



# Partners for Sustainable Pollination

*Have a Bee Well Day!*

## Bee Day

*Tony Wasowicz, Vineyard Biologist  
Michel-Schlumberger Estate*

**IT WAS A GREAT DAY TO CELEBRATE BEES.** On May 7 I was very pleased to host Bee Day at Schlumberger, our annual fundraising event for PFSP held in the stunningly beautiful gardens of Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate in Dry Creek Valley.

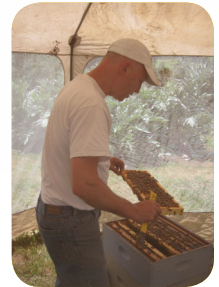


Our winery has been a PFSP member and certified Bee Friendly Farm for just over a year. The goals of PFSP are a perfect fit with our model of organic and sustainable farming. Bees, both honeybees and natives, are vital for pollination of our

vineyard cover crops which, in turn, provide habitat and forage for beneficial insects. These “good bugs” do the lion’s share of pest management for us. We never spray our vineyards with pesticides or herbicides, organic or not, because we don’t need to. And that’s just one reason we decided to celebrate bees.

Participants of Bee Day were treated to an afternoon of Bee and Veggie Garden tours, an observation hive, honeybee products, native bee displays, crafts and art, and a special honey extraction demonstration with Doug Vincent, owner of Beekind in Sebastopol. Completely safe outside a bee observation tent, guests sipped wine and marveled as

Doug performed a hive inspection, removed honey-laden frames and extracted and jarred the golden goodness -- the whole process from hive to jar! The afternoon concluded with short talks from some of the best and brightest in the bee biz. Speakers included April Lance, a good friend and experienced local beekeeper; Frederique Lavoipierre, director of Entomology Education and Outreach at Sonoma State University; Doug Vincent, PFSP Board of Director; and Kathy Kellison, Executive Director of PFSP.



In a single afternoon we were able to raise some seriously needed funds for PFSP, as well as educate and enlighten a lot of people —some of which will hopefully become the next generation of beekeepers and advocates. But there’s still tons to be done. And I’m already looking forward to an even bigger and better Bee Day in 2012!

Huge thanks to all the Bee Day participants and volunteers. And, of course, thanks to the bees! 🐝

### Bee Brief

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# Bee Friendly Farming

submitted by Darci Sanner

Working to preserve and improve our earth is my motivation for becoming a beekeeper.

**HELLO! MY NAME IS DARCI SANNER.** I am a local beekeeper from Johnstown, PA and founder of Summer Smiles Honey. Summer Smiles Honey produces handcrafted ecofriendly products such as cold processed soaps, lip balms, salves, candles, and furniture polish. My mission is to provide you with 100% pure and natural beeswax and honey products made with premium ingredients. The handcrafted goods are made in small batches with ingredients you are familiar with and absolutely trust. My products are eco-friendly as the base ingredient, beeswax, is a locally harvested, renewable resource. Working to preserve and improve our earth is my motivation for becoming a beekeeper.

On Monday, March 14th I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Westmont Garden Club's monthly meeting. My goal was to get across how valuable the honey bee and other natural pollinators are and to show the group how important it is for everyone to do their part in providing bee forage in late winter/early spring and in the late fall, among many other important tips, and about being and becoming a "Bee-Friendly Farmer." I provided to the group, which consisted of around 75 women, three pieces of literature, which was graciously donated to me by Kathy. The "Bee Friendly Farming Initiative, the "10 Tips for Caring Growers," and the bookmark/ruler that shows the different pollinators were extremely helpful in getting my points across.

This was my first presentation of that capacity, but your resources helped to make it a huge success! After the presentation, many members of the group complimented the information given to them.



Darci Sanner at Westmont Garden Club



My goal is to do much more of educational speaking about the honey bee, pollinating, and "Bee Friendly Farming." I plan to always provide your literature, it is perfect for events like this.

I also do craft shows and have my products for sale at local businesses and I have the same literature with all of my products and a set of each goes to each customer who purchases my products and they get passed out to those just browsing. 🐝

[WWW.SUMMERSMILESHONEY.INFO](http://WWW.SUMMERSMILESHONEY.INFO)

# NEO Honeybee Conference

*Karin Wishner, GCBA trustee*

**MONTHS AGO, I TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE** of becoming Conference Coordinator. I look back on the months of planning and the meetings that went into what culminated as the first Northeast Ohio Honeybee Conference. Despite some difficulties and setbacks, the outcome was a dream come true.

Thank you for all those who attended the conference. There were 133 of you. You came from parts in and around Greater Cleveland: inner city, Euclid, North Olmsted, Wickliffe, Hunting Valley, Chagrin Falls, Medina, Akron, and from other parts of Ohio: Doylestown, Homeworth, Kirtland, Oberlin, Newbury, Novelty, Wellington, and Strasburg. We even had an attendee from Grosse Pointe Woods, MI! There was a good mix of experienced beekeepers, new beekeepers, and people just interested in learning more about honeybees.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Seeley, was stellar. The room was packed with those waiting to hear about his research for the book *Honeybee Democracy*. We were all fascinated as we listened. Dr. Seeley's presentation was punctuated with humor and laughter, making it all the more memorable.

Our presenters spoke on a wide range of topics. There was something of interest to all, regardless of level of experience with beekeeping. Some attended bee yard activities to get first hand experience with honeybee colonies.

Our vendors: QRC, Honeybee Treasures, Connie Williams, Karen Rodecky, Ohio Farm Bureau, Earthday Coalition, Hive and Coop, and A.I. Root offered a wide variety of items.

Ray Wirt, raffle winner, returned home with a new honeybee colony.



There is a long list of people who offered their time, treasure, and talent to making this event successful. Thanks to Dr. David Krueger and Dr. Michael Melampy from Baldwin Wallace College for offering the use of the building. Thanks to the Fairgrounds for letting us use the bee yard. Thanks to Debbi Snook of the Plain Dealer for the beautiful article on honeybees and her support of the conference. Thanks to Tom Livingston of Channel 5 for his reporting of honeybees and for announcing the conference. I am grateful to the Ohio Farm Bureau for their support. GCBA board members and association members as well as members from other beekeeping associations helped this effort. The list is too long to mention all names, but please know that I appreciate everyone's assistance.

Finally, special thanks go to Kim Flottum and Kathy Summers of Bee Culture and Denzil and Sheila St. Clair of Queen Right Colonies. They have spent decades promoting beekeeping and gave tremendous support to this event in particular. They have been an inspiration to me for many years. 🐝

# PFSP Member Spotlight

by Alice Ford-Sala

**WE REALLY TREASURE OUR MEMBERS.** They are all enthusiastic about bees and other pollinators, and are often active in other exciting areas. Our member featured in this newsletter is Linda McKittrick, from Tucson Arizona. She and her husband Charles DeConcini have been raising bees with all the challenges and rewards that go with that endeavor in the desert. The challenges include Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) and the long hot summers. She is also a member and supporter of Native Seeds Search, which has done much



Linda with a new package of bees.



Linda and Charles are in the middle, they are helping some new beekeepers, their mentor is on the left.

The other thing I love both about bees and seeds is that you cannot plant them nor reap their harvest, without connecting/impacting to so many other parts of life :... the environment, health, our food heritages, local food movements, food politics (GMO ETC)... I also LOVE that both Bees and Seeds are like tiny time machines that connect us our present to the past and future..."

Linda has also worked with La Pilita Museum a small museum that "has collected more than 150 oral histories of the folks who lived in the barrio in which it resides (the site itself was the original Water Spring (and later Well) where people would walk for water, I believe back as far at Hohokam Indian days. The museum seeks to keep alive the cultural heritages of the Mexican, Native, Chinese and Anglo folks who settled there. It also has a Children's Docents program for which it received a Coming Up Taller Award for after school programs from the President's Committee on Arts And Humanities. "

She and Charles have a cattle ranch in Northern Mexico where they run beef cattle, she is a quilter extraordinaire, chicken farmer and cooking teacher. We are proud to have her as one of our extraordinary members! 🐝

to bring back Native plants of the American Southwest and Northwestern Mexico.  
<http://www.nativeseeds.org/>

"I guess my interest/work there (ed: Native Seeds Search) shares a common theme with bees, as a passion for encouraging Diversity. It is one reason why I keep both top bar and Langstroth hives (bee-keeping diversity; top bars are a great way to manage AHB's), and why I collect yucca stalks in the fall for larger solitary bees to overwinter, and other habitats for native bees, when possible. We sowed our love of both bee and seed diversity directly into our garden, where we created a bee friendly garden primarily from desert adapted plants and trees.

**Join : Volunteer : Help :**

Visit [www.pfspbees.org](http://www.pfspbees.org) for information

**Contact the Director :**

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