



**APRIL 13, 2015**

The long awaited RURAL AGRICULTURE DAY finally arrived and the room was packed with members of our local farming community. We started with gray skies and a few drops of rain but by the end of the meeting, the sun was shining and giving assurances the spring is finally here to stay!

## HONEYBEES DO NOT LIKE PICKLES...OR CRANBERRIES

Truly a fascinating topic for those of us unfamiliar with what a critical role the



honeybees play in our agricultural system. Beekeeper Don Lam was one of two guest speakers for the day and has 25 years of Beekeeping experience. He is also an officer of the Holland Areas Beekeepers' Association and serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Beekeepers Association. He and his wife Jean work as pollinators and honey producers as well as providers of honeybees, bee equipment and mentoring services.

Lam warned us not to confuse the gentle honeybees with their "crabby cousins," the wasps or hornets. When their hives are left alone, even the "crabby cousins" pose little harm. He also assured us that absolutely nothing in "Bee Movie" was true.



A typical colony contains one queen bee (center), 50,000 female worker bees (left) and 300 male drones (right). The queen bee gives off a pheromone that maintains morale and unifies her colony. In fact, guard bees can identify workers from other colonies by their smell and will deny them entrance. The queen's primary job though is to lay thousands of eggs a day, a process that is actually regulated by the worker bees and how much they feed her. The worker bees are able to evaluate the pollen and nectar in their environment and feed the queen accordingly to produce the workforce that can be supported by that environment.

The female worker bees can have a number of different jobs within the colony. These jobs include:

- Baby Bees
- House Bees
- Guard Bees
- Nurse Bees
- Mortician Bees
- Foragers
- Honey Makers

By contrast, the male drone bees are much more dispensable. Their sole goal in life is to mate with a virgin queen and they will travel from hive to hive in search of this opportunity. The drone bees face a cruel fate, however, in that if they are successful in mating with a queen, they die immediately afterward and if they don't, the female bees tend to kick the males out of the colony in the winter to preserve their resources which also assures a quickly impending death.

Back to the honey-making worker bees – these incredible insects can carry their own weight in pollen or nectar

and the honey that is made reflects the flavor of the



source flower. For example, buckwheat provides for a darker honey with a more molasses type flavor whereas honey from clover or star thistle is very light in color.

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# Joke of the Week!

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple was involved in a fatal car accident.



The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While anxiously waiting they began to wonder; could they

possibly get married in Heaven?

When St. Peter arrived, they asked him if they could get married in Heaven. St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out" and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer... for a couple of months.

While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. If they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married, what with the eternal aspect of it all? "What

if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?"

Yet another month passed before St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled.

"Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering; what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH, COME ON!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me 3 months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take to find a lawyer?"

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- **4/20/15** – Essay Contest Winners
- **4/23/15** – Rotary April Board Meeting, 7:00 AM at Area Agency on Aging
- **4/27/15** – Guest speaker Terry Allen on 10 years of the Bio-Sand Filter Project
- **5/1/15** – Rotary Track Meet – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- **5/2/15** – Interact Fundraiser – parking cars during the Blossomtime Parade at Edgewater Bank
- **5/11/15** – Law Day, a table will be set-up to pre-purchase tickets in the weeks preceding the event

Happy Birthday to Paul Bailey's father-in-law! He just turned 102 on April 9<sup>th</sup> – wow!!

Congratulations **Emily Hosinski** on her promotion to Communications Assistant for the Whirlpool North American Region!



### Did you know?

Berrien County was just named the second most agriculturally diverse county in the United States – second only to Orange County, CA!



Congratulations **Katie Winfrey** on baby girl Ella Louise! She joined this world on March 25 weighing 5 lbs. 15 oz. and is 19.75" long. She arrived a few weeks earlier than planned but mom and baby are both doing well.

Don't forget to sign up for the District Conference dinner on Saturday night to support our **Rotary Hero Deb Trapikas**. You can sign up through the DaCdb online database. [www.directory-online.com](http://www.directory-online.com).

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## HONEYBEES (CONTINUED)

What does this have to do with agriculture? The answer is pollination. Without pollination, one bite of food out of every three would disappear. Pollination is also the only agricultural input that increases yield. Fertilizers and irrigation may lead to bigger crops but pollination is the only factor that increases the actual number of outputs. The value of honeybee pollination to agriculture in the United States is more than \$16 billion annually and more than \$1 billion of that can be attributed to Michigan crops.



More and more, farmers are becoming reliant on commercial beekeepers to provide pollinating bees as the natural bee populations have become less and less dependable. This is attributed in part to new invasive pests and diseases as well as certain agricultural practices such as insecticides, fungicides and monoculture farming.



Even utilizing commercial pollinating bees, there are several factors that can lead to pollination failure, such as:

- Poor climatic conditions during the pollination period

- Lack of suitable plant variety or placement for cross-pollination
- Plant or bloom types that are unattractive or unusable to the available pollinators
- Other more attractive food sources nearby
- Shortage of either natural or “managed” pollinators
- Improper management of “managed” pollinators

For farmers, the utilization of professional beekeepers certainly has many advantages. Beekeepers have access to a large number of pollinators and the timing and location can be controlled. Good beekeepers also come to the table with a wealth of knowledge about the crops that most need pollination and the number of bees and timing that is most advantageous to that crop.

An interesting bit of information about moving bees from farm to farm, Lam shared that bees generally come back to the hive at night so this is the time when the hive doors are closed and the bees transported. He also shared that bees navigate their surroundings both by using GPS and by recognition of landmarks. When colonies are moved, they must travel either less than three feet or more than three miles. If the colony is moved outside those parameters, the bees get confused.

Many factors go into the costs involved in renting colonies of bees and include the time of the year, the crop being pollinated (which is how we learned that bees do not like pickles or cranberries), the quantity of bees needed, among others. For

our area, the typical range is \$45 to \$75 per colony. Lam urged farmers to keep in mind that the beekeeper has invested about \$300 per colony so multiple pollinations are required in order to turn a profit.

Lam also shared that there are many things that individuals and farmers can do to support the natural and commercial bee community. The issue of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has been in the news recently and there is really no answer yet to cause of the problem. Many suspect that it is a combination of multiple factors such as navigational issues, insecticides and lack of biodiversity.

So, what can we do? Individuals can plan for a succession of uninterrupted blooms throughout the whole season in landscaping and gardening, using numerous species of plants or grow a vegetable garden. Lam also encouraged limiting the use of insecticides, fungicides and weedicides as much as possible. For farmers, leaving some areas “unkempt” instead of plowing corner to corner allows for the plant diversity necessary for bees. Something that we can all do is also to support local beekeepers through encouragement, ordinances and by buying their products. Did you know that eating locally grown honey can help with allergies because that honey contains the local pollens? If that’s not a reason to stock up, I don’t know what is!



## MICHIGAN BEE REGISTRY



About 20 years ago, the State of Michigan cut the apiary registration budget and eliminated the department. Since that time, no one really knows the number of hives or beekeepers nor do we have information about bee health

and bee populations. Without clear data, we have no way of identifying the best ways to support the bee population in Michigan.

The Michigan Bee Registry is a grassroots effort to rectify this situation. The organization is not affiliated with any State or Federal entity, is privately funded and managed by a board comprised of beekeepers and others with agricultural backgrounds.

Wrifton Graham, our second speaker of the day, President of the Battle Creek Bee Club and founder of the Michigan Bee Registry, is seeking our assistance in encouraging beekeepers to register with the organization and complete their annual survey. This survey covers topics on bee populations, bee losses, hive splits, hive imports/exports, diseases and general beekeeper information. By doing so, we are able to see where the beekeepers are located, where losses are occurring and we are able to identify patterns in Colony Collapse Disorder.

Graham advised that when the data is presented, it is non-specific to a particular beekeeper so participants would incur no regulatory risk and no fines or fees. The survey provided by the Michigan Bee Registry is 100% anonymous.

Beekeeping Rotarians or those with family or friends who partake in the hobby or occupation can register online at [www.MichiganBeeRegistry.org](http://www.MichiganBeeRegistry.org). The annual survey is available both online and in paper form.



MichiganBeeRegistry.org

## WELCOME NEW ROTARIANS

Please welcome Autumn and Russ Zick to the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor! Russ just retired from a career in sales that kept him traveling and unable to participate in this type of club and is excited to now have this opportunity. Autumn has also recently retired from the Berrien RESA and is now volunteering with The Equestrian Center. The couple is sponsored by Bob Braman.



## ROTARY TRACK MEET VOLUNTEERS & AD SALES NEEDED



Two great ways to support the Rotary Track Meet – sign-up to volunteer and sell those ads! Randy Bettich will be providing sign-up sheets to recruit volunteers at each meeting. Please consider donating your time for the Rotary Track Meet on Friday, May 1. Volunteers are needed on the track, for set-up and clean-up, food service, announcements, timing and more! Call Randy at 269-876-7233 or email at [bettichr@stifel.com](mailto:bettichr@stifel.com) with any questions. He has guaranteed that the weather will be beautiful that day.

At this event, we award four (4) academic scholarships totaling \$8,000 and Rotarians play a critical role in raising those funds through advertising sales. Last year:

- **Rotarian businesses purchased 25 out of 27 ads sold (93%)**
- **Rotarian business ad sales totaled \$7,420 of \$7620 raised (98%)**

The advertising purchase order form can be found at our Monday meetings and can also be found on the last page of the E-Wheel. The submission deadline is Wednesday, April 25 and any questions can be directed to J.C. Anderson, Rotary Track Meet Advertising Chairperson.

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## INTERACT FUNDRAISERS CONTINUE FOR DOMINICAN TRIP

The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor is all about the youth. Not only have we sponsored a track meet for all Berrien County youth for the past 58 years, but we also sponsor two high school Interact clubs: Saint Joseph High School and Lake Michigan Catholic High School.



The Interact Club is a self-governed service organization which introduces students to the words behind the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self". Last year, nineteen students traveled to the Dominican Republic to install

bio-sand water filtration systems and to install a latrine. The days were long, the sun was hot, and the work felt like it was never-ending.

The only true constant was the look on the children's faces who were appreciative of the High School students who were there to help them. The kids had already heard what clean water and sanitation facilities could do for them: decrease intestinal disorders, stop skin problems and de-hydration, and significantly decrease mortality rates.

The lives of these high school students were changed forever in one week. Each one realized there was a bigger picture outside of their inner circles and school dramas. There was a world of need, and many wanted to be a part of making sure the needs were met. This year, some of the same students will travel again to the Dominican Republic to continue the work started last year. With them, they will take additional students who want the same experience they saw their peers have last year. Together, they will face another week of hot sun, long days, smiling faces and the sad realities of the world.

Maria Kibler, our Rotary President, has had a logistical challenge in getting almost 30 teenagers and a few adult chaperones to the Dominican Republic. She has done a wonderful job of meeting the challenge and the trip is scheduled to depart on June 13 and return on June 20, 2015. There is only one last hurdle that she and the Interact students face and that is the funding needed to cover travel costs. While the Rotary Club has contributed to cover some costs, the kids have to earn a large portion of the money themselves.

The students will be at the Rotary Track Meet on May 1st in the stadium parking lot from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. They will be selling pulled pork sandwiches, a cookie and chips for \$9.00 a plate. Soft drinks are available inside the stadium at the booster concession stands. Charlie's Piggin' and Grinnin', a local eatery and crowd pleaser, is providing the food and a portion of every sale is going back to the Interact Club.



Tickets are being pre-sold by Interact students, or can be purchased on site. Tickets can also be purchased through Mary Frey, SJHS Interact Advisor at cell phone number 269-408-6699. Please help support the Interact Club members! They need our support!

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### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Debra Trapikas and Emily Hosinski. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write one or both at [tawana53@aol.com](mailto:tawana53@aol.com) or [emily\\_m\\_hosinski@whirlpool.com](mailto:emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com). We will publish it if you promise to lay five Happy Bucks on your table at the next meeting. Thank you to Aaron Bradford for the wonderful photography.



## 58th St. Joseph - Benton Harbor

## Rotary Track Meet

### ADVERTISEMENT PURCHASE ORDER

YES!! We would like to purchase an advertisement in the St. Joseph – Benton Harbor Rotary Track Meet printed program.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Black and White Advertisement Size Selection and Costs:

\_\_\_\_\_ Business card size cost of \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ 1/8 Page cost of \$200

\_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 Page cost of \$390

\_\_\_\_\_ 1/2 Page cost of \$775

\_\_\_\_\_ Full-Page cost of \$1,500

Payment (checks should be made payable to St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club) and advertisement information\* is due by April 25, 2015 and should be mailed to the following address:

J.C. Anderson  
2943 Dunes Valley Path                      and/or                      E-Mail: [anderjcna@gmail.com](mailto:anderjcna@gmail.com)  
Stevensville, Michigan 49127

\*Please check your advertisement as noted below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Repeat advertisement as printed last year

\_\_\_\_\_ Camera ready artwork or a digital file format (Mac or PC, Illustrator, or Quark) included.