

# **HONEY GUIDES**

The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association

www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org

January 2024

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION



The PPBA meets from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm on the third Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October. We are looking for a permanent location for our meeting but in the meantime, please be aware that the meeting locations may change from meeting to meeting.

The January 2024 meeting will be at the Gold Hills Police Station, 955 West Moreno Avenue in Colorado Springs, in their Community Room, just inside the entry Doors of the building.

The first half hour (6:30-7:00) of the PPBA General Membership meetings is 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.

### Thursday, January 18th, 6:30pm: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The speaker at our January meeting will be fellow beekeeper Scott Tanner, who will be talking about mentoring.

The January General Membership Meeting is also the Election of Officers. See below.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It is time for our annual elections, which were postponed from the October meeting. The offices to be voted on are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Board Member position. Note: Mike Halby and Sandy Halby will not be running for President and Secretary as they are stepping down from those positions.

Please consider running for office or Board Member. If you are interested in running, please contact Sandy Halby, current PPBA Secretary, at <a href="mailto:mandshalby@comcast.net">mandshalby@comcast.net</a> or call 719-528-5483 by 8pm on January 17<sup>th</sup> or announce your intention at the meeting on January 18th.

#### 2024 MEETING AND EVENT DATES



January 18th	General Membership Meeting
March 16th - 17th	PPBA Bee School
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	General Membership Meeting





















#### IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - DUES ARE DUE!

**PPBA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2024!** PPBA annual dues are \$15.00 per family (non-prorated, payable by cash or check by March 31st each year). Please send Sandy your dues by mailing them to her at the address on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any question as to whether your dues are due, contact Sandy.

## HELP OUT PPBA - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

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

**MENTORING!!** We need mentors! 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!

**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.

#### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

**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 out east of Colorado Springs. Contact Sandy at mandshalby@comcast.net for more info!



**PPBA ON FACEBOOK!** PPBA is on Facebook! If you're a Facebooker – search Pikes Peak Beekeepers and we should pop up. This is a not closed group and you do NOT have to be a member of PPBA to belong to this FB group. Membership is limited, however, to beekeepers, interest in beekeeping and Front Range.

**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 website: "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 <u>any</u> Africanized bees into Colorado. **Be sure you know where your bee supplier is getting those bees from!!** 

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. Here's the direct link to the updated version of the booklet: <a href="CO-IHM-Book-for-Print-2020.pdf">CO-IHM-Book-for-Print-2020.pdf</a> (colostate.edu)



**BEAR DAMAGE!!** If you have bear or wildlife damage to your hive, contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife at Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Game Damage (state.co.us) for information about filing a claim.

**DRIFTWATCH:** FYI, there's a website out there called Driftwatch.org. According to their website: "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 three manual extractors and most of the other extractor equipment you'll need), visit <a href="www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org">www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org</a>, 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 website to a video about cleaning the extractor.



**PPBA WEB SITE!!** Please visit <a href="www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org">www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org</a> to see our website. 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 website.

#### PPBA OFFICERS

Office	Name	Tele Number Area Code (719)	E-mail
President	Mike Halby	719-528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Vice President	Dave Stang	719-520-5942	dstang@centurylink.net
Past President	Bruno Mattedi	719-687-8792	brunom95_8@msn.com
Secretary	Sandy Halby	719-528-5483	mandshalby@comcast.net
Treasurer	Ione Friedly	719-332-2884	drjandifriedly@sprintmail.com
Board Members	Amy Ogden (elected 2023; serves 2023 to complete Engelhardt's term)	970-371-8755	amyogden90@gmail.com
	Barb Harper (elected 2022; serves 2022 – 2024)	719-201-3577	flyinbarb@aol.com
	Mike Daetwyler (elected 2023; serves 2023 – 2025)	719-594-4990	DaetwylerFamily@gmail.com
Extractor Rental	Tim Urbany	719-963-8892 719-360-2495	tjudtb@gmail.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	ltf@fieldsofnaturalhoney.com
Meeting Programs	Rob Dalzell	719-332-8176	rdalzell55@gmail.com
Library	Samantha Stang	719-520-5942	sstang@centurylink.net

#### **BEES ON THE INTERNET**

Here's some links to websites that contain information or entertainment about bees, beekeeping, and honey. There are more links on our own webpage, <a href="https://www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org">www.pikespeakbeekeepers.org</a>



Colorado State Beekeepers Assn (CSBA): www.coloradobeekeepers.org

Colorado Professional Beekeeping Association (CPBA): www.coloradoprobeekeeping.org

The National Honey Board: <a href="http://www.honey.com">http://www.honey.com</a>

#### **BEES ON THE INTERNET (continued)**

The Honey Locator: www.honeylocator.com. The Honey Locator is a service provided by the National Honey Board. It's a database-driven Web site which allows you to search for honey and honey suppliers in many different ways.

Bee Culture magazine is at <a href="https://www.beeculture.com">www.beeculture.com</a> and Bee Journal magazine is: <a href="https://www.dadant.com/journal">www.dadant.com/journal</a>

University of Minnesota Bee Lab: https://www.beelab.umn.edu/ Dr. Marla Spivak and Gary Reuter have a great website, full of super links, on-line courses and information.

Randy Oliver's website is: www.scientificbeekeeping.com

And general information for beekeepers is: www.beesource.com





















#### **BEES IN THE NEWS**

Jan 4, 2024: Why are bees making less honey? Study reveals clues from five decades of data (phys.org)

Jan 4, 2024: New York Enacts Nation-Leading Law to Protect Bees, Birds, and People (nrdc.org)

Oct 18, 2023: Bees can now get their hives renovated — and it could save their lives | CBC News

Pollinator Week 2024: Pollinator Week | Pollinator.org

#### 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.)

Sandy Halby, PPBA Treasurer Mail to: Phone: 719-528-5483

6066 Del Rey Drive e-mail: mandshalby@comcast.net Colorado Springs, CO 80918-1758

























## Announcing the 2024 Beekeepers School

## hosted by the

# Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association 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: March 16 - 17 (Class will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis)

Class times: Saturday, 8:30am until 3:45pm and Sunday, 8:30am until approx 3:45pm

Where: Bear Creek Nature Center

245 Bear Creek Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80922

Cost: \$65.00 per person via Eventbrite:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-ppba-beekeeping-class-tickets-786565868687?aff=oddtdtcreator

(If you cannot use Eventbrite or have trouble with this link, please contact Randy Ott 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 Randy Ott

Phone 719-337-4839, or e-mail to: Randall@ott-US.com or BeeClass@ott-US.com

#### Register early - there is limited seating!

Note: PPBA reserves the right to cancel as necessary due to unavoidable circumstances, such as weather, Covid-19 restrictions, or facility unavailability. If circumstances arise and PPBA cancels Bee School, full class tuition (\$65 per person) will be refunded.