



March 2007

Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

A Newsletter of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, PO Box 8880, Warwick, RI 02888

The Presidents' Report

Time again to start getting ready for the first honey flow! Well, at least to get ready for the beginning of bee season. Time to put together new equipment, fix old equipment, split a few nails nailing together new frames and cutting out and replacing that old brood comb. Don't forget to put more PDB (moth crystals) in those drawn out boxes that had exposure to brood! It really hurts to have lost good drawn comb to those nasty wax moth larva.

Also do not forget to order bees soon- if you haven't already! It looks to be another tough year for the bee breeders to keep up with the demand for bee packages. What with winter kill -can you say Fall Dwindle Disease- what ever that may be, and Varoa/Traciel Mite losses and the increasing demand for bees for pollination, the bee supply is barely keeping up with the demand.

Hopefully someday we will have a local producer of over wintered bee stock. Mark Robar, a long time association member and generational beekeeper, is in the process of applying for grants to help him finance a research project to attempt doing just that. I wish him great success and offer him my support. It would only be an advantage for us to be able to have bees that were breed in, and for, our climate and environment. Gook luck Mark!

Bee Well!
Kit Mayers,
President, Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

Bee Word to Know

PHEROMONE- One of the biochemicals produced by various glands that have warning, aphrodisiac, trail-forming, and other functions, the

chemoreception of which in insects initiates social responses and (perhaps) endocrine changes- Cool!

Next Meeting

Sunday, February 11th @ 2 PM
Home of Vivian and Stan Peasley
64 Division Road
West Greenwich, RI
884-4210

Subject: Some things to do
Bring Chairs, Desserts Directions on back

The Secretary's Report

The February meeting was called to order at 2:20 PM at the home of Vivian and Stan Peasley. There was a lengthy discussion about the April dinner. Roger Robitaille voiced his ideas that our treasury should bear the cost of the dinner for those attending. It was pointed out that our income matches expenses, and money should be allocated to purchase items for members relating to the improvement of beekeeping in Rhode Island should the opportunity presents itself. All agreed, and Roger for his ideas to rest

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RIBA Officers	

The Secretary's Report (Continued)

Kit announced that he will run again for president (other nominations can of course come fourth and a vote be taken) Several Executive Board Officers have volunteered to assist with some of the associations responsibilities that he (Kit) has been taking care of. Bill Jones will be dispersing honey jar orders; and Paul Whewell will now be taking care of the honey extractor for Northern R.I..

Bill Jones reported that we have a case of the new upside down plastic no drip one pound jars. He estimates that the cost to be 55¢ to 58¢ each for a one-pound jar with cap. There will be more information forthcoming. We used some of these drip less jars for the flower show- it will be interesting to see how well they were received by the public!

There was a question regarding choice of Chellos Restaurant in Warwick. The charge, food quality and variety, and a central location make it a favorable place. Any suggestions for future dinners are welcome, and will be greatly appreciated.

Our speaker for our Election of Officers Dinner in April will be Larry Conner, the owner of Wic Was press. He is the author of many books and interesting articles (published in American Bee Culture magazine). He will also offer for sale many of his beekeeping books.

Thank You

George Augaitis has donated one case each of filled 1 pound and ½ pound jars. This was a very nice and much appreciated donation. George, the officers and members of RIBA want to express our gratitude to you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

8 Frame Hives

If you look in catalogs from various beekeeping supply houses you will notice the appearance of 8 frame equipment. This is a (not new) departure from the ten frame

work horse we have all grown accustomed too. Actually the eight frame setup was used and often mentioned in beekeeping literature quite a few years ago. It had been put on the back burner, but now has had reappearance.

Mark Robar gave us a description of this system, mentioning the fact that it was easier to lift than a ten frame super, thus saving ones aching back. The frames are the same, but the dimensions of the boxes, covers and bottom board are needed. The brood nest should have three supers which allows for better over wintering since the bee's move up to get the stores of honey.

-By the 1890's, the movable-frame hive was largely adopted for general use. Most of the hives in the late 1800's used Langstroth's bee-space frame concept. Many of the hive designs were more elaborate than ones used today. Both 8-frame and 10-frame hives were popular. Some hives had double-thick walls filled with wheat chaff for insulation.

Packages

Both Roger Robitaille and Mark Robar will have packages and Queens for sale this spring. Mark will also have five frame nucs. If you want more info, or to order bees, feel free to call them (SOON!).

Roger Robitaille

3 pound packages with Italian Queens-
\$70.00

Italian Queens- \$15.00 each

(401)-732-6599

Cell (401)-378-3578

BHiveDr@aol.com

Mark Robar

3 pound packages with Italian Queens-
\$66.00

4 pound packages with Italian Queens-
\$73.00

The packages can be ordered with Russian Queens for an added fee of \$3.50 each.

5 frame nuc (no feeder) - \$105.00

(401)-539-0434

www.tefarm.com

RI Beekeepers' Association Raffle
Assembled Hive with Package of Bees
Drawing at Election of Officers

Sunday April 15, 2007
Contribution not required

Ticket contribution: \$2.50 each or 6/\$10.00

Name _____
Phone#- _____

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Once again this year we are going to raffle a complete starter hive- wooden ware and a 3 pound package of bees- at our Dinner

Meeting. If you would like to participate in the raffle, cut out the ticket(s) and either send them to Bill Jones (see below for address) with a check, or bring them to the dinner with you. Good Luck!

RI Beekeepers Association
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