



Forager



September 2010
Labor Day Edition

Newsletter of the Tidewater Beekeepers Association
www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net

Vol.7 No.9

President: Frank Walker, Vice President: Sean Kenny, Treasurer: Carol Watkins, Recording Secretary: Nina Calvano
Webmaster: Paul Kartachak, Newsletter Editor: Dan Sexton
Web Page Content Manager: Phil Calvano Newsletter Deadline is the 25th of Each Month

Next Meeting: Thursday September 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM

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

FAREWELL MY FRIEND



WORDS from THE PRESIDENT

On Friday, August 27, 2010 the honeybee lost a true friend and a lifelong defender of the significant role they play pollinating vital blooms across Virginia. Tidewater Beekeepers Association (TBA) mourn at the loss of a founding member of our association; a former club President; an exceptional teacher and mentor; a loyal and supportive friend; and one of the most experienced beekeepers in the state. Floyd Watkins, a kind, generous, hard working man, at 85 years old, lost his battle against a terrible disease with his wife Carol by his side at their home in Knots Island NC.

Floyd freely and unselfishly shared his beekeeping expertise with beekeepers across this country for over 50 years. He was a member of

TBA, the Virginia State Beekeepers Association and the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association.

Floyd was a Bee & Wasp eradicator, but he was quick to point out that bee removal did not include the harm of honeybees. He protected them and routinely represented TBA as he taught the importance of this tiny insect to garden clubs, local schools, non-profit associations and various other groups around the Tidewater area.

Floyd was also a wonderful gardener. Unknown to many, he annually raised an amazing crop of kiwis. Last year he allowed his family and friends the privilege and honor to assist him pick over 30,000 kiwis from his grove of trees just a short walk across his yard.

TBA was honored to have had the privilege of having Floyd as a lifelong member. TBA is thriving as the largest beekeepers association in VA with over 200 members because he built the foundation of success we all are enjoying today. My next visit to the apiary will begin with a moment of silence in honor of a great man. I hope each of you will do the same. May God Rest His Soul and bring comfort to his family and friends.

A Memorial Service is planned for Saturday September 4, 2010 at 2PM.

Location:

Back Bay Christian Assembly
1212 Princess Anne Rd.
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23457

The Family will receive friends at their home following the service:

121 Wade Cove Lane
Knotts Island, NC
252-429-3134

Frank S. Walker
TBA President



TBA BEE YARD NOTES

. The hive population will begin to drop this month as the queen's egg laying slows and the drone numbers begin to decline.

Since drone numbers are decreasing, Varroa mites will begin to reproduce on worker brood at higher rates. Varroa infestations prevent the proper development of winter bees, which impacts the likelihood of colony survival. Medicate as needed after removing all honey for human consumption.

You may begin to see Small Hive Beetles inside the hive at this time of year. They survive the winter as adults within the bees' winter cluster. Traps are available commercially to reduce their numbers.

The 'sour' smell of goldenrod & aster nectar being evaporated into honey may be apparent near hives and is not cause for alarm.

Harvest your honey crop if you haven't done so already, but remember to leave between 40 and 60 lbs. for the bees. Feed sugar syrup if needed in a 2:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 5 cups water) to ensure hives have adequate stores for the winter. Each gallon of syrup fed to the bees increases their reserves by about seven pounds. Remove any queen excluders between the colony and its winter stores.

Only strong colonies should be overwintered. Combine weak colonies with

strong colonies now to allow time for the bees to arrange their broodnest and honey stores before winter.

Install a mouse guard on the hive entrance before cool weather if mice are a problem in your area.

Business Meeting Minutes

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

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

BEEKEEPER TIP OF THE MONTH

Submitted by: Bob Schwartz

Place a green twig at the top of your fuel chamber after lighting your smoker. The fuel will burn down and the green twig will pop and let you know when it is time to add more fuel .

Do you have a tip you would like to share with other Beekeepers??? Send it to:

dandbman@islebee.com

A WORD(S) FROM THE EDITOR

August 21, was a hot one but being the dedicated beekeepers we are, Bob Schwartz, Chuck Spann, Fred What's-His-Name, Bill Bell, Norman Grefe Jr. (I remembered that name because I had to go to great lengths to look it up) and yours truly spent most of the day at the True Value Hardware Store in Smithfield, Va. proving to everyone just how dumb a lot of us beekeepers are. Opinions were like wreck tumz (it is two words ain't it) everybody had at least one. I didn't keep count but I believe there was more than enough to go around. Anyway, there was a good turnout and a lot of interest was generated concerning beekeeping. We look forward to doing this as an annual event and the possibility exist for quarterly honey sales and presentations at this location.

CALLING ALL MENTORS

TBA would like to start a Mentors Corner. The purpose is to offer beekeepers an opportunity to get answers concerning problems that arise with their hives. If you would like to be contacted so you can give your two cents worth as these questions arise, please send an email address and or phone number to: dandbman@islebee.com

If you have a question you would like to have answered please email the same address dandbman@islebee.com or phone 7573573394.

The bees favorite music composer is BEE toven



Anybody know who this is??

Please forward Bee news and other items and/or items for sale to: (islebee@dishmail.net)



