



July 2008

Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

Proclamation

The State of Rhode Island declared the week of June 22nd – 28th as Pollination week in RI in recognition of the work and importance of the honeybee.

Restaurant Movie

Local 121, at 121 Washington Street, Providence, RI is a restaurant featuring local artists and grown in RI produce, is featuring a free showing of the documentary *Silence of the Bees* on Wednesday July 23rd at 7 PM. The film provides an in depth look at the search to uncover clues into Colony Collapse Disorder which is killing off huge populations of the honeybee. *Silence of the Bees* goes beyond the unsolved mystery to tell the story of the honeybee itself, its invaluable impact on our food supply, and takes a look at what's at stake if honeybees disappear. It further explores the complex world of the honeybee in crisis and instills in viewers a sense of urgency to learn ways to help these extraordinary animals. Meet with members of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, enjoy a sampling of local honey and foods that we would not have if not for the pollination of the honeybee. To learn more, contact Nancy Miller at (401) 274-2121 or e-mail nmiller@local121.com

The above items are the result of Bonnie Frechette, marketing team leader of the Whole Foods Market, University Heights, Providence, RI. For her interest in bees, fund raising, and promotional work, we have made her an honorary member of RIBA.

Next Meeting

Sunday Jul 12 @ 2 PM
Home of Martha & Chris Faella
1072 Saugatucket Road
Peacedale, RI
(401) 783-7327
Bring Charis, Veils, Dessert
Directions on back

RIBA Members Meeting, June 8, 2008

The June meeting was held at Smiths Nurseries, 225 Douglas Pike, Smithfield RI 02917. (401) 345-3452. The owner Bob Smith is making a solid – and successful – attempt to build a nursery using natural and organic techniques and in that spirit allows Ed Lafferty to use is land as an outyard. They were extremely accommodating and excellent hosts.

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Extractor

The association has 2 extractors. The charge is \$10 for 3 nights and 2 days. Make reservations with;

Bernie Bieder (401) 463-8654 or beeman604@verizon.net in the Warwick & South County areas.

Ed Lafferty (401) 353-6644 or FruitHillApiary@Verizon.net for the North Providence and Woonsocket areas.

Lou's Workshop

Will be held July 19th. Please note this later date! Subject will be "Treating for Varroa". Please call (401) 295-0888 if weather is iffy.

Executive board minutes

The meeting started with Everett's review of the June Executive Board meeting notes, which were approved by the meeting. The meetings notes are at <http://www.ribeekeeper.com/ebagenda080605.php>

"How are the bees"

The Bee Report – short on detail – but the situations ranged from apiaries in great condition to those apparently short on food and having to visit the rhododendrons. Many reports of swarms though – in fact more swarms collected than colonies lost.

The unofficial "outstanding act of bee awareness" award goes this month to Griggs and Brown who refused to exterminate a swarm reported by a member of the public in Riverside RI. They showed the individual that the insects were honey bees not yellowjackets. <http://www.griggsbrowne.com/>

Membership

The e-board meeting discussed membership. Anne, Everett and Mike will contact members not paying dues. We also discussed growing the membership

through the events we attend each year and by allowing other members, where appropriate, to give out application forms and in some cases collect new member payments. This will be useful where members attend farmers markets and other places where RIBA does not have a presence. Mike will produce those membership application forms. We also intend to make application – and payment - available online from the website.

"Brand Identity"

Maybe we need a new logo? What do you think? We discussed the idea and ask membership for their thoughts. The logo has to be suitable for letterheads, the website, and usable on caps, t-shirts etc. Different versions are required so we can have full color on the site, but just a single color on letterheads. We don't necessarily intend to commission a designer but we could start a competition to be judged in the fall. What do you think? Email mike.southern@cox.net with your thoughts.

Bee Learn

We had a long discussion at the board meeting. The bylaws have been drafted and are ready for review online at <http://www.ribeekeeper.com/beelearnbylaws.php>

On Sunday we presented the bylaws to members. They need to be approved and although we can delay as long as required we would like this to happen at the next meeting in July. Members should review the bylaws and if you have any questions submit them to the executive board before their next meeting on July 10. We will then be able to approve the bylaws on July 13.

Swarm Central

The Swarm Central page is proving very useful. Many members have reported being contacted through the page and a number of town Police departments have the URL for reference. If you want to be added to it please email mike.southern@cox.net making sure you

give your town and the towns you can cover.

<http://www.ribeekeeper.com/swarmlist.php>

Finance

Bill reported the cash on hand and the incomes and expenditures so far this year and noted a shortage between income and expenditure for the year so far. This highlights a need discussed earlier to increase membership not only for the subscriptions but because active involvement in the Association – and the events it participates in – is what will grow interest and provide reliable funding. We also noted that some of the larger fund raising events haven't happened yet so we are projecting satisfactory reports by the year end.

Events

Silence of the Bees on Wednesday, July 23rd at 7pm.
At Local 121, at 121 Washington St., Providence, RI

Foster Old Home Days, Friday - Sunday, July 25-27,
2008 <http://www.uri.edu/coopext/4H/fosterfair.html>

CATCH THE BUZZ

Ohio Starts 100 New Beekeepers with help from the state, Farm Bureau and USDA.

A new beekeeping initiative is being offered to 12 eastern Ohio counties, including Muskingum County. The program is called The Don Myers Eastern Ohio Apiculture Project, funded by the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, and USDA Rural Development. Successful applicants will receive approximately \$500 in bees and beekeeping equipment if selected, including two bee hives, honeybees, hat/veil, smoker and other related hive tools.

Now you are probably wondering, "What's the catch?" I contacted the Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development office in New Philadelphia, and received the following:

The Don Myers Eastern Ohio Apiculture Project has the goal of assisting and establishing 100 new beekeepers with two complete colonies of honey bees

plus the necessary material and basic supplies needed to maintain the beehives. Selected participants will be required to attend four three-hour sessions of classroom training, spend a day in an apiary working with honey bees, and join a local beekeeper association in their area. A small investment of \$70 which includes membership in the Ohio State Beekeepers Association is required; plus there will be a minimal fee to join the local beekeeper association. A mentor or advisor will be assigned to each new beekeeper. The project value to each beekeeper is in excess of \$500.

The purpose of the program is to promote beekeeping as a small business to those interested in learning about caring for and maintaining colonies of honeybees. Along with a primary focus of pollination, the sale of honey and other hive products such as pollen or soaps, lotions and candle making from the wax are benefits of beekeeping and can help increase household income.

Recent losses to Ohio honeybees leave many orchards and small gardens without adequate pollinators. Although common pollinators such as native bees, butterflies, birds, etc. contribute to pollination, studies have shown the honey bees to be the most efficient due to the large number of bees in a colony. Honeybees will pollinate within a two mile range of where they are located.

Project sponsors include the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA), The Ohio State Beekeepers Association, and Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. Counties in the project area are limited to Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, and Tuscarawas.

This program applies only to participants that have never been a beekeeper, but are truly interested in the opportunity. Applications must be completed and returned no later than 4 p.m. July 1, to be considered. Contact Crossroads RC&D at 330-339-9317 if you have specific questions about the application process.

For more information or to pickup an application and fact sheet, stop by the Muskingum SWCD or OSU-Extension-Muskingum County offices located at 225

