



THE

APIARY NEWS



A publication of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association

The President's Message

By Mary Duane

Labor Day has arrived and the length of the daylight is gradually dwindling- where did summer go? I hope that you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the beautiful colors of fall. The WCBA has some very interesting upcoming events that I hope you will be able to participate in!

I would like to thank all of the people who worked to make the Spencer Fair a success. This is one of the WCBA's biggest club activities and it would not have happened without the help of a large number of dedicated club members. Thanks to the set up crew, the volunteers who worked the booth, people who entered items in the honey show, Judy and David Bottom and Bigelow Nursery for a lovely honeybee plant display, and those who donated wax and honey products.

The WCBA is having a **Special Saturday October 4th meeting**. Dr. Jeff Pettis, head of the USDA Maryland Honeybee research lab, will present the latest finding on Colony Collapse Disorder. He is working on the cutting edge of C.C.D. research. Dr Pettis is a speaker who is

in high demand and we are very fortunate to have him talk to our club. Thanks to Ken Warchol for making this possible. The meeting will be on October 4th from 9am to 4pm. A catered lunch will be available for a cost of \$10 but you must reserve lunch in advance (see details inside).

Finally, I hope to see you all at the WCBA Thanksgiving Banquet and the Holiday Party. These events are nice opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of club members and socialize (details and sign up forms are inside). I encourage new members to come along and participate in the fun. Come along and brag (or exaggerate) about the amount of honey you extracted!



Congratulations to Bob Bober, winner of the annual WCBA smoker contest at the July meeting!

Index to Articles

Letter from the President	p 1
Honey Queen Application	p 2
Working With the Bees	p 3
Spencer Fair News & Results	p 4
Upcoming meetings	pp 5-8
Directions to KofC and Leo's Ristorante	p. 9
Thanksgiving Banquet Reservation Form	p 10
Christmas Party Reservation Form	p 11
Membership Renewal Form	p 11

ATTENTION

The Board of Directors would like to know if you are eligible for Life Membership status in the WCBA. Please notify Mary Duane at (508) 756-9282 if you are eligible for Life Membership in the WCBA. Induction of Life Members will take place at the Thanksgiving Banquet.

The WCBA Bylaws state:

“Life membership status may be secured at the age of 70 upon nomination by the Membership Committee and approval by WCBA Board of Directors. Life members are entitled full voting privileges and may hold office as well as serve on the committees.”

Our newsletter is on the web!

Would you like to receive email notification when the newsletter is available on our web site?

If so, please email the editor, Kathy de Graaf, at kdegraaf@verizon.net. Don't forget to mention whether you'd still like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter as well.

2009 WCBA HONEY QUEEN APPLICATION

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.

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*

The three hives I started this late spring are doing very well. I'm still giving them some sugar syrup now and then to help them keep building up. I didn't have enough drawn deep frames to fill up the boxes and had to put frames of foundation on the outer sides of the drawn combs. All three new hives are in two deep boxes. As I kept checking them and seeing that no foundation was being drawn out I decided to put on a drawn out honey super on top of the two deep. This way the bees have extra drawn combs to work with.

A while back the bees weren't taking any water from the bird bath. Now all of a sudden it's really loaded with bees taking water back to the hives. Could be something changing in the hives. Another thing I notice at the hives is the bees are doing a scrubbing dance. They're moving back and forth and scrubbing near the entrance of the hive. You may have seen this before and I'm not quite sure what it means. I read about it a long time ago but can't remember the answer.

I thought that my bees weren't bringing in much nectar because of the way I took so many frames of bees and brood from them to make up the three new hives. But as I talked with other beekeepers none of them seem to be getting much honey in the hives. Unless things change it looks as if the honey is going to be way down in the hives for extraction. For me this is going to be my worst year for a honey harvest, but I mostly blame myself for this because of the way I split up the hives.

For all our new beekeepers, don't give up. Most of the older beekeepers will tell you they've been through good years and some bad ones. This one looks like it might be on of the bad ones.

It's great to see so many attending the outdoor meetings during the summer. It's a great way to learn and see what's happening around the different towns. See you at the meetings.

I'll leave with another saying for you:

GROWING IN WISDOM MEANS GROWING IN LOVE, TOLERANCE, GRACE,
AND ACCEPTANCE

In Memory of George Gershman

George Gershman, long time member of WCBA, died July 20 at the age of 100. He was active in the club and will be remembered especially for his cider vinegar and honey recipe.

The WCBA board voted to purchase a book for the club library in his memory.

Spencer Fair Results

Honey Show

Best of Show State Award: Roland Sevigney,
two 1-lb. jars of dark amber honey

Class B-1 Articles made of Bees Wax

- 1st Mary Duane
- 2nd Valerie Fisk
- 3rd Claude Booth

Class B-2 Pair of Straight, Plain, Tapered Molded
Candles

- 1st Claude Booth

Class B-3 Pair of Straight, Plain, Tapered Dipped
Candles

- 1st Claude Booth

B-111 Pieces of Bees Wax over 2 lbs.

- 1st Claude Booth

Class A-106 Light Honey

- 1st Michele Decotoeau

Class A-107 Light Amber Honey

- 1st Dianna Provencher
- 2nd Martha Varnot

Class A-108 Amber Honey

- 1st Mary Duane
- 2nd Paul Aucoin

Class A-109 Dark Amber

- 1st Roland Sevigney
- 2nd Sheila Haler

Class A-110 Dark Honey

- 1st Dianna Provencher
- 2nd Mike Standing

Cooking

Division I 100% Honey as the Sweetener

Class C-2 Crisp Cookies

- 1st Patricia Sevigney

Class C-3 Soft Cookies

- 1st Dianna Provencher

Class C-4 Bars or Brownies

- 1st Patricia Sevigney

Class C-5 Cake

- 1st Pat Sevigney

Class C-6 Yeast Bread

- 1st Jim Wuelfing

Class C-9 Quick Bread

- 1st Pat Sevigney

Class C-10 Pie

- 1st Pat Sevigney

Division II 50% Honey as the Sweetener

Class C-4 Bars or Brownies

- 1st Barbara McPhee

Class C-6 Yeast Bread

- 1st Jim Wuelfing

Class C-12 Pie

- 1st Marie Bugbee

Class E-1 Crafts Related to Beekeeping

- 1st Sheila Haler

Class F-1 Still Mead

- 1st Pat Sevigney
- 2nd Roland Sevigney

WCBA Monthly Meetings

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 1pm
**Place: Keown Orchards
 McClellen Road
 Sutton, MA**

**Topics: Keeping Bees
 Without Treatments
 and Without Foundation
 Dean Stiglitz and
 Ramona Herboldsheimer**

**Final Winter Preparations
 Ken Warchol**

Dean and Ramona will share their experience, philosophy, and management practices. Key topics include not using foundation (foundationless frames as in Langstroth's original design), making foundation, the history of cell sizes, top entrances, making strong splits, Housel positioning, no treatments whatsoever, breeding from survivor stock, microbial systems within the hive, unlimited brood-nest, leaving plenty of honey with the bees and not feeding sugar syrup. Weather permitting, we will open a few of their hives for inspection, and have an open discussion of specific benefits, drawbacks, concerns, misconceptions and mistakes.

There will also be a hive opening by Ken Warchol, who will demonstrate what final preparations are needed in closing up your hive for the winter. Artie Keown III will give us hay wagon rides through the orchard. Bring the family and do some apple picking.

Directions: Take Route 146 South to the Central Turnpike/Oxford exit. Go left at the end of the exit and follow for approximately 1/2 mile. Take a left on Dodge Hill Road and proceed 1/2 mile to McClellan Road. Keown Orchards is approximately 100 feet on the right.

Saturday October 4, 2008 All Day Meeting

<u>Time:</u> 9am - 4 p.m.	<u>Speakers:</u>	Dr. Jeff Pettis
<u>Place:</u> Knights of Columbus Hall Leicester, MA		USDA Bee Lab, Beltsville, MD
		Kim Flottum
		Editor, Bee Culture Magazine

Don't miss this important presentation by Dr. Jeff Pettis, head of the USDA Bee Lab in Beltsville, MD, and Kim Flottum, Editor of Bee Culture Magazine. Program details are on p. 6. A catered lunch will be available for a cost of \$10. The menu includes tossed salad, potato salad, mixed breads, meat and cheese plate, coffee and dessert. Please see order form below.

OCTOBER MEETING LUNCH ORDER FORM (must be received by Saturday Sept. 27th)

Name _____

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

Make checks payable to **WCBA**. Mail to George O'Neil, 658 Sunrise Avenue, Barre, MA 01005.

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

Saturday October 4, 2008 Program

- 8 - 9 am** **Registration**
Coffee, Danish & Bee Talk
- 9am** **Welcome and Introductions, Mary Duane & Ken Warchol**
- 9 - 10:15am** **Colony Collapse Disorder and U.S. Beekeeping, Dr. Jeff Pettis**
What we do and do not know about CCD and where some of the research projects are in relation to CCD.
- 10:15 -11:45am** **Managing Pheromones, Kim Flottum**
What are pheromones, what role do they play in a colony, and how can a beekeeper use these to his or her advantage in colony management.
- 11:45am - 12** **Short WCBA Business Meeting and Distribution of Beekeeper of the Year Ballots**
- 12 - 1pm** **Lunch**
(must be pre-ordered — see form on page 5)
- 1:15 - 2:30pm** **Nosema and Other New Threats to Bee Health, Dr. Jeff Pettis**
*How the new species of Nosema, *N. ceranae*, is affecting bee health and what other threats are here in the U.S. or may be waiting offshore!*
- 2:30 - 4 pm** **Beekeeping Math, the Numbers Game All Beekeepers Play, Kim Flottum**
Cells in a frame, days from egg to emerge, locating an apiary site, all the honey bee biology factors you need to know to be a good beekeeper, using numbers.

About Dr. Jeff S. Pettis

As research leader of the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Jeff Pettis leads a team effort to improve colony health by limiting the impact of pests and diseases on honey bee colonies. His research areas include; IPM techniques to reduce the impacts of parasitic mites and disease, effects of pesticides and pathogens on queen health and longevity, host-parasite relationships and bee behavior. He currently serves as co-chair of the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) working team that provides coordination of the nationwide effort to determine why colonies are dying at unprecedented rates. Additionally, he serves as the lead coordinator for a new 5-year ARS Areawide program to improve colony health. He has served as the one of the lead spokespersons for USDA-ARS on honey bee colony declines and CCD. He serves as the USDA-ARS representative to the international group, COLOSS, a two-year old organization based in Europe, designed to coordinate research efforts to try and understand colony losses

(Continued on page 7)

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

worldwide. He works closely with the beekeeping industry to identify areas of need with regard to improving colony health. His current research projects include remediation techniques to lower pathogen and pesticide levels in beeswax combs, new or improved parasitic mite and *Nosema* controls and finding ways to limit migratory stress on honey bee colonies; all of these projects involve close collaboration with commercial beekeepers.

About Kim Flottum

Kim Flottum has been the Editor of Bee Culture magazine for over 22 years. He is the author of *The BackYard Beekeeper*, *A Beginner's Guide*, and *The BackYard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook* published by Rockport Press, and has edited two editions of *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture* and several other books published by the A.I. Root Company. He is a regular columnist for the UK beekeeping magazine *The Beekeeper's Quarterly* and writes for several U.S. farm and garden magazines on the beekeeping life. He is the recently retired Chairman Of The Board of the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America, the largest regional beekeeping organization in North America, having served in that position for eight years. He will be serving as President of EAS this year, when the Conference is held at Holiday Valley Resort and Conference Center, in Ellicottville, NY the first week in August.

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Thanksgiving Banquet

Date: Saturday Nov. 1, 2008 6 PM

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Leicester, MA

Speaker: Ken Warchol

Topic: A Tour Across the United States

The Annual Thanksgiving Banquet is a time to reflect on the summer's 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. We will then have the speaker's presentation: Ken will present a slide presentation of National Parks and Historical Sights across this great nation of ours. This 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. All children will receive a special presentation as usual. I encourage all members to join me at this special event.

The cost for this year's banquet will be \$15/adult, \$7/child (ages 6-12), ages 5 & under free. Please see reservation form on page 10.

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

Saturday, December 6, 2008

WCBA Annual Christmas Party

Date: Saturday December 6, 2008 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 returning this year to 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 two \$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 again be \$20.00 including tax and tip — see reservation form on page 11. 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.

Friday, January 9, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Speaker: To Be Announced

Please save the date for our January meeting. The speaker will be announced in our winter newsletter. We will have a chef supper starting at 6:30 sharp. Come out and bring a dish based on your last name.

Last names beginning with:

A-I — dessert

J-R — main course

S-Z — vegetable

Sugar available!

WCBA member Tom Dalton has sugar to sell at cost for 25 cents per pound. Call him in advance and he will bring the sugar to the club meeting. You must supply your own pail. Please contact him at 401-658-1000 if you are interested.

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.

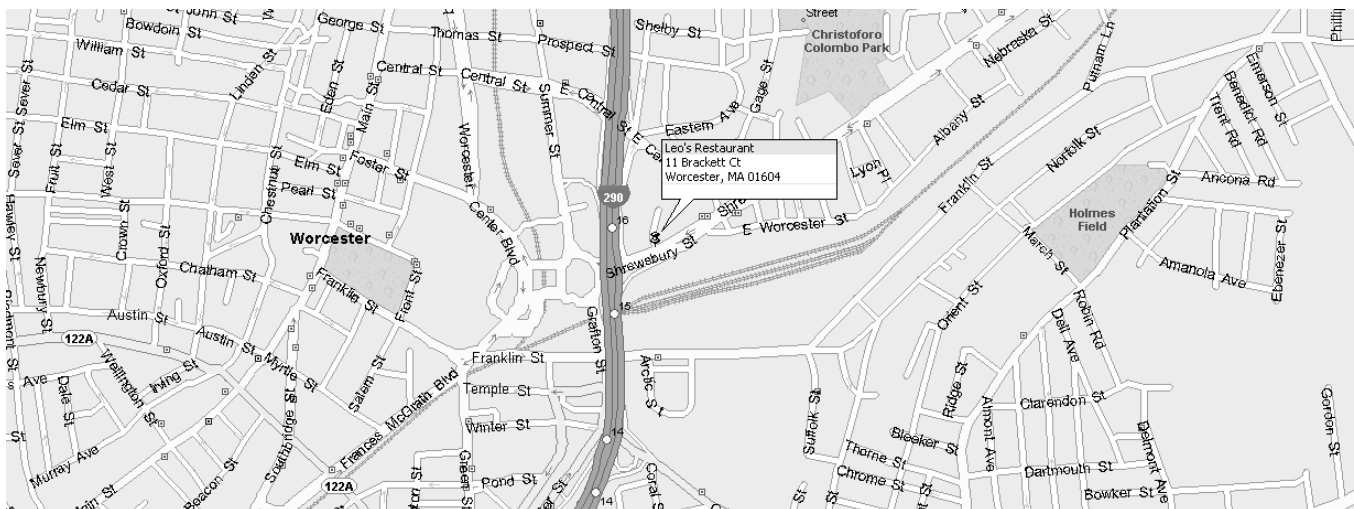
From the Spencer or Leicester area, follow Route 9 East. Turn left onto Mannville Street just before Entwhistle's Garage. The Entrance to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be on your left within 1/2 mile on Mannville Street.

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.



2008 WCBA Thanksgiving Banquet Reservation Form

Saturday, November 1, 2008 at K of C Hall

Dinner is served at 6:00 PM

Number of people	Cost	Total
_____ Adults (13 and older)	\$15.00 each	_____
_____ Children (ages 6-12)	\$7.00 each	_____
_____ Children (5 and younger)	FREE *	_____

*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 18, 2008. 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 _____

2008 WCBA Christmas Party Reservation Form

Saturday, December 6, 2008
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, 2008**. 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 Mary Duane
89 Blithewood Avenue
Worcester, MA 01604

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A quarterly newsletter of the
Worcester County Beekeepers Association

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“ BEES PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE BEES”

Fall 2008

THE APIARY NEWS

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

!!!!NOTICE!!!!

If the expiration date is

2008

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
V. President	Norman Mercier	(508) 987-0947
Secretary	Barbara Mac Phee	(508) 829-4556
Treasurer	George O'Neil	(978) 355-2442
Director	John Sinacola	(508) 865-6928
Director	Donald Sandstrom	(978) 562-2632
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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/> Editor's e-mail: kdegraaf@verizon.net