

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

April/May 2007

President's Message

Happy Spring!

I think it is safe to say spring is here. The skunk cabbage is up and the trees look as though they are ready to burst open with color!

We had a great turnout for our beekeeping short course despite being snowed out our first day. A big thank you to Deb Brodhecker and Bob Burkard for organizing the short course. Thank you Debbie and John Vencheck for doing the housekeeping stuff and our teachers Bob, Tom Webb, Cathie Skove, Mike Osborne and Roman Oscada. It is truly a team effort.

Welcome new beekeepers. Be sure to check out our meeting schedule and mark your calendars. We will be going on several field trips where you can get up close and

personal with the bees. This is a great learning tool for our new and old beekeepers to get inside a take a look at a living bee hive. It is fascinating to actually see what you have learned about during the short course.

For Mike and I the short course always gets us excited for the new beekeeping year.



We left the short course and went straight to our bee yards. We checked our colonies and the bees are already bringing in a

vibrant yellow pollen. This is the time the queen will get busy laying eggs and the population will build up fast. Drones will begin to appear. As we inspected our colonies, we were happy to see that there were healthy queens, plenty of eggs and brood. We reversed the deeps, fed the bees some sugar syrup, cleaned up some of the equipment and so it begins...

Linda Osborne

Welcome

New Beekeepers!

We look forward to getting to know you!

SCBA Newsletter
Apr/May 2007

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- April 15 at 1pm at Brodhecker's. Install a package of new bees. Bring veil and gloves. Call 973-702-1223 for directions.
- May 20 at 1pm. Field trip to Chris Tomlinson's bee yard.
- July 14 at 10am at Osborne's. Hive inspection, honey extraction and pool party.
- July 29 at 9am at SCFHS blue building. Honey booth set-up
- August 3-12 Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. Enter your honey, win prizes.
- September 9 at noon at Brodhecker's. Joint meeting with Southeastern NY Beekeepers. Pot luck lunch. Program to be announced.
- November 10 at 7pm at Mountain Brook Inn. Annual Holiday Dinner



Colony Collapse Disorder

Honey bees have been in the news lately—reporters have been calling fellow beekeepers to ask about the state of bees in NJ. Friends and strangers who know we keep bees are asking about the impact of CCD to bees and the pollination of crops here in NJ and across the country. At this time, most of the cases of CCD have affected migratory colonies. However, some non-migratory beekeepers in NJ and PA have reported major losses.

Do you have hives that died from CCD? Hives that died should always be evaluated for the cause of death.

- **Starvation** If there are bees with their heads in the cells and abdomens sticking out, it is likely that the hive dies of starvation.
- **Robbing** If there is no honey in the hives but the wax cells have chew marks or rough edges and there is powdered wax on the bottom board, then the hive was robbed out and the hive might then have starved.
- **Not CCD** If there is a pile of dead bees between the frames, on the bottom board or in front of the hives, then it is not like that the hive succumbed to CCD.
- **CCD** If you find a dead hive with no bees, and lots of honey that is not being robbed by neighboring bees you likely have CCD.

How do you tell if a live hive has CCD? CCD is a rapid loss of adult bee population.

- **Swarming** If you only have a few bees left in the hive but there are lots of queen cells, then the hive probably swarmed, superseded or lost the queen. You probably do not have CCD.
- **Dead Bees** If there are large numbers of dead bees in the hive or in front of the hive, then you probably do not have CCD. The dead bees could be caused by any number of things such as pesticides, starvation or viruses.
- **CCD** A previously strong hive now has only a handful of young bees with a queen and no dead bees inside the hive or in front of the hive.

How can we protect our hives from CCD? We are not sure what causes CCD, but the suggestions from the CCD working group is:

- Keep colonies strong by practicing best management practices.
- Don't stack dead or weak colonies on strong colonies
- Feed colonies Fumidil B or fumigillin in the spring.



How can I help the effort to find the cause of CCD? The CCD Working Group is requesting that everyone complete the survey on www.beesurvey.com. This survey helps the researchers find common threads between beekeepers and helps them rule out some potential causes.

More Information Other recommendations, suggestions and up-to-date-coverage of the CCD issue can be found at

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu>

This article was taken from The Pennsylvania Beekeeper state newsletter and written by Jim Bobb, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association President

Honey Apples

This is a quick, easy recipe that can be used as a side dish with pork or chicken or dress it up with a pastry crust and some whipped cream for dessert.

1 cup honey
1/2 cup vinegar

Pare, core and slice thinly
2 cups of apples

Drop the apple slices a few at a time into the simmering, bubbling honey mixture. Skim them out when transparent, serve chilled or hot. MMMmmmm.....

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