

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

August/Sept. 2007

President's Message

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time at the fair last week. It was a typical fair week with lots of hot weather and sporadic down pours of rain! We sold honey, lots of candy and were able to talk bees to whoever would listen.

I found that with all the recent publicity about CCD, our public is becoming better educated about the importance of honey bees. We had all kinds of questions about our disappearing bees and some folks gave us *their* theories.

The one I liked best was from this gentleman who "heard" that bees were being genetically engineered and something went terribly wrong and now the bees are too big to fit in flowers!

All kidding aside, it is a good thing that people are thinking more about honey bees and the role they play in our food cycle.

Mike and I received quite a few phone calls regarding swarms this summer. The callers did not want to kill the honey bees because they had read that honey bees are scarce this year. It just goes to show how important is to educate our public about the benefits of honey bees and beekeeping.

Mike and I have removed all of our honey supers. It looks like we got a pretty decent honey crop this year.

We have left about 60 pounds of honey for the colony to use to winter over.

We have checked each colony to ensure there is a healthy queen. We

have medicated our colonies.

As for the bees, the queen will reduce the number of eggs she lays therefore the hive population will drop.

Activity around the hive will slow down as the nectar flow slows. Drones may begin to disappear.

It is hard to believe the bees are already beginning to prepare for the winter months ahead. Where did the summer go?

Our next meeting is September 9th at the Brodheckers. This is a joint meeting with the Southeastern NY Beekeepers Association.

I will look forward to seeing everyone then.

Linda Osborne

SCBA Newsletter
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SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- **Sunday, September 9** at noon at Brodhecker's. Joint meeting with Southeastern NY Beekeepers. Pot luck lunch. Please bring a dish to share—main course, side, salad or dessert.

*RSVP to 973-702-1223 by
September 7th.*

Program to be announced.

- **Saturday, Nov. 10** at 7pm at Mountain Brook Inn. Annual Holiday Dinner



2007 Honey Show Results

The Honey Show at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/The NJ State Fair was held August 4th.

Tom Webb coordinated the show and Jake Mathenius was the judge.

Class 1 Section Comb Honey: 1st place, Bill Foley

Class 2 Cut Comb: 1st place, Tom Webb; 2nd place, Ted Weinberg

Class 4 Shallow Frame: 1st place, Bill Foley

Class 5 Medium Frame: 1st place, Bill Foley; 2nd place Ted Weinberg

Class 7 Granulated: 1st place, Bill Foley; 2nd place Bea Tassot

Class 9 Extracted Light Honey: 1st place, Vic Ammons; 2nd place, Jill Wooden; 3rd place Ted Weinberg

Class 11 Extracted Amber Honey: 1st place, Chris Tomlinson; 2nd place, Bill Foley; 3rd place Stan Waistowski

Class 12 Extracted Dark Honey: 1st place, Bea Tassot; 2nd place, Frank Wooden

Class 13 Beeswax 1lb. Block: 1st place, Bea Tassot

Class 15 Artistic Wax Plain: 1st place Bea Tassot

Class 16 Beeswax Candles: 1st place, Denise Webb; 2nd place Bill Foley

Class 18 Observation Hive of Bees: 1st place, Chris Tomlinson; 2nd place Bill Foley

Best in Show: Chris Tomlinson for observation hive

Best Exhibitor: Bill Foley

Special Exhibitor: Helen Webb for her beautiful honey pot collection.

Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Baked Honeyed Squash

This caramelized squash is a great accompaniment to poultry and meat—especially pork.

The recipe calls for butternut squash but any orange squash—even pumpkin will do.

1lb butternut squash, deseeded
2 tbsps salted butter
1 tbsps honey, warmed
1/2 tsp of fresh rosemary or
1/4 tsp dried.
Heat the Oven to 375 degrees

Cut the squash into 1/4 circles and cut these in half to make semi-circles. Place the squash in a bowl with the warmed honey and toss well to coat.

Arrange the squash, overlapping the pieces, in a casserole pan. Drizzle the remaining honey over the squash, dot with butter, then sprinkle with rosemary.

Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown.

Honeybees, Cell Phones and the Future of Beekeeping

Editors note: this was first published in the Essex County (MA) newsletter.

By Marc Hoffman

Are cell phones killing our bees? I never let my bees use cell phones. They are social insects and I have found once I let them have cell phones it is impossible to control their use. The charges from time overruns can bankrupt even the most efficient apiary operation.

Once they learn to use them they become dependent: they stop returning to the hive to dance and just phone in the location of their forage discoveries.

Furthermore, the increased peer-to-peer communication plays havoc

with traditional bee values. “To heck with pheromones!” they say. “Chemical communication is passé compared with digital!”

As in many societies, the young are the early adopters, spending their time text messaging instead of doing their jobs. In the end we observe a breakdown in hierarchy and, fatally, anti-royalist sentiment.

This, then, is the cause of CCD—foolish notions of independence among the immature, loss of authority of the elders, breakdown of group cohesion, and collapse of the aristocracy. ;)



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