



2011 WVBA Beekeeper of the Year

Dan O' Hanlon was elected 2011 WVBA Beekeeper of the Year. Dan has worked tirelessly to advance the art of beekeeping not only in the local community but he has done much to help all of those interested in this ageless endeavor. Allow me to list some of his many accomplishments: assisting and advising new members, worked fervently to organize workshops, speakers, vendors, and products to guarantee successful programs, has served several years as secretary/treasurer for his local club, began the Jack Dick Annual Award to recognize a club member each year through the memory of this outstanding beekeeper, began writing the Cabell-Wayne Newsletter known throughout the state, and began Honey Harvest Day to help newcomers not yet set up to process their honey.

Dan's energy and leadership have gone far beyond the local club. On a state level he was instrumental in passage of the immunity law for beekeepers, founded and implemented the West Virginia Queen Producers Program serving as president from its conception, has written grants and acquired funding for its survival, invited the WVBA to have its Spring Meeting for the year 2010 at Heritage Village in the Huntington area, and in 2008 he was instrumental in bringing HAS (Heartland Apiary Society) for the first time ever to our great state. However, after stating all these elements of Dan's service it is important to say that he is first and foremost a beekeeper.