

the Forager



February 2008

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.5 No.2

**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,

I hope to see each of you at the Founders Day Dinner and cookout.

Don't forget to keep feeding your bees!

Joe Taylor

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 10, 2008
from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Kings Fork Community House,
1600 Kings Fork Rd., Suffolk, VA 23434.

Program: FOUNDERS DAY DINNER in lieu of regular meeting.

Holiday Social Location

It may be a little early to start thinking about the 2008 Holiday Social, but Steve Black has asked each of us to think of a new venue for our party. Requirements are a restaurant with a private or semi-private room large enough to accommodate 40+ people, moderate pricing and a diverse menu. If you have a place in mind, please call Steve Black at (757) 255-4176 with your suggestion. The sooner we determine a location, the greater the choice of dates and the easier the planning for the 2008 social.

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



February

February is typically the coldest winter month in Tidewater. The bees are usually clustered in their hives waiting for warm spring weather to arrive.

Make sure that your hive entrances are open and not blocked by dead bees in case we get a few days of 50°F or warmer for cleansing flights.

Continue to check the colonies for adequate winter stores by lifting them from the rear; you should be lifting 45 to 50 pounds at this time of year. Feed any light hives to prevent starvation.

Place your orders for package bees or queens as soon as possible to ensure timely spring delivery. Supplies are expected to be limited this year due to last year's drought in the southeast.

Take inventory of your equipment and order any new woodenware to allow for assembly and painting time.

Consider subscribing to the American Bee Journal and/or Bee Culture. These monthly magazines are excellent resources and your TBA membership entitles you to a discounted subscription.



January Meeting Minutes

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

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



Beekeeping Association Events

NC State Beekeepers Association

March 7-8, 2008

Ramada Inn Convention Center

2703 Ramada Rd.

Burlington, NC 27215

www.ncbeekeepers.org

VA State Beekeepers Association

April 11-12, 2008

Loudoun, VA

www.virginiabeekeepers.org/



Heartland Apicultural Society

July 10-12, 2008

Marshall University

Huntington, WV

www.heartlandbees.com

NC State Beekeepers Association

July 10-12, 2008

Southern Pines, NC

www.ncbeekeepers.org

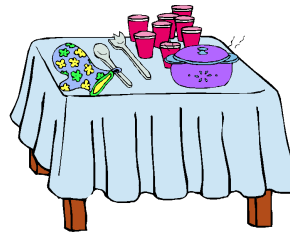
Eastern Apicultural Society

August 4 - 8, 2008

Murray State University

Murray, Kentucky

www.easternapiculture.org



Founders Day Dinner

Our annual Founders Day Dinner is a potluck supper in lieu of our February membership meeting. TBA members, their spouse or guest and family members are invited to share a meal and good fellowship. The dinner will take place on **Sunday**, February 10th, at the Kings Fork Community House, 1600 Kings Fork Rd., Suffolk, VA 23434 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Steve Black has graciously volunteered to barbeque chicken for all of us and Rose Nichols will provide the drinks and supplies. Please bring one of your family's favorite side dishes or desserts and a serving utensil. RSVP to Steve Black at (757) 255-4176 as soon as possible with the number of people attending so that he and Rose can plan accordingly.

Come enjoy an evening of good cheer, delicious food, and engaging conversation with your fellow beekeepers!

Package Bee Orders

TBA members, Tom & Vivian French, are going to Brushy Mountain to pick up package bees and have offered to pick up additional packages for club members. Club members may then retrieve their packages from the French's home in Suffolk. If you would like the Frenches to pick up bees for you, please call Brushy Mountain (1-800-233-7929) to place your order for the first delivery date, which is scheduled for April 5, 2008. You must tell the operator that Tom & Vivian French will pick up your bees for you and then inform the Frenches (757-539-7663) of your order. Brushy Mountain will start taking package bee orders on February 1st and they encourage early orders for delivery on the first distribution date. Brushy Mountain is changing package bee suppliers this year to Gardner-Spell Bee Company out of Georgia. Package prices for 1-9 packages are: 2-lb. packages - \$53.00 and 3-lb. packages - \$63.00 including the \$5.00 handling fee. A discount of \$3.00 per package is offered for orders over 9 packages. Marked queens will cost \$1.50 extra and clipped and marked an additional \$3.00. Thank you, Tom & Vivian, for offering this valuable service to the club!





Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show

The Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show will be held February 15th through the 17th at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. TBA will have a booth in the lobby with the other associations and societies where we can sell honey and hive products. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about protecting honeybees in the home environment while stressing their role as pollinators in our food supply. Show hours are extended this year so many volunteers are needed. Exhibit hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. 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 or beewaspflw@aol.com. Carol will also circulate the sign-up sheet at the Founders Day Dinner. The schedule to date is available to TBA members on our website at:

http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/home&flower_show.html

Nominating Committee

Nominations are being taken for all positions on the TBA Board. If you would like to nominate someone, or you would like to volunteer for a position, please contact one of the members on the nominating committee:

Steve Black at (757) 255-4176 or

sblack@exis.net

C.E. Harris at (757) 340-8651 or

ipraisethelord@cox.net

Floyd Watkins at (757) 563-2275 or

beewaspflw@aol.com

Nominations are not closed or announced until the April meeting. Elections will be held at the May meeting. The newly elected officers will assume their positions beginning with the June meeting.



Soap Making



January's membership meeting featured a program by TBA member, Rose Nichols on homemade soap. Those of us who have used Rose's fabulous soap in the

past have been eagerly awaiting the recipe. Rose shared both her recipe and the directions with us, explaining that making soap can be hazardous due to the caustic lye used to start the chemical process. Rose explained that she has specific utensils that she uses exclusively for her soapmaking. She told us how she measures each ingredient ahead of time so that she does not have to pause once the process is underway. Rose stressed that making soap initiates a chemical reaction between the components so it is extremely important to follow instructions and know the properties of each ingredient used; one change may require a recalculation of the entire recipe. She explained that homemade soap is not inexpensive, that premium ingredients yield a superior soap worth taking the time to make at home. Rose demonstrated cutting the soap after removing it from her homemade soapbox, but she couldn't cut it as fast as TBA members were buying it! Rose has offered to host a soapmaking workshop on Wednesday morning, January 30th, for those members interested in participating in a more advanced hands-on class. Please call Rose at 757-539-2036 for more information. Thank you Rose for sharing your knowledge (and especially the recipe!) with us.

Raffle Items Needed



Lisa Wiggins made a plea at last month's membership meeting for raffle items. Please consider bringing a bee-themed item occasionally for donation to the raffle table. Proceeds from the raffle go into the club treasury to help offset TBA expenses. Plus, the raffle is just plain fun for all of us!



Telling the Bees

Sir Edmund Hillary

1919 - 2008

Sir Edmund Hillary, a beekeeper, who with Tenzing Norgay, his

Sherpa guide, won worldwide acclaim in 1953 by becoming the first to scale Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak, died January 11, 2008 in Auckland, New Zealand. He was 88.

He wrote of his feelings upon the pair's final steps to the top of the world: "Awe, wonder, humility, pride, exaltation - these surely ought to be the confused emotions of the first men to stand on the highest peak on Earth, after so many others had failed. But my dominant reactions were relief and surprise. Relief because the long grind was over and the unattainable had been attained. And surprise, because it had happened to me, old Ed Hillary, the beekeeper, once the star pupil of the Tuakau District School, but no great shakes at Auckland Grammar (high school) and a no-hoper at university, first to the top of Everest. I just didn't believe it."

The New Zealander took his fame in stride, preferring to be called 'Ed' and considering himself just an ordinary beekeeper. Sir Edmond Hillary went on to organize further mountain-climbing expeditions but, as the years passed, he became more and more concerned with the welfare of the Nepalese people. In the 1960s, he returned to Nepal, building clinics, hospitals and 17 schools through the Himalayan Trust, which he founded.



Beekeeping Legislation

A new beekeeper-friendly law in New Jersey requires commercial pesticide applicators and operators to contact agricultural agencies prior to exterminating honeybee colonies and establishes penalties for the destruction of man-made hives. TBA has formed a committee to examine the possibility of posing similar legislation in Virginia.

The two-part law was the cooperative work of the Secretary of Agriculture in conjunction with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and in cooperation with the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, the New Jersey Pest Management Association, and the New Jersey Cooperative Extension of Rutgers, the State University.

Part one requires commercial pesticide applicators in the State to contact identified county, regional or State agricultural agencies to either obtain assistance in relocating specific honeybee colonies, or to seek approval to destroy the colonies, prior to extermination. *The provisions of this section do not apply to honey bee colonies found residing within buildings or other indoor structures.* The rules and regulations include appropriate emergency health and safety exceptions, minimum response times for agricultural agencies or designated responders, as well as enforcement and penalty provisions for violations.

Part two states that any person who intentionally destroys a man-made honey bee hive without the approval required shall be liable to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each offense. Penalties recovered for violations of this section shall be remitted to the Department of Agriculture and expended on programs to revive honeybee populations in the State.

Floyd Watkins will chair the TBA committee exploring similar Virginia legislation with the assistance of Bob Ferguson, C.E. Harris and Bob Schwartz. Mr. Spears, a guest from the Northside Rotary Club, suggested that the club also look to other associations outside the beekeeping community for support to increase the impact of the proposal. TBA Members are encouraged to contact committee members with any input or offers of assistance.

