



November 2007

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

## The Presidents' Report

I am going to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends that stepped up to the plate and helped out at our Harvest Dinner. Without your support and enthusiasm our events would be flat and lifeless. It gladdens me that we have so many generous and supportive members (and friends of members as well!) that are willing to lend a hand and pitch in. Also thank you to Ken Warchol, our guest speaker. As always Ken was informative, comprehensible and quite entertaining!

The honey judging was fun for me this year. Having so many volunteers to help the board members that were taking care of other activities made it much less hectic for me and allowed me to pay more time and attention to the honey competition. There were far less disqualifications due to the water content of the honeys this year, only one entry was over 18.5 %, too bad too, it was well presented and tasted magnificent. My congratulations to all the winners!

Be extra careful with those lit smokers during your hive inspections! We have had some rain recently but it is still really dry out there. It wouldn't take much to get all that dry brush and newly fallen leaves to ignite and have a brush fire erupt. Have some water handy and maybe even a broom or a leaf rake or shovel as well. And remember; call the local fire department **Before** you attempt to put it out yourself. Its better safe than sorry, wouldn't you rather have the responding unit pull up to ashes than have it get away from you and call them when your out building or dwelling is involved!

Bee Well, and Bee Safe,  
Kit Mayers, President, R.I.B.A.

## Next Meeting

Sunday, November 11 at 2:00 PM  
Home of Jackie and Anthony Marro  
449 Danielson Pike  
(401)-764-0386  
Chairs, food, & drink provided by the Marro's

Directions on back

Please join us as we honor Dr. Ed Ziegler for his dedication to the healing art of Bee Venom Therapy and his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## The Secretary's Report

The October 20 meeting and field day at the Richmond Grange was well attended. The food was tasty and no one went away hungry.

Kit was the honeys judge and did a good job of examining each of the many entries and posting scores and comments.

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## **The Secretary's Report**

(continued)

Our speaker, Ken Warchol, has a warm down to earth manner along with a great deal of experience as the Massachusetts bee inspector. The field day always proves to be a friendly affair.

Note: the December/January newsletter will contain parts of his talk.

### **Executive Board Notes**

Betty Mencucci will supervise the program of the bee school at the East Farm at URI, and the same instruction manual will be used. Lou Chasse and Mark Robar will be the instructors.

Both schools will be held in March, but not confirmed as yet. We hope to have our package/nuc suppliers bring in the bees in May, at which time the weather will be more hospitable to the bees and beekeeper.

The use of mentors to the new class once the bees arrive, and as an additional class a few weeks later, is under consideration.

It was voted and approved to give our meeting host a sum of not to exceed \$30.00 for purchase of paper goods, coffee, soda, and necessary food to be used during refreshment time.

We met with Kenneth Ayers, head of the department of agriculture, to see about more time for our bee inspector. Please see separate report.

Bill Jones reported \$2400 worth of total of sales at Newport and the Scituate Art Fair.

### **Ken Ayers**

Our meeting with Ken was frank and informative. He said that because of future budget cuts there will have to be layoffs in his department.

We had been under the impression that there was to be a fulltime the inspector. He pointed out that the

way the law is written, 20% to 30% of registered hives are to be inspected each year.

What can we do to assist Jim Lawson and make his job a little easier and our hives more secure? This is where the plan and of having mentors comes up.

If the system of mentoring is in place, inspections are made and any possible problems of disease etc. are then funneled to Jim. It will allow him the opportunity to zero in on the hives that need immediate attention. This is about the only route the association can travel with budget cuts.

### **Show .... no show**

For many years we have tried to attend fairs and festivals to let people know about bees, honey, and our association.

It was not an easy sell. In order to sell a jar of honey we have to do a little explaining and give some information. Today with the attention that the media has given to bees we find that people want our products..... No sales talk needed!

As a result of this added attention we have had many offers where we can sell honey. We felt this exposure was good and important to us all. Unfortunately we have had just three or four people volunteer to work and thus relieve board members who have worked 6 to 8 hour shifts just to keep the booths open.

We will have to rethink about attending fairs etc. if it is dependent upon board members. Please be considerate and helpful in 2008.... Otherwise there will be NO SHOW to SHOW.

### **And the winners are. . .**

#### White

Ed and Celeste Lafferty  
Ed and Celeste Lafferty  
Paul Whewell

#### Amber

Claire Stone and Paul Whewell  
Valerie Allison-Davis  
Jeff Maguire and Claire Stone

Dark

Mark Robar  
Jeff Maguire  
Martha Faella

Special thanks to Vira Wencek. She was the only one to enter the baking contest. You made it, and I hope you enjoyed the cake. It wasn't a wasted effort.

### **Mini EAS**

Our friends in Connecticut are giving nearby beekeepers an opportunity to hear four great lectures, see vendors, and have it all in one day. Dewey Caron and will give the latest on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), Jennifer Berry of Georgia on breeding mite tolerate bees, Janet Brisson of California on organic principles to colony management, Dr. Larry Connor on colony management for healthy bees.

Check in is at 8:00 AM and the program will run until 5:00 PM. This is a great chance to learn.

Date November 17, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Camden CT 06517. Conference \$35.00, lunch \$5.00

If you plan to go, let Bernie know and perhaps in a car-pool can be organized.

More information at [www.SNEVA.com](http://www.SNEVA.com). \$10.00 additional after November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Orchard days**

The National History Museum at Roger Williams Park is sponsoring photos of Rhode Island orchards, and has invited apple growers and us to sell honey and related products

November 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 3:00 PM. Call Bernie for volunteering and honey sales at 463-8654

### **Colony Collapse Disorder and Israeli Accute Paralysis Virus**

A recent publication in Science established a link between a new virus, Israeli Accute Paralysis Virus (or IAPV), and the CCD Colonies. Of those colonies that suffered from CCD, all had IAPV present while healthy Colonies did not have IAPV. Additionally the research found that IAPV was present in these imported from Australia and in royal jelly from China. Operations with CCD and sampled in the study had either imported Australian bees directly or had been closely associated with colonies that had Australian bees. We also know that IAPV has been previously found in Israel, suggesting that this virus may be more widely spread globally. No one knows where its origins are at this point in time.

Does this prove that IAPV causes CCD? No, what this article and research to date points to is that IAPV could be involved in CCD and more work is needed to prove or disprove this idea. We can conclude however, IAPV appears to be a very good marker for CCD and it's detection may aid in defining CCD.

*From the Indiana Beekeepers newsletter*

### **Honey packaging**

At Newport and the mall we had a good display of members' honey. There were all shades and tastes of honey, and several assorted containers.

Packaging can be important. Bill Jones spent a great deal of time at Newport in the mall, and here are some of his thoughts.

Hex jars are more expensive but make a good presentation for gift giving. People who want honey for themselves will pick the basic queen-line jar. As for bears of various sizes, they might sell due to their cuteness, or the small size one's for those wishing to just try the honey. However they still have sales appeal.

## Directions to Tony & Jackie Marro's house...

We're at 449 Danielson Pike, North Scituate. For those of you coming from the south or the east, the easiest way probably is to just get on Route 6 headed west. You can pick up Route 6 in downtown Providence or take Route 295 to Exit 6, which puts you onto Route 6. Route 6 brings you to the northern edge of Scituate village.

For those of you driving north on Route 295, Exit 6 is actually three exits – 6A, 6B and 6C – and you'll want Exit 6C. The signs point you to Hartford and Foster. For those driving south on Route 295, take Exit 6 and follow the signs for Hartford and Foster. In both cases, turn right at the end of the exit, onto Route 6 headed to Foster. About 2.4 miles up the road you'll come to a traffic light. There's a liquor store (Johnson Wine & Spirits) on the right. Start getting into the LEFT lane here, because just up the road – past one more traffic light – the road splits.

At the split in the road, there's a white sign saying "Route 6" that points to the right, and a green sign saying "State Police" that points to the left. Veer to the LEFT. This is Danielson Pike, and it takes you through the village, past the State Police headquarters, and to our house. We're just a half mile from the State Police headquarters. It's a white house with a green roof, set back from the road. There's a picket fence at the driveway with a sign that has 449 on it.

For a few of you, Route 102 also might be an option. Danielson Pike crosses Route 102 exactly 18.2 miles north of Route 95. There's no sign saying Danielson Pike, but there's a traffic light here and a SUNOCO station and a Dunkin Donuts on the north side of the intersection.

Turn right and go east on Danielson Pike for 2.9 miles. Just before you get to the house you'll pass a small pond on the right side of the road.

Parking is permitted on both sides of Danielson Pike. The phone number, should you need more directions, is 401 764-0386.

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