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The Badger Bee



~ Since 1864 ~

February 2024



SAVETHE DATES!

WHPA Summer Meeting
July 10-13, 2024

Joint Summer Meeting with
Minnesota Honey Producers
in MN - details tba

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

Wisconsin Products
Pavilion,
West Allis, WI

Farm Technology Days
Aug. 13-15, 2024
Cadott, WI

WHPA Fall Convention
Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2024
Onalaska, WI

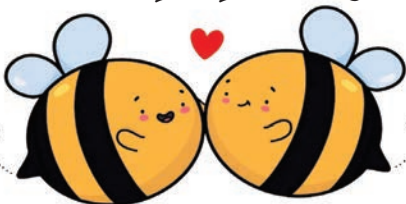
WHPA Board of Managers
Meetings

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

WHPA Executive
Board Meetings

March 13 8pm by Zoom
September 18 8pm by Zoom
November 2 4pm in
Onalaska, WI

HAP-BEE
VALENTINE'S DAY



SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS - ATTEND ONE OR ALL!

WESTERN DISTRICT – Saturday, February 24th, Knights of Columbus Hall, 202 E. Juneau Street, Tomah, WI. 8:30am. Guest Speaker: Tim Wilbanks, Heritage Honeybee: how nucs & packages are made. Afternoon workshops include disease ID; queen rearing; equipment construction, wintering colonies and feed; beeswax crafting and more! Snacks & Drinks provided; Bring your own lunch. Contact Dan Ziehli 608-343-0716 or danziehli@gmail.com.

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT – Saturday, February 24th at 10:00am – 2:00pm at Hansen Honey Farm, 3279 US-8, Rhinelander, WI. Potluck Lunch with meat and drinks provided. Please bring a dish to share! Panel discussion to focus on sideliner beekeepers. Contact Chris Hansen 715-369-0383.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT – Saturday, March 2nd at 10:30am to 4:00pm. Doors open at 10:30am with social event and potluck. FREE. Main meat provided, please bring a dish to pass. Meeting will open at 12:00pm Guest speaker Brooke Nikkila from Univ. of MN Bee Squad, "Understanding the Link between Mites and Viruses"; Queen Rearing: Cells vs. Virgins; Brood Disease Diagnosis; Business meeting and more! Cameron Community Hall, Cameron WI. Contact Mitchel Wayne 715.495.0679; orthwestdistrictchair@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST & SOUTHERN DISTRICT – Saturday, March 9th, :30-4:30pm at Concord Community

Center, W1095 Concord Center Drive, Concord, WI. Free for WHPA members. \$5 for non-members. Coffee and doughnuts provided. Lots of door prizes! Panel Discussion on: maintaining a sustainable backyard-sized apiary to managing a commercial operation; growing from a backyard hobbyist to sideliner and even commercial levels; tips for improving the presentation and marketing of your honey, and taking it to the level of entering into Honey Shows & Contests; diversifying your management to meet various challenges and to keep the "fun" in beekeeping...and more!

Panel to include local Wisconsin beekeepers: Doug Koltermann (Koltermann Farms, Mukwonago, WI), Stephanie Slater (Jam Session Honey & Preserves, Elkhorn, WI), Sarah Stern (Concord Farms, Sullivan, WI), & Sarah O'Shea (Good Land Honey, Whitefish Bay, WI). Vendors welcome! Contact Tim Wilbanks (319-321-2494) or Charlie Koenen (414-617-7773) for vendor details and plan to arrive early for set up.

CENTRAL DISTRICT – Saturday, March 23rd from 9am – 12pm at Par 4 Resort, 201 Foxfire Dr. Waupaca, WI Coffee & donuts provided/\$5 for non-members. Agenda tba. Contact Marty Mykisen 920.427.4695; mykisen@myksen.com

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT – Saturday, April 13th at Gays Mills Community Center, Guest speakers from WI-DATCP and more! Contact: Kyle Bomkamp 920-296-8403

From the
Vice President...



Hello Beekeepers!

February is here and feeling more like March. The weather has been more unpredictable than any night at the hotel bar during a WHPA fall convention..... or so I have been told. First mild weather, then a crazy cold snap with subzero temps for more than a week. I have been around to most of my yards after the cold snap and the bees are looking really good. I am always amazed at the resiliency of honeybees during the winter months. Most of my colonies have moved up into the top brood chamber. I have begun adding feed (sugar boards) to sustain the hives till spring arrives. Make sure you are all monitoring how much feed the bees have so they do not starve.

I have spoken to a bunch of commercial beekeepers in the state and many of them are or have shipped their bees to California for the Almond pollination. It looks like many parts of California are expecting quite a bit of rain in the near future. I hope the pollination goes well and the weather cooperates. As we all know Mother nature can be fickle.

With February brings the beginning of the WHPA's Spring District Meetings. On February 24, the Western District is having their meeting at Knights of Columbus Hall, 202 E. Juneau Street, Tomah, WI. The meeting begins at 8:30am, there will be speakers in the morning and then breakout workshops in the afternoon. The Northwest district will also be having their meeting on February 24th from 10am to 2pm

Continued on page 11



HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

Beekeepers now have a valuable resource at their fingertips with the release of the latest comprehensive Honey Bee Nutrition Guide from the Honey Bee Health Coalition. The guide is a review and manual for supplemental feeding in bee hives, giving beekeep-

ers a simple approach to the complex and nuanced world of honey bee nutrition.

"Understanding honey bee nutrition is no simple task, given the intricate social structure and diverse needs within a colony," said Dr. Priya Basu, Assistant

Honey Bee Health Coalition Helps Beekeepers Unlock the Secrets of Hive Nutrition with New Honey Bee Nutrition Guide

Professor of Pollinator Health and Apiculture at Mississippi State University and the principal author of the Guide. "The Honey Bee Nutrition Guide addresses these challenges head-on, providing practical insights for beekeep-

ers to navigate the seasonal variations and colony requirements effectively."

"Honey bee nutrition is a complex topic that varies based on landscape, time of year, and beekeeping objectives," said Ana Heck,

Continued on page 5

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WHPA Executive Board Meeting

January 17, 2024 - ZOOM

Attendees: President Nick Thill, Vice President Tracy Malterer, Treasurer Shelly Astle, 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 8:02 pm.

Secretary's Report - Liz moved to accept the November 2, 2023 executive meeting minutes as printed in the Badger Bee, seconded by James.

Treasurer's Report - Membership numbers are at 264. Renewals did not get sent out until the end of December. Shelly shared an update on the budget. Jon moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Liz moved to amend the motion to accept the treasurer's report as discussed and for Shelly to send out the updated report, amended motion was seconded by James. Motion carried.

Old Business - HIVE Act update was given by Nick sent letters to congressmen. Nick is sending a letter to the committee that the act has been moved to. Keep the support up for the act. An AHPA meeting report was given by Jon Logterman. The AHPA meeting was held in December in San Diego. There was discussion on the Farm Bill. Honey litigation conversation is ongoing as sunset reviews are underway; honey producers need to be at the table at these discussions and additional funding is needed to support the reviews. AHPA leadership stayed the same. A few board members stepped down and were replaced.

ABF meeting report was given by Stephanie Slater. Jess Beyer and Stephanie attended the delegate luncheon and meetings. ABF moving to being self-managed. New president

and vice president were elected. Liz was voted in as a small scale/sideliner representative. Wisconsin was represented well in the honey show.

Bear Committee update was provided by Nick. On Nov 29th, Nick attended the Black Bear advisory meeting. There is a study planned for the effectiveness of traps and relocation. Bear damage claims from farmers have leveled off and Nick shared the increasing numbers of hive and beekeeper damage with the group. There is a statewide DNR meeting on March 6th that Nick has a 30-minute time slot on the meeting agenda; Nick plans on driving standardization of DNR handling of issues. A good discussion was had at the WHPA convention with a member who had significant bear damage. Minnesota did a study in the early 2000's and determined that relocation and trapping was not effective and actually give permits out in certain situations to landowners to eliminate the problem. Jon spoke to AHPA members in southern states interested in what we are doing and what can come out of it. Minnesota has formed a bear committee and would like to be a collaborative with WHPA.

District Meetings

Southwest – Date and location TBD due to conflict

Southern & Southeast - March 9th, Concord Community Center

Western - Feb 24th, Tomah

Central – March 23rd, Waupaca

Northwest – March 2nd, Cameron Community Hall

Northeast - Feb 24th, location TBD

2023 Fall Convention Satisfaction survey by Stephanie. Attendees were satisfied overall. FSA program review portion was a great session. Media presence would be good to have additional prep on topics and coordinate interviewees as an organization.

Youth Scholarship program update by Stephanie. Application period start was delayed. Two applications have been received. We have one youth scholar entering their second year.

New Business

Wausau Bee Conference - March 26th at NorthCentral Technical College, Nick spoke with Laurie. Bee costumes are not available for loan. How can we have WHPA fit in with their conference; vendor or table space? Intention of a space would be to promote membership and awareness of WHPA. Stephanie plans to attend. Nick to reach out to Mary to see if the Honey Queen is available as that had been mentioned in discussion. Potential for a breakout session speaker at a future convention.

Summer meeting update by Liz. Minnesota Bee Lab Tour is confirmed. Agenda is coming together well.

Other Announcements

WHPA loo update by Nick. Nick has reached out to a former honey queen to do a new graphic design.

The first Lee Heine Good People Award was presented to Pam Jahnke in December.

Liz moved to adjourn the meeting, Tracy seconded. Motion carried Nick adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Wayne**





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Doug Hauke Appointed to National Honey Board

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the appointment of six members to serve on the National Honey Board. The appointees will serve three-year terms, effective Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2026.

Members appointed or reappointed are:

- Producer Member: Joe Sanroma, LeCompte, Louisiana
- **Producer Alternate:** *Doug Hauke, Marshfield, Wisconsin - Doug Hauke manages the Hauke Honey Corporation, a 3,000 colony operation which produces and packages honey at its FDA/USDA inspected facility in Marshfield, WI and he also produces nucs and queens in East Texas.*
- First Handler Member: Michelle Poulk, Waxahachie, Texas
- First Handler Alternate: Missy Foott, El Centro, California
- Importer Member: Arlen Penner, Hillsboro, Kansas
- Importer Alternate: Greg Olsen, Bloomington, Minnesota

The 20-member National Honey Board is comprised of three first handler representatives, three importer representatives, three producer representatives, one marketing cooperative representative and their alternates. More information about

Honey Bee Health Coalition continued from page 2

Apiculture Extension Educator at Michigan State University. "Bees have changing nutritional needs as they progress through life stages from larval development to foraging workers. This guide serves as a roadmap for beekeepers to understand and meet the colony's nutritional needs throughout the beekeeping season."


Foragers, the scouts of the bee world, play a crucial role in sourcing floral resources such as pollen and nectar. In the absence of these natural resources, supplemental feeding becomes essential. The guide delves into the various considerations beekeepers must account for when deciding on supplemental feeding strategies, including the colony's brood status, seasonal nutritional needs, and food reserves in the hives.

"With practical insights, historical context, and a focus

the board is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Honey Board webpage.




Since 1966, Congress has authorized the development of industry-funded research and promotion boards to provide a framework for agricultural industries to pool their resources and combine efforts to develop new markets, strengthen existing markets and conduct important research and promotion activities. AMS provides oversight of 22 boards, paid for by industry assessments, which helps ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

AMS policy is that diversity of the boards, councils and committees it oversees should reflect the diversity of their industries in terms of the experience of members, methods of production and distribution, marketing strategies and other distinguishing factors, including but not limited to individuals from historically underserved communities, that will bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the full nomination process, the industry must conduct extensive outreach, paying particular attention to reaching underserved communities, and consider the diversity of the population served and the knowledge, skills and abilities of the members to serve a diverse population. 

on sustainability, the Honey Bee Nutrition Guide aims to empower beekeepers to make informed decisions for the well-being of their colonies," said George Hansen of Foothills Honey Company and member of the guide's review committee. "This essential resource will undoubtedly contribute to the advancement of sustainable beekeeping practices."

The guide also includes a series of interviews with six commercial beekeepers who summarize what works for them when providing supplemental feeding to their honey bee colonies throughout the year, depending on their location and their beekeeping practices.

For a copy of the Honey Bee Nutrition Guide and more information, please visit <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/nutritionguide/>. 



Come Hear the Jazz About Bees

Submitted by Karen Nielsen Lorence

The American Beekeeping Federation annual convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana this year and it was a welcome treat for the storm-threatened continent to gather en masse at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans in sunshine and 50+ degree weather. A record number of registrants enjoyed four days of informative speakers, interactive workshops, a phenomenal trade show, as well as speakers addressing commercial, sideliners, and small-scale interest beekeepers.

State delegates met at a luncheon on Wednesday and made decisions electing needed representatives from their respective states. The queen committee sponsored an auction on Wednesday evening, showcasing the past queens and candidate. The honey queen auction finances part of the queens' travels in the year ahead. Our queens and candidate, along with their partners from the industry, answered questions pertaining to beekeeping.

Dr. Sam Ramsey, founder of the Ramsey Research Foundation and speaker a la excellence, opened Thursday's meeting with his always entertaining and informative expertise and candor. Despite his popularity as a speaker, he continues to make his presentations diverse and enlightening. This year, he concentrated on parasites, pathogens, pesticides, human conflict, climate change, poor nutrition, habitat destruction...all individual problems or those interacting with each other. I believe we have come to the conclusion that our problems are multiple, interacting, and the causes of death in our bees and our colonies.

A new topic Dr Ramsey addressed was that of Mellitophiles – an association between a plant and insect that is particularly close. What are Mellitophiles? There are quite a few of them...great-



er wax moth, lesser wax moth, fungus beetles, historic beetles, small hive beetles, bee lice, varroa mites, Eugarroa mites, Tropilaelaps. Dr. Ramsey is really focusing on the the Tropilaelaps mite...the Tropilaelaps mercedesae... as well as the Eugarroa which is found from Iran to Asia. One of Dr. Ramsey's slides invoked the possibility of these mites traversing to the United States. Dr. Ramsey is really focusing on the Tropilaelaps mite...the Tropilaelaps mercedesae...as well as the Eugarroa mite which is found from Iran to Asia. Dr. Ramsey is going through the jungle with National Geographic, studying the Eugarroa mite as well as the Tropilaelaps mercedesae. In typical Sam Ramsey style, he concluded saying, "I am having way too much fun, enjoying running around catching bugs like a seven year old Sammy. If I am not having fun, I will retire."

Dr. Frank Rinkevich, the research entomologist at USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Laboratory in Baton Rouge, another keynote speaker, shared his recent research with us. His major focus was amitraz resistance in the honeybee parasite, Varroa destructor. What is the prevalence of amitraz resistance?


It appears that a mutation in the varroa mite has produced amitraz resistance. In addition, the environment may be a big influence and now the big question...What can beekeepers do to reduce and/or manage the development of amitraz resistance?

Various sessions were addressed regarding weather, wintering, education, queen nurturing, climate change, weather extremes in temperature and moisture).

The culmination of the convention this year was a tour to the bee lab in Baton Rouge. Two buses transported us to the lab where we were able to tour, hear what was going on, and ask questions. Our hosts provided us with a wonderful learning experience.

The honey show was a huge success. Twenty-two participants from thirteen states showcased their sixty-six entries. Best of the Show was won by Monica Siwiak from Texas with her honey gift basket and BEST it was!!!

Kaelyn Sumner from Wisconsin is our new American honey queen. Make arrangements to invite Kaelyn to your meetings...your state...your presentations to help spread the word about the wonderful product we all market.

Our new president of the American Beekeeping Federation is Patty Sundburg from Columbus, Montana and the vice president is Debbie Seib from Mooresville, Indiana. Look forward to the year ahead with excitement as these two women assume the reins of our organization. Finally, a lovely banquet showcased our event on Friday night. Next year? We will be in Reno, Nevada at the Peppermill Convention Center. 

Wisconsin Honey Producers Welcome 2024 Honey Queen

Hello WHPA,

My name is Sadie Goettl and I am honored to be representing the Wisconsin Honey and Beekeeping Industry as the 2024 Wisconsin Honey Queen. I look forward to meeting many of you during my year as Honey Queen. Although I do not have any personal beekeeping experience, I am excited to learn more about this fascinating industry.



I am from Berlin, WI and live on my family's hobby farm with my parents Tammy and Tony Goettl and my brother Spencer. My family and I raise and show beef cattle at the local, state, and national level. I grew up in both FFA and 4-H in Green Lake County, exhibiting photography, art, flowers, and baking at my county fair. I also have been an exhibitor at the Wisconsin State Fair for the past few years with my beef cattle.

Through these organizations and opportunities showing at fairs, my passion for the agriculture industry blossomed.

Currently, I am a Junior at the University of Wisconsin - Madison where I study Agricultural Business Management and Communication Arts with certificates in Public Policy and Integrated Liberal Studies. While on campus, I am involved in several organizations including Collegiate Farm Bureau, Saddle and Sirloin, and the Association of Women in Agriculture where I serve as Vice President.

While off campus, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, baking with honey, traveling, and working with my cattle. I also enjoy volunteering in my community, church, and 4-H and FFA chapters.

I am looking forward to learning, teaching, and making memories as the 2024 Wisconsin Honey Queen.

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

Sadie Goettl
2024 Wisconsin Honey Queen

Chocolate Honey Tart

A decadent dessert to enjoy whenever you're craving something chocolate-y...or for your Valentine's!

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup honey
- 9 full-size graham crackers (original or chocolate)
- 2 tablespoons slivered almonds
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces and softened
- 12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350F and spray a 9-inch springform pan with cooking spray.
- Put broken-up graham crackers and almonds in a food processor and process on high speed until broken down into fine crumbs, about 1 minute.
- Add the butter and process on high speed until incorporated and crumbs are well-moistened, about 1 minute.
- Turn mixture out into prepared pan and hard-pack with the back of a spatula to form a smooth and flat crust layer.
- Bake the crust for 12 minutes. Allow to cool on a rack for about 15 minutes before adding the filling.
- After crust has cooled, add chocolate chips to a medium bowl. Set aside.
- In another microwave safe bowl, add the cream and honey and heat for 1 minute on high power.
- Stop, whisk to combine, return measuring cup to microwave and heat for 45 to 60 seconds; keep a close eye on it since all microwaves vary and you don't want it to boil. Whisk briefly to combine.
- Pour cream-honey mixture over chocolate chips and whisk until silky smooth and combined; then whisk in the salt.
- Pour chocolate mixture over the crust, smooth the top lightly with a spatula, cover pan with plastic wrap and place pan in fridge for at least 5 hours to set before removing from springform pan.
- Slice, serve and enjoy when ready!



~ Source: souixhoney.com



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!

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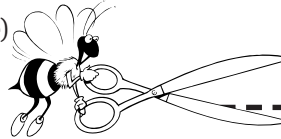
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All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- January 30: Tropilaelaps monitoring and management, with R. Tokach (AU)
- February 27: Queen rearing for queen breeders, with E. Amiri (MSU)
- March 26: Oxalic Acid research updates, with C. Jack (UFL)
- April 30: Swarming biology and management, with J. Zawislak (UAR)

Last Tuesday of the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
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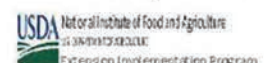
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Bringing Home the Blue Ribbons from ABF Conference in NOLA!

Wisconsin honey has always been a force to be reckoned with at the American Beekeeping Federation's annual American Honey Show. 2024 was no different. On January 5, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the winners were announced. Of the 18 total categories, Wisconsin Honey Producers placed in 13 of them. This year, there were 22 entrants with a total of 64 entries representing 14 states and 1 province.



Extra White Honey
Nick Thill - 1st Place
Karen Belli - 3rd Place
White Honey
Nick Thill - 1st Place
Stephanie Slater - 2nd Place
Karen Belli - 3rd Place

Extra Light Amber Honey
Dan Piechowski - 1st Place
Charles Lorence - 2nd Place
Light Amber Honey
Karen Belli - 1st Place
Charles Lorence - 2nd Place
Amber Honey
Karen Belli - 3rd Place
Dark Honey
Karen Belli - 1st Place
Charles Lorence - 2nd Place
Chunk Honey
Charles Lorence - 1st Place
Round Comb Section Honey
Karen Belli - 3rd Place
Comb Section Honey
Karen Belli - 2nd Place
Cut Comb Honey
Dan Piechowski - 2nd Place
Charles Lorence - 3rd Place
Creamed Honey

Karen Belli - 2nd Place
John Piechowski - 3rd Place
Beeswax Block
Charles Lorence - 2nd Place
Beeswax Candles
Derald Kettlewell - 2nd Place

Thank you for representing Wisconsin by showcasing our high-quality honey and hive products. 🐝

Vice President Continued from page 2

at Hansen Honey Farm, 3279 US-8, Rhinelander, WI. They will be having a panel discussion. All the District meeting details and listings around the state in February, March and April are available on the website.

I know we may be biased, but Wisconsin honey truly is the best. Many of our members competed at the North American Beekeeping Conference honey show and/or the American Beekeeping Federation Honey Show and took the competition to the woodshed. Bringing home many blue ribbons, some red ribbons as well as other awards. Congratulations to all the winners including: Jim & Karen Belli, Stephanie Slater(#boss), Dan Piechowski, Derald Kettlewell, Chuck Lorence, Doug Koltermann, Bryan Bergner and Cory Crandall-Seibert.

I hope to see many of you at the spring meetings that will be happening the next few months. Please see the website for more details. Let's hope the severe cold temps are behind us and a continued mild winter. Bring on Spring!!! 🐝

Nick Thill
WHPA President



American Honey Producers Association

AHPA App

As AHPA continues to work on behalf of all beekeepers, one of our initiatives is advocating with the FDA in Washington D.C. to update honey labeling guidelines. As part of this effort, we need your help to collect pictures of honey labels from around the United States. Our goal is primarily to find honey that is mislabeled according to current FDA guidelines. Secondly, we need examples of any labels which misrepresent country of origin or are purposefully confusing to consumers so that we can advocate for positive changes and updates.

Search the App Store or Google Play for "AHPA app". We need to collect as many pictures from honey on the store shelf as possible. Please take a few minutes to help collect this data. 🐝



Kaelyn Sumner Crowned American Honey Queen



WI Honey Queen Kaelyn Sumner was crowned 2024 American Honey Queen at the ABF Convention in New Orleans in January. Kaelyn will spend the year traveling the United States on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation to promote the consumption of American honey, as well as tell the story of how commercial beekeepers drive agriculture through pollination. Wisconsin Honey Queens are our favorite honey queens! Congratulations Kaelyn!

Wisconsin's Kaelyn Sumner (center) after being crowned the 2024 American Honey Queen by the 2023 American Honey Queen Selena Rampolla of Florida (right) and 2023 American Honey Princess Alison Hager (left) of Iowa.

Wisconsin's Kaelyn Sumner (center) after being crowned the 2024 American Honey Queen by the 2023 American Honey Queen Selena Rampolla of Florida (right) and 2023 American Honey Princess Alison Hager (left) of Iowa.

Wisconsin Honey Producers
Visit us on the web! www.wihoney.org

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