



**Minnesota Honey Producers
Association**

www.minnesotahoneyproducers.org

November 2018



President's Message

My name is Dave Schroeder and I'm excited to serve you and our great organization going forward. Just a little to know about me and my family when it comes to bees. I was born and raised in Wisconsin on a dairy farm and was first introduced to bees from my future brother-in-law in back in the 70's. He grew up in a commercial beekeeping family and is considered a 2nd generation beekeeper. What started out as just helping with bees and extracting honey, my immediate family, become more involved with the beekeeping world. We started keeping our own bees back in 2006 and now operate colonies in Minnesota & Wisconsin. We are considered a sideline honey producer and pollinator at the ABF level and network with our relatives and other beekeepers in sending our colonies to California for the Almond pollination. We are located in Champlin, MN (32+ years). Many of you are aware of my daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Schroeder (our past Vice President) and we have both been members with the MHPA since 2007. We are active with the ABF and have served on the boards of other bee organizations along the way. I look forward to be your new President and assist you in any way I can.

Our Past President: As many of you know, Dan Whitney has served on our board for several years and was our President for the last 5 Years (2013-2018). Dan also served on leadership positions with the ABF and spent many of countless hours and time networking with State and local governments, the U. of M., and many other organizations when it comes to pollinator habitat, pollinator protection, and the livelihood of us fellow beekeepers. We all owe a great deal of thanks to Dan for his commitment to the MHPA and his hard work in leading our organization going forward. I thank you Dan and this association very much for your time and effort.

Legislative: I have asked Dan Whitney to assist us with our 2019 Legislative actions this upcoming year with our new lobbyist, Judy Erickson. With this year's election coming up, no one really knows where everyone will stand on pollinator protection and beekeeping concerns at the state level. As you may or not know, our MHPA members pledged over \$10,000 of funding to assist our lobbying efforts for this next year. The MHPA board determined we needed to take a more active role at the legislative level going forward. Things happen too fast at the capital without a lobbyist being there to represent us.

State Fair Booth: At this time, I have no exact final results (still being audited), but I can say it was a record year in sales for the association this year at the Minnesota State Fair. The Honey Cream Soda Float (selected by the State Fair as one of the new State Fair Foods list) was a major success. I give Linda Newman and her crew a great compliment on a job well done. I want to thank all of you and give a big hand to those who supplied honey products, volunteered your time, and supported the honey booth on making this possible.

We have a MHPA Board meeting coming up on December 6th in Saint Cloud, MN. This is our winter meeting to discuss what happened this last year and to plan ahead on next year's functions. If you have anything which you think we need to address, please drop me a text or e-mail and we will try to get it on the agenda.

Convention Update now a joint meeting: Our 2019 MHPA July summer convention will be held in Fargo, ND. As of this last Friday, The North Dakota Beekeepers Association voted to join us for our summer meeting. Liz Schroeder will fill you in on everything going forward, for she has everything planned as

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Letter From the Editor

As I look out my dining room window there are snowflakes flying and a nice find dusting has settled comfortably on the ground. I'm going to take this as a sign that it's finally time to buckle down and write my very first Letter From the Editor.

First, I'd like to start out by introducing myself. My name is Emily Campbell, and I have been a member of the Minnesota Honey producers since 2012. As many of you probably already know, I served as the 2012 Minnesota Honey Queen and the 2013 American Honey Princess. I currently chair the Minnesota Honey Queen Program and am completing my third year of Veterinary School at the University of Minnesota.

Although Mark Sundberg left some pretty big shoes to fill, I'm going to try my best to pick up where he left off. I have never been an editor for anything before, and quite frankly have never been a wizard with words. So, there is a bit of a learning curve, but I very much appreciate how patient everyone has been with me thus far. Since I am not a commercial pollinator, large scale honey producer, or bee researcher I would like to invite anyone and everyone to submit suggestions for content they would like to see in future editions. Examples would be legislative changes, factual articles of importance to the industry, or anything you may see relevant to be published. I can't promise that I will include everything submitted, but I think this is a great opportunity for me to learn what is important to the members of this group and in turn be able to tailor the content to be as relevant as possible.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in the future, and sincerely hope that I will do half as good of a job as Mark. Happy beekeeping and hope to see some of you at the upcoming ABF Convention!

All the Best,
Emily Campbell

Any submissions can be emailed to Emily at camp0588@umn.edu





Presidents Message

Continued from page 2

usual. I know that Randy Oliver is our Key Note Speaker and she has a great bunch of speakers already lined up. Looks like a large turnout is expected. See you in Fargo.

Summary: I know there are a number of things that I should tell you right now, but like most beekeepers, I need to get my bees ready to travel, and take care of my yard rent customers soon so time is an essence. I cannot sign off till I tell you a few more things. The MHPA really appreciates people who step up to fill positions. Mark Sundberg stepped up as our new Vice President and Emily Campbell as our New Editor. These people are great individuals and are a blessing to have with our organization. Last but not least, our organization lost a dear friend when Jack Thomas from Mann Lake Bee Supply passed away last month. He will be missed by all. He supported beekeeping at all levels. He was a gentleman and asset in the beekeeping community.

Dave Schroeder, President



John "Jack" T. Thomas

September 27, 1936 - September 17, 2018

"The thoughtful little things you do each day have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows."

- Alexandra Stoddard -

Jack was almost 82 years young when he passed away after a hard fought battle with pancreatic cancer. He lived a life of entrepreneurship, with a passion for learning and curiosity.

He was born September 27, 1936 in Northeast Minneapolis and attended DE LaSalle High School. Jack spent three years as an intelligence officer in Taiwan in the late '50's. He attended the University of Minnesota and Mankato State University. The field of engineering and an air hydraulics business filled the following years.

In 1972 Jack moved to Mann Lake, near Hackensack, to live in a 100 year old log cabin where he had spent many childhood summer hours.

Mann Lake Ltd., a commercial beekeeping manufacturing company, was co-founded by Jack and wife, Betty in 1984. The hobby business; started in their garage on Mann Lake; has grown to an international company, employing hundreds of individuals in Hackensack and at the U.S. branch locations. Jacks goal was to make people smile as he walked through the facilities. He was an icon of the industry. He innovated products and techniques that made keeping bees easier. Jack and Mann Lake have been recognized by the industry for the many contributions made.

Jack and Betty have traveled throughout the world, but there was never a place better than home. Jack spent many summers enjoying his antique boats, a 1934 runabout Gar Wood and a 1915 Fay & Bowen motor-launch. They have been donated to the Maritime Museum in Alexandria, MN so others may enjoy these rare boats.

Animals have always been a part of Jack and Betty's life. In 2012 they decided to work towards building an animal shelter. They co-founded Paws and Claws Rescue & Resort, just south of Hackensack, that opened its doors in 2017. Jack felt that it was important to give back to the community he lived in.

Jack touched many lives in many ways, he is survived by his wife, Betty, and their three feline companions. Jack said many times that "when he died, he wanted to come back as a cat, taken care of by Betty."

Jack asks that no flowers be sent. Any memorials should go to Paws and Claws Rescue & Resort, P.O. Box 175, Hackensack, MN 56452, Attn: Jack. Memorials will go towards establishing a service dog program using candidate rescue animals that will aid Veterans with PTSD. This was very close to Jacks heart as he was a disabled Veteran.

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Convention Update

The 2018 summer convention was 3 months ago and the next MHPA convention will be in 9 months, which isn't long if you think about it. The Holiday Inn in St Cloud was a fantastic place and welcomed us with open arms. I think there was enough pools for the Whitney boys and enough games for the Honi kids to make Bert go broke. But that's what MHPA convention is about, being able to bring the family. So mark your calendars for 2020, because we'll be headed back there.

Over the last couple weeks there's been discussion, and I can now confirm, about North Dakota Beekeepers joining our convention. After a little (!) road trip to Bismarck for their convention it was agreed to join our meeting. It's a great opportunity to meet up with other states and talk about common problems/joys among beekeepers. It also allows us to expand our horizons. So, again, mark your calendars for July 11-13th 2019, Holiday Inn in Fargo. Room rate \$106. Book your rooms early. Keynote is Randy Oliver. We've also been in talks with Joe Carlson, head of Complete Bee, Slava Strogolov, the CEO of Strong Microbials to speak, John Miller on indoor wintering, just to name a few.

I'll cut this short and get back to planning the convention. Have a great fall/holiday season.

Liz Schroeder

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News From The Ivory Tower

Rebecca Masterman and Bridget Mendel
UMN Bee Squad!
www.beelab.umn.edu

October 2018

This newsletter is brought to you from our Bee Squad program – the extension and outreach arm of the Bee Lab. Becky Masterman and Bridget Mendel offer their experiences communicating among farmers, beekeepers and bee supporters. Thank you, Bee Squad, and thank you beekeepers for your help and continued support! -- Marla Spivak

Planting Seeds

We're convinced that beekeepers, famers, and bee supporters need more opportunities to listen to each other, and we are dedicated to creating platforms where their stories can be shared. Our efforts are diverse in approach: in 2017 Dr. Elaine Evans gave a TedEX Talk called "Farming for Bees;" this year Dr. Dan Cariveau and his students initiated the first-of-its-kind study of optimal size and type of pollinator habitat on conventional farms; and the Bee Squad hosted a mid-summer Field Day where 75 famers, beekeepers and educators participated in workshops and identified shared pollinator goals and challenges.

Bee Squad's field day was funded by a North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant, allowing us to cover travel costs for participants from five Midwest states and to offer two acres' worth of free seeds to those interested. The field day happened this July at our Horst Rechelbacher Pollinator Project site in Osceola, WI, where Bee Squad has spent the last 4 years planting over 12 acres of food for honey bees and native pollinators.

While the education on varroa, integrated pest management (IPM) and bee habitat was informative and well received by field day participants, the connections made by attendees from across traditional industry divides were highlights for many. It turned out that some of our attendees identified as hybrid bee people: there were farmers who were beekeepers and beekeepers who were pollinator educators, and some attendees were farmers, beekeepers, pollinator educators and habitat planters combined. Just as the work of organic and conventional farmers can seem at odds, commercial and hobby beekeepers often feel the other group could do things differently. For example, lots of hobby beekeepers have received the message that commercial beekeepers are "the problem" with bee health. However, when they get an opportunity to talk with a commercial beekeeper, a shared commitment and love for their colonies, be it 1 or 1,000 is realized. At the field day, Dan Whitney (former MHPA President) earned rock-star status after sharing his experience and perspectives as a large-scale beekeeper. For a hand-outs you can print and give to farmers, [see this link](#).

Another star of the field day was Bee Squad's own Farmer Keith. Keith Johnson is a conventional corn and soybean farmer---but actually, he's anything but conventional. Back in 1996, long before bees were a buzzword, Keith was planting for pollinators. Keith joined Bee Squad in 2014, and has since sourced each part of the Bee Squad's MiteCheck monitoring kit, designed and planted the pollinator habitat at

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Ivory Tower

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the Horst Rechelbacher Pollinator Project Site, and informed Bee Squad's biosecurity practices when it comes to managing bees. Most importantly though, Keith has taught us that conversations are powerful tools for change; that through conversations we can find common ground and sometimes even change our minds.

Most Recently, Dan Whitney, Keith Johnson, the Bee Squad and Kristy Allen of Beez Keez shared a stage on a panel called Pollinator Perspectives for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Pollinator Summit. The panel provided the essential perspectives of both famers and beekeepers invested in creating and managing pollinator habitat. The audience (which included pollinator supporters, businesses and non-profits, scientists and educators) confirmed that first-hand perspectives and stories from the field helped them understand the nuanced habitat, health and economic challenges those in the bee and farm industries face. Bee Health is complicated, but less so when we can all get together in the same room to look at the big picture and find solutions.

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Vice-President's Message

Greetings Minnesota Beekeepers!

First of all congratulations to our new President Dave Schroeder! I'm certain the MHPA is in good hands with Dave at the lead.

After 14 years I decided to step down as Editor of the Minnesota Beekeeper. Emily Campbell has graciously stepped up and taken on the Editor job. Thanks Emily!!

It seems that much of Minnesota had a dismal honey crop this year. I've only heard of a few pockets of "normal" crops in the state, whatever normal means anymore. The Dakotas weren't much better either unless you had canola.

The summer meeting in Fargo is taking shape nicely, thanks entirely to Liz Schroeder's hard work. Liz will be continuing on as the annual meeting organizer even though she is no longer Vice President. For that, this Vice President is extremely grateful! We are very lucky to have Liz taking care of the meeting details.

There have been a few legislative actions happening that affect some of our Minnesota members. First in North Dakota they have passed a law the gives landowners the right to remove unauthorized beeyards form their property within 7 days instead of the 30 it used to take. This will hopefully cut down on some of the outstate people coming in and dumping a semi load of bees and taking off until it's time to pull honey. This is becoming a real problem in North Dakota. Especially since the bee forage all over is dwindling. But really, what happened to being a good neighbor? There are many large beekeepers who think they can just dump 200 colonies a half mile from another beeyard and it's their right to do it. Crappy neighbors if you ask me.

In California the legislature has just passed a law that strengthens reporting requirements of movements of colonies in the state. Check with your local county to see about implementation time frames. When you move in to your loading yard you have to report. When you move to your beeyards-report. When you move to the almond orchards-report. When you move out from the orchards back to your holding yard-report. It's this kind of red tape that makes those of us that provide most of the bees for pollination to think seriously about taking a pass on pollination, especially if we get good honey crops and prices...

Myself and several other MHPA members had a chance to take in the "Plant Seeds for Bees" field day July 25th at the Horst Rechelbacher Foundation Property in western Wisconsin. The U of M Bee Lab, Bee Squad and Hutchinson IPM Lab put on an interesting show and it was well attended and informative. We heard speakers in the morning and toured the property in the afternoon and observed the different demonstration plots that were aimed at pollinators. It's nice to see so much interest in creating healthy landscapes for bees.

I hope your bees are healthy and ready for winter!!

Mark Sundberg
Vice President, MHPA



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