

NMBKA



New Mexico Beekeepers
Association

NEWSLETTER

December 2014



PHOTO: Konnie Nelson

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SAVE THE DATE!

NM Beekeepers Association
Annual Meeting
February 6-7, 2015
Albuquerque, NM

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The New Mexico Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization of private beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, persons interested in promoting the importance of the honey bee in the environment, and businesses related to the honey industry.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE ALERT

Jessie Brown and Ryan Hiles

Dr. Carol Sutherland, the State Entomologist for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, has confirmed the first incidence of small hive beetle (SHB) in New Mexico. A beekeeper near Roswell had Dr. Sutherland confirm the presence of SHB in one of his hives. Upon consultation with the New Mexico Beekeepers Association and with nationally recognized apiary pest experts, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture has decided not to pursue an eradication program. Although SHB is capable of long distance migration and is found in locations throughout Texas, it is unknown if this introduction was a result of natural migration or the accidental introduction from a package of bees, infested frames or hives. The beekeeper is unaware of any activities that may have introduced SHB into his hives. At this point it appears the infested hives are strong and are doing a good job of reducing the numbers of SHB. Based on its spread in other states, it is possible that northern parts of New Mexico may have or will begin seeing SHB in the near future.

Damage is caused when SHB larvae feed upon pollen, honey and occasionally brood. The yeast *Kodamaea ohmeri* is found in larval

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NM Beekeepers Association Invites Grant Applications

The New Mexico Beekeepers Association's Grant Program seeks to assist individuals and organizations whose work can better the beekeeping industry in New Mexico and can help raise public consciousness toward the importance and rewards of beekeeping. For details about what types of projects are funded, and how to apply, please visit our website at nmbeekeepers.org



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear New Mexico Beekeepers,

What an incredible year 2014 has been – and 2015 is looking to be even more dynamic. I'm especially excited about our upcoming Annual Meeting on February 6-7 in Albuquerque, with guest speaker Dr. Marla Spivak. If you have never heard Dr. Spivak speak, you are in for a real treat. Dr. Spivak has written numerous articles and manuals on beekeeping, developed the "Minnesota Hygienic" line of honeybees, and is currently doing research on propolis. She is a wealth of information, and speaks about honeybees with true love and respect. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there. Make sure to stop and say hello to the elected board. We sure would like to meet you!

As 2015 approaches, the New Mexico Beekeepers Association is also looking for people interested in serving on our Board of Directors. If you have exciting ideas and the drive to help develop sustainable programs to help bees and beekeepers around the state, we strongly encourage you to consider running for a seat on the Board. Each member brings a unique skill set to the organization, and after working with the Board of Directors in 2014, I can report that it is remarkable what a group of people with very different backgrounds and points of view can create. I want to thank Board members Craig Noorlander, DJ Nickles, Mike Fickling, Phill Remick and Taylor Horst for all their hard work and dedication this past year.

In mid November, I had the valuable opportunity to meet with the heads of the different local beekeeping groups around New Mexico. We found that we all shared many of the same goals and hardships. We were able to map out a shared plan for New Mexico beekeeping, which will help all of our groups and the NM Beekeepers Association head in a very positive, unified direction.

If you haven't yet checked out our website, nmbeekeepers.org, please do so! Our Chair of Education, Christina Bondy, has worked on a lovely set of "how to" beekeeping videos that highlight different points of view from beekeepers around New Mexico. We are expanding our digital presence, and you can also find us on Facebook by searching for the New Mexico Beekeepers Association.

As always, thank you so much for your membership. Your support helps educate the public about honeybees, brings renowned speakers to New Mexico, brings together communities, and helps to maintain our grant program.

Kindly,

Jessie Brown
President
New Mexico Beekeepers Association

Have an idea for an article or feature that you would like to see in the NM Beekeepers Association Newsletter? Please get in touch! editor@nmbeekeepers.org

NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Albuquerque, NM 87194
info@nmbeekeepers.org
www.nmbeekeepers.org

2014 NM BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Jessie Brown president@nmbeekeepers.org
Vice President: Craig Noorlander vicepresident@nmbeekeepers.org
Secretary: Mike Fickling secretary@nmbeekeepers.org
Treasurer: D.J. Nickles treasurer@nmbeekeepers.org

BOARD MEMBERS:

Phill Remick memberatlarge1@nmbeekeepers.org
Taylor Horst memberatlarge2@nmbeekeepers.org



PHOTO: Michaela O'Brien-Norton

CERTIFIED BEEKEEPERS APPRENTICE PROGRAM COMPLETES INAUGURAL YEAR

Susan Clair

They haven't quite graduated yet, but the 24 aspiring beekeepers who successfully completed the first half of the new Certified Beekeepers Apprentice Program (CBAP) still found plenty to celebrate.

"When I started the class, I had no idea what I was in for," said CBAP student Marlene Brown. "I went from being scared around the bees to being comfortable. I now have two hives and have done a trap-out. I'm looking forward to next year's classes."

The 2014 program's seventh and final all-day session in August concluded with a party, where students received Year 1 Completion Certificates and enjoyed a tasty lunch with samples of honey from many of their hives. Among them were novices with less than a year of experience, as well as experienced beekeepers looking to expand their knowledge. Others did not have their own hives but wanted to learn about beekeeping to decide whether to make the financial investment in beekeeping equipment necessary to pursuing their interest.

The Certified Beekeepers Apprentice Program was held at the Open Space Visitor Center on Coors Blvd. NW in Albuquerque, NM. The program was organized by a committee of eight volunteers, with assistance from the New Mexico Beekeepers Association, the City of Albuquerque Open Space

Division, and the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

The eight volunteer planners dedicated ample time, energy, and creativity to developing a beekeeping education program worthy of certification. They created the foundation for the curriculum, established a schedule of sessions, developed a full-color, comprehensive handbook with instructive photographs and illustrations, and recruited experienced local beekeepers and instructors in related fields to teach classes.

Student Allan Emord praised the committee's efforts. "An immense amount of information was presented by very knowledgeable and experienced beekeepers," he noted.

Classes covered the essentials of beekeeping. Students learned about proper use of beekeeping equipment and protective clothing, best practices for urban beekeeping, the types of honeybees, Langstroth and top-bar hives, seasonal hive inspection and management, botany and pollinators, queen rearing, hive pests and diseases, honey production and harvesting, wax processing, marketing and selling honey, and apitherapy (bee venom therapy).

Along with classroom instruction, each session included hands-on time working with the live hives at the Open Space beeyard. As part of obtaining their certification, students are required to complete 40 hours of community service. Student may opt to volunteer at the Open Space Visitor Center for special pollinator events, work the exhibit table at the New Mexico State Fair, teach elementary school children about honeybees, assist

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PHOTO: Michaela O'Brien-Norton





BEEKEEPING IN NEW MEXICO

A Historical Overview

PART ONE OF FOUR

NEW 'SHERIFF' IN TOWN

Janet Yagoda

Tales of New Mexico outlaws such as Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett paint territorial New Mexico (1850-1912) as a wild and untamed place. However, research shows that many territory of New Mexico pioneers were law-abiding citizens. In particular, beekeepers were required to abide by a strict code enforced not by a sheriff, but by the bee inspector.

In 1907, the 37th Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico approved House Bill Number 105 (H.B. No.105), to establish the Office of the Inspector of Bees as well as laws to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, such as foulbrood, between apiaries. An applicant seeking to become one of New Mexico's five bee inspectors presented a written request to the chairman of their local Board of County Commissioners. To be considered, an applicant had to be an "actual" beekeeper as well as able to produce a list containing the names of the beekeepers living in his precinct.

Beekeepers who were aware of foulbrood either in their own or other apiaries were required to report the disease immediately.

A conviction for failure to do so resulted in a fine of five dollars plus any other costs. According to historical economic data website MeasuringWorth, in today's dollars that would be the same as receiving a \$674 fine!

The responsibilities of the bee inspector were clearly delineated. Upon receiving notification of infected hives, he had to inspect each colony and hive as well as the honey, tools and other supplies for evidence of disease, and give the owner a written report of his findings. The owner was then required to carry out the inspector's requirements within five days. This usually involved burning the hives and tools, as well as the equipment used to gather and process honey. The final step was to bury the charred remains at least two feet underground. Should beekeepers refuse to comply, constables, sworn in by a justice of the peace, could enter the property and, under the direction of the inspector, carry out these infection control practices. However, before constables could destroy the apiary, they either read or sent a copy of an early-20th century version of today's "Miranda Rights" to the offending beekeeper.

It is interesting to note that bee inspectors had to disinfect themselves, their clothing, and any implements before going to another apiary. During the mid-19th and early-20th century, many doctors and surgeons refused to wash their hands or use chemical disinfection – even in Vienna, then the epicenter of medical innovation. It is

therefore remarkable that American territory pioneers 5,000 miles away from Vienna knew these simple precautions reduced the likelihood of spreading contagious disease. Consistent with contemporary public health standards, beekeepers could not sell, trade, or give away diseased hives, queens, or honey. Violators were subject to a fine of \$50 to \$100 (\$6,749 to \$13,480 in today's money) or one to two months' imprisonment in the county jail. Imagine the public outcry and lawsuits if similar legislation were passed today!

H.B. No. 105 also prevented beekeepers from resuming beekeeping activities until a bee yard was declared free of disease. Failure to wait until the final inspection resulted in a fine of \$20 (\$2,700) to \$50 (\$6,749) or one to two months' imprisonment. Compare that to the ways many people today routinely try to circumvent various inspections!

More consistent with modern-day practices was the paperwork. Territory bee inspectors were required to submit an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners that included the number of colonies they inspected, the number of diseased colonies, the number of colonies destroyed by fire, and the amount paid to them for services and expenses for the preceding year. At least when it comes to bureaucracy, we can say with a sigh or a groan, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

SAVE THE DATE!

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2015

Kosmos Performance Space
1715 5th Street
Albuquerque, NM, 87102

Special Guest: DR. MARLA SPIVAK

The New Mexico Beekeepers Association invites you to join us for our Annual Meeting. Our featured guest speaker will be Dr. Marla Spivak, who will deliver two talks: "Good News from the University and State of Minnesota" and "From Propolis to Pesticides: Research at the University of Minnesota MN Bee Lab."

This event will also feature vendors, artisans, information about keeping bees in New Mexico, and the NM Beekeepers Association business meeting. Admission is free, but we encourage participants to consider joining the New Mexico Beekeepers Association. (See MEMBERSHIP FORM, page 7)



PHOTO: Dan Marshall

Marla Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Her research efforts focus on protecting the health of all bees, breeding bees for their natural defenses against diseases and parasites, promoting sustainable beekeeping practices, and propagating floral rich and pesticide-free landscapes to support the nutrition, health and diversity of bee pollinators. Dr. Spivak has been interested in bees for nearly 40 years, ever since she worked for a commercial beekeeper here in New Mexico in 1975.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO BYLAWS

On October 30, 2014, the NM Beekeepers Association Board of Directors approved a measure to add to the association's bylaws, a description of the NM Beekeepers Association's mission. Members can vote on whether to ratify this change at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The proposed change to Article II of the bylaws, which outlines the NM Beekeepers Association's purpose as an association, would read:

The New Mexico Beekeepers Association is dedicated to informing and inspiring persons interested in beekeeping and educating the general public.

DRIFTWATCH REGISTRY IN NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) recently launched the DriftWatch® Specialty Crop Site Registry, a voluntary web-based tool designed to help pesticide applicators, apiaries, organic commodity producers, and specialty crop growers. DriftWatch is utilized to effectively communicate, promote awareness and establish stewardship activities to aid in the prevention and management of pesticide drift. Using DriftWatch, producers of high-value specialty crops and organic commodities can map their sites online with an easy-to-use mapping tool and provide contact information about their operations. Likewise, beekeepers may register and map their hive locations. Pesticide applicators are allowed access within the website to help determine the scope and location of specialty crops and beehives in their trade areas. For more information, visit the DriftWatch website at <https://driftwatch.org/> or contact Irene King: icalderon@nmda.nmsu.edu.



APPRENTICE PROGRAM

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in a trap-out or a cut-out, or find other related volunteer opportunities.

CBAP student Tom Day gave the program yet another glowing review: "I loved the whole experience. It all helped to build confidence, to plow forward and learn more and enjoy keeping bees."

The 2015 Certified Beekeepers Apprentice Program will start in early spring. Year 1 students will follow a curriculum similar to the 2014 program, attending Saturday sessions on March 28, April 18, May 9 & 30, June 13, July 11 and August 1. Year 2 students will spend most of their program time working with live hives, under supervision, in the beeyards of experienced beekeepers. Flexible scheduling will include core content and elective classes where students can focus on particular areas of interest.

Prospective students may apply [online](#) through the New Mexico Beekeepers Association website or submit a [printed application](#). For more information, contact Susan Clair, program coordinator: clair@nmia.com or (505)281-9888.

PHOTO: Konnie Nelson



SMALL HIVE BEETLE

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feces and in sufficient levels will ferment honey and pollen, causing a slimy mess. Honeybees will avoid this area of the hive and after a while, brood production ceases and hive numbers will diminish, eventually leading to the demise of the hive. Adult beetles do not cause known damage to a hive, except for distracting worker bees from their hive duties.

There are several identifying signs to look for when inspecting beehives. SHB are active in hives when the outside temperature exceeds 70 degrees F. Adult hive beetles will avoid light and crowd to darker areas of the hive. SHB has 4 life cycles: egg, larvae, pupae and adult beetle. Adult beetles vary in color from light red to black, have an oval body, and are covered in fine, golden hair. Larvae are very similar in appearance to wax moth worms with the exception that SHB larvae do not create webbing. Clutches of eggs are laid in protected areas of the hive and sometimes even in brood cells, and so are difficult to observe during hive inspections. SHB pupae are not found within the hive, but in the dirt surrounding the beehives within the first six inches of soil. The pupae are white in color with purple eyes and distinguishable mouth parts.

Studies indicate that the strength and health of a bee colony are key to protection from SHB. A strong colony includes a healthy queen and

sufficient numbers of adult worker bees to cover and protect all the honey and brood comb. The best strategy for control is to eliminate as many adult beetles as possible to prevent reproduction, minimize extra resources that a hive cannot protect, and eliminate areas in the hive that are inaccessible to honeybees. A beekeeper can minimize honey supers in Langstroth hives during the honey flow, so the bees have less empty frame to protect. Other possible options for SHB control may include using 9 frames in 10 frame equipment, allowing bees more space for travel and cleanup of SHB; chemical treatments with appropriate labeled products both inside and outside the hive; and the use of traps to catch adult beetles. Any damaged comb may be reused in the hive once the damaged or spoiled portions have been removed. Once cleaned, wait a few days for eggs to emerge before returning equipment back to the hive.

Below are links to some helpful information on managing small hive beetle:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/beekeepers/publications/small_hive_bettle_ipm.html

http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/invasive-species-site/small_hive_beetle.shtml

<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-7075.pdf>



DEC. 2014

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NMBKA

New Mexico Beekeepers Association

Join us! Members receive perks like free admission to events, website listings and newsletters...

MEMBERSHIP FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION (PRIVATE)

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE:

EMAIL:

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

☐

FULL-YEAR
\$30

☐

JULY-DECEMBER
\$15

NEWSLETTER

☐

EMAIL
(FREE)

☐

PAPER
(\$5.00/YEAR)

LISTING (PUBLIC)

Members can advertise for free! If you wish to have your information added to the Bee Services section of our website, please fill out this section:

NAME OR COMPANY

PHONE

EMAIL

WEBSITE

CITY OR AREA

List for swarm capture? ☐ YES ☐ NO

List as a bee educator? ☐ YES ☐ NO

List for selling honey? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you sell queens or bees? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you sell wax/pollen/propolis? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you sell hive equipment? ☐ YES ☐ NO
If yes, what kind?

MAIL COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT TO:

NM BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 7188
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87194

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:

NM BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: info@nmbeekeepers.org



PHOTO: Konnie Nelson

PRIZE-WINNING IMAGES BY KONNIE NELSON

The beautiful photographs on our cover, on page 6, and above were all taken by beekeeper and photographer Konnie Nelson. Konnie's wonderful photography won her a prize at this year's New Mexico State Fair. Special thanks to Konnie for allowing us to share her work with you!

**NM BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 7188
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87194**

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE NM BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The NM Beekeepers Association is seeking nominations for persons to serve on the 2015 Board of Directors. Positions include: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Members-at-Large.

If you know of someone that you think would be a good candidate, please contact Dave Ellis, Nominating Committee Chairman, at dddssssck@gmail.com, at 505-266-8564, or by mail at 5711 Princess Jeanne NE Albuquerque, NM 87110

Please include contact information for both you and your nominee!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration!