

FEATURED

## Buzzing about bees at the Everhart Museum

BY ROBERT TOMKAVAGE STAFF WRITER  
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From left, Caroline White, 14, Ella White, 9, and their mother, Leah Lind, all of Waverly Twp., are guided through a learning display by Keystone College's Madison Tremmel during Keystone College Beekeeping Program presentation about bees at the Everhart Museum in Scranton, Pa., on Sunday, July 9, 2023.

JAKE DANNA STEVENS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCRANTON — A child considering a career as an apiologist and a woman residing in the Middle East were among the participants in a beekeeping presentation Sunday afternoon at the Everhart Museum.

Ella White of Waverly Twp. attended the event, presented by the Keystone College Environmental Education Institute, to learn more about the winged insects.


"I really like some of the cool things about them," said Ella, 9. "They're really interesting."

Kelley Stewart, director of Keystone's Woodlands Campus, was encouraged by the youths, like Ella, who showed up to discover fun facts about bees.

"We're excited to see young people who are interested in beekeeping," Stewart said. "Beekeepers have aged out and there aren't enough young people going into beekeeping. It's a growing problem; we seriously need people going into beekeeping on a commercial level."

Keystone introduced a free junior beekeeping program to educate students ages 8 to 16 about the basics of the activity, Stewart said. Registration is required at [keystone.edu/project/junior-beekeeping/](https://www.keystone.edu/project/junior-beekeeping/). The group meets on the first Saturday of the month.

Meanwhile, Tziona Ackerman-Rister of Jerusalem, originally of Scranton, stopped by the Everhart with her children, Yishai, 7, and Ziva, 4, and got a taste of her own childhood.

"It's a rainy day so we were looking for something to do," she said. "I remember the bees down in the basement when I was a kid. I was looking for them and they told us they have this exhibit." 

They observed bees in their natural habitat and sampled a sweet treat.

"The honey was really delicious," Ackerman-Rister said.

For Keystone College student Madison Tremmel of Dalton, an appreciation for bees runs in the family.

"My mom really liked bees as pollinators," said Tremmel, 21. "I've kept bees for seven years and have been interested in them for about 10. I had one hive for five years and then they died during the winter. I started taking classes at Keystone to learn what I did wrong, and I kind of just went down the rabbit hole from there."

The beekeeping presentation coincides with an exhibition — Wild Bees: Photographs by Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman — on display at the Everhart through Oct. 1, said Camille Dantone, community and family programs manager.

Recent Keystone College graduate Abby Hayford stressed the importance of bees to the area's ecosystem.

"They're great pollinators — they spread seeds around for so many different plant species and help with plant diversity," said Hayford, of Winooski, Vermont. "Without them we would have no flowers, and without flowers we would have a lot of issues in the agriculture industry."

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