

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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Newsletter – Brian Gallagher

April 2009

April 2nd Meeting

"How to create a bee-friendly garden". Carmen Nies, a master gardener, and her husband Dirk will discuss how to provide your bees with nearby sources of nectar and pollen, as well as give guidance on planting bee-friendly plants that will bloom throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

There will be a Q&A for the Beginning Beekeepers also.

See you at the Ivy Creek Natural Area on **Thursday, Apr. 2nd at 7:00 PM.**

Directions to Ivy Creek Natural Area: <http://ivycreekfoundation.org/located.html>

Programs

May's program is being worked on. For June the speaker will be John McGhee, our state bee inspector. If you have ideas for topics you would like to see covered, let Dana Tornabene know.

Dues

This will be **your last newsletter** if you have not paid 2009 dues.

Dues for 2009 should be paid now. Please send a check for \$5.00 made out to CVBA, to Art Freeman, 8799 Rockfish Gap Tpke, Afton, VA 22920.

Note: The 2009 Class members do not have to pay dues this year.

VSBA Spring Meeting Apr. 17-18

The VSBA Spring meeting on April 17-18 is fast approaching. In addition to the two-day meeting at the Northampton Community Center in Hampton, VA, Dr. Rick Fell and Keith Tignor are planning a pre-meeting workshop on queen rearing. The workshop will occur Thursday night, 4/16, and Friday morning, 4/17 at the Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Extension Center. This is the site of one of the demonstration/research apiaries established last year to assist beekeepers in management practices. Participation in the workshop will be limited to 24. There is no fee to attend. We will begin the Thursday night session at 7:30 pm, ending at 10:00 pm, and cover the reproductive biology and production techniques of honeybee queen rearing. The Friday morning session will begin at 8:30 am, ending in time to allow everyone to attend the VSBA meeting. The morning session will consist of demonstrations of queen rearing techniques and opportunities for participants to practice some these techniques.

More info at <http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>

Annual Apiary Survey

Attached to the email that sends this (or to the hard copy) is the annual apiary survey from Keith Tignor. We will pass it around at the April meeting, if you will not be at the meeting please fill it out and mail it to Keith. Be sure to put CVBA-West in the Association blank at the top so Keith knows what region of the state it comes from. Mail to:

Keith Tignor
Apiarist/Endangered Species Coordinator
VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Plant and Pest Services
P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218

This Month's Beekeeping

The early trees are in bloom. Bradford pears and the ornamental fruit trees are out. The bees now have a natural source of pollen so they will not take pollen substitute, and syrup may not be eaten as fast. However, feeding syrup lets them eat at night when they are not flying. For those with package bees, don't stop feeding until they do not take up any syrup. Remember that more hives die in March than any other month as the food consumption ramps up due to brood rearing. Keep a close watch on your hives for the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Package Bees

Mark Bennet from Dadant in Chatham (used to be in Lynchburg), VA is taking orders for 3# packages with Italian queen: \$73.50, Italian Queens: \$17.00 each. Make checks or money orders payable to Mark Bennett (not Dadant). Payment (in advance) type: Check, money order, cash - no credit cards. For info call 1-800-220-8325. **Delivery April 27**, this is a second delivery.

Internet Info

There are several things on the net that you might find interesting.

- 1) A short monthly Beekeeping newsletter from Bee Culture magazine is available for free from http://www.beeculture.com/content/catch_buzz.cfm
- 2) The largest publisher of Beekeeping books is Wicwas Press run by Dr. Larry Conner. He sends an occasional newsletter listing new books available. You can subscribe here <http://www.wicwas.com/page6.html>
- 3) The main Beekeeping list-serve is BEE-L, which is a system whereby you get all emails sent by anyone on the list, and, all the approximately 700 members see any email you send to the list. While the exchanges can sometimes be a little heated, it is a method of learning the latest ideas. You can sign up, or join as they call it here <http://community.lsoft.com/scripts/wa-LSOFTDONATIONS.exe?A0=BEE-L>
- 4) The Virginia State Beekeeping site is a great resource. The quiz there is a good way to see if you should do some more studying. Go here: <http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>
- 5) Youtube has some interesting videos, especially of package installations. <http://www.youtube.com/>

There are hundreds of other sites on the web. And, don't forget that there are many Beekeeping books in our local Regional Library.

Beekeeping Supplies

Remember that Glen Clayton has Dadant equipment in stock locally. He has to charge more than catalog price as he buys it for the same amount as we do, has paid shipping, and has his money tied up in the inventory. If you need supplies Glen is a short trip to Shipman (near Lovingston) and when you factor in the lack of shipping cost, competitive with other suppliers. Call Glen at 434-263-5336.

Contacts

Our Bee Experts that you might want to contact at times are:

Keith Tignor, State Apiarist, Richmond, 804-786-3515

Keith.Tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov

John McGhee, Bee Inspector, Harrisonburg, 540-209-9153

John.McGhee@vdacs.virginia.gov

A Beekeeper's Calendar

So that you can mark your calendar ahead, and keep the following dates free for these important happenings, we're going to include this calendar with every newsletter. More detailed announcements will be included in each month's edition. The meetings of the CVBA are on the first Thursday of the month at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:00 PM, unless announced otherwise, from March through November.

Apr. 2 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

Apr. 4 - Installation of a package of bees in the class hive at Ivy Creek

Apr. 17-18 VSBA Spring Meeting, Hampton, VA

May 7 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

June 4 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

July 14 or 28 - Annual Honey tasting, Saturday at Ivy Creek (No July Meeting)

July 27 - Bring Honey entries to the County Fair

July 28 - Aug 2 - Albemarle County Fair

Aug 3-7 - Eastern Apicultural Society meeting, Ellicottville, NY

Aug. 6 - No Meeting because of the County Fair

Sept. 3 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

Nov. 7 - VSBA Fall Meeting, Blue Ridge Com. Col., Weyers Cave, VA

Hope to see all of you at a meeting soon.