

# the Forager



May 2009

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association  
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.6 No.5

**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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month**

## *A Message from our Vice President, Bob Montcalm*

Hello fellow beekeepers,



Hallelujah, it's springtime, all sorts of flowers and trees are in bloom and the nectar flow has been on for a few weeks. Hopefully all the wintered-over, new package bees and caught swarms are building their numbers. A large bee population in a hive is the name of the game to resist pest invasions. However, if not managed properly, large populations mean greater potential for swarming. Be sure to give your bees sufficient space in the brood boxes, adequate ventilation, and requeen regularly.

If you have signed up on a swarm list, be ready. You need to have spare hive equipment at the ready and it's always a good idea to keep a veil, long sleeve shirt, swarm bucket, clippers and a bee brush in your car so if you get a call, you're ready to go. The Mid-Atlantic swarm season continues through June so good luck. Don't do anything crazy like I did and try to get a swarm high up in a tree. I didn't fall...lets say... I made an uncontrolled fast descent. Be safe and don't get too far off the ground. If time permits, we will try to spend a few minutes at the May meeting talking about catching a swarm.

*Bob Montcalm*

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM

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

**Program:** Nosema video followed by Swarm Collection discussion.

**Special Workshop: Q & A at 6:00 PM**

**Have your beekeeping questions answered!**

## TIDEWATER BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For

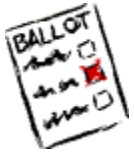


May

### THE NECTAR FLOW IS ON!!!

- Do NOT use medications in a colony with honey supers for human consumption in place. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Comb honey supers should be added on top of another honey super, not over the brood chamber, to reduce the amount of pollen in the comb honey.
- It is time to add another super when the super on a colony is one-half to two-thirds filled (six to seven frames). Raise the partially filled super and place the empty super under it.
- Keep empty storage space in the supers on all colonies until the honey flow has ended.
- Remove and extract capped supers from your colonies if you need additional supers.
- Continue to check for queen cells every seven days. Remove all queen cells from the colony to reduce swarming; you can use them to make summer splits to increase your colony numbers.
- Place bait hives with at least one frame of drawn comb (no honey) in each of your beeyards to catch swarms.
- Order queens if you plan to requeen in the fall.





## Nominations & Elections

The official slate of TBA officers for 2009-2010 is as follows:

President	Bob Montcalm
Vice President & Webmaster	Pam Fisher
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Paul Kist
Treasurer	Rick Fisher

As stated in the By-Laws: *The officers shall be elected by a majority vote when a quorum of members is present at the May meeting of each year, and shall serve in that capacity for the next 12 months.*

Thank you to Floyd Watkins, Steve Black, and Paul Kist for serving on the nominating committee.

## April Meeting Minutes

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

[http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting\\_minutes.html](http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/members/meeting_minutes.html)



## Queen-Rearing Course

The Colonial Beekeepers Association is planning a two-day course on queen rearing, making splits and raising nucs. These classes will be geared for the hobby beekeeper. New beekeepers are encouraged to attend. The tentative dates for the classes are the 10th and 11th of June. That is a Wednesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:45. The location will be the Northampton Community Center on Todds Lane in Hampton. Registration for the course will start on the 18th of May. The class size has not been determined at this time, but they are planning on about 30 or 40 students. Classroom hours will count toward the educational requirements for the Virginia Master Beekeeper designation. For more information or to register, please call Andy Westrich after 4:00 PM at 825-8843 or email him at [jandy618@juno.com](mailto:jandy618@juno.com).



## Master Gardener Plant Sales

Nectar & pollen plants will be available at discount prices from local Master Gardener groups at their plant sales. Help these volunteer organizations fund their horticultural outreach programs while saving money on locally grown trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals.

**Virginia Beach Master Gardeners** are having their annual *Plant Sale & Garden Day at the Market* on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market located at the intersection of Dam Neck & Princess Anne Roads.



**Norfolk Master Gardeners** will host their *Spring Plant Sale* in conjunction with the Stockley Gardens Art Festival held at Stockley Gardens Park in the Ghent section of Norfolk. Sale days are May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and May 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 6:00pm.

**Portsmouth Master Gardeners Open House & Plant Sale** will take place May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at 105 Utah Street, Portsmouth, VA



## Nosema Test Kits

Dr. Rick Fell, PhD, of Virginia Tech is conducting research on the incidence of *Nosema* across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Fell has provided TBA with sample kits and asked us to send samples of bees from suspect hives to him for testing. Dr. Fell will be testing for the presence of *Nosema*. If the sample tests positive, it will undergo further testing to differentiate between *Nosema Apis* and *Nosema ceranae*. Test kits will be available at the next TBA membership meeting and all results will be kept confidential.

## Beekeeping Events

### **NCSBSA**

Summer Meeting

July 9 - 11, 2009

Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro,  
NC

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

### **Heartland Apicultural Society**

HAS 2009

July 9 - 11, 2009

Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio

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

### **Eastern Apicultural Society**

August 3-7, 2009

EAS 2009

Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/>



## Bee Emergency Responders

Bob Schwartz is coordinating training for TBA beekeepers interested in volunteering as 'First Responders' to bee spills, Africanized bee reports or other bee emergencies.

The date for training is Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (TAREC) located in the City of Suffolk on Highway 58, near the village of Holland.

The tentative schedule is from 9:00 AM until lunch in the classroom and outside field training until 4:00 PM.

A sign-up sheet was circulated at past meetings for members wishing to participate. If you would like to receive training on bee spill response procedures as well as volunteer to assist the Commonwealth with bee emergencies, please contact Bob Schwartz at [moonlightbeekeeper@hotmail.com](mailto:moonlightbeekeeper@hotmail.com) or 757-357-7829 to be added to the list of interested beekeepers.



April 24-26, 2009

The 2009 Virginia Beach Craft Show was a wonderful example of TBA member cooperation. We had several people participate in education and honey sales for the first time. Many thanks to Hugh Taylor and Steve Black who took responsibility for the exhibit on both Friday and Saturday; hopefully their honey sales compensated them for their time! Kurt Fuge and Linda Gornto brought honey to sell on Sunday allowing us to continue offering honey sample comparisons. The visitors to our booth were treated to an education in varietal honey flavors along with an introduction to creamed honey in peanut butter, strawberry and cinnamon flavors. Handcrafted beeswax candles showcased another valuable product of the hive.

C.E. Harris supplied the stars of the exhibit, the bees, in his observation hive along with his teaching nuc, a hands-on demonstration of frames in various stages of completion from foundation to capped honey. It's always exciting to see the wonder on people's faces as they pick up the heavy frame of capped honey and then the light frame of empty extracted comb. Folks gain a new appreciation of the bees' (and the beekeepers') efforts after that demonstration!

Several people picked up TBA membership applications; let's hope that they attend our May monthly meeting.

TBA members Bob Montcalm, Paul Kist, Kate Rogers, Roxanne Francis, Jim Doubler, Barbra Hickey, Chris Harker, Heidi Pocklington and Rick & Pam Fisher were invaluable in their assistance. Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time; your efforts resulted in a wonderfully successful educational exhibit!



## Extract-a-ganza 2009



TBA has reserved the Ruritan Club in the Deep Creek section of Chesapeake for an extracting field day on Saturday, July 11, 2009. The club's electric extractor will be set up for member use. Demonstrations on uncapping frames and using the extractor will be ongoing during the day. Club members may bring their full honey supers and either receive instruction on how to spin the honey or demonstrate to new beekeepers how it's done. Television station WCTV-48 has expressed an interest in filming the extracting process for an educational news segment on beekeeping & honey.

In the past, we have combined the field day with a summer picnic for members and their families. The suggestion was made to do the same thing again this year.

More information will be available on the web site and in the newsletter as the event date nears. Thank you, Nick Delphia for securing the Ruritan Club with its commercial kitchen for Extract-a-ganza 2009!



## Beekeeping Books for Sale

TBA made a bulk purchase of the texts used for our Beekeeping Short Course for Beginners. In response to member requests, we are now offering them for sale at monthly membership meetings for \$10 each. The available books are:

***First Lessons in Beekeeping*** by Keith Delaplane basics of beekeeping through easy-to-understand text and numerous color photos on honey bee biology, beekeeping equipment, management, honey production and processing, as well as disease diagnosis and treatment.

***Beekeeping Basics*** from Penn State (Formerly *Fundamentals of Beekeeping*) - Text covers the basics of beginning beekeeping as well as information on managing parasites, pests and diseases; honey production and processing; pollination; handling beeswax; pollen trapping; and a guide to important floral sources.

## Woodenware Offer

TBA member and Beeline Woodenware Distributor, Andy Westrich has just received a new order of woodenware. Andy plans to attend the Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 and he will bring any woodenware orders with him to save club members a trip to his home in Hampton. Andy asks that club members call or email him with their order by noon on Monday, May 11, 2009 for delivery to the membership meeting. You can reach Andy on his cell phone at 513-2467 or [jandy618@juno.com](mailto:jandy618@juno.com). Price list and order forms are available on the TBA web site at:

[http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/equip\\_exchange.html](http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/equip_exchange.html)



### **From the Editor**

It has been my pleasure to serve as your TBA newsletter editor for the past six years. Our club has grown and changed tremendously during that time and I have enjoyed sharing the news with you on a monthly basis. Many thanks go out to the members who were kind enough to forward bee news to me for inclusion in the newsletter; your assistance was very much appreciated. To those of you who took the time to send a positive email or make an appreciative comment regarding the newsletter – you made my day! Please join me in welcoming our new newsletter editor, Paul Kist. Paul will take over as newsletter editor in June and I know that everybody shares my anticipation of the New & Improved *Forager*!

Sincerely,  
Pam Fisher

