

Essex County Beeline

The Newsletter of the Essex County Beekeepers' Association,
an Internationally Acclaimed Award-Winning Organization

Keeping Bees Since 1923

November 2008

The Essex County Beeline is published eleven times a year and is a benefit of membership in the ECBA.

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MEMBER MEETING
SATURDAY, NOV 8, 2008
PIE AND CIDER NIGHT



Bee Building, Fair Grounds
Meeting Time 7:00 PM
Details on page 3

deep this time of year. Do the bees have stores for winter? I have already treated for mites where needed, and a couple of hives are going to need a little fall feeding of 2:1 syrup. I have a couple honey frames in the freezer that can go in an emergency.

Sometimes beekeeping is just plain fun. One of our students Ann Uppington, called me to say that there was a movie being made in Andover that needed some dead bees for a scene in the movie 'Don McKay'. I knew the movie company was in town because they filmed a scene involving a gas station robbery, but somehow the police didn't get the word, and the police ended up putting the actors in handcuffs on the ground when a passer by called 911. Apparently the lead character gets stung by a bee and they needed a dead bee to be filmed on the kitchen floor after the actor is supposed to be stung. I provided the bees. Anyway they then decided there would be another scene where a bee lands on the actor's face, so they asked me if I could help them out. I went through my hive and got about a dozen drones. Being September, I wasn't too sure I would find many drones, but there was at least one on every frame I pulled. I refrigerated them to quiet the bees down and brought them live to the movie set. I then placed a live drone on the actors face (Thomas Haden Church). They did about five takes, including one take without the bee which they could dub

Club Business

Presidents Message

Fair season is here and I hope you can all participate. This is a real fun time, a lot of work, but still a good time. It is an excellent chance to get to know fellow members. The honey take was a little light, but I think we will be alright. Thank you beekeepers who brought in honey for sale. The Fair committee has been busy and the building is starting to look very attractive.

I am not sure what to make out of this year's beekeeping. A lot of people are reporting a dismal fall crop, including myself. Others had a great year. I just could not get my bees to cap the honey and as a result had to put back a lot of wet frames. Now it is the final prep for winter. I usually go through the hives pretty

in a computer generated bee if the other takes didn't work. Anyway I got to hang out on the set for about 6 hours watching how movies are made. It was a pretty cool way to spend a day.

Dave Meldrum

September Meeting

Recording Secretary Candy Leva opened meeting at 2:25 PM announced Phil as the 90 day Pro Tem Vice President.

Motion was presented to accept minutes as publish in September Newsletter, it was approved.

Jan Gaglione read the treasurers' report which was accepted subject to audit. The lists of expenses were read and a motion was carried to pay those expenses pending President Dave Meldrum's signature.

Fair Committee

Wax & honey take-in next week...if you are selling you must stay for mix in. Following take-in 9/26-27, judging will be done Sunday 9/28. Need volunteer for an hour or 2 after! Call Kathy & Chris.

Pricing will be reviewed and set after today's meeting. In addition, shift supervisor meeting will be held today after the member meeting.

Fair volunteers who work 3 days or less will received paper passes, 4 or more shift will get badges. ECBA lanyards are \$2...but will be given as a thank you to those working 4 or more days. \$20 will be charged to replace lost badges.

This years' Honey Queen is Rachael Cider from Texas. ECBA is looking for a couple to show Rachael around the area on Wednesday, October 8th. There is \$250 to cover the expenses. Oct 1-3, Chris Delaney will be at the Bee Building. Come by and help out with any last minute tasks.

After the fair the building will need to be prepped for public use by October 25.

Topsfield Fair Parade – Teresa
There will be 3 parades again this year, Saturday AM and Tuesday & Thursday at 5PM it's a fun time good and a great opening to the fair with the float...please come with bee outfit and smokers. This year's theme is "Rediscover the Honeybee." Tuesday and Thursday parades participants should meet at River Gate parking lot.

Monday and Tuesday in the show tent from 9AM-1PM, Haagen Dazs will be doing a presentation "Love the Honey Bees." They will be sampling Honey Bee Vanilla Ice Cream and asked ECBA members to be a part of it.

Library News – Barbara
Will Graves and Barbara attended The Peabody Essex Museum Story Hour. They were impresses by the Korean Bee hive display. ECBA received a thank you note and positive feedback. ECBA received 11 different passes to the PEM...to be raffled away and given as a door prize during the next meeting. The library requested \$553.81 up front to pay for books & suppliers need \$553.81.18 books coming out of library budget. Motion was approved.

Building Committee - Stan
Painting done to the building but there was a poor showing of volunteers, just a handful, and could have used more hands to help. Phase one is complete. After the fair there is more work to be done to make the hall nice for ECBA. PLEASE help by signing up.

Grant Committee - Diane Sellars
Met John Burand UMass in contact will be reading his to awards S Honey bee pathology Review to decide on award

Nomination Committee – Peter Delaney – Nomination List Vice President - Phil Watson Treasurer - Diane Sellars

Recording Secretary - Anne Bouwer
Director - Chris Meehan,
Bee School - Stan Sample – to fill the open position, Vinny Gaglione, to replace Will Graves
Scholarship Committee - 1 Jane Wilde, 2 Connie Condon – Nomination from the floor.
Question was asked what is required of the scholarship commit. Phil read the By-laws

Ballot Committee...Needs 3 people to hand out and collect the ballots during the November meeting..

Danny has labels for those selling

New Business

A sign up sheet was circulated to get volunteers to clean up after the Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb meetings. Need more volunteers for Dec and Feb~ See Dave Meldrum at the next meeting.

Linda and Tom have a friend in the Peace Corps and asked if the club would consider sponsoring a side project. Linda would get more details.

Last year's budget of \$48.18 for a hand truck was not used and was motioned to move it to this year. The motion was approved.

BOD...Nov 3rd

41 Buick will be used during the Saturday morning parade for Phyllis and Mr. Willey if he is feeling OK.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36PM but reopened at 3:45PM to close the nominations for the slate of officers. Motion was so moved.

Door prize from Beekeepers Warehouse was a complete set up with screen bottom board.

Meeting re-adjourned @ 3:59PM

Calendar

November 3, 2008
BOD Meeting, 7PM

November 8, 2008
Member Meeting, 7:00PM
Pie & Cider Night
Bee Building – Topsfield

November 15, 2008
Newsletter Deadline

December 13, 2008
Member Meeting, 7:00PM
Potluck Dinner
Bee Building - Topsfield

January 10, 2008
Member Meeting, 7:00PM
Bee Building – Topsfield
Speaker: Ken Warchol,
"Abnormalities in the Beehive"

Bee Demonstrations
Boxford Garden Club
February 20, 09 10:00 AM

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **November 15, 2008**. Please make submissions to Candy Leva by email at: Candice.leva@avnet.com

FOR SALE
Like new four frame extractor, \$400
For more info contact :
wildjane8@comcast.net

November Meeting PIE AND CIDER NIGHT

Topsfield Fair grounds
Bee House
7:00 P.M.

Speaker: **Alan Wilkens**
Topic: Removing Bees from Building

Members entering in the Pie-Off MUST have their pies at the building by 6:45PM for judging! 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes will be awarded! Non-contestants are also urged to bring pies.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

**Door Prize!
Raffle Table!**

Support scholarship fund by donating items for the raffle table!



Mass Bee Irradiation

Mass Bee will be sponsoring another day to do hive irradiation. This is a program where you can submit boxes of woodenware (no honey in the frames please) that will be irradiated with gamma rays capable of killing diseases such as Foul Brood and other pathogens. It is a great way to decontaminate old equipment. Cost will be about \$8.50/bx where a box is 16" x 18" x 9 3/4" The date will be around second week in March. ECBA will need to organize all the people from our club as a set of boxes. More details to follow.



Save the date!
Annual Tea Party and Library Repair Party
Saturday - November 1, 2008
10:00am-12:00n

Tea and Scandinavian pastries will be served.
Bring your tea pot and favorite brew.

Come to cover new books, repair old books, drink tea and help the Bee Library.
Please RSVP to Barbara @ 978-462-335



**FUTURE OF BEEKEEPING: Southern New England Beekeepers Assembly
●●● November 22 in Hamden, Connecticut**

The Future of Beekeeping is the theme for the third Southern New England Beekeepers Assembly, co-sponsored by the Back Yard Beekeepers Association, the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, and Wicwas Press.

Featured speakers include Dr. Rick Fell (VPI, Virginia), who will discuss Pheromones in the Bee Hive and Understanding Colony Stress and Biology; Kirk Webster (Vermont) who will discuss Practical Management: Developing Resistance and Wintering Colonies and Bees, and The Food Supply, Energy Use and the Future; Blake Shook (Collin County, Texas) who will speak on How I Keep Bees In Texas and Raise Queens and Promoting Youth Programs in Beekeeping and Dr. Larry Connor who will address the State of Queen Production and Bees & Flowers & Humans: The Essential Connection.

Fell conducts bee biology and pheromone research at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, VA. Webster is a commercial beekeeper and bee breeder who has developed a strain of Russian bees that has proven very successful in the Northeast. Shook is an 18-year old beekeeper with over 200 colonies. He is the incoming president of the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Club near Dallas, Texas. Connor is the owner of Wicwas Press and will have just returned from a bee-breeding program conducted in France; he is the author of several books and writes a monthly column for Bee Culture Magazine and the American Bee Journal.

All speakers will discuss The Future of Beekeeping in a final session.

Two breakout speakers include David Blocher, who will discuss Bee Biology Essentials and Leslie Huston, who will address Late Winter and Early Spring in Colony Management. Both speakers are EAS Master Beekeepers. These talks are designed to appeal to new and hobby beekeepers who want to review colony management basics.

The registration fee for the program is \$65. Individuals submitting registrations and payments postmarked by October 31, 2009 may pay a reduced rate of \$45 (per person). Checks must be payable to The Connecticut Beekeepers Association. A catered lunch is available for an additional \$8. Bag lunches may be brought.

Registration starts at 8 am Saturday, November 22 and the program runs from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm.

A Tea Cup Auction will be held. Bring items of value to put into the auction—beekeeping or otherwise—to help pay expenses.

The program will be conducted at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike Road, Hamden, Connecticut. The facility is handicapped accessible.

For further information and last minute changes contact the meeting’s website: www.sneba.com.



Library News

The library on Wheels covered many miles this summer. I want to thank one and all that helped us load and unload the books for each meeting. Soon the library will be set up back in the Bee Building.

The Library Committee would like to introduce our new member, Elizabeth Mc Crank of Lynn. Welcome Elizabeth!

Member Ed Cassano has just donated more books.

Great Garden Shortcuts by Rodal Press

Stonescaping

Back to the Basics – How to learn and enjoy Traditional American Skills

The Back to the Basics is a complete guide to living off the land. The chapters cover:

- Land buying it & Building on it
- Energy from Wood, Water, Wind & Sun
- Raising Your Own Vegetables, & Livestock
- Enjoying your Year Round Harvest
- Skills and Crafts for House and Homestead
- Recreation at home and in the Wild



This hefty book covers everything from coonskin hats making, cheese making, candle making, metal working, beekeeping (of course!) and raising chickens, goats, cows & horses. Check it out at the library!

Thanks you Ed!

Fall is in the air and the October meeting will be a good time to return your outstanding books and see what is new at the library.

Penn State, ABF and Project ApisM team up to help test your colonies.

Cost-sharing Program for Pesticide Analysis of Honey Bee Colony Matrices (honey, wax, pollen, bees, brood, etc.)

Based on recent evidence of high pesticide levels in wax, pollen and brood, beekeepers have expressed an interest in having samples from their own colonies/apiaries tested for pesticides.

The USDA, National Science Lab in Gastonia NC is capable of screening all hive matrices for up to 171 pesticides at or near the ppb level. This lab is part of the USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) and conducts a program to collect and analyze pesticide residue levels in agricultural commodities, including honey. These data are confidential and the property of the contractor.

Although the AMS cost of analysis is below commercial rates, the analysis of individual samples is costly. The cost of analysis for coumaphos and fluvalinate in wax is \$90 per sample. The cost of full pesticide screening (171 pesticides) in any hive matrix is \$205 per sample. We have received funding from the ***ABF Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and Project Apis mellifera (PAm)*** to establish a program to help reduce the cost of these analyses. This funding allows us to pay half the cost of the analysis per sample. Beekeepers wishing to have samples analyzed will pay \$45 for miticides, or \$100 per sample for the full screen of 171 pesticides.

The information generated from individual samples will become part of a large centralized, and highly confidential data-base maintained at Penn State. In addition to the analytical results of your samples, we will also provide data on all samples analyzed up to that point in time (your levels compared to the average level and range in the entire data base).

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Maryann Frazier at the address below and we will provide you with information on submitting samples for analysis.

We are particularly interested in encouraging the participation of organic and small beekeepers in this program.

Maryann Frazier, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Entomology

501 ASI Building, University Park, PA 16802

Phone: (814) 865-4621, Fax: (814) 865-3048

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