



# Newsletter

## Outgoing RIBA President Everett Zurlinden Addresses April Meeting and Annual Banquet



Outgoing President Everett Zurlinden banquet Address April 10, 2010, Crowne Plaza, Warwick

Outgoing President Everett Zurlinden struck a positive tone in his banquet address to RIBA members in attendance for the annual dinner, that also doubled as the April business meeting. President Zurlinden spoke

of the dramatic growth of the organization in the last two years, growing from approximately 300 to 500+ members, with a treasury increase from approximately \$18,000 to \$21,000. The Treasurer's Report was delivered by Tony DiGiulio. Moreover, the number of Bees Schools increased by a third this year with schools conveniently located in the northern part of the state at Davis Vocational School, in the state's mid-section at Schartner's Farm in Exeter, and at East Farm, URI, and an additional course at

CCRI. The dramatic growth in Rhode Island reflects national trends. President Zurlinden expressed thanks to Bee School Director Betty Mencucci, and to the instructors Betty, Mark Robar and Everett Zurlinden as well as their assistants Paul Whewell, Lou Chasse, and Ed Lafferty. He noted that between Roger Robitaille, Mark Robar and Everett Zurlinden about 2,500 packages and about 400 nucs were distributed.

He reviewed the many outstanding speakers RIBA has

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Volume 2, 2nd Quarter

Summer 2010

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## Incoming President Mark Robar's Presentation at May Meeting on Feral Hive Removal



In a talk by Mark Robar at the May RIBA meeting he described a feral hive in Scotland, Connecticut on the property of Loran and Pat Sheley that he removed in April 2010, and in May the author and her husband removed a feral hive in the Edgewood section of Cran-

ston. Each had it own different strategies and outcomes, and provide thus a good opportunity for learning. Mark estimated that the feral hive he removed was about 10 years old. It was spotted in a tree that had fallen down in one of the spring storms that hit New England. He began at daybreak and brought all necessary equipment, including hive bodies, to the worksite. After suiting up, he began cutting away the comb and brood, noting that it was difficult to locate the queen and acknowledg-

ing that they failed to get the queen. Separated comb was attached to empty frames using cotton string, being careful to keep the orientation the same as it was in the living hive. He was careful to check the angle of the comb to make sure that the new home replicated, as well as possible, the original architecture. He noted the bees were quite docile, contrary to his expectations. He also noted the feral hive had traces of hive beetle and wax moth pupae. He filled

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### Officers & Committees

- Mark Robar, President, ( mark@tefarm.com
- Louis Chasse III, Vice President, 401 295-0888
- Tony DiGiulio, Treasurer, (401) 282-9443, beeOdyssey@aol.com
- Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Secretary, Newsletter, (401) 467-2857, cfluehr@ric.edu
- Betty Mencucci, Bee School Director, (401) 123-2222, bmencucci@cox.net
- Ed Lafferty, Board Member-at-Large; EAS Rep., (401) 261-9641, fruithillpiares@verizon.net
- Celeste Nadworny, Librarian, (401) 481-3751 fruithillpiares@verizon.net
- Jim Lawson, bee inspector, (401) 222-2781 x4519

### Join RIBA, Give RIBA membership as a gift to a friend or family member. Attend informative meetings, Receive the Quarterly Newsletter

Send your name, address and phone number, and \$15 annual membership dues to:

RIBA Treasurer  
Anthony DiGiulio  
P.O. Box 114014  
No. Providence, RI  
02911-0214

Make the check payable to "RIBA".

Include your email address if you prefer to receive information electronically, or by post at your home address.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



### Lou Chasse's Weekend Workshops Continue

Workshops are from 2-4PM, the second Saturday of each month through September, except workshop scheduled for Saturday July 24

Bring gear  
Saunderstown, RI  
Call for Directions  
Phone: 295-0888

### Everett Zurlinden Addresses April Meeting and Annual Banquet

*(Continued from page 1)*

hosted over the past two years, including Jeff Pettis, USDA, Beltsville, MD; Jeff Harris, USDA, Baton Rouge, LA; Marla Spivak, Ph.D., University of Minnesota; Don Adams, BCBA; Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping.com; Bruce Seaman, WCBA; Fred Sterner, BCBA; Karen Worcester-Wood, Farm Family; John Skinner, Ph.D., University of Tennessee; and Christy Hemenway, Gold Star Honey Bees who demonstrated the top bar hive her company sells. She was kind enough to donate one hive for the Banquet dinner raffle. (see photo with winner)

Everett expressed gratitude to the "endless Supply of water, soda and other drinks provide by Ed & Celeste Lafferty as well as their support of raffles and the RIBA lending library. Thanks for management of the RIBA website & database was

expressed to Jason Kerr; and finally gratitude was mentioned for the RIBA Newsletter co-editors Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban and Valerie Allison-Davis.

He noted that RIBA, like any organization, relies on its volunteers to get its work done. There are no paid positions! Our volunteers are like everyone else are Dads & Moms; they are working regular jobs; they have busy and demanding lives, and they keep bees!

"My challenge to the next administration is to change the current culture of criticism to a culture of appreciation! He recommended elimination of the County Vice Presidents, and suggested that RIBA officers should serve for a minimum of two years. Finally he recommend that Mail-In Ballots should be approved.

The slate of officers for the coming year was then presented with a request for

nominations from the floor:

For President: Mark Robar; There were no nominations from the floor.

Vice President: Lou Chasse; There were no other nominations from the floor.

Treasurer: Tony DiGiulio; There were no other nominations from the floor.

Member at Large: Vacant; Ed Lafferty and Robert Fournier were nominated from the floor.

Secretary: Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban; Rob Mortin was nominated from the floor.

Two of the candidates spoke to the audience, Mark Robar and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban.

The results of the election by ballot were as follows: Mark Robar as President; Lou Chasse for Vice-President; Tony DiGiulio for Treasurer; Ed Lafferty as Member-at-large; and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban for Secretary.

### Robar Talk on Feral Hive Removal

*(Continued from page 1)*

two brood chambers with bees and comb and had three deeps full of extra comb, so extensive was the old hive. He added sugar syrup and spearmint and lemongrass oil to the drawn comb, and added drawn comb to the attached natural comb from the hive. He then put on a queen excluder to hold the broken comb (if I understood him correctly) and a super of their honey to recreate their 'home sweet home.' As a clever ruse, the

tree's feral hive entrance was cut away and placed in front of the Langstroth hive to create "a Hollywood set" thus re-creating the old familiar entry. The colony has survived, has eggs and brood after a queen was introduced. All of the original comb was removed and bees seem to have adjusted to their new home in three deeps ready for supering. Mark is hoping that this very special feral colony will survive a winter outside of their natural tree home.



*Feral hive in tree hollow, like the one Mark removed, Edgewood, RI 2010 (cfl photo)*

## A Tale of Two Feral Hive Removals by RIBA Members

By Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

Two recent tree feral hive removals by RIBA members, one by Mark Robar in Connecticut and one by Carolyn and Richard Lobban, are worthy of comparison for the lessons they offer.

### A Different Outcome but Instructive Tale

Carolyn and Richard Lobban, just in their 5<sup>th</sup> year, are still in the early stages of the long learning process that is beekeeping. They had recently had some tree trimming work carried out by Warwick Lumber during which the value of backyard beekeeping was discussed. The workmen mentioned that they occasionally find feral hives in the trees that they fell and that they "spray the bees" as a solution to their problem. The beekeepers told them about RIBA and that conservation of feral populations is important and that we would be willing to help with contacts on the next occasion. Within a matter of weeks a call came in that a tree had been felled that morning in their own neighborhood in the Edge-wood section of Cranston and that the workers would hold off for the day before removing the tree from the sidewalk the next day. So, by mid-afternoon the pair suited up, brought a nuc box, and prepared for evaluation of the task of removal.

The tree was on the ground with relatively docile bees circulating around its large circular entrance, clearly the home a former squirrel nest judging from the teeth marks on its perimeter.

Impossible to determine the age or extent of the hive, we



Feral Hive entrance in former squirrel nest of felled tree

began working with a small home saw, plainly insufficient as the job progressed. With the time pressure of only a few hours before sunset, we called Warwick Lumber for the loan of a chain saw which Richard is accustomed to use on their Hew Hampshire land where they also keep bees. The Company's owner loaned us his personal chain saw and Richard went to work cutting, as gingerly as possible, removing approximately one foot square, 1.5" thick slabs of wood one by one, cutting away the comb and trapping as many bees in the nuc box as possible. In their agitated state, this was a challenge. Soon the nuc was full of comb and brood and some bees, and more containers were required. Neighbors who had gathered to observe loaned cardboard boxes and these, too, began to fill up with bees unable to be contained in a nuc box. Six such slabs revealed what had been an estimated 6' long vertical hive with much dark comb, well propolized at its tree hollow sides, and honey stores. As the tree was to be removed in its entirety, we removed all of the comb, unfortunately unable to determine the location of the queen and brood core. We suspected she was in the upper "stories" of the verti-

cal hive, but were unsure of her capture. We were struck by what appeared to be the large size of the honey bees but comparing the feral hive comb cells to Langstroth hive cells revealed approximately similar size, averaging 4.5 to 5.0 mm.

Unlike Mark's better preparation, we did not bring sufficient empty brood boxes to install bees onsite, but instead brought the boxes of comb and brood to our bee yard and installed them before sunset on the same day. Perhaps a pound of bees were installed, likely without a queen. I planned to install a new queen as soon as one could be obtained, but, unfortunately the bees did not survive more than 24-48 hours. Very disappointed, I wrote to Gerry Hayes whose "Classroom" column appears in the *American Bee Journal* for his opinion of what might have happened. He thought that, perhaps, the fumes of the chain saw were toxic to the bees, or that the stress of the felled tree combined with our removal method were at fault. We did harvest the comb and about 8 pounds of feral hive honey that we shared with the helpful neighbors and cherish for our own use. The moisture content of the feral hive honey was kindly measured by Jason Kerr with a reading of 17.8%.

Hopefully, these two stories of feral hive removal will be instructive for RIBA members who might heat of such feral hives and be inclined to experiment with their own success at saving the valuable feral bee colonies in our midst.

### 2010 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 unless announced otherwise.

**June 13:** Rocky Hill Grange

**July 11:** Dennison, Rumford\*

**August 8:** tba

**September 12:** Hoogasian, Saundertown

**October 10:** tba

**November 14:** tba

**December 12:** tba

Check the website for meeting notices:

[www.ribeekeeper.org](http://www.ribeekeeper.org)

\*For detailed directions see page 11

### Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Meeting August 2-6, 2010 in Boone, NC

**EAS is the premier beekeeping association in the eastern US and is prominent throughout the country and the world.**

**EAS short-course and conference require online registration. Conference details available online.**

[www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)

**SEASONAL PHOTOS OF YOUR BEES, OR OTHERS, ON FLOWERS, OR IN INTERESTING PLACES ARE WELCOMED FOR PUBLICATION THE NEWSLETTER**

Here's one of mine for starters (cfl)



Honey bee at work at the University of California, Davis Bee research Center, 2010

Please submit your original photos to:  
[cfluehr@ric.edu](mailto:cfluehr@ric.edu)

**GOT AN INTERESTING BEE GRAPHIC THAT CAN BE USED TO ENLIVEN THE PAGES OF THE RIBA NEWSLETTER?**

PLEASE SEND TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

[Cfluehr@ric.edu](mailto:Cfluehr@ric.edu)  
[valallisondavis@aol.com](mailto:valallisondavis@aol.com)

**Spring Honey Report** By James Praski [james.praski@usda.org](mailto:james.praski@usda.org)

Weather for May featured a pattern that has been seasonal with temperatures normal for most of the month in Southern New England. Precipitation for the month as a whole was normal to slightly above normal. All regions report high moisture levels that help push earlier than normal ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar such as dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*), which was very productive this year. Its nectar is very tasty and produces golden honey that is strong in flavor and the pollen is orange in color. The species epithet officinale refers to its medicinal qualities. Additional early sources exhibiting early bloom were chokecherry (*prunus virginiana*), blackberry (*prunus serotina*), pin cherry (*prunus pennsylvanica*), peaches (*prunus persica*), plums (*prunus americana*), apples (*malus*), as well as honeysuckle (*lonicerata tarian*), blueberry (*vaccinium*), black locust, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed (king devil), chive, mustard and lilac. Additional good pollen plants are greater celandine (*chelidonium majus*), autumn olive (*elaegagnus umbellate*), Russian olive (*elaegagnus angustifolia*) and silverberry (*elaegagnus commutate*).

Seasonal conditions have stimulated bee foraging and most bee colonies have responded very rapidly to create a heavy population count. Queens are laying larger patches of eggs; colonies are expanding brood nests and bringing in much pollen and nectar. This is the time of year that honeybees collect more honey than is needed for their survival. Keepers report that a strong

hive (15 frames of bees); when the honey flow starts and there are plenty of supers for nectar storage, one can average 60 to 100 pounds. Keepers report that the key to a good honey crop is having strong hives and controlling varroa mites and hive beetles. Currently, beekeepers depending on hived bee packages from this spring are clearly challenged by poor mated queens' received from some Southern package producers. The wet spring weather in the South hampered mating flights such that if you are experiencing colonies that are slow in building up, it is recommended that you re-queen. The May honeybees' primary objective is to store as much nectar as possible. The urge at this time to swarm becomes secondary but it's still possible if they get crowded. Beekeepers are monitoring their colonies often, adding supers or making splits and divides when hives become too crowded, especially using the technique of making new colonies with capped brood frames with swarm colonies. A swarm leaves the hive with little brood to boost the population for at least 3 weeks. The hive needs an abundance of foraging bees to bring in a honey crop. In regional pocket areas where weather was clearly seasonal, colony strength numbers increased dramatically and swarms were numerous. Keepers report that bees are primed for comb building and expansion at this time of the year especially regarding reversing hive bodies. Comb renewal is

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**National Honey Bee Colony Losses** by James Praski

According to a survey conducted by the (AIA) Apiary Inspectors of America and the (ARS) Agricultural Research Service, losses of managed honeybee colonies nationwide totaled 33.8 percent from all causes from October 2009 to April 2010. Beekeepers identified starvation, poor weather and weak colonies going into winter as the major reasons for mortality in their operations. The 28 percent of beekeeping operations that reported some of their colonies perished without dead bees present-(a sign of CCD- Colony Collapse Disorder), lost 42 percent their colonies. New research identifies a potential cause for CCD- Colony Collapse Disorder as a group of pathogens including a fungus and a family of viruses that may be working together. There might be a synergism between two different pathogens such that when they show up together there might be a significant correlation with colony decline. Hypothetically reported, the fungal pathogen *Nosema ceranae* when paired with 2 or 3 RNA viruses from the family Dicistroviridae has shown to be a predictor of hive failure. This is clearly a working theory in the discovery phase as researchers are looking for new pathogens and also actively looking for a way to boost honeybee defenses against *Nosema*.

**A Cautionary Tale:  
Bees under Grill**



The person who took these photos observed bees coming from under the grill cover on his backyard patio, and he determined they needed to be killed. Thinking he would suffocate or smoke them out with an insect bomb, he released the deadly chemical at night. Beekeepers will read his account and weep.

*“OMG! the sound from under the cover was incredible!!! You could hear it 3 meters away easy. Then I ran like crazy....Coming back few minutes later to see the death toll; a mass grave at least 20mm deep. I continued to remove the cover to light the barbeque to clean it when I noticed some fatty looking substance on the top of the side shelf. This was a bit weird. I always clean the grill before I put it away for winter and no way was there fat there before, so I began to wonder. NO... it can't be, could it? I slowly removed the rest of the cover only to find the bees' Head Quarters.”*

Of course, the “fatty” substance was wax comb and the death toll indicates a strong hive. Beekeepers can help prevent such outcomes by spreading the word in neighborhoods and community-based media that honey bees are in trouble and that there are people willing to remove such colonies without destroying the bees.

**More on Honey Bee Colony Losses in the U.S. Winter 2009-10**

In all 4,207 beekeepers responded to the online survey, a much larger sample than in the previous year's survey conducted by phone and post only. Beekeepers' report of 42% losses is an 8 point or 23% increase over 2008-09. Average losses were nearly 3 times greater than considered acceptable (14.4%) and 61% reported losses in excess of what they consider acceptable.

Respondents attributed their losses to starvation (32%), weather (29%), weak colonies in the fall (14%), mites (12%), and poor queens (10%). Only 5% attributed CCD as the major cause of their losses.

It is important to note that the survey only reported winter losses and does not capture losses in the summer that occur throughout the summer due to queen or colony failure, needing replacement. Preliminary data from other surveys indicate that these summer losses can also be significant. All of the respondents indicated that the rate of loss experienced by the industry at large in the US is unsustainable. (*Penn State Center for Pollinator Research, April 22, 2010*)



**Mound of dead bees after their destruction**

**Bee-talk to Elementary School**  
by Betty Mencucci

In April I gave a bee talk to the Robertson Elementary School in Central Falls to about 200 kids. This talk was a reward to them for doing well in their state testing.

When I arrived, everything was bee! The kids all wore hats with bees that said something like, Bee all that you can bee. The entire parking lot had beautiful colorful artwork by the students featuring bees with sayings linking bees to high achievement. They had bee balloons, etc. I took pictures of some of the artwork and my husband took some photos of the bee talk.

I was really impressed that the kids were so much into bees and that a reward for high performance on their tests was a "bee talk."

It's an example on how the public is embracing bees and their importance in the scheme of life.  
Betty Mencucci

**Spring Honey Report**

*(Continued from page 4)*

part of ensuring a healthy environment for the bees. The main beekeeper activities at this point in time are: evaluating your queen's productivity, examining brood patterns and how much they are in balance status, along with making sure there are not any laying workers or drone only laying queen. Additionally, what is your supering needs as well as looking at (IPM) integrated pest management programs and options for disease and mite problems.

**WHOLE FOODS MARKET'S COMMITMENT TO HONEY BEES**

*(thanks to Roger Robitaille for this story)*

Whole Foods market raises funds and awareness to help protect what they see as their key partner in food, the honey bee. Bonnie Frechette has led the way at the Whole Foods market in Providence (University Heights). She became involved when she learned of the plight of the honey bee and the deep decline it has suffered in recent years. Realizing the threat to our food supply, she rallied the Whole Foods Market community and customers to help support research into the problem.

Her campaign began with “Save the Bees” signs at the checkout counters with coupons used to contribute to research. She found that customer support was very strong from the outset. She organized a free showing of “Silence of the Bees” in 2009 to a standing room only crowd, attended by many members of RIBA.

This spring she organized a collaboration with Burt's Bees in their Whole Body department of all of the company's New England stores. She also served Haagen-Daz's (a company that also supports bee research) Vanilla Honey Bee flavor ice cream at the Rhode Island Flower Show in 2009. In 2008-09 she raised a total of \$14,000 for research and education while helping the local community gain a deeper appreciation of their local pollinators.

Frechette has spoken to a RIBA meeting last year and since taking a beekeeping class, she now has two hives of her own.

Thanks to Bonnie Frechette for her efforts which have had such a positive effect on local as well as national beekeeping.

*(adapted from Whole Foods Market Magazine, North Atlantic region, Spring 2010)*



**From Celeste Nadworny**

[fruithillapiaries@verizon.net](mailto:fruithillapiaries@verizon.net)

**Emeril's Honey-Brined Pork Chops with Chutney**

(tip: make the brine the night before)

4 bone-in pork chops  
8 cups water, 1/2 c. salt  
2 cups honey  
Fresh thyme, 6 sprigs  
1 tbsp. pepper; 1 tsp cloves  
2 tbsp olive oil

Commercial Chutney or go online for recipe (no space)

**Preparation:** Combine the water, salt & honey in a large pot and bring to a boil. Add thyme, pepper & cloves and set aside to cool. Chill for 2 hours. Submerge pork chops in brine for 6 hours. (Discard the brine)

**Cooking:** In a large skillet brown the chops on both sides, about one minute each side. Transfer to a roasting pan or baking sheet and roast until they reach a temperature of 145 degrees F, about 10-12 minutes. Allow the chops to rest before serving.

For Chutney recipe consult the website:

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/recipe?id=10856300>

**ENJOY all of these recipes!**

**Visit the RIBA website:**  
[www.ribeekeeper.com](http://www.ribeekeeper.com)

**Recipes of the Month**

Val Allison-Davis

**London Broil Teriyaki**

1 1/2 lbs. London Broil  
3/4 cp. Oil  
1/4 cp. Soy sauce  
2 Tbsp. vinegar  
1/4 cp. Honey  
1 1/2 tsp. ginger  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
1 small chopped onion.

Combine all ingredients; pour over steak. Marinate overnight. Grill 4 to 7 minutes per side over medium-hot fire.

**Summertime Beverages Improved with honey**

**Lemonade:** Juice of one lemon, 1 cup of water (cold or hot), 2 Tbsp. honey—Just stir and serve

**Honey Ice Cubes:** 1/2 cup honey, 2 cups very hot water, 2 Tbsp. lemon juice. Blend the honey with the hot water and lemon juice; pour into ice cube trays and freeze at once. Serve with lemonade or any fruit punch, delicious with ice tea as well.

**Stay Cool with HONEY ICE CUBES****Winner of Top bar Hive Raffle at Annual Dinner**

Christy Hemenway congratulates Pam Cruz, winner of the Top bar Hive raffle at the April RIBA dinner

After a talk and demonstration by Christy Hemenway of Goldstar Honey Bees of Albion, Maine on the benefits of top bar hives, a beautiful, hand-crafted example was awarded to Pam Cruz, the winner of the annual dinner raffle along with a package of bees donated by Everett Zurlinden of Beehavin' Apiary.

Top bar hives are becoming a popular alternative to the Langstroth hive, are relatively easy to construct and maintain, and have gained acceptance in places where the traditional moveable frame hive is not practical due to costs of construction materials and forms of honey extraction that do not preserve comb. With ease of manipulation, the natural hanging ovals of comb construction top bars are worked front to back with a queen excluder separating the brood from honey stores. The RIBA Newsletter will check in with Pam to see how the hive is progressing.

**Lessons from Bees (from Howard Scott, 2002)**

- #1. It is satisfying to work for the greater good.
- #2. Leave it to females to run things well.
- #3. The perfect living space is a hexagon.
- #4. On bee space. Good spaces make good neighbors.
- #5. You don't need to go to college to understand thermodynamics.
- #6. Embrace the sun. It's the life force

**About the Newsletter**

RIBA Newsletter co-editors: Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (cfluehr@ric.edu) and Valerie Allison-Davis (vallisondavis@aol.com). are seeking your feedback and suggestions. We want your ideas and contributions to make the Newsletter a means for better communication and exchange among Rhode Island's beekeepers. Please Contact Us.

## President's Message

Mark Robar

Swarm season started early this year with reports of swarms coming in as early as the third week of April. Although there was a lot of spring rain it came all at once and was not spread out over days. Moisture in the ground contributes to nectar flow, and this year's black locust flow was one of the best in years.

Colony build-up for my hived packages has been very disappointing for me this year, the worst I've ever experienced. Nuc build-up will come too late for beginner beekeepers and at this point it looks like I will be disappointing 40+ nuc order.

For experienced beekeepers with over-wintered colonies ready and supered up took advantage of early nectar flow and record honey production.

Last meeting's program did not go off without a hitch, and I apologize for that. Directly after the meeting Jim Praski's son took a look at the projector and found a loose connection. We will try again, at a later date, to do that program over again.

mark@tefarm.com.



## Membership Exchange: Letter from New RIBA Member

From[pcolaro1@cox.net]  
May 19, 2010

To: Fluehr, Carolyn  
Subject: First Bee Experience

I want every one in the RIBA association to know, how informative and helpful I have found the RI Beekeepers organization to be. I waited two years to get into the Bee School and I was very fortunate to get into Betty Menucci's class in Lincoln along with friends of mine. It was worth the wait. The classes were very interesting and we learned everything that you could possibly need to know to be able to maintain a bee hive. We couldn't wait for the arrival of Spring and the bees. I had even had a name for my queen, Cleo (for Cleopatra of course). She and the rest of her gang arrived and I was excited as could be. I took them home and did everything that I was instructed to do. Of course, I pulled out the wrong plug and I was looking into the eyes of Queen Cleo and I quickly tossed her and the cage into the hive and poured her warriors with her and closed the hive.

I would check every so often a week after that and I thought everything was fine. I could see them working on two frames, but I didn't disturb them. They were very passive and I would often go to the hive without the beekeeper outfit. However, this past Saturday I checked and I was sure I probably would have at least 4 frames full, but only 2 seemed to be worked on and there was this funny looking white thing. I knew Pezza Farms was

having a Bee presentation and Everett would be there, so I went.

I explained that funny white thing and I practically kid-napped Ed Lafferty and brought him to me house. I'm sure glad I did.

It seemed just like Cleopatra, my queen faced a terrible end and a worker had produced frames of drones. Being a newbie I didn't know what was going on, but Ed did. The next day, he and his wonderful wife Celeste instructed and helped me place a NUC that I had gotten from Everett. I don't know what I would have done without everyone's help. I certainly wouldn't be a beekeeper this year and I can't get over how wonderful and helpful everyone is in RIBA. You came to my help and I am forever grateful - Janet Colardo (a newbie)

### Note from the Newsletter Editor:

Please send your questions to be answered by one of our many experienced beekeepers in Rhode Island. And also send us your comments and stories of first year beekeeping, or your insights gained from years of beekeeping. This new Membership Exchange is YOUR column and we want to make it a lively and interesting part of the newsletter.

Send your letters or comments to:  
Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban  
cfluehr@ric.edu, or call me if you prefer at home at: 401-467-2857

THE MEMBERSHIP  
EXCHANGE!

## HELP MAKE THE NEWS- LETTER YOUR SPACE FOR DISCUSSION OF BEEKEEPING IN RHODE ISLAND & IN NEIGHBORING STATES

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND OFFER TO HELP PROMOTE BETTER EXCHANGE AMONG RIBA MEMBERS TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNICATION AND TO SERVE THE INTEREST OF BETTER BEEKEEPING IN THE STATE AND REGION

### Possible topics:

1. Help conduct a survey of beekeepers in the region to learn about successes, problems, times of local honey flows, best local foraging trees and plants.
2. Discuss the possibility and feasibility of a local queen rearing coordinated program using stock developed from local hardy bees, well adapted to the southern New England climate
3. Forum on local sales and distribution of honey and hive-related products, such as candles, hand creams, lip balm. Share your experience.

Contact: cfluehr@ric.edu



**Bee Inspector**

Be sure to register your apiary annually, Use the form in this newsletter or:

**Contact:**

Jim Lawson  
 RI Department of Agriculture  
 235 Promenade Street  
 Providence, RI 02908

(401) 222.2781x4519

**Did you know?**

**One nickname of Providence, RI popular in the 19th century was "The Beehive of Industry." After years of decline in industrial output, Providence is now known as "The Renaissance City."**



**RIBA MEMBERS- PLEASE FILL OUT THE APIARY REGISTRATION FORM PRINTED ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE (P.9-10) OF THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER. MAIL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADDRESS AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE.**

*Thank you.*

**Motion to Support Boy Scout's Campaign to Reinstate Beekeeping Badge Passed Unanimously at Annual Dinner**

*Beekeeping Associations throughout the country are stepping up to the plate to support Boy Scout Christopher Stowell who is seeking to have the Beekeeping badge reinstated. A motion to support his effort was passed unanimously at the April 10, 2010 RIBA meeting. The Resolution reproduced below was mailed to Christopher. Please consider sending your own letter of support.*

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATEMENT OF THE BEEKEEPING MERIT BADGE AND LEDGE TO MENTOR SCOUTS WHO SEEK THE MERIT BADGE**

The Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, by a vote of the majority of its members, hereby resolves and pledges as follows:

1. We support Christopher Stowell's efforts to have Boy Scouts of America reinstate the Beekeeping Merit badge
2. We promise Boy Scouts of America that, if the Beekeeping Merit Badge is reinstated, our members will mentor interested scouts and provide them with opportunities to earn the Beekeeping Merit badge
3. If BSA reinstates the Beekeeping Merit badge, we will provide contact information for our group to BSA.
4. We will post contact information for our group that will be available to interested on [Beesource.com](http://Beesource.com), or any other internet site designated by Boy Scouts of America.

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Name	Title	Date
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Mail to: Christopher Stowell, 17597 N. Peoria Ave., Skiatook, OK, 74070

Group or Individual Contact Information

Mailing address:

Phone::

Email:

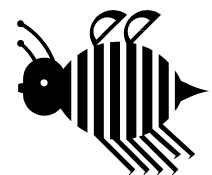
**EAS meeting in NC in 2010; in RI/2011**

The Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) of North America, founded in 1955, is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of bee culture, education of beekeepers, and excellence in bee research.

Every summer EAS conducts its annual conference in venues throughout the eastern US consisting of lectures, workshops, short courses for beginning and advanced beekeepers, and it conducts its annual business meeting. Each year it meets in a different one of its 26 member states or provinces of eastern US and Canada. Approximately 400-500 people attend the conference each year.

This year the meeting is in Boone, North Carolina, and in 2011 the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association is scheduled to host the annual EAS conference.

The RIBA/EAS coordination is headed by Ed Lafferty. More details will be available after this year's annual conference and will appear in the Fall Newsletter. If you would like to help contact Ed at: [fruihillapiaries@verizon.net](mailto:fruihillapiaries@verizon.net)







DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
 DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE & RESOURCE MARKETING  
 235 PROMENADE STREET  
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 FAX: 222-6047, TTD: 222-4462

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:  
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EBP012897

**2010**

**RHODE ISLAND APIARY REGISTRATION FORM**

(TYPE OR PRINT)

APIARIST'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APIARY STATISTICS

1. Total Number of Apiaries (Bee Yards): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Colonies: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you acquired any new bees (colonies, packages, queens) by purchase, gifts, or swarms in the past 12 months?

(Circle One:) YES NO If YES from whom did you receive them? Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you lose any colonies these past 12 months? (Circle One:) YES NO If YES how many colonies: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of hives transported for pollination purposes? \_\_\_\_\_ Number moved out of state: \_\_\_\_\_

INSPECTION PERMISSION

1. Permission is granted for the State Bee Inspector to enter the property(s) where the apiary(s) is/are located and to conduct an inspection for disease: (a) At the convenience of the Inspector \_\_\_\_\_ (X): or (b) with the apiarist present during the inspection \_\_\_\_\_ (X).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Inspector will attempt to notify you at least one day in advance of his anticipated inspection. If you have apiaries located on other properties we ask you to make the necessary arrangements with the property owners for the inspection.

**1** PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Colonies: \_\_\_\_\_

Location on the property (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Colonies: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location on the property (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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3 PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Colonies: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location on the property (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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4 PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Colonies: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location on the property (please be specific) \_\_\_\_\_  
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COMMENTS  
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## ANCIENT BEEHIVES, REVEAL 3,000 YEAR OLD BEES

Honeybee remains of a 3,000 year old apiary have given archeologists a unique view of ancient beekeeping. Beekeeping is known from a few tombs and paintings in ancient Egypt, but no actual hives have been found until a 2007 dig in Tel Rehov, Israel where more than 100 hives have been found in the Iron Age city of Rehov. Amihai Mazar led the team of archeologists that made the apiary found thought to be capable of producing annually 1,000 pounds of honey.

The hives were found in three rows consisting of three tiers of hives. The hives were made of straw and unbaked clay and had one small opening for the bees and a lid on the other side for removal of honey and comb. The site dates to 900 BC and the apiary was located in the middle of the ancient city of Rehov, indicating possibly the importance of beekeeping or the monarch's desire to control the industry. Honey was used for medical and religious purposes, and beeswax was used as a flat surface for writing and in metals production.

In their paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers analyzed bees preserved in honeycomb that was charred but not completely burnt by a fire that likely destroyed the rest of the apiary. Unfortunately, the heat damaged the bee DNA, making it impossible to revive their genes in modern bees, but the species was identified as *Apis mellifera anatoliaca*, a sub-species only found today in Turkey. It is possible that this species



Archaeologists excavating ancient beehives, first evidence of near eastern beekeeping

range has changed, but more likely that the Rehov beekeepers traded for them.

Local bees are notoriously difficult to manage and in a sweet repeat of history, the efforts to establish a modern beekeeping industry in Tel Rehov ended in their importing *Apis mellifera anatolica* for modern use, thus replicating ancient practice.

The significance of the find is the site being the first unearthing of an ancient apiary. It also lends credence to the legendary land of Canaan (the land of the ancient Palestinians and Israelites) being "the land of milk and honey." Previously, this 'honey' was thought to be extracted from dates and figs, that is, until this convincing proof of ancient beekeeping as a human industry, rather than the wild honey that has been gathered for tens of thousands of years by earlier humans.

(*Wired Science*, Brandon Keim, June 7, 2010, Google.com)

## Meeting Directions

July 11 @ 2:00 pm

Allen and Jane Dennison  
325 Newman Avenue  
Rumford RI 02916

95 to 195 East, Exit 6

Right off the exit then first right onto Broadway. Up Broadway and it will turn into North Broadway after passing the Henderson Bridge. Continue on North Broadway past the Rumford Fire Station and the Post Office (now road name changes to Newman Ave) to the intersection of 114/ 1/ 1A (Pawtucket Ave). Straight through the intersection (Newman Congo Church on the left) and a few blocks up on the left is a yellow flag on a mailbox with a black mailbox. A small vegetable garden is evident also. The driveway to the setback lot is marked by the yellow flag.

Drop off passengers and park on a side road (Bishop Ave and Redland Ave are good parking options as the driveway is a circle and cars get blocked in).

Coming from the East Side, take the Henderson Bridge and left onto North Broadway.

Coming from Pawtucket, take Newport or Pawtucket Ave until they intersect with Newman Ave at the big white church, and take the left at the light onto Newman Ave.

Coming from The North/East (Rehoboth area), Get onto Route 152 and cross the causeway from Seekonk into RI and we are the third driveway on the right.

## DID YOU KNOW?

An increasing number of RIBA members reside in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Our membership has grown to over 500 and now includes more beekeepers from the southern New England region. This was reflected in our bee school rosters and new members.

**LET US HEAR FROM RIBA MEMBERS FROM OUTSIDE OF RHODE FOR MORE COVERAGE OF REGIONAL BEEKEEPING IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**

## COMING FEATURES IN THE FALL ISSUE OF THE RIBA NEWSLETTER:

- 1) Bees and Elephants (some surprising facts)
- 2) Interview with RI author, Elizabeth Capaldi-Evans, graduate of Toll Gate High School, Warwick, RI, on her new book, *Why Bees Buzz: fascinating Answers to Questions about Bees* (Rutgers Univ. Press, 2010)
- 3) Stories from RIBA members about swarm capture and feral hive removal
- 4) Your article?



**RI Beekeepers' Association**

RIBA NEWSLETTER  
 c/o Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban  
 23 Fort Avenue  
 Cranston, RI 02905

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We're on the Web!  
 ribeekeeper.com

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**NEW RIBA MEMBERS Please Respond!**

We would like you to tell us how you would like to receive information from RIBA and also if you would like to receive information from members who are providing services or selling products such as packaged bees, nucs, woodenware and jars. Please cut this form along the dotted line above and mail it to: RIBA, c/o Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, 23 Fort Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905

Your Name:

Information Source	Send to me by: (Circle one or more)		
	email	US Mail	
RI Beekeepers' Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting announcement postcards (sometimes used instead of the newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisement from members announcing services and products. RIBA will provide mailing labels to the member. The advertising member will pay for the labels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Don't allow</b>