

the Forager



March 2009

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.6 No.3

**President: Joe Taylor, Vice President: Bob Montcalm, Treasurer: Rick Fisher, Recording Secretary: Paul Kist
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 want to thank everyone for the warm welcome back that I received at the meeting last month. It was great to see so many people at the meeting. I was discharged from Lake Taylor Hospital the next day and it really feels good to be home again.

It is the time of year to have all of your equipment ready for the spring. The maples are blooming here in Suffolk at this time but the temperature has been too cold for our bees to be flying. Hopefully we will get some warmer days soon.

Don't forget the short course coming up. Everyone needs to promote this as much as possible to encourage new beekeepers. And please don't forget to contact Rose Nichols if you can help with refreshments.

Again I want to thank everyone in the club for making the TBA run so smoothly during my illness. **A JOB WELL DONE!** I hope to see as many of you next month as I saw at the last meeting.

Joe Taylor 

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM

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

Program: DVD & open forum on Early Spring Management of Honeybee Colonies.

Special Workshop: 6:15 PM - Lighting the Smoker. Bring your smoker and learn how to light it and keep it going from the pros.

TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



March

- Order queens NOW. Many breeders are already sold out for spring delivery dates.
- Evaluate woodenware and replace any rotted items.
- Install honey supers later in the month. A queen excluder may be used above the brood box and under the 1st super.
- Air out drawn comb that had been stored with wax moth preventative - paradichlorobenzene (PDB) - for several days before putting it on the bees.
- Select a sunny, southeast facing spot for new yard locations. All day sun is best to discourage small hive beetles.
- Feed any light hives to encourage population buildup. Make sugar syrup in a 1:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 10 cups water) at this time of year.
- If medicating with Fumagilin-B, Terramycin, Apistan or anything else, STOP at least 2 weeks before honey supers for human consumption go on!
- On a warm day (60 degrees or above), check for larvae & brood. If there is no sign of a laying queen, order one ASAP or combine with a queen-right colony.
- Move frames of brood to the lower hive body. Do not break the brood into two boxes when cold weather is forecast.

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

Paul Kist at 757-672-8865 or

paulkist@juno.com

Floyd Watkins at (757) 563-2275 or

beewaspflw@aol.com

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



Beekeeper Study Group

The first meeting of the TBA Beekeeper Study Group was held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at Major Hillard Library. 16 club members participated in an open forum discussing the Master Beekeeper study guide, which is available on the VSBA website at:

http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/Master/MBStudyGuide_Qualified.pdf

The study guide is divided into five sections, which we will address in five separate Tuesday study sessions prior to the VSBA Spring meeting in Hampton. Dr. Rick Fell will administer the 1st, or Qualified Level Exam to any attendees who would like to take it sometime during the VSBA meeting on April 17 or 18, 2009.

If you missed the first study group meeting, but would like to attend future study sessions, we will meet again on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Russell Memorial Library in the Western Branch area of Chesapeake. Come prepared to discuss your answers and sources to Section 1, Honey Bee Biology, of the State Study Guide. Our goal is to have as many club members as possible ready to take the exam should they wish to do so. Even if you do not want to participate in the Virginia Master Beekeeper program, we encourage you to participate in the study sessions to expand your beekeeping knowledge.

Beekeeping Events



North Carolina State Beekeepers Association

March 6 & 7, 2009

Joint spring meeting of NCSBA and The South Carolina Beekeepers Association
Baxter Hood Conference Center at York Technical College in Rock Hill, SC

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

Virginia State Beekeepers Association

April 17 & 18, 2009

VSBA Spring Meeting

Northampton Community Center in Hampton, VA

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

Heartland Apicultural Society

HAS 2009

July 9 - 11, 2009

Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio

<http://www.heartlandbees.com/index.htm>



Swarm List

Floyd Watkins will circulate a Swarm List at the next TBA membership meeting. If cannot attend the meeting, but would like to receive calls to collect swarms, please telephone Floyd or Carol at 757-563-2275 or Email Beelady1952@aol.com and indicate to which cities you are willing to travel. The Watkins must have your physical address in order to map your proximity to the swarm. If you have a cell phone number that you will share with them to expedite response time, it would be much appreciated. Thank You Floyd & Carol for once again taking on this task; we are all grateful for your help!

February Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February membership meeting are available to TBA members for viewing at:

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

Beekeeping Short Course

The TBA Beekeeping Short Course for Beginners is scheduled for March 6 & 7, 2009 at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk. Thanks to the hard work of Kerry Bass, Paul Kist, Jennifer Meadows, Bob Montcalm, Rose Nichols and Bob Schwartz the course has been updated for 2009 and snacks arranged for everybody. Brushy Mountain has offered free shipping on first-time orders over \$50 for students who complete the course. More information on the course as well as the opportunity to register is available on our club's web site at:

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

TBA members are encouraged to help staff the short course and talk bees with the students during lunch and breaks. Please bring your protective gear and equipment for working the bees if you can help with the bee yard demonstration.



Old Beach Farmers Market

The Old Beach Farmers Market in Virginia Beach is looking for a honey vendor. The market is in its second year and last year there were many requests for honey and hive products which they could not fill. The Old Beach Farmers Market operates from 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturdays beginning May 23, 2009. It is located in the parking lot of Croc's at the corner of 19th Street and Cypress Avenue in Virginia Beach.

If you would like more information, please contact Bruce Pensyl at 757-286-7069 or oldbeachfarmersmarket@cox.net. He will supply you with a copy of the market's vending agreement and other pertinent information.

More information on the Old Beach Farmers Market is available at their web site:

<http://www.oldbeachfarmersmarket.com/>



Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show

The Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show was a TBA success story.

We had many club members volunteer their time and effort, yielding a wonderful surprise – our booth took 1st place in the educational displays from among all of the associations and societies! Floyd Watkins once again brought the bulk of the display in his truck on Wednesday night including several handouts that Carol Watkins had run off for distribution. Nick & Harold Delphia loaned us their brand new hive complete with frames, queen excluder and a feeder. C.E. Harris brought the stars of the show, the bees and their queen, along with a nuc demonstrating stages of comb building from foundation to capped honey. Rick & Pam Fisher, along with Jennifer Meadows were there both early and late into the night designing the booth layout to accommodate a sales area for hive products and an interactive educational area for the public. The judges appreciated it all and commented that “Your exhibit hit on all the senses. It was open and inviting, had large signage, was constantly staffed by club members who engaged the public and you offered educational handouts, especially for the children.”

We stayed continually busy talking bees to the public as well as selling honey, candles and soap. We gave out over 70 Short Course Registrations and over 50 TBA membership applications. Special thanks go to Katlyn Wiggins who not only helped Pam Fisher & Lisa Wiggins with their math skills when making change, but also jumped in to assist with education – it's easy to see why Katlyn is an honor student!

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Kerry Bass, Nick & Harold Delphia, Jim Doubler, Rick & Pam Fisher, Neal & Edna Gilbert, Chris Harker, C.E. Harris, Barbra Hickey, Paul Kist & Carolyn Copeland, Jennifer Meadows, Bob Montcalm, Heidi Pocklington, Kate & Opal Rogers, Michael & Tonia Rogers, Hugh Taylor, Floyd & Carol Watkins, Lisa & Katlyn Wiggins, Karen & Terry Zablocki.

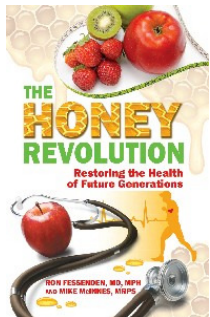
The show would not have been the success it was without the hard work of each of you; your assistance is much appreciated!



Advanced Beekeeping Course



On February 28, 2009 Instructors Rick Fell, Professor of Entomology at Virginia Tech and Keith Tignor, State Apiarist for Virginia, presented an advanced beekeeping short course on *Integrated Approaches to Hive Management*. The course was held at HRAREC on Diamond Springs Road and consisted of a morning classroom session followed by an afternoon of hands-on lab work. Several TBA members were in attendance. The course covered old foes Varroa mites, Foulbrood and wax moths as well as some new pests such as Small Hive Beetles, Africanized Honey Bees and Nosema ceranae. Participants learned sampling techniques and treatment options. Integrated Pest Management was stressed throughout the course with chemical intervention presented as a last option. Much emphasis was placed on rearing local bees and nucs to lessen our dependence on package bees from southern states with established Africanized Honey Bee populations. Dr. Fell stated that time permitting; he would like to plan further advanced courses in either the spring or fall.



New Honey Book

The Honey Revolution: Restoring the Health of Future Generations (Paperback)
ISBN 0979216214
by Ron Fessenden, MD, MPH
and Mike McInnes, MRPS

The Honey Revolution will change the way you think about honey and expose the truth about sugar, high fructose corn syrup and artificial sweeteners. Join the Honey Revolution and learn why honey is the sweetener of choice for diabetics. In addition, The Honey Revolution will teach you how to fuel properly for exercise and for sleep. Discover over 14 research validated healthful benefits of honey. The Honey Revolution is a must read by every health professional, nutritionist and dietitian, trainer, recreational and professional athlete. Written by Dr. Ron Fessenden, MD, and Mike McInnes, pharmacist, authors of The Hibernation Diet.



AAS News

The American Apitherapy Society, Inc. has a new website:

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

The AAS' mission is to promote and teach "the use of honeybee products to maintain and improve health, and to alleviate pain, suffering, and disability."

If you are interested in learning more about Apitherapy, AAS will host their 15th Apitherapy Course and Conference (CMACC) in Tampa, FL from April 17 to April 19, 2009. Learn the basics of Apitherapy in the Course, with new presentations in the Conference, such as "Apitherapy for Mental Disorders including Addictions" and "Propolis and Cancer." Registration is available on their web site.

New Dadant Office



Beekeeping Supplier, Dadant & Son's, has moved their Virginia Office from Lynchburg to a new 10,000 sq. ft. facility in Chatham, VA. The new space means a larger showroom, a media room and a high-fructose corn syrup storage tank from which they can dispense syrup to customers. If you would like to visit, the new address is 820 Tightsqueeze Industrial Rd., Chatham, VA 24531. The previous toll-free number (1-800-220-8325) is still in operation.



Queen-Rearing Course

Dr. Rick Fell, Professor of Entomology at Virginia Tech and Keith Tignor, State Apiarist have tentative plans to conduct a queen-rearing course immediately prior to the spring VSBA meeting. The course will be held at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center (HRAREC) on Diamond Springs Road in Virginia Beach. The course is in response to beekeeper requests for assistance in producing locally grown queens and nucs. More information will be published in the Forager and on the TBA web site as it becomes available.



Haagen-Dazs Still Loves

Honey Bees

From *Catch the Buzz* Ezine

Over the last three winters, more than one in three honey bee colonies in the U.S. have mysteriously died; a staggering phenomenon scientists have named Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. And for the second year, the Haagen-Dazs brand is taking the lead in driving solutions to solve this dire puzzle threatening our food supply and stumping scientists from around the world.

Because honey bee pollination is required to produce one-third of all the natural foods we eat, honey bees play a critical role in ensuring we have enough food to feed our growing population.

Why hasn't the cause of CCD been identified? Three basic factors are hampering research into the crisis: lack of awareness among the general public, lack of action aimed at alleviating the problem, and lack of funding to determine the root cause and address much-needed solutions.

The Haagen-Dazs brand has found that while consumer awareness of the honey bee crisis increased in the last year, largely through the brand's education efforts, the study revealed that only a little more than half of consumers are aware of the crisis. And only one in six is aware of something specific that they can do to help the honey bees

Funding on the scale required to seriously tackle this issue also remains elusive. The Farm Bill approved by Congress last year included a provision to fund more research, yet Congress has not yet allocated the money, putting the allocation in question. In the meantime, bees continue to die by the billions.

That's why the Haagen-Dazs brand is stepping up for a second year and redoubling its *Haagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees*(R) campaign efforts. Elements of the campaign include:

- A second donation to UC Davis and Penn State Universities of \$250,000. This brings the brand's total donation

for honey bee research to a half million dollars over two years.

- Continuation of the Haagen-Dazs brand's public education efforts with:

1. A special flavor, Vanilla Honey Bee, and all "bee-built" flavors (*flavors that use at least one honey bee-pollinated ingredient*) of ice cream, sorbet, frozen yogurt and bars proudly carry a *HD loves HB*(R) symbol and message under the lid.
2. A full-scale awareness effort, coupled with unique print and online advertising.
3. Part of the brand's donation to UC Davis is being used to create a Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven - a one-half acre bee-friendly demonstration garden coordinated by the California Center for Urban Horticulture. Visitors to the garden will be able to glean ideas on how to establish their own bee-friendly gardens and help to improve the nutrition of bees in their own backyards.
4. An upgraded interactive website (www.helpthehoneybees.com) premiering in April with a focus on examples of how consumers have gotten involved in helping to save the hardworking honey bees.

"Thousands of people reached out to join in our efforts to save honey bees over the course of the year. We're making a difference but there is still much to be done," said Ching-Yee Hu, Haagen-Dazs brand manager. "We are so proud to continue our support. This is a problem bigger than simply protecting our source of all-natural ingredients, like the almonds in our Vanilla Swiss Almond flavor. This issue affects our ability to provide food for our tables."

