Kelley Company strong and firm; which has continued for a long time. The company continues to be inspired by the two people who made it possible. They are the tree, and we are the branches and leaves.

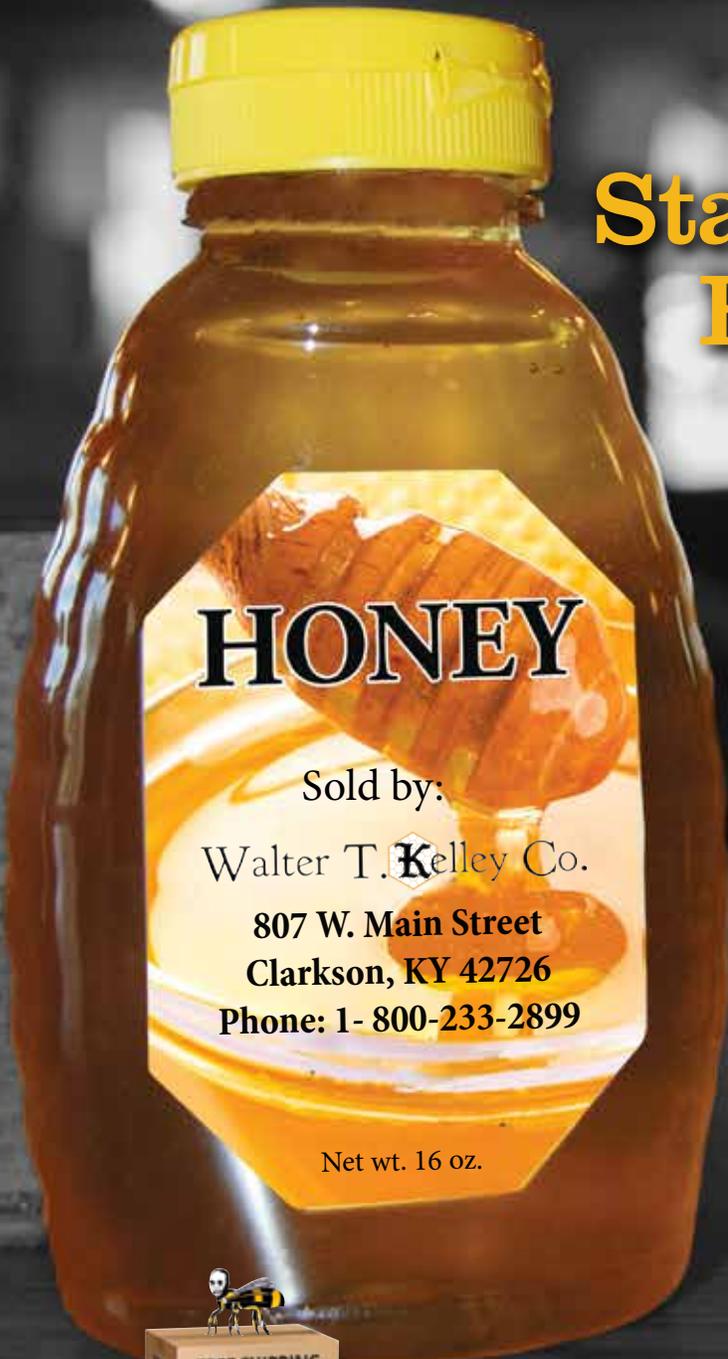
Always, he was good to his employees, but would say what he thought. When buying our house he came to visit & saw that we had no steps. The next day he sent out men to remedy that. When asking how much the office charged he said, *"That was too damn much!"*

Mary Doris began working at the Walter T. Kelley Company in 1976, as one of the strong branches on the tree that Mr. and Mrs. Kelley built.



Walter T. Kelley Co.

Stand Out, Bee Beautiful.



See the wide range of containers and labels that we have to offer. No matter if your honey is sitting on a kitchen table, at a local restaurant, farmer's market or grocery store, we believe your honey should look as good as it tastes.

Item No.	As Low As*
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221.....	\$.56 ea.
222.....	\$.77 ea.



*Price each when bought by the skid. Also available by the dozen and case.



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A•Bee•Cs

Beginning Beekeeping

by **Phill Remick**

Backyard Bummer

It's like when you buy your first house: you're so excited about setting up your new apiary in the backyard that you really don't stop to think. Now, pause and imagine the shock or terror of your unsuspecting neighbor when he arrives home to a line-up of new Langstroth hives bumped right up against his wire fence, bees flying in literally every direction. You smile congenially wave and proclaim, "Hi, I'm your new neighbor!"



Unfortunately many keepers of bees seem to have a momentary lapse of reason when situating hives in the city. These people are prone to believing everyone on the planet is in love with and wants to aid the mistreated honey bee.

Now, I'm not saying you must ask your neighbor first if it's acceptable to put bees that close to his property. Further, I'm not saying "It's better to ask forgiveness than ask permission." I'm just saying.

So why has this placements of beehives become such a volatile issue in the burbs? Innocent bystanders, neighbors and frolicking pets are often moving targets on the honey bees super highway. In many situations there exists an extremely high potential for those proverbial 'disastrous consequences'.

So many 'newbees' fail to acknowledge each package of honey bees they have installed contains near 15,000 bees—so—visualize 15,000 individual stingers-inflicting severe pain in a split second—then tell me what is fair for everyone, including the bees in this stressful neighborhood situation.

I saw one backyard with 10 colonies. The nearest neighbors were not more than 50 feet away. Think about this. Close your eyes and visualize thousands of bees mere feet from your back door.

What could provoke an attack? What if one of the neighbor's kids swing and swat at the passing bees, or the dog attempts to catch bees in his mouth and gets stung? It is sum-sum-summertime; what if they have a pool and bees determine its occupants are pool toys and decide to land on them to cool off a bit too? What if one of those people is allergic and panics? **WHAT IF!**

In my classes one of the very first items on our program is how to use an Epi-Pen. I have students who have never been stung and even though they sign a waiver, the thought of someone experiencing anaphylaxis on my watch is a reality I prefer to avoid.

When it comes to beehive placement, I operate under this theory: **out of sight, out of mind**. Also consider the number of hives in relation to the size of the space and the proximity of the houses around you. Remember once anyone on the block knows **YOU** have bees, if a situation which is bee related occurs anywhere (!), it is your fault, entirely.

When it comes time to place your new beehives, this can be a very serious life threatening scenario. Think before your set up an apiary in the backyard and understand **ALL** the ramifications of your actions. Do the right thing for you, the neighbors and above all, the honey bees—they just don't need another bad rap!

Phill Remick has kept bees professionally since the 70's. He offers sage advice and instruction to those in need in the Albuquerque metro area. Visit Phill's site at www.newbeerescue.com

Just the FAQs by Dennis Brown

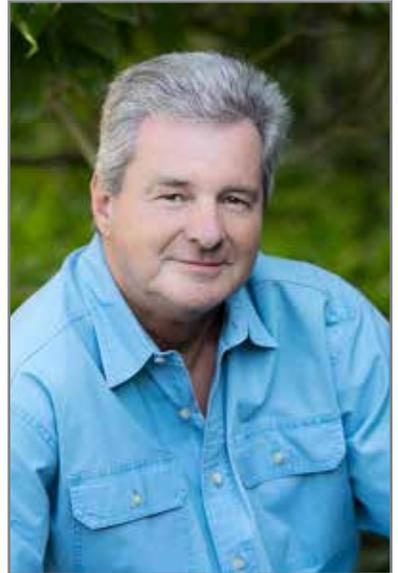
Dennis,

I have a question about smoking the bees. I have used burlap bags for years. I looked at a video some time back and he was using pine needles. At the local hardware store, they have cypress mulch, cedar mulch and pine bark mulch. I am wondering if I could use any of these.

I do not recommend using pine needles because they create a lot of embers when they burn. When you squeeze the bellows, the embers can escape and could scorch the bees' wings. (see editor's note)*

I have been using cypress mulch with great success for years. I buy it by the bag from the nursery. Then, I cut up one inch by one inch pieces of wood from scrap lumber and add these to the mulch. These pieces make good coals which will burn longer in the smoker when mixed with the cypress mulch. It produces a lot of cool smoke. I don't recommend using any cedar for burning in the smoker. Cedar is a natural insect repellent.

**Editor's note: living up in the forest, our best source of smoker fuel is pine needles. For a \$3 annual permit from the National Forest Service, we can collect dry needles, pine cones and other wood bits. All smoker fuel can produce embers so to ensure that your smoker produces "cool" white smoke without embers, we recommend placing about half a handful of green grass or green leaves on top of burning embers, which will "cool the smoke", prevent embers from escaping the port, and also prevent flame spitting, which can burn bees' wings and comb as Dennis' insight shares.*



X•Y•Zs by Dennis Brown

Advanced Beekeeping

What does it mean when you hear someone say, "Use the newspaper method when combining a hive?"

There are times in beekeeping that you need to combine two hives together. The way it is done is to find the queen (if there is one) in the hive that you want to combine with a queen-right hive and dispose of her. Then take the top off of the hive that will be receiving the new box(s) and place a sheet of newspaper on top of the receiving hive. Make about three six inch slits through the newspaper and then place the queen-less hive (with bees) on top of the newspaper. Then, place the top back on the hive.

All hives have a different smell so by placing the newspaper between the two different hives, it gives the bees time to take on the same smell which will limit the amount of fighting that would ordinarily take place.

Enjoy your bees!

Dennis Brown is the author of "Beekeeping: A Personal Journey" and "Beekeeping: Questions and Answers," both of which are sold here at Walter T. Kelley Bee Supply. Contact Dennis at www.lonestarfarms.net.



Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course & Conference EAS 2014 Kentucky

July 28-August 1, 2014

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

Speakers: Dr. Nicola Bradbear (Bees for Rural Development), challenges facing nonprofits, international honey standards

Dr. Jennifer Berry, U of Georgia, director of queen production track (Short Course)

Dr. Diana Sammataro, USDA Tucson—pollen microscopy, labs, nutrition, and soap

Dr. Maryann Frazier, pesticides, varroa mites, beekeeping in Kenya

Dr. Dewey Caron, Director of Master Beekeeper exams

Dr. Wyatt Mangum, Bee Biology, Top Bar hives

Dr. Berry Brosi, Emory University, floral fidelity, tropical bees,

Dr. Jeff Harris, varroa-resistant queens

Don Coates, Microscopy lab coordinator

Dr. Tom Webster and **Dr. Megan Milbraith**, nosema

Michael Palmer, director of EAS Honey Show

Dr. Doug McRory, pesticide management

Dr. Ernesto Guzman, mite resistance

Social Activities: Contra Dance with Reel World String Band, Forklift Pallet Demos, On-Campus Apiary with **Don Hopkins and Jennifer Keller** as bee wranglers, Authors Book signing, Honey Cooking classes with **local chefs** of Boone Tavern and Shakertown, **Abigail Keam**, author *Death by Honeybee* and other Josiah Reynolds mysteries, Bee Quilting with **Hope Johnson; Rick Sutton, auctioneer of EAS auction**

Social Self-Guided Tours: Shakertown beehives/restaurant; Green Palace Meadery-Kelley's Bee Factory; surface mine/underground mine tour; Dadant's-Capitol Garden tour; Lexington Urban Beekeeping tour

Hotels: Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Boone Tavern (Berea and EAS discount), Boonesborough campgrounds, Natural Bridge State Park (an hour from Richmond).

Visit www.easternapiculture.org for more information. We expect online registration to be up and running in March, 2014.



Swarm to Kentucky for EAS 2014
 July 28 - August 1, 2014
 Eastern Kentucky University

2014 Short Course/Conference Registration Form

ATTENTION: You may register on-line with a credit card at www.easternapiculture.org.
 If you are registering by mail, WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR FORM BEFORE **JULY 11, 2014**. After that date, you may still register on-line or during the conference. However, dorm rooms, meals, and special events will not be available after July 11, 2014. Visit www.easternapiculture.org for up-to-date availability.

EASKentucky2014

If you are a speaker, please enter your Speaker Code _____

First Name(s) _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/Post Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

1. Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

EAS DUES – must be current to attend this conference. (Dues include entire family.)

2. Dues Are Current \$25 Annual \$45 / 2-Year \$65 / 3-Year \$250 Life Membership \$ _____

Do you want to receive the quarterly EAS Journal by email? or by postal mail (available for annual membership only)?

REGISTRATION

3. SHORT COURSE & CONFERENCE

All five days for one price! # of people ____ X \$250 = \$ _____

Name(s) _____

4. SHORT COURSE Only

Three Days Course (Mon–Wed, July 28–30) # of people ____ X \$175 = \$ _____

Name(s) _____

5. CONFERENCE Only

Three Days Conference (Wed–Fri, July 30–August 1) # of people ____ X \$175 = \$ _____

Name(s) _____

6. SINGLE DAY FEE (Please specify days) Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri

of days ____ X # of people ____ X \$65 = \$ _____

Name(s) _____

7. STUDENT FEE (Please specify days) Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri

Show high school or college ID at registration. Students under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

of days ____ X # of people ____ X \$25 = \$ _____

Name(s) _____

SPECIAL SHORT COURSE OPTIONS (Included in Short Course—No extra charge.)

8. I plan to bring ____ entries for the Honey Show.

9. I want to register for the Queen Production Workshop during the Short Course. Registrants must commit to attend both Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and July 29. (Class size is limited to 25 attendees.)

Put my name on the list: _____

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

There is no breakfast package unless you are staying in the dorms, then breakfast is included in the price of the dorm.

10. LUNCHESES in the EKU Cafeteria (Please specify days for lunch.)

Name _____ Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri

Name _____ Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri

Total # of lunches ____ X \$9 = \$ _____

11. I/we will attend the Lifetime Member Luncheon Thursday, July 31. (Please purchase cafeteria meal or bring bagged lunch.)

Page 1 Subtotal (Sum up the values in the lines above.) \$ _____

DORM ROOMS

Rooms are air-conditioned. PRICE INCLUDES BREAKFAST. **Linens and pillows are not included. Please bring pillows, sheets, sleeping bag, and towels.** Specify any special requirements for dorm rooms in the comment section at bottom of form.

12. Single: Sun ___ Mon ___ Tues ___ Wed ___ Thur ___ Fri ___
of nights ___ X # of people ___ X \$54 = \$ _____
13. Double: Sun ___ Mon ___ Tues ___ Wed ___ Thur ___ Fri ___
of nights ___ X # of people ___ X \$84 = \$ _____

List the name of your roommate. If you are sharing a room with someone who is registering separately, only one of you needs to pay the \$84, but we need the name so the correct room assignment can be made. _____

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult at Special Events.

Reserve these events early, as tickets are sold on a first requested basis. Many of the events have maximum capacities.

Take advantage of these great opportunities to socialize with many of the speakers and fellow beekeepers.

14. WEDNESDAY NIGHT SQUARE DANCE with Reel World String Band. (Prize for best square dance outfit.)
Join us for Greek gyros, dancing, and great music. Band sponsored by Walter T. Kelley Co.
of people ___ X \$18 = \$ _____
15. THURSDAY NIGHT CATFISH BUFFET & AUCTION: A taste of Kentucky in the Keen Johnson Ballroom.
(Each entrée includes a beer, glass of wine, or soda.)
of people ___ X \$25 = \$ _____
16. FRIDAY NIGHT ANNUAL BANQUET
Indicate # of each entrée:
Kentucky Hot Browns w/country ham _____
Portobello Mushroom Steaks (Vegetarian) _____
of people ___ X \$25 = \$ _____

CHARITABLE DONATIONS (EAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.)

17. Donation to Honey Bee Research Fund (help us help honey bees) \$ _____
18. Donation to Speaker & Education Fund (help us help beekeepers) \$ _____
19. Be an EAS 2014 Sponsor (Place a comment in the EAS 2014 Program.
(Deadline is June 1 to be included in program booklet.)
Please print legibly and limit each message to 50 characters.

Queen Level Sponsor \$50 \$ _____
Worker Level Sponsor \$25 \$ _____

Message _____

Page 2 Subtotal (Sum up the values in the lines above) \$ _____

Page 1 Subtotal \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL (Sum of Page 1 & 2 Subtotals) \$ _____

Please list any suggestions or restrictions that we should know about to ensure an enjoyable experience at EAS 2014. **Be sure to include any special requirements for dorm accommodations.** (All meals and special events already have vegetarian options on the buffet or as an entrée selection.)

Mail this form with check, made payable to EAS 2014, or credit card information to:

EAS 2014 Registration, Lou Naylor, 209 Hickory Lane, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Name on Card _____

Master Card or VISA # _____

Expiration Date ___/___/___ 3-digit code on back of card _____

Signature _____

You can also register online with a credit card at www.easternapiculture.org!

Registration questions? Email registrar@easternapiculture.org, or call Lou at 856-234-1799 (8am-8pm Eastern Time).



Bee Thinking About

As part of a new series we would like to share with readers on sustainable beekeeping management and stewardship, we will be publishing articles from renowned beekeepers sharing their perspectives and approaches for developing healthy bees for beekeepers near and far. Kelley Beekeeping doesn't condone nor reproach one method over another, but feel professional educational service obligations to share varied concepts and methodologies so that readers, as beekeepers, can discern for themselves and make educated decisions about their past, present and future management plans. Healthy bees + healthy environment + conscientious management = healthy products & happy beekeepers!



Champaign Valley Bees & Queens—The New Paradigm by Kirk Webster, Middlebury, VT

The paperback dictionary on my desk defines paradigm as: “an example serving as a model.”

In his book *Grass Farming*, Alan Nation defines paradigm this way: “a set of rules and regulations (written and unwritten) that tells you how to behave to be successful.”

Since I was given permission to give this presentation, I’ve thought a lot about how in the world to describe to a group like this, what’s really happening in an apiary that hasn’t used treatments of any kind for more than five years; where mites are now considered to be indispensable allies and friends, and where the productivity, resilience, profitability and enjoyment of the apiary are just as good as at any time in the past. I wouldn’t dream of killing any mites now, even if I had an easy and safe way of doing so. The serious problems I have at the moment are of a completely different nature, and I’ll say more about them in a few minutes.

There are three main points I wanted to touch on this morning before we open this up to a general discussion:

First; to review how treatments were gradually removed from my apiary, and continued results of total non-treatment since 2002.

Second; a few observations about the interaction between bees and mites as non-treatment continues, and

Third; my take on how to preserve the apiary’s stability and resilience as energy prices rise, and weather becomes more unstable and unpredictable.

Before we get to any of this though, I want to stress that none of the steps I’m going to line out—or any other list of steps—will ever lead to a really healthy apiary if you don’t have a good attitude and the proper orientation between yourself and the other living things that are all around you. It’s one of those ironic truths that real wealth can only be accumulated in farming by working for the benefit of other living things before yourself. An agriculture focused on profit and accumulation of material things will always end, sooner or later, in the kind of failure we’re witnessing now in American beekeeping.

Bee Thinking About *continued*

Any gains or successes apparently made along the way are always at the expense of other people or by degrading the environment. But once you start working for the benefit of other living things first, then all kinds of new opportunities and possibilities begin to present themselves, including the production of genuine new wealth from the energy of the sun, and the chance for a much better, less stressful life.

I watched and felt these processes work themselves out in my own bees as they were challenged by tracheal, and then varroa mites. Even though I was trained by my mentors to see pests and diseases as friends and teachers, I was terrified of these mites when they first arrived, and I reacted the same way most beekeepers did—by killing them any way I could that seemed safe and easy. As long as I continued on this path, the apiary, slowly but surely, became more fragile, vulnerable and stressful to operate. When I lost my fear of the mites, stopped killing them, and determined to learn all I could from them, the apiary went through the same process all insects go through in natural systems when they receive a serious challenge or shock—a period of collapse into some fraction of their former niche; followed by a rebound into the unoccupied space, with greater vitality and resilience than they had before the shock occurred.

I watched the bees go through this process twice—first with tracheal mites, and then with varroa. I was very lucky that there was a space of several years between the arrival of tracheal, and then varroa mites. Without the experience and tutelage of the tracheal mites, I might not have had the courage to face up to varroa mites in the same way. Varroa, as you know, is a much more difficult problem, and required the combined and co-ordinated use of many breeding and management tools in order to achieve a harmonious balance between bees, mites, and beekeepers. I described this undertaking in detail in the ABJ over the past three years.

Now, let's review the practical steps that were taken to remove treatments from the apiary. This was a gradual, lengthy process that began in 1996 and ended with the last treatment applied in April of 2002. And it would have gone nowhere if I didn't already have in place an apiary with the coordinated production of honey, queen bees and nucleus colonies.

The first step was to Prepare for, and Invest in the transition to a treatment-free apiary. I knew the bees would have to go through quite a bit of shock and disruption to make it through this process, so I tried to prepare by paying off my debts, putting some extra money aside, and laying in extra supplies of all sorts so that my expenses would be as low as possible during the transition. I invested time, energy, money and bees into the project, so that natural selection could begin to function, and the best way of rapidly propagating the survivors could be identified.

I reduced my number of colonies, so that more time could be spent with each one. No matter how you cut it, any kind of healthy beekeeping in the future is going to require spending more time on each colony than we have been used to in the recent past. This is very important, and I'll come back to this at the end.

Breeding and Management were always used together. On the breeding and selection end, the key to success was having access to the Russian bees, which already had good tolerance of both mites, and

Bee Thinking About *continued*

many other positive characteristics. (I have to stop here for a minute to again thank Tom Rinderer and all those who helped him with the Russian bee project. I've been shocked by some of the derogatory comments I've heard about this work from some "leaders" and "authorities" in the community. Practical results in the bee yard is not always the goal of research. But right now this is a pretty important goal, and I want to say unequivocally and without exaggeration that having access to these bees has been of more practical help to me than all the other U.S. bee research done over the last 15 years put together. Varroa mites were the biggest beekeeping problem most of us had ever faced, and these bees have provided an elegant and comprehensive solution for those willing to put aside their prejudices and work seriously with them.) The Russian gene pool in the U.S. still has a lot of diversity and variability, which makes it capable of further improvement by selection and propagation—especially in a continuous zero-treatment situation where mites make the selections and both the known and unknown mechanisms of resistance are preserved and amplified. Some sort of mating control is necessary for this work to proceed; so that survivors can mate with other survivors one generation after another.

On the Management side the key was to withdraw treatments gradually from one part of the apiary at a time—first from Queen Rearing, then Nuc Production, and finally Honey Production.

There are a few new observations to report about bees and mites now that I have quite a few of both which have been living together unmolested for almost six years. I can't prove it, but I feel quite certain now that both the bees and mites are changing as a result of this long period of co-habitation. I was very interested to read Tom Seeley's paper about his survivor bees in the Arnot Forest (near Cornell University), and his conclusion that the bees' success was not due to any resistance to mites, but rather because the mites were becoming less virulent. (*Apidologie* 2007, vol 38, pgs 19-29). I offered to supply Tom with some bees and mites together if he wanted to study them, but unfortunately he is now moving on to other research topics. If there's anyone in the research community I haven't alienated yet, I'm happy to extend this offer. It might be perfect for a student who needs a thesis project.

My last topic for today is to look at how the health, stability and productivity of a successful untreated apiary can be preserved, and even enhanced, as new challenges come along. Just as 1996 may have been the best time to start working on long term solutions to the mite problem, now is the best time to start preparing for much higher energy prices, and more unstable and unpredictable weather. Solving these problems requires the same positive attitude and open mind that mites have been trying to teach us for the last 20 years.

If we use Nature as the primary guide, put the bees first, use patience, and let the bees show us how to proceed; then a really good answer to one problem often helps to solve others. Keeping the focus on genuine colony health over many generations will go further than anything else in solving our current problems in a comprehensive way. I keep saying it over and over: "Management and Breeding must be used together". Part of the practical way to bring all this to life is to forget about increasing the gross income and concentrate instead on reducing costs (especially fuel costs), reducing colony numbers, spending more time with each colony, and increasing the intensity of production. All these changes will be essential in the future when energy prices start to spiral out of control—and there really is no other

Bee Thinking About *continued*

way of hedging against unpredictable weather either.

Intensity of Production is one of the most important, most neglected and least understood principles influencing the success or failure of all farm enterprises. This is simply the combined, relative measure of productivity per unit (per colony in our case), per hour of labor, and per dollar invested. A farm business with high productivity in all three of these areas is almost invariably a strong success—no matter what size the farm or apiary might be. However, smaller owner-operated farms have a better chance of utilizing this principle and reaping the best reward—because the skill, knowledge, and attention necessary to achieve very high intensity of production is way beyond the ability of most hired labor and absentee owners.

Producing honey, bees and queens together as an integrated system in the Northern States is a good way to increase intensity of production, and to begin providing alternatives to both Africanized bees and this madness of moving colonies thousands of miles in order to make a living from them. I'll give just one real-life example to illustrate what I mean. This also shows how the mites, and a positive attitude, helped the apiary to become more resilient, productive and profitable:

When I first brought some bees of my own to the Champlain Valley, it was not the first time I lived there. I worked with bees in Addison County for one season several years earlier. When I returned with some bees of my own, I noticed one of the yards I had formerly worked in was no longer occupied. I asked my old boss about it, and he said the property had changed hands and the new owners wanted fifty dollars as yard rent instead of the customary 30 lbs of honey. Claiming that he never produced fifty dollars worth of honey in there (probably an exaggeration, but you get the idea), he had decided to move the bees out. I asked if he minded if I started using that spot, and he said: *"By all means, help yourself."*

There was in fact very little clover and very few dandelions (our major honey plants) growing nearby. But it was close to where I was living at the time, and I needed a place to raise more queen cells to help compensate for the losses we all experienced upon the arrival of tracheal mites; and to produce queens for sale. There was a big swamp nearby, and also quite a bit of sumac and honeysuckle, so I thought there might be more of a light, steady honey flow—which is enormously helpful for raising good queen cells. This turned out to be true, but the trouble was that, with the cell builders getting lots of attention and kept strong throughout the summer, they started producing dependable, large crops of honey. By the end of the cell-building season, it was getting to be quite a job lifting the honey up and down to get at the cells. But by producing both honey and queen cells from the same colonies, the productivity of the yard had increased dramatically—by all three measures of intensity (production per colony, per hour of labor, and per dollar invested). A few nucleus colonies were also produced from extra brood.

I valued the queen cells at two dollars each at that time, and thought I was doing pretty well to be reliably producing about \$7000.00 of bee products from that yard of 32 colonies. But then the varroa mites came, and things had to be adjusted once more. In order to keep the cell-building colonies untreated, I eventually adopted a cell-building method where each colony in the yard raises just one batch of cells. The queen, most of the brood, and about half of the field bees are removed to another location as

Bee Thinking About *continued*

part of the process. When these removed colonies recover and become populous again, they provide enough bees and brood for at least three nucleus colonies from each original cell builder. So, as a result of struggling with varroa mites, this yard has become more productive than at any time in the past, and now produces honey, queen cells, and nucleus colonies.

Last summer I had a visit from a Connecticut beekeeper who also raises cells and queens (some of you know Rollie Hannon). As I was taking some cells out of the cell-builders in this same yard we're talking about, he reminded me that he was now charging five dollars each for his cells. This made me wonder whether it might be time to once again figure out how much income this yard is producing. An overwintered nucleus colony, with a home-raised queen and growing to cover eight frames during May, is worth at least \$150.00 here now. If 100 of these are produced out of this yard of 32 colonies, and only 65 are good enough to sell the next spring (a very conservative estimate) then the value of bees produced is pushing up towards \$10,000.00. When you add in the value of the 2,000 queen cells and 100 shallow supers of honey produced in this spot almost every year, the total value of products now exceeds \$20,000.00. Even if you add the 12 little breeder queen nucs to the total number of colonies producing that income, it still runs over \$450.00 per colony. And that income was produced with only a small amount of extra equipment and investment above what was used to produce the original \$50.00 (?) worth of honey. That's intensity of production. And that's why I advise everyone who asks me about how to become a full-time beekeeper to work out their entire, detailed scheme for the apiary with less than 100 colonies, and just two or three locations, before becoming any larger. If intensity of production is built in at the beginning, and you can maintain it as you slowly grow; success is nearly certain. If you start quickly and grow rapidly with a low intensity of production, there will be many extra difficulties and the constant risk of failure.

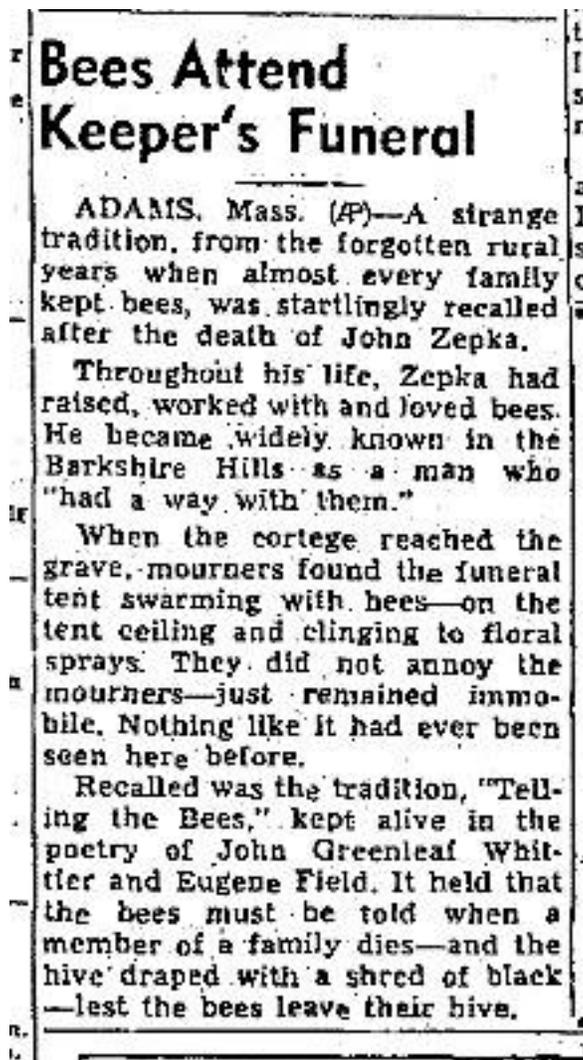
In real life I don't earn that much actual cash from my long time cell building yard. I don't sell queen cells at present—they get invested back into other parts of the apiary, and usually show up as a profit somewhere else. And it's quite like something I heard Roy Weaver say many years ago: "You see these gray hairs? They don't come from mites or AFB; they come from trying to get the supply to equal the demand!" And yes I can see someone in the back now waving his hand who needs to point out that there's much more labor involved in producing all those bees and cells than there is in producing just honey. It's true, but that labor is much more productive of income per hour than simple honey production. And that's the point—to counter the effect of rapidly increasing energy prices we'll need to produce more income per location, per colony and per hour. By taking better care of fewer colonies we'll be in a better position to deal with weather extremes as well. Even with so much of our farmland devoted to a monoculture desert, there's lots of opportunity for present and future beekeepers to take better care of fewer bees, travel less, and make more net income.

In conclusion, I'm hoping my story hasn't given the impression that I don't have any serious problems. By adopting a new paradigm—a new model to follow for how to make a living from bees—the most serious pest and disease problems have apparently been solved. But whenever a new paradigm threatens to replace an old one...there are difficult realities of paradigm change that will continue to illustrate how desperate our community has become by clinging to an old paradigm that is no longer working; but

Bee Thinking About *continued*

also because it's part of finding a new way to produce our food and restore the beauty and harmony of the environment. Let's go back to Alan Nation's definition of paradigm: "a set of rules and regulations (written and unwritten) that tells you how to behave to be successful." A new model for agriculture based on putting the needs of Nature ahead of our own is never going to function based on manipulation and conniving, theft, or by playing this person off on the other. The really important accomplishments are always achieved through honesty, trust, co-operation and steady work by all involved. There's plenty of territory and potential to produce income for everyone who is currently keeping bees. In fact, one of our biggest oncoming problems—along with energy and unstable weather—is the vanishingly small number of young people making their living from bees. I'm hoping to be able to report on this, and some ways to make progress.

Kirk Webster is owner and operator of Champlain Valley Bees & Queens and a professional apiculturist/survivor stock queenbreeder of Russian hybrid stock. He can be reached at Box 381, Middlebury, VT 05753 or 802-989-5895.



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Bee Health

Starting Right with Bees

WSU Beginning Beekeeping Short Course in Pullman, WA

Thurs & Fri, July 31 & Aug 1

Workshops offered by WSU Honey Bee Program

By Steve Sheppard, Susan Cobey & honey bee laboratory graduate students

Interested in starting some bee hives or want more confidence in working and caring for them? This 2 day course will cover bee biology pest/disease identification and management, honey bee IPM, and gloveless beekeeping. The format is a combination of instruction and hands on demonstration. Bring a bee veil and whatever protective clothing you are comfortable.

Registration fee \$125

Registration Form at

[http://entomology.wsu.edu/
events/](http://entomology.wsu.edu/events/)

Rearing High Quality Queens

Aug. 2nd, Pullman, WA

Aug. 8th, Mt Vernon, WA

WSU Honey Bee Program
Offers Two Queen Rearing
Workshops by
Steve Sheppard, Susan Cobey
& honey bee laboratory
graduate students



These hands-on short courses present what it takes to rear high quality queens. Basic biology and various methods of queen rearing will be presented. The workshops emphasize hands on instruction in queen rearing methods, with lecture and demonstrations. Students will be involved in various steps including: setting up cell builders, grafting, and establishing mating nuclei. Both queen right and queenless systems will be demonstrated. Bring a bee veil and whatever protective clothing you are comfortable in.

Registration fees \$175

Registration Form <http://entomology.wsu.edu/events/>

Bee Science

Instrumental Insemination Classes with Susan Cobey July & Aug. 2014

Susan Cobey is offering specialized instrumental insemination classes on Whidbey Island, WA, a ferry ride north of Seattle. Small classes, 1 to 3 people, are being scheduled in July and August. These intensive classes provide individual attention designed to address your specific needs at all levels, including advanced classes to increase efficiency and trouble shoot. An on-site breeding apiary is present to demonstrate queen and drone management. Please inquire for details and to book dates.

Contact: scobey@mac.com or message 530 554 2527

<http://honeybeeinsemination.com>

Requirements

For researchers and beekeepers running a breeding program or research project requiring controlled mating. A strong background in beekeeping and queen rearing is required. Please bring your own instrument. Instrument rental and purchase is available with prior arrangement. Note - there is no instrument standardization, so please inquire for an evaluation and/or upgrade on equipment to suit your needs. Microscopes and lights will be available for use. Virgin queens and Drones will be supplied.

An acknowledged international authority in the field of honey bees, Cobey has over 30 years experience of perfecting and teaching the specialized technique of instrumental insemination. She maintains the New World Carniolan Closed Population Breeding Program, now in its 32rd generation. Cobey has developed an independent research program focused on post-insemination maintenance of queens and the selection of behavioral traits at the colony level. Currently, she coordinates the Washington State University collaborative stock improvement and maintenance program partnering with the California queen producers. A focus of this program is the incorporation of germplasm collected from Old World European honey bees into domestic breeding stocks to enhance U.S. honey bees. This project includes the establishment of a germplasm repository at WSU. Cobey is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, presents her work internationally at numerous conferences and seminars, and publishes extensively in trade journals and professional peer reviewed publications. Her background includes managing several bee research labs including University of California, Davis and Ohio State University. She has also worked at the USDA Honey Bee Lab., Baton Rouge and is currently at WSU part time. Cobey also has worked in commercial queen production in FL. and CA., and founded and operated a queen production business, Vaca Valley Apiaries, in northern California.

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Do you teach beekeeping classes?

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- 5-10% off non-Kelley products
- Additional Product Promotional Sheet
- Quantity price breaks

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- 8% off Kelley product
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- Quantity price breaks



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1) Complete the following questionnaire and mail it to:

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807 W. Main St, Clarkson, KY 42726

2) Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KY8YSW3> to complete an online survey

3) Call Kevin Harrub at 800-233-2899 ex. 236

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Email _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

1. How many years have you been a beekeeper? _____

2. Are you teaching or mentoring beekeepers? YES / NO
If yes, please provide details: _____

3. Have you ever operated or owned your own business? YES / NO
If yes, please provide details: _____

4. Are you an active member of your local or state beekeeping association? YES / NO
If yes, please provide details: _____

5. I would run this business out of my:
 Home Barn Out building Store front
Please provide details: _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2014

Heartland: H.A.S. 2014 Conference

July 10-12 in Carbondale, IL
www.heartlandbees.com for registration,
news, classes, speakers and more

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

July 10-12 2014, Wilkes, NC
Website: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/>

New Mexico: Charm School for Beekeepers-The Rhythm & Beat of the Hive: Queens, Drones & their Core Importance to Hive Behavior & Management.

Taught by Melanie Kirby & Mark
Spitzig of Zia Queenbees.
July 12, 2014; Tierra Drala Farm
El Prado-Taos, NM
Info: [http://ziaqueenbees.com/zia/
taos-charm-school-for-beekeepers-
series-drop-in-workshops/](http://ziaqueenbees.com/zia/taos-charm-school-for-beekeepers-series-drop-in-workshops/)

Vermont Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting featuring Dr. Tom Seeley, "Honey Bees in the Wild"

July 12, 2014 - Bennington, Vermont
Info: www.vermontbeekeepers.org

New Hampshire: Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop on American Foul Brood and Mites & honey/wax processing and making propolis tincture.

July 19, 2014; 1-3:30 PM
18 MacLean Road, Alstead, NH 03602.
lindenap@gmail.com or 603-756-9056

New Mexico Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting with Dr. Larry Connor

July 19, 2014
Albuquerque, NM
Info: www.nmbeekeepers.org

South Carolina Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting - The Honey Bee Survivability and Succeeding as a Beekeeper Program

July 24 - 26, 2014
Hendrix Student Center
Clemson University
To register: www.scstatebeekeepers.org/

**KY: Eastern Apicultural Society:
Esprit de Bee** - featuring Dr. Nicola
Bradbear, founder of Bees for Development,
Jennifer Berry, Dianna Sammataro,
Michael Palmer, Dewey Caron, Jeff Harris,
Maryann Frazier and Wyatt Mangum
July 27-Aug 1, 2014
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond Campus
<https://www.easternapiculture.org/>
Kelley's will be attending this event.

Washington: Instrumental Insemination Classes with Susan Cobey

July 31, 2014- August 2014
Contact: scobey@mac.com,
Message: 530 554 2527
Website: <http://honeybeeinsemination.com>

Washington: STARTING RIGHT WITH BEES

WSU Beginning Beekeeping Short Course
Thurs & Fri., July 31st & Aug 1st.
Pullman, WA.
Workshops offered by WSU Honey Bee
Program by Dr. Steve Sheppard, Susan Cobey
& honey bee laboratory graduate students
Registration fee \$125
Registration <http://entomology.wsu.edu/events/>

August 2014

Washington: STARTING RIGHT WITH BEES

WSU Beginning Beekeeping Short
Course with Dr. Steve Sheppard, Susan
Cobey & bee lab grad students
Friday, August 1, 2014
Pullman, WA.
Registration fee \$125
Registration Form [http://
entomology.wsu.edu/events/](http://entomology.wsu.edu/events/)

Washington: Rearing High Quality

Queens with Dr. Steve Sheppard & Sue
Cobey & honeybee lab graduate students
August 2nd, 2014: Mt. Vernon
August 8th, 2014: Pullman, WA
These hands-on short courses present what
it takes to rear high quality queens.
Registration fees \$175
Registration Form [http://
entomology.wsu.edu/events/](http://entomology.wsu.edu/events/)

We'd love to share news of your upcoming events. Please send the event name, date, website and/or contact information to me by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Editor@KelleyBees.com

You can save shipping costs and sales tax by placing a pre-order before any meetings that we attend (excluding events in KY).
We note on our website which meetings we are attending, and we'd love to meet you there to deliver your equipment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August *continued*

Nebraska: Omaha Bee Club- Bee Fest & The Great Plains Beekeepers Workshop

August 9, 2014
Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office
8015 W Center Rd, Omaha, NE.
Info: <http://www.omahabeeclub.org/obc-beefest>

The North Alabama Beekeepers

Symposium featuring Dr. Jim Tew, Dr. Clarence Collison & Jim Garrison
Saturday August 10, 2014
Calhoun Community College
6250 U S Highway 31 N
Tanner AL
Contact: Lionel Evans at smoothevans@aol.com.
Kelley's will be attending this event.

New Mexico: Charm School for Beekeepers: Harvesting Hive Products, Making & Marketing Value-Added Apicaceuticals

August 16, 2014
Tierra Drala Farm
Taos, NM
Info: <http://ziaqueenbees.com/zia/taos-charm-school-for-beekeepers-series-drop-in-workshops/>



September 2014

New Hampshire: Chas Andros wintering bees workshop

Saturday, September 6; 1-3:30 PM
18 MacLean Road,
Alstead, NH 03602.
Registration required.
Email: lindenap@gmail.com
Tel: 603-756-9056.

The Alabama Master Beekeepers: Apprentice, Journeyman and Master Level classes.

September 11-13 - Prattville, AL.
Info: www.alabamabeekeepers.org
Contact Gerry Whitaker 334-494-0136

Ohio: Medina County Beekeepers Association featuring Vaughn Bryant

September 15, 2014 - Medina, Ohio
Info: http://medinabeekeepers.com/index.php?title=Main_Page

Montana: Western Apicultural Society of North America & 2nd Int'l Workshop on Hive & Bee Monitoring

September 17-20, 2014
Montana State University
Missoula, Montana
Contact: waspresident2014@gmail.com.
Info: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/was2>

Alabama Beekeepers Association Convention

September 26-27, 2014
Performing Arts Center
Clanton, AL
Info: www.alabamabeekeepers.com
Kelley's will be attending this event.



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