

the Forager



October 2008

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.5 No.10

**President: Joe Taylor, Vice President: Bob Montcalm, Treasurer: Rick Fisher, Recording Secretary: Ed Cart
Webmaster & 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 thought we had a great turn out for our September club meeting, considering it was on a different night and a different location. Don't forget that we will be meeting in Towne Hall at Towne Bank on Mt Pleasant Road for the October meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

Mrs. Taylor and I have taken on a project for October 7 to introduce home-schooled children to beekeeping. We have about 75 children and their parents coming to our bee yard for a field trip. If any beekeeper wishes to join in, feel free to give me a call. We will be going into a hive and I have a few supers of cotton honey that I am going to take off while Mrs. Taylor shows the honey extracting operation in the honey house.

Now is the time to treat for mites if you have any and prepare wind breaks. Cold weather will be here soon so prepare your bees for the winter.

Respectfully,

Joe Taylor



Next Meeting: **Thursday**, October 9, 2008
at 7:00 PM

Location: Towne Bank Hall, 137 Mt.
Pleasant Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322

Program: Fall Hive Management

Speaker: C.E. Harris



New TBA Meeting Location

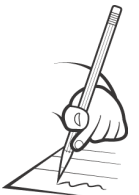
The agricultural trailer, where we have held our monthly meetings for years, now has a maximum occupancy of 50. In order to accommodate our growing membership, TBA has moved the meeting location to Towne Hall, a wing of Towne Bank, beginning in October 2008. Towne Hall is located near the intersection of Mt. Pleasant Rd. and Battlefield Blvd. in Chesapeake at 137 Mt. Pleasant Road.

The October meeting will be held at Towne Hall on **Thursday**, October 9th at 7:00 PM.

The November meeting will be on our regular schedule, the 2nd Monday of the month, November 10th at 7:00 PM in Towne Hall.

Secretary Position Filled

TBA member, Ed Cart, has graciously volunteered to fill the position of recording secretary vacated by Carol Watkins. A communal "Thank You" is extended to Ed for taking on this essential task. We all appreciate your effort on behalf of the club!



TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



October

Your hives should be almost ready for winter. Confirm that each colony has sufficient winter stores of approximately 40 to 60 lbs. of honey. You can estimate honey reserves by lifting a back edge of the hive – it should feel as if it's full of lead. If not, feed sugar syrup in a 2:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 5 cups water) until each colony is heavy with stores.

Ventilation is a primary concern during cool weather as dripping condensation inside the hive can dampen and kill bees. Make sure that the telescoping outer cover is propped open slightly to allow moisture vapor to escape the colony. Leave screened bottom boards open for winter.

Install an entrance reducer or mouse guard on the hive entrance after checking that you have not trapped any mice inside. The reducer cleat should be placed with the entrance up rather than down to prevent blockage by dead bees or debris during the winter.

Watch for signs of Nosema disease such as bees defecating on the hive front and entrance. A severe infection can kill a colony in late winter or early spring so treat with Fumigilin-B per manufacturer's instructions if indicated.

Order package bees and equipment now to avoid being disappointed by sold-out suppliers in the spring. TBA is placing a club order for package bees; see Floyd Watkins for details.



September Meeting Minutes

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

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

Holiday Social

Steve Black has arranged our annual Holiday Party, which will be in lieu of the December monthly meeting, for Tuesday, December 9th. The Holiday Social is open to beekeepers, their families and guests. We will meet at the Greenbrier Old Country Buffet from 5:30 to 9:00pm in a separate banquet room. The restaurant is located at 1412 Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23320. The buffet runs approximately \$12.00 per person, no alcohol available. Checks and tips will be handled individually. Please RSVP to Steve at 757-255-4176 or sblack@exis.net to ensure adequate space.

The Holiday Social will include a gift exchange in lieu of the raffle. Those persons who bring a **wrapped** 'bee-themed' gift valued at under \$15 may participate in the exchange. We will begin by drawing a ticket and that person will have his choice of any of the wrapped gifts. The holder of the second ticket will also have his choice of any of the wrapped gifts or the opened gift that the first person chose. This continues until the last person chooses either the last wrapped gift or any one of the previous opened gifts. The exchange is always a lot of fun and it is the one time you do want to be last!



Club Woodenware Order

TBA will be placing a group order for woodenware with Beeline Apiaries who has extended a 5% discount to us as an association. Carol Watkins will be coordinating the orders. You can place your order with Carol until October 11th. You must accompany your order with a 50% deposit. Once your order is built, it will be weighed and the shipping costs calculated. The shipping cost will then be added to your balance due. We will save considerably on shipping since the order is freighted to Hampton and Floyd Watkins will pick it up and arrange distribution from there. A Microsoft Excel order form, which will calculate your total, is available to TBA members on our website at:

<http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/index.html>

You will have to enter your user ID and password to access it. A printed order form is attached to this newsletter.



VSBA Fall Meeting

*Research related to beekeeping,
nearby and from unexpected sources*

The Virginia State Beekeepers Association will hold their next meeting on November 1, 2008, at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA, 24466, near Staunton, VA. Invited speakers include:

- Dr. Jose Fuentes, atmospheric scientist at UVa, on his widely publicized recent work on how air pollution affects foraging by honeybees and butterflies;
- Dr. Wayne Esaias, NASA oceanographer and beekeeper from Maryland is scheduled to present "Satellites, Honey Bees, and Climate Change" on detecting climate change in the long term through dates of nectar flow as monitored using scale hives - you can participate;
- Dr. Frank Linton, chief scientist at MITRE, with graduate degrees in artificial intelligence, and beekeeper from northern Virginia, on the use of remotely monitored sensors to detect and monitor conditions inside the hive;
- Dr. Wyatt Mangum reporting on the progress of his varroa-resistant colonies;
- Dr. Rick Fell and students on current research at VT.
- Keith Tignor's semiannual report on beekeeping in Virginia
- A guest from the state legislative community, provided by Lannie Ballard
- We hope to have a visit from Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of VSBA.

More information is available at:

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



Harvest Fair Volunteers Needed

The Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District and the Virginia Beach Department of Agriculture sponsor the Harvest Fair every October at the Farmer's Market on Dam Neck Road. This 3-day event features Farm Days on the first two days and the Harvest Fair on the third day. During Farm Days, approximately 800 children from different schools tour various educational stations where they learn about the many facets of agriculture as well as the importance of the industry to the city and region. For many children, this may be their first opportunity to experience different aspects of agriculture.



For the Harvest Fair on Saturday, thousands of people attend the Farm Days exhibits, which open to the public. Families enjoy the agricultural tents and areas, play old-fashioned games, listen to entertainers in the center circle of the Farmers Market, and may even enjoy a horse-drawn hayride. It is a well-attended event and beekeepers have a chance to sell some of their honey, candles and soaps on Saturday.

Volunteers are needed for Farm Days to present beekeeping to the school children from 9:00 am to Noon on Thursday, October 16th and Friday, October 17th. Club members are also needed to staff the TBA booth on Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Carol Watkins at 757-563-2275 or beelady1952@aol.com if you can help. Please let Carol know if you will be bringing any honey or hive products to sell so that she can ensure adequate space.





Vita Feed Honeybee Feeds

Vita (Europe) Ltd. has launched two new products to help improve honeybee health and stimulate colony development. Vita Feed Gold, a natural extract, and Vita Feed Green, an essential oil, are simple and safe to use leaving no residues and containing no antibiotics. Developed over several years and thoroughly tested in field trials, the new feeds are designed to strengthen colonies and make them more resistant to disease.

Vita Feed Gold is a liquid feed based on natural beet extract and molasses. It stimulates a controlled and sustained build-up of colonies, especially if they are weak, and has been shown to be effective in reducing the number of Nosema spores in colonies.

Vita Feed Green is a liquid feed based on the essential oils of walnut, thyme, marjoram and wild marjoram. By stabilizing the acidity (pH) of the bee gut to within the optimum range, Vita Feed Green offers protection against harmful bacteria and fungi. It is an anti-oxidant and helps reduce varroa and chalkbrood infestations.

Vita Feed Green can be used at any time of year but is usually most effective either in spring (to stimulate colony development) or in autumn (to help prepare bees for winter). Vita Feed Gold is best administered in spring or autumn especially if colonies have been weakened by dysentery or related conditions.

“As a honeybee health company with products that control pests, we have spent many years looking for products that will boost the natural defenses of colonies,” explained Jeremy Owen, Sales Director of Vita (Europe). “After thorough testing, we are delighted with the effects of Vita Feed Gold and Vita Feed Green in strengthening honeybee colonies, the ease with which the feeds can be administered and the fact that as ‘green’ products they are harmless to bees and humans and leave no residues.”

Vita Feed Gold and Vita Feed Green are available in 250ml and one-liter bottles, sufficient to treat five and 20 colonies respectively. Vita Feed Green is best applied in one dose, mixed with a sugar syrup or candy. Vita Feed Gold is best applied mixed with sugar syrup in five sprinkled doses over ten days. The feeds are available in the United States from Dadant.



Chesapeake Farm Days Reviewed

Farm Days, a cooperative effort of the Virginia Dare Soil & Water Conservation District and the Chesapeake Agriculture Department, was held on Friday, September 19, 2008 at Chesapeake City Park. More than 400 school children visited our TBA exhibit with their teachers and parents. TBA club members explained the agricultural significance of honeybees to the children and provided each child with a honey straw and bee activity sheet. Pam Fisher sends a heartfelt “THANK YOU” to Barbra Hickey, Jennifer Meadows, Bob Montcalm, Frank Walker and Nelson Woodhouse for helping with this educational event!



EPA Approves Bee-Killing Pesticide

Submitted by Bob Schwartz

Jerry Hayes, Florida's Chief Apiarist writes, "Well it looks as though Bayer and the EPA in their infinite wisdom have replaced the Neonicotinoids, that have gone off patent, with something they feel is even better. This new systemic pesticide, Movento, is much more robust in that it can move in the plant vascular system in all directions. Take a look under the heading 'Environmental Hazards' and read the warning that this material can appear in the pollen and nectar and effect honeybee larval development. And if that is not good enough look at 'Application Information' that the material can affect adult female (read queen) fertility. As the damage to colonies may not be seen for 2-3 weeks after pollen and nectar is brought in for the bees to feed to larva and queen fertility to be noticed it may be very hard to tie this pesticide to its affect on honey bee colonies.





Package bee Orders

In anticipation of the demand for 2009 spring bee packages, TBA decided to place an order as early as possible. Floyd Watkins volunteered to chair this project and he has been able to secure a reservation for 50 packages from Brushy Mountain. The supplier is the same one Brushy Mountain used last year, Gardner's Apiaries/ Spell Bee LLC of Baxley, GA. The cost of the 3-lb. packages has not yet been determined. If you would like to reserve a package, please contact Carol Watkins at 563-2275 or Beelady1952@aol.com.



Equipment Workshop

Do I need deeps, mediums or shallows? What is the difference between wired and thin surplus foundation? Do I need honey supers the first year? To find out the answers to these questions and more, attend the equipment workshop for beekeepers on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 9:00 AM to noon at the Extension Trailer in Chesapeake (where we used to have our monthly meetings). New and experienced beekeepers are encouraged to attend.

New beekeepers will be provided with an equipment list as well as catalogs from various beekeeping suppliers. Carol Watkins will be taking orders for the club's woodenware order from Beeline Apiaries, which has extended a 5% discount to us as an association. She will also be taking reservations for spring 2009 package bees from Brushy Mountain.

Experienced beekeepers are asked to bring their favorite beekeeping gadget, one they cannot keep bees without. Please come and share your experience with different equipment or suppliers. Let the newbees learn from your mistakes or share your pleasant experiences.



Bilingual Bees Can Count

Honeybees are amazing creatures; they use dance to communicate food and water sources to their sisters and can even extrapolate data in order to deduce a pattern. Now research has revealed that honeybees may be able to count up to a point and communicate across species lines according to two new studies from the Australian National University in Canberra. Researchers Marie Dacke and Mandyam V. Srinivasan trained European honeybees to pass a particular number of colored stripes in a tunnel to get a food reward, which was placed by a stripe. When they removed the food, the honeybees still returned to the same stripe. Next, the researchers varied the spacing of the stripes and replaced some with unfamiliar markers. The bees were able to reliably pass the same number of markers and arrive at the former reward site, demonstrating that they could count up to four.

In another study, colleagues Songkun Su of Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, and Shaowu Zhang of the Australian National University in Canberra were able to create the first mixed-species colonies, made up of European honeybees, *Apis mellifera*, and Asiatic honeybees, *A. cerana*. These two species each have their own dialects of the dance language to direct hivemates to food sources even when they are foraging in the same environment. Amazingly, despite the communication barrier, *A. cerana* deciphered *A. mellifera*'s dance and found the food, proving that these two geographically distant bee species could learn and understand one another's dance language.

Bees & Equipment for Sale

TBA member Jim Stubenrauch is selling all of his bee equipment, including 2 hives and a nuc with bees. Jim has protective gear and honey harvesting equipment for sale as well. You can reach Jim at 292-3911 or hardwire@usa.com. A full list of his equipment is available on our web site at:

http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/equip_exchange.html

**Tidewater Beekeepers Association
Beeline Woodenware Order Form**

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total Cost
10 Frame Equipment			
Telescoping Lids		\$11.79	
Migratory Lids		\$6.64	
Inner Cover		\$4.40	
Shallow Super (Box Joint)		\$5.88	
Medium Super (Box Joint)		\$6.41	
Deep Hive Body (Box Joint)		\$9.20	
Shallow Super (Rabbet Joint)		\$5.41	
Medium Super (Rabbet Joint)		\$5.94	
Deep Hive Body (Rabbet Joint)		\$8.72	
Bottom Board		\$7.71	
Screened Bottom Board - Assembled		\$14.97	
5 Frame Nuc Equipment			
5 Frame Nuc Telescoping Lids		\$10.10	
5 Frame Nuc Migratory Lids		\$9.86	
5 Frame Nuc Inner Cover		\$6.55	
5 Frame Nuc Medium Supper (Rabbet Joint)		\$5.25	
5 Frame Nuc Deep Body (Rabbet Joint)		\$7.50	
5 Frame Nuc Bottom Board		\$6.60	
Economy Nuc		\$12.10	
Deep frames 9 1/8"		\$0.68	
Medium Super Frames 6 5/8"		\$0.68	
shallow super Frames 5 3/8"		\$0.68	
Grand Total			
Down Payment Required (50%) due 11 Oct.			

Email completed order form to Carol Watkins at
beelady1952@aol.com
or call Carol at 563-2275

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