



May 2008

Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

Dorothy Chasse

We are saddened to report the death of Dorothy E. Buffum Chasse, mother of Lou Chasse, and grandmother of George Chasse. The family would appreciate hearing from Lou's and George's many friends who did not get this news via Internet.

President's Report

What a spring! I don't remember April weather being like this in a long, long time. Finally, we New Englanders are getting a real spring – and we deserve it! It's that time of the year where everything is going on all at once! Last minute coats of paint are going on woodenware, sugar syrup is being mixed, packages are being hived and brood boxes are getting swapped. Some of you may already have hived a swarm, but surely, by the time the next newsletter is released, swarms will abound. No matter what your spring management practice is, it is all happening in the next several weeks!

As this is my first message to you, I'll keep it short. There will be much more to talk about as the months roll past. We have our first board meeting (at least for me) this May 15th. Anyone is welcome to attend, but please call first as space may be limited. We can plan accordingly if we know you are coming.

At this first board meeting we will be getting to know each other and begin looking to make plans for the year to come. We will be sure to share any plans with you so that you can steer them with your input and feedback. At the May members' meeting I will ask you to confirm Celeste Lafferty's appointment as the new librarian. She was appointed last month by the

Next Meeting

Sunday May 18th
Please note date!

Home of Joan & Bill Jones
61 Kennedy Road
Foster, RI
397-3269

Bring Dessert, Veil, & Chairs

Directions on back

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The President's Report (continued)

out-going board. I'm positive that Celeste will do a great job, and as a heads-up, she will need a budget to bring the library current to this year! The Treasurer will also present summaries of the Flower Show and Annual Diner, along with the Treasurer's report. Also up for board discussion is Bee Learn's By-Laws. Since the board has new members, I may ask you to give us an additional month to discuss, review and refine the by-laws before presenting them to you for review and approval. I'm looking forward to seeing you at Bill Jones' house for the May meeting. Thanks in advance to Bill for hosting the May meeting.

The Secretary's Report

Our annual dinner in April was the best attended. Perhaps it was the first time in many years we voted for a president, first time we had a tie vote, and first time we had 104 attendees rather than the usual 60 to 65 people.

We had no plans in case there was a tie vote. A new vote was taken, and the winner was Everett Zurlinden. We had two excellent candidates, and for each of us it was a very difficult decision to make.

Lou Chasse was honored as Beekeeper of the year, and Bernie Bieder for serving as secretary for 20 years. Each received an engraved plaque.

The Treasurer's Report

Bill Jones offered copies of our financial statement to anyone interested. Financially, RIBA is in fine shape.

RIBA has received a gift from a generous donor to honor his beekeeping grandfather. In order to have the donor able to deduct gift on his income tax, RIBA had to change our nonprofit status with the IRS.

To facilitate matters, Bill Jones spent time writing a set of by-laws for a separate entity called "Bee Learn". Nothing was cast in stone, but his good intentions caused a low rumble.

Due to the short time period to award this donation, despite several ads promoting this, there were no applicants. We hope to review the by-laws at our next meeting, and relieve the low rumble.

Adam Fuller was our speaker (see notes) and the tables for the auction were heavy with donations.

Adam Fuller

Our speaker at the April dinner emphasized some basic thoughts: when inspecting hives, preparation ahead eases the workload. Purchase good equipment, and we recommend that the purchase of used equipment be carefully scrutinized for diseases.

Spring Duties

(1) Feed 1 gallon sugar syrup (1:1 ratio) with heaping teaspoon of Fumidil-B per hive.

(2) mix 1 teaspoon Terramycin with 5 teaspoons powdered sugar. Scatter this on end bars of hive. This should be done three times at 4-5 day intervals, and stop 4 weeks before honey flow to avoid honey contamination.

Note: three fluid quarts each of sugar and water make 1 gallon syrup.

Lou's Workshop

Will be held Saturday, May 10 at 2:00 PM. He will be making nucs and splits from strong colonies. He advises feeding sugar syrup (1 to 1) basis until the bee's stop taking it. He would also like information as to how the packages and especially the queens are progressing. Please call to register, 295-0888

Hosts

The following dates are open. We encourage new keepers to offer their yards to inspect and advise regarding their hives. For questions call Bernie at 463-8654

Open dates: June 8 July 13

Mentors

In order to assist our new members with their new nucs or packages, it would be a great help to list those wishing to be mentors. Please list your name and the area you can cover with Bernie at 463-8654

Newsletter on-line

If you are receiving the newsletter in hard copy, and you are willing to receive it by email only, thus saving both a tree and a stamp, please send an email to that effect to billjones61@yahoo.com.

Dues Last Call Dues

Dues are \$10.00 per year per single/family membership. Dues are due in April of each year

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
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Please send payment to –
Bill Jones 61 Kennedy Road Foster Rhode Island
02825

Do not send to PO box

Miscellaneous

Judy Nelson lives in Jamestown and would like to have bees on her property. You supply hives, and do the management, but she would like some honey for rent money. Call Judy at 824-4441 for particulars.

Beatrice McGeoch is a high school teacher and is willing to barter work in exchange for honey. She will move hives, help in pollination, and assembles hives. Available for summer.
McGeoch@cox.net

Varroa Treatments

James Amrine from West Virginia University gave an overview of Varroa treatments under study over the past several years.

Jim noted the effectiveness of using a 50% solution of formic acid on a compressed paper pad to treat mites. With a lower concentration, he claimed evaporation of the acid took place more readily, thus penetrating brood cabins, yet not impacting honey due to their more impervious wax cappings.

Results in the high and 90% kill range seemed encouraging.

from the Manitoba Beekeeper

Packages

Roger wrote that he will have 3 lb. packages with Italian queens on May 20. Price is \$74.00. Please order by May 15. 732-6599 or call 378-3578

Mark Robar was expecting packages May 4th to 6th. They are \$75.00. He will have New World Carneolin queens at \$22.00 each for pickup. 539-0434 or Mark@tefarm.com

BeeLearn Up-Date and By-Laws

BeeLearn, our new financial entity for housing endowments, is in process of being created and approved by the IRS. A draft of proposed by-laws has been posted on the website, <http://www.ribeekeeper.org/beelearnbylaws.php>

Farmers Markets

Goddard Park 5/ 2 to 10/31, 9 AM to 1:00 PM
Colt Park 5/ 2 to 10/31 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Fishermen's Memorial Park 5/ 4 to 10/26, 9 AM to 1:00 PM
Haynes Park 5/7 to 10/29, 2 PM to 6:00 PM
Capitol Hill 7/24 to 9/25, 11 AM to 2:00 PM
Pastore Complex 7/25 to 9/26 10 AM to 2:00 PM
Blackstone River Visitors Center (295 north in Lincoln) 7/15 to 10/28, 2 PM to 6:00 PM

Directions

From Providence area: take Route 6 west through Johnston and Scituate into Foster. Go all the way to the Connecticut line and turn left at the flashing yellow light onto Cucumber Hill Road. Go 1.5 miles and turn right onto South Killingly. Go 1/4 mile and turn left on Kennedy. Go 1.8 miles. My farm is on the right, No. 61, with a sign above the mailbox proclaiming "Jones Farm."

From the south: take I-295 north to Rt. 6 and follow directions above. Or take Rt. 102 north through Coventry. Cross Rt. 117 and go a couple of miles. Turn left on Waterman Road. At the fork, bear right. At Rt. 114 turn left, then an immediate right on Moosup Valley Road. When Moosup Valley Road makes a sweeping curve to the right, becoming Cucumber Hill Road, go straight onto Plain Woods Road. Go about 1.5 miles. At the stop sign, turn right onto Kennedy Road. Look for the third house on your left.

RI Beekeepers Association

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