



The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • www.norfolkbees.org

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Letter from the Editor

I will keep it short. Lots to report on this month and our meeting is only a couple of weeks away. Sorry for being so late with the newsletter, but life has just been a little bit beezzy. Not only are things still hectic, but we now have one broken foot and one broken arm in the family. Add that to all of the sports and the chores and there is little time left over for anything else. Though I have managed to take care of bees and get them ready for winter. No on to making hand creams and candles.

See you all soon!

Tony Lulek

Important Notice

At the November 6th meeting the club will be voting on whether to accept them recommendation of the officers to forM an Executive Board.

Remember this is your club, so please come and vote.

LOOK FOR THE NEW SECTIONS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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Researchers wonder where all the pollinators have gone. Losses imperil plants, and maybe, the food supply

By John Donnelly, Globe Staff | October 19, 2006

WASHINGTON -- Pity the honeybee, hummingbird, and bat.

A report issued yesterday by the National Academy of Sciences said that the three species are "demonstrably" declining in the United States and Canada, and that their losses are affecting not just their populations -- but potentially parts of various ecosystems, including some parts of our food supply.

The birds, bees, and bats are pollinators, and nearly three-quarters of all flowering plants depend on them to spread pollen so that fertilization can occur and fruits, nuts, and vegetables can grow.

The decline of pollinators "is one form of global change that actually has credible potential to alter the shape and structure of terrestrial ecosystems," May R. Berenbaum, chairwoman of the committee that studied the issue, said in a statement.

The report did not attempt to measure the decline in the species. The 15 scientists brought together by the National Research Council -- a branch of the National Academy of Sciences, which advises the federal government and the public on scientific issues -- found that more information was urgently needed to document the extent of the population declines.

They called on donors to fund research to take a census of bees, birds, and bats; examine habitat loss; and to measure the effects of certain diseases on birds and bees.

The decline of the honeybee is well known among farmers. Honeybees were imported into the United States last year for the first time since 1922, when the Honeybee Act banned those imports because of fear that non-native bees would carry parasites that could harm the environment.

Now, the honeybees' problem is directly linked to diseases from parasites imported by other means. The nation's commercial hives have, according to estimates, declined by a third.

In addition, wild pollinators -- from bumblebees to butterflies and nocturnal moths -- have lost much of their habitat, due in part to the vast use of pesticides and herbicides

that kill plants and hedges in which the insects and birds live.

Some scientists also say global warming may be playing a role in the decline of birds and bees, and the flowering plants that they keep alive. Under that reasoning -- the report's authors called it speculation, for lack of proof -- slight increases in temperatures may be altering the migration patterns of bumblebees, while also causing plants to flower earlier in the season, thus throwing off the process of pollination.

The report's authors were careful to sound an alarm without calling it a crisis.

"We're starting to see signals of pollinators declining. We don't know yet whether it is a looming crisis. But what we are seeing is very disturbing," said Allison Snow, a committee member and professor of biology at Ohio State University.

Snow said the problem would not create a "food security" issue in the United States, because crops such as corn, wheat, and soybean do not need the pollinators; wind does the job. But more than 90 fruits, vegetables, and nuts, as well as countless plants in yards and forests, depend on bees, other insects, birds, and bats to start the fertilization process.

"We know how important these pollinators are, and if they disappeared, we would be in deep trouble," Snow said.

In addition to the call for more studies, the authors said individual landowners could take action now to increase habitat for pollinators.

Gene E. Robinson, a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said people could plant flowers and thereby create habitats for wild bees.

"Because these are tiny creatures, even small efforts on the parts of individual landowners can make a big difference," he said.

He also called for greater efforts to educate the public on pollinators. "Even though we are talking about the birds and the bees, not many people know what the birds and bees really do," he said.

One leading educational organization is Monarch Watch, a Kansas-based group dedicated to protect the monarch butterfly.

Orley "Chip" Taylor, director of the group and an insect ecologist at the University of Kansas, said the new report will help draw attention to the problem.

"The difficulty we have is understanding what we are doing to this planet," he said yesterday in a telephone interview. "Certainly the simplest thing is to point to habitat destruction -- we're losing 3,000 to 4,000 acres a day in this country to development. But herbicides also take out a lot of the plants that pollinators depend on. We're not monitoring ourselves really well. We're having significant impacts that we are totally oblivious to."

BEE SCHOOL SO SOON?

Before you know it, Bee School will be upon us. So we need to start preparing now. We would like to promote the school as best we can. If members can help by just spreading the word, it would be great. We are planning on hitting the local papers as we did last year. If any one has any other ideas, please let Tim Sullivan or me know about them. This is the best way for the club to continue to grow. It is our main source of income from the school itself and from continuous membership.

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.

Sweets for the Meets Again

Okay I know its corny, but Susan Simmons, our wonderful refreshment person has asked for volunteers to provide something sweet for our meetings. If we could have 2 volunteers per month, that would be great. YOU can contact Susan at rastasue30@hotmail.com



Creative Comb

Mapping of genome brings swarm of interest in honeybees. A new era hailed on complex insect

By Reuters | October 26, 2006

LONDON -- Scientists have unraveled the genetic code of the honeybee, uncovering clues about its complex social behavior, heightened sense of smell, and African origins.

Article Tools

It is the third insect to have its genome mapped, joining the fruit fly and mosquito. The honeybee, or *Apis mellifera*, evolved more slowly than the other insects but has more genes related to smell.

"In biology and biomedicine, honeybees are used to study many diverse areas, including allergic disease, development, gerontology, neuroscience, social behavior, and venom toxicology," said Gene Robinson, director of the University of Illinois Bee Research Facility and one of the leaders of the project.

"The honeybee genome project is ushering in a bright era of bee research for the benefit of agriculture, biological research, and human health," he added.

With its highly evolved social structure of tens of thousands of worker bees commanded by the queen bee, the honeybee genome could also improve the search for genes linked to social behavior.

But the consortium of scientists, who reported the findings in the journal *Nature*, said a comprehensive analysis of the honeybee and other species will be needed to understand its social life.

The queen has 10 times the lifespan of worker bees and lays up to 2,000 eggs a day. Honeybees display honed cognitive abilities and learn to associate a flower's color, shape, and scent with food, which increases their foraging ability.

The scientists who analyzed the genetic code have discovered the honeybee originated in Africa and spread to Europe in two ancient migrations. "The African bees' spread throughout the New World is a spectacular example of biological invasion," the scientists said in the *Nature* report.

The number of genes in honeybees related to smell outnumber those linked to taste. The insects also have fewer genes than the fruit fly or mosquito for immunity.



10/22/2006: "DreamWorks creates buzz for Bee Movie"

DreamWorks unveiled the first preview of Bee Movie last week on the Over the Hedge DVD. Jerry Seinfeld, who is writing, producing, and starring in the film, says "this is a world I can't wait to tell you about". Bee Movie opens November 2007.

Barry B. Benson (Seinfeld), a bee who has just graduated from college, is disillusioned at his lone career choice: making honey. On a special trip outside the hive, Barry's life is saved by Vanessa (Zellweger), a florist in New York City. As their relationship blossoms, he discovers humans actually eat honey, and subsequently decides to sue us.

Okay fellow beekeepers, One Big Question here! Maybe Jerry Seinfeld knows something we don't, but since when did male bees have the lone career choice of making honey? Don't you think someone should have done a little research, but then again, maybe a female bee questioning her life choices, just doesn't make as a good story as a male bee. But then again maybe Jerry didn't want to do a female voice over. Or maybe he didn't want to show what a male bee really does around the hive. Something is surely missing here.

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 "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 Center Cafeteria) in Walpole, MA. Meetings in June-August will be held at members' bee yards as announced.

2005-2007 NCBA Officers

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2006 Monthly Meeting Schedule

November 6, 2006
December 4, 2006

A special thanks to Al Needham from the Plymouth County Beekeepers Association.

He is a great source of bee information.

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!)

Q&A

One of our members has a question that I can't answer. Please help him if you can.

I have had a problem with wax moths in at least one hive for the last three years. (not necessarily the same hive) This year it was my strongest hive. Can anything preventative be done?

Mike Miconi mrmiconi@msn.com

New Additions to the Bee Club

We have a couple of new members, so if you see them at the meetings, please introduce yourself and help make them welcome.

Deborah Bergh
27 Rambler Rd
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-226-6932
djbergh@comcast.net

Lisa Nason
hairdoux@comcast.net

Another new member and hopefully future beekeeper.



Lilah Rose Fleischer
Born August 2, 2006
6 lbs. 7 oz
Mom: Whitley Frost (Librarian)

A Taste of Honey



For People

Golden Cornbread

Makes 8 servings -

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Ingredients

- 3 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 Tablespoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups buttermilk or low-fat yogurt
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 eggs, beaten

Directions

Combine cornmeal, flour, baking powder and salt in large bowl. Combine buttermilk, butter, honey and eggs in separate large bowl. Stir buttermilk mixture into flour mixture just until moistened. Pour into greased 12x8x2-inch baking pan. Bake at 350°F 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Chewy Monkey Bars

Makes 2 dozen -

Ingredients

- 3 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 4 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/4 cup peanuts

Directions

Combine marshmallows, honey, butter, peanut butter, vanilla and salt together in a medium saucepan. Heat mixture over low heat, stirring constantly. In a 13x9x2-inch baking pan, combine oats, rice cereal, coconut and peanuts. Pour honey mixture over dry ingredients. Mix until thoroughly coated. Pack mixture firmly into the pan. Cool and cut into 24 bars.

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 5 to 8 minutes before it reaches 242°F. Let cool to 190 to 200°F (important) and 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 10 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 October 2, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: 36

Raffle raised \$81. The only prize was a great one: The Bee School hive. It was won by David Lesco.

There were three door prizes: 2 different hive tools and a storage pail.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 6th

November Agenda Items:

1. NCBA Executive Board and By Laws proposal to members. Vote to be taken on acceptance of Executive Board.
2. More Winterizing: November and December planning
3. December "Millionaire" planning

Meeting items:

- 1) We only offered one raffle prize this month, the club hive. We didn't have much else to offer that was "good garage sale" quality or anything beekeeping related. Please consider bringing something of quality to your next meeting.
- 2) Sue Simmons provides the food items for the meeting and could use some help. If you can provide an item or assist with the set up or cleanup please let her know. Sue's email is rastasue30@hotmail.com
- 3) The current NCBA officers are proposing that the club create an Executive Board and update the By Laws. This was proposed to the meeting members and will be presented and voted on at the next meeting. The current officers believe that a formal Executive Board will work better in an organization of our size. The Executive Board will be responsible for managing club business between monthly meetings and presenting association proposals after they have been reviewed and vetted so that the monthly meetings are less association business and

more beekeeping.

4) Saturday November 18, 2006 9:00am - 5:00pm
Southern New England Beekeeper Assembly
Theme: Queens, Drones and Stock Improvement
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike Hamden, Connecticut 06517
Details on their web site: <http://www.sneba.com/>

5) Think about your spring hive locations. Better to have a location arranged for now than scramble in April.

6) NCBA will try and connect with the current Norfolk County Beekeeping Inspector. The last one we were aware of was Al Carl.

7) Winterizing: Presented by Tim Sullivan

Insulating the top of your hive by using Homasote Board. Cut the board to fit easily inside of a ½ inch tall spacer box (no top or bottom, just four sides) placed on top of your inner cover. Leave the inner cover the same side up as in the summer, with the opening up. Put at least 10 well spaced push pins with plastic grips in the Homasote. Then place the board pin-side down on top of the inner cover and in the spacer box. You can also put cardboard on top of the Homasote for more insulation. Lastly put the outer cover on top of the spacer box.

Use of menthol dissolved in canola oil and soaked on shop paper towels was explained. Check the various supply web sites for ratios and making instructions.

Tim handed out copies of Check-Mite use and Sugar Dusting guides.

For airing the honey supers for winter Tim places his on top of a screen board that is off the ground, on top of cinder blocks or a bench and on top another screen board for full air flow. Leave them outside over winter if possible. This will kill wax moths and all other hive pests.

News from the library:

For those of you who are new to the Club, we have a mobile library from which you can borrow books and videos. Books may be signed out at the club meetings and returned at the next month's meeting. Enjoy! Whitley Frost, Club Librarian

New to the shelves:

"Increase Essentials, by Dr. Lawrence Connor. This book was published this year, and is an insight into one person's experience with various essential aspects of modern beekeeping. This book was recommended by Club members; it is a short and very good read.

"From Where I Sit, by Mark Winston. This is a collection of essays on bees, beekeeping and science. Winston uses the beekeeping theme as a starting point to discuss broader issues, including how agriculture functions in today's world, and how people struggle to maintain contact with the natural world. A good read for a winter night.

Books due at November's meeting

Please return any books/videos borrowed at the October meeting, or let me know if you would like to keep them another month. Also, a reminder to those who borrowed books at our meeting in May (apologies if you have already returned these or if you tried returning them at September's meeting):

Monk's Bees (video) - Fred Rapkin
Beeswax Crafting - Pam Crowell
First Lessons in Beekeeping - Francis Felcon
Joy With Honey - Sandy Crawford
Robbing the Bees - Deb Devine
Following the Bloom - Howard Crawford



Pretty fancy burr comb. Courtesy of Ed Karle



Some more great photos from Ed Karle. I think he should be designated as club photographer.



**Pear Blossom
May 2006 (Tony Lulek)**

From: Tony Lulek
35 Dalton Road
Holliston, MA 01746

TO: