



THE

APIARY NEWS



A publication of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association

The President's Message

By Mary Duane

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,

I would like to begin my term as President of the Worcester County Beekeepers by thanking the membership for electing me to serve. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the President of the oldest continuous (**and best**) beekeeping organization in the United States. I am a bit overwhelmed as I sit here writing my first article for the newsletter while contemplating the tremendous tradition that the WCBA has had in educating the public on the important role that bees play in our environment. However, with the support of a dedicated board of directors and outstanding membership, I am confident that we will cluster together to continue this proud tradition of excellence. It is a crucial time in beekeeping; many challenges lie ahead, from the Colony Collapse mystery to the most up to date information to deal with mites.

The WCBA would not be in such a solid state if it were not for the dedication of two very important individuals who have been integral in every aspect of the club. Sue Quirk has been very active in several WCBA leadership roles over the last 10 years. She served as Vice President for four years, President for four years and two years as treasurer. Bob DeBoer served as

Vice President for four years and President for two years. Thank you Sue and Bob for your dedication and contributions.

Two new members have agreed to serve on the board. Norman Mercier, from Oxford, will be serving as the new Vice President. Norman has been involved in beekeeping for the past few years. His numerous years working with the 4-H organization will be a benefit to the club. George O'Neil, from Barre, will be serving as the new treasurer. George has been an active new beekeeper and he has several hives. Thanks Norman and George.

The following people have graciously agreed to continue to serve on the board. Barbara McPhee, from Holden, will continue in her role as secretary, the "Bee Whisperer" Ken Warchol as

(Continued on page 2)



Germaine Laferriere helped with the WCBA table at the Spencer Fair once again this year.

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programs director, Cindy Terestre, as webmaster, Sara & Tom Gammell as club librarians, and Kathy de Graaf as newsletter editor. Thank you all for your continuous hard work.

I am looking forward to the many exciting programs scheduled for this fall. The October 13th meeting will be held in conjunction with the Massachusetts Beekeepers organization at our club location in Leicester. The annual Turkey Dinner meeting will be held on the Saturday Nov. 3rd. We have scheduled a well-known Worcester County horticulturalist, Paul Rogers, to be our speaker. The holiday dinner social will be at Leo's Restaurant in Worcester on December 1st. (Details and forms are inside this newsletter)

In closing, I would like to express how proud I am being a member of the WCBA. I have never been involved in an organization that works harder at supporting all of its members—from the beginner to the master beekeeper. I encourage you to help your club out. It's a great way to meet other members, learn new information, and find out how the club runs. Let's have a great year together!

**HONEY QUEEN SOUGHT BY WCBA!
HIGH PRIORITY MAIL!**

The WCBA is searching for a honey queen to represent us for the upcoming year. She will represent us at the Spencer Fair, the Flower Show and at the Bee School. This position does not take a tremendous amount of effort and is a great experience for any lady who would like to represent us educating the public about honeybees, honey and other related products. PLEASE APPLY with the form below. Ken Warchol will be in touch with you.

WCBA HONEY QUEEN APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Candidates must be at least 16 years old with no upper age limit

Please mail this form **by October 20th to:** Ken Warchol, 372 Cooper Road, Northbridge, MA 01534

“Working With the Bees” *By Armand Provost*

I've been using my solar wax melter and it's surprising to see how much different the angle of the sun gets each week. I have to keep moving the wax melter to another location to get away from the shadows of the trees in my yard. The solar wax melter works very good for me. I use a 1 pound cake pan, when full averages about a 3 lb cake of wax. One thing to remember it has to be a clear day with hardly any clouds to work well. Be careful if you take the cake pan out during the middle of the day. It can be very, very hot. I leave it in the melter over night and take it out in the morning. This way it cools down slowly and doesn't leave big cracks in the wax. It will shrink from the edges of the pan and make it easier to get out.

In June we were putting on many supers as the honey flow was coming in fast. By the end of June I had 4 honey super on. By the 12th of July, the 5th supers were going on. In August as usual some hives were doing better than others. At the time of this writing not much coming in. I hope by the time you read this that a good flow from golden rod has come in. I'll be taking my honey out of the hives at the end of August and then later get ready for medication to get rid of the mites.

I noticed this year that my lawn and others had loads and loads of clover. The most I've seen in years. At first it doesn't seem the bees are working it but if you look close and wait a few minutes you'll see them there along with the bumble bees.

We came away from our August meeting with a clear understanding about medicating our hives before winter. The hive was also inspected and checked to see how the queen was doing. Everything in the hive seems to be going well for the coming winter.

Looking forward to meeting all of you again at our monthly meetings and be happy with the bees.

A little saying from my desk calendar:

"ON THIS DAY! MEND A QUARREL, SEARCH OUT A FORGOTTEN FRIEND, DISMISS A SUSPICION AND REPLACE IT WITH TRUST"

Sterling Fair Results *Carol Palmer, Honey Chair*

Light Honey	1st Place and Champion with 99 points, Nicholas Avril
Dark Amber Honey	1st Place, Norman Mercier
Dark Honey	1st Place, Angela Graves
Shallow Extracting Frame	1st Place, Norman Mercier

Many thanks to Mike Bayko and Gus Skamarycz, who once again judged the honey exhibits at the Sterling Fair.

Spencer Fair News *by Mary Duane*

Glorious weather coupled with large crowds led to a very successful Spencer Fair. Over the course of four days, thousands of people stopped by the WCBA exhibit and learned about the importance and uniqueness of the honeybee. The activities ranged from kids making beeswax candles to searching for the unmarked queen in the observation hive.

Congratulations to Claude Booth, who won top state honors in the honey show with his flawless molded beeswax candles. Dianna Provencher won the best of honey show with her two 1-pound jars of honey entry, and Marie Bugbee won the best of cooking show with a delicious baklava recipe. Congratulations to all who entered the honey show. (Complete results on page 5.)

Special thanks to all the members who graciously volunteered their time to work at the WCBA booth. Special thanks also to David and Judy Bottom who set up a beautiful floral display that featured plants that attract honeybees, to Norman Mercier, John Sinacola, and Bob DeBoer for setting up the display area, and to Tom Gammell for making the hand cream.



Volunteers like Ron Michaud and Germaine Laferriere helped to make sure the club booth ran smoothly. Below, a variety of molded candles was available for sale.



The club raised funds by selling donated honey products at the booth. Thanks to the following people who donated honey and beeswax for sale at the fair: Gus Skamarycz (5 cases of honey), Eileen Clark, Bob DeBoer, Steve D'Aquila, Mary Duane, Bob Emond, Tom Gammell, Dave Hebert, Jan Karzan, Armand Provost, Brant Viner, and Ken & Deb Warchol. Funds raised at the Spencer Fair are used to support WCBA programs.

Spencer Fair Results

Honey Show

Class A-103 Shallow Extracting Frame

- 1st Norman Mercier
2nd George O'Neil
3rd Mary Duane

Class B-1 Articles made of Bees Wax

- 1st Mary Duane
2nd Claude Booth
3rd Sheila Halpe

Class B-2 Pair of Molded Candles

- 1st Claude Booth **State Award**

Class B-3 Pair of Dipped Candles

- 1st Claude Booth

B-111 Pieces of Bees Wax

- 1st Mary Duane
2nd Claude Booth

Class A-106 Light Honey

- 1st Norman Mercier
2nd Claude Booth
3rd Nicolas Avril

Class A-107 Light Amber Honey

- 1st Mary Duane
2nd Dianna Provencher
3rd George O'Neil

Class A-108 Amber Honey

- 1st Janet Leono
2nd Mike Standing

Class A-109 Dark Amber

- 1st Dianna Provencher **Best in Show**
2nd Janet Leone
3rd Roland Sevigny

Class A-110 Dark Honey

- 1st Norman Mercier

Cooking

Division I 100% Honey as the Sweetener

Class C-4 Bars or Brownies

- 1st Marie Bugbee **Best in Show**

Class C-5 Cake

- 1st Pat Sevigny

Class C-6 Yeast Bread

- 1st Pat Sevigny
2nd Jim Woulfing

Class C-7 Yeast Rolls

- 1st Pat Sevigny

Class C-8 Fancy Yeast Bread

- 1st Pat Sevigny

Class C-9 Quick Bread

- 1st Pat Sevigny

Class C-10 Pie

- 1st Pat Sevigny

Division II 50% Honey as the Sweetener

Class C-4 Bars or Brownies

- 1st Barbara McPhee

Class C-6 Yeast Bread

- 1st Jim Woulfing

Class C-12 Pie

- 1st Kim Houde

Class D-1 Observation Hive

- 1st Bob DeBoer

Class E-1 Crafts Related to Beekeeping

- 1st David Elliot
2nd Sheila Halper
3rd Dianna Provencher

Class F-1 Still Mead

- 1st Roland Sevigny
2nd Pat Sevigny
3rd Sara Gammell

WCBA Monthly Meetings

Saturday, October 13, 2007

Saturday Oct. 13, 2007

8:00am—3:30pm

**Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Leicester, MA**

**Mass Bee Fall Meeting
and Honey Show
Hosted by WCBA**

This will be an all day Saturday meeting sponsored by the Worcester County Beekeepers and Mass Bee Association. We have brought in several big name speakers to speak on pressing topics in beekeeping. The state honey show will also be held here on this day.

There will be **no cost** to Worcester County Beekeepers who will come in through the Worcester County table. However, if you want to purchase the catered soup and sandwich lunch you must send in the registration form (on page 10) with your check for \$10 dollars by October 7th. You may also choose to go to one of the nearby restaurants or sandwich shops such as Subway. The meeting schedule can be found below.

*WCBA members are encouraged to bring products and enter the state honey show. See the Mass Bee website for rules and regulations of honey show. The Worcester County Beekeepers will also have their antique collection on display. This should be an outstanding meeting and I encourage all members to attend. **We will also have a club meeting at which we will be voting on Beekeeper of the Year.***

Note: Our regular October chef supper will be moved to January.

AGENDA

8-9 A.M. Registration for meeting and Honey show

9 A.M. Scott Soares, Agriculture Commissioner *Opening Remarks*

Dan Conlon, MBA President *Welcome*

Ross Conrad (see page 8 for bio) *Natural Beekeeping*

Environmental Police *Bear Problems and the Responsibility of Beekeepers*

Dan Conlon *Best Management Practices*

Lunch

Ken Warchol *Overview of Beekeeping in Massachusetts*

Ross Conrad *Second Presentation (to be determined)*

Honey show winners announced along with raffle winners

3:30 P.M. (approximately) finish

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Thanksgiving Banquet

Date: Saturday Nov. 3, 2007 6 PM

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Leicester, MA

Speaker: Mr. Paul Rogers, Noted Horticulturalist

**Topic: The Dutch Gift to the World:
"Thousands of Spring Flowering Bulbs in bloom and on Parade"**

The Annual Thanksgiving Banquet is a time to reflect on the summers harvest and thank the bees for what they have done for us. We will start the Thanksgiving meal at 6 P.M. with turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert, and coffee. This will be followed by presentations for Beekeeper of the year, honey queen, Spencer Fair Award winners and appreciation awards. Paul Rogers will then do his presentation and that will be followed by our raffle for Thanksgiving baskets and other items. The club will purchase the food items for the four baskets. We ask members to bring items for our raffle such as wines, craft items, farm products, bee equipment etc. The proceeds will be for the benefit of our bee club which is in dire need of money for our treasury. All children will receive a special presentation as usual. I encourage all members to join me at this special event. Ken

Saturday, December 1, 2007

WCBA Annual Christmas Party

Date: Saturday December 1, 2007 5 PM

**Place: Leo's Ristorante
11 Brackett Court (off Shrewsbury Street)
Worcester, MA**

Speaker: Bee Talk and Socialization of Club Members

This is a low key event where club members can wine and dine for the evening and kick off the Holiday Season. We are at a new location this year at Leo's Ristorante in Worcester. We will have cocktails from 5-6P.M. which will include appetizer platters of veggies and cheese. This will be followed by the buffet meal which includes:

Antipasto, meatballs, sausage/peppers/onions,eggplant parmesan, chicken marsala, chicken and broccoli, sliced roast beef, rolls and butter, dessert, and coffee/tea.

This will be followed by a raffle for 2 \$50 gift certificates to Better Bee. We will also have a gift exchange following the meal. Please bring a gift for a male or female with a value up to 10 dollars to exchange. Mark it male or female or both. The cost for the meal will be \$20.00 including tax and tip. This is a chance to talk bees or about other things to your heart's content. We hope to see you all there on that evening.

About Ross Conrad

The various chemicals used in beekeeping have, for the past decade, held Varroa Destructor, a mite, and other major pests at bay, but chemical resistance is building and evolution threatens to overtake the best that laboratory chemists have to offer. In fact, there is evidence that chemical treatments are making the problem worse. In Natural Beekeeping, Ross Conrad flips the script on traditional approaches by proposing a program of selective breeding and natural hive management in an effort to develop long-term solutions for healthy hives. Conrad learned his craft from the late Charles Mraz, world-renowned beekeeper and founder of Champlain Valley Apiaries in Vermont, and Charlie's son Bill. Former president of the Vermont Beekeepers Association, Conrad has written numerous articles on organic farming, natural healing, and health issues. Ross lives in Middlebury, Vermont.

Directions to the Leicester K of C

Monthly Meetings and many of the **Special Events** of the WCBA are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Manville Street, in Leicester, Massachusetts.

From Webster Square in Worcester, follow Route 9 West, a major road, into Leicester. 2 miles from the town line turn right onto Manville Street, just after Entwhistle's Garage.

From the Spencer or Leicester area, follow Route 9 East. Turn left onto Mannville Street just before Entwhistle's Garage. The Entrance to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be on your left within 1/2 mile on Mannville Street.

Directions to Leo's Ristorante

.From 290 West: Take Exit #16 (E. Central Street). At the light, take a left. Take the first right into Mount Carmel Church parking lot. Leo's is located on the left.

From 290 East: Take Exit #16 (Central Street). At the light take a right. Take the first right into Mount Carmel Church parking lot. Leo's is located on the left.

From Route 9 West: After U. Mass Hospital, at the next set of lights bear left onto Shrewsbury Street for approximately 2 miles. Take a right into Brackett Court. Leo's is located on the left.



Honey, While You're Out Can You Pick Up Some Pollen?

By Timothy Loftus



photo by T. Loftus

Pollen. It's the stuff that keeps a honeybee alive. While honeybees are known for collecting nectar to produce honey, few realize that they collect pollen too, and lots of it. Pollen provides bees with protein for growth and muscle repair, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and a host of other ingredients needed for healthy diets.

Pollen is the dust-like grains of male cells found on the anthers of flowers. Honeybees actively collect pollen with their mouthparts, and inadvertently when the pollen sticks to their body hair as they rub up against the anthers

while collecting nectar.

If a honeybee collects pollen with her mouthparts, she transfers the pollen directly to her pollen presses, a notch on each of her two hind legs. If the pollen is in her body hair, she will briefly hover and comb the pollen out using the special hairs on her two back pairs of legs. The collected pollen is packed into compact pellets using her two pollen presses. Then she adheres these sticky pellets to places on her hind legs called pollen baskets. More pollen is added as she visits other flowers.

Back at the hive these pellets are stored in the comb. A little honey is mixed with the pellets to form beebread. Every bee in the hive eats this, even developing ones. During the course of one growing season, the bees in a hive will collect over a hundred pounds of pollen. Each bee consumes about 120 milligrams of pollen, about half the weight of a baby aspirin, during its lifespan.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Flottum, Kim, Diana Sammataro, and Cynthia J. Stephens. *The New Starting Right with Bees* 20th edition. Medina, Ohio: The A. I. Root Company, 1988.

Root, A. I. *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*. Medina, Ohio: The A. I. Root Company, 1975.

Note: I weighed a baby aspirin and it came out to be 239 mg. March 19, 2007. TL

OCTOBER MEETING LUNCH ORDER FORM (DUE OCT 7th)

You do not have to mail this form if you are not ordering lunch

Name _____

I would like to order# _____ lunches at \$10.00= _____ Total

Make checks payable to **WCBA**. Mail to Ken Warchol, 372 Cooper Road, Northbridge, MA 01534.

2007 WCBA Thanksgiving Banquet Reservation Form

Saturday, November 3, 2007 at K of C Hall

Dinner is served at 6:00 PM

Number of people	Cost	Total
_____ Adults (13 and older)	\$13.00 each	_____
_____ Children (ages 6-12)	\$6.50 each	_____
_____ Children (5 and younger)	FREE *	_____

***please be sure to count all younger children so that we may order food enough for each guest.**

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

Please bring donated items, bee related, or not, for the raffle tickets to be sold at the dinner. There will also be 4 food baskets to be raffled off; tickets are free.

Send your reservation payment to the Treasurer by October 24, 2006. Make checks payable to W.C.B.A and mail to:

**George O'Neil
658 Sunrise Avenue
Barre, MA 01005**

FROM:

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY,ST,ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

2007 WCBA Christmas Party Reservation Form

Saturday, December 1, 2007
Leo's Ristorante, Worcester (see p. 8 for details)
5 PM Cocktails & Bee talk
6 PM Buffet Dinner
Raffle and Yankee Swap

Dinner this year will be \$20 per person including tax and tip.

NUMBER ATTENDING = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

Please send your payment by **November 21, 2007**. Make checks payable to W.C.B.A and mail to the Treasurer:

George O'Neil
658 Sunrise Avenue
Barre, MA 01005

FROM:

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY,ST,ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Membership Renewal Form

Dues are payable on or before August 31 each year. Dues are now \$15 as of the vote at the April meeting. Please make your check out to WCBA. You can renew at any club function or meeting, or mail to:

*Worcester County Beekeepers Association
c/o Mary Duane
89 Blithewood Ave.
Worcester, MA 01604*

You can also renew at any of the club functions or meetings.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Worcester County
Beekeepers Association
C/O Bob DeBoer
654 Central Tpke.
Sutton, Ma. 01590

THE APIARY NEWS
A quarterly newsletter of the
Worcester County Beekeepers Association

First Class
U.S. POSTAGE
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HONEY
NATURALLY

Buy Local Honey!



“ BEES PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE BEES”

Fall 2007

THE APIARY NEWS

Is published quarterly by the
WORCESTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee and Board of Directors

!!!!NOTICE!!!

If the expiration date is

2007

On the address label, this will
be your last newsletter!
Which means you need to
renew your membership!

This is your last notice!!!!

President	Mary Duane	(508) 756-9282
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Treasurer	George O'Neil	(978) 355-2442
Director	John Sinacola	(508) 865-6928
Director	Donald Sandstrom	(978) 562-2632
Director	Sara Gammell	(978) 342-5347
Director	Alden Abbott	(508) 832-3837
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Past President	Bob DeBoer	(508) 865-3916
Director Bee School	Paul O'Connor	(508) 869-6214
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Feel free to contact any of the above directors or committee chairs with questions relating to the Worcester County Beekeepers' Association or beekeeping in general. The APIARY NEWS is published quarterly by the Worcester County Beekeepers Association for its members. All submissions are welcome and should be sent to:

EDITOR -IN- CHIEF Kathy de Graaf 23 Edmunds Way Northborough, Ma. 01532

You can find us on the world wide web at:

<http://HoneyBeeClub.org/> e-mail: Editor@HoneyBeeClub.org