

the Forager



May 2007

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association

Vol.4 No.3

www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

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

Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:00pm

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

Program: Open Forum
Please bring each and every beekeeping question that has ever intrigued you.

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



May

THE HONEY FLOW IS ON!!!

- Do NOT use medications in a colony with honey supers for human consumption in place. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Comb honey supers should be added on top of another honey super, not over the brood chamber, to reduce the amount of pollen in the comb honey.
- It is time to add another super when the super on a colony is one-half to two-thirds filled (six to seven frames). Raise the partially filled super and place the empty super under it.
- Keep empty storage space in the supers on all colonies until the honey flow has ended.
- Remove and extract capped supers from your colonies if you need additional supers.
- Continue to check for queen cells every seven days. Remove all queen cells from the colony to reduce swarming.
- Place bait hives with at least one frame of drawn comb (no honey) in each of your beeyards to catch swarms.
- Order queens if you plan to requeen in the fall.



Virginia Beach Spring Craft Market

By Carol Watkins

The Craft Show was a fabulous success. Thank you to all that volunteered. It was wonderful to have some of the newer beekeepers there. They all expressed how much they enjoyed it.

Ginny Taylor made some beautiful signs for our candle-making table. Hand rolled candles are a project that we had never tried at our displays and it was a great success. We were able to have many children and even adults make a rolled beeswax candle for the first time.

We hope to be invited again next year. We were able to reach many people to talk about beekeeping. Thank you for all the support and help you provided to Floyd & me.



White's Invites Beekeepers Back

White's Old Mill Garden Center in Chesapeake has received requests for an encore performance by TBA members. We were invited back for the Mother's Day weekend of May 12th and 13th to staff a booth and offer honey and hive products for sale. Our previous display included beekeeping equipment, hive products and, of course, honeybees in an observation hive. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours at White's *Garden Party*, please contact Pam Fisher at 757-545-5076 or bgrrl@cox.net. This is usually one of the busiest weekends at White's so it's an excellent opportunity to educate the public about the importance of honeybees.

Nominations & Elections

The official slate of TBA officers for 2007-2008 is as follows:

President	Joe Taylor
Vice President	Bob Montcalm
Secretary	Carol Watkins
Treasurer	Judy Ferguson



As stated in the By-Laws: *The officers shall be elected by a majority vote when a quorum of members is present at the May meeting of each year, and shall serve in that capacity for the next 12 months.*

Thank you to Floyd Watkins, Rick Fisher, and Lin Gornto for serving on the nominating committee.



Master Gardener Plant Sales

Nectar & pollen plants will be available at discount prices from local Master Gardener groups at their plant sales this month. Help these volunteer organizations fund their horticultural outreach programs while saving money on locally grown trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.

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.

Norfolk Master Gardeners will host their *Spring Plant Sale* in conjunction with the Stockley Gardens Art Festival held at Stockley Gardens Park in the Ghent section of Norfolk. Sale days are May 19th from 10:00am to 6:00pm and May 20th from Noon to 6:00pm.



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. Volunteers receive complementary parking, admission to the show and a T-shirt. The schedule to date is available on the members section of our website.

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

April Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April membership meeting will be available to TBA members on our website at:

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





VSBA Spring Meeting Review

Getting the Most From Your Hives

by Michael Coyle



The VSBA 2007 Summer Meeting in Sandston, VA had six speakers: Ann Harmon (VSBA Treasurer), Dr. Rick Fell (VA Tech), Jerry Hayes (Florida State Apiarist), Dr. Jim Tew (Ohio St. and Auburn University), Dr. Wyatt Mangum (Mary Washington University) and Keith Tignor (Virginia State Apiarist). Phil Craft, Kentucky State Apiarist, was unable to attend due to the death of his mother.

Dr. Rick Fell and Jerry Hayes spoke on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Both said that many great minds are trying to determine what is causing this disorder. Historically, there have been times in the past that seem similar, but yet not the same. *Nosema ceranae* fungus may be a contributor. Both said that the most absurd idea seems to be the one about cell phones being the cause of CCD. The cause for CCD is still unknown.

Jerry Hayes talked about the Africanized Honeybee (AHB), which is in Florida. Jerry Hayes who is a delightful speaker declared that all states have or will have AHB, because AHB has been found in Flagstaff, AZ, which is at 8,000 ft. elevation and has cold winters. Mr. Hayes said Florida is destroying AHB were found. So far no human in Florida has died due to AHB, but horses, dogs and other animals have. He said that all counties in Texas have AHB even where R. Weaver has his Buckfast apiaries. Mr. Hayes stated that only a lab can determine if a honeybee is an AHB, but angry behavior is a major indicator outside the lab.

Jerry Hayes also discussed the success and importance of using powdered sugar to treat hives for Varroa mites. The powdered sugar method (also known as the Dowda Method) is sprinkling powdered sugar (1 lb.) over the brood area weekly for 4-6 weeks and then once a

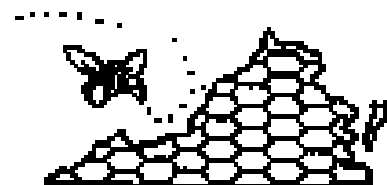
month after that for each colony. No method eradicates all Varroa mites.

Dr. Jim Tew spoke on many topics and kept all in the hall in stitches. Dr. Tew talks interwove insights about beekeeping, honeybees and life, while he kept us all laughing and amused.

Keith Tignor gave the state report with the biggest news being about the \$250k that the state is giving Dr. Fell office to use in the next year. Some of the things that Dr. Fell will do with the grant are: Queen Breeding Program; AHB program for when (not IF) it gets here; pollination work with growers; establish regional apiaries; hygienic bee lines; and develop programs at Virginia extension agencies. In regard to establishing regional apiaries, Dr Fell mentioned Richmond, Tidewater, Northern Virginia and Southwestern Virginia. Keith Tignor went over how a bill gets enacted and talked about how our bill died and was resurrected twice. Tignor said that we should be pushing for more state money each year, because like all great things, it takes time and money to build the programs Dr. Fell outlined.

Keith Tignor is the Webmaster for the VSBA website which is getting many hits daily. He pointed out the latest addition to the site, the Bee Quiz, which is fun and educational too.

The current officers of VSBA were re-elected for another year. The overall attendance was 109. Next VSBA meeting is 3 November at Weyers' Cave Community College.



Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & International Conference

Beekeepers, doctors and practitioners from around the world gathered in Raleigh/Durham, NC, as the American Apitherapy Society (AAS) held its Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & International Conference (CMACC) on April 26, 2007.

The program was spilt into two parts, the course and the conference. The in-depth course provided comprehensive training by AAS faculty in the therapeutic use of products of the beehive, including honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom therapy (BVT).

Medical professionals, academic researchers, and lay practitioners presented recent advances in apitherapy during the conference session and addressed the increased attention apitherapy is gaining worldwide as the efficacy of the hive products and treatments becomes better known.

Topics addressed included Informed Consent and Legal Issues, Pain Management, Veterinary Apitherapy, Weight Management and Acupuncture. Instructions on using both BVT and hive product adjuncts were provided for treating several debilitating diseases such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Lyme disease and diabetes.

Hands-on sessions allowed case studies on BVT to be explored as participants watched practitioners administer stings following the acupuncture routes that run throughout the body. Other demonstrations included ear cone candling as well as the preparation of a healing propolis salve.

This four-day event was exciting not only in its subject matter, but also in the diversity of its participants. Some attendees had only beekeeping experience, while others were medical practitioners with no first-hand knowledge of honeybees. All had a desire to learn how to utilize the honeybee and hive products to improve our quality of life.

More information on the American Apitherapy Society can be found at their website:

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



Bob Schwartz on Swarms

Bob Schwartz presented the April program on Swarms. He began the demonstration with several tools he and other TBA members have developed for collecting the swarm cluster. He used PowerPoint photos to illustrate the different locations where one may find a swarm and the thought process involved in deciding which method of swarm collection will best suit the situation. Bob discussed how watching the behavior of remaining bees around a bucket of collected bees can alert the beekeeper as to whether the queen was captured with the swarm. Bob explained how he keeps swarms from absconding when being hived. When he hives a swarm, Bob places a queen excluder on the bottom of the brood chamber, puts the bees into the hive and installs a queen excluder over the top. He feeds the swarm and leaves them undisturbed for 3 to 4 days until the queen is laying. Bob then removes the queen excluders since the bees will not leave a hive with brood. He also suggested introducing uncapped brood from a disease-free colony when hiving a swarm as another method of keeping bees in the hive. Bob stressed that proper management of colonies can reduce and possibly prevent swarming; that it is the beekeeper's duty to read the signs in the hive and provide adequate space for a growing colony or make splits when necessary. Thank you Bob for sharing your wisdom and swarm experiences with us.



Capacity of Honey Production per Acre	
Black Locust	1,700 lbs.
Linden	1,000 lbs.
Burdock	500 lbs.
Maple	200 – 1,1000 lbs.
Alfalfa	380 lbs.
Dandelion	120 lbs.
Buckwheat	70 lbs.
Raspberry	50 – 70 lbs.
Apple	20 lbs.
Tulip Poplar	100 – 200 lbs.

'Plight of Virginia's Beekeepers'

Update from Lannie Ballard, VSBA Legislative Liaison



April 11, 2007

Virginia State Beekeepers Association Members,

The Virginia General Assembly came back in session on April 4th to address the state budget and the changes that Governor Kaine had made. **The budget was signed and the funding to support the recommendations in Senate Document 20 was left in.** I spoke with Senator Harry Blevins' aide, Karen Papasodora-Cochrane, yesterday to confirm the funding for SD20. The funding will be for the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2007. This funding is for one year and our problem will not be resolved in one year. We now have our foot in the door but we need to keep our legislators aware of whom we are and our needs. So, one thing the VSBA members can do is invite the local representatives to one of your meetings during the next year and make sure that you give them a jar of honey. Let he or she talk about whatever they choose to share with your members. But, before or after their talk, hopefully this will give you the opportunity to talk with them one-on-one and educate them about beekeeping and our needs as well as what will happen to Virginia agriculture if we lose the honey bee or if the Africanized honey bee comes to Virginia.

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. I have been told by Karen and some legislators with whom I have spoken that we worked a miracle through our efforts with many e-mails, letters and phone calls. As I have indicated before, Karen told me that Senator Chichester deserves a lot of thanks for his efforts to get the money in the budget after 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.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to send a thank you to the people listed below. 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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Separate we are one; together we are many -- working for the survival of beekeeping in Virginia.

Thanks,
Lannie

