



July 2007

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

## The Presidents' Report

I have been a bad boy! I know, some of you are saying no kidding, what's new? It's amazing what bees will do when left up to their own devices for six weeks or so. I finally went out to my out yard in Burrilville two weeks ago after last going there to feed them in early May. The feeders were dry, no big surprise there, but I use one gallon bird watering bottles (the ones used for Quail work well and are shallow enough to not drown the bees) and one of them had comb in it! The hole for the feed to flow through is only ½ inch wide! Fortunately there was only a little, and it was devoid of eggs or brood and dry as well.

I was not as fortunate with the deep brood boxes that I use to cover the water/feed bottles though. Three of them (out of a possible five) were chock a block full of comb. The first two of them that I found were mostly honey, with a little brood and eggs thrown in to make it interesting. I felt bad that they had worked so hard drawing all that comb and for the loss of the brood and eggs in the five or ten inches of comb that I was going to have to remove from the colony. But I did enjoy squeezing out all that wonderful white honey that they had packed away.

Then I opened up the fifth colony with a bottle in it. Oh my goodness, it was full of brood comb, I do mean full! I put the bottles on top of the inner cover over the brood box with the new package/over wintered colony in it so there isn't as much area for them to regulate the temperature in. It's a good thing too; it made it easier to disassemble the two parts without disrupting the whole colony. I took off the top and put a queen excluder between the two sections to determine where the queen was –

## Next Meeting

Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM

Home of Dr. Jane Dennison  
325 Newman Ave.  
Rumford RI.

Subjects: Epi-pens and anaphylaxis, versus normal envenomation swelling.

Assorted bee topics and anecdotes!

With a little luck we will have a visit from the Epi-Pen Lady!

Bring chairs, veils, dessert or entrees!

-Directions on back-

- (it was getting late in the day and the bees were quite cranky, and the light was failing as well). I figured if the queen was below she would be trapped there and some of the brood above would emerge and be OK. Guess what, when I went back a week later I found that the queen was above the excluder and laying away in the unwanted (if not beautiful) "natural" comb in the cavernous brood box above, big surprise right?

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## **The President's Report (Continued)**

Oh well, when it rains, it pours. Thank God that I found the Queen as I removed the first piece from the box. She was on the section of comb right under the piece that I had just removed.

I put my hive tool in front of her and she climbed right onto it, whew! And by all the Saints she stayed on and made it all the way to the entrance of the hive and crawled right in (that's right, I had forgotten to take off the excluder). I cleaned up the rest of my mess and I am sure that there were many happy chipmunks, skunks and birds in the area after I had left. I had scattered the several large sections of brood in the wooded area behind the colonies.

What a shame at the loss that I had caused the bees. There were lots of brood and eggs in the colony below the feeder so I think that they will be fine. After all, they always seem to do fine, no matter what I do, or don't do, to them!

Bee Well!

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

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

You're warmly invited to attend the Providence premiere of SISTER BEE. SISTER BEE is a lyrical documentary about six beekeepers who encounter startling beauty and spiritual truth in their work with honeybees. The screening will be preceded by a special musical performance directed by Ellen Santaniello and followed by Q & A with the director and local beekeepers.

Monday, July 23rd 7:00 to 8:30 PM, 220 115 Empire Street, Providence, RI. COST: \$8 Please help us spread the work on this beautiful film. We need to purchase (or get a donation!) of 8 quarts of honey to pay our musicians, if you have any for sale or donation, we can work a deal at the door!

## **The Secretary's Report**

There was an excellent turnout for our June meeting to spite of the fact that directions to the Siligato house got mixed up in the newsletter. Announcements were made regarding upcoming

events that the association will partake in (please see under "future events").

Treasurer Bill Jones said that the finances are in good shape. At present time there are 65 people who have not paid dues and will be eliminated from the mailing list.

He also strongly opposed our participation in the February, 2008 Flower show due to high cost of the booth, the time involved in bottling the honey, the lack of donated honey, and the organizing of the volunteers. A motion was made to not partake in the 2008 Flower Show and seconded, and passed with two nays and two abstentions.

In regard to above the Secretary was asked to send a letter hinting for a reduction of the price for the space by emphasizing that the high walls of neighboring booths obstructed our booths visibility; which is against show policy but was not enforced.

Robert Fournier presented a very nice banner to the association. We had mentioned in our last newsletter that our present show banner should have wording to encourage perspective beekeepers. I'm sure that his wife Marie had something to do with this generous gift. It reads "Consider Becoming a Beekeeper. Ask Us How" Our thanks to the Fournier's.

If you are having bee problems please call or email your association officer nearest you for help!

Lou Chasse said that it is the law that we have a fulltime bee inspector during the months of April through October. Unfortunately Jim Lawson has other duties due to finance restrictions. The executive board is planning to meet with his boss Ken Ayers to discuss our concerns.

Jeff McGuire mentioned that his friend John McLaughlin is working on a web site for the association and cost is \$72.00 per year.  
[www.RIbeekeeper.org](http://www.RIbeekeeper.org)

The executive committee is planning to meet on the Thursday before the monthly meeting. Please

notify the president prior to this date for any association business.

Ed Lafferty is our new director to EAS. A motion to reimburse him for the expenses incurred for Harrisburg and E.A.S. site visits was passed unanimously.

Meeting closed with a moment of prayer for the improved good health of David Clay.

**JARS FOR SALE:** Honey jars are available from two sources within RIBA. Mike Carpenter in Harrisville (568-3232) has glass cases of 24 in both 1/2-pound and 1-pound sizes for \$11.50 per case. Bill Jones in Foster (3907-3269) has the RIBA inventory of jars. He has 1/2-pound glass jars, 24 per case, at \$13.20 per case (RIBA's cost) and 1-pound plastic jars with the safety valve lids at \$0.58 per jar (RIBA's cost).

### **Host Hive Inspection**

The Siligato hive is from a nuc started in 2006. The top super consisted of ten white plastic frames and foundation. It was easy to see that the bees do not like plastic. The bees had drawn comb in what I call tube patterns on each frame. The wood frames with foundation were OK in the bottom super.

Tommy Dalton handled the hive very well. He showed an open queen cell and a closed one. It was decided to leave the hive alone and replace the plastic frames.

It seems that plastic frames with black foundation is often better accepted by the bees.

### **Lou's Workshop July 14**

July's date is tricky. It is the Saturday after our Sunday meeting. As usual he will have a lot to show and offer An interesting item; Lou extracts from June on. This is a lot of work!

### **Future events**

July 27 to 29- Foster Fair – Old Home Days Members honey and association honey can be sold as well as home made hive related items such as beeswax candles, soap, and balms.

September 29 to 30- Taste of Rhode Island at Newport.

Local and association honey can be sold. Watch for more information to follow.

### **For Sale**

Maxant 10 frame electrical extractor. 1400 series. excellent condition plus accessories. Best offer. Call 884-1020.

### **Congratulations**

Tucked away in the nether regions of the Providence Journal was the announcement that Sharon Ruggieri was chosen as a Fulbright Scholar from URI. Sharon is the daughter of Donald and Joann Ruggieri. Don arranges our newsletter. Congratulations to the proud parents and their delightful daughter!

### **EAS – University of Delaware Newark, Delaware**

Short course is August 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> for hobbyists and the Conference is August 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Lectures a-plenty, hands on experience, good food, and many exhibitors! Once you go you'll be hooked. Rooms are air conditioned and Delaware is close by.

See EAS web site [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org) or call Bernie at (401) 463-8654 or Ed Lafferty at (401)-353-6644

Here are some tips to keep bees from taking advantage of water sources that you (or your neighbor) would prefer to be bee free!

1. Evaporative coolers: add a few ounces of pine-scented cleaner to the water.
2. Mix 2 tablespoons of vinegar per gallon of water to birdbaths or pet waterers.
3. Cover or drain pools or tubs when not in use.
4. Repair leaky faucets and faulty irrigation systems.

### **Honey Princess**

On June 5 I had the pleasure of a visit by the Indiana Honey Princess Marisa Yokum. This very personable young woman earned that title by winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the honey queen contest in Indiana, and she has been making appearances on behalf of the Indiana Beekeepers Association.

She visits schools and other groups to enlighten people about bees and honey. She and her parents were visiting her sister in Rhode Island, and she took the opportunity to make some contacts here. They visited with me for well over an hour and we talked about beekeeping in Indiana versus Rhode Island, the problems and opportunities, expectations and ambitions etc.

The Honey Princess, Marisa Yokum, is a recent college graduate with a degree in biology and is on her way to graduate school at Vanderbilt University. Her father is a hobbyist beekeeper and her mother is a college professor of education. We had a lot in common and a lot to discuss. We traded honey and she gave me some new honey recipes. Marisa is, I think, a perfect ambassador, pleasant intelligent, well spoken and knowledgeable about the beekeeping industry. She is probably a big hit when she visits schools. It was for me a delightful visit and I am very glad to have met them

Bill Jones

*A bee can carry its own weight in nectar and pollen and still fly.*

### **Directions to the Dennison's**

The address is 325 Newman Ave. Rumford RI. It is on Rt 152. From 95- merge onto I-195 E/US-6 E toward Cape Cod. Take exit 4 to merge onto Taunton Ave/US-44 East.

Turn right at Grosvenor Ave.

Turn left at Broadway.

Continue on Newman Ave

The house is on the left, just before the reservoir causeway into Seekonk. There will be a yellow Scottish flag on the mail box. Best to park on the street or a side street and walk in. The house is a set back lot.

From L.L. Langstroth's "Bee Keepers Axiom's"-  
#5- Bees dislike the offensive odor of sweaty animals, and will not endure impure air from human lungs.

RI Beekeepers Association

#### **OFFICERS**

##### **President**

Kit Mayers  
103 Prospect Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
(401) 769-1675  
[kickingcrow@cox.net](mailto:kickingcrow@cox.net)

##### **Exec. Vice President**

Louis J. Chasse II  
420 Congdon Hill Road  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
(401) 295-0888

##### **Librarian**

Tom Dalton  
3108 Mendon Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
(401) 658-1000

##### **Secy. And Newsletter Editor**

Bernard Bieder  
140 Coldbrook Road  
Warwick, RI 02888  
(401) 463-8654  
[beeman704@cox.net](mailto:beeman704@cox.net)

##### **Treasurer**

William Jones  
61 Kennedy Road  
Foster, RI 02825  
(401) 397-3269  
[billjones61@yahoo.com](mailto:billjones61@yahoo.com)

##### **E.A.S. Rep. Board of Dir.**

Ed Lafferty  
423 Fruit Hill Ave.  
North Providence, R.I. 02911  
(401) 353-6644

##### **Bee School Director**

Betty Mencucci  
1777 Victory Highway  
Glendale, RI 02826  
(401) 568-8449  
[bmencucci@earthlink.net](mailto:bmencucci@earthlink.net)

##### **Membership Chairman**

Paul Whewell  
9 Breakneck Hill Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
(401) 724-9679  
[pwhewell@cox.net](mailto:pwhewell@cox.net)

##### **Bee Inspector**

Jim Lawson  
235 Promenade St.  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-2781 x4519  
[james.lawson@dem.ri.gov](mailto:james.lawson@dem.ri.gov)