

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

August/September 2008

President's Message

Hello,

It was great to see everyone at our last meeting! Our "new bees" got a good look at some established colonies, watched an extraction demonstration and Cathie reviewed how to prepare honey to enter into a honey show. It was a full day of beekeeping with lots of questions and answers.

Some review for our new beekeepers:

June is usually the month with the strongest honey flow. Because of our wet, cool spring, the bees and their honey making seem to be a little behind. But if the weather is good during the month of July, the nectar flow may continue. The alfalfa fields near our bees in Lafayette are in full bloom. The fields have a purple hue to them and are a buzz with bees. (The farmer usually cuts this before the bees get to work the flowers but not this year!) Our bees at Genesis are all over the fields of

wild flowers they have planted.

Therefore it is important that you continue to inspect your hives and add more honey supers if needed. The bees are still busy this month despite our hot, dry weather conditions. If you see your bees hanging out in front of the colony on a hot and humid day, they are cooling themselves.

During August, the colony growth and activity will begin to slow down as the nectar flow begins to wane. The bees like to work purple loosestrife and golden rod which makes a very dark, flavorful honey. It is unlikely that your bees will swarm this late in the season. Looking ahead to September, this is the month you will harvest your honey crop.



Remember to leave 60 pounds of honey for winter.

Check your colony for a healthy queen. Medicate your bees towards the end of the month. Remember, all honey supers should be removed before you add any medication to the colony.

To be a successful beekeeper, it is important to keep learning about this fascinating hobby. On September 14, we will be meeting at the Brodhecker's at noon for a pot luck lunch. Our State bee inspector, Tim Schuler, will present a program on American Foul Brood. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this informative meeting.

See you at the fair,

Linda Osborne

SCBA Newsletter
August/Sept. 2008

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

August 1-10 Sussex County Farm & Horse Show

• **Friday, August 1**
Honey Show Entries due at the Richards Building by 10 am.
Download entry form <http://brodheckerfarms.com/SCBA>

• **Sunday, Sept. 14**
Noon at Brodhecker's, 75 George Hill Road, Branchville. Joint meeting with Southeastern NY Beekeepers. Program: Tim Schuler, NJ State Bee Inspector on American Foul Brood.

Bring a covered dish to share and a lawn chair.

RSVP by Sept. 12 to Deb at 973-702-1223

Volunteer at the Fair

The Sussex County Beekeepers Association has a booth at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair. The club sells honey and other hive products and provides educational information to the general public.

The proceeds from this booth allow us to offer our beginning beekeeper course for a nominal fee, bring in speakers for other meetings and provide for other club expenses without any additional fund raising during the year.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth for the ten days of the fair. Please call Helen Webb at **973-875-3889** to volunteer for a shift or two—day time or evening. You will receive a pass for the fair for the day you are volunteering. Your help will be appreciated!

FACTS ABOUT HONEYBEES

Pollination



Agriculture depends greatly on the honeybee for pollination. Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination. Without such pollination, we would see a significant decrease in the yield of fruits and vegetables.

Pollen

Bees collect 66 lbs of pollen per year, per hive. Pollen is the male germ cells produced by all flowering plants for fertilization and plant embryo formation. The Honeybee uses pollen as a food. Pollen is one of the richest and purest natural foods, consisting of up to 35% protein, 10% sugars, carbohydrates, enzymes, minerals, and vitamins A (carotenes), B1 (thiamin), B2 (riboflavin), B3 (nicotinic acid), B5 (panothenic acid), C (ascorbic acid), H (biotin), and R (rutine).

Honey

Honey is used by the bees for food all year round. There are many types, colors and flavors of honey, depending upon its nectar source. The bees make honey from the nectar they collect from flowering trees and plants. Honey is an easily digestible, pure food. Honey is hygroscopic and has antibacterial qualities. Eating local honey can fend off allergies.

Beeswax

Secreted from glands, beeswax is used by the honeybee to build honey comb. It is used by humans in drugs, cosmetics, artists' materials, furniture polish and candles.

Propolis

Collected by honeybees from trees, the sticky resin is mixed with wax to make a sticky glue. The bees use this to seal cracks and repair their hive. It is used by humans as a health aid, and as the basis for fine wood varnishes.

Royal Jelly

The powerful, milky substance that turns an ordinary bee into a Queen Bee. It is made of digested pollen and honey or nectar mixed with a chemical secreted from a gland in a nursing bee's head. It commands premium prices rivaling imported caviar, and is used by some as a dietary supplement and fertility stimulant. It is loaded with all of the B vitamins.

Bee Venom

The "ouch" part of the honeybee. Although sharp pain and some swelling and itching are natural reactions to a honeybee sting, a small percentage of individuals are highly allergic to bee venom. "Bee venom therapy" is widely practiced overseas and by some in the USA to address health problems such as arthritis, neuralgia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and even MS.

Source: Backyard Beekeepers Association

Frank's Tip

If you have ants making themselves comfortable in your hives Frank McElroy suggests putting a couple of burdock leaves between the inner cover and the outer cover. The ants don't like the burdock and will move out. No need for chemicals!

2008 Honey Queen

Kelly Osborne is the 2008 Honey Queen. Kelly will be a sophomore at High Point Regional High School. Come meet her at the Fair as she represents the sweetest commodity!

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Sussex County Beekeepers Association
75 George Hill Road
Branchville, NJ 07826



Who Ya Gonna Call?

Officers:

President:

Linda Osborne, 973-875-5770
E-mail, foxhill4@embarqmail.com

1st VP:

Roman Oscada, 908-852-7362
E-mail, roman.osadca@roche.com

2nd VP: Bill Foley, 854-726-4211

3rd VP:

Chris Tomlinson, 973-300-4860
E-mail, syncros@nac.net

Secretary:

Debbie Vnenchak, 973-492-5632
E-mail: KSDVN@aol.com

Treasurer: John Vnenchak, 973-492-5632

Librarian:

Cathie Skove, 973-579-5864
E-mail, honeylady@juno.com

Newsletter Editor:

Deb Brodhecker,
973-702-1223
E-mail, sdbrodhecker@gmail.com

Mentors:

Deb Brodhecker, 973-702-1223
E-mail, sdbrodhecker@gmail.com

Cathie Skove, 973-579-5864
E-mail, honeylady@juno.com

Chris Tomlinson, 973-300-4860
E-mail, syncros@nac.net

Website:

brodheckerfarms.com/SCBA
Check for directions and updates.

