



THE

APIARY NEWS



A publication of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association

The President's Message

By Mary Duane

As 2007 quickly draws to a close, I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. The WCBA ended the year with two wonderful events. All the people who attended the Thanksgiving banquet were treated to a delicious turkey dinner and an excellent talk on the tulips of Holland by noted horticulturist Paul Rogers. The holiday party at Leo's Ristorante featured another wonderful meal, lively conversation, and a suspenseful Yankee swap. Thanks to Paul and Linda O'Connor, Barbara Mac Phee and George O'Neil for organizing these special events.

I would like to congratulate Sara and Tom Gammell on receiving the 2008 Beekeeper of the Year Award, Sue Quirk the WCBA Appreciation Award, Kathy de Graaf the Presidents Appreciation Award, and Patricia Sevigny for Most Points in the Spencer Fair. I feel very fortunate to be a part of such a dynamic and talented group of beekeepers. The WCBA is only as good as its members and we have the BEST!

The WCBA events are kicking off this year with a potluck supper meeting January 11th and presentation by State Bee Inspector Al Carl on bear-proofing your hives. Everyone is asked to bring a food item to share in the potluck. People with last names beginning with **A-I should bring a vegetable, J-R a dessert and S-Z a**

main course. Come and share the fellowship of beekeeping.

February's monthly membership meeting will feature one of our own WCBA members. Jim Metcalf, who was recently published in Bee Culture Magazine, will talk about his trip to Poland and the Polish Art of beekeeping.

The WCBA has a busy March planned. The annual Saturday morning March keynote speaker is Marianne Fraser from Penn State and this will be March 8th. Bee school starts up March 6th – Paul and Linda have been busy planning this year's course. Please spread the buzz about Bee school (details inside). Also, the flower show is February 29th through March 2nd.

In conclusion, as the honeybees are clustering for the winter, please take time to see if you are able to donate any honey or beeswax to your WCBA. We currently do not

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Ken Warchol with 2007 Honey Queen Jillian Karlsson (left) and 2008 Honey Queen Lauren Trahan

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have enough to carry us through the flower show and Spencer Fair. Any size donation would be greatly appreciated. Just like a hive counts on all of the bees to make it successful, all WCBA beekeepers big and small are needed to keep the WCBA strong. Thanks in advance.

Many Thanks!

to the following people who donated honey, wax, and equipment, helping to make 2007 a successful year:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Judy Allen | Anne Kittredge |
| Judy & David Bottom | Rebecca Knapp |
| David Brown | Frank Lagrant |
| Dick Callahan | Tim Loftus |
| Eileen Clark | Robert Mortenson |
| Bob DeBoer | Peter Niemi |
| Mike Donavan | Paul O'Connor |
| Mary Duane | Armand Provost |
| Bob Emond | Gus Skamarycz |
| Paula Fletcher | Brant Viner |
| Tom Gammell | Ken Warchol |
| Dave Hebert | |

Please notify a board member if your name was left off this list — we are in the process of updating our files, and we don't want to miss anyone!

Bee Sugar Candy
for spring feeding of your bees

by Armand Provost

Makes about 14 8³/₄" pie plates

Ingredients:

- 15 lbs sugar
- 3 bottles Karo syrup
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 4 cups water

- Heat to 240 degrees (soft ball stage)
- Cool to 180 degrees
- Stir vigorously
- Pour into containers
- It should be hardened and ready for use in 2-3 hours

“Working With the Bees” *By Armand Provost*

This past season was disappointing to most of us because of the weather we had. The Spring time was unusually cold and wet. When the apple blossoms and other flowers were blooming we had rainy weather and the honey supers were staying empty.

Finally as the season progressed later on, the honey flow started to come in, but that was about it. The rest of the summer was very dry in my area and there was none of that golden rod smell in the air coming from the hives.

It was hard to believe with all the unforgiving weather that my hives averaged about 90lbs of nice honey. Most of the new and old beekeepers that I heard from also had a good honey crop of over 100lbs per hive. With all that happened I would have to say that we had a pretty good year after all.

Remember when you extracted your honey and you had all those wet drip pans, buckets, and all the other items that you used coated in honey. Just put them outside where nobody can get close to them and let the bees clean them up nice and dry for you. Maybe I can give you a little tip. I used to lay the empty sticky buckets on their side but the honey would all slide down and make quite a puddle on the low side of the bucket. Many bees would drown in the sticky honey. Now I take a paper towel or 2 and crinkle them up and stick them into the puddle of honey. The bees walk all over the paper and lick up every bit of honey. Even the paper towels are all dried out and no dead bees from drowning. This is also a pretty good way to dry out your wet wax cappings before you melt them down. It's nice to wash up all the utensils when they are not sticky.

On September 17th I put the miteaway packets on the hives. It was an easy job, using 1 1/2" spacers, it left plenty of room for the inner cover to go back on. It was a beautiful day with 70 degree temperatures.

On October 18th I took the miteaway out. I was a little late getting them off because of real bad weather but on this day it was another 70 degrees.

The next day I fed sugar syrup, 2 sugar to 1 water and put 1 quart on each hive. Fumedile B was also added to the syrup. It was a very muggy day with showers and 75 degree weather. Sugar candy will be going on next.

I'm sure you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving banquet our club had as much as my wife, some of my children, their wives, and I myself did.

The new year is here and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. What better way to meet friends and learn more about the bees? See you there.

A little saying from the desk calendar:

WHEN WE OPEN OUR STOREHOUSE OF TALENTS AND TREASURES,
THE WHOLE WORLD BENEFITS

**March 8, 2008
8am-1pm**

**Saturday Half-Day Meeting
With Special Guest Speaker**

**Maryann Frazier
Penn State University**

**“Colony Collapse Disorder and its Implications and Impact”
and
“Bee Colony Nutrition and the Implications”**

See page 7 for meeting details

About Maryann Frazier

Maryann Frazier is a nationally recognized expert on Colony Collapse Disorder. She is a senior extension agent and honey bee specialist in the Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA. She received her B.S. from Penn State in 1980 and her M.Ag. also from Penn State in 1983. Her current apiculture research is focused on control of parasitic mites and pollination. Her extension work is also in apiculture, public science education, and international development work. She has worked with Africanized bees and beekeepers in Sudan, Uganda, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Maryann’s recently extension activities have been focused on a regional collaboration known as MAAREC (the Mid-Atlantic Research and Extension Consortium) with researchers and other extension specialists in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and New Jersey. The aim of MAAREC is to develop an IPM (integrated pest management) approach to control honey bee diseases and mites and to improve information transfer techniques through traditional and innovative methods.

MAAREC can be found on the Internet at <http://MAAREC.cas.psu.edu>.

Congratulations to our new Beekeepers of the Year!

Sara and Tom Gammell



The Beekeeper of the Year award is given out each year at the Thanksgiving Banquet in November, based on a vote of all members at the October meeting. This year the award went to the Sara and Tom Gammell of Fitchburg.

Sara and Tom have been keeping bees for 10 years. They joined WCBA at the Worcester Flower Show in 1998, attended bee school in the spring, and started with two hives that same year.

Tom has been the WCBA Librarian for the past 10 years and Sara his assistant. As new beekeepers they brought the library to their home in the fall of 1998, when Dick and Jean Voise (the previous librarians) decided to move to Maine. This has been a lot of fun, but also somewhat challenging. The biggest challenge for Tom is making sure that all the books that go out find their way back. Sara says that her challenge is much bigger than that: it is getting Tom to learn some basic computer skills in order to put the library on the WCBA web site. He'd welcome some assistance with this project if someone (other than Sara) would like to help him.

Tom and Sara were the "refreshment committee" for WCBA Bee School from 1999 through 2006 (seven long years). They were forced to give it up this year due to Tom's second knee replacement. During this time Tom did the shopping for supplies of coffee, juice and paper products and, much more importantly, the cleaning and lugging the pots and products back and fourth. Sara's contribution to bee school was bringing the cookies and baked goods with her directly from work.

Sara has been on the Board of Directors for the last eight years and rarely misses a board meeting (even in the snow).

Tom and Sara have provided beekeeping education throughout Worcester and Middlesex County. In classrooms and church schools they have shared our experiences and the interesting aspects of joining Worcester County Beekeepers.

Tom continues to provide all the hand cream for both the Spencer Fair as well as the Worcester Flower Show, making 75 – 100 jars for each event. In the ten years that they have been members of WCBA, they have never missed lending a hand at club events, including Bee School, Spencer Fair or with the bringing Library books and materials to the club meetings. Tom also travels far and wide taking books, tapes and other training material available for club members.

Congratulations Tom and Sara!!

66th Annual Worcester County Beekeepers Association BEE SCHOOL

The Worcester County Beekeepers Association (WCBA), the oldest county beekeeping association in the country, will be holding its 66th annual Beekeeping School beginning March 6, 2008. The school will run for seven consecutive Thursdays from 7-9:30pm at:

**U. Mass. Medical School
55 Lake Ave. N. Worcester, MA
Amphitheater 2**

This school is appropriate for both the beginner and experienced beekeeper, the individual or family. **Whether an individual or family, the fee for the school is \$30. (Early Registration Special! \$25 if received by February 1, 2008.)** This includes a course manual, pro-rated WCBA membership through August 31, 2008 and the WCBA newsletter. **Registration is on the first night of class (March 6, 2008) starting at 6pm, or by mail.**

The seven week curriculum includes a variety of interesting lectures, hands-on experiences and outdoor workshops. Learn from the experiences of commercial as well as hobbyist beekeepers. Topics include Getting Started, Hive Management, Safety Equipment, and many others that are important to local beekeeping.

Honeybees are renowned for their economic value as pollinators of fruits, vegetables and other agricultural crops. As well as being important pollinators, honeybees collect pollen, produce royal jelly and propolis - all of which are used as dietary supplements. Bees also produce beeswax that can be used for everything from candles to cosmetics.

WCBA is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the art of apiculture.

Classes start promptly at 7:00pm

2008 Registration Form (please print legibly)

Name	Address
Other Names if Family	City
	State Zip Phone
	E-Mail
	Years of beekeeping experience Date fee paid Amount

Send to:
Paul and Linda O'Connor
PO Box 92
Boylston, MA 01505-2045

Fee \$30 per individual or family
Make checks payable to WCBA

WCBA Monthly Meetings

Friday January 11, 2008

Date: Friday Jan. 11, 2008
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Leicester, MA

Speaker: Al Carl Jr.
Chief Apiary Inspector

Topic: Protecting Your Hives
from the Bears

Chef Supper

Last names beginning with:

A-I — vegetable

J-R — dessert

S-Z — main course

Al will do a talk and demonstration on how to set up effective electric fences that keep out the bears that are becoming more and more prevalent in Worcester County. Last year we had 16 known locations where bears damaged beehives. Al will discuss and demonstrate the type of fences that can be used and how to set them up.

The WCBA will honor all the past presidents of the WCBA at this meeting. They will be our special guests and we will present them with a special gift of appreciation for all that they have done for the WCBA. We will also take a group photo of the entire group of presidents from 1972-the present. You may want to bring your camera and meet this distinguished group.

This meeting is also our chef supper starting at 6:30 sharp. Come out and bring a dish based on your last name (see list to the left).

Friday February 8, 2008

Date: Friday Feb. 8, 2008
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Leicester, MA

Speaker: Jim Metcalf

Topic: A Search for
My Beekeeping Ancestry

"During a visit to Poland to learn a little about my history, I discovered that beekeeping was a vocation practiced by my family which may be why I came to enjoy the hobby. This presentation traces the search and shows some of the historical beekeeping practices of Poland."

Jim recently published an excellent article on this topic in Gleanings. Congratulations to Jim on this accomplishment. Jim will do a narrated slide presentation on his trip. You do not want to miss this one.

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 Manville Street just before Entwhistle's Garage. The Entrance to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be on your left within 1/2 mile on Manville Street.

WCBA Monthly Meetings (cont'd)

Saturday March 8, 2008

Date: Saturday Mar. 8, 2008

SATURDAY HALF-DAY MEETING

Time: 8am-1pm
**Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Leicester, MA**

**Speaker: Maryann Frazier
Penn State University**

Topics:
**Chronic Collapse Disorder:
The Specifics**
Nutrition of the Beehive

This Saturday program will feature bee expert Maryann Frazier from Penn State University, who is on the cutting edge of research on Chronic Collapse Disorder along with her colleagues at Penn State. One has only to look at the internet site for CCD to immediately see the many published articles and national interviews and film clips by Maryann Frazier on this topic. She is one of the nation's leading authorities on CCD. She will give us the latest on this disorder. I am thrilled to have acquired such an expert as our speaker. She will also do a talk on Bee nutrition which ties right in with the other topic. This will be a sensational meeting and I urge all of you to attend as this is our latest challenge in the beekeeping world. So set this date aside now and get your questions answered on this topic. This meeting is FREE to all beekeepers.

- 8 - 9 A.M. Coffee, danish and bee talk**
- 9 -10:15 Colony Collapse Disorder and its Implications and Impact**
- 10:15 - 10:30 Questions**
- 10:30 -11:00 Coffee break**
- 11:00 -12:30 Bee Colony Nutrition and the Implications**
- 12:30 -1:00 Questions and answers**

ATTENTION!

Do you have beekeeping equipment that might be infected with **American Foulbrood?**

Well, Massachusetts Beekeepers Association is in the process of organizing a statewide irradiation program. This is an effective way of killing all of the spores without damaging your equipment, including frames with wax foundation.

Please contact **Mary Duane at 508-756-9282** if you are interested. The cost and date has not been established yet.

November Thanksgiving Banquet and December Holiday Party
photos courtesy of Bob DeBoer



Our wonderful Thanksgiving speaker, Paul Rogers, received a standing ovation!



Ken Warchol with Judy Allan and Paul Aucoin of Spencer, recipients of the Beekeeping Management Award



Turnout was great for the holiday party at Leo's Ristorante in Worcester



Sue Quirk picked out something good at the Yankee Swap



Roland showed off his Winnie the Pooh tie



Good things come in small packages too, as Paul O'Connor found out

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Beekeepers Association
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NATURALLY

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“ BEES PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE BEES”

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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:

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