

GET THE HIVES READY!!!!

The Next Meeting Will Be

Monday, Apr. 4th



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 "Not for Profit" 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 (Media Ctr. Cafeteria) in Walpole, MA. Meetings in June-August will be held at members' bee yards as announced.

Notes From The Editor:

I hope by now everyone has inventoried their collection of supers and frames, installed new wax foundation where needed, replaced rotted hive sections, and are ready for their new bees! I haven't, but I was hoping you folks were keeping up with nature's schedule. But I'm getting there!

Speaking of bees, please remember to contact me if you've ordered bees from Reseska Apiaries or Merrimack Valley Apiaries so I can help organize the deliveries to you. I already have Barber, Oles, Hollister, Pezwick, Rapkin, and Dana on my two lists. Of course, you can pick up your own orders, but we're trying to help you out at little, so do contact me.

Remember the tailgating recipe contest the National Honey Board ran in the Fall? Well, Kevin Kehler's recipe for "Sweet Onion Kielbasa" was chosen as not only the best Pittsburgh Steelers recipe in the "Honey of a BBQ Tailgating Contest", it was also selected as the best overall recipe out of over 2200 entries, representing all 32 professional football teams. One entry came from as far away as Guam! In case you'd like to duplicate the prize-winning recipe, the directions are on page 2.

And since we're on the topic of the National Honey Board, what's your opinion of the new logo? Personally, copyright infringements or not, I liked the cute little bear with the honey pot better than this drop coming out of a hexagon. The new logo either reminds me of big oil companies or someone sticking their tongue out, saying "Yuck!" after tasting really honey ... not quite the images the NHB would want, I suppose, but that's what came to my mind. I wonder how much they paid a marketing company to come up with this idea? They could've gotten my opinion for free.

Get busy on those income taxes! See you at the April meeting!

Be well.

Irene Gorczyca

Norfolk County - Massachusetts
THE NORFOLK BEE
Online at: www.norfolkbees.org

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Minutes from the March Meeting Mike Miconi

This month's meeting was presided over by our vice-president, the venerable Norm Shaw.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mike Miconi and approved as read. Miguel Lessing presented the treasurer's report, which was also approved as reported.

There were 35 people in attendance with many new faces which was good to see. Many of them are attending this year's Bee School or attended last year and are getting ready for the upcoming season.

Andy Reseska noted that he still has a few bee packages "available" – but with no guarantees. If he receives a short shipment as happened last year then delivery will be based on when you ordered. The earlier your ordered is/was placed the better chance you have at receiving your bees.

The presentation for the evening was a tape called "The Monk and the Honey Bee". It was about Brother Adam, from Buckfast Abbey, who, over 70+ years developed the Buckfast strain of bee's which are noted for their gentleness, disease and mite resistance, winter hardiness and their high honey production. He was a remarkable man who was going strong even into his 90's when he traveled to Africa in search of new strains of honey bees. This tape was given away to Sheila Hollister as the evening's door prize.

We didn't have any raffle tickets on hand so tickets were hand made which allowed us to have the monthly raffle. Thanks to all who assisted in making this work. The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Sweet Onion Kielbasa Kevin Kehler, Neshanic Station, NJ

1 large kielbasa sausage
1 small onion
2 tablespoons butter
1 can (12 oz.) beer
1/3 cup honey
2 or 3 tablespoons spicy, brown, or Dijon mustard
Pepper and/or chili powder (or favorite spice)

Slice the kielbasa into 1/2 " medallions. Chop onion and sauté in butter until onions are transparent. In large skillet, bring 1/2 can of beer (darker beer for more flavor) to a slow boil and add kielbasa. Cook until the beer is reduced by half, then add remaining half can of beer. Add the honey, mustard, and spices to taste. Onions may be mixed in at the end or added to top as garnish. Serve when the sauce reaches a thick, honey-like consistency. Makes 4-6 servings.

Game Called After Swarm of Bees Invade Field Bob Baum / Associated Press (Contributed by Miguel Lessing)

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - The things were buzzing at Tucson Electric Park on Thursday, and that was not a good thing. Swarms of bees invaded the field and forced a game between the Colorado [Rockies](#) and [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) to be called after five innings.

"I guess we've got to call that a 'Bee' game," Arizona manager Bob Melvin said.

The bees literally chased Rockies pitcher Darren Oliver from the mound. He kept trying to go back, but the bees would go after him again. Finally, after a 20-minute delay, he left for good and let reliever Allan Simpson complete the inning. "I love this game," Oliver said, "but I like myself a little bit more." Oliver said the bees apparently were attracted to the coconut oil in his hair gel. "I guess I must have smelled good. It was kind of funny at first, but after a while I started getting a little nervous and scared out there," he said.

The Diamondbacks took the field in the sixth, but by then the bees had spread over the entire field. Shortstop Sergio Santos, who had just entered the game, was chased all the way into deep center field. "There were like little packs moving around," said Arizona's Luis Gonzalez, who hit his first homer of the spring in the first inning and was on third after a triple when the bee-delay occurred. "They were all over the pitcher, and Santos when he went out. I think it was either their cologne or deodorant or something. They've got to switch it up."

There was a brief bee delay at the same ballpark two years ago. But Joe Garagiola Sr., attending the game with his son, Diamondbacks general manager Joe Garagiola Jr., said he had never seen anything like Thursday's invasion. "And I go back to 1942," the elder Garagiola said.

Garagiola Jr. briefly conferred with home plate umpire Larry Poncino, then the game was called. "It got to be a safety issue," Garagiola Jr. said. "The bees were all over the field. They were on the mound, they were in the outfield, they were out at shortstop, and we just couldn't continue play." There were no reports of players or anyone in the crowd of 8,029 being stung.

There have been increasing reports of emergency calls involving swarming bees in the Phoenix and Tucson areas in recent weeks. "It seemed like wherever anybody went, a swarm of them popped up," Colorado catcher J.D. Closser said. "They've had some rough times down here the last couple of weeks with some bee attacks, so I don't that's a thing you want to mess with too much."

Arizona center fielder Jose Cruz Jr. first noticed the bees and was chased from his position during a pitch. The bees then moved to the first base area in the next half-inning, where the Rockies' Todd Helton swatted them away. Then they zeroed in on Oliver.

Louisiana State Beekeeper Survey

[The following information was received from the school. This is a rather large survey (70 questions), but if someone wants a hard copy, I can send it out. I will also try to have some copies available at the April meeting.—Attila]

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University is asking for your help in a study we are conducting in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. This study focuses on options for controlling *Varroa mites* and *tracheal mites* in the beekeeping industry. As you may know, both types of mites pose a serious threat to the future of the American honey bee industry. Among other strategies for dealing with these mites, scientists have been selecting for different traits in bees or lines of bees that are resistant to or less susceptible to both mites. From this survey, we want to determine: 1) how much economic damage has been caused by Varroa mites and tracheal mites; 2) how beekeepers are dealing with Varroa mites and tracheal mites; and 3) the economic value to beekeepers of these new lines of honey bees for dealing with Varroa mites and tracheal mites. For these reasons, we ask you to help us get the word out to all beekeepers in your group about the on-line version of our survey. Please ask all interested beekeepers to go to the survey website and complete the survey. The address of the on-line survey is www.honeybeesurvey.com.

If you have any questions, please contact John Westra by email at jwestra@agcenter.lsu.edu or phone at (225) 578-2721. If you wish to write, you may contact him at Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, 101 Agricultural Administration Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA 70803-5604.

Homemade Tiger Balm

(contributed by Plymouth Co. Beekeepers Association)

Adapted from A Thai Herbal, by C. Pierce Salguero (Findhorn Press, 2003).

In most modern cities in Thailand today, traditional cosmetic recipes enjoy more popularity than the latest brand-name items.

People there easily see the benefits of using homemade, natural remedies instead of the massed produced chemical alternatives. Herbs are commonly used cosmetically for their natural tonifying, rejuvenative, and antibacterial properties, and the people in Thailand seem to understand this in a way that many Westerners don't.

A favorite topical application for soothing sore muscles, Tiger Balm is also great for colds, congestion, and sinusitis, when applied to the chest and throat. Try out this pure and totally natural recipe:

(continued in next column)

Ingredients

10 drops essential oil of peppermint
10 drops essential oil of eucalyptus
5 drops essential oil of clove
60 ml extra-virgin olive oil or coconut oil
15 g beeswax

Heat the olive oil and beeswax in a double-boiler over low heat. Stir until wax is melted. Remove from heat. Stir in essential oils, and pour into small glass or metal containers to cool.

Note that commercial Tiger Balm is available in several strengths, and that you may adjust quantities of essential oils in this recipe. This recipe calls for essential oils, but extremely strong decoctions of fresh herbs may be used as well by following the directions here:

Combine fresh herbs in a pan with a pint of water; boil to reduce water. Strain. Combine liquid with oil and wax, and continue cooking over low heat until water has evaporated, making sure not to boil the oil. Remove from heat and cool in glass or metal container.

Honey Testimonial

(contributed by Joseph Howland)

About two years ago, my hand was operated on for Dupuytren's Disease. The disease causes your fingers to curl down into a claw. It is genetic and if any of your ancestors was a Viking, you have a good chance of getting it. It is often mistaken for arthritis.

The operation cuts the fascia of the palm leaving a long, deep wound that takes a while to heal and leaves quite a bit of scar tissue. In addition, cuts are made in the offending fingers as well as other parts of the palm. I had four areas of surgery with two to four cuts in each area.

I tried to convince my doctor to let me use honey to heal the wound and gave him quite a bit of data from the New Zealand work with honey and wounds. He refused, but three weeks after the operation, normal methods were going nowhere, so he let me use it. The results were spectacular. Even after the delay, my hand healed faster and I got movement back sooner than normal.

So when I went in for my other hand last December, my doctor was not only a convert, he had enlisted other doctors into looking at honey for healing wounds after surgery. I was going to be the poster child. The results are even better than the first time since he let me start using it five days after the operation. Yesterday I went in for my visit and have full movement in my hand and little scar tissue. I do not have to go back again. The doctor and physical therapist are definite converts. He has a load of pictures and intends to give a presentation to his peers on using honey after hand surgery.

(continued on page 4)



From:

Irene Gorczyca
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TO:

Swap N' Sell

Here's a column where you can sell, swap, or giveaway 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: Honey, 60 lb. pails. Please call Merrimack Valley Apiaries, (978) 667-5380 for prices.

FOR SALE: Claire Desilets from BCBA has taken on a dealership for Honey B Healthy. A feeding stimulant made up of spearmint and lemongrass oils; it promotes healthy, vigorous bees, aids in re-queening, and calms bees when used as a spray. 8 oz./\$13.00. Please call, (508) 888-2304, or email <beekeeper@qis.net>

3 lb bee packages w/Italian queens .from Wilbank's Apiaries, available for pick-up in Holliston April 7 (date is subject to change), \$ 63.00 each or 10+ \$ 60.00 each. Orders can be combined to get discount. Call Reseska Apiaries, Inc. (508) 429-6872

FOR SALE: Assorted bee stuff, boxes, frames, bottoms, etc. Some new, some old - all in good condition. \$500.00 for all - but will separate. Please call Lloyd at 508-243-4784

(continued from page 3)

Today, less than three months after the surgery, my hand is slightly swollen but the wounds are nearly invisible from three feet or so. The areas around the wounds are soft, which continues to amaze my physical therapist. She wants to make a separate presentation. I am not sure where this may go, since the main drawback to its use is the patient. I was the one who applied it, but that is the case with all who go through this operation. It is a bit messy and can get on your clothes as well as bedding, but it washes out easily. The main benefit is quick healing and you get full use of your hand back much sooner. In fact, many who have the operation will still have curling because of scar tissue, while I have none. Honey is amazing stuff.

Bill Truesdell
Bath, Maine

2005-2006 Meeting Schedules:

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

MON, 07 MAR 2005	MON, 12 SEP 2005
MON, 04 APR 2005	MON, 03 OCT 2005
MON, 02 MAY 2005	MON, 07 NOV 2005
JUN 05, TBD	MON, 05 DEC 2005
JUL 05, TBD	MON, 09 JAN 2006
AUG 05, TBD	MON, 06 FEB 2006

BEE SCHOOL MEETINGS

Bee School will resume Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 7 PM. For more information, call Tim Sullivan (781) 326-2834, or Howard Crawford (508) 528-9117.