

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

June/July 2007

President's Message

Hello all-

We have had some great spring weather for our bees this year. (Not so for our farmer friends who are in dire need of rain.

Editor's note: Since Linda wrote this rain has come) It always amazes me how weather dependant we are as beekeepers. Too much or too little of rain, wind, cold or hot weather etc. can make or break our bee/honey season!

Our new packages have built up very nicely. We did some splits and re-queening. All of our colonies appear to be healthy and are bursting with activity. The bees are bringing in nectar and pollen. We have our honey supers on and they are filling up fast. Mike has been doing weekly inspections of the hives to make sure the queen is present and that the colony is healthy. We have had very few phone calls about bee swarms.

Continuing Education:

Thank you to Chris Tomlinson for allowing

our club members to visit his apiary. According to Chris, they spent about 2 ½ hours going through his colonies. This is an excellent learning tool for our new members to see an actual live colony in action. There is always something new to be learned.

Another way to further your education on beekeeping is to attend the NJBA meetings. These meetings are certainly worthwhile especially now with the CCD phenomenon. They generally have excellent guest speakers many of whom are on the cutting edge of honey bee research and development.

Another way to further your education is to do your own reading and research. Stephen Brodhecker has developed a web page for SCBA. He will be putting some links to interesting articles on beekeeping on the website. Thank you Steve! If you have not done so, please check out this

website—brodheckerfarms.com/SCBA

Our next meeting will be July 14 at 10:00 am. We will do a mite count, inspect our colony of bees, and extract some honey. We plan to picnic around noon time. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will provide the hamburgers and hotdogs and drinks. Bring your bathing suit, a chair, gloves, your veil and family!

On a sad note, Bob Hughes' wife Joan, passed away earlier this month. For our new members, Bob has been very active in the NJBA over the years. He has served as President for two terms and hosts the annual picnic and auction each year. The SCBA offered our condolences to Bob and his family by sending a card and making a contribution the American Heart Association.

Hope to see everyone on Saturday, July 14th.

Linda Osborne

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SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- July 14 at 10am at Osborne's, 23 Fox Hill Rd, Lafayette, 07848 Hive inspection, honey extraction picnic and pool party. Bring a dish to share, swim gear, veil and gloves and a chair.
- 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 Update

As of this writing, the researchers have not found a smoking gun that causes Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). According to some sources there is no truth to the cell phone theory. In fact, according to one source, the Germans have retracted that assertion.

What should you do to be proactive against CCD? Since most of the hardest hit beekeepers routinely place their dead outs on top of strong hives, a pathogen or virus could be continuously exposed to bees and could become highly virulent. It was purported that packages installed immediately on CCD dead out equipment in California died. Dead out hives in Florida were irradiated and that seemed to help on those installed packages.

It is hoped that a cheaper more convenient alternative to irradiation might be to fumigate the dead out hives with acetic acid. An experiment is in process to compare installed packages on irradiated CCD dead outs, installed packages on CCD dead outs that were fumigated with acetic acid and installed packages on CCD dead outs that were neither irradiated nor fumigated (the control).

For now, it is recommended that dead outs NOT be placed immediately on strong hives, but stored for some time before being re-used. There are not yet recommendations for the amount of time the equipment should be stored. Be sure to take precautions against wax moth infestation. Set the supers on

their sides and leave the frames exposed to light so that wax moth does not get started.

You can also freeze the boxes for a few days or store the boxes with moth balls (use Para dichlorobenzene and not naphthalene crystals). Stay tuned to find out if the acetic acid treatment turns out to be successful.

The most accurate information about CCD can be found at the Mid Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium web site at www.maarec.cas.psu.edu



A Special Invitation

Tom Fuscald, president of the Northeast Beekeepers Association, is inviting all members of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association to attend their branch meeting on **Saturday, June 30, 2007** at 10AM. They will be meeting at the Great Falls Visitor Center in Paterson, 65 McBride Avenue (at Spruce Street), Paterson, NJ.

After a brief business meeting, some discussion of beekeeping and possibly a talk by a member of the California Beekeepers if she is available, attendees will see a video on Paterson, the "Cradle of American Industry".

Tom will also lead a tour of the Paterson Great Falls Area. The tour will start at the Great Falls Visitor

Center. For directions and more information see <http://patersongreatfalls.com>. (If you're having trouble finding the building, Tom will have his cell phone with him 973 942-5066.)

With a minimum amount of walking the group will go to Libby's Lunch where, according to Tom, the Texas Weiner was invented and still served. Bring money for lunch.

The group will also walk directly over the falls on the foot bridge. Tom has wanted to show this area, which he considers a "hardly publicized national treasure", to members for a long time.

If you have any questions, contact Tom at 973-942-5066.

Berry Striped Pops

2 cups strawberries
3/4 cup honey, divided
6 kiwi fruit, peeled & sliced
2 cups peaches, peeled & sliced
12 paper cups or popsicle molds
12 popsicle sticks

Puree strawberries with 1/4 cup honey in a blender or food processor. Divide mixture evenly between 12 cups or molds. Freeze about 30 minutes or until firm.

Meanwhile rinse processor; puree kiwifruit with 1/4 cup honey. When strawberry layer is firm, pour kiwifruit into molds. Repeat process with peaches and remaining 1/4 cup honey. When kiwi layer is firm pour peach puree into molds. Insert popsicle sticks and freeze about 30 minutes or until firm

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