



The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • www.norfolkbees.org

Volume 6, Issue 3 March 2007



Letter from the Editor

Is spring here? Is winter still here? I'm confused. What a storm. I think the bees are confused. What a crazy winter this has been. When I checked on the bees last weekend everything looked good in my 3 hives. Though I have to say the population seemed smaller. Then we had that 70 degree day and they were out flying all over the place. I checked on them yesterday before the storm got bad. I sure hope this doesn't wipe them out. It was a nasty storm. I'm sitting here looking out my window at the ice covered trees and snow cover ground. Its hard to imagine packaged bees arriving in a few weeks. Lets just hope and pray we have a good spring. I think we all need it. After last year and that terribly wet spring in 2005.

Well on to other things. The board met for the first time and I am very excited. about some of the changes we will be making. Remember you are all welcome to give us your input regarding changes to the club. This club belongs to everyone.

See you all in April.

Tony Lulek

LOOK FOR THE NEW SECTIONS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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The French honey industry is under threat from hordes of bee-massacring oriental hornets. *Daily Telegraph reports. Courtesy of Norm Shaw*

The forests of Aquitaine, in south-west France, now play host to swarms of the the Asian Hornet, *Vespa velutina*, which is believed to have arrived there "from the Far East in a consignment of Chinese pottery in late 2004".

Entomogist Jean Haxaire, who first eyeballed the invaders, said: "Their spread across French territory has been like lightning."

Haxaire said he's now counted 85 "football-shaped" nests across the 40 miles which separate the towns of Marmande and Podensac "in the Lot et Garonne department where the hornets were first spotted".

The Asian Hornet can cause some serious damage to a human, "inflicting a bite which has been compared to a hot nail entering the body". But that's not the principal threat they pose. They can decimate a nest of 30,000 bees "in a couple of hours" in search of larvae on which to feed their young. This, unsurprisingly, gives local beekeepers serious cause for alarm.

The hornets are just the latest blow to the French beekeeping industry. Pesticides and hot summers have taken their toll on bee populations, and a spokesman for the French National Bee Surveillance Unit said the winter mortality rate among bees had risen to six in ten.

Accordingly, honey production has been hit hard - down 60 per cent in south-western France in the last 10 years. The country's 1.3 million hives, managed by 80,000 beekeepers, are unable to supply demand and France now imports 25,000 tons of honey annually.

The Bee Surveillance spokesman lamented: "The arrival of these hornets has made the situation considerably worse. The future of our entire industry is at stake."

(Cont on page 2)

(Cont from page 1)

In Britain, meanwhile, it looks like we'd better start stockpiling honey. Stuart Hine, manager of the Insect Information Service at London's Natural History Museum, warned: "There's no doubt that these hornets are heading north and will probably find their way to Britain at some point."

There is, however, some hope for Blighty. While Hine confirmed climate change meant the hornets would find summers very much to their liking, "they would still have difficulty coping with our winter frosts". ®

Footnote

Apparently, 40 people die each year in France as a result of hornet stings, "mainly because of allergic reactions". Claire Villement, of France's Natural History Museum, has called for calm and asked citizens not to succumb to "national panic about killer wasps". "The legend that three bites from a hornet can kill you are totally false. People can still enjoy their picnics in the countryside."

The NCBA Board Meeting

The NCBA Board will meet Monday, March 19, at 7:30.

The board met for the first time on March 4th and the following topics were discussed and updated:

- 1) Association meetings and Boarding meetings
- 2) Membership dues
- 3) Door prizes
- 4) Table raffle -
- 5) Meeting Refreshments
- 6) Name Tags
- 7) NCBA equipment and gear -
- 8) Costs for printing and mailing the newsletter.
- 9) Club events
- 10) The NORFOLKBEEES.ORG web site
- 11) Relations with the Aggie School -

If you are interested in any of these topics, please come to the board meetings. It is a good way to get involved with the club. Your voice is always important whether you are a member of the board or not.

Sweets for the Table

In light of the current increase in our bee school, we are anticipating a large turnout again at the April meeting. If we could have some extra help with sweets, it would be appreciated. Please contact Susan Simmons at Rastasue30@hotmail.com. We had about 18 new members at the club, so if we could get 2-3 people to bring stuff that would be great.

Raffle Table

Just a reminder that we need items for the raffle table. Please bare in mind to keep the items of good quality and as bee related at possible. Remember One man's junk is another man's treasure.

Packaged Bees

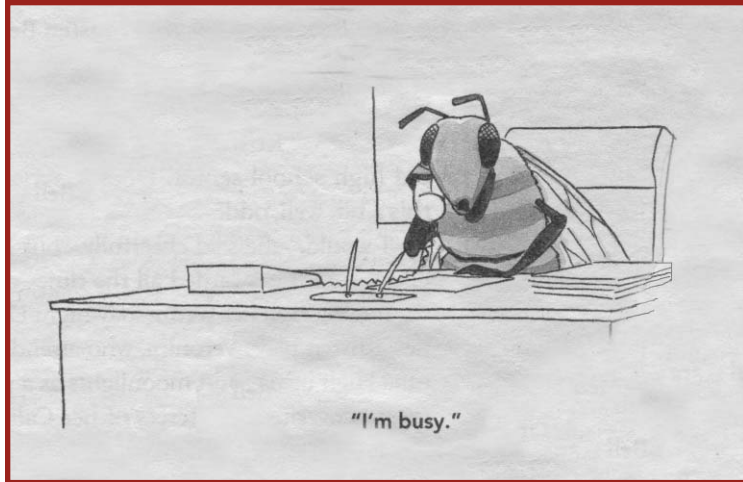
For the order form from Reseska Apiaries, please go to our web site and download. Schedule delivery is April 8th.

NCBA 2007 Monthly Meeting Schedule

April 2
May 7
June 4



Creative Comb



The Honey Bee

In the springtime, joyous springtime,
When the birds begin to sing,
And we hear the murmuring brooklets,
Then the bees are on the wing.
When the long, cold days are over
Bees are out to sip the dew
And the nectar from the clover,
Buttercups and daisies blue.

Supers placed above the beehive
For the honey bee to find,
Will be filled if showers are given
To the flowers of every kind.
Then the bees are kind and gentle
"Take it hog," they seem to say;
"We will work again the harder
After the next rainy day.

"And we'll fill again the super,
We don't mind with you to share,
Early morn will find us busy
Gathering honey everywhere.
We just gladly gather honey,
And the wax from off our back
We produce, now is'nt it funny,
No material do we lack.

"For our queen cells we have pollen,
Any egg a queen may be,
From the proper food and cover,
We produce a queen, you see.
If some drones we wish for mating,
Other food we must supply,
Just the food we give while waiting
For their hatching by and by."

"But when frost on field and hillside,
In the autumn kills the flower,
And in vain we search for honey,
In each glen and leafy bower,
Then in every hive is stationed
Guards to watch our winter's store,
For if you would rudely take it,
We would search in vain for more.

"And we sting with all our fury,
Take our honey if you dare,
For we want to keep from starving
In the winter, so beware."
There's a moral we may gather
From the busy bee for all,
Gather food stuff in the summer,
And protect it in the fall.

__ Nettie Squire Sutton.

Norfolk County Beekeepers Association

Administrative Page

The Norfolk County Beekeeper's Association (NCBA), is dedicated to apiculture education and promotion of the art and science of beekeeping among beekeepers, agriculture and the general public. This is a "NonProfit" organization, meeting the first Monday of every month, at 7:30 PM (second Monday if the first Monday is a holiday). The meetings are held at the Norfolk Agricultural High School

2005-2007 NCBA Officers

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Swap N' Sell N' Wanted Classifieds

Here's a column where you can sell, swap, or give away just about anything. If you are a paid member, advertising is free for as many issues as you wish. If you are not a member, the cost is \$8.00/ad/issue (so, it pays to become a member for just \$15!)

FOR SALE: Please contact Annie Birman at Annie Birman: akdab@aol.com, home

401-333-3251, cell401-481-
8293Cumberland,RI 02864

Extractor-12 frame all sizes electric hand
made-\$800.00 of BO

23-shallow supers w/frames \$15.00 to
\$20.00 each

4-shallows with out frames \$15.00

1-super ross round super with frames and
foundation

1-frame grip-\$2.00

2-smokers \$2.00 a pc

1-pr of gloves-\$2.00

2-queen excluders \$2.00

1-australian vent top hive\$25.00

1-roll of black thermal wrap-\$10.00

1-slatted rack-\$10.00

2-deeps \$20.00

1-outer cover with overhang \$40.00

1-bottom Board \$10.00

2-smokers- \$3.00(

3-plastic feeders \$20.00

1-box of black pyrco foundation band new
(better bee price)

1-brush \$2.00

2-handmade metal feeders \$2.00

Sugar

**Andy Reseska still
has 80 lbs boxes of
sugar for sale for \$20.
Please contact him
directly.**



FOR SALE

Cotton Coverall - Large 100% Cotton, and made in USA. Heavy Duty front zip, double elastic at wrist, elastic and 12" zip at ankle, double material at knees, gusseted crotch, 5 pockets and much more. Only used 2 times. \$64.95 new thru Brushy Mountain. Excellent condition. Appropriate for someone 5'10" - 6' 2". We are asking for \$40. Contact Judi Hindman at 781-891-1870 or judihindman@comcast.net.

A Taste of Honey



For People

Honey Granola

Ingredients

- 4 Cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 Cups sweetened shredded coconut
- 2 Cups sliced almonds
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup good honey
- 1 1/2 cup small diced dried apricots
- 1 cup small diced dried figs
- 1 cup dried cherries
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup roasted, unsalted cashes.

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
Toss the oats, coconut, and almonds together in a large bowl. Whisk together the oil and honey in a small bowl. Pour the liquids over the oat mixture and stir with a wooden spoon until all the oats and nuts are coated. Pour onto a 13x18x1-inch sheet pan. Bake, stirring occasionally with a spatula, until the mixture turns a nice, even, golden brown. About 45 minutes.

Remove from oven and allow to cool. Stirring occasionally. Add the apricots, figs, cherries, cranberries and cashews. Store the cooled granola in an airtight container

For the Bees (I'll keep these here as a quick reference until spring)

Bee Hive Candy Recipe (Fondant) Stove Top *Courtesy of Tim Sullivan*

Fondant bee candy can be fed directly to the bees once cooled. It is also common to use this recipe in small quantities to plug the hole on a Queen Cage.

Ingredients

Mix 5 pounds sugar, 1 pint light Karo syrup and 1 1/3 cups water

Directions

Heat to 242°F while stirring constantly – this mix will be boiling for about 10 to 15 minutes before it reaches 242°F. Let cool to 190 to 200°F (important), stirring constantly. It will start to get milky white and then you should pour into paper plates to harden and store in the freezer

When ready to feed, remove paper, break in half and place both halves over top bars, add a 3/4" shim and replace inner cover, etc.

Bee Hive Candy Recipe (Fondant) Microwave Version

Here's a microwave recipe for any hungry hives you may have entering the deep freeze of January and February.

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup

Directions

In a 1-quart or larger microwave dish, mix thoroughly 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar and 1/2 cup light corn syrup. Microwave on high, stirring every few minutes until the mixture is clear and bubbles become thumbnail sized (about 5 minutes). STOP immediately if the mixture begins to brown. A wooden spoon is very effective for stirring, as it can be left in the dish while heating. Pour into a shallow mold made of cardboard, paper plate, or a container lined with paper to cool. The candy will become brittle and can be slipped on top of the frames beneath the inner cover where the bees can consume it.

Minutes from the March 5, 2006 Meeting

Next meeting: April 2nd

Attendance: 62 including 18 new Bee School members

Table Raffle money collected: \$111

Door prizes: A package of bees was won by Ken Knolls (who had helped a great deal at the Bee School this year). Another package of bees will be a door prize at the April NCBA meeting so don't miss the meeting. Two other door prizes were a pair of beeswax candles donated by Sandy Crawford and a Howard Crawford Fondant rack with two paper plates with fondant ready to go.

Agenda Items:

1. NCBA Board Meeting Update - Ray Hennessy - See list on page 2 for details

2. Bee School - Tim Sullivan

The class on March 6th will demonstrate in the classroom the loading of a package of bees. At this time over 30 of the students have offered bee packages and their hive equipment.

3. Bee packages - Andy Ruseska

The weather in GA has been cool and may delay the arrival of our packages until probably be in mid-April at the earliest. We will keep members updated on the arrival date.

4. Library - Whitley Frost

An inventory of materials will be added to the web site and we will encourage members to contact Whitley in advance of meetings to request specific items to better manage the number of items Whitley brings with her. Items loaned at one meeting should be returned at the next meeting if possible.

The video "The Monk and the Bees" about Brother Abbot and the Buckfast Abbey in Wales, UK, is still overdue with a member. Please check your video stacks to see if you have it and let Whitley know. THANKS!

5. Finances - Miguel Lessing

Miguel gave an update on the current bank balance, income (membership dues and school checks) and expenses (budgeted and event). The presentation was accepted by the membership.

Meeting topic—Creating and managing a Top Bar Hive

Tim Sullivan emailed to the membership design documents to make a Top Bar Hive. Tom brought his own fully assembled Top Bar Hive to the meeting and it was an impressive tool to reinforce the videos shown and the general presentation. A number of members (including the Recording Secretary) are considering trying one of these as another learning experience in hive management. Tim hopes to be able to have a summer NCBA meeting at his apiary when the hive is robust for a good review.

Name Badges

If you are interested in getting one of our new name badges, please email me your name and I will have it for the next club meeting. I think everyone should have one, especially since we have so many new members from the bee school. It just helps when we can put a name to a face. With our membership at about 100 I can't remember everyone's name. So it helps.

Thanks

Tony

Online Resources

This is just the beginning of a list of online resources. Please email if you find any or have any favorites.

Online Resources

- 1. YouTube.com - they some great little videos.**
- 2. www.beesource.com**
- 3. www.beemaster.com**
- 4. www.wikipedia.com**
- 5. www.gobeekeeping.com**
- 6. www.honey.com**
- 7. www.nhb.com**
- 8. www.beekeeping.com**
- 9. www.abfnet.org**

Online Bee Equipment sellers

- 1. www.dadant.com**
- 2. www.mannlaketd.com**
- 3. www.brushymountainbeefarm.com**
- 4. www.betterbee.com**

FEED THE BEES

It's almost time to start syrup. Usually around April 1st is a good rule of thumb. The spring syrup is a 1 to 1. And don't forget Fumgillin-B for nosema.

Membership Dues

There are still a few members that have not paid their due. Dues is due in December for the following year. Please do so, so that you can continue to receive the newsletter.

NHB celebrates 20 years of service to honey industry (www.nhb.com)

The National Honey Board will celebrate its 20th anniversary throughout 2007, commemorating when NHB first opened its offices in 1987.

NHB was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to administer the Honey Research, Promotion and Consumer Information Order, which was approved in a referendum of honey producers and importers in 1986.

NHB has served the industry for 20 years through promotion, research and industry services. NHB has conducted a wide variety of successful and innovative activities and programs to increase the awareness and usage of honey by consumers, the food service industry and food manufacturers. It also has promoted U.S. honey overseas with the help of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

NHB has funded many research projects to find new and improved uses for honey in foods and other products, and in recent years has provided funds for colony health research. In addition, NHB has developed and distributed a variety of honey promotional materials for beekeepers and other industry members.

NHB anniversary commemoration activities will include honoring its past chairmen at its board meeting, Feb. 21 to 23, in San Francisco.

NHB programs are funded by an assessment of one cent per pound on domestic and imported honey.

Top Bar Hive Demonstration



Tim teaching the students about packages.



Russian Bee medal

From: Tony Lulek
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Holliston, MA 01746

TO: