

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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Newsletter – Brian Gallagher

October 2009

Oct. 1st Meeting

This month our talk will be "Beekeeping at Monticello" Faith Andrews Bedford, author and former beekeeper at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, will discuss the marketing concept of honey and history.

We will also discuss preparing your hives for winter.

See you at the Ivy Creek Natural Area on **Thursday, Oct. 1st at 7:00 PM.**

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

Programs

Nov.

"Impressions of an Italian raising Italians in Virginia" Diego DeCorte, one of our club members, will present to the club his first year experiences as a transplanted beekeeper.

If you have ideas for meeting topics you would like to see covered, let Dana Tornabene know.

This Month's Beekeeping

For those of you who use Apistan, Apiguard, etc. now's the time to measure the number of mites in the hive (drop, sugar roll, etc) and treat only if necessary. Also feed 2:1 sugar syrup if stores are low. If you use strips, be sure to leave them in the hive only the length of time called for in the directions on the package.

Now is the time to do a complete hive inspection and position the bees/frames for the winter. Place all the brood in the bottom box with frames of honey above them. The frames above the bees are the most critical for over wintering as the bees can only move up. If you are using Mediums, you should have honey frames above the bees in both upper boxes. If you don't have 60-70 lbs. of honey, feed, feed, and feed.

It is vitally important to install entrance reducers (using the large opening) soon to keep out mice. Mice will make a mess of the hive and due to their disturbing the cluster, cause the bees to consume more honey during the winter.

Brian

The CVBA Clothing Logo Program

Ordered items that haven't been picked up yet will be available at the meeting.

Honey Extractors

The CVBA has 2 extractors that members may borrow. They both have a stand to raise them so that a bucket may be placed under the drain to collect the honey. They also include an electrically heated uncapping knife. To borrow one call:

Four frame - contact Art Freeman (540-456-6219) to arrange to borrow it

Ten frame - contact Wayne Peterson (434-985-1902) to arrange to borrow it.

Please do not pass it on to anyone without checking with Art or Wayne as they maintain the list of the order-of-requests.

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.

Oct. 1 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

Nov. 5 - CVBA Meeting at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 7:00 PM

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

<http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>

Next CVBA meeting - the first Thurs. in March 2010

The 2010 Beginning Beekeeping Class will be the 4 Thursday evenings in Feb. Registration starts in mid Dec. at Albemarle Cty. Parks & Rec.

Hope to see all of you at a meeting soon.