

the Forager



June 2007

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association

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www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

**President: Joe Taylor, Vice President: Bob Montcalm, Treasurer: Judy Ferguson, Recording Secretary: Carol Watkins
Newsletter Editor: Pam Fisher Deadline for the newsletter is the 25th of each month**

A Message from our President, Joe Taylor



Hello Fellow Bee Keepers,

The weather has finally warmed up and it is very dry out here in Suffolk. Make sure that you have an ample fresh water supply for your bees. Swarms out our way are not as plentiful as in years past. I hope that is a good sign. I just made a tour of my bee yard and all twenty hives are very active.

I am looking forward to this coming year. I would like to see our club grow in members and if we have any new beekeepers come into the club, I would hope that we would have many mentors step forward to help them get started. All of us have had someone to help us get started at one time or another. I cannot begin to say how much I have appreciated all the help and advice that I have received from Steve Black and others as I was getting started. Let's help other people get involved in beekeeping. Bring a friend or neighbor to a club meeting. As always, talk about your bees to anyone who is willing to listen. You never know who might be the next beekeeper!

See you at the June meeting.

Joe Taylor



Next Meeting: Monday, June 11, 2007 at 7:00pm

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

Program: State of Beekeeping in Virginia

Speaker: Keith Tignor, State Apiarist

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



June

The Tidewater nectar flow is here and going strong!

▶ Add honey supers ahead of the bees' needs - additional supers should be placed below a partially filled super if possible. You may have two to five supers on by now.

▶ Prop up the outer cover to improve airflow during the hot weather. Good air circulation improves both honey production and hive health.

▶ Honey may be removed when more than 3/4 of the cells are capped and liquid does drip from the cells when the frame is held upside down and shaken. This indicates that the nectar has been evaporated to the correct moisture content and is now honey. When in doubt, use a refractometer to measure moisture content. Anything above 18.6% may ferment if extracted.

▶ Medications may not be used while the bees are making honey for human consumption. Follow all treatment plans in accordance with the manufacturer's application instructions...NO EXCEPTIONS!

▶ Add an additional brood box or super of foundation when package bees have built comb in seven of the ten frames in the first brood box. Continue to feed the package until they will not take syrup.

▶ Monitor hives for swarm cells. If a hive swarms, check it after a week to ensure that the new queen is mated and laying. If not, you will need to order and install a new queen or combine the hive with a queenright colony.





Elections

The TBA officers for 2007-2008 were elected at the May Membership Meeting. The officers are:

President	Joe Taylor
Vice President	Bob Montcalm
Treasurer	Judy Ferguson
Secretary	Carol Watkins
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor	Pam Fisher



Thank you to Fred Hafer, Joe Taylor, Karen Zablocki and Laura Davis for a job well done as the 2006 - 2007 TBA officers!



May Meeting Minutes

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

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

Chesapeake Jubilee

The Chesapeake Jubilee was quite a challenge this year. After preparing for over 200 children, no schools accepted the invitation to bring students to the display on Friday morning. A few TBA members braved the Friday rain and cold, only to go home early due to lack of visitors. Saturday was slow but steady thanks to improved weather, however Sunday was a total loss with bulldozers scheduled to clean up under the tent in front of our exhibit; all we could do was pack up and go home. A heart-felt thank you to the TBA members who gave of their time to this endeavor!



Pollination Stamps

The U.S. Postal Service will issue the new Pollination stamp series on Friday, June

29, 2007 as a four-design, 20-stamp booklet. The four designs, first unveiled at the North American Pollination Protection Campaign (NAPPC) Symposium, depict four wildflowers and four pollinators. An intricate graphic scheme emphasizes the ecological relationship between pollinators and plants and also hints at the biodiversity necessary to ensure the future viability of that relationship.

“These stamps are a special way to honor the beauty that is in our midst each day” said Yverne Pat Moore, Postmaster, Washington DC, U.S. Postal Service. “The animals featured on the stamps are beautiful ambassadors of nature”.

The goal of the NAPPC Symposium is to increase awareness of the vital role of pollinators and to provide evidence of the critical need for planning and research to prevent further destruction of pollinators.

“Farmers see the connection between plants and pollinators every day. Thanks to these beautiful stamps, that same point is illustrated for everyone,” said Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Chick Conner.

Beekeepers' Association Meetings

July 12-14 NCSBA Summer Meeting
Kinston, Lenoir County, NC
<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm>

July 12-14 HAS 2007
Frankfort, Kentucky
<http://www.heartlandbees.com/>

Aug 6-8 EAS 2007 Short Course
Aug 8-10 EAS 2007 Conference
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
<http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2007/>





National Pollinator Week

The Pollinator Partnership™ is proud to announce that **June 24-30, 2007** has been designated National Pollinator Week by the U.S. Senate (S.Res. 580) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Pollinator Partnership mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. One project is their web site, a source of pollinator information for consumers, gardeners, educators, resource managers, producers and farmers:

<http://www.pollinator.org/index.html>

The web site also features a listing of Pollinator Week events happening across the country.



TBA Public Relations

At the May TBA membership meeting, Steve Black recommended that TBA develop a Public Relations pamphlet to help promote backyard beekeeping. Members agreed and suggested that TBA team with Master Gardeners, extension services, and the Farm Bureau to have them write letters of support and recommendation for TBA. Also proposed was that the club adopt a Public Information Officer who would model information dissemination on other successful organizations' programs.

The tentative committee for the development of the PR pamphlet includes:

- Steve Black
- Lisa Wiggins
- Pam Fisher
- Frank Walker



Members are asked to submit photographs of educational events for inclusion in the publication.

Pungo Strawberry Festival

By Carol Keenoy Watkins



People attending the Strawberry Festival couldn't have asked for better weather. In fact, it got pretty hot both days. However, the morning sun temporarily felt good on our backs. In the heat of the day, we were thankful for the cooling shade provided by the tent. The nice breeze made it even more tolerable. Between the early morning sun, the afternoon shade, and the cool breeze, we were all so very lucky to be able to share time with each other as well as share information about the wonderful honeybee with the thousands of folks who visited our booth. (Perhaps next year we all won't go home feeling as if we will make mud pies when we take a shower!)

We had an extra special treat for the first time this year. Miss Lilly Bedford made honey cookies, honey strawberry cake, honey chocolate chip cookies, and the best baklava I have ever tasted. Each piece was carefully wrapped and placed on a beautiful 3-tier plate rack. Everything was labeled and the recipe for each desert was placed close by. Lilly did such a splendid job with her beautiful display. I am sure everyone would love to see it again. Thank-you Lilly. You did such an awesome job!

Floyd & I want to express our deepest and most sincere thanks to the following people who worked very hard in making this Strawberry Festival a most delightful event: Doris Baker, Denise Bedford and her dad, Paul, Lilly Bedford, Pam & Rick Fisher, C.E. Harris, Sabina Hirschauer, Paul Kist, Ernie & Mary Parker, Kate Rogers, Hugh Taylor & Karen Zablocki.

