

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Informal Crop Meeting

This is a favorite at our bee meetings. It is a time to come and share what has been happening in your neck of the woods. Join us after you have browsed through the display room a few minutes for an informal discussion of weather conditions this season and the crop outlook. We will try to speculate the future forecast of what we think the market or production will be this year. Beekeeping families will gather to talk about the way things are now, they will probably throw in a forecast of what they think is to come, and they could even give us a glimpse of what it used to be like. **We hope to see all of you and hear from you on Thursday evening starting at 7:00 PM led by your host Vice President Jeff Hull. Come join us!**

Minnesota Honey Queen Reception

A **“special” welcome from the Queen.** Prior to the informal crop meeting there will be a special welcome to our 103rd MHPA meeting. Kick off the meeting with a “special” invitation to join the MHPA Queen Alexa Sorenson for **refreshments and conversation** as she welcomes you to the annual meeting in style. **Meet and greet her and thank her** for all the great promotion she has done for our industry over the past year. You will have a chance to **view her scrapbook and share her favorite recipes.** Something new for attendees is a chance to take a moment and **taste test a Honey Lemonade** recipe that has been developed especially for the MN State Fair “Beehive”. **This event begins at 7:00 PM in the display room. Food is provided with registration.**

Silent Auction

Bring an item for the silent auction to benefit the MN Honey Queen Program. **We will be collecting items beginning on Thursday evening. Bring them to the MHPA display table in the display area around 6 or 6:30 PM. (We will continue to add to the auction as things come in to bid on.) The silent auction will begin Thursday evening and continue until 9:30 AM Saturday. Bidders can pick up and pay for their merchandise during the morning break on Saturday. Make checks payable to the MHPA Queen Fund.**

MHPA Apparel for Sale

Another popular thing at bee meetings includes the MHPA apparel sales. New items will be on display to purchase with the New MHPA logo on them. If you have not purchased a commemorative honey pot from our 100th birthday celebration, we will have a few of them available for purchase. Stop by our booth and browse through the latest items. The items will be available for purchase as long as the display area is open. Support the MHPA with your purchases. Please make your checks payable to MHPA. **They make great birthday or Christmas gifts.** Something new this year will be shorts and jackets or hooded sweatshirts.

Special Speakers

President Darrel Rufer will open the 103rd Annual Educational Conference around 9:00 AM.

Our special guest this conference is Randy Oliver, an author, beekeeper, and researcher from the West Coast. Randy Oliver owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He manages about 500+ colonies for migratory pollination, and produces queens, nucs, and honey. He has 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website: www.ScientificBeekeeping. **He will speak to us on Friday about “New Paradigms for Successful Beekeeping”** The “old rules” for beekeeping no longer apply. Randy will explain how beekeeping has changed, and how successful U.S. beekeepers are coping. Viable long-term strategies for varroa management, the latest research on *Nosema ceranae*, and new strategies for optimal bee nutrition. **On Saturday his topic will be “Queen Breeding and the Logic of Nature”** where he brings the latest advances in biology and genetics to bear on our strategies for queen breeding and production. The new scientific findings call into question many of our assumptions and strategies for bee breeding. Randy polishes off his crystal ball and looks into the future, so as to suggest the most effective ways to breed for varroa resistant bees.

Dr. Marla Spivak, UMN Professor will speak Friday. Her topic will be “Medical Records for Bees: Why are Bees Dying? Followed by her students at the UMN with a “Research Post Card” informing us of the latest research they are doing.

Dr. Vera Krischik, UMN Professor will also speak on Friday. She will give us a glimpse of “The Effects of Neonicotinoids on Honey Bees and Bumble Bees.”

On Saturday we will include these speakers in an interactive panel discussion entitled “Assessment of Risk to Honey Bees: Pesticides and Floral Landscapes” with time for questions and answers. Asking the question: “Is it CCD or is it US”

Mini Workshop Presentations

Saturday following Randy Oliver's presentation join us in some special presentations from our membership. **Ray Nicholson** will demonstrate “**Comb Honey Production**”. **Winnie Johnson** will give us some tips on “**Preparing Your Entries For the State Fair**”, **Ginger Reuter** will show us her secrets to making great “**Beeswax Candles**” and finally **Gary Reuter's** presentation will help “**Break the Mysteries in Making Mead or Honey Wine**”.

These educational events are made possible in part by a grant from the RMA (Risk Management Agency) Federal Outreach Program.

103rd Annual Business Meeting and Evening Events

Registered members are invited to our **annual business meeting Friday around 3:15 PM** prior to the **Honl Apiaries Tour and Dinner**. After getting the business out of the way you are cordially invited to board a bus out to the Honl's for a tour of their facility and enjoy the evening **banquet around 6:15PM**. There will be a **“live” auction** of 5 items with proceeds going to the MHPA Queen Fund following dinner **around 6:45** with a fond **farewell to our MHPA Honey Queen Alexa Sorenson**.

Fifth Annual “Bobble Bee” or MHPA Beekeeper of the Year Award

Friday evening about 7:15 PM we will again **present our “Bobble Bee” award** for a lifetime of achievement. The recipient is someone who has made a great contribution of time and talents to the MHPA and has been a constant inspiration to our industry. You won't want to miss this family's story or our honoree as we **salute the award winner** followed with a **congratulatory reception** with cake and beverages.

Meet the new “Beehive” Manager

Linda Newman will be available to discuss selling your honey at the State Fair this summer. She has some fresh new ideas how she will give the sales booth a facelift and she wants to meet as many members as possible. You will find her near the State Fair booth in the display room or casually introducing herself to everyone. Feel free to get acquainted and make her feel like a part of our beekeeping family. On Friday around 2:30 PM David Ellingson will introduce her and she will give us a brief synopsis of herself and what she wants to do at the “Beehive” this summer.