

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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Newsletter – Brian Gallagher

November 2009

Nov. 5th Meeting

"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. Diego was a commercial Beekeeper in Italy.

We will also have our usual Q&A session.

This is the last meeting until March 2010.

See you at the Ivy Creek Natural Area on **Thursday, Nov. 5th at 7:00 PM.**

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

Programs

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

This Month's Beekeeping

It is vitally important to install entrance reducers (using the large opening) now 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.

By now your wintering preparations should be over. The cluster should be in the bottom box(es) and have frames of honey above it. If the hive is still light on honey stores, the bees can still take up sugar syrup from an internal or top feeder on warm days. Feeding 2:1 syrup is advised as it's easier for the bees to store (less water to evaporate) and will not ferment as rapidly.

Be sure to have some space for air to escape from the top of the hive so that condensation does not drip on the cluster. This will cause hyperthermia and the death of the hive.

Brian

The CVBA Clothing Logo Program

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

Good Beekeeping Web Site

A great site on the web is Randy Oliver's. He writes for the Beekeeper magazines and is both a commercial beekeeper and a self-taught scientist.

<http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com//index.php>

Virginia State Beekeepers Meeting

The Fall VA State Beekeepers Meeting will be held at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave on Saturday, Nov 7. Registration at the door is \$20 (you must be a member to attend, membership is \$10.00 per year). It is always a very educational day. Dadant and other vendors sell supplies at the meeting. More info can be found at <http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org/>
Directions: put "One College Lane, Weyers Cave, VA 24486" into MapQuest for a map and directions from your location.

Club Statistics

In case you are curious or, to answer questions from friends, here are some statistics on our membership and newsletter.

Members (paid dues) are 106

Students from last year's class are 42 (one year free membership)

This year's new folks who asked for club info are 19

Bee experts who get the newsletter (Keith Tignor, John McGhee, etc.) are 11

Of the above, 157 people get the newsletter by email and 21 get hard copy via the USPS.

A total of 15 people borrowed the club's extractors to use this year.

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.

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.

