

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

October/November 2009

President's Message

Hello,

The Autumn picnic was very well attended and I hear that there were about seventy participants. Those of you who attended can attest to the variety and quantity of food that was provided. Those of you who could not attend may want to plan sufficiently far ahead to make it a point to be with us next September.

As the days shorten, you'll begin to see the hive's behavior change. The drones will be forcibly removed from the hive and left to starve as their services are no longer needed.

Winter preparation within the confines of the hive are under way as the honey stores are strategically placed to ease their consumption during the frigid winter months. Feed those hives that are underweight and check for any diseases that may be present that will weaken the hive and reduce its survivability.

Your honey crop is expected to be unusually small this year due to excessive rainfall but don't get disheartened. Make certain that you leave enough capped honey on the hive to feed the 'girls' through the winter. Its eas-

ier to extract a little less honey this fall than it is to emergency feed during the winter and early spring before the nectar flows start. One thing is for certain... next year may not be better than this year, but it will be different...

Hope to see you on the 17th when we'll talk about fondant making at the Administration Building of the Sussex County Fairgrounds. There will also be a business meeting to plan next year's meeting schedule and discuss some old business.

Bill Foley

Bee Tea Recipe

If you missed the September meeting our speaker, Chris Harp, shared his recipe for Bee Tea. According to Chris this mixture helps strengthen the bees immune system.

The water/sugar mixture listed is for Fall feeding. In Spring and Summer adjust the mixture to 50/50.

Ingredients:

2 parts water
3 parts sugar
Thyme
Dash of salt
Chamomile Tea (organic preferably)
Dandelion Root Tea (if you can find it) You can add other herbs like sage, rue, yarrow, peppermint, hyssop, anise hyssop, lemon balm, Stinging nettle.

How to Make Bee Tea:

Add salt and thyme to water in a pot—bring to a full boil. Turn off heat and add sugar, stirring until well dissolved.

Make Herbal Tea Separately:

Make chamomile and Dandelion root tea (one bag each). Make tea by putting ingredients in a cup add boiling water and steep,

covered for 10 minutes. One large cup of herb tea is enough for 5 gallons of Bee Tea so adjust according to volume of Bee Tea you are making.

For more info on Bee Tea and Chris' winter classes visit HoneybeeLives.org

SCBA Newsletter
October/November 2009

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate
Date changed to

31 oct

- **Saturday, Oct. 17**
1pm Sussex County Fair Administration Building
Winter prep and fondant making

- **Saturday, Nov. 21**
Holiday Party—check web site for details



Cranberry Muffins

1 cup cranberries, chopped
 1/3 cup honey
 1/4 cup margarine
 1/4 cup honey
 1 egg
 1/2 cup milk
 1 orange rind, grated
 2 cups all purpose flour
 1 Tablespoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon salt

Mix cranberries with 1/3 cup honey. Cream margarine and remaining honey, until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat thoroughly. Stir in cranberry mixture, milk and orange rind. Sift together dry ingredients; add to cranberry mixture and stir until just combined. Batter should be lumpy. Spoon batter into greased muffin tins, filling 2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 18 minutes.

House Votes \$5 Million for CCD Research

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$5 million in new funding for research into Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The funds were approved as part of the Agricultural Appropriations Bill that passed the House on July 9, 2009.

In its version of the bill, passed August 4, 2009, the Senate put in \$1 million in new funding for pollinator research. The differences between the two bills will have to be reconciled before final passage. The House CCD funding originated with Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) who persuaded Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), chairwoman of the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, to include the additional funding in her "manager's amendment" as the measure went to the House floor.

If it becomes law, the measure would provide \$2 million for USDA's Agricultural Research Service and \$3 million for competitive grants through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Both segments of funding are for CCD and pollinator decline research and both are offset by reduction in funding for USDA administrative activities.

The Senate Appropriation Committee's report included the following statement: "Pollinator Recovery - The Committee continues its strong concern for reports of

Colony Collapse Disorder [CCD] and indications that this threat to the U.S. food supply is spreading. Honey bees and other pollinators perform a vital function relating to the production of much of our fruit and vegetable production, and the threat of CCD places this production at high risk. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for ARS research related to pollinator species."



The Senate also included \$469,000 to suppress and limit the varroa mite population on

the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, and to prevent spread of the mite to the neighboring islands. The Committee report stated: "Colony Collapse Disorder [CCD] has devastated beekeepers on mainland USA, and is severely limiting the supply of bees to those commercial crops requiring bee pollination. The Island of Hawaii (Big Island) is a major supplier of queen bees to mainland bee keepers with the largest supplier of queen bees in the United States located in Kona on Big Island."

Winter is Coming

At our next meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17, 1 pm at the Administration Building on the Sussex County Fairgrounds we will be talking about preparing bees for winter, making fondant candy to feed them in the cold months and how to protect the hives from mice and other critters who find a bee hive such an inviting place to winter.

Once your bees are tucked away for the winter take advantage of the down time and check out some materials from our library (or the public library) and curl up by the fire to read about bees. We also have DVDs and videos if you like.

Request the catalogs from all the supply houses and be sure your bee magazine subscriptions are up to date.

When you can't visit your bees reading about them is the next best thing and we can all learn something new.

Fair Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Fair!

There was good coverage, people tried something new and we all got to meet new people.

Despite a low attendance our sales were good and that allows us to offer opportunities to our members through out the year.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out!



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