



August 2008

# Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Beekeepers Association  
PO Box 31, Ashaway, RI 02804. <http://www.ribeekeeper.org>

## Monthly Meeting July 13 2008

This month's meeting was held at Faella Farm, Peace Dale, RI, and hosted by Martha and Chris Faella. Big thanks to them for allowing us to enjoy their garden on a Sunday afternoon.

## Treasurers Report

Bill provided a breakdown of the past month's transactions, showing more expenditure than income. Our account balances are in good shape. The Association benefits from the upcoming events by selling members' honey, however we do need to be open to revenue-generating possibilities. A few people pointed out that we are able to sell by-products as well as honey at the shows. Beeswax products such as lip balm and candles are very popular. RIBA takes a percentage of all sales on behalf of members; 5% if the member is a volunteer at the event, and 15% if not a volunteer.

## BeeLearn

At the last meeting we presented the proposed BeeLearn bylaws for approval. The deadline for amendments was the date of this meeting, July 13 2008. No comments, adverse or favourable, were received by the executive board by this date so it was

## Executive Board Meeting

A few of us met Thursday 7/10 but most exec board members were absent so a formal meeting was not held.

## Next Meeting

Sunday Aug 10 @ 2 PM

Home of Kate Malmborg  
1775 Snake Hill Road  
Chepachet, RI 02814  
(401) 568-2766

Bring Chairs, Veils, Dessert  
Directions on back

## Lou's Workshop

"Getting Ready for Fall" is the next theme. Date is August 9th at 2 PM. Cal 285-0888 if weather is questionable and reserve.

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## **Ticks**

We try to remind you about ticks and Lyme disease each year. Many beeyards are in suspect areas containing ticks. The body's immune system is not set off by a tick bite. As a result, it is important to tuck your pant legs into your socks to prevent these from attaching to your legs. A bite is identified as looking like a bulls-eye - a red center. When you shower, check your back, legs, underarms. Should you have a tick attached to your skin, use tweezers to remove. Grasp at the head and pull out. Get medical attention immediately.

## **Extracting Bees**

In order to get honey you need 40 – 60,000 bees (you can count them) and if you are fortunate to have a nice fall crop you have to think ahead. Your honey supers are full of bees and they have to be removed.

You can purchase a bee-escape board or a fume board. The escape board consists of channels which allow the bees to exit the super, but does not let them re-enter. The board is placed between the top brood super and the bottom honey super. Using the board you have to figure 1 day per super to be free of bees, and yet some still remain.

If you have 3 honey supers you have to wait 3 days. This can cause a problem if rain is forecast in the near future – and honey absorbs much moisture, and extracting not recommended.

I used a fume board with good results. It looks like a top cover but underneath is a padding of cotton felt. You spray the felt with a sweet smelling liquid which the bees find offensive. The supers are free of bees within an hour. The top of the fume board is metal, and when the sun heats it, the applied liquid is quickly evaporated forcing the bees out.

Plan ahead for whichever means you wish to use. The liquid in question is “Fischers Bee Quick”.

## **How Are The Bees?**

Reports this month of still a lot of swarms and not many losses. Ed Lafferty remains this years single-person swarm generator but has also nearly doubled

his colonies as a result; fortunately he recaptured all swarms.

The nectar flow is still on in many parts of the state; people are reporting lots of liquid but not much capping though.

## **Events Coming Up**

Washington County Fair, August 13th - 17th, 2008.

August 13th - 17th, 2008

Last year the RI Rural Development Council allowed us to share their fairground building with RIFCO, RI DEM Div of Ag, and USDA Farm Service and this year they are offering the same facility. It was an invaluable exposure; honey was not offered for sale but it was a chance to answer visitors' questions and distribute information.

Volunteers are needed. Mark Robar is the Association organizer for this event. Bob, Anne, Mike and Bonnie put their names forward but if others can spare some time please email Mark Mike Southern.

Saturday, September 27 - Sunday, September 28, 2008

<http://www.newportfestivals.com/Taste-of-Rhode-Island>

## **Cooking With Class**

Chef Frank Terranova may join us for Harvest Dinner in October. Chef Terranova is best known in RI from “Cooking With Class”. He and his family are honey fans; his daughter is a news producer and collects honey from all over the world. He is interested in doing recipes using honey - especially if it's from RI bees.

The plan is to do a week "on RIBA" with programs shooting in August to air the week before the Harvest Dinner, where Frank and/or JWU students may participate in the annual honey judging contest.

### **Upcoming RIBA Meetings**

The next meeting is August 10th at 2pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Kate Malmborg, 1775 Snake Hill Road, Chepachet, RI 02814.

The September meeting will be at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. Details to follow.

### **RIBA Equipment – Extractors**

The association owns three extractors. They are kept ready for use at the homes of: -

Bernie Bieder (401) 463-8654 or [beeman704@verizon.net](mailto:beeman704@verizon.net) in the Warwick & South County areas.

Ed Lafferty (401) 353-6644 or [FruitHillApiary@Verizon.net](mailto:FruitHillApiary@Verizon.net) for the North Providence and Woonsocket areas.

Martha Faella (401) 783-7437 or [marthafaella@yahoo.com](mailto:marthafaella@yahoo.com) for South County.

The charge to members is \$10 for three nights and two days. It was proposed and seconded that we do not allow non-members to rent RIBA equipment. The vote was unanimously in favor of the proposal.

### **EAS**

The meeting voted favorably on the proposal to make a commitment to hosting EAS in Rhode Island in 2011. To date Mark Robar, Ed Lafferty (RIBA EAS Representative) and others have worked hard making contacts and establishing a global view of the tasks involved in this venture. Volunteers were asked for, and ten members answered the call and offered their services. A lot more volunteers are needed, many of them much closer to the event date in 2011, but one of the first things to do is to look at the breakdown

EAS provides, listing what the host organizers will need to do and what EAS themselves can provide.

Having reaffirmed our commitment to a 2011 hosting, Everett will make contact with EAS' Mr. Jim Bob and set up a meeting with him to discuss next steps.

Anybody who is willing to add their names to the list of volunteers please email me directly ([mike.southern@cox.net](mailto:mike.southern@cox.net)).

There is a huge tourism aspect to hosting EAS, and it also makes it possible for RI beekeepers to attend this exciting conference where normally the cost of attending would be prohibitive. It's a great opportunity!

### **RIBA Website**

The meeting agreed that it was an effective use of the website to allow members to advertise their products for purchase by other members. Several folks sell jars, woodenware, packages etc, and by allowing them to advertise we should benefit member buyers and sellers alike. Some members have already made contact and all others who wish to use this facility can email me at [mike.southern@cox.net](mailto:mike.southern@cox.net).

### **For The Ladies**

#### Facial cleanser

Dissolve 2 tbsp of honey in 2 tbsp warm water, then adding six more tbsp of warm water

*From New York Times Dr. Eva Crane obituary*

## Honey Face Pack

1 egg yoke with 1 tsp glycerin or 1 tsp fine  
Oatmeal or 1 tsp sour cream

Cleanse the skin thoroughly. Apply a hot compress  
for 2 to 3 minutes to open the pores and improve  
circulation. Apply face pack in a thin layer of cotton  
and leave for 15 to 20 minutes. Wash off with warm  
water.

*“A Book of Honey” by Eva Crane*

## **Directions to the Malmborg Home**

Directions: Take Rte 6 west from Providence until it  
turns into 101 west. Travel on 101 west until the  
intersection with Rte 102 (Country Bistro Restaurant  
on corner). Stay on 101 west another 3.5 miles to the  
second yellow flashing light. Turn right on to Pray  
Hill Road. Go two miles. Pray Hill Road turns into  
Snake Hill Road. Look for the yellow house on the  
left.

### **RI Beekeepers Association OFFICERS**

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#### **RIBA WebSite**

[www.ribeekeeper.org](http://www.ribeekeeper.org)

For the online list of officers go to:  
<http://www.ribeekeeper.org/officers.php>