



AIA



Newsletter for members of
Apiary Inspectors of America

Be ready **BEFORE** the truck wrecks!

You're going about your normal apiarist duties when the call comes in: A truck en route through your state has crashed with a load of bees, and they've gotten loose all over the accident scene.

Someone from the public, or perhaps a first-responder official at the scene, has called you for technical advice on how to proceed. A crowd is gathering, and the media is coming.

Do you know what to tell the caller to do?

And: Is your expertise written down in a document that can be accessed by others in your area if the call goes to someone else, or comes when you are out or unavailable?

Alberta's response

Alberta province is among those that have anticipated this emergency state of affairs with two Best Practices documents, one for first responders and the other for beekeeper/owners (available at the website addresses below).

"As far as I can remember, there have only been a couple of incidents in Alberta in my 15 years here, but those accidents were serious enough for these documents to be created," said **Samantha Muirhead**, Provincial Apiculturist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Crop Diversification Centre North.



A trucker through Kentucky picked up a few thousand hitchhikers, as he discovered when he stopped at a Lyon County truck stop. State Apiarist Tammy Horn Potter directed first-responders in what to do to safeguard the trucker, the business, and the public.



See **BEE TRANSPORT**, next page

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As part of normal operations, hives or hive boxes get moved several times a year. Inevitably, this results in vehicle accidents involving trucks loaded with bee hives or hive boxes.

Bee trucks carry two types of loads:

- Hives full of bees that are being moved to fields (this is the main concern, and obviously the more danger-fraught situation); and
- Hive boxes with most of the bees removed that are going back to the honey farm to have the honey removed. There may still be a few bees in the hive boxes but likely not enough for a major problem.

First responders who understand the nature and characteristic behaviors of honey bees can more effectively respond to accidents.

First responders should be told to move slowly in and around hives and clouds of bees; not to swat or swipe at bees; and to avoid quick or jerky movements that will generate an aggressive response.

First responders should also learn that the bees will likely try to remain near the accident site to protect the queen and remain near the smell of their destroyed or damaged hive.

Heavy beekeeper clothing is not necessary for protection — work overalls, topped by a bee veil if available, are sufficient.

Bring the water

To calm a cloud of bees, a light misting with clean water will suppress movement and make them want to return to the hive. If it becomes necessary to kill them, apply soapy water or foam.

Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky state apiarist, recently advised first responders to a swarm on a truck at a Lyon County truck stop (*see photos, page 1*) to bring a 100-gallon tank and Dawn dishwashing detergent, so the fire crew could hose the truck down and the nearby business would not have to close.

“The nozzle setting should be on “shower,” not “blast,” so the crew would create a “foaming shower,” rather than a “paint-peeling” spray, Potter said.

Driver preparation

Beekeepers should be advised that working with drivers in advance helps prepare effectively for possible accidents. Drivers should be briefed on applicable laws and stock their trucks with appropriate equipment.

Drivers must know what to tell first responders after an accident, including all contact names and numbers, the accident description, how many bees were in the load, and personal protective equipment on the truck. A properly prepared truck will have extra bee veils, and a first-aid kit including Epi-Pens and antihistamines.

Working with first responders can include the distribution of Best Practices documentation.

Advance briefings

A beekeeper or apiarist could approach the local fire department or municipal emergency management agency and discuss opportunities for advance training and information sharing.

If the first responders desire your advance briefing, topics you could cover might include:

- How to work around large numbers of bees;
- Personal Protective Equipment;
- How to protect bystanders;
- How to calm bees while minimizing the number of bees killed;
- How to contact local beekeepers for help if the shipment and driver are from outside the area; and
- How to deal with any language issues, as the drivers involved could include non-English speakers.

Remember also that after an accident, another swarm may descend: reporters, photographers, camera people, and the media. You do not have to give any information to them, and it is most often desirable to defer persistent inquiries to the first responder in charge, who will be making the relevant decisions in any case.

Samantha Muirhead: email Sam.Muirhead@gov.ab.ca

FIRST RESPONDER GUIDE: open.alberta.ca/publications/responding-to-accidents-involving-honey-bees-guide-for-first-responders

BEEKEEPER/OWNER GUIDE: open.alberta.ca/publications/beekeeper-owner-preparations-for-dealing-with-vehicle-accidents

Half-million bees fall victim to routing delay

More than one-half million bees bound for New England beekeepers died in Massachusetts after they were left on a hot United Parcel Service (UPS) truck for weeks, according to a CBS Boston report reprinted in *USA Today*.

A million bees shipped from Mann Lake in Pennsylvania were held up in the town of Shrewsbury, nearly 50 miles west of Boston, due to faulty packaging, according to UPS.

A beekeeper had been called in by UPS because some of the shipped bees had been escaping, but more than half of the bees had already died. Surviving bees were located and released by the beekeeper brought in by UPS.

“This situation highlights the complexities and fragility of shipping live honey bees, said **Dr. Kym Skyrn**, MDAR chief apiary inspector. “We are pleased that the vendor, transit company and beekeeping community worked swiftly and collaboratively to contain and clean up scene. This was very humbling and we hope this will be a learning experience for all involved to prevent future occurrences,” she continued.

Anita Deeley, a former Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

Exotic hornet identification workshop materials available

The **Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)** recently sponsored a two-day **Exotic Hornet Identification Workshop** in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and Washington State University Extension.

WSDA provided a link to participants afterward furnishing recordings of the training, copies of the presentations, and additional resources.

agriculture.app.box.com/s/mhcqjkb2iqy9ycomkg9fszbgg7jluzf

inspector and a beekeeper, told the station the Rsituation was “really, really sad,” and the bees could have been saved if someone had been called immediately.

“The best thing that could have happened would have been if a bee rescuer were called right away to come in and deal with it,” Deeley said. “Then, not only the escaped bees could have been rescued, but also the bees in the packages.”

She added that bees only have enough food in shipped boxes to last a few days.

A 2019 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service found the population has fallen to 2.88 million honey bee colonies, down 12 percent from the record high 3.28 million colonies in 2012.

usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/05/21/more-than-half-million-bees-found-dead-ups-truck/5208751001/

Place bee, wasp survey traps now

Karen Roccasecca, Pennsylvania State Apiarist, reminds apiarists participating in the **Native and Non-Native Bee and Wasp Survey** to place blue vane and hornet traps for this year.



Karen Roccasecca.

If you need more supplies (mesh strainer, yeast, brown sugar, sample bottles), please let her know.

Also, if you have samples from last year, she can send a pre-paid postage label to you once you send the weight to her.

Karen Roccasecca, State Apiarist, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture,
2301 North Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110.
Phone (717) 346-9567, email kroccasecc2pa.gov



EAS Annual Conference set for August in Shepherdsville

Online registration is now available to Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) members for the **2021 Annual Conference** at Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The three-day conference August 11-13 is themed “**Bee Connected.**”

The conference will include daily speakers and educational forums. There will be an apiary track, and interesting speakers scheduled each day.

Please note you must be an EAS member and logged in to your account to register online. There will be no walk-in registrations. Separate registration is also required for Master Beekeeper test candidates (see below).

No honey show or social events are planned, other than an outdoor barbecue, awards, and auction on the evening of Friday, August 13.

There are many activities, restaurants and hotels in the Shepherdsville area. Nearby attractions include the Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest; the Jim Beam bourbon distillery; antique shops and flea markets; Kart Kountry, the nation’s longest go-kart track; and several golf courses and driving ranges.



2021
Annual
Conference
August 11-13
Paroquet Springs
Conference Center

395 Paroquet Springs Drive
Shepherdsville, KY 40165

Shepherdsville is approximately 20 minutes from the two airports in Louisville, south on Interstate 65.

The large venue has adequate room for social distancing. Masks indoors will be mandatory. If at all possible please get your COVID vaccine before coming.

COVID restrictions are loosening all across the nation, but at press time conference registration is limited to 300, so please register right away. The site can accommodate 1,000, but EAS is limiting the event to maintain social distancing for “a safe, educational, fun event,” said conference leader **Lou Naylor**.

Options for accommodation are listed in the most recent *EAS Journal*, and more information on rooms blocked for EAS will be available soon.

Questions: easternapiculture.org

Conference registration site: easternapiculturesociety.wildapricot.org/Sys/Login?ReturnUrl-%2fevent-4219155/

Master Beekeeper exam candidates please also register at: easternapiculture.org/master-beekeepers/certification.html

Conference Center photos and information: paroquetsprings.org

Save the upcoming
Zoom meeting dates
Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.

June 9 • Aug. 18 • Oct. 13



L-r: DR. DAVE TARPY, lab director and NCSU extension apiarist; DR. BRAD METZ, who spearheads the queen arm of the Queen & Disease Clinic and conducts research on the reproductive quality of queens; and ERIN McDERMOTT, field associate and genetics technician. McDermott's area of emphasis is virus prevalence and incidence. She serves as the primary contact person for the disease arm of the clinic, and assists with field sampling.

Ready to assist apiarists

NCSU Queen & Bee Disease Clinic analyzes hives, queens

Dr. Dave Tarpy of North Carolina State University is a widely recognized authority on queen behavior and honey bee genetics. He started about 10 years ago offering lab services to beekeepers who had questions about why their hives were dying.

Tarpy says that the **NCSU Queen & Bee Disease Clinic** “has been slowly building in services and traffic.” Beekeepers and apiarists seeking answers to their hives’ decline or genetics may send samples to this lab for mitotyping.

Now that nuc vendors have returned to home states after their bees overwintered in Florida, concerns may have been raised about Africanized genetics.

According to Tarpy, the clinic has analyzed thousands of queens and drones for semen quality, morphological quality, and presence and intensity of a number of viral diseases and parasites.

The pricing listed on the lab’s website is up to date for 2021, Tarpy said. “We say on our website that we have a five-colony minimum for most of our bioassays, but we’re willing to make exceptions on mitotyping, especially for inspectors.”

“Depending on the needed turnaround, in the past we have stockpiled samples to run all at once, but we have also expedited them if necessary,” he said.

At its best, the clinic works closely with beekeepers to conduct “custom collaborations” to perform industry-led experiments and analyze resultant data. As a result, the clinic has amassed a wealth of data on the variations in queen and drone reproductive states, as well as one of the largest curated datasets on viral pathogens.

Tarpy, a full professor and Extension specialist in honey bee biology and beekeeping, has an extensive roster of online classes called the “Beekeepers Education and Engagement System.”

Weblink: <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/queen-disease-clinic/>

Cornell lab offers pesticide samples

Also furnishing university-connected lab services is the **Cornell Chemical Ecology Core Facility**, offering pesticide analysis of samples.

According to **Dr. Scott McArt**, assistant professor of entomology, a beekeeper may send a sample to be analyzed for approximately 93 multi-residue pesticides for approximately \$90. This compares well with many labs that charge approximately \$300 a sample. The typical sample needs to have 10 grams, although the lab can sometimes analyze smaller amounts.

Further information: blogs.cornell.edu/ccecf/

The New England Honey Bee Update: A model for responding real-time to beekeepers during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Kim Skyrn, Ph.D.

Chief Inspector, Apiary Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

The New England region of the United States is composed of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It is best characterized not only by its beautiful landscapes and seasonal weather, but also by a dynamic and vibrant beekeeping community and a group of energetic apiary inspectors who manage some of the most vigorous, knowledgeable, and passionate state apiary programs in the country (Okay, I may *bee* a bit biased here!).

COVID takes its toll

As New England apiary inspectors, we all typically fill our days juggling field visits to beekeepers, collecting samples, providing educational programs, and office time by taking phone calls, answering emails and doing paperwork. We do this work because we love honey bees and beekeepers, and we genuinely care about the difference we and those we support make in the world.

Unfortunately, during March 2020, New England apiary inspectors realized the COVID-19 pandemic was disrupting not only our daily lives but also our work lives, forcing us to move to telework.

Honey bees, meanwhile, continued to develop with buzzing frenzy in the spring weather. The uncertainties and challenges created by the pandemic left hobbyists searching for mentors, supplies, and bees. Sideline and commercial beekeepers also faced the challenges of timely and safe interstate transport of bees and materials across state lines.

Local and regional response

New England apiary inspectors took this opportunity to get creative and do what we do best: provide immediate, real-time support to honey bees and our beekeeping communities. This was done at both the individual (local) and group (regional) levels.



Locally, inspectors juggled the typical busy spring requests and worked to troubleshoot the pandemic stressors of logistics, safety, education, and managing bee health. Regionally, inspectors collaborated to create and offer a virtual educational platform called the **New England Honey Bee Update**.

This educational platform was designed to be offered as an as-needed single series of events. However, a huge level of interest and benefit in this virtual format allowed us to continue offering these events throughout the pandemic.

The first program was held on March 17, 2020, and lasted 2.5 hours. It was attended by 323 beekeepers from all the New England states. To date, we have had a total of nine events (eight in 2020, one in 2021) of 20 hours of education, attended by 1,420 beekeepers from all New England states, and New York. (We conditionally admitted New York as a New England state, but only for the purpose of these programs – LOL.)

Three events to come

You are invited to the three events ahead in 2021. Please share the access information below with those who may be interested. Access is virtual through Zoom, and there are no pre-registration or attendance fees.

See **NEW ENGLAND**, next page

Tessier new Massachusetts apiary inspector

Massachusetts has hired a new full-time apiary inspector.

Paul Tessier started in 2017 with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) as a Seasonal Apiary Inspector in the Apiary Program. He transitioned to the apiary inspector last March.

His family has been beekeeping for the past seven years. They have a small sustainable apiary in Dighton.

“We are thrilled to have Paul join the team as the first full-time apiary inspector,” said **Kim Skyrms**, MDAR apiary program chief inspector.



Tessier is not only knowledgeable about honey bees and beekeeping in Massachusetts, but also passionate about providing support to beekeepers, Dr. Skyrms said.

Email: paul.tessler@mass.gov

NEW ENGLAND ... *from previous page*

The first event's goal was to provide pandemic-based updates, answer questions, and give recommendations on regional honey bee health, hive management, beekeeping, and apiary programs. The format has evolved into an interactive Saturday morning talk show where attendees Zoom in to join a panel of New England apiary inspectors and fellow beekeepers.

For the first half-hour, inspectors provide program and state updates, as well as tips for seasonal colony management. Then the program is opened for attendees to ask individual questions using the chat box or phones.

Each question is answered live by the panel of inspectors and virtually in the chat box by attendees. This creates not only a notebook of helpful information and a direct personal connection with their state's apiary programs and inspectors, but also access to a supportive, real-time virtual beekeeping community.

Some beekeepers have created local connections to mentors for in-person support after the event.

The immense success of these programs is due to strong regional collaboration of inspectors and apiary programs.

These events show not only how state government can respond to the real-time needs of stakeholders, but also how to create a virtually-accessible, regional-based support network and communication tool for the beekeeping community.

Why not your region?

We encourage and welcome other states to research our efforts and consider creating regional collaborative and educational platforms, with the similar goal of providing additional support to beekeepers.

Zoom Link: zoom.us/j/95299463401?pwd=ZGF2bW11OHVHR3RxQHWmF5RUw3UT09. Meeting ID: 952 9946 3401. Passcode: 404079.

One Tap Mobile: +16465588656, 95299463401#,,,,, *404079# US (New York).

2021 Apiary Inspectors of America Committees

<p style="text-align: center;">Executive Committee</p> <p>President - Kim Skyrn Vice President - Natasha Garcia-Andersen Secretary - Mary Reed Treasurer - Keith Tignor North Director - Kathleen Prough South Director - Mike Studer East Director - Meghan McConnell West Director - Alyssa Piccolomini At-Large Director - Mike Hansen Canada Director - Paul Kozak</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Membership Committee</p> <p>Kathleen Prough Mike Studer Meghan McConnell Alyssa Piccolomini Mike Hansen Paul Kozak</p> <p>This committee is comprised of the Directors selected by the AIA membership. The role of this committee is to communicate with each state/province within the designated region and strive for full representation at AIA meetings.</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;">Site Committee</p> <p>Natasha Garcia-Andersen Brad Cavin Brooke Decker Meghan McConnell</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to gather information about the upcoming annual meeting and assist the Vice President in organizing the meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nominating Committee</p> <p>Karen Roccasecca Don Hopkins Barbara Bloetscher Shanda King</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to nominate AIA members for the officer positions. Elections are made at the annual meeting.</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;">Auditing Committee</p> <p>Kathleen Prough Liz Meils Joan Mahoney</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to review the records maintained by the AIA Treasurer prior to the annual meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Awards Committee</p> <p>Kathleen Prough Keith Tignor Mike Studer Don Hopkins</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to request and review nominations for the Researcher of the Year Award, determine and award membership service awards, retirement awards, and student travel scholarships.</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;">Resolutions Committee</p> <p>Jennifer Lund Tammy Horn Potter Joey Caputo</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to gather Resolutions throughout the year and submit all standing and proposed Resolutions to the AIA members prior to the annual meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communications Committee</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Tammy Horn Potter</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Taylor Powell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Reed</td> <td>Adam Pachl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brooke Decker</td> <td>Sam Muirhead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Kozak</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The purpose of this committee is to generate the AIA Newsletter, and generate content for other industry publications (i.e. ABF Newsletter, Bee Culture, etc.).</p>	Tammy Horn Potter	Taylor Powell	Mary Reed	Adam Pachl	Brooke Decker	Sam Muirhead	Paul Kozak	
Tammy Horn Potter	Taylor Powell								
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COMMITTEES ... from last page

<p style="text-align: center;">Stand Operating Procedures Committee</p> <p>Mike Studer Barbara Bloetscher Samantha Brunner Liz Meils</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joan Mahoney Joey Caputo Paul Kozak</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to gather SOPs from states and provinces to then develop a document containing guidance, advice, and examples for inspection programs that either don't have an SOP developed or need to update one.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Industry Organizations Committee</p> <p>Mary Reed Jennifer Lund</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natasha Garcia-Andersen Barbara Bloetscher</p> <p>The purpose of this organization is to maintain/initiate communication and collaboration between AIA and other industry organizations (i.e. Honey Bee Health Coalition, NAPPC, etc.).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nonprofit Committee</p> <p>Keith Tignor Kathleen Prough Mike Studer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alyssa Piccolomini Meghan McConnell Paul Kozak</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to gather information needed to convert AIA to a 501c5 status and suggest changes to the AIA constitution and by-laws in order to meet the requirements of that nonprofit status.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Educational Outreach Committee</p> <p>Paul Kozak Taylor Powell Ed Burlett Jennifer Lund</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alyssa Piccolomini Brooke Decker Nuria Morfin Adam Pachl</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to generate educational content and products for beekeepers in North America (i.e. IPM manual, info cards, etc.).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Survey/Annual Health Data Committee</p> <p>Kim Skyrn Paul Kozak Jennifer Lund</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Emily Wine Darcy Oishi</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to collect data from states and provinces about the status of the apiary industry in these individual regions and generate reports for the USDA and other industry stakeholders.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regulatory/Veterinarian Committee</p> <p>Darcy Oishi Paul Kozak Taylor Powell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natasha Garcia-Andersen Dave Priebe Don Hopkins</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to facilitate communication and collaboration with veterinarians. This committee may generate and provide feedback and resources beneficial to veterinarians, apiary inspectors, and beekeepers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pollinator Committee</p> <p>Natasha Garcia-Andersen Emily Wine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alyssa Piccolomini Tammy Horn Potter</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to establish communication and collaboration with non-Apis and native pollinator organizations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Integrated Pest Management Committee</p> <p>Lewis Cauble Jennifer Lund Don Hopkins Nuria Morfin Derek Micholson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul Kozak Mary Reed Adolphus Leonard Adam Pachl</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to develop beekeeping management practices geared towards safely and effectively managing honey bee pests and diseases in North America.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Research/Diagnostic Labs Committee</p> <p>Kim Skyrn Joey Caputo Karen Roccasecca</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Barbara Bloetscher Lewis Cauble Don Hopkins</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to gather information on research and diagnostic labs that provide services for apiary inspection services and beekeepers. Additionally this committee will facilitate communication and collaboration between the AIA and these labs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Media/IT Committee</p> <p>Meghan McConnell Natasha Garcia-Andersen Liz Meils</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dave Priebe Mary Reed</p> <p>The purpose of this committee is to provide technical support to AIA, as well as coordinate social media outreach for the association.</p>