

the Forager



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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 Beekeepers,

It doesn't feel like fall is almost here but it is. Yesterday I picked up my school bus for the coming year. It was over 90 degrees, so I had a hard time thinking about school. Getting the bus and getting the kids ready to go back to school means we should be doing the fall preparations for the bees also.

It is time to prepare our bees not only for the fall, but winter as well. I hope that everyone has left ample food supplies in the hive for the bees. Check your hives for mites and treat accordingly. Also we can start checking our woodenware to see if any of it needs replacing.

Last month we had many good questions asked and some great answers. There was a lot of information passed around for everyone to digest. If you do not attend the meetings, you miss a wonderful opportunity to gain some great insight from experienced beekeepers.

Steve Black will have the information on our Christmas dinner and will be passing that along at the September meeting. I hope that everyone can mark the calendar so that we have a good turnout this year. Don't miss the meeting. See you there!

Joe Taylor



Next Meeting: Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:00pm

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

Program: Basic Beehive Housekeeping

Speakers: Bob Schwartz & Floyd Watkins

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



September

The hive population will begin to drop this month as the queen's egg laying slows and the drone numbers begin to decline.

Since drone numbers are decreasing, Varroa mites will begin to reproduce on worker brood at higher rates. Varroa infestations prevent the proper development of winter bees, which impacts the likelihood of colony survival. Check for brood diseases and pests and medicate if needed after removing all honey for human consumption.

The 'sour' smell of Goldenrod nectar being evaporated into honey may be apparent near hives and is not cause for alarm.

Harvest your honey crop if you haven't done so already, but remember to leave between 40 and 60 lbs. for the bees. Feed sugar syrup if needed in a 2:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 5 cups water) to ensure hives have adequate stores for the winter. Each gallon of syrup fed to the bees increases their reserves by about seven pounds. Remove any queen excluders between the colony and its winter stores.

Only strong colonies should be overwintered. Combine weak colonies with strong colonies now to allow time for the bees to arrange their broodnest and honey stores before winter.

Install a mouse guard on the hive entrance before cool weather if mice are a problem in your area.





TBA Cookbook

Nina Calvano is working on a TBA Honey Cookbook to use as a club fundraiser. TBA will offer the cookbook for sale at various fairs and festivals where we staff a booth. Please send Nina your favorite honey recipes, bee trivia and especially some original artwork (by adults & children). Nina would like to be able to produce the cookbook in time for the Spring 2008 season, which means she needs entries by January 2008. If you have items to submit, you can either e-mail them to Nina at philandnina@verizon.net or call her at 482-0851 for her mailing address.

TBA Website Roster

Several club members have requested that the TBA roster be published in the password-protected 'members' section of the TBA website. The roster is now available at:

www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/roster.html

If you would like to be included, please e-mail webmaster@tidewaterbeekeepers.net and indicate what information (phone, e-mail, street address) you want published in the website roster. Only those members that give their permission will be included in the website roster which will also serve as contact information for our club's swarm list.

Volunteers Needed

TBA received a request from the chairman of the Women's Group Leadership Conference, Virginia State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International. Their annual training event features a bee theme this year and they have requested a presentation to highlight the worldwide honeybee decline. The demonstration is September 29th at the Holiday Inn Executive Center from 1–2:00 pm. Please call Carol Watkins at 563-2275 if you can assist with the display, a wonderful PR opportunity since September is National Honey Month.



Movie Releases



"Sister Bee" is a documentary produced by beekeeper Laura Tyler. The film follows six women as they care for their bee colonies, produce honey and show how these little creatures make an impact on their lives. "You witness a city in the span of your hand," Tyler said. "Everyone has their own job, and it shifts your perspective on life because you begin to think of things in a more universal way." Tyler hopes audiences see the interconnectedness of the world, and the beauty that surrounds their everyday lives. She also hopes they become interested in bee keeping, although this isn't her ultimate goal, and is excited to hear people's excitement about bee keeping after they see the movie.

"Sister Bee" is available on DVD starting at \$25. for home use. More information is available at: www.SisterBee.com

"Bee Movie" is an animated comedy from Dreamworks due for release November 2nd. Having just graduated from college, a bee by the name of Barry B. Benson (Jerry Seinfeld) finds himself disillusioned with the prospect of having only one career choice – honey. As he ventures outside of the hive for the first time, he breaks one of the cardinal rules of the bee world and talks to a human, a New York City florist named Vanessa (Renée Zellweger). He is shocked to discover that the humans have been stealing and eating the bees' honey for centuries, and ultimately realizes that his true calling in life is to set the world right by suing the human race for stealing their precious honey.

More information on the movie is available at: <http://www.beemovie.com/>

The National Honey Board has developed a variety of honey promotions to tie into "Bee Movie". These materials, which feature graphics from the movie, along with a 100 percent pure honey message, are for use from September 1st through December 31st. TBA has purchased hangtags, stickers, brochures and a table display with recipe cards for use by members. Please contact Carol Watkins at 563-2275 or beewaspflw@aol.com if you are doing a beekeeping display and would like to use some of the promotional items.



Honey Samples for VA Tech

VA Tech researchers Rick Fell and Laura Link are asking Virginia beekeepers to help them with their research by donating an 8 oz. sample of honey. Their goal is to provide beekeepers with information on their honey, and how they can ensure the quality of their products.

They are also gathering data on the chemical and physical properties of honey, including moisture content and pH, hoping to find correlations between these measurements and the numbers/types of organisms in the honey.

At the August TBA meeting we collected and mailed eight samples. Anybody who did not bring a sample to the meeting and still wishes to help with the research may send a sample to:

Rick Fell, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please be sure to include your name and address and the area where the honey was produced (if different from the address area). The information will be kept confidential.



August Meeting Minutes

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

www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting_minutes.html



Mosquito Control Hotline

Portsmouth's recent aerial adulticide spraying for mosquitoes was a concern for beekeepers in the vicinity. To hear the latest spray schedule information, call the Portsmouth Mosquito Control Hotline at 393-8666 and select option 1.

They also maintain an informative website:

www.portsmouthva.gov/publicworks/thebuzz/index.htm

Those of you impacted by activities on Craney Island may want to telephone Robert Pruhs at 201-7130 for planned mosquito control or visit their website at:

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/craney/craney%20mosquito/homepage.asp>



Win a State Fair Honey Ribbon!

August's membership meeting featured a program on preparing state fair honey entries by Richmond's Bob Gibson (or "Mr. State Fair" as he's known to some of us for his numerous blue ribbons). Bob told us that he heats his honey, one gallon at a time, to 110° to 115° for 10 to 15 minutes to eliminate all crystals. He then strains it through a nylon cloth similar to that used for ladies' nightgowns. The honey is allowed to settle for several days before bottling to eliminate any foam or bubbles. Bob fills up as many as five-dozen one-pound jars for each class he plans to enter. He then goes through the filled jars and eliminates any with defects in the glass, improper filling, debris, foam or bubbles. Bob shared that dropping and breaking a jar one year upon arrival at the fair has led him to always pack four jars for each class even though only three are necessary for the competition. He also suggested that one bring new caps to put on the entries after transport. **Deadline for entry forms in the open honey competition is September 7th.** On-line entries are charged \$0.20 per class. Mail-in entries must be accompanied by a surcharge of a \$5.00 check or money order per exhibitor. Faxed entries will not be accepted this year. Winners take home a ribbon and prize money from 1st (\$15.00) to 6th (\$4.00) place.

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

<http://www.statefair.com/competitions.asp>

New this year on the website are photos of the different honey colors to help exhibitors enter the proper class.



VSBA Fall Meeting

Resistance to Pests and Diseases in the Hive

The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their next meeting on November 3, 2007, at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Virginia, near Staunton, VA. More information is available at:

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

