



THE

APIARY NEWS



A publication of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association

The President's Message

By Mary Duane

Has spring finally arrived? I hope so — I am ready to fully open up my hives and see a patch of brood! Let's hope that the conditions are right this year for a record honey crop.

The WCBA began its year with many informative educational speakers. Todd Harding from Honey Gardens started the year off by discussing a more natural approach to beekeeping, WCBA's own beekeeping entrepreneur Dave Hebert shared his secrets of making soap with beeswax, and Dr. Jeff Harris from the USDA Baton Rouge Louisiana Lab shared his latest research work. Thanks to each of these wonderful speakers.

I would like to extend a thank-you to everyone who helped make the flower show an educational and financial success. A special thanks to Norman Mercier for his organizational efforts and all to all of those who donated honey and wax products.

Bee school is off and running for the 67th consecutive year. Yet again, it has record numbers. Thanks to all the people who volunteer the time and knowledge to help shape another generation of beekeepers.

The WCBA has many exciting spring programs planned. The April 10th meeting will feature a panel of WCBA's own new beekeepers. They will share their "unique" first year experiences.

This is also a pot luck supper meeting. Please bring enough food to share with 10 people (people with last name **A-I main course, J-R-vegetable, S-Z dessert**). Starting in May our meetings will take place at various outside locations (check inside for details). Weather permitting, a hive opening will take place at each meeting.



In closing, the WCBA would like to welcome all of its new members and encourage them to take full advantage of all the educational opportunities. As noted scientist and Nobel Laureate for the discovery of the bee dance, Karl Von Frisch wrote:

The life of bees is like a magic well,
The more you draw from it,
The more there is to draw.

We welcome you and look forward to "Bee talking" with you.

Index to Articles

Letter from the President	p 1
Honey jar order form	p 2
Working With the Bees	p 3
Membership renewal form	p 3
Epi Pen Use, Part 2	p 4
Upcoming meetings	pp 5-7
Mass Bee Field Day	p 7
Directions to K of C	p 7

WCBA Cooperative Purchasing Group

Honey Jar Order Form

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

WCBA is offering classic jars only. Sorry, Queenline jars are not available this year. Please see order form below for availability.

Description	Price	Cases Ordered	Total
1/2 lb. classic (24 jars/case)	\$11.20		
1 lb. classic (24 jars/case)	\$11.95		
2 lb. classic (12 jars/case)	\$9.05		
5 lb. classic (6 jars/case)	\$10.50		
Total for all jars			

Orders due by July 11, 2009

Make checks payable to WCBA and send to
Norm Mercier
99 Lovett Road, Oxford, MA 01540

Check here if you can help unload jars at 1pm Friday August 7, 2009

Orders MUST be picked up on Sat. August 8, 2009 8am to 5pm!!!

at Norm Mercier's house (address above)
508-987-0947

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

If the expiration date on your mailing label is past, please don't forget to renew your membership!
See the membership renewal form on page 3.

“Working With the Bees” *By Armand Provost*

(A quick run down of this winter)

In October '08 we had some very warm days with the temperature around 67 degrees. It turned out just fine for feeding sugar syrup with Fumidil B. I kept feeding syrup until the end of November. On the 1st of December at 50 degrees the bees were all flying out and around the hives in great numbers. Makes a backyard beekeeper feel real good. A couple of weeks later on December 15th it was 50 degrees again and at 10 AM in the morning I put the first feeding of sugar candy right on top of the deep frames with small spacers of wood under the candy about the thickness of a pencil just to hold it a little above the frames. I really loaded the hives with plenty of candy in case bad weather came in the next few weeks and I couldn't get to them. Sure enough deep snow and very cold days and nights with temperatures having a hard time climbing over 20 degrees. Finally on February 2, 2009 it warmed up to 40 degrees for a little while and gave me a chance to walk out in the deep snow for a fast check. With the covers off and a quick check I could see some of the bees were under the candy. Most of the candy was still in place and I replaced wherever needed. I thought I had lost one hive but the next check at the end of February showed the bees were doing okay. If we can come through the next month or so we'll be fine.

With prices going through the roof for queens and bees, I'll be raising some queens for myself using the plastic queen rearing kit. I haven't used it for many years because I've caught swarms or taken out frames with queen cells on them and started small hives that way.

The queen rearing kit works very well and makes it easy to transfer the egg to the plastic queen cups. No grafting necessary.

For our new beekeepers please don't be discouraged if you lost your bees this year. It's been a terrible winter and I expect to hear about many losses so hang in there and you'll learn more and more as each year passes.

As always best of beekeeping to all of you and I'll see you at our monthly meetings.

Another saying to leave you with:

WHEN YOU FEEL UNSURE ABOUT THE FUTURE,
REMEMBER THAT YOU HAD THE STRENGTH TO MAKE IT THIS FAR

Membership Renewal Form

Dues are payable on or before August 31 each year. Dues are \$15. 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

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Epi Pen Use, Part 2

by Bob Bober

In the last issue of Apiary News I talked to you about using an epi pen. That was an impersonal report of research facts.

This month I want to talk to you from a much more personal point of view.

Last September Marlene and I were removing the honey from our hives on the farm. We have found that the honey supers are too heavy for either of us to lift, so we were taking the frames off one at a time. Marlene and my nephew were working directly over the hive. Suddenly, Marlene screamed and moved away from the hive quickly. She had been stung on the neck and there was another bee in her veil. We got the veil off and the bee out.

After a few minutes, she put her veil back on and returned to the hives. We finished there and moved to the last hive. Marlene complained of heavy breathing and choking, and we blamed it on the smoke I was covering everyone with.

When we arrived at my nephew's home, Marlene sat down and complained about itching. We gave her a Benedryl. Inspecting her body it was obvious that she was breaking out in hives. Then she said her tongue felt a little swollen and she couldn't swallow. That was the trigger. You only have to hit me on the head about five times with a 2x4 to get my attention. We headed right for the hospital. When we arrived, the woman asked us to sit down to answer the usual money and insurance questions. The first thing Marlene told her was "bee sting" and there was an orderly behind her immediately with a wheel chair. In the ER they don't treat bee stings as casually as I had.

She did not need the epinephrine, but they did give her a prednisone shot and some more Benedryl. They kept her under observation for several hours before discharging her.

The ER physician was pretty stern with me for not bringing her in to the emergency room immediately. He also asked us to buy two epi pens. One will go with our bee equipment and the other Marlene will carry in her purse. He told us that an episode like this can trigger the allergic reaction the next time even though she had not previously shown any symptoms.

Summary

Marlene had been stung previously, as have I. Neither of us showed any allergic reaction to a sting. They just hurt for several hours and swelled up red. This time Marlene had been stung several times. I saw at least three welts. The doctor thought as many as six. So her reaction may have been the result of the multiple stings. The lesson I have had to learn the hard way is to treat any bee sting as very dangerous. Keep asking questions and keep observing the person who has been stung. I had just researched this topic and thought I knew what to expect. Seeing my wife in such distress was a much more frightening experience. I ask you to learn from my experience. Keep an epi pen with you and treat every sting as potentially lethal.

Please heed carefully the following warning signs of anaphylaxis (an-ah-fi-LAK-sis) – body's reaction to something you are allergic to:

- Breathing problems
- Swollen or itchy skin
- Fast heartbeat
- Feeling faint
- Blacking out

WCBA Monthly Meetings

Friday April 10, 2009 >>> *Chef Supper*

Time: 6:30pm **Chef Supper**

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall
Leicester, MA

Speakers: Rebecca Knapp, Keri Schray,
Kelly Charpentier, Jack Nothardt,
James Blodgett, Dr. Joerg Mayer

Topic: Trials and Tribulations of New
Beekeepers: Case Studies

I have chosen 6 new beekeepers to present their story on starting new with bees. They will discuss how they got into beekeeping, the problems they faced with their bees and how they tried to solve those problems, the joy they have got from their new hobby and give some parting advice to new beekeepers that will be starting at the end of this year's bee school. We will all be able to learn from this session which will open our eyes to the problems most faced by new beekeepers.

Chef Supper — Bring a dish big enough to share with 10 people, based on the first letter of your last name:

A-I — main course **J-R** — vegetable **S-Z** — dessert

Saturday May 2, 2009

First Outdoor Meeting of the Season

Date: **Saturday May. 2, 2009**
In case of rain, please check the web site or call any board member

Time: **1 p.m.**

Place: **Home of Norman Mercier**
99 Lovett Road
Oxford, MA 01540
508-987-0947

Speaker: Ken Warchol and workshop leaders

Topics: Swarm prevention methods and
Making effective splits
Hive openings and hands-on
workshops for new beekeepers

Ken will open several hives and demonstrate how to keep your hive at peak strength and yet keep it from swarming. There is a delicate balance between a booming hive and a swarming hive. Ken will demonstrate several methods of swarm detection and prevention in order to increase your honey yield.

The second half of the program will be hands-on workshops for new beekeepers under the mentorship of experienced beekeepers. New beekeepers will have the opportunity to put their theoretical learning at the bee school into practice.

Please bring veils and gloves as needed

Directions to Norman's (May 2): Take Route 395 south from Auburn or north from CT. Exit on 4A to Sutton Ave. Go left onto Lovett Road at the lights (Home Depot is on the right). Stay right at first intersection and left or straight at the second intersection. Norman's is the 2nd to last house on the left before the end of the road.

Directions to Scott Malkasian's (July 18): Take Route 122A North out of Holden Center toward Rutland. Take a right onto Route 68 North. Go 4 miles to Glenwood Road. Take a right onto Glenwood Road and follow it for a short distance where it splits. Go left onto Dowd's Lane which is a dirt road. Follow it to the dead end which is Scott's house on the left. Even though the map shows a road coming in from the opposite side, you cannot go through that way. This is the only way to Scott's house.

WCBA Monthly Meetings, cont'd

Saturday June 13, 2009

Date: Saturday June 13, 2009

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Home of Marc Sevigney
101 South Shaker Road
Harvard, MA
see directions on next page

Speaker: Ken Warchol and Marc Sevigney

Topic: Keeping your hive at Peak Strength
during the Summer Season
Brief history of the Shaker
community in Harvard

There are many ups and downs that a colony can take during the long summer season. We must deal with dearths, supercedures, swarms, mites, honey bound hives, and laying workers that can put a hive into a downward spiral. We must know how to deal with these issues in order to keep our hives at peak strength. Ken will open Marc's hives and give beekeepers ideas on how to minimize these problems and keep our hives at peak strength so that we are able to capture the waves of nectar flows.

Marc has purchased the old 1800's Shaker Meeting House in Harvard with its out buildings and has restored it into one extraordinary home that he lives in. I

was so impressed with this restoration that I felt everyone in the club should see it. Marc will give us a brief history of the Shaker Community and of the meeting house. He will then take us on a tour of the house and outbuildings. This is a tremendous opportunity to see what can be done with historic buildings and keeping the aesthetics. Marc keeps 6 colonies of bees on his property and has been a beekeeper for many years.

Directions to Marc Sevigney's house (June 13): 101 South Shaker Road, Harvard, MA

Follow Rte 2 East to exit 38B. Merge onto Rte 111 North/110 East toward Ayer. Follow Rte 110/111(Ayer Road). Turn right onto South Shaker Rd. Follow South Shaker Rd to number 101 South Shaker. Marc's House is on left. (If you get to the Ayer town line then you missed South Shaker Road)

Saturday July 18, 2009

Date: Saturday July 18, 2009

Time: 11:30 a.m.
**NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR
OUR ANNUAL COOKOUT**

Place: Home of Scott Malkasian
51 Dowds Lane
Princeton, MA
978-464-5042

see directions on previous page

Speaker: Scott Malkasian and Ken Warchol

Topics: Evaluating your hive at Midsummer
Bee Smoker Contest
Honeybee Trivia Contest

This meeting starts off with our annual cookout sponsored by Scott Malkasian and Brian Faucher. They will provide the burgers, dogs, and drinks while members should bring a variety of salads and desserts to share (green, chef, potato, macaroni salads and a summer dessert). We encourage everyone to attend this extravaganza. We will follow this with our WCBA smoker contest with our champion, Bob Bober trying to hold on to his crown. Our honey queen, Kelly Charpentier will be our judge. (A SURPRISE THAT IT'S NOT KEN?). We will then have a trivia contest where members will go to 20 stations to identify bee species, equipment, plants, antiques and honey varieties. This will be followed by a tour of Scott's home in progress for new beekeepers who have not seen it. The view at the top alone is worth it. The smoker champ gets a free Thanksgiving Banquet meal and bragging rights. The trivia contest winner will get a prize to be determined. See you all here. I get the first burger!

**Join us for the
4th Annual
Massachusetts Beekeepers' Association Field Day**

DATE: Saturday June 20, 2009
TIME: 9am—4pm
PLACE: UMass AGRONOMY Farm
South Deerfield, Mass.

For more info on the workshop schedule and how to order lunch, please go to www.massbee.org

Once again, the Worcester County Beekeepers will be sponsoring a bus to South Deerfield. The cost is \$10 per individual (this is for the bus only—lunch is not included). We will leave the Auburn Mall parking lot at 7 A.M. and return at 6 P.M. We will make a quick stop at McDonald's for breakfast and an ice cream stop on the way home. If you are interested in going by bus and joining the fun, please fill out the form below.

Signup for bus to UMass Agronomy Farm — for June 20 meeting

Please send this form to Ken Warchol, 372 Cooper Road, Northbridge, Mass. 01534 with your \$10 check made out to WCBA by May 24th.

Name _____ **Tel:** _____

Number going: _____ **Amount enclosed** _____

Please save these dates for more upcoming meetings in 2009:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| August 15 | Fall management and winter hive preparation, home of Paul & Linda O'Connor, Boylston |
| September 19 | Final winter preparations, Keown Orchards, Sutton |
| October 17 | Special all-day Saturday meeting in conjunction with Mass Beekeepers
8am-4pm Knights of Columbus, Leicester
Speaker: Dr. Marla Spivak , University of Minnesota
Topic: Honeybee Hygienics
It's taken us 3 years to bring Dr. Spivak to Massachusetts! Don't miss this one!! |

Directions to the Leicester K of C:

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 Entwistle's Garage.

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

Worcester County
Beekeepers Association
C/O Mary Duane
89 Blithewood Avenue
Worcester, MA 01604

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

First Class
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 46

HONEY
NATURALLY

Buy Local Honey!



“ BEES PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT THE BEES ”

Spring 2009

THE APIARY NEWS
is published quarterly by the
WORCESTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee and Board of Directors

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
Director	Sara Gammell	(978) 342-5347
Director	Alden Abbott	(508) 832-3837
Director	Ray Quirk	(508) 883-5821
Past President	Bob DeBoer	(508) 865-3916
Director Bee School	Paul O'Connor	(508) 869-6214
Director Programs	Kenneth Warchol	(508) 234-6833
MBA Delegate	Mary Duane	(508) 756-9282
Library Committee	Tom Gammell	(978) 342-5347
Nominating Committee	Donald Sandstrom	(978) 562-2632
Publications	Kathy de Graaf	(508) 393-0140

Copyright 2003-200, Worcester County Beekeepers' Association

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