



# Newsletter

Vol. 3, 3rd Quarter Fall Issue 2011

## Successful EAS Annual Meeting in Rhode Island

By Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban  
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The Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS), one of the largest and most influential professional associations of beekeepers in the United States, held its annual meeting in Rhode Island July 25-29, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick. Nearly 500 beekeepers and interested persons from all over the country and from RI were in attendance. Many of the nation's top beekeepers, scientists, and educators made presentations and offered hands-on practical advice throughout the week long meeting. These included short courses on queen rearing, hive management and a variety of subjects conducted in the bee yard



Jane Dennison, and Celeste Nadworny work the EAS reception desk

during the first two days of the meeting during which RIBA leaders Jeff McGuire, Everett Zurlinden, and Ed Lafferty assisted as "bee wranglers". Three days of plenary presentations and workshops took place during the remaining three days of the conference. The plenary sessions featured national figures in American beekeeping such as Randy Oliver's two days of presentations on bee health basics, David Tarpy on the genetics of queens and drones

and D. Mendes and J. Miller on moving bees for pollination on the East and West coasts, respectively. Some of the latest bee research was presented by Student Award winner Elina Lastro Nino on "Queens and Queen/worker Interaction" and Jay Evans Hambleton Award winner on "Beeconomics and Bee Health."



Ocean State follies performed at EAS, Charlie Hall, as comic Bee



Volume 3, 3rd Quarter

Fall 2011 Issue

### Inside this issue:

EAS meeting in RI	1, 2, 3
Member Photos	2
Healing with honey	3, 6, 7
Summer, Fall Honey Report	5, 9, 10
Honey and Wounds	7, 8
Beekeeping in Croatia,	10
Recipes	10

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- Celeste Nadworny, Librarian; [fruihillpiaries@verizon.net](mailto:fruihillpiaries@verizon.net)
- Jim Lawson, Bee Inspector, (401) -222-2781

**Join RIBA, Become a Member, attend informative meetings, Receive the Quarterly Newsletter**

Send your name, address and phone number and \$15 annual membership dues to:

RIBA  
c/o Anthony DiGiulio  
PO Box 114014  
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02911-0214

Make the check payable to, "RIBA".

Include your email address if you prefer to receive information electronically, or by post at your home address.

**Fall Tips Cont'd**

5. Combine weak hives with stronger ones, completed by Thanksgiving

6. TREAT: recommended, either Thymol in August; Formic Acid in September; Mite Away Quick Strips, September – October

Avoid Apistan, bees resistant to its active ingredient, Fluvalinate

**SUMMER & FALL  
PHOTO ENTRIES**

*Send your photos for the next issue to [cfluehr@ric.edu](mailto:cfluehr@ric.edu)*



*Bee on Trumpet vine, Paul Maziarz (above)  
Bee on Purple Loosestrife, Sanne Kure –Jensen*



**Tips for Fall Beekeeping**

Everett Zurlinden (speaking at the September RIBA meeting)

1. Assess your hives, count your frame of honey to equal 60-80 lbs of honey to survive the winter.
2. Remove supers to force nectar & honey storage for winter survival
3. If insufficient stores feed 2:1 or 1:1 syrup until Halloween
4. Check for brood pattern in frames; 5 frames of brood needed for sufficient number of winter bees; if insufficient feed to simulate queen production

**EAS in RI, (cont'd from p. 1)**

Twenty-four different workshops were held during the last two days of the meeting on diverse subjects from bee diseases and pesticides to artisanal honey tasting and bee sting therapy. Four workshops were offered by RIBA members: Drs. Allen and Jane Dennison led workshops on "Healing Wounds and Repelling Super bugs with Honey" and Allen Dennison gave a talk on "Honey as a Healer of Burns and Wounds: History, Chemistry and Medicine." Lynn Davignon led a workshop on lip balms and lotion; Betty Mencucci led a workshop on beeswax candle making; and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban led two workshops on decorating Ukrainian eggs, dyed using beeswax. RIBA provided many volunteers for the week, all coordinated by Jane Dennison who worked the reception desk and acted as moderators for workshops. Celeste Nadworny and many other volunteers staffed the reception desk for the week, an effort that received high praise from the conference organizers at the closing session. RIBA volunteers were identified by their yellow hats as local resource people. Betty Mencucci was responsible for all vendors, including a RIBA table coordinated by Celeste Nadworny at which RIBA hats and T-shirts were on sale. The attractive EAS/RI T-shirts were a strong seller.

**EAS cont'd from p. 2****Social Events and Entertainment**

During the mid-week evening Social RIBA sponsored an evening of entertainment featuring local favorite Charlie Hall and the Ocean State Follies "Misbeehaving in Rhode Island" whose bee antics and parodies charmed the audience. More fun was provided by Bill Turnbull, British author of "Confessions of a Bad Beekeeper" whose tales held something for nearly every beekeeper. Outgoing EAS president Everett Zurlinden summarized the conference and the year and exhorted all to attend next year's EAS meeting in Vermont.

A highly successful fundraiser auction was organized by RIBA stalwart Celeste Nadworny. A very attractive commemorative EAS 2011 T-shirt was produced and offered for sale at the RIBA table, as well as RIBA worker bee caps. Haagen Daas ice cream company, noted for its support of honey bee research, donated enough of its products to satisfy the sweet tooth of the attendees during various afternoon breaks during the week. RIBA member Shelly Arena arranged local tours of Providence and Newport for the visiting beekeepers and their families.

**I CAN CURE WOUNDS WITH HONEY AND SO CAN YOU**

By Allen Dennison, M.D.

I spoke at the EAS Meeting, my literature review and work among the elderly with in healing wounds with honey based on 30 years of office practice and work as a medical Director of a Nursing home Evergreen House Health Center, East Providence. I remember a comic TV routine with Mel Brooks interviewing Sid Caesar posing as a great Egyptologist. "So professor, what is the secret of Tutenkammen's Tomb?" Quips Caesar, "Twenty years of research and I should tell you?"

I am going to tell you. Speaking of Egyptian tombs, did you know that urns of honey were found undegraded in several tombs in ancient Egypt? This tells volumes about the amazing chemical nature of honey for wound-healing, to say nothing of the long association of the bees and humans.

How does honey help to heal wounds and why is it superior to neosporin, bacitracin and prescription mupirocin (bactroban)? Honey is bee spit but it is also their energy currency and their bank account. Just as "people get funny about their money" so, too, do bees get funny about their honey. They hate bears, bacteria and yeasts that may steal or spoil the honey. For the bears they have stingers, for the micro-organisms they put amazing stuff in the honey. They also seal the hive with an antimicrobial substance called propolis.

**Fall Monthly Meeting Schedule**

**October 2 meeting, 1PM  
FALL HARVEST DINNER, The Pines, speaker:  
Keith Delaplane (check  
RIBA website)**

**November 13 meeting, 2PM**

**December 11 meeting, 2PM**

(November & December meetings at the Rocky Hill Grange unless otherwise notified)

Check RIBA website for more details as the dates approach. Directions at RIBA website:  
[www.ribeekeeper.org](http://www.ribeekeeper.org)

**All of the fall meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Rocky Hill Grange at 2:00 unless announced otherwise.**


Check the website for meeting notices: [www.ribeekeeper.org](http://www.ribeekeeper.org)

Directions to Rocky Hill Grange, 1340 S. County Trail (Rt. 2), East Greenwich: I-95 North or South, Exit 8/RI 25/ Quaker Ln. (8 from south, 8A from north. Merge on to Rt 2 south, go thru light at division St, Grange is on left after shopping center



## TOP THIRTEEN REASONS YOU KNOW YOU ARE A BEEKEEPER

*By Charlie Hall, Ocean State Follies, presented at EAS/RI July 27, 2011*

1. The windshield of your vehicle has at least two yellow dots on it.
  2. You pull over and check the bees on the wildflowers just to see if they are YOUR bees, and you can tell the difference.
  3. The school principle calls to ask that you never again let your child take a drone tied with a thread to school for show and tell.
  4. You check out all of the honey labels and prices at the supermarket.
  5. You're referred to by friends and neighbors as the BEE GUY or BEE LADY.
  6. You know the bloom period of more local flowers than the state horticulturalist.
  7. Your family and friends know exactly what they're going to get for Christmas.
  8. There is propolis on the steering wheel of your vehicle, the bottom of your boots and on your bed sheets.
- 
9. You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.
  10. You come home smelling like a camp fire, and you haven't been camping.
  11. You saw 'Ulee's Gold' and didn't think there were enough shots of bees.
  12. You've gone through the supermarket checkout lines buying nothing more than bags of sugar and Crisco.
  13. You welcome a rainy weekend if it will stimulate nectar production
- >>><<<

### BEES and HUMANS

*NO Bees— NO Honey*

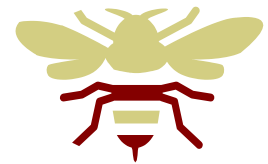
*NO Work — NO Money!*

### Simple Wax Moth and Yellow Jacket Pest Control

RIBA President Jeff McGuire recommends the following easy recipe for reducing destructive wax moths and pesky yellow jackets:

Create an insect sized opening in a one liter soda bottle, add a cup of water, 1/4 sugar, several tablespoons of cider vinegar and one banana peel.

Place several of these bottles with this special concoction in your bee yard and marvel at the results .



**FALL HARVEST DINNER**  
1 pm Sunday  
**OCTOBER 2, 2011**

**The Pines,  
Smithfield, RI**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Keith Delaplane,**  
*Professor & Director  
Bee Research & Education  
University of Georgia*

**Topic:** *The Superorganism and Why it Matters.* Consider the colony, not the individual bee, as the unit of natural selection and how Superorganism theory helps beekeepers understand what they see in colonies and better manage them for health and productivity.

## Late Summer, Early Fall Honey Report

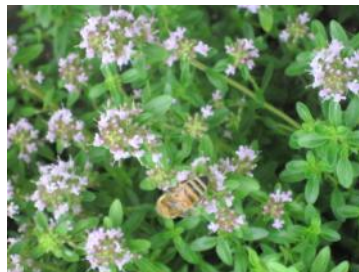
James Praski

James.Praski@ams.usda.gov

*Thanks to Jim for his interesting honey reports that appear as a regular feature of the RIBA Newsletter. Jim would like to hear from you with your observations and any information regarding your hives.*

New England weather from June through August for the month of June generally ranged from cool to mild with a few very hot and humid days and plenty of rainfall for ideal soil moisture conditions. In June topsoil moisture levels have been perfectly suited to foster an early, full and complete ornamental/floral bloom. Early and frequent rainfall washed out many seasonal nectar and pollen sources especially black locust, autumn olive, staghorn and smooth/shiny sumac. Many floral, pollen and nectar sources bloomed earlier than usual such as grass clovers, honeysuckle, wildflowers, herbs, knapweed, loosestrife, catalpa, and buckwheat as well as linden (basswood), tulip popular, sumac, black locust and blooming fruit trees and vegetable crop plantings. An excellent bloom was from berry crops especially strawberries. Vegetable crops showing good bloom were tomatoes, peppers, squash and pumpkins. In regional pocket areas where weather was clearly seasonal, colony

colony strength numbers increased dramatically and swarms were numerous. Reportedly, some keepers lost hives due to a continuance of rain preventing bees from foraging, thus there was no surplus honey stores and nectar sources were not fully processed. Consequently, unchecked hives ran out of stores and the bees starved to death. The wet weather kept bees home bound thus drawing and honey production slowed with honey supers not filling up with some keepers feeding, particularly this year's new hives. Many keepers reported that the spring/early summer honey harvest was delayed by 2-3 weeks due to the several spells of cold, wet weather. Many keepers expressed their delight in the early extraction



Bee on summer thyme,  
Paul Maziarz

of extremely lightly colored honey from black locust trees. The amber colored seems to be sourced from dandelion, Dutch clover and yellow sweet clover. Purportedly, bees have been very calm with very little aggression this year as compared to previous years. They seem less aggressive and busier attending to business. Noticeably different this year is the overabundance of burr comb and propolis and mite populations are noticeably low as well. Reportedly so far there have

been very few pest problems. No American foul brood or pronounced tracheal mites infestations have been reported to date. Additionally, the varroa mite and hive beetle counts have not been high enough to seriously hurt hives. Honey production was much lower than normal due in large part to the cooler, wet weather. June should be a major honey producing month for the Northeast, but we lost several weeks of production due to the wet weather.

**July-August** New England weather for July and August had average temperatures and above normal high humidity. The latter part of the month of July weather was idyllic; blue skies, low wind, near perfect temperatures and average temperatures were generally above normal with warm to hot days and mild to warm nights. Intermittent rain showers produced a sufficient amount of moisture for nectar and pollen producing plants thus creating ample topsoil levels across most of the region. Beekeepers reported perfect timing and progression of early summer blooming ornamentals. This perfect timing meant a steady flow of pollen and nectar that should have added up to one of the best summer seasons on record. These conditions also mean the added bonus of abundant comb honey without the headaches of wax robbing. Most keepers reported a quick summer buildup of good capped brood patterns, solid foundations of second brood boxes with double supers quickly filled with honey. Some keepers advised to keep sugar feedings in order to strengthen nectar buildup. doubled in size. (cont'd on p. 9)

### Dennison, from p. 3

Honey is a mixture of concentrated sugars that immediately dehydrate a bacterial cell, rendering it immobile, though without necessarily killing it. Young Dr. Keith Monchik, of the Orthopedic Service at Rhode Island Hospital (RIH), went to Haiti with our team from the Ocean State to treat earthquake victims. They ran out of usual wound-care creams quickly but a senior military nurse reminded the team that sugar packs from their rations always work in a pinch to keep a wound from getting infected through the same mechanism. He reported gratifying results to the RIH medical staff.

The high osmotic value of honey draws fluids out of wounds. This decreases tissue pressure, thus admitting more new blood, with, of course, oxygen, as well as healing elements and protective immune-system cells. As the fluid hits the honey, small amounts of hydrogen peroxide are produced, very toxic to bacteria but not to fibroblasts and healing elements. Honey derived from medicinally active nectars such as tea tree and eucalyptus may have additional value, and the Food and Drug Administration has allowed their importation and marketing.

Topical antibiotic creams and ointments — both over the counter and prescription — are commonly used for skin infections and wound healing. These include neosporin, bacitracin,

“triple-antibiotic” ointments and mupirocin. They sterilize the wound but also kill healing elements, leading to delayed wound closure. And they often lead to confusing red hypersensitivity reactions.

Additionally, more and more bacteria are growing resistant to antibiotics, which is a terrific threat to all of us. Some are costly. We should avoid these like the plague. My wife, Jane Dennison, M.D., is a pediatrician and beekeeper. As our house experienced colony collapse with drone migration of our four boys to New York City and Washington, my wife had the time to take the Bee Course offered by Rhode Island Beekeepers Association (RIBA) and start some hives. At the monthly RIBA meetings I spoke with the older beekeepers and was fascinated to learn of honey’s medicinal benefits. Some of the older beekeepers suggested that I try using honey mixed with Aquaphor ointment on my patients with minor wounds and ulcers. Honey at body temperature gets runny and dribbles on clothes, leading to poor treatment adherence. Aquaphor was already my favorite healing ointment. It is well-suited to mixing in equal parts with honey because the lanolin and mineral oil holds both aqueous and oily parts together to treat a wound.

Mixing large batches with the help of my mother in law, Jane Mackenzie, R.N., is sticky busi-

ness indeed. She helps me pot it into little cosmetic jars for use in the nursing home. We heat the aquaphor to 110 degrees in the microwave but never put raw honey in the microwave because it would ruin its special qualities. And I urge you all: “Do this at home!” You can’t buy it already made up.

If I were to try to sell this as a medicament, the Food and Drug Administration could have me jailed and impound all my ointment, because adequate studies on the effectiveness and safety of this compound have not been done. However, two imported products, Medihoney and Manuka Honey, have passed FDA approval for wound-healing. They are derived from the eucalyptus and tea tree plant, respectively, whose nectars have supposedly superior qualities. These honeys are irradiated to inactivate trace amounts of botulinum toxin and bacteria.

I believe that raw honey needs no such help and that such help might even be counter-productive. This treatment and the importation increases the cost of treatment, with small tubes going for \$50 to \$100. I insist on the real thing when treating serious or stubborn wounds but for everyday use the product from your home lab will work very well on your cuts, burns and skin tears.

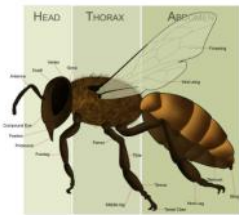
If you have diabetes and/or congestive heart failure peripheral arterial-supply problems, no ointment is going to help. The problem is under the skin. You need a doctor for it. I invite colleagues and hospitals

Dennison, cont'd from p. 6

to begin randomized controlled trials on using local raw honey head to head against imported honey and the usual wound-care products. My hypothesis is that we can control, at low cost, such superbugs as methacillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus and the emergence of further resistant superbugs by avoiding the usual antibiotics.

Meanwhile, we'd be encouraging the development of new local hives, which are so important to pollination — and thus plant life and the broader eco-system — nationally. You may be interested in using bee stings to treat disease and honey to desensitize yourself to allergies.

(This article originally appeared in the Providence Journal, July 22, 2011, & is reprinted for its wealth of information)



### HONEY AND WOUND THERAPY, Allen Dennison's Workshop at EAS



Allen Dennison held two workshops at the EAS meetings that were well-

attended and which contained much historical, scientific and practical information. Few in the audience needed to be convinced of honey's healing properties, but they were keen to learn how to make their own salves and to observe treatment of volunteers. Dr. Dennison treated a woman at one of his workshops whose diagnosis was peripheral edema with venous stasis dermatitis; she had a nasty rash. He noted that the honey dressing would be helpful, but not by itself sufficient in many cases such as this. He also treated a post-surgical wound on his abdomen. He advised that Medical Grade honey must never be heated or diluted with water, however an ointment preparation is fine and may have the effect preventing airborne moisture from defeating the effect of the honey. Although human use is still in its early stages in the US, veterinarians and physicians outside the US use irradiated honey for deep wounds with dead tissue.

New Zealand Medi-honey or Manuka honey are popular choices for commercial varieties known as Mesitran. Medeco is available in The Netherlands for animal use in a bitter tasting oil vehicle to discourage licking of the wound by the animal patients. Dr. Dennison noted, "We trust even our least reliable human patients not to lick the dressing." Other wounds do very well with raw local honey. Granulated honey is particularly good as it dribbles less and has stored osmotic capacity. Creamed honey is unsuited to wound dressing as it has been heated and stirred which inactivates the valuable glucose oxidase and other enzymes. With regard to treating a burn, Dr. Dennison recommends cooling and hydration with ice and/or cold water for no less than 15 minutes. Application of raw honey is recommended and leaving it uncovered is optimal as a dressing may cause abrasion and discomfort.

*Alyssa Fine, Honey Princess assists Allen Dennison at EAS workshop, cont'd on p. 8*



Since burns are usually on exposed skin, this approach is usually feasible. His ointment (see recipe below) on a burn will not be as comfortable. It will last longer, however, if a three time a day application of raw honey is inconvenient. Honey based dressings are usually safe for every other day changes: a huge improvement in convenience, cost, and pain. It can be covered with standard gauze or telfa dressing, as preferred. The patient should be encouraged to experiment. Pain medication should be used especially for dressing changes: ibuprofen (motrin), naproxen (aleve) or even an opiate painkiller such as hydrocodone (vicodin) prescribed by the treating doctor.

### Allen Dennison's Wound Healing Ointment

For First Aid Kits. Use raw honey directly on any wound or dressing. In contrast, this compound is convenient when there is concern about dribbling and will cause a dressing to last 1-2 days.

Take 14 oz of Aquaphor (Biersdorf USA) and heat to 105 degrees in Microwave and transfer to mixing bowl

Use empty aquaphor container to measure out same volume of raw honey; Mix with hand mixer 3 minutes

Decant into cosmetic jars and label with your name and date

Jane and Allen Dennison  
[jamdmd@aol.com]

### Bibliography on Honey Therapy, compiled by Allen Dennison

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### Meads around the World

#### Central African Republic

Hydromel in Central African Republic, made during honey harvest time, last month of dry season and first three months of the rainy season. Men collect the honey and women prepare. Honeycomb is crushed into hot water, then germinated with germinated sesame seeds are added for the fermentation process. Women may add a few coffee berries and crushed groundnut shells. Fermentation in a special pot made for the purpose. Traditionally shared with friends and neighbors but now also for women and microenterprise. Stronger spirits are made from corn and manioc.

*Culture and Customs of Central African Republic*, Jacqueline Woodfork, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT and London, 2006.



## Summer, Early Fall Honey Report,

Regarding brood comb, many beekeepers report that plastic frames and foundations have exhibited tube style patterns and bees set themselves differently according to white or black plastic with a preference for black being better accepted by the bees. Bees are primed for comb building and expansion at this time of the year. The main and most exceptionally productive pollen and nectar sources have been black locust (*Robinia pseudo acacia*), white Dutch clover (*trifolium repens*), multiflora rose, catalpa, smooth and shiny sumac, autumn olive (*elaegnus umbellate*), white and yellow sweet clover (pollen color is yellow to dark yellow), and various flowering trees especially tulip and Linden (basswood- which offers yellow to light orange pollen), chickweed (yellowish pollen), and meadow sweet (light olive colored pollen). Additional foraging sources regionally blooming at this time are; holly, cinquefoil, honey suckle, vetch, wild rose, ibota, ailanthus, calit privets and milkweed. Reportedly providing excellent bloom was blackberry, elderberry and cranberry. Vegetable crops were showing small flowers but best bloom was squash and pumpkins. Overall colonies were reported to be in great shape, good to excellent condition and exceptionally healthy. Farmers' markets have started and currently demand for honey is expected to pick up at near summers end with the advent of cooler weather and prices are expected to be slightly higher than last year.

August followed the same path as in July, with average to above-average temperatures combined with high humidity. Precipitation and soil moisture levels was average and held steady with light pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to slow and end quickly. New England experienced hot daytime temperatures in the high 80s and mid 90s and some very strong winds. Keepers reported that many bees are hanging outside the hives in order to escape the heat while others line up with their backs toward the entrance and fan their wings to create a cooling air flow through the hive. Many hives have bees bearding. Regionally there is a

a nectar dearth in late summer, so some keepers reportedly fed syrup when necessary. Foraging was difficult with so much heat and humidity. Many bees clustered by water sources which is customary for this season. Bees were putting foraged nectar and pollen into brood production. Keepers report that inexplicably this year they are noticing that there are not as many drones as with past years. They are observing that some drones in the pupae stage are being pulled from cells and dragged to the hive entrance which accounts for the low drone populations being reported. Bees worked black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife, wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), winded sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) are all in full bloom at this point in time. Honey flow slowed late in the summer as foraging sources became scarce, and brood rearing slowed but there's still a large population of bees. This is when some keepers will re-queen in order to coincide with the nectar dearth and re-super for the last nectar flow going into the fall. Keepers advise to extract honey as soon as possible and leave enough honey for the bees during August and September when nectar is scarce.

Late summer is traditionally busy for most beekeepers as they start making decisions about winter. It is still too early to assess the overall crop for the season as golden rod; knotweed and loosestrife are still blooming. At summer's end, reportedly most honey producers are calling it a so-so year, not the worst but definitely not a great season for honey yields. Varroa mites appeared to have been at

## Honey Report, cont'd

levels than the last two years and beekeepers are scrambling to treat in order to lower the mite populations. Additionally being reported is damage caused by small hive beetles and especially wax moth. Many keepers are experimenting with brood interruption for mite control. Secondly, keepers are requeening with local raised queens and this procedure seems to shut down brood production when nectar flows shut down. Early commercial crop pollination services fees ranged from \$60.00 to \$90.00 per hive colony depending on transportation cost requirements. Early harvested honey was some of the highest quality and lightly colored ever. Harvested honey was averaging 50 lbs per colony. The Italian and Russian honeybees have reportedly been the best honey producers, with keepers that have been successful with respectable honey production. Prices and demand for local and regional honey has been excellent and anyone with honey to sell is getting the best price and there is not enough to meet the demand. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb bottled units were \$7.00 to \$9.00 mostly \$9.00, occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with 5 gallon units at \$150.00 to \$200.00 mostly \$200.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

Bee & pollen on summer corn (cfl)



## Beekeeping in Croatia

by Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban

My husband and I met with a local beekeeper in Ston, Croatia while we were attending a conference in June. We also were introduced to a unique folk practice in neighboring Slovenia (both part of the former Yugoslavia) of painting beehives with charming and instructive images.

Langstroth hives predominate in modern beekeeping in Croatia, however in the past colonies were maintained in shallow caves and outcroppings in hilly areas. One well-known region is called "Pochelina," the Hill and Cave for Bees. We observed Langstroth hives dotting these same hills utilizing these centuries old favored locations. Many local feral hives in caves and hollow trees are still maintained and harvested. The bees forage heavily on rosemary and sage that grow wild in the countryside.

A problem familiar to American beekeepers is that Croatian bees are also leaving their hives and dying. Although our informant (working through a student translator) said that colony collapse is not in Croatia, what he described was eerily familiar to CCD. He acknowledged that the bees need greater protection in Croatia. The beloved "pichelitsa" (bees) are used as icons for many products and stores, and the Croatian queen, "kraniska chela" is a regionally strong and respected breed.

Look for a feature on the painted beehives of Slovenia in the winter issue of the RIBA Newsletter.

## HONEY RECIPES

**HONEY PUMPKIN PIE**

*1-1/2 c. cooked pumpkin*

*1/2 c. dry milk powder*

*1/2 tsp ginger; 1 tsp cinnamon*

*1-1/4 c. water*

*1/3 c. honey; 1 tsp. vanilla*

*3 eggs beaten*

*Mix dry ingredients. Add pumpkin, eggs, honey and vanilla. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake for 30-35 minutes longer.*

**HONEY BUTER**

*Blend one stick of room temperature butter with 1/2 c. honey. Beat at low speed with electric mixer until nice and fluffy. Serve with pancakes, waffles, etc.*

**The RIBA Quarterly Newsletter wants to improve education for beekeepers & public understanding of the importance of honey bees; send your ideas & suggestions to the editor: [cfluehr@ric.edu](mailto:cfluehr@ric.edu)**



## ***RULES & TIPS FOR FALL HONEY SHOW***

Judges for this year's Honey Show are Jason Kerr and his welcome new partner, Alec McLeod.

Jason offered the following helpful hints if you are entering your honey into the Honey Show:

1. Filter once, maybe twice
2. Let the honey settle overnight (at least) before bottling
3. Fill entries from the middle of the tank, not the bottom
4. Pour honey like you would beer, holding the jar at a gentle angle
5. Fill jars to the top of the first 'bead' on the neck of the jar
6. Bring an extra cap, so the cap is clean
7. Wipe the outside of the jar, so there are no smudges or fingerprints

The classes will be Dark Amber; Amber; and Light Amber.

Rules:

1. All entries **MUST** be in 1lb GLASS honey jars. (Queenline or Gamber)
2. **NO** labels.

You may submit multiple jars in multiple classes.

The moisture content of all honey entries will be measured by the judges. Any moisture level greater than 18.6% will be automatically disqualified. 18.6% is the "Grade A" honey standard.

## **Honey Extractors Available for use by RIBA Members**

Ed Lafferty, Fruit Hill Avenue, North Providence, call (401) 261-9641

Martha and Chris Faella, Peacedale, (401) 783-7437

Bernie Bieder, Warwick (401) 463-8654

**Terms:** All have hot knives. up to 3 days use; \$20 deposit and \$10 refund if returned clean.

**WANTED STORY IDEAS, WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, GRAPHIC ARTISTS WANTED FOR THE RIBA NEWSLETTER**

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR CAROLYN FLUEHR-LOBBAN AT: [cfluehr@ric.edu](mailto:cfluehr@ric.edu)

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The RI Beekeeper's Association is as strong as its membership would like to be. What can you do to strengthen this association? Our committee system works on the old saying many Hands make like the work. "We have a committee to fit every level of interest. How can we improve our organization?"

## **LOCAL PURVEYORS OF BEES AND BEE-KEEPING SUPPLIES**

### **Cottage Industry Apiary**

Louis J. Chasse II,

31 years RI manufactured fine woodenware with a 2009 price

### **Roger Robitaille**

### **D & R Honey Farm**

Package Bees & Queens

Bee removal; Pollination

Custom made Observation Hives; Hive Boxes

Cell: 401-378-3578

Email: [bhivedr@aol.com](mailto:bhivedr@aol.com)

### **Beehavin' Apiaries Everett Zurlinden**

Honey, Bees, Beekeeping supplies

[beehavin.com](http://beehavin.com) or

[everett@beehavin.com](mailto:everett@beehavin.com)

225 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 401-885-5172





## **RI Beekeepers' Association**

We're on the Web!

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

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Secretary  
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Cranston, RI 02905

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## **Headline**