

# Bees

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two parts granulated sugar dissolved in one part hot water.

The bees are now very tuned into any potential source of food, and any drops of honey spilled outside are quickly found and taken back to the hive.

I recall one day some years ago, while I was away on a business trip, my wife, Anne, had noticed that my bees were very busy flying to and from the hives.

“That’s nice,” she thought, “Peter will be pleased”.

As hours passed, the bees seemed busier and busier. Then, at about 5 p.m., Anne happened to pass the door leading from the house to the garage and heard what she took to be some machine left switched on in the garage. Assuming my son Christopher had left something on in there, she instructed him to go turn off whatever it was he left running in the garage and come set the table for dinner.

Confused, Chris dutifully went to the garage. What he saw would have given Stephen King great mate-

rial for a book! “OK Mum,” Chris said “Don’t freak out.”

“Why?” asked Anne ominously.

Chris replied, “That noise is bees!”

Now, dear reader, let me explain. The day before I left on the business trip, I had removed two full supers of honey (about 80 pounds) and these were “safely” stored in the garage. The rule of the house is ALWAYS close the garage doors, as there is often honey in the garage. Now, being the first week of October and the bees were searching for food anywhere, this was a very bad day for the kids to leave the back pedestrian door to the garage open. The bees found the honey and soon returned with reinforcements. Some tried to return to their hive via the windows where they encountered the glass and buzzed and bumped and soon were joined by more confused bees, then more, then more. You get the picture. By the time hours had passed, well over a hundred thousand bees from my six hives virtually covered all six windows.

With hindsight, it was probably good that I was overseas for the rest of the week! Fortunately, Harold Swan, my bee-

keeping friend, mentor and business partner was able to advise Anne to open the garage doors till the evening. While this may sound counterintuitive, it allowed for most of the bees to find their way out of the garage before nightfall when the doors could be closed. When I returned at the end of the week, I had the job of assisting the stragglers (about 20,000 of them) out of the garage.

Still time to book a spot in one of my beekeeping classes this fall (to avoid all my mistakes!)

Beginners classes at Newport (368-3290) and Ellsworth (664-7110) and Bucksport (469-2129). Intermediate classes in Hampden (862-6422) Bucksport (469-2129) Newport (368-3290) and Ellsworth (664-7110).

Peter Cowin, aka The Bee Whisperer, is president of the Penobscot County Beekeepers Association. His activities include honey production, pollination services, beekeeping lessons, sales of bees and bee equipment and the removal of feral bee hives from homes and other structures. Check out “The Bee Whisperer” on Facebook, email [petercowin@tds.net](mailto:petercowin@tds.net) or call 299-6948.



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## WHAT IS IT?



ROBERT CROUL



Send your answers for this week’s What Is It (above) to: Robert Croul, 1095 North Road, Newburgh, Maine 04444. Readers may respond by email to [recestate@midmaine.com](mailto:recestate@midmaine.com). Be sure to write “What is it?” in the subject line.



In the Sept. 19 Bangor Daily News, What Is It? there were no correct answers. It was a tooth to an old-fashioned hammer mill.

The Bangor Office of RBC Wealth Management is pleased to announce that

## LISA CHERRY

Associate Financial Advisor

has joined the Erhardt Wlodarski Group.

Please join us in welcoming her to our office!

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## Business of the Year 2015



Businesses partnerships are essential to the impact of Aroostook Aspirations Initiatives. As donors, supporters, and industry leaders, businesses enhance our work and shape our future. The Business of the Year Award recognizes a business that reflects the mission and values of Aroostook Aspirations Initiative through their support of our organization, their leadership in the community, and through workforce development.

Congratulations Pineland Farms, Business of the Year 2015!

## Innovative Educator of the Year

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Technological innovation is crucial to building workforce skills and developing connections between students and their community. The Innovative Educator of the Year Award is presented to an educator in Aroostook County and recognizes educators that implement new programs, strategies, techniques and devices within their classroom setting in order to better serve and engage the students.



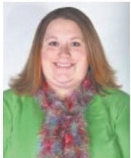
Jennifer Bourassa  
English Teacher  
Presque Isle High School

Congratulations Jennifer Bourassa,  
Innovative Educator of the Year 2015!

## Mentor of the Year Award

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The Mentor of the Year award is presented to an individual or group of individuals that has positively impacted the lives of Aroostook County students. Gauvin Scholars nominate community members, teachers, administration, coaches, friends, or family members that they believe have developed meaningful relationships with the Scholar, their peers, and/or their community.



Amy White  
Business Technology Instructor  
Presque Isle Regional Career and Tech Center

Congratulations Amy White,  
Mentor of the Year 2015!