

Pennsylvania Beekeepers Gather For Picnic On The Farm



Many people watched intently as Tony Buzas, left, of Philadelphia tried to find the queen in one of Renee Blatt's hives.



Beekeepers like to get together to discuss problems and share successes in beekeeping. Jim Steinhaver, chief apiary inspector for the Department of Agriculture, answers beekeepers' questions about the many difficulties with keeping bees.

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — On Saturday, July 14, more than 90 beekeepers and their families and guests from 20 counties gathered in Lebanon County for the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association summer picnic.

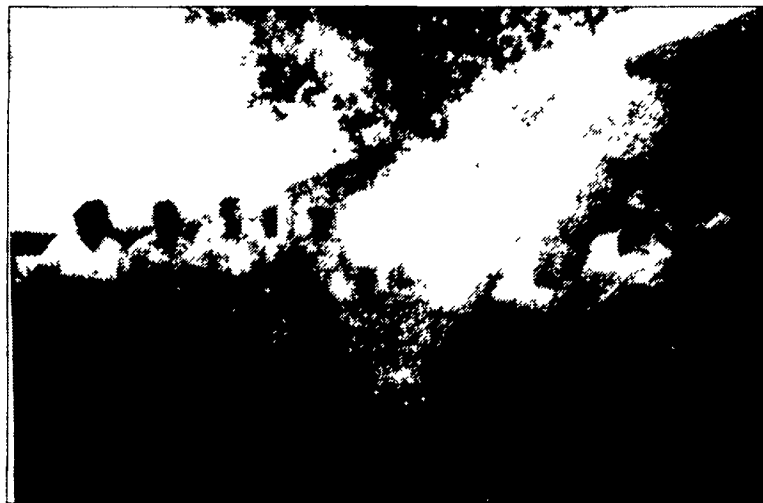
The picnic was held on the family farm of PSBA member and American Honey Queen Renee Blatt. Renee's parents, Steven and Jennifer, and her brothers, Andy and Joe, operate a 39-cow dairy and a 250-sow farrowing operation, and farm more than 300 acres.

The picnic got under way at 11 a.m. when Jim Steinhaver, chief apiary inspector for the Department of Agriculture, spoke about this year's inspection service and the most recent problem for beekeepers and honey bees, the Small Hive Beetle.

Kelly Miller of Manheim, spoke about her product line of hand cream and candles that she makes with beeswax.

After a pot luck lunch, the afternoon was full of activities. Many people entered items in the several classes for the honey baked goods contest.

Those items were judged and ribbons were awarded to the winners. A silent auction to raise money for the Pennsylvania Honey Queen fund was also a success, and lots of door prizes were available for everyone. Children enjoyed activities such as a candy scramble, face painting, blowing bubbles and other games. The beekeepers competed in their usual games of a smoker lighting contest where beekeepers try to light their smoker the fastest and



then see who's smoker keeps burning the longest. During the frame nailing contest, beekeepers see who can hammer a frame together the quickest and most accurately.

One of the highlights of the picnic was the smoker lighting contest. Beekeepers compete to see how fast they can light their smoker and then to see who's smoker burns the longest. Seeing how much smoke they can make are Marsha Pearson, Montgomery County; Harold Jenkins, Montgomery County; Joe Duffy, Montgomery County; Ted Kaminski, Cambria County; Richard Patterson, Lancaster County; Tim Miller, Lancaster County (both behind smoke) and Lee Schleicher, Lehigh County.

Tony Buzas from Philadelphia put on a hive demonstration in Renee Blatt's bee yard where he took a couple hives apart to see if he could find the queen among 50,000 other bees in the hive. After more door prizes, and socializing, the honey baked goods were auctioned off and the picnic was over.

The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association will meet in

November for their annual winter meeting in Lewisburg.

Any young woman who is between the ages of 17-21 who is interested in competing for the title of Pennsylvania Honey Queen at this meeting should contact Linda Hackenberg at (570) 568-2337.

For more information about beekeeping or the PSBA and its activities, contact Yvonne Crimbring at (570) 673-8201.

See the featured recipe on page B6 for the winning pie recipe and the best of show entry in the honey baked goods contest conducted during the picnic.

Animal Of The Day To Be Featured At Montgomery County Ag Fair

GAITHERSBURG, Md. — After 15 years of an animal of the year and 8 years of an indoor exhibit of the year, the Montgomery County (Maryland) Agriculture Fair has selected a general theme for 2001 which will enable all of the departments of the fair to be included. While the featured exhibits of the year were very successful, a new general theme lets everyone be a part of the whole — to have a "slice of the action."

Because animal exhibits are such a prominent part of the fair, an "animal of the day" will be featured this year. The selection of which animal for what day was based in part of what

special activities have traditionally been held that day for that species. However, it is also hoped that animal departments will do something extra on their featured day. The schedule of animals is:

Saturday, Aug. 11 — Llama: Open llama show starting at 8 a.m. in the Cattle Show Pavilion. Sunday, Aug. 12 — Horse: Maryland Draft Horse and Mule Show in the Horse Arena starting at 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13 — Swine: 4-H Swine Breeding Show starting at 5 p.m. in the Swine Show Ring. Tuesday, Aug. 14 — Rabbit and Poultry: 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Competition in the Rabbit Barn. Wednesday, Aug. 15 —

Sheep: 4-H sheep judging starting at 9 a.m. in the Sheep Show Ring. Thursday, Aug. 16 — Dairy: 4-H Dairy Show in the Cattle Pavilion starting at 2 p.m. Selection on supreme dairy champions in the Cattle Show Pavilion at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17 — Dairy Goats: 4-H Dairy Goat Show in the Sheep Show Ring starting at 10 a.m. Nigerian Dwarf Sanctioned Goat Show in the Sheep Show Ring starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 — Beef: Md. Angus Cattle Show in the Cattle Show Pavilion starting at 9 a.m. Texas Longhorn Show in the Cattle Show Pavilion starting at 2 p.m. Invitation chip throwing contest in the Cattle Show Pavilion at 1 p.m.

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