Announcements

1) Congratulations to Elizabeth Hill, who was recently appointed as the USDA Pollinator Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS). In this role, Ms. Hill promotes collaboration and communication across USDA agencies, the managed pollinator industry, and relevant USDA grant recipients. Further, she strives to ensure that USDA initiatives support the pollinator health goals set forth by the Pollinator Health Task Force. Since 2016, Ms. Hill has served as Agricultural Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist’s Office of Pest Management Policy, where among other duties, she examines the interface between the needs of agricultural pest management and pollinator protection. Further, in this role she supports development and registration of pest management tools for beekeepers in combatting honey bee pests.

2) Congratulations to Jerry Hayes on his recent appointment as editor of Bee Culture magazine, replacing Kim Flottum who was at the helm for 40 years. Kim announced his retirement at the 150th A.I. Root celebration (pictured below as A.I. Root). Thank you Kim for all of your hard work!

3) Dr. Vaughn Bryant’s lab at Texas A&M University is no longer accepting samples of honey for pollen analysis. This is a potentially temporary decision, but there is no timeline as to when they will start accepting samples again.

4) Broodsafe is currently unavailable and will remain so until the EPA reviews their paperwork.

5) New position in D.C.: Program Analyst (Program Manager, Urban Agriculture) CS-0343-13 Job ID 8831 (1 position). This position is located in the Office of the Chief of Staff. The announcement is listed as “open to the public” and has a closing date of November 5, 2019. For more detailed information regarding this opportunity, please visit the District’s career website at https://careers.dc.gov and search for job #8831.

6) The apiary inspector position in Texas is still accepting applications. The original job posting can be found here: https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/AgriLife_Research_External/job/College-Station-AL-RSCH/Apairy-Inspector-I_R-021745.
COLOSS Meeting Summary provided by Paul Kozak (Ontario)
(September 7 and 8, 2019 – Montreal, Quebec – in advance of the Apimondia conference)

COLOSS (Prevention of honey bee COlony LOSSes) is an international, non-profit association headquartered in Bern, Switzerland that is focused on improving the well-being of bees at a global level. They are made up of scientific professionals that include researchers, veterinarians, agriculture extension specialists and students from across the world. Being based in the EU there is a large contingent of European members. However, there is good representation from Asia, Africa and quite a few members from North America (including Paul Kozak – OMAFRA and Ernesto Guzman – University of Guelph – Honey Bee Research Centre).

COLOSS is a great venue for dialogue between experts on honey bees across the world and for the collaboration on projects and strategies to address honey bee health at a global level. The following are some are highlights and observations from the two-day meeting.

There are numerous task forces that COLOSS members are engaged in. This includes subjects such as: varroa control, apitox (pesticides and bees), honey bee viruses, small hive beetle, giant Asian hornets (specifically Vespa velutina). Participants at the meeting could join the task forces and participate in working meetings. In addition to some presentations on research and programs from members there was an opportunity for discussion of extension, research and outreach projects between specialists and beekeepers and each task force highlighted priorities and action items.

Some areas that COLOSS is working on by subject include:

- **Laboratory diagnostics of honey bee pathogens:** Interest at the international level to archive lab samples of bees / pathogens for future examination / research.
- **Small hive beetle:** Interest in compiling Best Management Practices and methods for monitoring and determine areas where beekeepers are still experiencing issues including predictive markers for colony collapse due to high beetle infestations. Both the OMAFRA Apiary Program and Niagara College Commercial Beekeeping Program were interested in providing input and being engaged on these initiatives.
- **Varroa mites:** Assessment of new control methods between researchers at the global level. There seems to be renewed focus on this within the USA. Canada continues to invest in this important area of bee research. It was interesting to hear that it is illegal not to treat for / or control varroa based on the legislation of some countries in the EU.
- **Viruses:** Variation of deformed wing virus across the USA is important because of how virulent this virus is to honey bees. Virus issues are still largely addressed through the control of varroa levels.
- **Velutina (giant Asian hornet) Task Force:** Outline the mitigation strategies of countries and regions that have experienced an incursion of this pest (especially in EU), compile and obtain more information on the biology of the pest and how they predate honey bees.

It was also interesting to note the differences in perspectives on particular pests and diseases between regions of the world. While there was much consensus on certain pests and threats to bee health, there were differences between regions based on the presence or absence of a pest, resources available to beekeepers, demographics of the industry, and environmental conditions. There seemed to be some notable differences between EU and North America on addressing bee issues by programs and policy. Added to this, many of the meetings are outside of North America, so the participation of experts from North America may continue to be somewhat limited.

Overall, COLOSS is a great platform for meeting colleagues and counterparts from different parts of the world, becoming aware of issues and collaborating on strategies to directly address threats to honey bee health.
International Honey Bee Regulatory Working Meeting

Approximately fifty apiarists from around the world met at Apimondia in Montreal to discuss six main areas of concern to honey bee health (Asian Giant Hornet, Nosema, Varroa mites, Small Hive Beetles, Tropilaelaps mite, and viruses) and learn more about inspection services across the globe. The meeting provided an opportunity to generate international relationships and contacts, as well as opportunities for future collaboration. The steering committee is working on putting together a final report on the meeting and Mary Reed will be providing a presentation at the AIA 2020 meeting in January.

Updates on *Vespa velutina*

Lots of updates in the biology, distribution, impact and response measures to *Vespa velutina* (one of two species of giant Asian hornet of concern to honey bee health) as it has spread within Europe and other regions of Asia. Some import messages are: Once a population is established the wasps are difficult to eradicate and control measures still need to be developed. This species can have a major impact on honey bee populations through predation, and these impacts vary by area and environment. Finally, the species has a preference for urban areas and is capable (and has in Europe) of killing people in stinging incidents making it a issue of public safety / public health as well as a honey bee health issue. Content provided by Paul Kozak

Fumigilin-B is making a comeback!

Apiarists may have another tool to control Nosema since Fumagilin-B is returning to Canada and the U.S. markets. *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae* are parasitic microsporidian fungal pathogens. They can be identified only by microscopic analysis of the honey bee’s mid-gut. The spores multiply rapidly in the gut and spread throughout the colony. *Nosema apis* often leaves tell-tale signs of dysentery inside and more visibly on the outside of the hive (especially noticeable in spring), but the strain *Nosema ceranae* that originated in Asia often leaves no such traits. Max Watkins, CEO of Vita Bee Health, said, “Inevitably, Fumagilin-B is now more expensive than before, but beekeepers will quickly recognize that, set against colony losses, it is still a cost-effective solution.” Content is used with permission from *Bee Culture* magazine.
The Apimondia World Honey Show had 48 classes of items that attendees could enter. In addition to the breadth of classes, this world honey show will surely be remembered for the high percentage of entries that were disqualified. Despite laboratories in North America that could have analyzed these entries quickly, participants in some classes such as extracted and “set” honey had to send their entries to Germany in July for testing, prior to the Apimondia event in September. It was announced that over 40% of entries in some classes were disqualified for some of the following reasons: adulteration, contamination, moisture, and ultra-filtration. To add insult to injury, many attendees were not told why their entries were rejected.

Honey entered in the 2019 Apimondia show.

The bee mosaic was formed by many individual pictures taken on September 11, 2019 as a way to commemorate attendees.

Apimondia 2021 will be held in Ufa, Russia.

Apimondia 2023 will be held in Chile.
Earlier in October, I attended the Honey Bee Health Coalition’s (HBHC) fall meeting in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was comprised of HBHC members and stakeholders from across the apiary industry. Our host George Hansen, a commercial beekeeper in the Portland area, connected our group with a pear producer he works with and we got the opportunity to tour a pear processing plant. It was incredible to see all that goes into packing fresh pears. There was plenty of machinery and technology involved, but there was still a human factor that plays a major part in selecting and packaging the best pears. It was interesting to hear the grower speak to his reliance on a beekeeper for pollination, how that relationship works, as well as the challenges he faces throughout the process of producing, packaging, storing, and shipping pears.

During this meeting we also had the opportunity to hear presentations on the Oregon Bee Project, the various MP3s that have been developed and how the EPA plans to continue their support, the USDA’s research priorities, and the development of crop BMP’s by the HBHC. At one point we broke out into smaller groups, each led by a different stakeholder, to discuss their role and perspective of the apiary industry, as well as the challenges they face.

On the last day, we toured George’s operation where we learned more about how he runs his business, the challenges he has encountered over his many years of experience, and his goals for the future. We also heard more from Danielle Downey about the status of their hygienic queen research they have been working on for the past few years. It sounds like they have had some promising results! We even got a sneak peek into George’s studio where we works on his encaustic paintings.

Some of the goals set from this meeting is to continue working on developing BMPs for different crops that beekeepers visit or have an impact on honey bee health, as well as set a new strategy and project plans for the 2020 year.
Location: The Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel in Schaumburg, IL

Hotel: Reservations can be made online (https://book.passkey.com/event/49885760/owner/27662/home) or over the phone (847-303-4100). Make sure to request the ABF or beekeepers room block ($119.00 per night plus taxes). The discounted rate is only available until Monday, December 16th or until the room block is full.

Monday, January 6th
- 8:00am-8:30am – Welcome and Introductions
- 8:30am-12:00pm – Field Trip to Field Museum Fantastic Bug Encounters! exhibit
- 12:00pm-1:30pm – Group Lunch, on your own at museum
- 1:45pm-5:00pm – Field Trip to Chicago Beekeepers Honey Co-Op (TBD)

Tuesday, January 7th
- 8:00am-8:30am – Check-In
- 8:30am-9:30am – Business Meeting
- 9:30am-10:00am – Update on Apimondia International Apiary Regulators meeting – Mary Reed (Texas Apiary Inspection Service)
- 10:05am-10:35am – Exotic Hymenoptera Trapping project – Karen Roccasecca (Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture)
- 10:35am-10:50am – Break
- 10:55am-11:15am – Apivar Resistance Update – Phil Craft (Vita Pharma)
- 11:20am-12:00pm – Illinois Varroa Mite Monitoring Project/Beescape – Adam Dolezal (Pennsylvania State University)
- 12:00pm-1:30pm – Lunch (on your own)
- 1:35pm-2:15pm – USDA Beltsville Bee Lab sample analysis summary – Sam Abban (USDA Beltsville Bee Lab) 2:20pm-2:50pm – USDA National Honey Bee Survey/Bee Informed Partnership update - Josie Ryan (USDA) and Karen Rennich (BIP)
- 2:55pm-3:10pm – Break
- 3:15pm-3:45pm – Using Phone Microscopy for Nosema Detection – Jonathan Snow (Barnard College)
- 3:50pm-5:00pm – Vets and Bees Program - TBD
- 6:00pm-8:00pm – Group Dinner, on your own

Wednesday, January 8th
- 8:00-8:30am – Check-In
- 8:30am-12:00pm – ABF Sessions
- 12:00pm-1:00pm – Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00pm-5:00pm – ABF Sessions
- 6:00pm-8:00pm – Business Meeting, State Reports

Thursday, January 9th
- 8:00-8:30am – Check-In
- 8:30am-12:00pm – ABF Sessions
- 12:00pm-1:00pm – Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00pm-5:00pm – ABF Sessions
- 6:00pm-8:00pm – Business Meeting, State Reports

Friday, January 10th
- 8:00-8:30am – Check-In
- 8:30am-12:00pm – ABF Sessions
- 12:00pm-1:00pm – Lunch (on your own)
- 12:00pm-5:00pm – Business Meeting
- 6:00pm-8:00pm – Research Priorities Discussion with AAPA/AHPA

Come meet some awesome bee people at the AIA 2020 meeting!
The University of Guelph will turn its long-standing research prowess in pollinator health and conservation into North America’s first one-stop shop for honey bee research, education and outreach. The university is planning a new, $12-million facility aimed at helping understand the stressors affecting honey bees and other pollinators and finding solutions.

A recent transformational gift from the Riviere Charitable Foundation will cover a substantial portion of the cost. A fundraising campaign has been launched to further support the initiative and raise an additional $6 million.

“Honey bees are among the most important insects in the world, and the University of Guelph leads the world in honey bee research and conservation,” said U of G president Franco Vaccarino.

U of G’s history and reputation for honey bee research goes back more than 120 years. “We are uniquely positioned to help make a difference, and this donation recognizes and celebrates our research strength and our innovativeness to find sustainable solutions,” Vaccarino said.

One-third of the food we eat depends on pollination. Worldwide, insect pollinators—including bees—are falling in diversity and numbers. “It is a serious problem threatening our food system and environment. Improving the health of bees and other pollinators is critically important,” Vaccarino said.

He added that the support received thus far puts the University at about the midway point of its fundraising campaign. “We are well on our way to creating a world-renowned centre of excellence.”

An international design competition for the new centre was launched in January. A design jury selected Moriyama and Teshima Architects for the project, and the design concepts were announced this week.

“We have been nothing short of inspired by the staff and the work of the Honey Bee Research Centre and the University of Guelph’s commitment to the sustainability and health of the agricultural industry in Ontario,” said Diarmuid Nash, a partner at Moriyama and Teshima.

The new centre will exemplify sustainability, including being built to LEED Gold standards and including elements such as natural ventilation and low-carbon construction. Rene Van Acker, dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC).

For the full article, check out the University of Guelph website: [https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019/09/u-of-g-planning-iconic-honey-bee-research-centre/](https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019/09/u-of-g-planning-iconic-honey-bee-research-centre/)