



Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

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

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Jeff Pettis to speak at our Harvest Dinner

Dr Jeff Pettis is head of the USDA Maryland Honeybee Research lab. He is working on the cutting edge of CCD research and will present the latest findings on colony collapse disorder

The Dinner will be held at Richmond Grange, 690 Usquepaugh Road (Rte 138), West Kingston RI 02892, on October 4th 2008. The cost will be \$15 and you can pay at the door.

Agenda

The Grange will probably be open from 2pm and members are welcome to arrive between 2 and 3 - mixing and mingling is encouraged!

Arrival: Saturday, October 4, 3 p.m.

Mix and Mingle: 3:30 - 5:30

Silent Auction: 4:00 - 5:00

Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m to include Salad, Veggies, World famous Johnny cakes, Stuffed chicken breast, dessert and coffee - You won't leave hungry!

Dr Jeff Pettis: 7:00

We may also have a frame-making contest.

Silent Auction

Wanted: items for our dinner auction. Must be in good condition and don't have to be bee related



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).

RIBA Members meeting September 2008

This month's meeting was held at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown RI (<http://www.normanbirdsanctuary.org/>). A delightful setting, and one that we hoped would attract members from the Bay's east side. We had a good turnout! Mark took a quick head count of about 50 including a greater-than-usual number of very interested children. Excellent.

The "how are the bees" discussion revealed an air of normality. Maybe a few absconsions, the occasional problem such as one member having no brood for a couple of weeks. Interestingly, swarms are still being collected and are not equaled by a similar number of losses so the overall "bee-count" in RI seems to be positive.

Along these lines, we decided that a "swarm control" segment would be a good subject for a future meeting.

The e-board minutes were mentioned. I had not had time to write up formal minutes but the e-board agenda included

- o The Newsletter; useful as stick or carrot
- o Advertising to attract attendance
- o Are we ready for bee school
- o Is it OK to make a profit?

The last item referred to how RIBA can benefit its members by selling their honey at events and advertising goods and services on the Association website. The overall idea is that we should continue to provide membership value but the discussion did not produce any firm resolution. For those interested, the website does currently show goods available for sale by members (woodware, jars etc) and this function is currently open to all members. Contact me if you need more information.

Forthcoming events will include Warwick Mall but will not include either the Scituate Arts Fair or Taste of Rhode Island. We were reliant on the Farmers Market in Scituate and they have pulled out. Next year we will work directly with the Fair organizers so we are able to control our own appearance there. The Taste of Rhode Island stall fee is over \$300 and because of the shortage of volunteers we decided that this year we would not do it.

Despite these cancellations it is important that we make an appearance at these shows - it helps members and it helps the public know who we are; it directly relates to the subject of adding value for members.

In planning for next year, I and Everett will outline what we see as the events for 2009 and make sure we have a good process for getting volunteers and organization in good time for each event. I intend to get a draft proposal in time for the October meeting.

The EAS committee will begin to start work in earnest this month. We have a task list - supplied by EAS; Ed Lafferty and Dr Jane will

begin to work with the current volunteers to start to understand this list and develop their plans.

Celeste has updated the Library List and by the time you get this it should be online. There are over two pages of titles available.

Lisa organized the meeting's raffle. Seems like everyone won except for me ...

The latter part of the afternoon was spent listening to Everett's Integrated Pest Management presentation. This was a follow-up to Jim Lawson's talk at the start of the summer and concentrated on mites and a number of "soft" strategies available to contain them and reduce their numbers. The presentation was accompanied by a slide show presentation which I am trying to get viewable online. We were going to do the presentation outside and actually see some hives being treated but the weather was a little too overcast for that.

The next meeting is the Harvest Dinner, to be held at The Grange in Richmond. Full directions at the back of this newsletter. The meeting will also feature speaker Jeff Pettis, head of the USDA Maryland Honeybee Research lab. Jeff is working on the cutting edge of CCD research and will present the latest findings on colony collapse disorder.

And lastly - if this newsletter is out in time - watch Cooking with Class during the week of September 29th. Frank gives us a mention and uses our honey in his recipes that week.

Honey Bound

You will hear this term "honey bound" mentioned in the Spring and the Fall. We have our monthly meetings in order to increase members' knowledge, and honey bound was demon-

strated at our spring meeting at Smith's Nursery. Our member host was Ed Lafferty. He removed a center brood frame from one of his hives. When it was halfway out, Lou Chasse said a "oh oh!". The frame looked good, a border of pollen on top - and honey below. Looked good, didn't it? Well, not so good. Why? The queen had no room to lay eggs. That's why Lou said "oh oh!"

With winter coming, the queen must have room to deposit eggs and have new young bees for better survival. Your mouse guards should be in place, the honey supers off, and you have treated for Varroa and Nosema.

Check your brood frames and see that your queen is not honey bound. If she is, remove a center frame or two and replace with drawn comb. If no drawn comb, add foundation and feed with sugar water (2:1 ratio). Doing so in the spring could eliminate swarming. The queen needs room.

Honey Tips

One of the most interesting feature of our October 4th field day is the judging of honey. Many of our New Bees may be hesitant about submitting an entry. You have not made the honey - the bees have done the work, but you may be in a great location for them to gather nectar. You could have a great crop of honey! By entering you will also learn and correct any problems. Don't be shy - please enter and learn. For the past few years, my honey as well as several others has been rejected due to excess moisture content. To combat this, I purchased screens to take the place of the inner cover, this allows for better circulation of the air and hopefully reducing moisture content. Last year I did not have this trouble - 18.6 moisture content is the limit.

Getting down to submitting honey for judging:

1. Use a glass 1 pound queenline jar free of blemishes and no labels or identification
2. When filling jar, tip at an angle to reduce air bubbles
3. Fill high enough so that there is no light showing between cap and honey
4. The top must be clean on the inside. Put plastic wrap under cap, and remove when it is on judging table.

Cooking With Class

This is a very exciting event! Chef Frank 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 try and catch it of you can!

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