



October 2007

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

A Newsletter of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, PO Box 8880, Warwick, RI 02888

## The Presidents' Report

I would like to take this time to give you an update on my beautiful free flying Buckfast queen. You may remember my account of the antics she pulled while I was attempting to install her in our newsletter last month. Well, she flew the coop for good! That's right; she either failed, or left for good. I went back into that box about seven days after I had first witnessed her flight out, and her return flight back, and found the hive queenless and nervous (which is a nice way of saying nasty!).

Fortunately for me the other Buckfast queen that I had acquired (thanks again Tommy!) had settled in nicely in the nuc that I installed her into. I had given her two frames of brood, two frames of new comb and one frame with much honey and pollen on it. It was about two weeks from her installation when I brought that queen home to Woonsocket, the nuc was in an out yard on a friend's land in Burriville. There were lots of eggs and brood on the two new, unspoiled frames of just drawn comb showing that the queen was accepted and productive.

I installed the nuc using the newspaper method into a ten frame box on top of the hive that the other queen had disappeared from. When I had last inspected the colony they were getting along marvelously. There were lots of young brood and eggs, as well as some capped brood and plenty of honey. Things are looking good for them now. They seem to be building up nicely and are very gentle and lively. Hopefully this Buckfast colony will overwinter well and I'll have some fun next year making some nucs from it.

Bee Well,

Kit Mayers, President, R.I.B.A.

Beekeeping, sometimes you take losses no matter what you try, and sometimes you make gains despite what you tried!

## Next Meeting

Saturday, October 20th  
Honey Judging/Field Day 2:00 - 5:00 PM  
Dinner at 5:00 PM  
At the Richmond Grange  
(401) 783-5101

Directions on back

Two-to-One syrup can be used for fall feeding after the last honey harvest, or if the bees do not have a sufficiently large store of honey.

2 parts Sugar, 1 Part water

The two parts sugar will not dissolve in room temperature water. Because of this mixing difficulty it is advisable to mix the sugar into near-boiling water. Do not allow the sugar mixture to boil, as this will give the chance for some of the sugars to caramelize, creating a partially indigestible and possibly even toxic solution as far as the bees are concerned. Be sure to let the solution thoroughly cool before feeding it to the bees.

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## **The Secretary's Report**

Meeting called to order at 2:21 PM at the home of Kathy and Paul Whewell.

Bill Jones reported that treasury is in good shape. We have taken in \$4,000 more than we have spent. Membership is 210 paid up. There was a tasting of apples and honey at a 4H club. As to preference between light vs. dark honey, there was no winner. Each received same number of votes. African honey was tasted, but it was not a hit.

Paul Whewell, membership, after our school was over passed out a survey to school attendees asking how they heard about our bee school. Out of 92 students 37 responded - From the flower show we got 1 student, and from friends referral we got a few. The best draw was from publicity in the Providence Journal.

The board realized that a second school in South County is necessary for obvious reasons of travel distance, and overcrowding at Davies Vocational. We have the use of East Farm building at URI. Mark Robar and Lou Chasse will possibly be the instructors. There is talk about trying to get bees delivered in May in order that the new people will have been able to get ready with equipment etc. before the bees arrive. This may have been part of the problem this past spring, which had cold weather to complicate matters.

Having a lectures and workshops on extracting has been mentioned to assist new people. These workshops could possibly be held at different locations to make them more accessible to a greater majority of our members.

The drought situation we have gone through these past few months could have a negative effect on fall honey flow. John Leferriere envisages that this drought will effect next year's season and possibly have an

unpleasant effect on next springs honey crops.

An EAS report stresses that each year a different control for tracheal/varroa should be used (i.e. IPM, and rotate chemical treatments annually)

Mark Robar reported that 110,000 people attended the Washington County Fair. He suggested that URI has an apple orchard and why shouldn't the association bring bees to pollinate there? This will be investigated further.

## **Dinner Auction**

Our dinner is always fun and our "penny social" auction full of fun prizes. If you have anything that you would like to donate to our auction please bring it to the dinner or you can get them to any of the executive board members. Items do not have to relate to bees, anything goes!

## **Mall Sale**

We will have a table at the Warwick Mall October 12th - 14th. We will sell members' honey, wax, candles, and bee related items. For workers we deduct 5%, from non-workers, 15%. We need volunteers to work the table. Contact Bernie at 463-8654. We have a fixed honey price at \$6.00 @ pound.

## **Honey Contest**

Our Field Day/Dinner will have honey judging. Those of you, who have not entered in the past, and/or our new beekeepers, should realize that it is not only a contest but a way of finding out many things about your honey. Moisture content, clarity and taste are a few of the criteria that the honey will be judged on.

I had bragging rights a few years ago, but for the past 2 years I have been disqualified due to excess moisture. Honey should not have more than 18.6# moisture. As a result

I have been trying to overcome this problem by using screens as an inner cover, allowing better air flow. A new beekeeper is on an equal footing with an older one. After all, it is the bees that make the honey!

Contest Tips -

1. Cap must be clean. Put saran wrap between cover and honey, or bring clean cap for the jar when you get to the competition site.
2. Use clean, glass, Queenline jar free of bubbles
3. Slightly heat honey to remove crystals
4. Fill the jar days ahead of time. This will give any air bubbles time to settle out.
5. Fill jar at an angle to reduce air bubbles
6. Fill jar so there is no light showing between bottom of cap and top of honey.
7. Check for clarity - no pollen, wax, foam, or bee parts.

### **Treatments**

After honey supers have been removed -

1. Feed 2 gal per hive with 2:1 sugar to water. (I find that 4 qts of sugar and 2 qts water just about make a gallon). Add 1 tsp of Fumidil-B per gallon to treat for Nosema. It is easier to mix Fumidil-B in 2 oz water at 110 - 120 degrees F and then put into sugar solution.
2. Mix 1 level teaspoon of Terramycin soluble powder with 5 tsp powdered sugar. Scatter mix on end bars. Apply 3 times at 4-5 day intervals
3. Block entrance with mouse guards when weather turns cold.

### **Wax Moths**

All hives contain wax moths, but they are

kept in check by the bees. If you have ever had brood in your honey supers once you have extracted the wax moths will go on a spree. They wreak havoc with your frames of wax. It is a pity to see the work of your bees destroyed in a short time.

After extracting, you can give the wet frames back to the bees. They will clean them out clean as a whistle. Remove the supers in a few days and stack them 4-5 high. Above the top super put screening or a queen excluder. On the screen put moth balls/crystals containing paradichlorobenzine (NOT Naphthalene). Top off with outer cover.

If you don't want to give the wet supers back to the bees, put them in heavy weight plastic contractor's bags . . . as well as the clean ones.

Our dinner speaker advises this, and I have had no problem.

Once your honey supers are off, you can treat for mites. Remember – NO chemicals in the hive with honey supers. Grease patties for tracheal mites: Mix Crisco shortening with granulated sugar 1:3. Make a hamburger size patty, place between wax paper. Place over brood nest in center of frames (Credit Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota)

Varroa Destructor: There are a few products to treat this mite. I have used Apistan strips in the past, but have used Apiguard this winter of '06. It is recommend not to use the same chemical in succeeding years.

### **Apple Cake**

This is the recipe for our baking competition at upcoming Harvest Dinner

4 cups apples, peeled and diced  
½ cup honey  
1 ½ cups sugar

2 ½ cups flour  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 cup chocolate chips  
2 eggs  
¾ tsp salt  
2 tsp allspice  
½ cup vegetable oil  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1 cup raisins

Beat eggs well, add honey and pour over the diced apples. Sift together in a large bowl the sugar, flour, baking soda, salt, and allspice. Add the vegetable oil to the dry ingredients and mix well. Stir in the apple mixture. Add nuts, raisins, and chocolate chips. Batter will be thick. Mix thoroughly and spoon into tube pan. Bake for 1 hour in a preheated 350 degree oven.

(EAS 2002 First Place recipe – Olive Watson)

### Swap Meet

Have any Bee/Beekeeping related items to sell? Bring them to the Harvest Dinner and sell or swap them to a fellow beekeeper! Open your trunk, pickup bed or spread a blanket. It's a good chance to clean out the basement or garage!

### Directions to Richmond Grange

From the North –

Take route 95 south to route 4 south for about 6.2 miles. Take the exit to route 102 N and travel 0.7 miles, then take route 2 south (on the left) and travel another 6.8 miles to route 138. Take the right onto route 138 (Usquepaugh Rd) and travel for about 1.4 miles, the Grange will be on your left, #690.

From the South -

Take route 95 north to exit #3 and exit onto route 138 east. Travel for 5.9 miles on route 138, and look for the Richmond Grange on

the left (690 Usquepaugh Rd).

#### **RI Beekeepers Association**

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