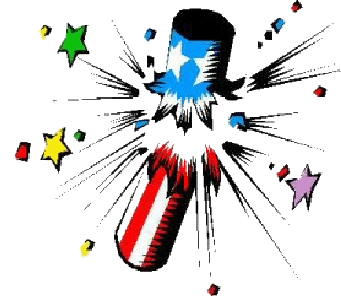


# the Forager



July 2008

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association  
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.5 No.7

**President: Joe Taylor, Vice President: Bob Montcalm, Treasurer: Rick Fisher, Recording Secretary: Carol Watkins  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor: Pam Fisher. Deadline for the newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month**

## *A Message from our President, Joe Taylor*

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,



I have been under the weather for most of the last 2 months. I am much better but still have a way to go to get my strength back. It's great to be alive. I want to thank you all for the cards, potted plant and your prayers. I hope to be back for our July club meeting.

How is the honey crop? I'm sure that most of you have extracted some honey by now. I want to hear some reports of your honey crop this year.

Out here in Suffolk and Isle of Wight County we have quite a number of new beekeepers. When they were getting started Steve Black and I were going to mentor them. I got sick and could not help the new beekeepers. Steve did the work for both of us. Steve, I thank you for your assistance to the new beekeepers in our area. A job well done for the Tidewater Beekeepers Association as well. Steve you have earned two "atta boys". Also thanks to all the mentors who have helped others who are interested in getting started in beekeeping.

Let's fill the trailer with beekeepers and friends for our July club meeting. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. I have missed all of you.



*Joe Taylor*

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 14, 2008 at 7:00pm

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

**Program:** Sustainable Apiculture

**Speaker:** Keith Tignor

## TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



July

- There is very little surplus honey for extracting this year in Tidewater.
- When harvesting honey to extract, remember that colonies need between 40 and 60 lbs. of honey to make it through the winter.
- Do not take honey from package bees their first year.
- 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 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
- 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.
- Encourage package bees to continue drawing comb on foundation by feeding sugar syrup to them.



## A Jubilee Thank You

The following thank you note was received from Lisa Kovacs, the 4-H Extension Agent for Chesapeake:

*June 3, 2008*

*Thank you for your participation and the wonderful Beekeeper's Display you had at the 2008 Chesapeake Jubilee. We certainly appreciate the education you shared. Thanks for your support!*

*Lisa Kovacs*

*4-H Extension Agent*



## TBA Member Loses Home to Fire

TBA Member, Jim Stubenrauch, lost his family's circa 1700 home and everything in it to fire. Due to estate issues, insurance will not cover the loss. Fortunately nobody was injured, but the Stubenrauchs must now replace all of their possessions. They have moved into a new house since their own was a complete loss. The support from others has been remarkable, and Jim and Susan, as well as children Chad, Troy, Sydney and Shelby all have sufficient clothing. The Stubenrauchs still need household items such as lamps, curtains, glasses, etc. as they rebuild their life. Gift cards to Wal-Mart or Food Lion are the most practical assistance at this time. You can still reach Jim on his cell phone at 757- 292-3911. His new home address is 109 Warren Street, Suffolk, VA 23424.

## 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](http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting_minutes.html)

## 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. All TBA members will receive a membership renewal in the mail within the next month along with a contact information release form. Please fill out the information and authorize which contact information, if any, you want to share and where it may be published. A roster will be compiled from the returned release forms, so please return the release with your dues.



## Elections

The TBA officers for 2008-2009 were elected at the June Membership Meeting. The officers are:

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

Thank You to Joe Taylor, Bob Montcalm, Judy Ferguson, Carol Watkins and Pam Fisher for serving as the 2007 - 2008 TBA officers!



## TBA Field Day

The TBA Show & Tell held May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Ag. Trailer was well attended by both new and experienced beekeepers. Bob Ferguson gave a wonderful demonstration on assembling frames. Nelson Woodhouse brought his air compressor and many beekeepers assembled their frames in record time! C.E Harris demonstrated his electric wire embedder by using it to attach the support wires to wax foundation. Several beekeepers discussed the proper use of the smoker as well as their preferred fuel and lighter. Different styles of protective gear were modeled and experienced beekeepers answered questions on everything from plastic foundation to making splits. We even had two new members attend who were referred to us by Keith Tignor, the State Apiarist. It was an informal but educational morning where any beekeeping question was welcome. Thank you Judy Ferguson for organizing yet another terrific field day!



## Free Vitex Seedlings

C.E. Harris has 4-inch to 18-inch seedlings of *Vitex agnus-castus*, otherwise known as Chaste Tree, free for the digging. Vitex

is a large fragrant shrub or small tree that is coming into bloom now with lavender flowers. It is excellent forage for honeybees and other pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds. Vitex has grey-green palmately compound leaves that resemble marijuana. Its mature height is about 10 to 20 feet and equally as wide, but it can be pruned to fit into a perennial border much like Buddleia or butterfly bush. Not only is Vitex strikingly beautiful when in bloom, it is drought resistant and can even tolerate some salt drift. Vitex blooms best in the sun, but can take some shade. If you would like some Vitex seedlings, please call C.E. at 340-8651 and schedule a time to dig your plants.



## Bee Movie at Mt. Trashmore

The Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department has invited the Tidewater Beekeepers



Association to Movie Night on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Mount Trashmore Park. They will be screening "Bee Movie" and they have asked us to set up an educational display to teach the public about honeybees and beekeeping. Members may sell honey and hive products.

At Movie Nights, movies are shown on a 17' screen at the base of the hillside; people come with beach chairs & blankets and claim a space from which they view the movie. It's kind of like the drive-in movies of old, but without the car. In addition to the movie, they have interactive children's activities with Radio Disney, educational display (EMS Recruitment, Police Recruitment, Sheriff Dept. Child ID Program), two snack food vendors, a glow product vendor, a DJ with music and dancing, and free raffle tickets to win items donated by local businesses. Attendance ranges from 1000-2000

Set up begins at 5:00 pm to be ready for the public by 6:30 pm. Breakdown time is when the movie begins around sunset. TBA members are encouraged to stay for the movie, which is free to the public. If you would like to participate, please contact Pam Fisher at 757-620-0945 or [bgrrl@cox.net](mailto:bgrrl@cox.net).

## Feeding Honeybees

When feeding sugar syrup to bees, it is the sugar, not the water that the bees utilize. By mixing the sugar to water at different ratios, the beekeeper can encourage various honeybee behaviors. Below are ratios from Keith Tignor, Virginia's State Apiarist, and the actions they stimulate within the hive.



### Sugar Syrup Recipes

#### **1:2 One Part Sugar to Two Parts Water:**

Feed in the spring to stimulate egg laying. Use only when enough honey is available for feeding the brood:

1 pound sugar to 1 quart water  
or  
5 pounds sugar to 5 quarts water

Stir sugar into warm water until dissolved.

#### **1:1 One Part Sugar to One Part Water:**

Feed in the spring and summer for installing packages and to encourage comb building:

1 pound sugar to 2 cups water  
or  
5 pounds sugar to 2½ quarts water

Bring water to a boil and turn off heat. Stir in sugar until dissolved and cool.

#### **2:1 Two Parts Sugar to One Part Water:**

Feed in the fall to increase food stores in preparation for winter:

1 pound sugar to 1 cup water  
or  
5 pounds sugar to 5 cups water

Bring water to a boil and stir in sugar. Continue stirring over heat until all crystals dissolve. Remove from heat and cool.

## USDA, Lobbyists and Bees

SIERRA CLUB PRESS RELEASE 06-10-08

U.S.D.A. caves in to lobbyists over massive bee deaths while Germany takes a major step to keep their pollinators pollinating crops

In light of the mounting evidence that new seed chemical coatings are deadly to bees and action by Germany calling for their immediate suspension, the Sierra Club today reaffirmed its call for a U.S. moratorium on specific chemical treatments to protect our bees and crops until more study can be done.

Recently Germany's federal agricultural research institute noted, "It can unequivocally be concluded that poisoning of the bees is due to the rub-off of the pesticide ingredient clothianidin from corn seeds." At issue are the neonicotinoids, including clothianidin, being used in a new way -- as seed coatings.

For years, farmers have been spraying neonicotinoids onto their crops to stop insect infestation. Now Bayer, Syngenta and Monsanto have acquired patents to coat their proprietary corn seeds with these neonicotinoids.

"Part of the equation in the U.S. is genetically engineered corn, as more and more corn seeds are being gene spliced with a completely different species -- a bacterium," said Walter Haefeker of the German Beekeepers Association Board of Directors. "Bayer and Monsanto recently entered into agreements to manufacture neonicotinic-coated genetically engineered corn. It's likely that this will worsen the bee die-off problem."

David Hackenburg, former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, has been urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to do more study. "Look at what's time based. The massive bee decimation started when regulatory agencies rubber stamped the use of neonicotinoid spraying and coating," he said.

"Sierra Club joins the concern of beekeepers," said Laurel Hopwood, Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee Chair. "It's unfortunate that regulatory agencies are using double speak. They claim to protect our food supply - yet they aren't doing the proper studies. The loss of honeybees will leave a huge void in the kitchens of the American people and an estimated loss of 14 billion dollars to farmers. We call for a precautionary moratorium on these powerful crop treatments to protect our bees and our food."



## Beekkeeping Association Events

### Heartland Apicultural Society

July 10-12, 2008

Marshall University

Huntington, WV

[www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com)

### NC State Beekeepers Association

July 10-12, 2008

Southern Pines, NC

[www.ncbeekeepers.org](http://www.ncbeekeepers.org)

### Eastern Apicultural Society

August 4 - 8, 2008

Murray State University

Murray, Kentucky

[www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)



### VA State Beekeepers Association

November 3, 2008

Blue Ridge Community College

Weyers Cave, VA

[www.virginiabeekeepers.org/](http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/)

## Feral Bee Project

Help Locate, Map and Save Feral Bees -  
*We need your help!*

"**Save The Hives**" is an organization that is trying to promote best practices for healthy honeybee hive management. They want to encourage beekeepers and concerned citizens to use web-based technology to collaborate and pool their knowledge to further the research of Colony Collapse Disorder. By viewing the location of beehives across a wide geographic region, it is their hope to establish early trends that will prove useful in understanding and fighting CCD. Save The Hives is launching a web site <http://www.savethehives.com/fbp/> to encourage beekeepers and concerned citizens to help find and enter the locations

of feral honeybee hives throughout the United States.

While there is much publicity about Colony Collapse Disorder, Varroa Mites and other issues affecting *managed* beehives around the country, there is growing evidence that there is a persistent population of unmanaged or *feral* honeybees still intact in the wild.

David Tarpy, an entomologist at N.C. State University, and Debbie Delaney, a bee researcher who works in Tarpy's lab, are collaborating with amateur beekeeper and Web developer Ronnie Bouchon of Raleigh to create a map of feral bee colonies.

The site hopes to present some simple techniques, such as beelining, that will enable participants to find wild bees and then enter their location information into their database. This collection of feral beehives will be mapped and studied to better understand their genetic makeup.

Tarpy said wild honeybees that have managed to survive in the wild for decades or longer may offer genetic diversity to bolster the resistance of commercial honeybees. "They may be an untapped genetic resource that we can use in the industry," Tarpy said of the feral colonies he's trying to map.

When researchers find bees living in the woods, they have to determine if they are recent escapees from a beekeeper's hive or a hardy colony that has survived in the wild for a longer period.

Delaney recently received a grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture to do genetic analysis of feral bees. By studying bees from hundreds of nests, Delaney hopes to help answer questions about how genetically distinct wild bees are from commercial hives and whether feral bee populations are still in decline or are rebounding. A lot of genetic diversity among feral bee colonies, for example, might suggest a rebound. "What we found in the past is they were genetically distinct," Delaney said. "The more samples we get, the better idea we'll have of the diversity."

save The HIVES  
healthy hives for healthy lives

