



March 2008

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

## The Presidents' Report

This time of year everyone is always reminding us to feed our bees as necessary and to get ready now for the approaching new bee season. As a matter of fact I believe I talked about feeding and alluded to acquiring new and sprucing up old bee equipment last month! It might be a good opportunity now for me to remind or acquaint you with some local bee equipment and bee package suppliers, as well as some of the catalog companies.

Local Beekeeping Equipment- We have two Rhode Island suppliers that I know of. Louis Chasse in Saunterstown and Mark Robar in Richmond. Lou offers woodenware and beekeeping equipment. He also carries candle making supplies and beeswax. Mark carries woodenware and assorted beekeeping equipment.

Local Packaged Bee Distributors (not local bees)- Again, there are two that I know of in Rhode Island. Roger Robitaille in Warwick and Mark Robar in Richmond. Both also have queens available when the packages arrive if you are in need of queens at that time. Roger and Mark offer 3 pound Italian packages and Mark also offers Russian Hybrid Queens for the packages as well as 4 pound packages. Just remember, order your bees soon! Quantities are limited and packages are always first come, first served!

Here is the contact information for Louis, Roger and Mark.

Louis Chasse - (401) 295-0888  
Mark Robar - (401) 539-0434  
Roger Robitaille - (401) 732-6599 or (401) 378-3578

## Next Meeting

Saturday, **March 8** at 2:00 PM  
Rocky Hill Grange  
Route 2, Warwick, RI

Guest Speaker - Maryann Frazier

Bring Dessert or Entree  
Directions on back

There are many catalog and Internet beekeeping supply outfitters. All of the catalogs listed below offer a free catalog. You can either call them or go on line to request one. Following are some of the major catalog companies . . .

*(Continued on next page)*

## What is the U.S. per capita consumption of honey?

On average, each person consumes about 1.31 pounds.

## In This Issue

The President's Message  
The Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Maryann Frazier - Bio  
Bee School  
Nominating Committee  
Speedy Recovery  
Packages and Nucs  
NHB Funded Study . . . . .  
Dues Dues Dues  
Honey Drop  
Directions to Rocky Hill Grange  
RIBA Officers

## **The President's Report**

(Continued)

### Catalog Beekeeping Equipment

Betterbee 1-800-632-3379  
[www.betterbee.com](http://www.betterbee.com)

Dadant 1-877-532-3268  
[www.dadant.com](http://www.dadant.com)

Mann Lake Ltd. 1-800-880-7694  
[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm  
1-800-233-7929  
[www.brushymountainbeefarm.com](http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com)

Glory Bee Foods Inc. 1-800-456-7923  
[www.glorybeefoods.com](http://www.glorybeefoods.com)

I hope this is some help to you. Many of us are already on mailing lists and look forward to the new catalogs each new season. I for one glean much from perusing those catalogs. Inspiration and new ideas are at your fingertips, not to mention all those shiny extractors, oohh, nice.

Bee Well, Kit Mayers, President,  
R.I.Beekeepers Association

## **The Secretary's Report**

The February meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM by vice president Lou Chasse. The various reports will follow under separate headings. Honey labels, tables, etc. are ready for the Rhode Island Flower Show. A motion to purchase 1000 small labels from Betterbee, which recommends what to do when honey crystallizes was passed. Jeff Maguire asked for a logo to use on our web site. Our stationary has a logo, and will be submitted to Jeff. Bernie Bieder won Lou's donation of a door prize, and the net receipts was \$32.00. Meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM

March meeting: please note that March 8<sup>th</sup> is a Saturday, and at the Rocky Hill Grange. We have made the change to have Maryann Frazier of Penn state University as guest speaker.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Our finances are good. For '08 we have spent more than taken in. This is due to expense of the flower show. There has been an ongoing dialogue with family that wishes to honor their grandfather who was a beekeeper in Europe. A series of awards will be given to students showing interest in entomology and writing 500 word essays. Bill Jones, Kit Mayers, and Paul Whewell form the committee. Bill Jones is contacting farm bureau and other organizations with the specific requirements. If you have not been getting monthly emails make sure Bill has current address.

## **Maryann Frazier - Bio**

Maryann Fraser is the Senior Extension Associate in Entomology in Beekeeping/Science Education Specialist at Penn State University. Maryann is one of the nation's leading experts on colony collapse disorder (CCD). She is on the cutting edge of research on CCD along with the other entomology staff at Penn State. She has published many articles on various aspects of beekeeping including CCD. One has only to look on the Internet under CCD and one sees Maryann's name on over 50 sites. Her topic will be CCD – The Specifics and her second topic will be Bee Nutrition In The Beehive. We are honored to have Maryann Frazier as our speaker.

NB: Both subjects are up to date for us. CCD can affect our hives at any time, and the nutrition in the hive is especially timely as we will be installing new nucs and packages to replace lost colonies, and proper nutrition makes a difference in having a weak or a strong colony.

## **Bee School**

As of February 10<sup>th</sup> there have been 35 registrations for school as compared to 17 in '07. Notices have been sent out to local papers.

## **Nominating Committee**

Ann Richardson has submitted the following names: for President Jeff Maguire and Everett Zurlinden; for librarian Celeste Lafferty. No volunteers for recording secretary. If you wish to have other names added for a ballot for officers please call Ann at (401) 331-3239.

### **Speedy Recovery**

It was evident that someone was missing at our February meeting. We found out that Germaine Laferrier tripped and fell in church, and injured her wrist. She should be back soon insisting that we eat more food at the refreshment table.

### **My honey has become solid (crystallized), is it still good?**

-Crystallization is the natural process by which the glucose in honey precipitates out of the liquid honey. If your honey crystallizes, simply place the honey jar in warm water and stir until the crystals dissolve. Be careful not to boil or scorch the honey. Also keep in mind that you can eat the honey in a crystallized form. Just scoop out of the jar and spread it on your toast or drop it in your tea!

### **Packages and Nuc**

Roger Robitaille will have 3# packages of nucs with queen for \$74.00, and extra Italian queens for \$17.00 each with April 4<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> deliveries. Call (401) 732-6599 or (401) 378-3578. Send check to Roger Robitaille, 88 Lewis Street, Warwick, RI 02886.

Mark Robar has 3# packages with Italian queen for \$73.00 and 4# for \$87.00. Russian queens are \$3.50 extra per package. Delivery April 12 to May 10 depending on weather.

A 5-frame nuc is \$110 starting May 26. Your choices of a Russian, New World Carniolan, or Italian queen are available. Available starting May 26. For orders, deposits, and particulars, contact Mark Robar, Trails End Farm, PO box 169, Richmond RI 02898 or (401) 539-0434.

### **NHB Funded Study Finds Honey an Effective Cough Treatment for Children**

Honey has been used as a home remedy for centuries to help alleviate some of the symptoms associated with a common cold. Now researchers have found through a recent study that honey proves a better option for childhood cold than over the counter medicines.

Researchers from Penn State College of Medicine recently published a study funded by NHB comparing honey to over the counter medicines for relief of upper respiratory infection symptoms, such as cough. Providing a safe alternative for children more than 12 months old, honey outperformed the cough medicine in offering a better night's sleep and reducing cough severity.

### **Dues Dues Dues**

Our year starts April 1. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Please use the attached form (providing Name and Address) to submit your dues in a timely manner.

### **How Much Does Honey Weigh?**

8 fluid oz or 1 cup of honey weighs 12 oz

### **Honey Drop™**

In January, Island Abbey Foods Ltd. introduced the Honey Drop™, the first 100% pure, solid honey product. The Honey Drop™ is an individual serving of dried honey without any additives or binding agents, making it a neat and convenient sweetener for hot beverages.

An inventor and entrepreneur, Island Abbey's John Rowe independently conceived the concept of solid honey in the 1990's. Rowe researched a natural, dried honey product and discovered none existed. Believing such a product would be a convenient form of honey with broad consumer appeal, Rowe began developing production methods.

Separately, prompted by growing interest from food manufacturers in dried honey, NHB initiated development of a solid honey concept on behalf of the U.S. honey industry to optimize the utility of the various forms and styles of honey. The board then prospected for food manufacturers willing to move the concept from ideation to the store shelves and connected with Rowe. The rest of the story is honey history!

The Honey Drop™ comes in two flavors, pure honey and pure honey and lemon, and is packed for both retail and foodservice sales. The Honey Drop™ has a shelf life of one year and contains no artificial coloring, flavoring or preservatives. For more information, visit [www.NoStickyFingers.com](http://www.NoStickyFingers.com).

### **Honey's Nutritional Profile**

Honey is composed primarily of carbohydrates and water, and also contains small amounts of a wide array of vitamins and minerals, including niacin, riboflavin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium and zinc. Of recent interest is the antioxidant content of honey. Honey contains a variety of flavonoids and phenolic acids, which act as antioxidants, scavenging and eliminating free radicals. Generally, darker honeys have higher antioxidant content than lighter honeys.

### **Directions to Rocky Hill Grange**

From the north: route #95 south to exit 8, then right onto route #2 south. Go through first set of lights, and Grange is about 200 yards on the left, just past the Walgreen's store in shopping center on left.

From the south: take route #4 north to exit #8B. Go to 3<sup>rd</sup> set of lights and then turn left onto route #2 south

or take route #95 north to exit 8A. Bear right onto route #2, and go through first set of lights. Grange is about 200 yards on the left.

### **RI Beekeepers Association**

#### **OFFICERS**

##### **President**

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##### **RIBA WebSite**

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