



April 2007

Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

The Presidents' Report

It's mid March as I write this and I am enjoying being a part (albeit a small part) of our annual beekeeping school. Once again the attendance figures are high; over 90 students! Betty Mencucci is providing the students an atmosphere rich in academic beekeeping knowledge as well as her personal experiences as a beekeeper. And Paul Whewell is there supporting the class with both his intelligence and his wit. It's a great class, thanks to everyone that has helped it come together over the years.

I'm anticipating the arrival of spring (on the 21st) as well as the arrival of the bees on the 7th of April. That is if the date doesn't get pushed back, not that we haven't grown to expect a delay. It is after all, all a part of beekeeping. We are so dependant on our environment, and we haven't had a favorable bee season for a while. The past few years there has been bad weather in the south delaying bee packages and queens; wet, cold springs and dry summers keeping honey production down (except in a few locations).

But, do you know what? This too will pass! Maybe this year will be the one we talk about for the next twenty years. And if it's not, maybe next year will be. As long as the bees are around I'll keep trying my best to have them ready for the Big One when it does come. And until then I'll be content with my family, my friends, and my bees!

Bee Well!

Kit Mayers, President, R.I.B.A.

-One of the most fascinating bees, the giant Indian bee (Apis dorsata) builds a single comb as large as 5' by 3' attached to rocks, trees or buildings.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting
Sunday, April 15 5:30 PM
Annual Dinner and Election of Officers
Chelo's Restaurant
Post Rd, Warwick, RI

Directions on back

The Secretary's Report

Our bee school was the most successful one to date. Total attendance was 92 people which include extra family members. The flower show was also a winner and produced the highest sales.

For next year the officers are thinking and planning for an additional school in South County to ease the crowding and allowing closer contact with the new class people living there.

-Honey has been used for millennia as a topical dressing for wounds since microbes cannot live in it. It also produces hydrogen peroxide. Honey has even been used to embalm bodies such as that of Alexander the Great.

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Secretary's Report (Continued)

The board has been doing most of the work organizing and working various fairs etc. and as new occasions arise would like to see committees formed to ease this burden. We hope that volunteers will come forward and become involved.

Bill Jones reported that all bills are paid, and the treasury is in good shape. He will get figures together on the Flower Show we just attended.

Our librarian requests that all books outstanding be returned to him or brought to future meetings. Tommy Dalton can be reached at 658-1000.

The association will have a booth at the Taste of Rhode Island September 29 - 30th under a big tent in Newport! Cool!

Dues and Newsletter Labels

The mailing labels will be printed about March 20, so any dues paid after that date will not show up on the labels for a month or so.

Swarm Lists

Those interested in capturing swarms and increasing their hives should contact Jim Lawson. He wants to know what city(s) or town(s) you plan to cover, not the area. Also include your house/cell number or best daytime number. Call 222 - 2781 extension 4519.

By Laws

If you have a legal bent, we need someone to review our bylaws, and make recommendations and changes. Call Kit at 769-1675.

Penny Social

We're looking for donations for our penny social at our annual dinner. The items do not

have to be bee related. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

General Purpose Essential Oil Mixture

A commercial, general purpose essential oil product for bees that is similar to the following recipe claims many benefits. The following recipe should work about as well as that product, but is cheaper. It can be added in small quantities to bee feed to encourage feeding and possibly help with varroa drop.

- 5 cups water
- 2 1/2 pounds of sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon lecithin granules (used as an emulsifier)
- 15 drops spearmint oil
- 15 drops lemongrass oil

Bring the water to a boil and integrate the sugar until dissolved. Once the sugar is dissolved remove the mixture from the heat and quickly add the lecithin and the essential oils. Stir until everything is evenly distributed. This solution should have a strong scent and not be left open around bees. Cool before using.

Remember- Use this on colonies that **Are Not** putting honey up for extraction (human consumption)!

Hive Raffle

The prize is a complete starter Hive with 3lb. package of bees and queen. Tickets are \$2.50 each or six for \$10.00. Tickets are printed in this newsletter and mailed to Bill Jones or presented at the dinner. Attendance not required.

Nominations

Your secretary will receive any nominations for office until April 3rd, or if presented at the annual dinner. The present slate of officers

will remain as listed unless counter-nominations are made known.

Door Prize

A pollinator bee suit will be awarded as a door prize during the dinner. This suit consists of a zip off mask, and a jacket which extends to the waist.

Packages and Nucs

If you have ordered these, make sure that you give them sugar water until the bee's stop taking it. The ratio is one part water to one part sugar. I find that 3qt. of each will make just about one gallon of syrup. First heat the water to boiling, and then stir in the sugar to dissolve. You can also use Feed Bee as a pollen supplement. This is available from Dadant at 1-877-532-3268 in 5lb. packages for \$12.95

Packages and Nucs

Roger Robitaille will have 3lb. packages with Italian Queen for \$70.00 Contact Roger at 732-6599 or his cell at 378-3578 e-mail him at bhivedr@AOL.com

Mark Robar will have a 3lb. package for \$66.00 and a 4lb. package for \$73.00, with an Italian queen. For a Russian queen add \$3.50 each. Mark has 5-frame nuc (no feeder) for \$105.00. Contact Mark at 539-0434 or e-mail him at www.tefarm.com

Lou's Workshops

The first free workshop will be held Saturday, April 14. Times are 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Subject: frame assembly -Please let him know by calling 295-0888 when you will attend.

Directions to Chelos

From the north and south take route 95 to the exit 13, the Airport exit. Get off at the Post Rd exit and turn right. Chelo's Restaurant is just around the corner. Park towards the rear

and look for the banquet room sign for entrance.

RI Beekeepers Association

OFFICERS

President

Kit Mayers
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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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Send all monies and tickets to:
Bill Jones
61 Kennedy Rd.
Foster, R.I.
02825

**The door prize is a free drawing for
all who attend the Election of Officers
Dinner.**
**You do not have to be in attendance
for the drawing of the Hive raffle.**

Dues Dues Dues Dues

**Dues are \$10 per year for single or family membership.
Dues are payable in April of each year.**

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email Address- _____

Please send payment to:

Bill Jones
61 Kennedy Road
Foster, RI
02825

(Note – Do NOT send payment to R.I. Beekeepers Association P.O. Box)