

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



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Newsletter – Brian Gallagher

September 2009

Sept. 3rd Meeting

This month Peter Warren, Virginia Extension Agent, will speak to the group about honeybee relatives.

We will also discuss preparing the hives for winter.

See you at the Ivy Creek Natural Area on **Thursday, Sept. 3rd at 7:00 PM.**

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

Programs

Oct.

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

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

Although I am always telling people that our honey/nectar flow ends mid June, this year I am hearing from folks that small amounts of new honey are appearing this summer. A few weeks ago while checking one of my hives I noticed the odor of Holly, which blooms in the spring. I believe (but am not sure) that it was from English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), which is climbing a neighbor's trees and blooms in the late summer. Last week I saw the bees all over the blooms of Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*), but the quantity of this plant is small. The Goldenrod is beginning bloom. This means that you should start seeing bright orange pollen on incoming bees' pollen baskets. Some of this is used for current brood rearing and some is stored for next spring when they need it to feed the Feb. and March brood.

In spite of that, I remind you that beehives can starve over the summer if they don't have enough honey stored. Check your hives every 2 weeks and start planning for fall feeding of those that are light. The wholesale price of sugar has risen 30% over the past weeks due to a global shortage.

Brian

The CVBA Clothing Logo Program

Our order will be ready on or about August 25. An email will be sent when they're ready. For those who ordered, you'll be able to contact Art Freeman and pick up your items at his home, or wait to get them at the Sept 3 meeting. The final count: 27 T-Shirts, 19 caps, 2 sweatshirts, and 14 polo shirts.

2009 Albemarle County Fair – 28th Annual Event

In spite of overly pessimistic weather forecasting for several evenings scaring visitors away, and the likely impact of the recent economic downturn, we had a great week at the Albemarle County fair. This year the Agriculture tent was located right next to the entrance, giving us even more traffic than usual through our tent. Luckily we had a great mix of veteran and "newbie" volunteers in our booth to interact with the public – all did a super job. I would like to recognize our 2009 fair volunteers:

Glenn & Joan Clayton
Mike & Susan Daley
Brian Gallagher
Art Freeman
Karen, Katherine, Matthew & Ken Hall
Themis Karaoli
Daria Kiselica
John Mesinger

Bob Miller
Marianne O'Brien
Corky & Mary Shackelford
Len Soika
Marie Taylor
Dana Tornabene
Jim & Karen Yanchunis

We had an additional volunteer from the Class of 2009 that I wrote down as "John" with no last name. If you'll contact me, I'll amend the volunteer list accordingly!

Additionally, special thanks are in order to Corky Shackelford for storing our bee cage again this year, to Brian Gallagher for providing the hive of bees and assorted beekeeping equipment and to Karen, Katherine, and Matthew Hall who were in the booth every day of the fair as well as covering the Special Needs activities Wednesday morning.

We didn't have as many honey entries entered this year, but what we had looked very nice on display. Congratulations to all our ribbon winners! Many thanks to our judge, John McGhee, who graciously made time available for us early Tuesday morning. Here are the 1st place results in each class:

OPEN Division, Class 1 – Extracted Honey: Daria Kiselica & Ken Hall
OPEN Division, Class 2 – Chunk Honey: Ken Hall
OPEN Division, Class 3 – Cut Comb Honey: Ken Hall
OPEN Division, Class 4 – Basswood Section Comb Honey: Corky Shackelford
OPEN Division, Class 4 – Ross Rounds Section Comb Honey: Daria Kiselica
OPEN Division, Class 6 – Beeswax Casting: Wayne Peterson
JUNIOR Division, Class 6 – Beeswax Casting: Katherine Hall
OPEN Division, Class 7 – Beeswax Candles: Wayne Peterson

Additional congratulations go to Daria Kiselica for receiving the BEST IN SHOW ribbon for her liquid honey entry!

Ken Hall

Newest CCD Study Results

Genomic Study Yields Plausible Cause Of Colony Collapse Disorder

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090824151256.htm>

ScienceDaily (Aug. 25, 2009) — Researchers report this week that they have found a surprising but reliable marker of colony collapse disorder, a baffling malady that in 2007-2008 killed off more than a third of commercial honey bees in the U.S.

Bee Hives Wanted

I received another request for hives. If you are looking for an out-yard, please contact Michele Mangham <mailto:info@wool.us>, phone 434-973-2222. She is located at 901 Hammocks Gap Road.

Albemarle Land-Use Taxes & Bees

Land-use taxes allow a property owner to pay fewer taxes than they would if the property was assessed at the homeowner rate. It was intended to save farms and to allow farmers to rent land for agricultural production.

For some reason, in addition to qualifying with cattle, sheep, chickens, etc., placing at least 2 Beehives meets the animal requirements. But, no matter the animal, someone must make \$1000 per year from the sale of the agricultural products. If you hear of someone planning to qualify for land-use with Beehives you might advise them of this and point out how hard it is to make \$1000 per year from Beekeeping in this area. They should call the county assessor and discuss the full requirements before getting the Beehives.

On-Line Beekeeping Forum

There is a brand new online forum for **Virginia** beekeepers...

<http://richmondbeekeepers.freeforums.org/index.php>

It was started by David Jaroneski of the Richmond Beekeepers Association. Obviously, there are other online forums, but having one that's geographically specific to Virginia will be beneficial to VSBA members and others interested in beekeeping here in Virginia.

Check it out... then jump in and participate.

And please let the beekeepers in your area know about this new forum.

The more, the merrier!

Regards,
Gary

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.

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

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

Nov. 3 - 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.