



PICK UP GLASSWARE THIS MEETING

The Next Meeting Will Be

Monday, Sept. 12th

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:

Andy Reseska will be dropping off glassware at this meeting. If you cannot make it to Monday night's meeting, give me a call and we'll try to work up some other arrangements.

Alas, we did not do as well as we would have liked at the Marshfield Fair. Our exhibit came in second place. The interesting thing was that both ours and Plymouth County's exhibits were basically the same topic. We each used a tri-board presentation; our background was yellow, theirs was blue. Oh, well, maybe next year. Once again, thanks to the fair committee for all the hard work.

Did anyone catch Mars at the end of August? It was very bright as it rose in the east around 10:30 pm each night. It was still visible after the 27th until the clouds of Hurricane Katrina obscured the view. That storm which brought so much misery to the Gulf states, brought much needed rainfall to us. But the hurricane season is not over yet. And say what you will about Global Warming, the facts are that the warmer the water and the warmer the air, the more violent the hurricanes will become. And because so many of our stock replenishments come from the southern states, we may be in a lot of trouble not only next season, but in the years to come. I think it's really time that we establish queen-rearing locally from our best over-wintered hives. I'm going to pull out my notes from the Cornell University course that I took on the subject and see if I can find everything else from the course, too. After next March, I should have a little more time and maybe I can put together a presentation, or better yet, a workshop, on queen-rearing for those who might be interested in starting this industry. Hey, at \$15 per bug (sorry, queenie), it wouldn't take too many sales to fill your vehicle's gas tank, even at today's skyrocketing prices. But the best part is that we'll be breeding from New England hives exhibiting the traits we want ... mite-resistance, honey producing capability, temperament, and fast spring build-up. It's an idea whose time has come.

Be well.

Irene Gorczyca

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

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August Hive Dive at Howard Crawford's Achin' Back Farm

Attila

Pictures by Edward Karle

I couldn't make it to Howard's place on August 21st, but I have it on good authority that it was a great time. The weather was good and there was lots of opportunity to look inside Howard's hives. As usual, everyone shared ideas and suggestions, which is why these hive dives are such a great way to get hands-on knowledge.

Ed Karle was on hand with his camera ... he sent me 17 shots! I tried to select a couple to print that give the overall flavor of the day (if I add too many pictures, the emailing of this newsletter becomes difficult).

Thanks, Ed!



Wow! Wouldja look at that brood pattern!!!



In no known order, Howard, Norm Shaw, Joe Svelnis, Stephen Grant, and Ed Karle. Ms Shaw was around there somewhere.

Mite-Away Approved Attila

Mite-Away II has been registered in Massachusetts for general use. No special pesticide applicator's license require for use.

It is legal for this product to be shipped into the Commonwealth, distributed, sold, and used in strict accord with its EPA approved labeling. There are no restrictions other than those on the label and the required use of personal protection equipment, which consists of: must wear standard beekeeping equipment, rubber gloves (nitrile), goggles, and respirator approved for acids (coding is on pesticide label).

If you have any questions, please contact either:

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Chairman
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(508) 429-6872

More Mite Control Ideas Attila

I swiped this from Plymouth County, and Al got it off of the Bee-List. Les Crosby writes: "I have been using 3lbs. of icing sugar mixed with 6ozs of garlic powder for mite control. I use my smoker to apply the mixture. I only use it during late August. Began the treatment in 2001, and my four colonies are in excellent condition.

"During the 1999 Apimondia Congress I learned about smokeless smoke for bee control. It is produced as liquid bee smoke and dispensed in a spray bottle using an ounce of concentrate to 16 ounces of water. I have used it for the past six years and will never go back to the hassle of keeping a smoker going. My smoker is only used to dispense the mite control powder! The liquid smoke is produced by Newton Apiaries, Fresno, CA 93722. To order; call: 559-277-8456."

Lip Balm Formula from Make-stuff.com

1/4 cup Sweet Almond Oil (found at health food stores)
1/4 - 1/2 oz Beeswax
Flavor Oil (found at Candy Supply Store)
Small Jars

Pour 1/4 cup almond oil into the measuring cup.
Place measuring cup in the saucepan of warm water and heat gently.

Slowly add 1/4 ounce of beeswax to the warm oil, and wait for the wax to completely melt. (Make sure you keep enough water in the saucepan as the wax melts! Add more water if needed.) Using an old metal spoon, mix the now liquid wax and oil portion together.

Flavor the balm by adding five drops of flavor oil and stir to blend.

Remove measuring cup with mixture from heat and set aside. Now test the consistency and strength of your lip balm! Pull your spoon out of the blended mixture, allowing a small puddle of balm to remain in spoon.

Carefully place spoon in refrigerator to cool.

When cool, gently run your finger over the hardened balm mixture.

If the Balm is too hard (waxy), add more oil to your mixture.

If it is too soft, add more wax.

Do this until you've reached the desired consistency.

A few more drops of flavor oil can be added at this time if desired.

Place measuring cup in the saucepan with water and back onto the stove to re-warm and melt any ingredients you may have added.

When all ingredients are thoroughly melted and mixed together, and spoon balm into small jars.

Set aside to cool.

Ray McKay at the Marshfield Fair

Attila

(Based on a *Patriot Ledger* article by Courtney Hollands, contributed by Leslie Feingold, Attila's friend)

NCBA member, Ray McKay, is the energy behind the agricultural exhibits at the Marshfield Fair. You can always see him hitching a ride on one of the tractors that constantly roam the fairgrounds, delivering hay or water to the animals, making sure the exhibitors are in the right locations, or helping us out as we set up our exhibit in the Bee Barn. But Ray is also a judge at the fair. The following is an excerpt from the *Ledger's* abovementioned article.

"Ray McKay's nose almost touches the fuzzy black center of the giant sunflower. Donning reading glasses, the Foxboro resident and member of the fair's board of directors, closely inspects the

(continued in the next column)



Ray McKay, 4-H director and a judge at the Marshfield Fair, places a first-place ribbon on a group of sunflowers. (Courtesy of the *Patriot Ledger*. Lisa Bul photo)

petals for insect damage and correct coloring. A few misshapen petals could cost a sunflower the blue ribbon at the Marshfield Fair, he noted.

"Suddenly, McKay looks up from his careful study. 'First, second, and third,' he said, quickly pointing to the respective flowers.

"'The trick with judging, you have to be authoritative,' McKay said. 'As an old friend told me, if it's not right, at least it's official.'"

According to the article, the most important characteristics a judge of any exhibit can have is a background and love for whatever it is they are judging. In Ray's case, he first exhibited dairy cows at the fair in 1949. He now helps his grand-kids out with their dairy exhibits, as well as runs his garden center in Foxboro. Ray has judged the sunflower exhibit in Marshfield for the past 15 years. Still, diplomacy is everything in the judging business, even to a sunflower.

Chocolate Smoothie

(2 servings)

2 cups chilled, chocolate soy milk (or regular chocolate milk)
1 small-medium banana, peeled, cut into pieces, and frozen
1 tablespoon honey

Blend quickly, just until smooth (avoid over-blending).
Add more soy milk for a thinner smoothie.



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: Blueberry honey in pails and jars. Also, **wild-flower honey** in pails. Please call Merrimack Valley Apiaries, (978) 667-5380 for prices.

FOR SALE: I have 10 shallow honey supers with drawn foundation, about 4 deeps without frames, and 2 queen excluders. Please call Annie Birman at (401) 333-3251, or email at: AKDAB@aol.com

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.

Bumble See, Bumble Do

Bumblebees that watched other bees forage on green artificial flowers were twice as likely to choose the green flowers over orange flowers when it was their turn to forage, according to new University of Arizona research. The finding is the first demonstration that insects can learn by just watching the behavior of other insects. The trained bumblebees visited a feeding arena that had three green and three orange circles. Other bumblebees, one at a time, were allowed to watch from three to 12 trained bees feed for 10 minutes. Then the lights were turned off and the feeding bees and their flowers were removed. A new set of three green and three orange artificial flowers was set up in the feeding arena, but the flowers had no food and the location of the particular colors was different from what the bumblebee had observed.

The observer bees were then allowed, one at a time, to visit the artificial flowers. Observers that had watched bumblebees feed on green were twice as likely to visit the green circles. To make sure that odor cues were not somehow influencing the observer bees, scientists made model bumblebees using life-size resin models. The experiments were repeated with a new set of observer bumblebees watching the "behavior" of the models. When it was their turn to forage, the watchers preferred the color that the model bees were "visiting."

2005-2006 Meeting Schedules:

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

MON, 12 SEP 2005
MON, 03 OCT 2005
MON, 07 NOV 2005
MON, 05 DEC 2005
MON, 09 JAN 2006
MON, 06 FEB 2006

BEE SCHOOL MEETINGS

Bee School will resume Tuesday, February, 2006 at 7 PM.
For more information, call Tim Sullivan (781) 326-2834, or
Howard Crawford (508) 528-9117.