



Susquehanna Beekeepers



February - 2010, Volume 13

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**Send newsletter inclusions to:
 SBA Editors - dhzog@verizon.net
 Dennis Hertzog/ Claudia Scheeler
 501 Red Pump Rd
 Bel Air, MD 21014
 410-420-9625



President's Message:

My name is Mike DeWald and I want to take this time to say "Hi" and introduce myself to all of you. However, I want to first personally thank John Knapstein for all his hours of tire-

less dedication to the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association. It has been his devotion to the club that brought us to where we are today. I hope to fulfill this position with the same attitude and dedication.

I have been a beekeeper for 8 years now, starting my first apiary in, of all places, my brother's yard. Can you imagine his thoughts when I told him I was going to raise bees, only they were going to be at his house? This from a guy who as a kid had all the normal type animals we all had when we were young. You know, dogs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, racing pigeons, a couple ponies, and a goat named Gertrude. I have always been an avid outdoorsman and the challenge of nature has always fascinated me. I started with 3 hives and little knowledge of beekeeping but I read all the books I could put my hands on and all the CD's I could watch. I moved to Harford County 2 years ago and now have my hives spread over about 16 acres.

Don't miss Alex Flanagan's beeswax flower creation demo at our Feb 10 meeting. I'm sure we will all learn some new techniques in working with wax. We are planning many interesting knowledgeable speakers throughout the year. Reminder: Our Short Course starts the end of the month if anyone needs a refresher. One last thing, being a newbie president, I need all the help I can get, so please get involved! Let's make Susquehanna the best Bee Club in the state.

Mike DeWald

Meetings and Events:

- **Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM**
Susquehanna Beekeepers Association
Monthly Meeting
'Feed Your Artistic Side'
Alex Flanagan will demonstrate techniques to create outstanding prize-winning beeswax flowers and arrangements.



- **Dates for the non-credit short course, *BEEKEEPING*** through Harford Community College are **Feb 26 through Apr 10**. Sessions will be at the Forest Hill Extension Office on Fridays from 7-9, except Good Friday.
[HCC non-credit application](#) (Type 'beekeeping' as the course description.) **Agenda on page 5.**
- **Saturday, Feb 20 - Maryland State Beekeepers Association Winter Meeting (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)** at Howard County Fairgrounds
- **Wednesday, March 10 - SBA meeting** - Agenda TBA
- **April 1st - Dues deadline!!!** - For your convenience, an application is listed on page 7. Send in your \$8 or meet the fate of the fall drone (banishment from the hive, no more newsletters, Claudia's cookies, etc.). If you haven't attended gatherings lately, come and say "Hello"!!



NOTES FROM THE APIARY February - by Robert Crouse

I got into my hives January 12th, and found that one of my hives starved out since my Dec. check.

They had stores above them but for some reason did not move into the box above. I believe they were stopped by the space between the boxes, perhaps the very cold spell had something to do with it. My remaining 2 hives are doing well. I wanted to move the bees down from the top box in the strongest hive but upon splitting the two deeps I found that a large part of the cluster was still in the bottom box so I left the boxes as is. Anytime the bees are at the top inner cover it is wise to have stores above them so I took a deep with stores in it from the dead hive and placed it above those bees. This will provide the bees with food if needed and also empty the comb so that I can use it for brood when I split a hive in the spring to rebuild the missing hive.

You will want to feed 1:1 syrup by the end of Feb. or early March for early build up of the colonies. As Lloyd Snyder is my supplier of HFCS and the type he has is #42 (29% moisture) you will want to add 25.2 lbs. water to 60 lbs. of syrup to get a 1:1 mixture of sugars to water. Total mixture is 75.2 lbs.. For other common mixtures of Type 42 Fructose: Sugars to water 1:2, add 45.6 lbs. water to 60 lbs. fructose.

As our central Maryland major nectar flow occurs in May and June, this means that responsible beekeeping begins in late January or early February. Now is the time to do your equipment inventory and order the foundation etc. that you need for the new season that will start in 4 months. By April you should be concentrating on cleaning out the hives, reversing brood boxes, feeding and doing early season medications as needed.

Perspective

by Ed Yoder

Looking back at the 1940's, when I started keeping bees, I can't help but think how simple and uncomplicated that endeavor was. A white box sitting on a rock at the edge of our property, with a colony of honeybees in it was really all that you needed.

At the age of ten or twelve, I knew nothing of extra food chambers, pollen patties, grease patties and all that. We placed a section super or two on that hive in May and in July or August pulled off a dozen or two boxes of honey, scraped the propolis off the edges, dropped it into a cardboard box and sold it to the local store for 40 cents. Insecticides and fungicides were not an issue in those days and those black German bees were fine. Italian packages of bees then became available and we started using some of those also.

Over the years things changed. Sprays of various types became prevalent and the loss of natural nectar plants and shrubs changed the landscape. The bees, for a time, adapted to that change. However, about 20 years ago, two types of mites entered the picture. Along with that, African bees also moved up out of South America and mixed with the Italian strain. That combination of factors changed the picture completely. The genetic lines in use at that time were under pressure. Many of the top bee people at that point began to make some changes and began looking to new genetics such as Buckfast, New World Carniolans and Russian. Those lines had some tolerance to the developing problem.

Northern beekeepers operate in a different environment than the south. There is no nectar flow from October through March. Our bees have to hold on for 5 months without that flow. So now we are talking survivor



stock. We need to be looking at hives that can over-winter and then propagate new queens and splits from those hives. In addition, we need mating yards with lots of survivor drone colonies. If you have just one hive, you will have a swarm or two and some supercedure in a four square mile radius. I want my queen to mate with the right kind of drones. How about you?

There are some queen and package producers in the north (from Maryland and Pennsylvania and New York as well as New England) that are producing these survivor bees. Do your homework and select accordingly.

King Bee Apiary
Ed Yoder





"ODDS and ENDS"



- From *Ted Moran*: Jars of honey cause airport shutdown - <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/01/05/california.airport.shutdown/index.html?iref=allsearch>
- The Buzz about Bees - http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/features/gardening/2010/01/the_buzz_about_bees.html
- The 2010 SBA Membership Renewal Form is printed for your convenience on page 7.
- Do we have an accountant or CPA beekeeper within our ranks? Our Treasurer, Bob Crouse would like someone to do an audit of the MSBA books. Contact him at 410-638-0105 or rlcrouse@qis.net.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:

- Mike DeWald:
President's Message
- Bob Crouse:
Notes From The Apiary
- Ed Yoder:
Perspective from Experience
- David Papke:
A Resurrection
- Dennis Hertzog:
editing, photography
- Claudia Scheeler:
Claudia's Corner, quotes research,
colors, etc.

A Resurrection

I found a bee
On the snow near a hive
One sunny winter's day.
She lay unmoving on her back,
Legs in the air, the
Appearance of death all around her;
Yet, when I picked her up
And gently blew my warm breath
Across her, she moved. ---
First one leg, then two, then several;
More breath and she revived so
She stood upright and
Explored my skin with hesitant antennae;
Breath again and she flexed her wings,
Her abdomen slowly throbbing.
Near the entrance, I held my hand.
And she, sensing the honeyed space within,
Climbed down to return to the cluster.
I now gathered in a jar
Every snow-stunned bee I could find,
Rushed home to my own warm hive
And revived every single bee but one ---
The one the cold had captured.
And would not return;
The one the others ignored.
As they flew to the windows
Where they were gathered again.
In a jar and ushered home.
To look closely at anything,
To hold it in your hand or heart,
To let your breath fall upon it,
Is to unlock the mystery
Of the miraculous.
---Beeman.

HCC - BEEKEEPING
Susquehanna Beekeepers Association
2010 Short Course Agenda

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
February 26 -----	Introduction to Beekeeping Starting with Bees	John Knapstein Ted Moran
March 5 -----	Basic Beekeeping Equipment	Bob Crouse
March 12 -----	How to Get Bees Biology of the Honeybee	Cybil Preston
March 19 -----	Spring and Summer Management	Joe Lewis
March 26 -----	Fall and Winter Management	Joe Lewis
April 9 -----	Bee Diseases and Pests	Jerry Fisher
April 10 -----	Field Session in Apiary Beekeeper's bucket, "Suiting up" Introducing packages, Hive examination	Club Members

All sessions will be held at the Cooperative Extension Office, 2335 Rock Spring Rd. Forest Hill, Md. Friday sessions from 7-9 pm. Saturday session from 9-12 am. Inclement weather-If Harford Community College is closed, classes will be cancelled.



Editor's Ramblings:

I am grateful to see bee activity on these 50+ degree days during late January. It's good to know my girls have survived to this point. The pic to the left taken on 1/25, is a night shot of some early snow drops. (Maybe the word, s-n-o-w should not even be mentioned in the bleak mid-winter).

**Learn to Keep Bees with:
Hands-on Beekeeping Lessons**

Intended for established beekeepers or beginners who feel they would benefit from the hands-on experience. Each lesson will consist of topic discussion in the beekeeper's "honey house" and practical demonstrations in the apiary. Everyone will have the opportunity to work with colonies guided by an experienced beekeeper. Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions about specific problems. Lessons are informal and enjoyable. Learn from observation and actually working with honey bee colonies. Educate yourself. Meet other beekeepers. Help the honey bee.

Six Sessions. All on Saturdays from 12 noon til 4:00 pm. Attend any or all sessions.

March 27- Managing Colonies of Honeybees: Introduction/review of beekeeping essentials; different types of equipment and their correct use (including a Top Bar Hive); spring management of honeybee colonies.

April 24- Manipulating Colony Reproduction: Swarms- anticipating, controlling, catching, utilizing; harvesting queen cells and royal jelly; preparing for the major nectar flows.

May 22- Dividing Colonies: Raising your own queens; making up splits and nucleus colonies; maximizing your honey crop yield.

June 26- Harvesting Products of the Hive: Taking honey off the hives; extracting and processing honey; collecting pollen, propolis, and beeswax. Marketing your honey.

July 31- Maintaining Healthy Honeybees: Diseases and pests and their controls; making choices and dealing with the mite problem.

August 28- Preparing for the Winter: Anticipating your colonies' needs; honeybee nutrition and feeding colonies; a beekeeper's library and resources for continuing education.

Cost: \$15.00 per session or \$75.00 for all six sessions (prepaid)

Location: 12703 Blymire Hollow Road, Stewartstown, PA, 17363
For more information : DCPapke@aol.com or 717-246-2339

Host/Instructor: David Papke, past president of Central Maryland Beekeeper's Association, has kept bees for over 30 years in Pa, MD, OH, and in Central America as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Often asked to speak about his beekeeping experiences or to teach various aspects of beekeeping, Mr. Papke keeps bees in York County, Pa, providing pollination services to growers and producing honey for the local market.



Claudia's Corner:

Birds do it, bees do it, even sentimental fleas do it.

Let's do it, let's fall in love.

Cole Porter

*No matter what, no matter where,
it's always home when you're honey's there.*

Susquehanna Beekeepers Association Membership Form 2010

(Please print)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Partner's Name (optional) : _____

Email Address (for receiving newsletter): _____

Street Address if your mailing address is a P.O. Box: _____

Please list me in the SBA membership directory (available to SBA members ONLY).

or

I do not want my information listed in the SBA membership directory.

I wish to receive the newsletter via E-Mail (Please help us save postage!!)

How many colonies do you have? ____

How many years have you had bees? ____

Do you want to collect swarms in your area? ____

Do you rent hives for pollination? ____

Do you have an extractor to rent or loan? ____

Would you like to help a new beekeeper? ____

Would you work on an SBA committee? ____

Would you volunteer to work for SBA at the MD State Fair? ____

Would you contribute an article for the SBA Newsletter? ____

Would you be interested in being a speaker for a local school or civic group? ____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

****Membership for 2010 is \$8.00 payable to:**

Susquehanna Beekeepers Association.

Please return this form to:

Robert Crouse, SBA Treasurer
1606 Dogwood Lane
Bel Air, MD 21015-2502

Susquehanna Beekeepers Association
C/O Md Coop Extension Office
PO BOX 663
Forest Hill, MD. 21050

