

the Forager



April 2007

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association

Vol.4 No.2

www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

President: Fred Hafer, Vice President: Joe Taylor, Treasurer: Karen Zablocki, Recording Secretary: Laura Davis

Next Meeting: Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00pm

Location: Agricultural Extension Trailer on Holt Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center

Program: Swarms

Presented by: Bob Schwartz



Virginia Beach Spring Craft Market

April 13 - 17, 2007

TBA has been offered a complimentary booth valued at \$700. where we may sell honey and hive products while educating the public about the importance of honeybees. This is an excellent opportunity to create a positive image of bees and emphasize their vital role as pollinators. We will be located in the guild section where we plan to offer educational demonstrations in the craft of rolled beeswax candles.

Carol Watkins will be coordinating volunteers. Please call her with the day and time that you can help staff the booth. If you have products to sell, please let Carol know that also. You can reach her at 757-563-2275.

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



April

- If you lost colonies over the winter, please fill out the National Bee Loss Survey at www.beesurvey.com where information is being gathered for research into Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).
- **Reverse** upper and lower hive bodies if the queen's laying pattern is all in the upper brood box.
- Remove entrance reducers and mouse guards if large numbers of bees are waiting to enter the hive on warm days.
- You should have your supers on already! A queen excluder may be placed under the first honey super.
- If installing package bees in a hive, DO NOT open the hive for at least five days. After one week, check queen cage & release the queen if the bees have not done so already. Disturb the hive as little as possible during the first two weeks while they settle into their new home with the queen.

VSBA Spring Meeting

*Getting the Most From
Your Hives*



The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their next meeting on April 27 and 28, 2007, at Sandston Memorial Recreation Center in Sandston, VA, just outside Richmond. Topics planned for the meeting include the latest information on Varroa mite control, dealing with Africanized honey bees, facts about the small hive beetle, forming a state-beekeeper relationship, and getting the most for you honey. Details of the meeting are available on the VSBA website: <http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>



Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & International Conference

The American Apitherapy Society's Spring Conference is scheduled for April 26 - 29, 2007 in Raleigh/Durham, NC. Now in its 12th year, the annual apitherapy training focuses on the therapeutic use of products of the beehive, including honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom therapy. One of the most ancient of all healing modalities, apitherapy is gaining increased attention worldwide from medical professionals, academic researchers, and lay practitioners as the efficacy of the hive products and treatments becomes better known. More information and registration is available at their website:

<http://www.apitherapy.org/news.html>

Nominations

Nominations are being taken for all officer positions on the TBA Board. Officers are elected at our May meeting and serve for 12 months beginning in June. If you have someone you would like to nominate, or if you would like to volunteer for a position, please contact Floyd Watkins at 757-563-2275, Rick Fisher at 757-545-5076, or Lin Gornto at 757-588-6017.

Swarm List

Carol Watkins circulated a Swarm List at the last TBA membership meeting. If you would like to receive calls to collect swarms, please phone Carol at 757-563-2275 and indicate to which cities you are willing to travel. Pam Fisher has also compiled a list of beekeepers willing to retrieve swarms which is published on the TBA website. If you would like to be added to that list, e-mail Pam at bgrrl@cox.net with your contact information. Please indicate if you want your telephone number, e-mail address or both published on the web.

Chesapeake Jubilee



The 2007 Chesapeake Jubilee will take place May 17th thru the 20th at Chesapeake City Park in Greenbrier. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, fireworks and crafts. TBA will host a booth under the 4-H tent where members may sell hive products while educating the public about the importance of the honeybee. School groups will tour the exhibits on Friday morning. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the next TBA membership meeting or you may call Pam Fisher at 757-545-5076 or e-mail her at bgrrl@cox.net if you would like to volunteer. Please help if you possibly can.



Pungo Strawberry Festival

The 24th annual Pungo Strawberry Festival will be held May 26th and 27th. TBA members have been asked to man a booth selling hive products and educating the public about honeybees. This is a great opportunity to implement our mission statement to 'preserve, protect and educate'. Carol & Floyd Watkins will be coordinating volunteers. Please let the Watkins know if you can help with the display or if you have honey or hive products to sell. Their phone number is 757-563-2275 or you can e-mail them at beewaspflw@aol.com

Short Course Accolades

The TBA Beekeeping Short Course for Beginners was held March 16th & 17th at Virginia Wesleyan College. Approximately 30 new or potential beekeepers attended and their response was one of resounding approval. "I found the course to be educational, well run and professional yet friendly. It got me excited about starting beekeeping!" stated one participant. Speakers included Dr. Rick Fell, professor of entomology at Virginia Tech, and Keith Tignor, State Apiarist for Virginia, as well as many TBA members. Congratulations to Bob Schwartz and Dan Margolies who organized this event and thank you to the many TBA members whose assistance made it successful.



Local Plant Sales

Pick up some bee-friendly plants at some wallet-friendly prices:

The **Chesapeake Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale** will take place May 4th from 8:00 am to 6:00pm and May 5th from 8:00am to Noon at the Agricultural Trailer located at the intersection of Shea and Holt Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center where we hold our TBA meetings.

Virginia Beach Master Gardeners are having their annual *Plant Sale & Garden Day at the Market* on May 12th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market located at the intersection of Dam Neck & Princess Anne Roads.



Mississippi Splits

C.E. Harris presented our March program, Mississippi Splits, developed from a seminar he attended given by Billy Davis of the Loudoun Beekeepers Association. The Mississippi Split method utilizes specialized screens and adaptor boards to create four nucleus colonies atop a parent hive. C.E. first narrated a PowerPoint presentation and then followed it up with a demonstration using all of the equipment specified in the program. Members received a handout showing the details of the Mississippi Split method as well as construction plans for the equipment. A copy of the handout is available to TBA members on our website. Thank you, C.E., for taking the time to make the equipment and demonstrate to all of us how to make four new colonies and keep the original one too!

White's Welcomes Beekeepers



White's Old Mill Garden Center in Chesapeake held a Spring Celebration on March 31st and April 1st that included a beekeeping display. TBA members answered many questions regarding the plight of the honeybee while educating the public about the importance of bees as pollinators. The question posed by many visitors was "what's happening to all the honeybees?" It was heartening to observe that the public is not only aware of the many problems facing beekeepers; they also share our concerns. Thank you to the TBA members who assisted with the display.

March Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March membership meeting are available to TBA members on our website at:

http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting_minutes.html

U.S. Congress urged to get involved with CCD

On Thursday, March 29, 2007, the House subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture heard from beekeepers, scientists and government officials regarding colony collapse disorder (CCD) identified in 25 states across the country. Scientists told the U.S. Congress that the loss of honeybee colonies for pollination is threatening U.S. food supplies and may lead to reliance on foreign food imports. Possible causes of CCD include mites, pesticides or other environmental toxins, migratory or hive stress that weakens bees' immune systems, and various viruses and bacteria. Beekeepers complained that the basic science of what is happening to the bees isn't being done. Officials with the Department of Agriculture testified that they have collected samples of bees but they don't have the money to process them.



'Plight of Virginia's Beekeepers'

update from Lannie Ballard,
VSBA Legislative Liaison



February 27, 2007

Virginia State Beekeepers Association Members,

I received a call this morning about 11:00 a.m. from Senators Blevins' aide, Karen. Karen called to tell me that the money requested by Senator Blevins' amendment to the budget to support the recommendation in Senate Document 20 was added to the budget and passed in both the House and Senate. The budget will now go to the Governor for his signature. Karen said they are fairly comfortable that the Governor will leave the money in the budget.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to write, e-mail or call when I asked you to do so. Karen said we worked a miracle through our efforts with many e-mails, letters and phone calls. We were able to open the eyes of a lot of state legislators and see what we learned in civic class at work. Karen told me that Senator Chichester deserves a lot of thanks for his efforts to get the money in the budget once he was made aware of all the honeybee problems. She also said the Virginia Farm Bureau worked very hard lobbying for us as did Katie Frazier of the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

I will keep you posted and all we can do now is hope that Governor Kaine will leave the budget intact concerning SD20.

One thing I would appreciate each one of you doing is to contact the following people and let them know how much you appreciate their help in getting the funding to support Senate Document 20, "Study of the Plight of the Virginia's Beekeepers". If you have time to send only one message, please send it to Senator Blevins and his aide, Karen. Without the help and dedication of these two, we would not have gotten the bill introduced and the amendment to the budget introduced.

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Senator John Chichester,
Senate of Virginia
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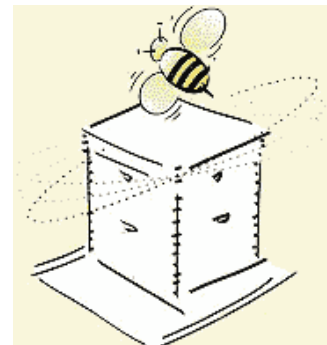
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Separate we are one; together we are many --
working for the survival of beekeeping in
Virginia.

Thanks,

Lannie



***Let's each send a note of thanks to
these champions of beekeeping***

