January 2017

*Ramblings of a Bee Bumbler, from your PRESIDENT*

Happy New Year. By way of introduction my name is Randy Fair and I am the new President of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. I want to thank each of you for your confidence in me as your new president and know that I have some big shoes to fill following Joe Sanroma, the past President. Under Joe’s leadership the association has continued to grow and meet the needs of the beekeepers of Louisiana. I look forward to working with the current Board of Directors to continue this growth and with each of you as members of this organization.

2016 was a trying year to say the least. There were spring floods in the northern part of the state and summer flooding in the south. We either got too much rain or not enough. And this winter cannot make up its mind what it wants to do either. I know in north Louisiana we had a day in December of 79-degrees and the next day it was in the 20s. And we ran the air conditioner just before Christmas. Honey production this year was a hit and miss throughout the state with honey prices holding steady. As with any type of agriculture, these words ring true, “There is always next year”. Well next year is here and are you ready? The Louisiana Beekeepers Association (LBA) had another great yearly convention. Yes, there were a couple of bobbles, and some ups and downs, but we are learning and next years will be even better. I want to thank everybody that had a part in making it the success that it was and if you missed it I encourage you to attend the one in 2017 to be held in Pineville Louisiana. As the planning takes place, if you are interested in helping, just contact one of our Board members or myself. These are your conventions and we want them to be informative and meet the needs of our membership. One bit of action that took place at the convention during the membership Business meeting was the raising of our annual membership fees. The membership fee was raised from $10.00 to $20.00. This is still a bargain with the work that the association does and you help to fund. Members currently receive 6 newsletters a year plus other news items. The dues also help fund the yearly field day at the USDA Honey Bee Research Facility in Baton Rouge and of course our annual convention held in December. As you read this the North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow will be just a memory. It was held this year in Galveston, Texas and was a joint convention with the American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian beekeepers. There were vendors from all over the world displaying anything and everything to do with beekeeping. If you have never attended one of these I strongly encourage you to make plans for 2018. There are always great speakers, vendor displays and networking with beekeepers from all over the United States.

Spring will be here before you know it. Keep an eye on honey stores and feed as necessary. Now is the time to be thinking about Varroa controls this spring, expanding your apiaries and extracting equipment. Wooden ware and new queens should have already been ordered but there is still time. And until spring awakens the bees, stay warm, read a couple of good bee books, join your local club and state association and may God Bless you and your family.

Randy Fair, President
Here we are in 2017 and I’m just amazed at how swiftly this century is progressing! It was just yesterday and we were all worried that the computers would crash when the clock struck midnight of the year 2000. Well that didn’t happen but an awful lot since then has. Since I’ve retired I seem to have a lot more time on my hands but less of it available to do the many things that need doing. It’s my own fault. I can’t sit still. Presently, I’m servicing the wooden ware for my hives and periodically checking on those in the yards. I’m also preparing for putting on a Beginning Beekeeping Class and a Course on Queen Rearing this February and March. With the onset of spring I will be gearing up for the 2017 Louisiana Beekeepers Annual Conference in Pineville. I’m going to need a lot of help from the CENLA Beekeeping Club’s members to make it work. Next year the LBA will hold it in Lake Charles - that will be a first!

In this letter I will present pictures of the 2016’s LBA Conference, held in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn South. I will give you the winners of the Honey contest, Hive Box Painting Contest, 4-H Essay Writing contest and the Honey Bakery contest. Unlike last year, I won’t dwell on any of the speaker’s talks. If you missed 2016’s conference please consider attending 2017’s and 2018’s when we will have some of these speakers again, along with others whose fields of study and expertise we’ll ask them to share.

In this newsletter I’ve tried to present not only highlights of the last LBA conference but a cross-section of what’s going on in the U.S. today. Topics range from endangered bees to preservation of the ecosystem to pesticides in our environment. Enjoy.

Articles of Interest:

- Highlights of the 2016 LBA Conference in Baton Rouge
  - Honey Contest Winners
  - Bee Box Contest Winners
  - Winners in the 4-H Essay Contest for 2016
  - Honey Baked Foods Winners
  - Miscellaneous Photos of the Conference
- Rusty Patched Bumblebee – listed as endangered for the 1st time
- Preserving the Ecosystem – an article from PCT magazine
- Glyphosate Found in U.S. Honey Supply
- Synergistic Effects of Pesticides

Internet Sites You Might Find Useful

Renew you LBA membership

Commercial Business Advertisements

Listing of the 2017 LBA Board of Directors

Listing of 2017 LA Honey Bee Clubs and their presidents’ contact information
**Articles of Interest**

**Highlights of the 2016 LBA Conference in Baton Rouge**

**Honey Contest**

The honeys submitted were categorized by light, amber and dark. Entries were graded by clarity, appearance and overall presentation. Three winners were identified by category.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Light</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Oscar Lee</td>
<td>Greensburg</td>
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<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Jay Dee Burns</td>
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<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Brittani Espinosa</td>
<td>Gonzales</td>
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<td><strong>Amber</strong></td>
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<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Mary Brasseaux</td>
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<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Larry Kebodeaux</td>
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<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Art Prell</td>
<td>Pearl River</td>
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<td><strong>Dark</strong></td>
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<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Larry Kebodeaux</td>
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<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Beth Derr</td>
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<td>3rd Place</td>
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Larry and Connie Kebodeaux  
Oscar Lee
Bee Box Decorating Contest

- **First Place:** Larry and Connie Kebodeaux
- **Second and Third Place:** MacKenzie and Alan Stanford

4-H Contest Winners

This year the Honeybee Essay Contest doubled in size from 27 essays last year to 62 essays this year. Judges have selected the following 4-H members as 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners for the 2016 Honey Bee Essay Contest.

- **First Place:** Savannah Carson (Bastrop, LA)
- **Second Place:** Sarah Hammond (Elm Grove, LA)
- **Third Place:** James Sanders (Trout, LA)
Ms. Savannah Carson – 1st Place Winner 4-H Essay Contest

**Honey Baked Foods Winners**

- **First Place:** Art Prell (Pearl River, LA)
- **Second Place:** Margaret Prell (Pearl River, LA)
- **Third Place:** Peter Beroit (Thibodaux, LA)

**Miscellaneous Photos from the Conference**

*Just getting started, Friday morning, December 2nd, 2016 at the Holiday Inn.*
Friday night banquet.

We had nine dealers and these are just a few of them.
Pre-registration desk with Suellen Lithgoe

Gary Price - auctioneer Friday night.

Jennifer Brown and Joe Sanroma

Marla Spivak – guest speaker
The Rusty Patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) – listed as endangered for the 1st time
[From USA Today, Wednesday, January 11, 2017]
“A bumblebee is now on the endangered species list for the first time in a “race against extinction,” the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Tuesday.
The agency placed the rusty patched bumblebee on the list because of a dramatic population decline over the past 20 years. Since the late 1990’s, the population of the species has plummeted 87 percent.
Named because of the rust-colored marks on its back, the bee was once common across 28 states from Connecticut to South Dakota. Today, the bee is only found in small, scattered populations in 13 states.

Bees are responsible for pollinating most of the plants that require insect pollination to produce fruits, seeds and nuts. Rusty patched bumblebees pollinate important crops.

People can help by growing a garden or adding a native flowering tree or shrub to yards and minimizing pesticide use, the Fish and Wildlife Service said. Leaving some areas of the yard unmowed in summer and un-raked in fall can also help because bumblebees need a safe place to build their nests and overwinter.

More information than show below can be found at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s website: [https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/factsheetrpbb.html]

**Fact Sheet:**

**What is a rusty patched bumble bee?**

**Appearance:**

Rusty patched bumble bees live in colonies that include a single queen and female workers. The colony produces males and new queens in late summer. Queens are the largest bees in the colony, and workers are the smallest. All rusty patched bumble bees have entirely black heads, but only workers and males have a rusty reddish patch centrally located on the back.

*Illustrations of a rusty patched bumble bee queen (left), worker (center), and male (right).*

*By Elaine Evans, of the Xerces Society.*
Habitat:
Rusty patched bumble bees once occupied grasslands and tall grass prairies of the Upper Midwest and Northeast, but most grasslands and prairies have been lost, degraded, or fragmented by conversion to other uses. Bumble bees need areas that provide nectar and pollen from flowers, nesting sites (underground and abandoned rodent cavities or clumps of grasses), and overwintering sites for hibernating queens (undisturbed soil).

Reproduction:
Rusty patched bumble bee colonies have an annual cycle. In spring, solitary queens emerge and find nest sites, collect nectar and pollen from flowers and begin laying eggs, which are fertilized by sperm stored since mating the previous fall. Workers hatch from these first eggs and colonies grow as workers collect food, defend the colony, and care for young. Queens remain within the nests and continue laying eggs. In late summer, new queens and males also hatch from eggs. Males disperse to mate with new queens from other colonies. In fall, founding queens, workers and males die. Only new queens go into diapause (a form of hibernation) over winter - and the cycle begins again in spring.

Why conserve the rusty patched bumble bees?
As pollinators, rusty patched bumble bees contribute to our food security and the healthy functioning of our ecosystems. Bumble bees are keystone species in most ecosystems, necessary not only for native wildflower reproduction, but also for creating seeds and fruits that feed wildlife as diverse as songbirds and grizzly bears.

Bumble bees are among the most important pollinators of crops such as blueberries, cranberries, and clover and almost the only insect pollinators of tomatoes. Bumble bees are more effective pollinators than honey bees for some crops because of their ability to “buzz pollinate.” The economic value of pollination services provided by native insects (mostly bees) is estimated at $3 billion per year in the United States.

Feeding Habits:
Bumble bees gather pollen and nectar from a variety of flowering plants. The rusty patched emerges early in spring and is one of the last species to go into hibernation. It needs a constant supply and diversity of flowers blooming throughout the colony’s long life, April through September.

Range:
Historically, the rusty patched bumble bee was broadly distributed across the eastern United States and Upper Midwest, from Maine in the U.S. and southern Quebec and Ontario in Canada, south to the northeast corner of Georgia, reaching west to the eastern edges of North and South Dakota. Its range included 28 states, the District of Columbia and 2 provinces in Canada. Since 2000, this bumble bee has been reported from only 13 states and 1 Canadian province: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin – and Ontario, Canada.
Preserving the Ecosystem – an article from PCT magazine – September 2016
[Article by: Joseph A. Romito, A.C.E.]

From backyard beekeeping to planting flowers and gardens, everyone — including pest management professionals — can do something to help pollinators proliferate.

The western honey bee, *Apis mellifera.* © Lesley Ingram

Pollinators play an important part of human existence. In recent years some pollinators have been struggling to survive. The preservation of our ecosystem including the food we consume daily relies on the health and abundance of our pollinators.

Let’s start off by familiarizing what the role of a pollinator actually is. A pollinator is an agent that transmits or removes the pollen from flowers, grasses, trees and weeds. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the anthers (male part) to the stigma (female) part of flowers. The most popular pollinators are bees and wasps, flies, butterflies and birds. Surprisingly to many, bats and rodents are pollinators too. However, bees are responsible for the majority of pollination.

**HOW POLLINATION HAPPENS.**

Plants contain reproductive cells, which are known as gametes. There are both male and female gametes. The male gametes are found inside minute pollen grains on the anthers (oval shaped and pollen producing) of the flower. Female gametes are found in the ovules of a flower. When the male and female gametes are joined, this process is known as pollination. Pollination plays a critical role in the life cycle of flowering plants. It’s the sexual reproduction process of flowering plants, which results in seeds germinating into new plants. Flowering plants contain the necessary elements that are needed for sexual reproduction.

Pollen can’t move on its own. So, pollination relies heavily on other sources to move or transport it. Insects, mammals and birds gather the pollen from the male anthers and carry it to the female stigma. Wind also can be a conductor to transport pollen. This process is called *anemophily.* Both plant crops and trees are pollinated by the wind. Some examples are: barley, corn, rice, rye,
oats and wheat, firs, pines and spruce. Some species of hardwood trees are utilized for the production of nuts. There are many different species of flowers. Each one has its own color, shape and odor that it emits. What attracts pollinators to them are the sugary nectar and pollen that each one contains.

Backyard apiary with langstroth hives. © Lesley Ingram

MOST PROLIFIC POLLINATORS.
Bees, which are social insects, are the most responsible for the pollination of our food supply. Arguably, the one that is referenced the most is the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). The western honey bee is responsible for pollinating about 80 percent of our food supply. Some of the crops they are responsible for pollinating are apples, alfalfa, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and almonds. The pollination of almonds relies solely on the honey bee. Pollination performed by the honey bee and other insects is known as *entomophily*.

The honey bee belongs to the insect order *Hymenoptera*, which is the third largest order of insects. This insect order is composed of ants, bees, sawflies and wasps. As our pollinators, they are the most beneficial insect order to mankind. Honey bees are eusocial as they belong to a complex society. Their colonies consist of one breeding female queen, a few thousand males (drones) and a large population of sterile female bees known as workers. These insects go through a complete metamorphosis, which consists of egg, larva, pupa and adult. The gestation time varies for each cast from 16 days for the queen to 21 days for the worker and 24 days for the drone. The life expectancy of the queen is three to four years. The drone dies after mating or is banished from the hive prior to winter. The worker bee can live up to six weeks during summer months and even longer in the winter contingent upon the geographic location of the hive. Honey bees in general are very docile.

The female does possess a stinger and she does not want to sting, unless provoked. In the event she would sting a human or an animal she would die. This is due to the fact that the stinger, which is located at the end of the abdomen, becomes removed. All of the types of bees co-exist with one another in a habitat known as a hive. Depending on the locale of the hive, there could be approximately 40,000 to 80,000 bees during peak summer months. This is the time of year the hive would be the strongest. The worker bees are the ones who forage for a food source. Once the food source is located, they communicate with one another in a well-choreographed dance
known as the “waggle dance.” This informs the others of where the specific food source is located.

**DECLINING POPULATION.**

There has been an alarming decline of these insects over the years. One of the most well-known phenomenon is colony collapse disorder (CCD). CCD was first reported in 2006 by beekeepers as they experienced significant losses to their hives during the spring. These losses are attributed to the worker bees vacating the colony, leaving behind a queen, honey and a few nurse bees to care for the immature bees and the queen. CCD was once thought to be a major factor of bee decline. However, the number of reported cases has declined over the last five years.

Because there has been a decline in both managed colonies and bees in the wild, there are additional elements contributing to this. Based on research that is ongoing and conducted by multiple governing/extension agencies, universities and research labs, one factor is climate change. Different parts of the United States that experience unseasonably mild winters have altered the schedule of blooming flowers. When the bees first emerge for the new season, the flowers, which are their food source, have already bloomed and died. A second factor would be the elimination of habitat. Plush, rural areas that are normally full of flowers, weeds and grasses have been changed into suburban or urban settings.

Another reason that’s widely discussed in the consumer media is pesticide use. The neonicotinoid class of insecticides in particular has been singled out. Neonicotinoids can be applied to the soil, used on crops as well as used as a seed treatment. Eventually, it reaches the nectar and the pollen, which then in turn can be ingested by the insect. There is ongoing research that is being conducted by many governing/extension agencies, universities and other organizations regarding neonics and honey bee health. Just this year, the state of Maryland became the first state to ban the use of neonicotinoids to consumers. However, individuals who are properly trained and licensed can still utilize this material when following specific guidelines.
Lastly, another factor in honey bee health is the *Varroa* mite (*Varroa destructor*). This mite was first reported in the U.S. in 1987; it originally emanated from Asia. This parasite attaches itself to the honey bee and sucks hemolymph fluid (blood) from the bee. They are also transmitters of pathogens with one of them being the deformed wing virus. Presently, beekeepers say the *Varroa* mite is the main culprit of colony loss today. Honey bees and their hives are also susceptible to the tracheal mite, hive beetle and wax moths. Education, proper nutrition, routine inspection, record keeping and the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices will assist in keeping one’s colony as healthy as possible.

There are a variety of resources on the internet to help PMPs and customers attract pollinators to gardens.

**WHAT CAN WE DO?**

As we struggle to help save the bee and bring more of them back into our world, there are many things that society — and pest management firms — can do.

One is education. While honey bees can swarm and can be found in the voids of homes and commercial structures, it’s important that the bees are not treated with pesticides. They should be removed by a local beekeeper or a designated pest management firm.

Professionals and customers alike can create an environment conducive to a pollinator habitat. For some, this includes eliminating the use of all pesticides and switching to an all-organic program. It may include an organic lawn and garden program that utilizes IPM techniques. Natural pest management may be incorporated such as the use of lady bugs and/or lacewings to control aphids and spider mites, nematodes to control grubs, etc.

Homeowners can install plants and flowers that are conducive to pollinator attraction. Different species of flora attract different pollinators. There is an abundance of resources available via the web (check out the U.S. Forest Service publication titled “Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants”). Once a specific species of flora is found, it is recommended to check the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map to determine if the selected flora will thrive in your geographic location.
Honey bees & Honey
Honey bees are famous for producing honey. A known fact is that honey is the only edible food that is created by an insect.

How do honey bees make honey? Honey bees make honey by gathering nectar, which comes from various species of flora. The type of honey is contingent on where the nectar was sourced. The female worker possesses a honey stomach (nectar sac), which stores the honey after she sucks the nectar from the specific flower that she has visited. Once this sac is full, she begins her flight back to the hive. The nectar is then passed from the mouth of one bee to another until the moisture content within the hive is approximately 18 percent. To achieve this moisture level, worker bees will fan the nectar with their extremely fast-moving wings. This evaporates the water from the nectar.

When the ideal moisture level is reached, the nectar becomes honey. To produce one pound of honey, 2 million flowers need to be visited. The foraging generally occurs within a two- to three-mile radius. Honey is then placed in cells and capped with beeswax. This is in preparation of new bees to be born.

One of the most important components of the creation of honey is sunlight. Honey bees thrive in sunlight. During the flight of a female bee and as they visit a flower, their bodies become covered in pollen. From there, they travel to other flowers and plants dispersing the pollen they have collected. This process is called cross-pollination.

Benefits of Raw, Local Unprocessed Honey
Assists in promoting immune, digestive and respiratory health
Has anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties
Strong antioxidant
Fights allergies
Balances blood sugar
Helps with sore throats
Some other components that come from the bee hive are: beeswax (used by the bees to build combs); pollen (collected by bees and turned into bee bread by a complex fermentation process, which is the protein for part of their diet); propolis (a resinous or gluey material that foraging bees collect from plants and trees and they use to strengthen the comb or to seal cracks); and royal jelly (a nutritious glandular secretion of young bees used to feed the queen and her larvae).
If pest management firms or customers want to take this initiative one step further, they can become a beekeeper hobbyist. This is when an individual manages a beehive or multiple beehives on his or her property. The first step would be to obtain literature and other resources to educate oneself. Two superb magazine publications are Bee Culture & the American Bee Journal. This is, in part, to determine if this is right for you and/or your customer’s family.

Due to the vast interest in keeping bees, the term “backyard beekeeper” has been coined. For those who don’t necessarily have the land to keep bees there is also urban beekeeping that takes place in a city setting. Urban beekeeping has exploded during the last several years. It utilizes rooftops, balconies and other spaces for people to manage their own bee hives. To illustrate just how popular urban beekeeping has become, there are almost 300 registered hives in the New York City metropolitan area. London is also another major city where urban beekeeping is prevalent.

It’s good to check with your municipality or city ordinances to determine if the keeping of bees is legal. Join your local beekeepers club. It’s a great way to network, meet other keepers and obtain knowledge. Purchase your equipment and bees through local beekeepers or various online stores. If keeping bees is not for you but you would like to help… some beekeepers will place their hives on your property, they will care for them and in exchange you will be rewarded with honey. This is another way of making an impact.

You are now on your way to becoming a beekeeper and contributing to preserving our ecosystem.

*The author is a service specialist and master technician with RK Environmental Services, Westwood, N.Y.*

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**Glyphosate Found in U.S. Honey Supply**

*From: [http://www.thomhartmann.com/bigpicture/glyphosate-found-us-honey-supply-wguest-carey-gillam](http://www.thomhartmann.com/bigpicture/glyphosate-found-us-honey-supply-wguest-carey-gillam]*

Please check out Thom Hartmann’s website and if you follow the above link you will come to the video with Thom and Cary Gillam, the Research Director for U.S. Rights to Know, an independent organization that monitors the U.S. government and industry [https://usrtk.org]. She has been studying glyphosate, put out by Monsanto and which is the active ingredient in Roundup. That video is in the link below:

[https://youtube/M0ytq8P6Wgk](https://youtube/M0ytq8P6Wgk)
Synergistic Effects of Pesticides Adversely Affect Pollinators
by Michele Colopy; Pollinator Stewardship Council, Inc.; published in the American Bee Journal

The Pollinator Stewardship Council has expressed concern about the increased toxicity and harm to pollinators from the mixture of chemicals contained in pesticide products and co-applied in the environment. On Dec. 21, 2016 we sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and the Director of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, Jack Housenger, to comply with federal law and enact label language which will protect pollinators. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a duty to ensure that the use of these chemical concoctions will not unreasonably adversely affect humans or the environment. Yet the EPA consistently approves new uses and new products without adequate information to reach any reasoned conclusions.

We ask that the EPA require all information from applicants concerning mixture and co-application of ingredients before reaching any decisions to allow new, additional or continued uses of these chemicals. And, we ask that the EPA use this information to implement strict prohibitions and mitigations necessary to avoid the negative consequences on pollinators, our water, land, and wildlife; or if those consequences cannot be sufficiently mitigated, to deny these applications. In aid of this, we ask the EPA to recommit to a transparent process in which, to the greatest degree possible, the EPA provides information to the public, whether through notice of actions, publication of information (including studies and data) in the dockets, or timely responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

The bottom line is whether the application of multiple ingredients can have a synergistic effect for certain combinations of pesticides. Without expressly requiring applicants to provide information on synergy, it is highly likely that the EPA is underestimating the negative impacts on the environment of pesticide exposure in its analyses. EPA cannot comply with its duty under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to ensure that its registration of pesticides will not result in unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. [1] Time is of the essence as the EPA continues to approve more uses of mixtures, like the new approval of the combination of dicamba and glyphosate for use on genetically-engineered crops.

In addition to products that contain either multiple active or inert ingredients that result in synergism, pesticide products can often be mixed or co-applied in the field in a way that results in synergistic effects. For example, in the recent pollinator risk assessment for Imidacloprid, the EPA noted that this pesticide was often mixed with fungicides in tank mixtures. [2] In the risk assessment, the EPA stated:

“fungicides, particularly those of the sterol biosynthesis inhibitor class that include the triazole fungicides were detected with high frequency. There are reports in the literature that these chemicals may exhibit a greater than additive (e.g., synergistic) effect on toxicity when bees are exposed simultaneously with neonicotinoid chemicals like imidacloprid. While the extent of this relationship is beyond the scope of this assessment, it highlights the complex nature of interactions of different stressors that exist in the hive. [3].

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These mixtures have real impacts on pollinators that the EPA must take into account and act upon when it makes pesticide registration decisions.

To aid in making informed decisions, the EPA must engage in a transparent process. Instead, the registration process does not afford the public a meaningful opportunity to participate because few, sometimes none, of the underlying studies or data are provided in the docket on Regulations.gov. We ask that the EPA engage the public, especially beekeepers, while it is making these decisions as fully as it is attending to the applicants. We have a real stake in these decisions, and need to have a mechanism for providing input to EPA.

Many pesticide products on the market are likely more harmful than the EPA has previously assumed because some of the most common combinations of ingredients cause synergistic effects, and most pesticide product labels do not meaningfully limit tank mixtures or co-application. Therefore, it is imperative that the EPA consider synergistic effects of pesticide products during its registration and registration review process, and include protective label restrictions to eliminate or mitigate adverse, synergistic environmental impacts. The EPA should prohibit tank mixes on the labels unless there is sufficient information demonstrating that no synergistic effects will occur. For example, pesticides such as the sterol biosynthesis-inhibiting fungicides known to disable the insect detoxification system, the EPA should prohibit applications to blooming crops. During the risk assessment risk mitigation process, the EPA should candidly engage with all of the stakeholders affected, including beekeepers.

For more information about the Pollinator Stewardship Council, and its efforts to defend managed and native pollinators from the adverse impact of pesticides visit them at: www.pollinatorstewardship.org.

1 7 U.S.C. & 136a(c)(5)
3 Id. at 100.

Internet Sites You Might Find Useful
• Bayer announced a Chicago beekeeper and golf course superintendent pair are the recipients of the 2016 Bee Care Community Leadership Award, which recognizes the importance of partnerships between beekeepers and other environmental stakeholders. You can check out the video of their amazing work, and I’ve included the release with more information about the winners below my signature. Scott Witte, director of agronomy at Cantigny Golf, founded The Bee Barometer Project in 2010. Since then, Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, Illinois, has been home to multiple managed and feral honey bee hives. Together, Witte and Luke Cella, executive director of the Midwest Association Golf Course Superintendents, work to change the notion that golf courses have to be sterile, pristinely manicured lawns but rather can offer an opportunity to protect diverse and rich ecosystems. In return, many of these ecosystems are supported by honey bees and other pollinators. The award is accompanied by a grant that Witte and Cella plan to use to begin a Pollinator Fund to bring beekeeping initiatives to golf courses throughout the Midwest. If you’d like more info about the Community Leadership Award and
Bayou Bee Bulletin

how your state beekeeping organization can get involved, I’d (Kristen Ellis) be happy to connect you with someone for more information. KRISTEN ELLIS; Day: 404-995-7907 | Evening: 334-315-2764; Porter Novelli on behalf of Bayer

- Local beekeepers work to fight honeybee extinction | The Daily Reveille | lsunow.com: http://www.lsunow.com/daily/local-beekeepers-work-to-fight-honeybee-extinction/article_686a7bd2-bf50-11e6-a12a-bf3d9c91e59b.html

- Bee Informed Partnership has posted a new item, ‘Hi from Phoebe Koenig, new Midwest Tech Team Member’ You may view the latest post at: http://beeinformed.org/2016/12/19/hi-from-phoebe-koenig-new-midwest-tech-team-member/

- The Honey Bee Essay Contest Information has been release with the 2016 Topic of “Bees and Pollination. How Important is It?” Essays should be emailed to jfox@agcenter.lsu.edu by February 1, 2017

2017 Essay Topic: “How can MP3 (Managed Pollinator Protection Plan) more effectively protect honey bees from pesticide exposure?”

Beekeeping has had its five minutes of fame for the past seven years. Now more than ever, the general public along with beekeepers are asking “What will happen if the bees are gone?” With the continued threat of pesticides, this is a very real question. Your paper should research and help answer this question. Survey your community to see what is being done. Include your state in your survey to see if there are any programs the state is using for pollination or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Type in the subject line: Honey Bee Essay Contest, ___________ Parish
Email to Janet Fox at: jfox@agcenter.lsu.edu

Prepare essays double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.

State Contest Sponsor: The Louisiana Beekeeping Association
CONTEST AWARDS: Cash Prizes and Plaques to 3 Top Winners:
• 1st Place -- $100  
• 2nd Place -- $75  
• 3rd Place -- $50

National Contest Sponsor: The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc. and the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.
NATIONAL CONTEST AWARDS: Cash Prizes to 3 Top Winners:
• 1st Place -- $750.00  
• 2nd Place -- $500.00  
• 3rd Place -- $250.00
Additional information follows and forms are located in the, “Honey Bee Essay” folder of the 4-H Intranet Website under SET:


NOTE: All state entries must be submitted by email as a Microsoft Word compatible document and submitted by a 4-H Agent. Only emailed copies will be judged.

Xavier Bell
XBell@agcenter.lsu.edu

Please Renew Your LBA Membership

LBA memberships have almost doubled over the last two years. The LBA is excited about this growth and sincerely appreciates your membership support. If you have not completed and submitted your membership renewal for 2016, please use the membership application at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal to our treasurer as soon as possible. Please don’t delay any longer and renew your LBA membership today.

Please feel free to make additional copies of this Bulletin and provide them to others interested in beekeeping and our organization. Reading the information provided below by our membership chairman will help you join us in our recruiting efforts by participating in our “Clubs Get A Member Campaign.” Prizes are awarded to the top Club annually!

There are many challenges facing beekeepers. Our organization provides a voice to Louisiana beekeepers and lets state government know that we are an important part of Louisiana’s agricultural industry. There is strength in numbers, so help us help you through your membership support!

To register or renew your membership, go to the LBA website:
On the left side of the page select the icon, "Join/Re-New the LBA".
At the top of the next page, select one of the two icons, "Join LBA" or "Renew".

Membership dues are $20/year/individual and/or family. Your contact for mailing dues will be:

Beth Derr
210 Meadow Lake Drive
Jefferson, TX 75657
Ph. 936-591-2399
Email Address:
derrbe@netscape.net
beth@labeekeepers.org
Commercial Business Ads Information

The Louisiana Beekeepers Association would like to thank all of our sponsors for their business advertisements. We encourage our membership and visitors to our web site to consider the fine products and/or services they offer when selecting a vendor to fulfill their business and/or personal needs.

Over the past five years the number of our newsletter advertisers has steadily increased. In appreciation for their support the LBA has offered vendor booths to these advertisers at our annual State Convention free of charge. Vendor displays have also increased, providing our guests with a convenient venue for purchasing the beekeeping products they might need. These vendors in turn contribute door prizes and auction items to the LBA, making the event more enjoyable for our guests. Those who pre-purchase supplies through the vendors can have them delivered and avoid shipping charges.

Advertising is an important marketing tool for beekeepers and your beekeeping business is important to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. Give us an opportunity to provide a portion of your advertising needs in 2016.

Remember, for only $25.00 annually you can advertise your company products in six issues of the Bayou Bee Bulletin. Your business ad can also be carried on our web site, labeekeepers.org, for $50.00. Please contact Robert Taylor, our webmaster for details rt@honeybeeremoval.com; Phone: 985-969-4647).

Remit your advertising fee to LBA Treasurer, Ms. Beth Derr; Ph. 936-591-2399; Jefferson, TX 75657; beth@labeekeepers.org and forward your company’s camera ready, 4 inch by 3 inch jpeg ad image to Mr. Tim Haley, LBA Newsletter Editor, at: tamh212@suddenlink.net
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<th>Phone</th>
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<th>Email Address 2</th>
</tr>
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