



# HONEY GUIDES

The Newsletter of the  
Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association

[www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org](http://www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org)

January 2020

---

---

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION

---

---



The PPBA generally meets from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm on the third Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at the Community Center Room at the Brookdale Skyline, 2365 Patriot Heights, off of Lower Gold Camp Road. The Community Center Room is located in the Administration building, Building #3. If you enter the front door (on the south side) go through the building to the north side. There is additional parking and an entrance door on the north side of the building; just drive around the complex to reach the north side.

The first half hour (6:30-7:00) of the PPBA General Membership meetings are reserved for socializing and general questions with mentors and other PPBA members. The formal portion of the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm and will include association business and the presentations for that meeting. There will be time for questions during or after the formal portion of the meeting, but those questions should be limited to the topics being discussed.

***Please remember - we may need the help of the membership to set up the room and put things away after the meeting.***



---

---

### Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

---

---

**General Membership Meeting:** Our speaker in January will be Past PPBA President Bruno Mattedi and his topic will be: "Marketing Your Honey." Bruno has been a successful beekeeper in Woodland Park for many years now, after learning beekeeping back east. He has sold his honey and other hive products as a sideline.

At this meeting – we'll also hold election of officers and one board member.



**Honey Contests:** The Honey Contests at the January meeting will include the following categories: Extracted Honey (light or dark); Frame Honey (deep, medium, or shallow); Beeswax (any sized mold); and Specialty Honey (including creamed honey, comb honey, flavored honey, chunk comb, or any unusual honey). Register your unlabeled entry at the table with the contest volunteers. *All entrees must be entered by 6:50pm – no entries will be accepted after that time.* For anonymity, you may place your entry in a brown paper bag. Ribbons will be awarded for each category. *Please enter only one item per category per PPBA membership.*

Honey will be judged on appearance and flavor. For a good score in appearance, the honey should be clear of wax and foam and otherwise look clean. Flavor depends on the preference of the judges, but if it tastes good to you, it will probably taste good to the judges!

For extracted honey entries, one pound (or one pint) in a clear, unlabeled glass jar is recommended. Frame Honey should be free of pollen cells, uniform within the wooden frame and of equal thickness on both sides. Beeswax is judged on color – a lemon-yellow is best – and must be free of debris. Generally, a one-pound block is preferred for competitions. ***Please register your entry for the Honey Contests when you arrive.***

---

---

## 2020 MEETING AND EVENT DATES

---

---

**Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm: General Membership Meeting.** At this meeting, we'll be electing officers and one board member. We'll also have our Honey Contests.

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 1pm: 4H Beekeeping Project Meeting. See What's the Buzz Announcement!

Mar 7-8: Bee School. See attached flyer. PLEASE SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

March 14 – 15: Bee School. See attached flyer. PLEASE SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Apr 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm: General Membership Meeting.

Jul 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm: General Membership Meeting.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm: General Membership Meeting.

---

---

## HELP OUT PPBA – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

---

---

***We need volunteers to help with the following PPBA activities and projects!***

**PPBA Meeting Program Assistance.** Would you be interested in getting guest speakers for our General Membership Meetings? We need a program coordinator! If you have ideas and are willing to contact professional beekeepers (writers, speakers and researchers) and assist in arranging dates (and transportation and lodging, if necessary), please contact Rebecca Sunderlin (719-352-8311 or [rebecca.sunderlin@dhs.gov](mailto:rebecca.sunderlin@dhs.gov)) or Mike Halby (719-528-5483 or [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net))

**PPBA Guest Speakers.** PPBA gets lots of requests for guest speakers at schools, service organizations and local expos or events. Most speaker requests are just for a one-hour long presentation on beekeeping. If you could speak about beekeeping to a school or group, please contact Sandy at 719-528-5483 or e-mail [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net).



**PPBA Summer Picnic.** Our 2019 Summer Picnic was so much fun – we're doin' it again this summer! If you'd like to help out, plan events, make the reservations, etc, please contact Rebecca Sunderlin (719-352-8311 or [rebecca.sunderlin@dhs.gov](mailto:rebecca.sunderlin@dhs.gov)).

---

---

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

---

---



**EL PASO COUNTY 4H BEEKEEPING PROJECT GROUP:** Families with kids ages 8+ are invited! We'll meet monthly on Saturdays for hands-on activities, including time working the bees in our club hive, field trips, guest speakers, beeswax crafts, and competing at the county and state fairs. Please join us at our parent information meeting on Saturday, January 25, 1:00 p.m. at the High Prairie Library (7035 Meridian Rd. Peyton, CO 80831). RSVP to Leigh Sabey at [leighsabey@gmail.com](mailto:leighsabey@gmail.com) or 719.352.9329.

We would gladly accept donations of used equipment, protective gear, honey samples, or beeswax, and would welcome any beekeepers willing to donate their time as mentors or guest speakers.

**MENTORING!!** If you've been a beekeeper for a while and would like to be a mentor, contact Sandy to update the roster and get hooked up with a beekeeper who may need some help!

**TOP BAR BEEKS!** There has been a beekeepers' club formed in the Colorado Springs area for Top Bar folks. It's called the "Pikes Peak Top Bar Beekeepers Club" and can be found on Facebook. You can also contact them by email at [PPTBBC@Outlook.com](mailto:PPTBBC@Outlook.com) or by phone at (719) 237-6282. The focus of the club is to help the urban homesteaders with hands on training and assistance for the success and management of Top Bar hives.

**PUEBLO BEEKS!** Pueblo beekeepers have their own bee club! The Pueblo County Beekeepers Association has a Facebook page and all their officers are listed there. The main point of contact is their president L. Scott Stevenson, who can be reached at 719-315-5473 or e-mail [stevensonlscott@gmail.com](mailto:stevensonlscott@gmail.com).

**WATCH WHERE YOU ARE GETTING YOUR BEES AND QUEENS FROM!!** PPBA members - just a reminder: please use caution when ordering queens and bees ... please ensure they are NOT from the southern tier of states (including Texas, southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Florida). There have been reports of "hot" queens (Africanized) coming out of those states. As one queen producer states on their web-site: "Inter-breeding with feral Africanized bees does undoubtedly continue but we take measures to minimize their influence." They try to make sure their mating yards are primarily "safe" drones, but as you can imagine, there's no guarantee that Africanized drones are not present and are not mating with their queens. We want to prevent importing any Africanized bees into Colorado. **Be sure you know where your bee supplier is getting those bees from!!**



**HOSTING BEEHIVES!** If you want to put a hive on someone's property – we have people who want bees but don't want to be the beekeeper! Some are in town (Colorado Springs) and some are east. Contact Mike or Sandy at [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net) for more info!

**INTEGRATED HIVE MANAGEMENT FOR COLORADO BEEKEEPERS.** This booklet is published by Colorado State University and just become available on-line! The sub-title is "Strategies for Identifying and Mitigating Pests and Diseases Affecting Colorado's Honey Bees" and it covers everything from mice to mites! Check it out on this link. BTW - We also have two hardcopies in the PPBA library for check-out.  
<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/Pollinator%20Protection/CSUBeeBookInteractive%20Adobe.pdf>

**DRIFTWATCH:** FYI, there's a web-site out there called Driftwatch.org. According to their web-site: "DriftWatch™ is a tool for identifying specialty crop sites and to further enhance communications between producers of specialty crops and pesticide applicators that promote awareness and stewardship activities to help prevent and manage drift effects that sometimes occur from spray operations." You can register your beehive location and they will notify you before any pesticides are applied (in rural areas; not intended for sites less than ½ acre).



**EXTRACTOR RENTAL:** To rent one of the PPBA extractors (we have four manual extractors and most of the other extractor equipment you'll need), visit [www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org](http://www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org), select the "Extractor Rental Info" tab and follow the instructions there. **Remember, the extractor and equipment will be clean when you pick it up and it will need to be cleaned prior to return or you will forfeit your deposit.** Hot water and soap at the coin operated car wash is the quickest and easiest method for initial cleaning. Then, thoroughly rinse with clean water at home. There's also a link on the web-site to a video about cleaning the extractor.

**PPBA WEB SITE!!** Please visit [www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org](http://www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org) to see our web-site. The web-site features meeting information and calendar, newsletters, and beekeeping links. There's also a page for members to advertise "For Sale" or "Wanted" beekeeping equipment and beekeeping items. If you have a favorite beekeeping link, please let Mike or Sandy know about it so they can include a link from our web-site.



**BEAR DAMAGE!!** If you have bear or wildlife damage to your hive, contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife at [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us) for information about filing a claim.

**PPBA ON FACEBOOK!!** PPBA is also on Facebook! If you're a Facebooker – search Pikes Peak Beekeepers and we should pop up. If not, contact Sandy at [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net) for a direct link. This is a closed group and you must be a member of PPBA to access this FB group.

---



---

**PPBA OFFICERS**

---



---

Office	Name	Tele Number Area Code (719)	E-mail
President	Rebecca Sunderlin	719-382-7287 C: 719-352-8311	rebecca.sunderlin@dhs.gov
Vice President	Steve Hench	719-579-9788	shavanomt@comcast.net
Immediate Past President	Bruno Mattedi	719-687-8792	brunom95_8@msn.com
Secretary	Mike Halby	719-528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Treasurer	Sandy Halby	719-528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Board Members	Barb Harper (elected 2018; serves 2019-2021)	719-201-3577	flyinbarb@aol.com
	Paul Van Stee (appointed Apr 2018, serves 2018-2019)	719-302-4261	paul.ellen@comcast.net
	Mike Daetwyler (elected 2017; serves 2018-2020)	719-594-4990	DaetwylerFamily@gmail.com
Extractor Rental	Chris Gardner	719-633-8633 719-632-9164 719-460-9164	chris@springsdj.com
Bee School Coordinator	Randy Ott	719-598-2560	randall@ott-us.com
Webmasters	Mike & Sandy Halby	719-528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Swarm Coord	Lazarus Fields	765-425-1940	lrf@fieldsofnaturalhoney.com
Meeting Programs	Vacant		
Library	Samantha Stang	719-520-5942	sstang@centurylink.net
County Fair	John Hartley	719-495-1251	beeman20@q.com

---



---

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN – DUES ARE DUE!**

---



---

**PPBA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019!** PPBA annual dues are \$15.00 per family (non-prorated, payable by cash or check by March 31st each year). Please give Sandy your dues at the January meeting or mail them to her at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

---



---

**BEES IN THE NEWS**

---



---

Here's some links to articles about beekeeping and the Australian fires.

This is a short article about the fires -

<https://www.beeeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-aussie-fires-destroy-bees/>

This article touches on the issues of how long it will take to recover the flora (and especially manuka):

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-20/beekeepers-traumatised-by-screaming-animals-after-bushfires/11721756>

This family saved 3000 hives – their family business – but risked their lives to do so ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2020/01/07/bee-hives-saved-injured-wildlife-bushfires/>

---

---

## **2020 Wyoming Bee College Information**

---

---

### 2020 WYOMING BEE COLLEGE

Wyoming Bee College

Location: Cheyenne, WY

Dates: March 20, 21 & 22

#### Wyoming Bee College Pre-Conference Workshop

- Friday – March 20, 2020
  - Offering a choice of four educational options. You can expand on your current beekeeping skills with the “the hive as a medicine chest”, Apitherapy, two different approaches to “Advancing your Beekeeping skills” and Phil Craft on Better Beekeeper.
  - Cost of the workshop by itself is \$125/person.

#### The Wyoming Bee College

- Saturday – March 21 and Sunday – March 22, 2020
  - Open to everyone interested in bees, beekeeping or gardening for bees. We are pleased to offer two great keynote speakers to keep you inspired with bees and beekeeping! The Bee College offers five (5) tracks on day one including beginner basic beekeeping and four (4) tracks on the second day, in addition to 2 keynote speakers. Speaker line-up, Phil Craft (of Ask Phil), Dr. Jamie Ellis, Scott Debnam, Reyah Carlson and many more.
  - The cost of the conference is still \$85/person and includes, lunches, snacks, coffee and tea.

#### Package Deal and Bee Buddies

- You can sign up for a package deal of both workshop and main conference for \$195/person.
- Bee Buddies, kids 7-15, are free with a paying adult.

Visit: [www. http://wyomingbeecollege.org/](http://wyomingbeecollege.org/) or simply google “Wyoming bee college”

For more information contact Catherine at [cwissner@uwyo.edu](mailto:cwissner@uwyo.edu)

---

---

## **PIKES PEAK BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

---

---

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual dues - \$15** (Please make check payable to: Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association.)

Mail to: Sandy Halby, PPBA Treasurer  
6066 Del Rey Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1758

Phone: 719-528-5483  
e-mail: [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net)



## Announcing the 2020 Beekeepers School

hosted by the

**Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association**

[www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org](http://www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org)

This two-day course covers all aspects of beekeeping in the Pikes Peak region. You will learn how to acquire bees and the necessary equipment to keep them. Bee biology and the skills to manage your bees through the four seasons, including disease management, will be covered. We will also demonstrate equipment assembly and honey extraction. All lectures are presented by local beekeepers with years of collective knowledge.

Whether you are interested in keeping your own colonies, or simply wanting to know more about these fascinating and necessary creatures and their wonderful product - honey - this easy-to-follow course will open a new door into the natural world for you.

**When:** We have two different weekends for you to choose from:  
March 7-8 or March 14-15 (Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis)  
Class times: Saturday, 8am until 4:30pm and Sunday, 8:30am until approx 4pm

**Where:** El Paso County Transportation Center  
3275 Akers Drive (near North Carefree and Marksheffel Road)  
Colorado Springs, CO 80922

**Cost:** \$65.00 per person via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-pikes-peak-beekeepers-bee-school-tickets-88302654617>

(If you cannot use Eventbrite or have trouble with this link, please contact Sandy Halby directly.)

Includes the book First Lessons in Beekeeping (or equivalent)

- For first-time Bee School students only - an additional \$10 buys one year of PPBA membership; a savings of 33% over regular membership price.  
NOTE: Our membership is by FAMILY or ADDRESS - not individual! If you are a couple or family attending Bee School, please only purchase one membership!
- No children under 12 years old, please. Also, children 12-16 years old will be not allowed to attend Bee School unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Questions: Contact Mike or Sandy Halby  
Phone (719) 528-5483 or e-mail to: [mandshalby@comcast.net](mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net)

**Reigster early - there is limited seating**