

October 2017

Volume 6, Issue 2



Hawai'i Apiary Program



Please take our [Hawai'i Beekeeper Survey](https://ehdoa.hawaii.gov/s/hawaii-beekeeper-survey)!



A hui hou, Lauren! Mahalo for your service.



Come taste the rainbow of honey at the Hawai'i Honey Challenge People's Choice public tasting Nov. 3!

Hawai'i Apiary Program

16 E. Lanikaula Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Noe: (808) 339-1977

Mitra: (808) 225-6334

Hilo Office: (808) 974-4138

ehdoa.hawaii.gov/bees

Facebook: Hawaii Bee



Mitra, Lauren, and Noe in the field.

As many of you know, Lauren Rusert, recently left the Apiary Program in July to pursue her graduate degree in Apiculture on the mainland. Lauren served the state of Hawaii with the Apiary Program for the last 6 years as an Apiary Technician, Entomologist, and most recently the Apiary Section Chief, for the last year and a half. She truly loved her work with Hawai'i's bees and greatly contributed her expertise and passion to our team. She will be sorely missed! For the time being, Noelani Waters and Mitra Heffron will make up the whole of the Ha-

waii Apiary Program until we are re-staffed. Just like the bees, our busy work does not stop, so we continue to strive to provide the best service and technical advice possible to support the industry of beekeeping in Hawai'i. As we stand at these crossroads we are taking this opportunity to re-examine our work and main functions. **We want to hear from you! We have just launched a Hawaii Beekeeper Survey that seeks YOUR feedback about our program so that we can**

understand how to better serve you.

Any beekeeper, big or small, registered or unregistered, commercial or hobbyist, is encouraged to take this brief survey and contribute your opinions and comments anonymously.

This survey will be LIVE from October 3 to November 3, 2017. Please follow this link to participate: <https://ehdoa.hawaii.gov/s/hawaii-beekeeper-survey>

We greatly appreciate your feedback! Mahalo nui loa!

Buzzzzz-worthy fall news

8th Annual Hawaiian Natural Honey Challenge 2017!

All submissions must be received by October 6, 2017. Each entry is \$10 and requires an entry form. Go to <https://www.hawaiianhoneychallenge.com/> for more information.

The People's Choice taste testing for this year's challenge will be conducted at Downtown Hilo's Black & White Night Event on Friday, November 3, 2017 at the Mokuapapa Discovery Center, second floor, 76 Kamehameha Ave, Hilo between 6:30pm and 8:00pm. This is a free public event, all are welcome!

Both the People's Choice and formal judging evaluations will be done "blind," in that the entries will only be identified by a number assigned by the committee at the time of judging.

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) conference to be held in Reno, Nevada Jan 9-13, 2018:

The ABF conference is the largest meeting of beekeepers, producers, researchers, and educators in the US! It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about all things honey bees, from the latest research to most current best management practices. Please go to

<http://abfconference.com/> for all the details!

UH Manoa Honey Bee Project to conduct the National Honey Bee Survey 2017-2018:

The Hawaii Apiary Program has conducted the NHBS for Hawaii for the last 6 years, but this year UH Manoa will be taking the reigns and doing all the sampling for this year's survey. If you have over 8 colonies and are interested in participating, please contact [Scott Nikaido](mailto:Scott.Nikaido@hawaii.edu) for more information.

Hawaii's first AZ Slovenian bee hives



An entrance to one of the AZ hives.

Over 100 years ago, A Slovenian beekeeper named Anton Žnideršič designed a hive body and bee house that is now widely used in Slovenia for keeping bees. This style of beekeeping is now spreading to other corners of the globe because of it's smart, low-impact, and ergonomic design. Alicia Wills of Hakalau, on the Big Island, is the first beekeeper in Hawai'i to keep bees in this style of bee house.

is the only bee allowed to be cultivated in the country of Slovenia.

The design of an AZ hive is modeled, in part, after the Langstroth boxes designed in 1852 that many of us are familiar with. The difference is that the AZ hives are stacked side by side and on top of one another in a bee house trailer so that the hives can be moved easily to and from pollination sites with minimal stress on the bees. This design also does not require any heavy lifting as all hives are accessed by walking inside the bee house and opening colonies from the back. Bees enter and exit their colony through the hive opening on the outside wall of the bee

house. Each hive stack is traditionally painted with a distinct and colorful design so that the bees can orient back to their specific colony when returning home.

The book [A-Z Beekeeping with the Slovenian Hive](#) is a useful resource if you are interested in learning more.

Alicia Wills has been keeping bees for about one year and is a very passionate advocate for honey bees. She has worked hard in this short time to grow her hives to over 40 colonies and has begun rearing and inseminating queens. If you would like to be put in contact with Alicia directly to ask further questions, please contact [Noe](#).

Slovenia is a country in central Europe that has a rich history of beekeeping as a revered traditional agricultural craft since the 6th century. This is the native region of the Carniolan bee, and as such, it

Integrated Pest Management for Honey Bee Colonies

We wanted to share this helpful diagram with our fellow beekeepers on integrated pest management (IPM) tactics. It provides good, practical guidelines for managing our colonies using IPM. Starting at the wide base of the pyramid is cultural controls (such as good sanitation and comb culling), moving to physical-mechanical controls (like using screen bottom boards, beetle traps/towels), graduating to biological controls (bio-pesticides), and lastly chemical controls (conventional pesticides) as a last resort at the point of the pyramid. The shape of this diagram indicates what measures

should be favored first to increase prevention and decrease intervention, moving from the bottom to the top.

IPM is a practice that promotes knowing your baseline levels and current status of pests and diseases that may be affecting your colonies so that you can respond appropriately and effectively to minimize negative impacts. We recommend doing this through regular monitoring in your apiary. For Varroa mites we advise monitoring mite levels every three months using an alcohol-wash method. This method is the most effective way to get an accurate mite count. For locally

designed and 3-D printed mite shakers, visit [jarfilter.com](#).

The [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) has a free comprehensive [varroa resource PDF](#) and accompanying videos outlining each technique aimed at preventing and treating for Varroa mites in your bee hives using IPM. Be sure to take a look and read through it when you can!

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions, or if you need hive side assistance or demonstrations in these techniques. We can schedule a complimentary apiary visit with you.



Hawai'i's first AZ bee house!



An inside look at Alicia's AZ bee house.



Alicia Wills tending her bees.

