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The Badger Bee

Official Publication for the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association

~ Since 1864 ~

April 2024

Seeking Editor for Badger Bee

The WHPA is seeking a new editor of the Badger Bee. Duties include content organization, editing, and email distribution of the WHPA's monthly newsletter. Must be organized, email proficient, and able to edit and proofread newsletters for grammar, spelling, style, and punctuation and ensure they are delivered on schedule. Regular correspondence with WHPA's printing company, advertisers, and members of the WHPA Executive Committee is required. This position is a member of the WHPA's Communications Committee, and applicant must be a continuous WHPA member in good standing. Interested members may contact Tracy Malterer at tracymalterer@gmail.com or call 920-285-1817 for more information.



WHPA Summer Meeting with Minnesota Beekeepers July 11-13, 2024 at DoubleTree Hilton in St. Paul, MN

Make plans now to throw on some supers, pack up the honeywagon, and attend the WHPA Summer Meeting - held together with the Minnesota Honey Producers Association at the DoubleTree Hilton in St. Paul, MN July 11-13, 2024.

- Speakers include Mike Simone-Finstrom and Mike Goblirsch
- Thursday, July 11th – Liars & Braggers Club w/ cash bar and MC'd by the fabulous Becky Masterman
- Friday, July 12th – TOUR OF MINNESOTA BEE LAB

WI Honey Queen Sadie Goettl, Battle at the Border Honey Tasting Contest and more!

HOTEL INFO – DoubleTree by Hilton – 1St. Paul East, 2201 Burns Avenue, St. Paul MN - For hotel reservations call 651-731-2220 and use the group code: Minnesota-Wisconsin Honey Producers Summer Convention. Link to online room reservation can be found at wihoney.org Room Rates: \$139 plus tax, INCLUDES BREAKFAST (max of 2 people/room)

2024 MN/WI Honey Producers Summer Convention ****Tentative****

Thursday, July 11 2024

- 1:00 p.m. – MN Board Meeting (Tartan 3) Lunch & Dinner on your own
- 4:00pm. – Registration opens (Ballroom Foyer)
- 7:00 p.m. – WHPA Executive Board Meeting (Tartan 3)
- 7:30 p.m. - Liars and Braggers Honey Crop Report (McKnight 2)

Friday, July 12 2024

- 7:30 a.m. – Registration opens (Ballroom Foyer)
- 8:00 a.m. – Trade Show Opens & Silent Auction Opens (McKnight 1)
- 8:00 a.m. – Welcome by MHPA President – (McKnight 2)
- 8:10 a.m. – KEYNOTE: Mike Simone-Finstrom
- 9:10 a.m. – KEYNOTE 2: Mike Goblirsch
- 10:10 a.m. – BREAK- Honey tasting entries due
- 10:30 a.m. - Kaite Klett
- 11:30 a.m. - MN Grown
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch (meal ticket required) (Battle Creek)
- 1:15 p.m. – MHPA History, awards
- 1:45 p.m. -- Habitat- Becky Masterman
- 2:15 p.m. – OPEN
- 2:30 p.m. – Break
- 2:45 p.m. – MHPA business meeting- Honey Tasting closes
- 3:45 p.m. – Leave for Bee Lab
- 4:00 p.m. - Trade Show Closes for the day Bee Lab Tour
- Dinner on your own

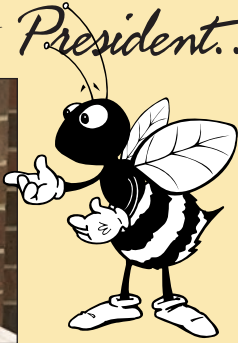
Saturday, July 13 2024

- 8:00 a.m. – Registration opens Ballroom Foyer
- 8:00 a.m. – Trade Show opens (McKnight 1)
- 8:00 a.m. – Announcements _____) _____) Border Battle Honey Tasting Open
- 8:15 a.m. – Keynote Mike Simone-Finstrom
- 9:15 a.m. – Keynote Mike Goblirsch
- 10:15 a.m. – BREAK- Silent Auction Closes
- 10:30a.m. – ABF/AHPA Update
- 11:00 a.m.- Joint Bear Committee report
- 11:30 a.m. – Marla Spivak
- 12:30p.m. – Closing Remarks, Trade Show Close, Quilt Drawing

*** Registration Hours: Thurs: 4-5:30 pm Fri: 7:30am- 2:00pm Sat: 8-12:30***



From the
WHPA President..



It's April Fools! It seems like Mother nature has been fooling with us the last few months. It was a mild winter with extremely warm days in February averaging 31.8 degrees, which is 16 degrees above average. February was actually the warmest February on record going back to the 1940's. I know my bees enjoyed the warmer weather. The overwintered colonies are big and ready for spring. As I look at the forecast for the start of April, I see highs in the mid 30's and Snow. Great start to Spring! Mother nature be trippin'!

While mother nature be trippin', I've been road tripping.

On February 28th, the Legislative committee Doug Koltermann, Tony Dryak, Tim Wilbanks and myself took a road trip to Madison to meet with DATCP. It has been around 8 years since the WHPA has had an in-person meeting with DATCP. We were able to sit down with Randy Romanski the Secretary of Agriculture as well as Shahla Warner our interim State Apiarist and other members of DATCP. Doug had set up the meeting to help foster a better working relationship between the WHPA and DATCP. We wanted to discuss the vacancy of the State Apiarist position as well as other issues that members have brought to our attention. During the meeting, DATCP informed us that they have budgeted for a full time State Apiarist position. This is terrific news because in the past, our state apiarist has only dedicated a small portion of their time to the Apiary program. DATCP has been accepting resumes and begun the process of hiring the full time State Apiarist. The WHPA looks forward to continuing to work closer with DATCP to further help Wisconsin beekeepers.

The following week my travels took me to Stevens Point. I attended DNR Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Program State meeting on

Continued on page 11

Honey Bee Health Coalition Updates Approved Medications List for Hive Health in United States and Canada in Accordance with EPA Guidance

The Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has updated its comprehensive listing of approved medications for the treatment of hive pests and diseases in honey bee colonies in the United States and Canada, aligning with guidance provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA).

In January, the EPA issued an advisory outlining approved pesticide products for use against varroa mites in bee hives, and emphasizing the importance of avoiding the use of products not specifically registered for use in colonies to control mites. Registered products play a critical role in combating a major threat to honey bee health. Varroa mites, known for their destructive impact on bee colonies, pose significant risks to bee populations and agricultural ecosystems.

"We are dedicated to supporting beekeepers in their efforts to combat varroa mites and promote honey bee health," said Matt Mulica, senior project director for Keystone Policy Center, the nonprofit organization that facilitates the Honey Bee Health Coalition. "In accordance with the EPA's guidance, we have updated our approved medications lists for the United States and Canada to provide beekeepers with the latest information on registered products essential for controlling hive pests and diseases."

The updated documents, titled "Registered Medications and Pesticides for Honey Bee Health," serve as vital resources for beekeepers, offering a consolidated list of legal and registered products approved for the management of hive pests and diseases, including those targeting varroa mites. These approved medications must be used for any operation utilizing hives and their products for commercial use, ensuring the health and safety of honey bee colonies and the integrity of hive products for consumers.

Beekeepers and stakeholders can access the updated documents as well as a variety of other resources for combatting varroa on the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/program/hive-management/>



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Straightening Hives

Cost of Pollination (Wisconsin is Located in Region 1)

Released December 15, 2023, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In Regions 6 & 7, the average cost per colony for almonds decreased 3 percent from 194 dollars per colony in 2022 to 188 dollars per colony in 2023. The average price per acre decreased from 336 dollars per acre to 310 dollars per acre during that period. The total value of pollination for almonds decreased 8 percent. Almonds were the highest valued crop in that region. The total value of all pollination in Regions 6 & 7 for 2023 was 356 million dollars, down 8 percent from 2022.

Cranberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 1 in 2023. The price per colony for cranberries increased 1 percent to 82.8 dollars per colony in 2023. The price per acre increased 8 percent to 200 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for cranberries in Region 1 for 2023 was 6.46 million dollars. The total value for pollination of all crops in Region 1 for 2023 was 19.8 million dollars, down 10 percent from 2022.

Blueberries had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 2 in 2023. The price per colony for blueberries decreased 15 percent to 66.4 dollars per colony in 2023. The price per acre unchanged at 139 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for blueberries in Region 2 for 2023 was 3.25 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 2 for 2023 was 6.75 million dollars, up 2 percent from 2022.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 1: 2022
(See regional listing on page 10)

Crop	Region 1				
	Paid pollinated acres (acres)	Price per acre (dollars)	Colonies used (colonies)	Price per colony ² (dollars)	Total value of pollination (1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit	68,400	43.8	39,000	91.2	3,557
Apple	28,000	34.5	16,500	78.9	1,302
Melons	3,100	59.6	3,000	80.8	242
Watermelon					
Berries	45,900	179.0	87,000	98.4	8,561
Blueberry	27,700	185.0	65,000	81.6	5,304
Vegetables	9,300	20.7	10,500	69.7	732
Cucumber	7,100	40.6	7,500	78.6	590
Pumpkin	5,400	31.2	4,600	63.2	291
Squash					
All other¹	8,500	47.2	17,000	77.4	1,316
Total	203,400	91.0	250,100	87.5	21,895

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Paid Pollinated Acres, Price per Acre, Colonies Used, Price per Colony, and Total Value of Pollination – Region 1: 2023
(See regional listing on page 10)

Crop	Region 1				
	Paid pollinated acres (acres)	Price per acre (dollars)	Colonies used (colonies)	Price per colony ² (dollars)	Total value of pollination (1,000 dollars)
Tree fruit	76,400	38.5	44,000	81.0	3,564
Apple	29,400	27.0	12,500	66.7	834
Melons	1,950	74.6	2,400	69.9	168
Watermelon					
Berries	40,800	142.0	81,000	76.8	6,221
Blueberry	32,100	200.0	78,000	82.8	6,458
Vegetables	8,100	41.3	4,600	79.6	366
Cucumber	8,700	36.5	6,000	77.2	463
Pumpkin	4,800	52.3	4,400	83.9	369
Squash					
All other¹	5,600	46.8	17,500	77.8	1,362
Total	207,850	83.0	250,400	79.1	19,805

¹ Includes crops not categorized above.

² Regional total price per colony is total value of pollination divided by colonies used.

Estimation Regions

To improve the reliability and increase the number of estimates which can be published, estimates are published at regional level, based on the regions used for the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Regions 6 and 7 were combined. The states in each region are as follows:

- Region 1:** Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin.
- Region 2:** Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
- Region 3:** Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
- Region 4:** Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming.
- Region 5:** Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.
- Region 6 & 7:** Arizona, California, Hawaii.

Terms and Definitions of Cost of Pollination Estimates

Paid Pollinated Acres: Acreage that an operation paid money to be pollinated by honey bees.

Dollars per Acre: The average price paid by operations to pollinate an acre of crop. Acres pollinated for free or on a nonmonetary basis were not included in this calculation.

Colonies Used: The total colonies used to pollinate a crop; regardless of ownership or if on a paid basis.

Dollars per Colony: The average price paid by operations to use a colony for pollination. Colonies owned by the operation or used on a nonmonetary basis were not included.

Total Value of Pollination: The total valuation of all pollination, calculated by multiplying the price per colony by colonies used.

Watermelons had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 3 in 2023. The price per colony for watermelons decreased 26 percent to 57.0 dollars per colony in 2023. The price per acre decreased 19 percent to 81.5 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for watermelons in Region 3 for 2023 was 2.00 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 3 for 2023 was 5.59 million dollars, down 24 percent from 2022.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 4 in 2023. The price per colony for apples increased 44 percent to 74.2 dollars per colony in 2023. The price per acre increased 57 percent to 64.4 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 4 for 2023 was 141 thousand dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 4 for 2023 was 1.28 million dollars, up 104 percent from 2022.

Apples had the highest total value of pollination of crops reported in Region 5 in 2023. The price per colony for apples increased 2 percent to 59.5 dollars per colony in 2023. The price per acre increased 8 percent to 68.0 dollars per acre. The total value of pollination for apples in Region 5 for 2023 was 9.76 million dollars. The total value of pollination of all crops in Region 5 for 2023 was 24.6 million dollars, up 41 percent from 2022.



OUR MISSION

The purpose of the WHPA is to form a strong bond and fellowship among commercial and hobby honey producers to effectively: protect the honey producing industry of Wisconsin from policies and environmental changes that will negatively affect honey production; improve the marketing of honey and bee products by supporting and promoting the Honey Queen Program, advertising, and scientific developments beneficial to honey producers and the industry; support and promote educational programs by disseminating scientific developments and by sharing knowledge among members; support and promote educational programs aimed at public acceptance of the honey bee in our environment.

WHPA Membership - We would like to have you as a member!

(includes a monthly subscription to the Badger Bee, The Official Publication of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association)

WHPA Membership Year:

Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, the following year

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Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues

- \$40 - Primary Member
- \$15 - Ea. Additional Member

_____ (name)

_____ (name)

_____ (name)

_____ (name)

Voluntary Contribution

- Honey Queen Fund \$ _____
- Research Fund \$ _____
- Other (specify) \$ _____

WHPA Member List

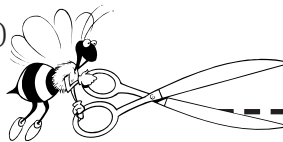
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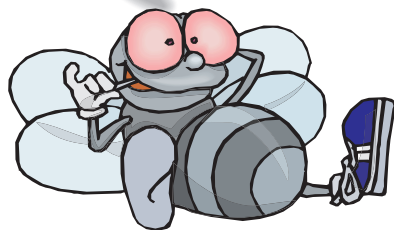
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Mail to: Shelly Astle, WHPA Treasurer
54131A State Hwy 80, Hillsboro, WI 54634

The Badger Bee is the official publication of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association. Advertising copy, news releases, and articles should be to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to the date of publication. The WHPA and the Badger Bee are non-profit in their operation to protect and promote the quality of the agricultural pursuit: Beekeeping. Opinions expressed in the Badger Bee may not be of the WHPA. **The Badger Bee**, Tracy Malterer, Editor, N4730 Cedar Road, Iron Ridge, WI 53035, badger.bee@hotmail.com



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At Home Beekeeping Webinar

Distance Learning for Beekeepers



We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included.

All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- March 26: Oxalic Acid research updates, with *C. Jack (UFL)*
- April 30: Swarming biology and management, with *J. Zawislak (UAR)*
- May 28: TBD, with *D. Tarcy (NCSU)*
- Hangry Bees 2023: Pollen deprivation impacts temperament and disease status, with *E. Walsh (USDA-ARS)*

Last Tuesday of the month
6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.

FY22/23 Sample Collection and Analysis of Imported Honey for Economically Motivated Adulteration

As part of FDA's continued effort to combat economically motivated adulteration, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted an assignment in 2022-23 to collect and test imported honey. Economically motivated adulterations are the substitution or addition of a substance in a product for the purpose of increasing the apparent value of the product or reducing the cost of its production, i.e., for economic gain. This assignment was preceded by a similar effort in 2021-22 also focused on imported honey. Previously, of the 144 import samples collected and tested, 14 (10%) were found to be violative due to economically motivated adulteration, a term used by the FDA for food fraud.

The FDA recognizes that the term "honey" commonly refers to the thick, sweet, syrupy substance that bees make from the nectar of plants or their secretions and store in honeycombs (see FDA's Proper Labeling of Honey and Honey Products: Guidance for Industry). Economically motivated adulteration occurs when products labeled as "honey" contains undeclared sweeteners that are less expensive than honey, such as syrups derived from cane, corn, rice, or sugar beets.

The purpose of the 2022-2023 assignment was to identify imported honey products that are violative in that they contain undeclared added sweeteners and prevent them from being distributed in the U.S. market.

Methodology

The agency collected and tested 107 samples of imported honey from April 2022 to July 2023 to determine whether they contained certain undeclared added sweeteners. Each sample was made up of three subsamples, with each subsample containing at least 240 milliliters or 8 oz of honey (about a cup). FDA field personnel collected either bulk or retail samples labeled as "honey." Retail samples consisted of individual jars or other containers intended for retail sale. Bulk shipment samples were collected typically from barrels or drums, with the use of appropriate collection equipment and procedures.

The honey samples evaluated were imported from 25 foreign countries. The FDA collected all the imported samples in import status, which refers to products collected at ports of entry or other locations where they are held prior to being released into domestic commerce.

The FDA used Stable Carbon Isotope Ratio Analysis (SCIRA) to analyze the organic composition of each honey sample. When the agency found a subsample to have carbon isotope values atypical to those of authentic honey, the agency classified the associated

sample as violative/noncompliant.

Findings

Of the 107 import samples collected and tested, the FDA found 3 import samples (3%) to be violative. While the number of violative samples represents a slight decrease from the 2021-2022 imported honey assignment, the two assignments were not designed for statistical comparison.

A breakdown of the findings by country of origin is provided in the Table below (Table 1). The agency cautions against making inferences or comparisons among countries based solely on the Table 1 data in view of the small sample sizes and the fact that the agency did not design the assignment for such purposes.

Table 1. Number of samples collected and found violative by country of origin.

Country	Collected samples	Violative samples
Argentina	1	0
Australia	1	0
Brazil	1	0
Canada	1	0
Chile	1	0
China	1	0
Dominican Republic (the)	5	1
France	1	0
Germany	1	0
India	16	0
Italy	3	0
Mexico	20	1
New Zealand	6	0
Pakistan	3	0
Poland	6	0
Portugal	1	0
Romania	1	0
Saudi Arabia	2	0
Spain	1	0
Taiwan	1	0
Turkey	9	0
Ukraine	2	0
Uruguay	1	0
Vietnam	7	0
Yemen	2	1
TOTAL	107	3

Follow-Up Actions

When the FDA found a sample to be violative, the agency took follow-up action to prevent further distribution of that violative honey shipment into the US market. All violative samples resulted in refusal of entry for that shipment into the U.S. In addition, the FDA increased screening and surveillance sampling or placed the associated company and product on Import Alert (IA) 99-47. Products listed on the Import Alert are subject to

Detention without Physical Examination. For those products to be admitted into the U.S., the company is required to provide evidence to the FDA to overcome the appearance of a violation, such as the test results of a third-party laboratory, verifying that the product does not contain added sweeteners.

Discussion

The results of this assignment show honey continues to be a commodity susceptible to economically motivated adulteration. The results reaffirm the need for the agency to continue to test honey for economically motivated adulteration to ensure consumers are not deceived and they get fair value for their purchase. Violative samples are subject to compliance actions, consistent with the FDA's mission to ensure that food is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. When appropriate, the agency may consider pursuing criminal investigations. The FDA also collaborates with international counterparts to detect and combat economically motivated adulteration related to imported products, including imported honey.

Honey can be adulterated with less expensive sweeteners derived from various plant sources including cane, corn, rice, and sugar beets. Different methods are needed to detect undeclared sweeteners from these various sources. The current method used by the FDA detects a subset of undeclared sweeteners. FDA continues to develop additional methods for the detection of undeclared sweeteners to protect consumers.

Companies that import honey, or that use honey as an ingredient in their food manufacturing, can help protect consumers by ensuring the authenticity of the honey. When other sweeteners are added to honey, the Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic (FD&C) Act requires that the resulting product be labeled as a "blend," and not as "honey," and have an ingredient statement. Labeling on packaged food in interstate commerce is required to be truthful and not misleading, according to the FD&C Act.

For additional information on the FDA's work to combat food fraud, please visit the agency's Economically Motivated Adulteration (Food Fraud) page.

~ Source: <https://www.fda.gov/food/economically-motivated-adulteration-food-fraud/>



WI Honey Queen



Hello Wisconsin Beekeepers,

Time sure does fly when you're having fun! This past month was filled with many firsts. I had my first school presentation, district meeting, and radio interview as



University of Wisconsin's Collegiate Farm Bureau about careers and opportunities in the honey and beekeeping industry. On February 24th, I traveled to Tomah for the Western District Meeting, my first beekeeping meeting. I loved meeting local beekeepers and getting to know more about the industry. While there, I learned more about queen bees and how to make beeswax candles. Thank you to the Western District beekeepers and Dan Ziehli for inviting me to your meeting. I had a fabulous time!

The first weekend in March, I attended the Fond du Lac Agri-Business Council Ag Showcase. I had my very own booth

Wisconsin Honey Queen.

I traveled to Roosevelt Elementary in Janesville and spoke to the fourth-grade students. They were excited to learn about beekeeping and how bees make honey. I also spoke with the second graders at Clay Lamberton Elementary in Berlin. The students had many questions about honeybees as they had just finished learning about insects and pollinators. Both groups of students were surprised to learn that we wouldn't have pizza without honeybee pollination as honeybees pollinate both the tomatoes for the sauce and the alfalfa that dairy cattle consume



where I was able to educate attendees about the importance of pollinators and their habitats as the weather begins to warm up. While there, I also had an eight-minute radio interview with KFIZ where I discussed the beekeeping industry here in Wisconsin. The Agri-Business Showcase has been one of my favorite events as I was able to reach a vast audience.

With spring in full swing, I am ecstatic to share my messages about the beekeeping industry with others throughout the state and meet more beekeepers. I cannot wait to see what my next adventure as Wisconsin Honey Queen brings.

To schedule an appearance, contact Mary Kettlewell at wihoneyqueenprogram@gmail.com or by phone at 414.429.5502.

Sadie Goettl, 2024 Wisconsin Honey Queen

WHPA – CENTRAL DISTRICT SPRING MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the WISCONSIN HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION – CENTRAL DISTRICT was called to order at 9:08am on March 23, 2024 by Marty Mykisen, Central District Chairperson. Introductions were made.

Sadie Goettl, Wisconsin Honey Producers Association 2024 Honey Queen
Mitchel Wayne – Queen rearing / grafting

Doug Kolterman – Mite treatments and overwintering techniques

Beekeeper Forum – Kent Pegorsch, Mitchel Wayne and Buzz Vahradian answered a wide variety of questions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from April 2, 2022 were approved. 2023 the Central District did not meet due to no district chairperson.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Report balance as of 4/4/2022 was \$126.38. No changes were made. No action was made since there were no changes.

Election of Officers

L. Rezin made a motion to elect Marty Mykisen to the president of the central district. Nick Thill second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in the sec-



retary/treasurer election.

NEW BUSINESS

July 11-13 – Joint summer meeting with the Minnesota Honey Producers- Location is DoubleTree by Hilton, St Paul, MN – will include a tour of Minnesota Bee Lab

August 1- 11 – Wisconsin State Fair Honey Booth, West Allis, WI

August 13-15 – Farm Technology Days, Cadott, WI

October 31 – November 2- Wisconsin Honey Producers Fall Con-

vention, Onalaska, WI

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by 12:16 pm by Marty Mykisen, Central District Chairperson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Rezin, Central District secretary/treasurer





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- * North Dakota Beekeepers Association
- * Tennessee State Beekeepers Association
- * Washington State Beekeepers Association
- * American Honey Producers Association
- * Florida State Beekeepers Association
- * Michigan Commercial Beekeepers Association
- * Montana State Beekeepers Association
- * South Dakota Beekeepers Association
- * Texas Beekeepers Association
- * Wisconsin Honey Producers Association, Inc.

Kevin Rader: Buzzus@beekeepingins.com
www.beekeepingins.com

WHPA Executive Board Meeting

March 13, 2024

Attendees: President Nick Thill, Vice President Tracy Malterer, Secretary Fran Wayne, Past President Jon Logterman, Director Stephanie Slater, Director James Hillemeier, and Director Liz Renstrom

President Nick Thill called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm.

Secretary's Report - Liz moved to accept the January 17, 2024 executive meeting minutes as printed in the Badger Bee, seconded by Jon. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Liz moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Tracy. Motion carried.

Membership is currently at 368 numbers. Those numbers include the member sign ups at the Southern & Southeast district meeting.

Old Business

HIVE Act update by Nick. Nick sent a letter to the chairman of the ag committee. Doug has additional communication planned.

Bear Committee update by Nick. Nick attended the Wildlife Damage Abatement Meeting and James joined via zoom and presented WHPA feedback; continued nuisance bear issues, asked for consistent messaging by officers, and asked for a USDA escalation plan for beekeepers. WI state DNR damage specialist encouraged pursuing legislative activities to move the agenda forward.

District Meetings

Northwest - 32 people in attendance. Six membership sign ups. Goal is to have the meeting on the first Saturday in March in Cameron.

Northeast - 18 people in attendance.

Western - 40 people in attendance.

Southern & Southeast - 125 people in attendance.

Southwestern - April 13 in Gays Mills. No other info available yet

Beek Meet (hosted by Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association) – March 16, 2024 - WHPA will have a table at the conference. Tracy, Stephanie, Charlie, and other members present will make themselves available during breaks to promote the WHPA.

Youth Scholarship Program – Stephanie: We have the most applicants we have ever had. Ten kids have applied. Interview portion of the application is new but allows for more understanding and discussion on time commitment and time management.

ABF Update - Stephanie: State delegate meeting recently. 2024 4-H essay contest is live. ABF is only accepting one essay per state; state delegates will be reached out to if more than

one essay is received per state. Delegate group goals, research groups, hot topics in beekeeping, and a new position for a Honey Economist was discussed. USDA has faced some cuts in their budget. There is no official draft of a Farm Bill active in the house or senate. ABF Conference is in Reno, Nevada January 7-10th, 2025.

UW Short Course Update - Hannah Gaines-Day applied for a grant to fund the program; split into two portions, veterinarian training and emerging beekeeper course. Stephanie, Tracy and Dan helped with the grant writing process. A future SARE grant is being considered. ABF grant was approved for equipment purchase.

New Business

Wisconsin FCCLA Conference – Tuesday April 9th - Stephanie: WHPA was present at the conference in 2021. Stephanie is determining scope and planning to present.

DATCP - Nick reported that four WHPA members met with lawmakers to discuss the DATCP vacancy. DATCP is planning to hire a full-time state apiarist along with having the two state inspectors. Discussions on various topics ranging from hobbyist topics to commercial beekeeper topics. Plan is to sit down and meet with the new state apiarist shortly after they are hired.

WHPA new logo: Nick connected with Angela Fisher, former WHPA Honey Queen, who has agreed to do a new logo.

Madison Festivals - Taste of Madison & Madison Marathon -WHPA was contacted by an organizer of Taste of Madison that is held over Labor Day weekend that typically has 275,000 attendees. Nick and Stephanie were on the call. There were quite a few requests by event organizers for the Madison Marathon. Board will look into the information provided more.

WHPA Zoom account - Legislative committee ran into issues using the free Zoom account. WHPA did have an account a few years back. Nick to follow up on a WHPA Zoom account.

Fall Convention - Thursday of the convention is Halloween. Liz to work on a Halloween Social Hour.

Convention will have Saturday afternoon breakout sessions. Three room chairs have been lined up for the breakout rooms.

Summer Meeting Update- Meeting is coming along beautifully.

Liz moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie seconded. Motion carried. Nick adjourned the meeting at 9:43pm. 🐝

Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Wayne, WHPA Secretary

Year 2 Begins for Youth Beekeeper, by Nicole Friedrich



For the start of the year, I have not done much to my hive. Me and Doug went out to check the bees food supply and gave them some Oxalic Acid treatment. My bees are doing amazing, as the cold weather temperatures started to rise my bees have stayed strong and pushed through the winter. Because of this, I set goals for my hive. By the end of the summer I want to do a split, and put the other bees in my backyard. Doing this will allow me to become more independent with my bees as I learn more knowledge throughout my second year of being in the WHPA. This year I'm also hoping for some honey as well. I'm beyond excited to see what my bees do and what I will learn this year! 🐝



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Spring Quinoa Salad with Honey Lemon Vinaigrette

INGREDIENTS

For the salad

- 1 cup uncooked quinoa
- 2–3 cups frozen peas
- 1/2 cup feta cheese
- 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup freshly chopped basil and cilantro
- 1/2 cup almonds, pulsed in a food processor until crushed

For the dressing

- 1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (1–2 large juicy lemons)
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (more to taste)
- a few tablespoons honey (I did 3, but adjust to taste)



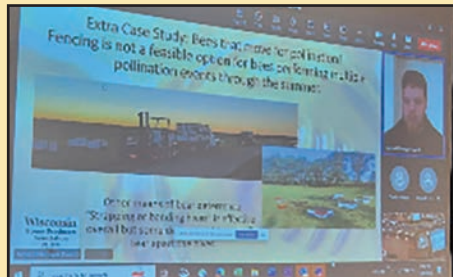
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook the quinoa according to package directions. I make this the night before and let it chill in the fridge so it separates better for the salad.
2. Bring a pot of water to boil and then turn off the heat. Add the peas and cover until bright green. I do this instead of regular boiling so they don't get wrinkly! Toss the quinoa with the peas, feta, bacon, herbs, and almonds.
3. Puree all the dressing ingredients in the food processor. Toss the dressing with the salad ingredients. Season generously with salt and pepper. Serve tossed with fresh baby spinach, on crackers, or just by itself!



President Continued from page 2

March 6th. The WHPA Bear Committee was invited to the meeting to present to all of the USDA wildlife service field agents. The field agents are the boots on the ground if beekeepers are having issues with nuisance bears. They are the men and women that would meet you on location to access bear damage and possibly provide you with electric fences and possible trap. James Hillemeier joined the meeting via ZOOM and presented our PowerPoint about how black bears in the state are adversely affecting beekeepers. We were able to tell them the economic impact bears are having on our industry. During the presentation the WHPA did ask the field agents to have consistent messaging throughout the state. As the black bear population continues to grow and expand into new areas, we want all of the field agents to provide the same information to beekeepers. We also asked for a checklist for the field agents to give to beekeepers. This checklist is to hopefully speed up response to mitigate damage. If the beekeeper is able to look at a



checklist to make sure they have everything the USDA requires to get a trap to the area faster or possibly a shooting permit (not as likely). This was a great opportunity to help build better working relations with the USDA field agents, and I hope any interactions will be much smoother and faster response.

March also brought many of our district meetings. I was able to attend the Southern/Southeastern district meeting as well as the Central District meeting. It was great to see so many of you at these meetings. Have a great spring and don't forget to treat for mites and feed your bees.

Nick Thill,
WHPA President



Tim Wilbanks, Nick Thill, and Doug Koltermann (not pictured, Tony Dryak met with Randy Romanski, the Secretary of Agriculture and Shahla Warner, interim State Apiarist at DATCP in February.



WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA HONEY PRODUCERS

BLACK JAR HONEY TASTING CONTEST



SUMMER MEETING - JULY 11-13, 2024 - ST. PAUL, MN

- FREE to enter
- Entry must be a 1-pound jar of liquid honey
- One entry per person
- Entry must be produced by the entrant
- Must be a MHPA or WHPA member to enter
- All Summer Meeting attendees may vote
- Prizes awarded for the 1st place entry from each state and the Border Battle Champion
- Entries must be dropped off by 10:10 am on Friday, 7/12/24
- Voting for both states will take place 11:00 am – 2:45 pm on Friday, 7/12/24
- Border Battle Finals between the 1st place entry from each state will take place 8:00 am – 11:30 am on Saturday, 7/13/24
- Winners will be announced at 12:30 pm on Saturday, 7/13/24

Honey jars will be covered so voting is anonymous and based only on flavor.

Entries will not be returned to entrant.

Contact Stephanie Slater with any questions – stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com



Classifieds

WHPA members are entitled to two free classified ads a year. Member free classifieds cannot advertise pack-

age bees or nucs. There will be a charge of \$10.00 to non-members for a classified.

FOR SALE: COMB HONEY. Nationally award-winning comb honey. \$10/box (30 per case). Comb squares in hard plastic container. Contact Dan or John Piechowski 920-498-4321

Save the Dates 2024!

WHPA Summer Meeting
July 10-13, 2024

Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2024
Onalaska, WI

Joint Summer Meeting with Minnesota Honey Producers in MN

WHPA Board of Managers Meetings

WI State Fair Honey Booth
Aug. 1-11, 2024

July 11 @ 7pm in Minnesota
October 31 @ 3pm in Onalaska, WI

Wisconsin Products Pavilion,
West Allis, WI

WHPA Executive Board Meetings

Farm Technology Days

September 18, 8pm by Zoom

Aug. 13-15, 2024

November 2, 4pm in Onalaska, WI

Cadott, WI

WHPA Fall Convention

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