

Northern Piedmont Beekeepers Association

Volume 29

Number 5

May 2008

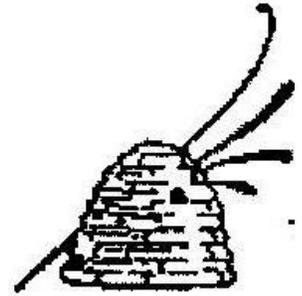


Beekeeping Events in the Area

The **Virginia State Beekeepers Association (VSBA)** had another great meeting. The **Loudoun County Beekeeping Association**, headed by President **Bill Bundy**, hosted the 2008 Spring Meeting on April 11 & 12 at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Leesburg, VA. **Steve & Joe Villers** of Blacksnake Meadery in Dugspur, VA, began the program with an explanation on making mead. **Phil Craft**, KY state apiarist, followed with an overview of treatments available for combating the varroa mite and how to get the most out of your honey using tried and true marketing tips and techniques. **Michael Palmer**, the president of the Vermont Beekeeping Association, gave three talks concerning making and using nucs and splits in your beekeeping operation by using locally raised honeybees and queens. **Billy Davis** spoke about the queen rearing program he and others in Lou-

doun County have been diligently developing for the past several years. Their hard work is paying off. Billy did a brisk business filling orders for local queens and nucs available for sale this season. **Nancy Ostiguy**, a researcher from Penn State University, was another interesting speaker. She covered bee health as influenced by the different bee viruses, reviewed the latest known data on what CCD is and is not, and finished up with her personal list of the top ten "Boneheaded Things (Other) Beekeepers Do". Virginia House of Delegates, **Joe May**, also made a special appearance and reported that at the nth hour, **Governor Warner** preserved the funding for beekeeper projects identified by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' *Plight of the Beekeeper Survey* last year. The **Virginia State Beekeepers Association** business

meeting was brief but covered a variety of topics. The Loudoun County association won the plaque for the most beekeepers in attendance at the meeting. **Ronnie Henk** was this year's recipient of the annual Langstroth Award, which recognizes a beekeeper for his or her lifetime achievements in beekeeping. The new VSBA officers are President: **Ann Harman**, 1st Vice President: **Alan Fiala**, 2nd Vice President: **Frank Wyatt**, Secretary: **Kathy Miller**, and Treasurer: **Karen Hunt**. The audience seemed briefly to be in shock that **Ann Harman** will no longer be treasurer as she held this role since **Keith Tignor** was a little lad in short pants... The state meetings are inexpensive, educational, and great entertainment so make your plans to come to the next meeting which will held be on November 3, 2008, at the Blue Ridge Community College at Weyers Cave, VA.



President & Newsletter
Kathy Miller
540.923.4772
kfmiller@nexet.net

Vice President
Bob Duxbury
540.937.6026

Secretary/Treasurer
Lele Hankins
540.547.4711

Regional Inspector
Bob Wellemeyer
540.428.0420

NPBA Website
www.npbee.org

Webmaster
Mike Wilson

In This Issue

- * Beekeeping Events in the Area
- * Butterfly Gardens and the Honeybee
- * What's Blooming this Month?
- * National Honey Board/Haagen Dazs
- * This and That
- * Review and Preview



Butterfly Gardens and the Honeybee



Have you ever thought about starting a “butterfly garden” to attract butterflies and honeybees (and other beneficial insects)? One of my many gardening newsletters received by email started me thinking. What better way to help our honeybees in their collection process, enjoy the beautiful color provided by the flowers and trees, and enjoy the visits of the colorful butterflies on their eccentric flights to their favorite foliage? Honeybees are attracted to many of the same plants as butterflies. If the thought of putting in an entire butterfly garden is overwhelming, why not try putting in a couple of plants

where a few bare spots have you wondering what could brighten the corner? Alternatively, put a few of these plants around decks, porches, bird feeders, or vegetable gardens just to give a few ideas for some butterfly plant locations. Wherever you decide to put these bright and cheery plants, they will provide a our honey bees (and other pollinators) a welcome source of pollen and nectar. Check out some websites such as Home and Garden TV concerning attracting beneficial bees. They list a variety of different plants which attract both insects. Try typing into *Google* (or any other search en-

gine) “attracting butterflies bees plants” and watch the multitude of gardening sites, seed companies, news articles, and university websites present their knowledge, wisdom, and interest in the subject. There may be some special conditions needed for growing butterfly plants, depending on the plants. Garden Centers and nurseries frequently have a master gardener or other knowledgeable person on their staff to answer your questions on butterfly and bee friendly plants. Ask about the plants you have considered for your butterfly garden. Start with a few plants and you are on your way!

What’s Blooming this Month?

The blooms on many plants and trees are showing their beauty. Spring is officially here and the honey bees are enjoying the warmth, getting out of the hive, and collecting the fresh nectar and pollen. **Ann Harman** wrote a couple of years ago if the black locust tree is producing nectar, and the bees have capped it, remove the honey for extraction and bottle it for sale—at a premium price. The honey produced by the black locust is very light and very sweet.

What is blooming in May?

Trees: wild cherry, fruit trees, tulip poplar, and black locust trees.

Plants: dandelions, blackberry, wild raspberry, and many wildflowers.



NPBA 2008 Meeting Schedule



Culpeper County
Extension
101 South West St.
Culpeper, VA

May meeting will be held at the Culpeper County Library on May 15th, at 7:15p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

June 8	Picnic at Verdun 2:00-6:00p.m.
July	No meeting
August	No meeting
September	7:30-9:00 p.m.
October 16	7:30-9:00 p.m.
November 20	7:30-9:00 p.m.
December	No
meeting	



Membership Dues are

Past Due!

Dues are to pay for mailing the newsletter to its members, to extension services, and for meeting announcements in newspapers around the area. Please send a check for \$10 made to **NPBA** and mail to:

Lele Hankins
18182 Pine View Drive
Culpeper, VA 22701

National Honey Board/Haagen-Dazs

The **National Honey Board** (NHB) recently produced a series of unique t-shirts and posters featuring the traditional honey bear incorporated into several great works of art. The items feature original works of art commissioned by the NHB for an advertising campaign directed toward retail and industrial bakeries. To promote baking with honey, the ads featured the honey bear in unique versions of Michelangelo's Creation, Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, and Van Gogh's Starry Night. The t-

shirts, posters and other items are available for purchase at cost on CafePress.com at www.cafepress.com/honeyboard. The items must be ordered on the CafePress web site and cannot be ordered directly from the NHB.

The **Haagen-Dazs Loves Honey** site includes considerable information educating consumers about the importance of honey bees as pollinators and the effects CCD is having on our honey bee populations. This site

also helps consumers spread the word about these and other honey bee issues. It also includes sections for: The Honey Bee Crisis, How We're Helping, Why We Care, and How You can Help. Additional sections include Make & Send a Bee and The Bee Store, where t-shirts with a variety of save the bee messages may be purchased. To visit the site: www.helpthehoneybees.com/



This and That

Katherine Adams, Program Assistant for the 4-H Youth Development at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in Culpeper, is interested in having a 4-H workshop to introduce youth to beekeeping. This workshop is focused on youth ages 9-19 and could be a one or two day event or a six hour event. The workshop could be held anytime from June 15 through August 15. **Verdun Adventure Bound** has

been suggested as one meeting place option. The workshop could be as simple as providing an interested youth an "apprentice" type situation. They can work on-site with a club member and help with tasks. Another possibility would be to provide a resource-book/video and a follow-up meeting in the fall. Depending on interest levels, one or two adult beekeepers could mentor a youth and

help them to learn about the world of beekeeping. If interested, please contact **Katherine Adams**, at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Culpeper Office at 101 West Street, Culpeper, VA or call 540-727-3435 ext 345 or by email: kradams@vt.edu.

Honey Recipe for the Month

Ambrosia

Ingredients

2 apples, washed, cored, and cut into pieces
2 cups green grapes, washed and cut into pieces
1 large ripe banana, peeled and sliced
2 kiwis, peeled and cut into pieces
2 navel oranges, peeled, cut into sections
1 small ripe pineapple, peeled, cored, cut into small chunks, juice reserved

juice of 2 limes
3/4 cup Golden Blossom Honey
1/2 cup water
Juice of 2 lemons
1/2 cup coconut flakes



Directions

Place first 6 ingredients in a large bowl including reserved pineapple juice. Add lime juice and toss. Set aside.

In a saucepan, over low heat, stir

honey in water until dissolved. Add lemon juice. Increase heat and boil until syrupy, about two minutes. Remove from heat. Allow to cool. When syrup has cooled, pour over fruit. Sprinkle with coconut and toss. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serves: 6 –8.

From: Golden Blossom Honey
Website: goldenblossomhoney.com

Review & Preview

An icon among beekeepers was the late **Dr. George Imirie**. Dr. Imirie was an opinionated, blunt, and inspiring Master Beekeeper who loved to educate people about honey bees. Founder of the **Montgomery County Maryland Beekeepers Association**, he shared his knowledge in many ways but many of us only know him through his “Pink Pages”. A great deal of knowledge and always a chuckle can be gained through the reading of his “Pink Pages”. His wit and wisdom shines through in every sentence. Each month for the rest of the year, I would like to highlight a featured article of Dr. Imirie’s. The topic of the month is, “Anthropomorphism”. Anthropomorphic. An-thro-po-mor-phic means to impart human characteristics to non-human beings. Dr. Imirie stressed that understanding what anthropomorphic means is the difference between a “Bee-**HAYER**” and a “Bee **KEEPER**”. I’m going to yell at you now: **“Humans think like HUMANS and bees think like BEES!”**

Dr. Imirie did a lot of yelling like



this in his Pink Pages. It is imperative we learn to **THINK LIKE BEES** and forget any comparison to human action. Why? Because we can! **THIS UNDERSTANDING, BY ITSELF, WILL MATERIALLY HASTEN YOUR UPGRADE FROM “HAYER” TO “KEEPER”**. Only by observing the hive, its activity inside and out, and studying the wonderful books on the subject of beekeeping can a person begin to understand what it is to

“THINK LIKE A BEE!”

We do not have five eyes, antennae, and six legs. We cannot see ultraviolet light, be aware of our siblings in total darkness by their scent, or communicate smells by touch. These are qualities bees are born with and will never change. Honey bee’s brains cannot absorb new knowledge, they are not receptive to improvement, and they do not understand change. Humans, on the other hand, have the ability change their minds, adapt to new situations, absorb knowl-



edge, and learn from experience. It all is a matter of **DESIRE-HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT TO BE A BEEKEEPER?**

It is far easier for us to understand the honey bee and infinitely more realistic than subscribing to the notion that the bee understands what and why we are doing certain things. To help you learn to think like a bee, acquire a copy of the “The Hive and the Honeybee” and read the chapter entitled “Activities and Behavior of Honeybees” by Dr. Norman E. Gary, or log onto www.beeequipment.com/pinkpages.asp for more insight into Dr. Imirie’s wit and wisdom.

Plagiarized and Paraphrased by
Joe Miller

