

A Message from your exiting President - It is Supercedure time!

Dear HABA Members,

I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your involvement with the Holland Area Beekeepers Association. Whether you attend every meeting and volunteer for our events, or you simply keep up with our news via our website and/or social media venues, we are indeed fortunate to have such a strong community brought together by our shared passion for the honey bee.

As you may know, my duties as club president are coming to an end. In January, at the winter banquet, you will be electing a new President along with a new Secretary and 3 board members at large. This election is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and ensure the club continues to work toward its mission to promote honey bee health and good beekeeping practices in the region.

Did you read the article titled “What makes a good bee club leader” by Michele Colopy in the November issue of the American Bee Journal? In this article, Colopy states: “Leaders do not simply appear... An announcement at the beginning of a club business meeting is an ineffective method to secure new board members... Recruiting new leaders means engaging in conversations with a prospective recruit for the board, acknowledging their contributions to the beekeeping association, and recognizing their skills and expertise” (Colopy, 2017). Well, we made the announcements at the last few meetings and we could do a better job at engaging in the discussions.

The HABA colony

Let us imagine that each of us is a honey bee. Depending on the time of the year, the environmental conditions, the status of the brood's nest, the needs in the hive and the population of adult bees, each individual bee may be called to perform different duties. In the end, adult honey bees will fulfill different roles, from cleaners to nurse bees, from guard bees to receivers & foragers and everyone takes on the needed tasks to eventually contribute approximately an 1/8 of a tsp. of honey for the survival of the colony. Of course, this survival is also ensured by a healthy, strong and young queen. HABA, the colony, is in Supercedure and will soon have a new ‘queen’. Who will be the new HABA ‘queen’? And who will be her retinue?

I would encourage any and every one of you to get involved. Maybe you have an idea? A talent or a skill? Maybe you just want to lend a helping hand but you are unsure how you could contribute? Please reach out to one of us and let us have these discussions. Next week's Holiday Celebration will be a wonderful occasion to chat... we hope to see many of you there.

Anne Marie Fauvel
HABA President - aka an old ‘queen’

