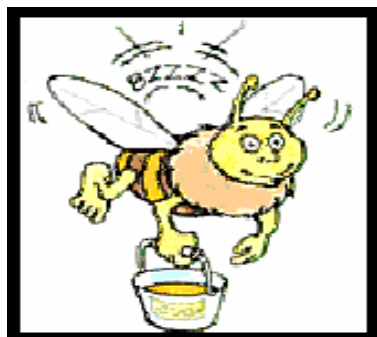


November, 2005



So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu!

The Next Meeting Will Be

Monday, Dec. 5th

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:

Well, folks, this is it. This is my last issue of **The Norfolk Bee**. I've had a lot of fun writing this newsletter and I hope you've enjoyed the articles, my weird sense of humor, and once in awhile, a glimpse into my heart. You've been a great audience ... hardly ever a complaint. I will miss writing, but the demands on my time force me to make some tough decisions. I will work as a member of the new Program Committee, however. More on that later. Tony Lulek will be taking over the newsletter and you'll probably see a few changes since Tony knows his way around computers and can do wonders with software tools. He also intends to get our web page up and running again.

We voted in a new slate of officers at the November meeting. You'll see them listed to the right in the side bar. Returning to us again as President is Ray Hennessey, Vice President remains Norm Shaw, Treasurer remains Miguel Lessing, Recording Secretary is now Ed Karle, and Corresponding Secretary is now Tony Lulek. Jeanette Ruyle will be taking over the Fair Committee Chair, with a Fair Committee comprised of Miguel Lessing, Norm Shaw, and Ray McKay. Tim Sullivan and Howard Crawford will remain as Bee School Directors. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee of Tony Lulek, Leo Waters, Ed Karle, and Annie Birman for their efforts in making this a smooth transition.

In the October issue, I wondered out loud as to how Crystal Card and her family made out during the Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Crystal wrote back to me saying that they prepared their 12,000 hives as best they could, and were, thankfully, spared any direct hits. Phew! That was too close for comfort!

So, settle back now and I'll see how much I can squeeze into this last issue. And from my house to all of you, the happiest of holidays! May all good things come your way in the new year. Shalom.

Over and out.

Irene Gorczyca

Norfolk County - Massachusetts

THE NORFOLK BEE

Online at: www.norfolkbees.org

2005-2007 NCBA Officers

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October Meeting Minutes

Annie Birman

There were 25 people in attendance.

Tim Sullivan started the meeting started at 7:35 pm with the assembly of the Nominating Committee for this year's officer election. The committee was Leo Waters, Ed Karle, Tony Lulek, and yours truly, Annie Birman.

The beginning of the meeting was focused on the discussion of the positions that will be open and the roles and descriptions of each position. Tom Kerr asked if Tim Sullivan and Irene Gorczyca would be interested in staying on to form a Program Committee. Ray Hennessey stated that if we had a Program Committee to put together the presentations for the club meetings, he would be interested in participating as President. Tim, Irene, and Tom will be the Program Committee members; Ray will run for President.

Bee School has to be active and engaged. It needs to get more advertisements out to attract more people to the school and eventually as club members. Tim Sullivan agreed to remain with the Bee School.

A question came up on the whereabouts of the club extractor and the members were told to contact Mike Miconi.

Tim brought a couple of short videos on Mite Away, and then we watched a movie on the life of Brother Adam and the Buckfast Bees.

Leo Waters won the door prize—**Backyard Beekeeping**, by Kim Flotum, editor of **Bee Culture** magazine. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

November Meeting Minutes

Whitley Frost

26 members present

NCBA President Tim Sullivan started the meeting. Tim announced that the December meeting will be, "*Honey-Tasting and Gadget Night*". He suggested bringing in samples of your honey that you gathered this fall for everyone to taste, and to bring gadgets- both helpful and useless- for everyone to look at and discuss. Tim will be bringing a moisture meter for people to measure the moisture content of their honey.

Nominating Committee

Tony Lulek represented the Nominating Committee and announced who had volunteered for the vacant Officer seats. The current officers stepping down will retire at the end of this year--the Club appreciates their time and leadership. Norm Shaw will remain on as Vice President and Miguel Lessing will remain on as Treasurer.

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A motion was passed to vote on the (3) candidates for the Officer positions and the ballot was approved; Ray Hennessey will be stepping in as the new President, Ed Karl as Recording Secretary and Tony Lulek as Corresponding Secretary.

Committees

The meeting focused on the status of the Club's Committees. There was also mention of forming a Board of Directors which will be discussed at future meetings.

Ray Hennessey was invited to say a few words about his thoughts on what he might like to see evolve in the Club. Ray spoke about the desire to get more support via committees. There are currently (2) committees: the Fair Committee and the Program Committee. The Program Committee currently consists of Tim Sullivan, Sheila Barnard, Irene Gorczyca, and Tom Kerr. They are always open for suggestions and help on monthly program ideas. The Fair Committee, chaired by Jeanette Ruyle could use help in the spring when they get geared up for the fairs. The Fair Committee involves about 10 hours of volunteer time. This year the club won award money at the Brockton Fair.

There was discussion of forming a Website Committee. The current site host is through George Comeau and Suffolk University, but the site is not regularly maintained. One of the goals of the Web Committee would be to get the on-line registration for Bee School in operation, as well as a general re-vamping of the site. It was agreed that the website is a valuable way to get the word out about the NCBA.

Howard mentioned that there used to be a Club Library, from which members could borrow books and videos. There was general support of reinstalling a library, and Whitley Frost volunteered to house the books and establish a "check-out" system. A budget will be discussed with Miguel regarding the purchase of educational materials. A motion was made to create this letter and send it out to publishers to solicit donations to the Club's library. Robert Toran volunteered to draft the letter that the Club will approve at December's meeting.

Other

Ray Hennessey introduced John Heemskerk, a charter member, who was present at the meeting, and is one of the original founders of the Club in 1953.

Howard signed up 12 people at the Farmer's Market for the upcoming Bee School. Irene has also recruited a few people. It was agreed that Bee School is important for getting the word out to the public and keeping the Club vital.

Financial Report

Tony handed out copies of the Financial Report and presented the report on behalf of Miguel. The club is in good financial shape, with a current balance of \$5,662.84. The club had 71 members in 2005, and Bee School added an additional 18 students.

Phil Barber was the lucky door prize recipient. He is now the proud owner of, "The How To Do It Book of Beekeeping" by Richard Taylor.

Ancient tradition revived to turn honey into money **By Mona Mahmoud and Michael Hartigan, USA TODAY**

BAGHDAD — When Adil Hashim was a youngster, he planned to become an engineer. However, all that changed when he was 17 years old.



Beekeeper Adil Hashim checks his bee cells at the Union of the Agricultural Engineers in Baghdad.—Mona Mahmoud, USA TODAY

Then he "saw a group of bees gathering like a bunch of grapes on the lemon tree in our garden," Hashim recalls.

Transfixed, Hashim sought help from his neighbor, who knew about beekeeping. As they spoke, Hashim became fascinated. So instead of engineering, he went to study beekeeping at Baghdad University's College of Agriculture.

Today, Hashim, 35, has a computer shop, but he still maintains beehives at his house. And he's hardly unique. Beekeeping is an Iraqi tradition dating to ancient times and one of the country's favorite hobbies. Many Iraqis have hives in their gardens. Honey factors into many traditional Arabic meals, especially at holiday time. The holy Quran talks about the health benefits of honey.

"Beekeeping has been there for 5,000 years," says Malcolm Sanford, professor emeritus at the University of Florida who went to Iraq this year to study the country's beekeeping industry.

It's "where it kind of started," Sanford says.

Iraq's honey industry fell on hard times during the reign of Saddam Hussein.

(continued in next column)

One of Baghdad's largest beekeeping centers, just south of Baghdad in Rashidiya, was closed and converted to a military base in 1992 by Saddam's Republican Guards. By 2002, government support for the industry had nearly vanished, and exports were virtually zero.

Now, Iraqi beekeepers are trying to revive their decrepit industry. With money from the U.S. Agency for International Development, carpenters are being trained to build efficient apiaries.

Abdul Razaq, who works at a beekeeping center in the Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib, says Iraq's honey production has the potential to become one of the country's largest industries.

Iraqi beekeepers got together and created a trade association last year. It now has 50 members. A small laboratory has been re-established at Rashidiya to supply queen bees.

Not surprisingly, Iraqis are honey gourmets.

"I like to have honey on my table," says Laith Faris, 40, a customer at the beekeepers association's retail shop.

"It's so difficult to know the quality of the honey ... whether it is pure or fake. And it is very expensive. So I prefer to buy it (directly) from the society," he says.

Contributing: Mona Mahmoud is in Baghdad, Michael Hartigan in McLean, Va.

Bees fly faster with the 'whoosh factor' **17/10/2005. ABC Science Online's Jacquie van Santen**

Honeybees have a remarkably efficient way to keep air-bound and crash-free, Australian researchers show. They automatically adjust how fast they fly to keep things whooshing past them at a constant rate. They can therefore adjust their speed and avoid crashing into objects without needing to know where they are in the world, or how high off the ground they are. PhD student Emily Baird and colleagues from the Australian National University in Canberra published their findings in the latest issue of the Journal of Experimental Biology.

Scientists know that honeybees rely heavily on visual information to navigate.

"What we wanted to determine is whether they also use their vision to control flight speed, or rely on some other senses to get their forward speed," Baird says.

The team manipulated the bees' visual environment to test the theory. First they trained the bees to fly through a straight rectangular tunnel. Then they moved the side walls of the tunnel to create patterns that either went in the same direction as the bees were flying or against them.

(continued on page 4)



From:

Irene Gorczyca
276 Winter Street
Walpole, MA 02081

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

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS!



(continued from page 3)

"We were able to manipulate how fast the bees thought their visual environment was moving, regardless of how fast they were actually flying," Baird says.

"For example, we could fool them into thinking they were going slower than they really were just by altering the pattern of the flight path."

What the researchers found is that the bees automatically adjusted their flight speed to keep their surrounding environment at a constant.

"It's such a simple mechanism, and yet it's so effective. These bees don't need to know where they are in the world, how high above the ground they are, or what thrust they have.

"All they have to do is to look at how fast the ground, or sides of their environment are moving past them, and keep that at a constant rate. So in an open environment, such as a field, bees will fly high and fast and maximise their efficiency. But as soon as they come into a cluttered environment, they'll automatically slow down to avoid crashing into objects."

2005-2006 Meeting Schedules:

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Mon., 05 Dec 2005
Mon., 09 Jan 2006
Mon., 06 Feb 2006

BEE SCHOOL MEETINGS:

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