



The Producers



The newsletter of the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc

Summer 2012
A statewide Organization to Promote and Protect Interests of all New York State Beekeepers Issue 93

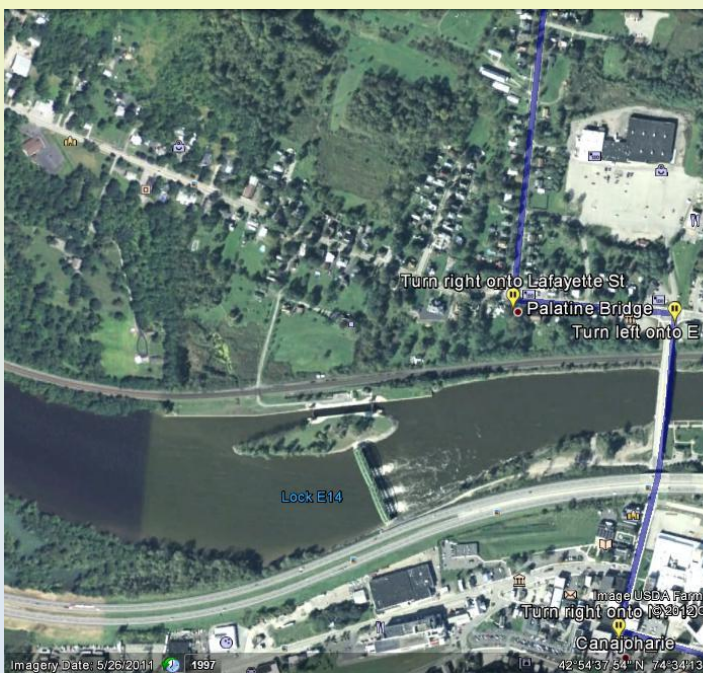
Summer Picnic

Chuck and Karen Kutik are busily preparing for the ESHPA Summer Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, July 21 at their honey house in Fort Plain, NY.

The picnic will feature chicken from Brooks BBQ in Oneonta, rounded out by side dishes and dessert items members (that's YOU!) will bring to share.

Officers and Board members should arrive at 9AM for a business meeting. The general membership meeting will follow at 11AM and hopefully will wrap up in time to serve lunch at noon. Members are reminded to bring their own place setting and lawn chairs.

The speaker for the picnic will be James Tew (see page 2).

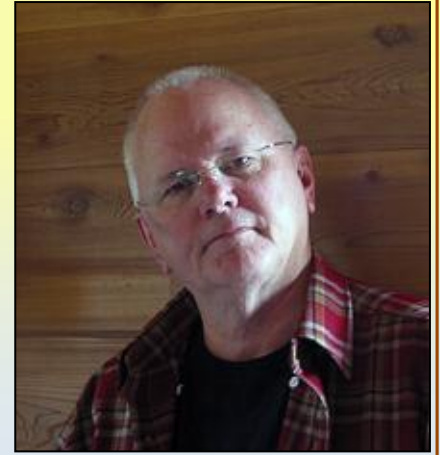


DIRECTIONS:

- Take NYS Thruway, I-90 to Canajoharie/Sharon Springs exit 29.
- Turn right onto E. Main Street, Route 55.
- Turn right onto N. Church Street, NY-10N.
- Take third left onto E. Grand Street, Route 5.
- Turn right onto Lafayette Street, NY-10N.
- Travel north on NY-10N approximately 11 miles.
- Kutik's is 1 mile past Logan Farm.
- Address: 4831 State Highway 10.
- Honey house is on the right.

The guest speaker at the summer picnic will be Dr. James Tew. Retired from Ohio State in August 2011 but not one to collect dust, Dr. Tew has been learning simple video production procedures to the end of using the technology to supplement webinars and other such remote seminar productions (<http://www.onetew.com/>). Dr. Tew is involved in a regionalized cooperative extension beekeeping project with Auburn University in which he conducts basic Alabama extension responsibilities from Ohio. He enjoys woodworking, photography and feeding ungrateful birds.

We are fortunate to have Jim as our guest speaker and members can look forward to his wit and humor at the picnic!



The President's Corner

"It has become obvious to me that the most pressing need of this association right now is more new members and a larger role for those belonging to the hobbyist and sideliner class. The association has given too much attention to the purely commercial side of beekeeping, often at the expense of all the other aspects of beekeeping that are the source of so much enthusiasm and vitality on other beekeeping associations. I have recently spoken at the state beekeepers associations of New Jersey, Ohio, Connecticut and Vermont, and found in all of them a degree of enthusiasm for all the aspects of beekeeping that far exceeds what is found in ours. The explanation seems to be the leadership provided by able and dedicated hobbyists and sideliners. Yet at our meetings I have been sorry to find that, though sideliners and hobbyists come to them, they are often ignored and do not feel themselves to be an important part of the association, even though one can see, in talking with them, that they have a very great deal to offer. It seems to me that they have not been given a great deal of inducement to keep coming, and we are thereby depriving ourselves of what could be a most valuable asset."

Surprisingly, the passage in italics was written 35 years ago by then ESHPA president, Richard Taylor. What surprises me most is how little things have changed over those years. My first exposure to ESHPA was in the mid-80s when the Apiary Industry Advisory Committee was first formed. I joined ESHPA and attended the fall meeting to introduce myself around and offer my services as one of the hobby representatives. At the time I was an unknown and my offer was rejected. A venerable gentleman who at the time was also a Dadant distributor running a hundred hives (hardly a hobby) was appointed instead.

Today the ESHPA board is heavy on the sideliner and hobbyist side with the enthusiasm to which Richard refers. Yet, among a minority of members the opinion that ESHPA is an organization for commercial beekeepers persists. The vigor brought to our association continues to be squelched by members set in their way, unwilling to accept change and move in directions that may improve and revitalize the beekeeping industry in New York State.

I am impressed by more of Richard's writings when he authored, *"I was always brought up to believe that it is no expression of disrespect for another*

*person to disagree with him. What is disrespectful is to express your disagreement in a rude or dogmatic way or, worse yet, to try to prevent someone from expressing his own honest opinion, or to misrepresent that opinion to others, or treat the honest and sincere expression of an opinion with which one happens to disagree as some sort of offense... Beekeepers do not have to agree with each other. Courtesy requires that they disagree with mutual respect, each protecting the **other's** right to say what he thinks, no matter how mistaken it might seem. We beekeepers agree on a lot of things. We don't agree on everything, whether it be the use of queen excluders, the use of antibiotics, [an updated standard of identity for honey] or whatever. What we must agree on is the right of every member of our association to say what he thinks on any subject without fear of reproof from anyone."*

A most noteworthy item reflected in the minutes of the Spring Board of Directors meeting is that the Board unanimously agreed to amend ESHPA bylaws to state explicitly that **Robert's Rules of Order** will be followed at all meetings. I believe this was always the case, or at least the intent, but our last meeting strayed far from procedure. Under to **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)**, "it is also viewed as desirable to protect against instability arising from, for instance, slight variations in attendance. For this reason, the requirements for changing a previous action are greater than those for taking the action in the first place. A motion to rescind, repeal or annul or amend something already adopted, for instance, requires a two-thirds vote, a majority with previous notice, or a majority of the entire membership."

Getting back to my first ESHPA meeting (the one where I volunteered my services as the hobbyist member on the AIAC). The featured speakers at that meeting were two strong willed beekeepers, one of whom was pushing for non-adulteration of honey, the other pushing for promotion of domestic honey. As can be expected from a group of beekeepers, no consensus was reached and both parties went home empty handed.

The proposed Standard of Identity for Honey comes closer to the goals presented by both speakers some thirty years ago than anything I have seen since that first meeting when I discovered there is politics in beekeeping! Ah, I was so young and naive.

To pull this all together, we all respectfully had our say and voted on the updated Standard of Identity for Honey, at the summer picnic at Dyce Lab in 2010. Since then there have been false representations, effective employment of lobby groups, and a general disregard of proper procedure to overturn a clear directive made by our membership.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana

I would like to move on to the future; a future where the wishes of the Association are honored and respected rather than derailed by the subterfuge of a few. Wonderfully, due to the popularity of honey bees, the number of beekeepers in NYS has increased tremendously. As the state beekeeping organization in NY we should encourage and assist beekeepers throughout the Empire State by reaching out and nurturing the beekeepers of tomorrow!

Cheers,
Aaron



ESHPA at the Fair!

AUGUST 23RD – SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2012



The State Fair will soon be upon us. Hans Junga is organizing the efforts with an assist from Rob Sorrensen and a plethora of volunteers. Many have already contacted Hans, but more help is needed. Hans can be contacted by phone at 315-482-6438 or by email at hans@castletv.com

The opportunity to sell honey at the fair is available to all ESHPA members. ESHPA will pay 4.00/lb for honey; the requirements are:

1. NY honey only
2. 1million dollars in liability insurance
3. producers only
4. members of ESHPA only.

Product that can be sold at the fair include honey packed in either glass or plastic, creamed honey, candles and soap, lip balm, hand creams, polishes and creams.

Also keep in mind the honey competition at the fair. Categories, rules, and entry forms are available at the NY State Fair web page (www.NYSFair.org). Hover on the **"COMPETITIONS"** tab and click **"HOW TO ENTER"**. Then under **Find A Competition** choose "Agriculture - Farm Products" from the **Category** drop down, enter "Commercial Conventional and Organic Fruit, Vegetables, Maple & Honey" from the **Subcategory** drop down and click **SEARCH**. "Division F" (pages 10 and 11) contains 9 different

classes for the honey show entries.. Deadline for forms and fees is July 23rd. If the online instructions are too daunting, Hans will have information at the picnic.

Entries can be dropped off in the office at the Horticulture Building the week before the fair starts, or, preferably, at the honey display the day before the fair, Wednesday, August 22nd. The judging will take place on Thursday morning, August 23rd. The honey ompetition will be judged by Dr. Nicolas Calderone.

Finally, Danielle Dale, the 2012 American Honey Princess, will be sponsored by ESHPA at the NYS Fair, August 27-30. She will speak to fairgoers about the importance of honeybees to agriculture and how honeybee



pollination gives our world diversity. Many thanks go out to the Girl Scouts (GirlScouts.org) for providing housing and transportation for Danielle. This is also a great promotional opportunity for honey sales at the ESHPA booth.

Plenty of Time to Prepare for the EAS Honey Show

Anne Frey

EAS is speeding towards us, with only a few months left to wait! What do you need to do to besides register, reserve lodging, and hire a pet sitter? Well, plan out your Honey Show entries, of course! Check out the new informative Honey Show Page on the EAS website and you'll find Rules, tips, instruction, photos, videos, webinars and more. This webpage is extremely useful for simply preparing items for market even if you don't plan to enter a Show.



While you work your hives this spring and summer, remember to leave some time to get your Honey Show entries ready. Instead of being bummed out on that rainy or a cold day that's no good for beekeeping, why not melt some wax and make some candles or a 'Wax Cake, 2lbs. or More'? Also, a gift basket takes some thought and attention. It should include a variety of hive products, arranged attractively. What about that weird little thingy you built a few years ago that works just right but can't be found in any catalog? That would be great for the Gadgets class (small or large Gadget). Do you have a basement full of mead or honey beer? Check out all those bottles for the best ones. Do you have a computer file or actual box of prints of bees and beekeeping-themed subjects? Riffle through those and find the best ones. There's still time to get them matted according to the Show Rules. This is a

good spot to mention that you should consult the EAS Honey Show Rules before preparing any entries. Read the General Rules as well as the rules for the classes you are entering. Heck, read all the rules.

Honey Show Foibles: As a novice, I was so excited to enter shows, I tended to skim the Rules and rush to prepare my entries. Once, I arrived at the County Fair with my submission, a lovely jar of honey with my own label on it. No labels allowed! Another time, at EAS, I proudly showed up at the drop-off table with a single jar for each honey class I was entering. Foolish me - you need to bring 3 jars for each class. I once arrived at EAS and immediately went out to lunch with friends, forgetting my creamed honey entries were still locked in the car. Hot cars also endanger comb, candle and wax entries. Transportation is a serious consideration. If you're flying, think about passing your entries to a friend who is driving. No glass jars in carry-on bags! Hm, what else? I've never yet entered a photography class, but I've heard of people arriving with their pictures framed (not allowed), or matted incorrectly, or wanting to enter whole stack (only one entry per class allowed). I've heard of exhibitors getting pretty steamed at the volunteers at the drop-off table. Before the Rules were published they were examined with a fine-tooth comb by the Honey Show Committee, and are very clear. Please read them carefully! EAS volunteers and judges will be using the same Rules you are using and there should be no need for any disputes. Have you ever noticed that the angriest you've ever been was when you were angry at yourself? Please be kind to the volunteers and honest with yourself.

It's fun to enter a Show, and later you will learn a lot from your score card which will help you improve for future Shows. Let's all bring lots of entries and make the classes as full as possible! It's more fun that way, better than if a class only has a few entries. Remember, check out the Honey Show page on the EAS website, and let's make 2012 a year to remember!

The Empire State Honey Producers Association (ESHPA.org) is offering intensive 2 day, skills oriented, hands on workshops in the summer of 2012. These are part of a three-year ***Train the Trainer*** program to teach beekeepers techniques in diagnosing, treating, and preventing honey bee diseases. Primarily targeting New York beekeepers with less than 10 years experience and women beekeepers, participants from other states are welcome as space permits.

The two remaining workshops will be held:

July 14/15, Saturday/Sunday, Pocantico Hills (north of NYC)

August 10/11, Friday/Saturday, Ballston Spa (Albany area)

We are asking beekeeping clubs or other groups to sponsor a team to attend the workshop, as an investment to the beekeepers in their community. The workshops are also a way to prepare for the EAS Master Beekeepers, and as a way to update skills for current Master Beekeepers. The intent is to guide beekeepers in how to check their hives like a bee inspector, or as close as possible, using a low student/teacher ratio.

The workshop is divided into 2 levels:

- Tier I (the Trainers), will attend the intensive workshop, should have at least 2 years of beekeeping experience (including Winter), some teaching experience whether it be as a primary instructor or as an assistant, recommendation from a beekeepers group or a CSA or other agriculture group that you intend to teach, describe why you wish to join the program, and complete online reading assignments in preparation for the workshop.
- Tier II are the beekeepers that will be taught by the Tier I trainers at their local club or organization as a group. ESHPA members will also provide mentorship and teaching tools at the this level.

PLEASE NOTE: The workshop will be considered completed only after the participant(s) has taught their group.

Content from [The Beekeepers Handbook 4th Edition](#) (Sammataro & Avitable) will be used as required reading.

Diseases covered will be American & European Foulbrood, Nosema, Mites, Chalk Brood, Viruses, CCD, and other bee maladies.

Topics include:

- record keeping & use of surveys
- Specimen collection for in field testing
- How to prepare specimens for lab diagnosis
- Microscope use
- accessing resources online
- preparing an outline for teaching a group
- mentoring

New York State



*Bee Wellness
Workshops*

Empire State Honey Producers Association

*USDA NIFA Beginning Farmers and
Ranchers Development Program, Grant #
2011-494400-30631*

The BeelInformed.org Winter Loss and Beekeeper Management surveys will be presented in the workshop and all participants in the workshop are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys as a means to establish

the efficacy of the workshop. The Empire State Honey Producers (ESHPA) will provide teaching tools and follow up mentorship.

Instructors will be experts in the field of apiculture such as Dr. Larry Connor, the Ontario Tech Transfer team, Diana Sammataro and Al Avitable.

Cost: 150.00 for the initial student from a group, 50.00 for each additional student from the same group

Note: Number of students from each group may be limited as space permits

Register at: <http://www.eshpa.org/index.php/ny-bee-wellness-worksite/workshop-registratiom-form>

[Register here](#)

Questions? Email Pat@ESHPA.org

2011 Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, November 17, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites, Syracuse, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's report, and Director's List were presented by Hans Junga.

Officers and directors also present were: Aaron Morris, Peter Borst, Mark Berninghausen, Bob Brachmann, Ted Elk, Mike Griggs, Richard Linck, Rob Sorensen, and Richard Wakefield. Members in attendance were: Pat Bono, Ed and Judy Doan, Roberta Glatz, Debs Kalicin, Ray Lackey, Earl Villecco, and Amy Wakefield.

The first motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Bob Brachmann. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The second motion was made by Ted Elk to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. It was seconded by Richard Linck. After the executive session there were no changes to the committee formed to adopt a standard of identity for honey.

Correspondences continue between ESHPA and the Farm Bureau on the honey standard issue. The Farm Bureau has suggested ways in which to improve the language of the current law which remains in committee. Aaron Morris expresses the need for closer cooperation between ESHPA and the Farm Bureau in establishing a honey standard that all parties involved can live with.

The third motion was made by Bob Brachmann to nominate Greg Kalicin for the design and

administration of the ESHPA website. It was seconded by Richard Linck and unanimously passed. Greg has researched some website building programs that allow more than one person to log on and co-manage various sections of the site.

The fourth motion was made by Mark Berninghausen to pay \$100 to the web designer for her work done to date. It was seconded by Peter Borst and was passed by majority vote.

The progress of the recently acquired USDA grant was updated by Pat Bono and Peter Borst. The need was expressed for a greater website presence to continue with implementing the grant. Information is being shared with Dennis Van Englesdorp of Penn State University, along with other experts being sought as observers. The Ontario Tech Transfer program is viewed as a good model for project methodology. Another progress report will be due at the Spring Director's Meeting.

Mike Griggs commented that an inspection program can be replaced with the USDA grant tech transfer education experiences.

At a recent meeting of the newly formed AIAC, several ESHPA members talked with Commissioner Darryl Aubertine from the Dept. of Ag and Markets. In order to strengthen the voice of beekeepers, he encouraged establishing an alliance with other agricultural organizations. Apple producers and vine crop farmers, who depend on the successful pollination by

honeybees, could work together with maple producers to secure funding through the state agriculture budget in the promotion of NYS grown products. Meeting minutes were distributed by Ted Elk.

With the thought of more exposure to NYS government, Ted Elk suggested locating the 2012 Fall Meeting in Watertown, where local Senator Pattie Ritchie could possibly attend.

The fifth motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ted Elk. It was seconded by Richard Wakefield and was unanimously carried.

The sixth motion was made by Ted Elk to donate \$120 to the Heifer International in honor of ESHPA members, Al Doring and Ruth Crowell, who passed during the year. It was seconded by Peter Borst and unanimously passed.

The seventh motion was made by Peter Borst for ESHPA to become a member of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association. It was seconded by Aaron Morris and carried.

The eighth motion was made by Mark Berninghausen to spend up to \$2,500 for an audit of ESHPA records. It was seconded by Bob Brachmann and carried.

The ninth motion was made by Aaron Morris to purchase additional liability insurance to protect the organization. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen and approved by a vote of: 7 in favor, 1 against, and 2 abstained.

The Eastern Apicultural Society will hold its annual meeting in Burlington Vermont on August 13-17, 2012. Richard Linck encourages all to attend a consistently successful meeting.

Membership growth ideas were discussed. Large numbers of novice beekeepers are joining local clubs. Changing the perception that ESHPA is mostly commercial beekeepers might help bring in more members.

The Summer Meeting will take place at Kutik's honey house in Fort Plain on July 21st. Jim Tew will be scheduled to speak.

The Fall Meeting date is to be announced. Michael Bush from Nebraska was suggested to give a program on treatment free beekeeping.

Ted Elk, Aaron Morris, and Peter Borst were named to form the nominating committee for vacancies occurring in 2012. These nominations will be made at the Summer Meeting.

Hans Junga provided sales figures for the NY State Fair. The net profit was \$5,235 this year, down slightly from last year. Inventory sold out before the end of the fair for the first time in recent history. Greg Kalicin called on the continuous need for volunteers to help the honey booth run smoothly, and more local honey to display and sell.

ESHPA has obtained 501(c)(5) tax exemption from the Internal Revenue Service during 2011. We also are exempt from registering as a charitable organization in the State of New York. The tax exemption status for New York State is currently in progress.

The tenth motion to adjourn was made by Bob Brachmann. It was seconded by Ted Elk, and was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga, Secretary/Treasurer

2011 Fall General Meeting Minutes - Draft

Date and Time: Friday, November 18, 2011 - 3:15 p.m.

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites, Syracuse, NY

President Greg Kalicin called the meeting to order. The Summer Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report were provided by Hans Junga.

Roll call was made via sign up sheet, and is listed on page 3 of meeting minutes. Officers present were Greg Kalicin - President, Aaron Morris - 1st Vice President, Peter Borst - 2nd Vice President, Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer. Directors present were Mark Berninghausen, Bob Brachmann, Ted Elk, Art Gerber, Richard Linck, Rob Sorensen, Miguel Valentin, and Richard Wakefield.

The first motion to accept the Summer Board and Summer General Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Bill Ferris. It was seconded by Ray Lackey, and unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Greg Kalicin gave a progress report on the creation of a new ESHPA web site. The efforts from an outside designer proved to be unsatisfactory. She will be compensated with \$100 for the work done to date. Greg has researched different web site design templates and found one that will suit our needs. He will remain administrator of the site and work with anyone interested in taking charge of different areas, such as calendar of events, workshop schedules, etc.

Judy Doan requests that listings on the local honey page be available to all members who don't have computer access. This feature will continue to be advertised in the newsletters.

In addressing the growth of ESHPA membership, it was agreed that all interested, whether beekeeper or not, are welcome to join the organization.

The second motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Bob Brachmann. It was seconded by Aaron Morris, and unanimously passed.

Different ways to encourage research was discussed. In addition to raising money through grant applications, research projects are often adopted by grad students.

Pat Bono pointed out that this may be a great alternative to raising large sums of money when university students do the work at no charge for a beekeeping organization. Ted Elk mentioned that the Farm Bureau may be another source for research funding.

OLD BUSINESS:

Standard of Identity of Honey legislation is on hold for the time being. Correspondences between ESHPA and the Farm Bureau have taken place since May 2, 2011 when the Farm Bureau offered some revisions to the existing bill in committee. Differences in opinion of the interpretation of the language in the bill have arisen throughout the year.

In favor of the bill, Peter Borst expressed the need to reassure the value of American produced honey. Pat Bono has confidence in the bill's author, Eric Mussen, who drafted the successful California standard. Greg Kalicin pointed out the pure honey sugar profile was a parameter discussed in the language, not tolerances for chemicals as many may have misunderstood.

Another concern has been about the moisture content in honey, something which should not be a factor in determining honey purity, Dave Hackenberg says.

A concern was expressed regarding possible legal ramifications for failing any kind of honey or honey house inspection. It was agreed that a honey standard is necessary, but not the one being offered.

The third motion to withdraw the Standard of Identity for Honey endorsed by ESHPA was made by Jonathan Ryan. It was seconded by Edward Doan, and passed by a vote of: 18 in favor, 17 against, and 1 abstained.

Some fear that the sizeable amount of money and inconvenience necessary for the extensive paperwork to conform to regulations now required by some honey distributors will become more commonplace and be imposed on the average beekeeper.

USDA Grant progress was reported on by Peter Borst

and Pat Bono. Collaboration is being made with Penn State University. The workshop programs are still in the planning stages. \$56,000 will be spread out over three years and must be spent by August, 2014. A 25% matching of funds is also required for ESHPA to spend during this time.

NEW BUSINESS

AIAC meeting was held with Commissioner Darryl Aubertine and Kevin King. They recommend linking with apple and vine crop agricultural industries to get a stronger voice in numbers. The current budget situation must first improve before much attention will be directed to the needs of beekeepers. An inspection program is being anticipated with the goal of inspecting 50% of hobbyist and 10% of every commercial beekeepers hives.

Summer Meeting will be held on July 21, 2012 at Kutik's Honey House in Fort Plain, NY.

Fall Meeting plans are presently in committee. New locations are being considered and input by members is welcome in determining the final meeting place. Earl VILLECCO suggested joint meetings with the Ontario Beekeepers Association of Canada.

ELECTIONS

The fourth motion to amend the ESHPA constitution was made by Judy Doan. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and defeated by a vote of: 7 in favor, and 15 against. Article 5 concerning elections of officers and directors will be revisited by the board.

Aaron Morris, Ted Elk, and Mark Berninghausen were appointed to the nomination committee.

The fifth motion to accept the nominations for 3rd Vice President, 2 North Region Directors, and 1 South Region Director was made by Ray Lackey. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and unanimously carried.

For the office of President, Aaron Morris was moved up from the 1st Vice President

For the office of 1st Vice President, Peter Borst was moved up from the 2nd Vice President.

For the office of 3rd Vice President, nominated were

Pat Bono and Ted Elk. Pat Bono won with 21 votes against Ted Elk's 17.

The office of Secretary/Treasurer was retained by Hans Junga.

The office of Past President was taken by Greg Kalicin.

The South Region Director was taken by Susan Garing.

The North Region Director nominees were Amy Wakefield, Kathy Finnerty, and Bill Roome.

Amy Wakefield and Bill Roome won the election for the two director positions.

Bob Brachmann, Art Gerber, Mike Griggs, and Miguel Valentin will continue their Director positions. A Director at Large will be named at a later date.

The sixth motion to close the election polls was made by Bill Ferris. It was seconded by Rob Sorensen, and unanimously carried.

The seventh motion to form a committee to review and amend the ESHPA constitution was made by Judy Doan. It was seconded by Peter Borst, and unanimously carried.

The eighth motion for Officers and Directors to review and propose amendments at the Spring Board meeting, and present to the general membership at the Summer Meeting was made by Ray Lackey. It was seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and unanimously carried.

Membership Growth was discussed briefly. Mark Antunnes, a Montgomery County, Pennsylvania beekeeper described including membership dues for the local club and state organization at workshops being held as a "package deal" to build memberships.

In closing, Greg Kalicin thanked his wife Debs and all the membership for their support during his years as Director on up to the President of ESHPA.

Judy Doan thanked Greg for all his efforts and accomplishments while a member of the board.

The ninth motion to adjourn was made by Peter Borst. It was seconded by Ted Elk, and was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga - Secretary/Treasurer

Roll Call - ESHPA Fall Meeting - 11/18/2011

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mark Berninghausen | 13. Judith Doan | 25. David Howland | 37. Jonathan Ryan |
| 2. Leslie Berry | 14. Ted Elk | 26. Michael Johnston | 38. Jim Schuyler |
| 3. John Bishop III | 15. Bill Ferris | 27. Hans Junga | 39. Ann Sill |
| 4. Peter Bizzoso | 16. Kathy Finnerty | 28. Debs Kalicin | 40. Rob Sorensen |
| 5. David Boise | 17. Susan Garing | 29. Greg Kalicin | 41. Miguel Valentin |
| 6. Pat Bono | 18. Arthur Gerber | 30. Neal Kober | 42. Lucinda Van Vleck |
| 7. Peter Borst | 19. Roberta Glatz | 31. Chuck Kutik | 43. Earl Villecco |
| 8. Bob Brachmann | 20. Mike Griggs | 32. Karen Kutik | 44. Amy Wakefield |
| 9. Wayne Bryan | 21. Dave Hackenberg | 33. Ray Lackey | 45. Richard Wakefield |
| 10. Paul Cappy | 22. Sam Hall | 34. Richard Linck | 46. Thomas Wells |
| 11. Alan Clark | 23. John Hawthorne | 35. Aaron Morris | 47. Stephen Wilson |
| 12. Ed Doan | 24. Joan Ann Howland | 36. Mark Rulison | 48. Laurence Winter |
| | | | 49. Daniel Winter |

Fall Meeting Preview

Bob Brachmann and Mark Berninghausen have been very busy making preparations for the fall meeting. After reviewing many venues it became obvious that the best deal is still the Comfort Inn in Syracuse, where the fall meeting will be held November 16-17, 2012.

The program features a very exciting line up of speakers including:

- **Dr. Thomas E. Rinderer**, *Research Leader* and a *Research Geneticist*, from the USDA Baton Rouge laboratory and key principle of the Russian Bee Breeders program

- **Steven Coy**, of the Coy's Honey Farm operation, and a Director of the American Honey Producers Association, President of the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association, and a member of the National Honey Bee Advisory Committee.
- **Michael Bush**, author and internet publisher on natural beekeeping (www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm).

Additionally, there will be concurrent sessions on Saturday featuring popular classroom offerings from the Bee Wellness Workshops. To me, a sign of a really good meeting is when one has a hard time choosing what sessions to attend. The fall meeting portends to be such a meeting!



Examining frames for AFB



Microscopy Lab

2011 Fall Board Review Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Saturday, November 19, 2011 - 12:00 p.m.

Place: Comfort Inn & Suites, Syracuse, NY

President Aaron Morris called the meeting to order.

Officers and directors also present were: Peter Borst, Mark Berninghausen, Pat Bono, Hans Junga, Greg Kalicin, Susan Garing, Mike Griggs, Bill Roome, and Amy Wakefield.

A Spring Director's Meeting date was set for Saturday, March 10, 2012 in Rome NY.

Aaron reassured the officers and directors that the Honey Standard of Identity is not yet a dead issue. The work done to date is tabled for the time being, while the bill has been sent back to committee. The plan is to move forward in a positive direction with the goal of resolving the details in upcoming meetings.

With her new position as 3rd Vice President, Pat's focus will be centered on the administration of the USDA Grant with Peter. Work on a Honey Standard for NY can however continue at the local club level, where support of it has been strong.

Efforts will be made to keep members informed

regarding anticipated business at ESHPA general membership meetings. Members can better represent their concerns and cast their votes with advance notice of important issues brought before the organization. Adherence to proper business meeting rules has been, and always will be observed.

It was decided to send \$100 to Martine Bernier for her efforts to make up for not being able to speak in person at the fall meeting.

Sue Garing, the new Director of the southern region, is looking forward to being part of a group of ESHPA representatives with different viewpoints on issues.

Aaron closes by expressing thanks and welcoming the new faces of the ESHPA board. Adding Pat Bono as 3rd Vice President, Sue Garing, Amy Wakefield, and Bill Roome to the Directors, will provide a fresh new start to the upcoming year.

Mark made a motion to adjourn at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga
Secretary/Treasurer

ESHPA Joins NOFA

The ESHPA Board of Directors acted on a time critical opportunity to join the **Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)**. Benefits include being advertised at their annual conference and in their newsletter. NOFA-NY is a growing organization and ESHPA can be available to new beekeepers within the NOFA membership and beyond.

The motion made by Bob Brachmann "that the Empire state honey Producers Association pays \$75 to join NOFA" was seconded by Mark Berninghausen. The motion passed with 7 in favor, 1 opposed and 4 abstentions.

2012 Spring Board Meeting Minutes - Draft

Date and Time: Saturday, March 10, 2012 - 10:15 a.m.

Place: Trinity Church, Rome, NY

President, Aaron Morris, called the meeting to order. Minutes of the Fall Board and General Meeting, Officer and Director List, and Treasurer's Report were presented by Hans Junga.

Directors and officers also in attendance were: Peter Borst, Mark Berninghausen, Pat Bono, Greg Kalicin, Sue Garing, Bill Roome, Amy Wakefield, and Mike Griggs. Members: Earl Villecco and Bill Crowell also joined the meeting.

Bill Roome made the first motion to accept the fall board and general meeting minutes. It was seconded by Sue Garing, and unanimously passed.

Greg and Deborah Kalicin and Hans Junga met with Furgison & Co., CPA, P.C. in January to discuss the findings of an audit of ESHPA's records for the years 2010 and 2011. Copies of the report were provided for all officers and directors. In the auditor's opinion, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc. The changes in the net assets and cash flows for the years ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Application for Tax-Exempt Status for New York State Sales Tax was filed in December, 2011, by Hans Junga. A letter was received from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance in February, 2012, explaining the organization did not meet the operational test for exemption. A 90-day period is allowed to protest the denial, and our Accountant, Donna Hutton will investigate a re-application procedure.

Mark Berninghausen made the second motion to table the discussion on our tax exempt-status until further information can be made available. It was seconded by Pat Bono, and was unanimously passed.

The summer meeting will be held at Kutik's honey house in Fort Plain on July 21st. Jim Tew will be the guest speaker. A map of directions is posted on the website calendar. Mark Berninghausen will contact the Kutiks for assistance with planning the event.

The third motion was by Bill Roome, and seconded by

Greg Kalicin, to offer a raffle prize at the summer picnic. Non-members who accompany a member will be eligible to enter. The motion was passed and the prize will be determined by committee.

The State Fair will be in Syracuse from August 23 to September 3. Volunteers will be able to sign up on a calendar that is being prepared for the website. The Honey Princess from Pennsylvania will be contacted for appearance at this year's fair.

The fall meeting committee of Bob Brachmann and Mark Berninghausen has been researching sites for this year's meeting. At this time, the Syracuse location is looking the most favorable. Bill Crowell mentioned that the attendance has always been best when the meeting was located in Syracuse.

The fourth motion was made by Bill Roome, and seconded by Pat Bono, to offer a free year's ESHPA membership to anyone purchasing a beginner beekeeping kit from a major supply company. The motion was unanimously passed. Dadant, Betterbee, and Brushy Mountain were suggested for consideration of this promotion.

Great progress has been made on the website by Greg Kalicin. A PayPal account has been set up for members to pay dues and registration fees for the fall meeting. Greg has been devoting a lot of time in setting up the new website. He would like to have another member take over in the next two years.

Amy Wakefield made the fifth motion to allot \$300 to Greg Kalicin to cover necessary website expenses that are expected to be incurred during the year. It was seconded by Bill Roome and was unanimously passed.

Pat Bono presented the results of the survey from last year's fall meeting. The online survey was a great success, taking in 83 completed surveys, in comparison with 8 paper versions sent in. The results of the survey will appear in the spring newsletter.

Progress on the "Bee Wellness Workshop" was given by Peter Borst and Pat Bono. Both attended the American Association of Professional Apiculturists, American Bee Research Conference, and Apiary Inspectors of America Joint Conference in Riverdale MD.

The workshops will be held at 3 different locations in New York: May 19/20 in Canandaigua, July 14/15 in Pocantico Hills, and August 10/11 in Ballston Spa. 23 students/trainers will be in each workshop learning how to check bee colonies as an inspector would. The protocol will also stress good sanitation practices.

Aaron Morris outlined five major components that define NYS Beekeeping interests: (1) AIAC, (2) Dept. of Ag & Markets / State Apiculturist, (3) Farm Bureau, (4) Cornell/Dyce Lab, (5) Local Associations & Clubs.

The Apiary Inspection Advisory Committee (AIAC) is established to be the voice of collective beekeepers both small and large scale. In order for ESHPA to be fairly represented, it was suggested that a member of the Board of Directors be a part of this committee.

The sixth motion was made by Mark Berninghausen to include ESHPA's President, Aaron Morris as part of the Apiary Advisory Committee. It was seconded by Bill Roome and was unanimously passed.

The State Apiculturist of NY Dept. of Agriculture & Markets is a key figure in Albany representing beekeepers. With the tight financial state and reduction in funding for the Apiary Program, we, as a beekeeper's organization feel the need to take on some of the responsibilities for ensuring our welfare. The Bee Wellness Workshop that is taking place this year is a way for beekeepers to learn to better take care of themselves independently of the Apiary Inspection Program.

The seventh motion was made by Mike Griggs requesting that ESHPA receive a mid-year report of activities by the Apiary Program from the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets. The motion was passed by a vote of 8 in favor, with 2 abstentions.

ESHPA has been a member of the NY Farm Bureau for many years and will strive for improved recognition as a

unified organization. ESHPA will remain a member of Farm Bureau.

Dyce Labs at Cornell University is a resource of knowledge for New York beekeepers. Letters of support will be sent by Mike Griggs and Bill Crowell to continue the research being done at their facilities.

Increased relationships with local associations and clubs are the most important objective for ESHPA going forward. Memberships with both organizations will benefit the individual beekeeper and is the future of growth for the State organization.

Amendments to the bylaws were discussed at the meeting. A clause to transfer funds to another non-profit organization was recommended to facilitate NYS tax-exempt status.

The eighth motion was made by Sue Garing to make an addition to the bylaws stating that Robert's Rules of Order will be followed during ESHPA's business meetings. It was seconded by Bill Roome and was unanimously passed.

Peter Borst, Sue Garing and Pat Bono were named to the committee for promotion of New York produced honey.

Pat Bono, Greg Kalicin and Mark Berninghausen were named to the committee for soliciting sponsorship.

Mike Griggs made the ninth motion to donate \$50 to the Trinity Church for providing room for the board meeting. It was seconded by Bill Roome, and was unanimously carried.

The tenth motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm was made by Bill Roome, seconded by Mark Berninghausen, and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Hans Junga
Secretary/Treasurer

Classifieds:

All ESHPA members are encouraged to list their honey on the ESHPA web page!

Barrels of raw honey & clean propolis wanted.

Todd Hardie
Honey Gardens, Inc.
P.O. Box 52
Ferrisburgh, VT 05456
[\(800\) 416-2083](tel:8004162083)

<http://www.eshpa.org/index.php/buy-local-ny-honey/add-listing-to-eshpa-web-site>

Bee Culture

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Questions about the “[New York Standard of Identity for Honey](#)” (Technical Definition of Honey)

1) Q- What is a Standard of Identity for Honey (SOI)?

A-The SOI would provide a technical description of honey that is sold in New York. It just defines the word HONEY, that is all. When someone buys honey here in New York, it should meet certain standards to ensure that consumers are buying pure honey (Truth in Labeling). [Olive oil](#) and [vinegar](#) have technical definitions, yet honey does not.

2) Q- Why is a honey standard needed?

A-To help prevent the sale of adulterated honey. There have been far too many instances of adulterated and contaminated [honey entering the United States](#), much of it from China. Currently, if diluted honey is discovered, there are no laws on the books adequately describing what honey is. The current definition of honey (NYS Ag & Markets, [circular 911 section 205](#)) is a one sentence statement unchanged since 1902.

3) Q- Why is a honey definition important?

A- Truth in Labeling. When someone buys honey in New York State, they can have some assurance that they are buying real honey. Having a Standard of Identity for Honey will protect the image and integrity of honey as a pure, natural food and increase the confidence of the consumer. It also would help to prevent the dumping of cheap, imported honey, which would depress the price of honey for the beekeeper producer and packer.

4) Q- Do other States have a honey standard?

A-Yes, Florida, [California](#), [North Carolina](#), Wisconsin and several other states recently enacted Standards of Identity for Honey. Many other States are in the process of developing a SOL. Also, the National Honey Producers Association, the American Beekeeping Federation, and the National Honey Packers & Dealers Association have all passed resolutions to support a Standard of Identity for Honey.

5) Q- How was this standard/definition determined?

A- All the honey standards in the USA are extracts of the [International Honey Standard](#), which is used in Europe. The current proposed honey standard (S3321) is copied from the [California honey definition](#), with 2 changes. The CA definition was authored by Eric Mussen PhD, UC Davis; and has been accepted by the CA honey industry for over 2 1/2 years. CA ranks #2 in US domestic honey production.

6) Q- Why don't we have a National definition for Honey?

A- The FDA has been petitioned several times over the past 6 six years to enact a definition for honey. Finally, in late 2011 the FDA issued a statement with their refusal for a honey definition. Most likely the only way we will get a National definition is [for more states to enact a technical honey definition](#). There is a [National Honey Grading Scale](#), which sorts honey according to color, clarity, etc, which is similar to grading eggs, but it does not define honey.

7) Q- What are the current laws on honey in New York State?

A- NY Ag & Markets law has 2 sections pertaining to honey, Sections [205](#) & [206](#): Section 205 “Defining Honey”, is what Bill S3321 seeks to change, to establish a technical definition for pure honey; this one sentence law is inadequate and has been unchanged since 1902. Section 206 pertains to the labeling of honey-- if ANY OTHER ingredients are added to the honey, this law covers it. It has been referred to as the Honey Labeling law.

8) Q- Can I still sell flavored honey, like creamed flavored honey?

A- Yes, the existing law [Section 206](#) already covers that.

9) Q- Why are certain flowers listed and not others?

A- The nectar from flowers listed such as Alfalfa, citrus, lavender, etc are internationally known exceptions to the 5% sucrose rule; all other blossom honeys should have no more than 5% sucrose.

10) Q- What if I give my bees winter feed, could this get in the early honey?

A- The Spring increase of the bees should consume the feed. Winter feeding of bees has not been an issue in California & North Carolina.

11) Q- Why is the moisture content 18.6%?

A- Honey will ferment over 18.6% moisture. The Federal Honey Loan program required that honey be no higher than 18.6% moisture. Using a refractometer is good business practice, to ensure quality control of your product. There are many methods, for both small & large scale honey production, to reduce the moisture if it is high. [North Carolina's honey standard of identity](#) has a limit of 18.6%.

12) Q- What about varieties like buckwheat, clover honey?

A-Once a definition of honey is established, perhaps standards for monofloral or varietal honey can be determined.

13) Q- Will honey houses be required to be inspected as a result?

A- No, enacting a new Standard of Identity for Honey will only change the current NYS definition of honey (Section 205) and not alter other Ag & Market regulations. The proposed honey standard just defines the word HONEY (pure honey); That's it. It does not change any current food inspection laws or add any enforcement laws.

14) Q- What about honey that has had pollen removed?

A- [A recent news report](#) revealed that some honey is marketed which has had the pollen removed. This is done by a process called ultra-filtration, which removes dust, pollen and air bubbles to prolong the liquid state of shelf honey. Most people assume that there is pollen in honey, which leads to the perception that honey is a pure, natural, healthful food. Perhaps in the future, removal of pollen should be noted on the ingredient label, in response to consumer demand.

For further information, see the Empire State Honey Producers Association website,

[ESHPA.org](#)

Contact: Pat Bono- [Pat@ESHPA.org](#)

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Hans Junga,
Secretary/Treasurer
46527 Co. Rt. 1
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

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Return Address:

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Mail to:

Inspired by the recent revival of the "I Love NY" campaign by New York State, Pat Bono had designed an "I Love NY Honey" logo for ESHPA. Stickers, banners & t-shirts will be available at the ESHPA Picnic. Please contact Pat@ESHPA.org if you would like to download a version of the logo for your website or to print promotional items.