

the Forager



July 2007

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association

Vol.4 No.5

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 beekeepers,

It is now July and if you haven't taken your honey yet, you should do so soon. The bees in my bee yard seem to be doing just fine. I hope to keep something blooming in my garden for the bees to feed until winter. The prospects for a good crop of cotton honey in my section of Suffolk are very slim this year. Most of our cotton farmers have planted corn and soybeans this year. The dry weather is taking a toll on both of those crops at the moment.

I have another point to remind you all about this time of year. Give your bees a good source of fresh water. I know that it is hard to train your bees to drink where you want them to, but try to keep them on your property and not your neighbor's swimming pool or fishpond. Even though we have several sources for fresh water here, my bees still like the fishpond. Some days, seems we can't find the fish for all the bees in the pool getting water.

I hope that everyone doesn't get tired of hearing about our bees out around Lake Prince. I don't know what is happening in your community so we want to hear from you at our monthly meetings. Don't forget the next meeting on July 9th.

Bring a friend, a neighbor or a future beekeeper to the meeting.

Joe Taylor



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

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

Program: Mosquito Control & Beekeeping
Speaker: Lou DeMarco, Operations Director, Mosquito Control, City of Chesapeake

TBA Membership Due\$

Per TBA bylaws, Article VII, Section II:
The annual dues shall be payable in advance to the Treasurer of the Association and shall be due on July 1 of the year covered. All memberships expire on June 30 of each year. Any member of the Association who becomes delinquent in payment of dues shall be dropped from the roll of membership after the November meeting and shall cease to be a member of the Association.

Current dues are \$20.00 for an annual family membership that includes the \$10.00 Virginia State Beekeepers Association membership and access to the 'Members' section of the TBA website. Please pay the club treasurer, Judy Ferguson, at a meeting or mail a check made payable to **TBA** to:



TBA Membership
C/O Judy Ferguson
508 Albemarle Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER

"YARD NOTES"

For



July

- When pulling honey to extract, remember that colonies need between 40 and 60 lbs. of honey to make it through the winter.
- Place wet extracted supers back on the bees in preparation for the nectar flow if you are fortunate enough to live in areas with cotton or soybean fields.
- Allow the bees to clean wet supers for storage by placing them above the inner cover for one week. Don't forget to use a wax moth preventative approved for honey supers on any drawn comb stored off of the hive.
- Drone production is slowing down, so watch closely for increased mite production in the worker bee cells. Check for mites and treat with an approved mite treatment if numbers are high after removing any honey for human consumption. Remember to treat for mites BY AUGUST to ensure a healthy winter bee population. Make sure that you follow the label on mite treatments.
- As the nighttime temperatures rise, bees will begin to 'beard' on the landing board and front of the hive. It's not unusual to see large numbers of bees covering the front of the hive on hot summer nights.
- Water is especially important to the hive during the heat of the summer. Provide a water source nearby to keep bees out of neighbor's pools, birdbaths and air conditioners.

June Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June membership meeting are available to TBA members on our website at:
http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting_minutes.html



Beekeeping Book Release

Chelsea Green Publishing has released *Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture* (ISBN: 978-1-933392-08-0) by Ross Conrad.

A paperback publication of 240 pages, *Natural Beekeeping* brings together organic and natural approaches to keeping honeybees healthy and productive through a program of selective breeding and natural hive management. Conrad outlines nontoxic methods of controlling mites, eliminating American foulbrood disease (without the use of antibiotics), breeding strategies, and many other tips and techniques for maintaining healthy hives.

Natural Beekeeping describes opportunities for the experienced beekeeper to modify existing operations, increase profits, and eliminate the use of chemical treatments. Conrad also instructs the beginner in practices to establish healthy chemical-free colonies.

Kim Flottum, the editor of *Bee Culture* magazine, states "Ross Conrad keeps bees the way bees should be kept. . . his natural approach to caring for these magnificent pollinators makes sure they will continue their tasks so we can continue to rely on them. Natural beekeeping is not only the best way to keep bees, it is the only way we should keep bees."



PR Pamphlet

TBA is assembling a public relations pamphlet to promote backyard beekeeping. If you have any photos of members participating in educational events, please consider sharing them with the committee for inclusion in the pamphlet. All photos will be scanned and returned in their original condition. Please e-mail electronic photos to Lisa Black at jamtowngirl@hotmail.com or bring paper copies to the next meeting.



State Apiarist's Report

June's guest speaker, State Apiarist, Keith Tignor, presented a fascinating program. He first reported that the hive loss for winter 2006 in Virginia was a startling 40%. Keith attributed this to light hives as a result of the summer drought as well as high Varroa counts. The remainder of his presentation consisted of a program on Africanized honeybees (AHB). Keith started out with the message: "Africanized bees are the number one threat to Virginia beekeeping". After he had our attention, he presented several statements and asked us if they were fact or myth. We then discussed each answer.

- AHB is like European Honey Bees - **Myth**
- AHB can't survive cold temperatures - **Myth**
- Beekeepers can recognize AHB - **Myth**
- AHB is an excellent honey producer - **Myth**
- AHB is a poor pollinator - **Myth**
- AHB is Varroa resistant - **Myth**
- AHB spreads by migration - **Myth**
- AHB is only a threat to beekeepers - **Myth**
- Regulations will stop AHB - **Myth**

Keith explained several AHB detection methods and outlined an appropriate response. He described how some of the money from Senate Joint Resolution Number 38 will be used to establish an AHB action plan involving beekeepers, extension and emergency personnel. Training programs will be held around the state for anybody interested in assisting with bee spills and will include guidance for those working with the media. The state also plans to develop regional queen-rearing programs to end beekeeper dependence on queen breeders in states with established AHB colonies. A copy of Keith's PowerPoint presentation is available from the club's property manager, Judy Ferguson. Thank you, Keith, for visiting from Richmond to keep us apprised of the state of beekeeping in our Commonwealth.

When extracting this year, keep honey and beeswax entries for the state fair in mind. Deadline for entry forms in the open honey competition is September 7th.

Classes include:

- Light extracted honey
- Light amber extracted honey
- Amber extracted honey
- Dark extracted honey
- Frame of honey for extracting
- Light or light amber cut-comb honey
- Amber or dark cut-comb honey
- Light or light amber chunk honey
- Amber or dark chunk honey
- Comb honey - round section or cassette
- Creamed honey
- Beeswax mold
- Beeswax candles
- Fancy beeswax mold
- Observation hive
- Gadgets



More information as well as the competition handbook and entry form can be found at the State Fair web site:

http://www.statefair.com/pdf_2007/GeneralComps/2007_OpenHoney_CompGuide.pdf

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/>

