

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

April/May 2008

President's Message

Hello,

Welcome new Beekeepers! We just completed our Beekeeper's Short course. We received a huge response and the class was well attended. For those who took the course, we will be emailing a short survey to see how we did and how we can improve the course in coming years. We would appreciate your feedback.

A big thank you to Bob Burkhard, Deb Brodhecker, Debbie and John Vnenschak, Mike Osborne, Bill Foley, Tom Webb & Cathie Skove for all their time and energy that went into organizing and teaching this course.

Spring Management from a Beekeeper's Year:

April - As the weather warms up, the blossoms will begin to appear. The bees will begin to bring pollen into the hive. Drones will begin to appear. On a warm day, you should do your first comprehensive inspection. Can you find the queen or fresh eggs? Are there plenty of eggs and brood? Is there a nice brood

pattern? Reverse your hive deeps so that your bees are now in the bottom deep. This will stimulate the growth of the colony.

Spring pest management

If you are going to treat for mites and/or varroa, this is the time to do it **before** you put honey supers on.

May - Your colony of bees should be very active. Bees should be coming and going bringing in lots of nectar and pollen. The queen will be reaching her greatest rate of egg laying. Continue to check your colony for plenty of eggs and brood. Watch for swarming.

Be sure to remove any medications (i.e. apistan) you have introduced to your colony so that you can begin to place honey supers on your deeps. We put our honey supers on as



early as the middle of April! Lets hope for a healthy season for our bees and lots of honey.

I just received the findings from the survey completed by NASS for the US Department of Agriculture for honey. The findings are very interesting and if you have access to the internet you can go to the NASS home page at www.nass.usda.gov.

I thought it was interesting that in 2006 the yield was 36 pounds. In 2007, the yield per colony was 57 pounds. As I think back to the spring/summer of 2006, I am trying to remember what the weather conditions were. We find the weather has a significant impact on honey production.

Don't forget to come out to our next meeting on May 3rd. We will be, installing a package of bees, inspecting some hives and talking bees! We will also be raffling off some beekeeping equipment.

See you then-

Linda Osborne

SCBA Newsletter
April/May 2008

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

• **Saturday, May 3**

Meeting at 1 pm, Brodhecker's house, 75 George Hill Road, Branchville. 973-702-1223

Program—Installing a package. Bring a veil, gloves and lawn chair.

• **Saturday, July 12**

Meeting at 10 am at Osborne's, Program—Hive inspection, preparing entries for the fair. Picnic and pool party

August 1-10 Sussex County Farm & Horse Show

• **Sunday, Sept. 14**

Noon at Brodhecker's, Joint meeting with Southeastern NY Beekeepers.

Honey's Nutritional Profile

Honey is composed primarily of carbohydrates and water, and also contains small amounts of a wide array of vitamins and minerals, including niacin, riboflavin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium and zinc.

Of recent interest is the antioxidant content of honey. Honey contains a variety of flavonoids and phenolic acids which act as antioxidants, scavenging and eliminating free radicals. Generally, darker honeys have higher antioxidant content than lighter honeys.



Barbecued Pork Steak

4 Pork blade steaks cut 1-1 1/4 inch thick
1/2 cup bottled barbecue sauce

1/3 cup honey
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon garlic salt
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard

Pound steaks with meat mallet. For sauce, in a small bowl combine remaining ingredients; mix well. Place steaks on grill 4 inches above medium slow coals. Cook about 8 minutes on each side. Brush steaks with sauce and continue cooking 5 minutes more cooking and brushing.

What's the Buzz?

Websites and resources for new and old beekeepers.

Websites

For the latest information on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) go to the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture research and Extension Consortium at www.maarec.cas.psu.edu.

Haagen Dazs Ice cream has made a donation of \$250,000 to the research of CCD and is sponsoring a website, helpthehoneybees.com.

They are also introducing a new flavor this Spring, Vanilla Honey Bee, dedicated to the honey bee. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this flavor will be used to help the honey bee.

The Backyard Beekeepers Association based in SW Connecticut has a very nice website, backyardbeekeepers.com, click on the menu

item Find a Club for an exhaustive list of beekeeping links.

Classes

If you are interested in furthering your beekeeper knowledge there is now a beekeeping course online. The course is taught by Dr. Dewey Caron of the University of Delaware. For more information visit pcs.udel.edu/udonline/beekeeping.



Why Bees Matter

- Honey bee pollination is credited with helping to produce a third of the nation's diet.
- More than 3.5 million acres of crops in the United States depend on honey bees for pollination.
- Crops that require or benefit from honey bee pollination include apples, peaches, pears, pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, peppers, soybeans, almonds, cashews and sunflowers.
- Nationwide, honey bee pollination is worth about \$15 billion to the food supply.
- Honey bees also pollinate many native plants in the ecosystem.
- In 2007 NJ produced 324,000 pounds of honey.

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