

Happy New Year. I hope all of you had a joyous holiday season. This email will serve as our January 2013 “no frills” Newsletter.

Our first priority for the new year is membership dues. These are due to the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) on January 1. So if you have not sent your check to Roman yet please do so today. As indicated in the 1/3/13 email, **\$20 checks should be made out to SCBA and mailed to Roman Osadca, 10 Old Stage Rd, Newton NJ 07860.** Checks may be submitted at the January 19, 2013 meeting. Please remember that members may not be eligible to vote in the NJBA elections on February 23, 2013 if their dues are not paid or were not submitted on time. Also, members may be dropped from the NJBA Newsletter mailing list as well as other lists such as the swarm collection contact list on the State web site if their dues were not submitted on time.

The 2013 SCBA calendar is filling up quickly. **Below is an updated calendar for the first quarter.**

January:

- The first meeting of 2013 is on January 19th at 11am at the Sussex County Fairgrounds Administration Building. We will have a brief business meeting followed by a presentation on “The Business Side of Honey” by Joe Lelinho of Hilltop Honey, Bee Bold Apiaries and past President of the Essex Branch.

February:

- Feb 23, 2013 - NJBA Winter meeting, Annual Honey Show and Officer elections. There are some timely topics on the meeting agenda that should be of interest to many of us. If you did not receive the email announcement with the agenda & directions let me know & I will forward it to you.
- SCBA 2.16.13 meeting – **canceled**. This meeting was scheduled for President's weekend and I suspect many members will have other plans for the Holiday weekend. Also the the NJBA meeting / honey show & elections are the following weekend and I am encouraging all our members to make an effort to attend this meeting.

March:

- March 9 and 16, 2013, SCBA Beekeeping Short Course. “Rain” date March 23, 2013. No general meeting this month. If anyone interested in helping with the short course please let me know.

Our State Apiarist, Tim Schuler is traveling to Malawi Africa as part of a team of Veterinarians and Agriculture experts. Malawi is the forth poorest nation in the world and the teams goal is “improving agricultural animal health and vitality” and “teaching and setting up sustainable food sources”. For more information on his trip and how you can help please see the copies of Tim's emails included below.

I hope to see you all on Saturday. Debbie Cowell, SCBA President

Friends and family,

Here is a video my team members and I had done to tell you about the purpose for our trip to Malawi Africa To help substance farmers with food production. I think you will like it.

<http://www.indiegogo.com/vets-to-malawi/x/1900494?c=home>

Tim Schuler

Dear Friends and Family,

I have been asked by a beekeeping student and the organization, Villages in Partnership (www.villagesinpartnership.org), to be part of a team of highly specialized Veterinarians and Agriculture experts from New Jersey, to travel to Malawi Africa this spring, with the goal of improving agricultural animal health and vitality in the fourth poorest nation in the world. For those of you who don't know anything about Malawi, it is a country of extreme poverty and famine. Malawi has been decimated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and there are virtually no middle aged people living in this country. Most of the households are led by children or grandparents caring for up to nine children each. The months from April through October are known as the hungry season, when rain is scarce and crop farming impossible. While Malawi is a peaceful nation, it is surrounded by other African countries at war and this along with no coastline, limits its ability to receive supplies. We are commissioned with teaching and setting up sustainable food sources for the people in the villages there, including dairy goat and cow farming and breeding, poultry science, bee keeping and aquaculture. For the next five years, our group will make an annual voyage to Malawi to help prepare for the hungry season by maximizing agricultural animal yield including animal byproducts (honey and beeswax), dairy (milk and eggs) and protein (fish, chicken and goat). Our initial trip will be March 1-9, 2013 this year!!

Our team will consist of 4 members. Three of the team members are Veterinarians. They are specialists in Poultry, Large and small animal

medicine. As some of you know I was an Animal Health Technician for 20 years. I will be able to assist them as needed but the main focus of my part in this trip is my beekeeping expertise. I will be evaluating and teaching basic Honey bee management in Malawi. I will be teaching how to split colonies to make increases, and trying to develop sustainable methods for honey harvesting. I will also be trying to understand the times of surplus honey flow and the times of nectar dearth. Knowing these times will help beekeepers to maximize their production by managing their colonies efficiently. Some of my work will be to train the trainer. That is to train beekeepers who will invest in other prospective beekeepers to help them get started.

In order for our trip to be successful we hope to raise \$45,000 to cover the supply costs necessary to perform this life saving work. These supplies include bee hives, bees, beekeeping equipment, veterinary medical supplies, chickens, goats, dairy cows, and pigs. Our deadline for raising the necessary funds is December 31, 2012 (this month!). We are hoping for the support of our industry colleagues, friends, and family to help us reach our goal. If you cannot support us financially, I do understand the tough economic times we all face, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as your emotional and spiritual support is just as important.

If you would like to partner with this effort financially you can visit this website and make your contribution. www.indiegogo.com/vets-to-Malawi here you can earmark your contribution to Beekeeping training center (\$20), 2 chickens (\$25) or as large as a set of beehives for an entire community

(\$1500). Your donation is 100% tax deductible, and donations can be gifted to anyone on your Holiday gift list! The cost of our travel has already been covered by one generous donor, so 97% of your donation will go directly to the people of Malawi.

Join our village to help save another. Please spread the word about our trip to your friends, family, classmates, business associates, and colleagues.

May God bless you all in the coming year

Tim

Tim Schuler