

The Bee Line



Newsletter of the Maine State Beekeepers Association | www.mainebeekeepers.org

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Reflections on 2010

by Tony Jadczyk, State Apiarist

The past year presented several valuable lessons to beekeepers. For example: bees should be managed according to weather conditions and plant phenology, not calendar date; monitoring Varroa is crucial since mite populations can explode under certain circumstances; and the timing and choice of Varroa treatment can have variable outcomes. Also, reading pesticide labels is imperative!

In recent years there has been excessive swarming behavior during the spring and fall, as well as an increase in beekeeping at the hobby and sideline level. The net effect is a higher hive density in certain areas of Maine. The winter of 09/10 was mild by Maine standards and spring arrived about two to three weeks earlier than usual. The

mild winter was favorable to feral swarms and weak colonies, and also allowed bees to fly before forage was available. In early spring strong hives were exposed to reinfestation pressure via their robbing of weak or collapsing colonies. Overall, Varroa buildup was accelerated during 2010 even without spring reinfestation pressure due to early brood production that was in sync with the availability of pollen and nectar resources. In general, Varroa populations were about three weeks ahead of schedule, just like the plants and bees.

The early spring and associated pollen and nectar flows also pushed hive management ahead of schedule. Swarm control, colony divisions and supering all needed attention early this year. A number of beekeepers were caught off-guard due to the unusual weather and scarcity of late April/May queens due to unfavorable weather and a late spring (two to three weeks) in western and southern production areas respectively. So, swarming was common this spring, but not as exaggerated as in recent years due to three nights of freezing temperatures in May during fruit and dandelion bloom. In general, most hives were very strong this year at the onset of the late spring/summer honey flows. Bee and mite populations flourished during the excellent summer honey flow.

During mid-late July, hive inspections indicated that many colonies were at or approaching Varroa treatment thresholds which are more common in late August/early September. The hives were strong—boiling with bees and boiling with mites. Some hives were starting to manifest symptoms of deformed wing virus (DWV) and parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) brood. The early goldenrod species started

to bloom by July 4th (two to three weeks early) and beekeepers were in a quandary about the necessity to treat and the fact that hives were still producing honey. Due to summer drought conditions for most of Maine (except for areas in the north), the honey flow shut-off like a spigot toward the end of July or early August, which was both good and bad for the bees. The good thing was that the dearth offered beekeepers a treatment window for limited materials. The bad part was that in periods of dearth, drone rearing is reduced or stopped; bee populations decline and the mites shift to worker brood and the diminished population of bees. Once the viral complex associated with Varroa is activated, things can go downhill quickly.

Effective Varroa treatment options are limited for northern beekeepers due to widespread resistance to the synthetic miticides (strip formulations) and temperature constraints when using organic materials (formic acid and thymol). At times it may seem as though the treatment is worse than the disease. The key to successful Varroa control is timing, choice of miticide and dosage.

...CONTINUED ON PG 2



A honeybee found with deformed wing virus and Varroa mites.

REFLECTIONS...CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Experienced beekeepers made good decisions since they recalled the summer of 2007, which was similar to 2010 in that there was a good summer flow, a summer drought and no fall flow. The miticide of choice during August was Apiguard (thymol gel) due to warm-hot weather and applied according to label or used at half the dosage (25 gms) and 3 applications instead of 2 applications at full dose (50 gms). Strong hives (minimal PMS, DWV and not collapsing) were treated and weak hives were united prior to treatment. Beekeepers that used Apiguard in summer expressed concern about bee behavior and the effect the thymol had on colonies. Several beekeepers that misinterpreted the label by applying both doses at once (100 gms) called the office to report that the "bees disappeared" after treatment. I could only say, "read the label."

Both thymol products (ApiLifeVar, Apiguard) and formic acid (MiteAwayII)

have language on the label that cautions of adverse effects. These damaging effects are much more pronounced when hives are heavily infested, have active viral infections or low bee populations.

Beekeepers that chose to stick by the calendar and treat hives in September fared well provided their hives weren't heavily infested. Those who delayed treatment until hives were on the verge of collapse were startled to find that the bees were either gone (absconded), weakened or dead on the bottom board after application of formic acid or thymol. In these instances, the treatment was applied much too late. Remember, one key to successful over-wintering of hives is a hatch of healthy, young winter bees in fall.

Another issue beekeepers confronted this fall concerned robbery. The robbery was often initiated by the beekeeper via fall feeding with sugar syrup or when thymol was applied. In other circumstances, the strong hives in apiaries picked on nucs or weak colonies in the yard or within flight

range. Again, reinfestation pressure was quite pronounced in treated apiaries this fall due to the dearth, unlike last fall (2009) when there was ample forage. In retrospect, the majority of hives in Maine should have been treated during August and again in mid-September-October.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, I kept bees on land managed by my friend Jim who was a Vietnam Vet and raised about 1,200 pigs for a living. He was quite a character and had a different perspective, given his experience in Asia. One day, I was helping him out by catching tiny squealing piglets and holding them while he injected them with a syringe of a powerful antibiotic (Tylan). The piglets were sick but looked okay to me. When I asked him about the situation, he replied, "these injections will cure them if it doesn't kill them." I'll remember that ear-splitting day forever, but never thought it would apply to my bees.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. 🍷



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*Open to all MSBA members; generally held the 3rd Thursday of each month, at the Maine Farm Bureau, 4 Gabriel Drive, Augusta.

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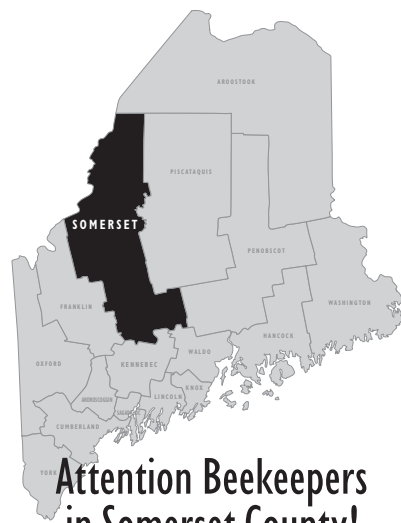
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Attention Beekeepers in Somerset County!

There is an interest in forming a new MSBA chapter in Somerset County.

Club formation plans are still in the planning stages, but Somerset Cooperative Extension has offered a meeting space and we are putting out a call to beekeepers.

Our hope is to have the first meeting of the new Somerset club at the Extension office in Skowhegan in January.

To find out more about the new chapter formation and how you can get involved, please contact

Samantha Burns

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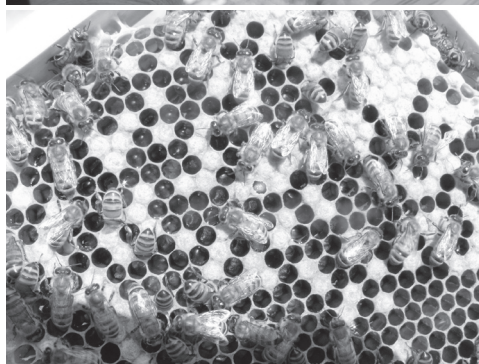
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Also keep an eye on the MSBA website for updates as they become available.

We hope to see you at our first meeting in January!



SARE Grant Colony Update, Hollis Yard, 11/11/10

by Larry Peiffer

April came early this year in Maine. With a host of blooms, came the bees and the nectar. It was another season that neither started like a normal season nor did it end like one. Erin Forbes and I each had to prepare for 15 additional hives, in a new apiary, to study once again the best approach for establishing a hive in the Northern Climate.

I went through what seemed like endless red tape to get permission to establish an apiary in Hollis, on the Poland Spring property. A location was finally approved and permission granted, a week before the bees were to arrive. I quickly got a collection of cement blocks and landscaping ties for hive stands. The equipment was painted with the volunteer help from the Cumberland and York beekeepers and it was ready to go. I was to pick up 20 packages of southern bees from a local distributor, only the south was having a late spring, so the bee delivery was postponed a week. That gave me time to set up the empty hives and put a precautionary bear fence around the future apiary.

The package bees came and Ray Salmon assisted installation and took pictures of the momentous day. The following week, because our spring was early, our northern nucs were busting at the exits. We needed to get them installed before they became over-crowded and got other ideas (read: swarming). So the week after we installed the packages, we installed the nucs.

Continued care was given the new hives with feeding, observing brood growth and a little frame manipulation to alleviate over crowding. A lot of note taking went with the project. Melissa Gould helped me until she found she was allergic to bee stings and thought it best that she no longer be involved with the project.

Erin and I each had ten packages of Italians and five northern-raised nucs (dark bees). Five of the packages would each eventually be re-queened with a northern-raised queen when they became available. All the bees seemed to be making great headway. The nucs were showing a definite advantage, as they were already full of brood. However, the Italians were drawing comb much faster. About three weeks after the installation of the packages, I had two queens show themselves to be drone layers. Their two hives had to be eliminated from the SARE project, but the rest of the Hollis hives were making great strides in growth as well as in stores. Then a turn for the worst—I started seeing a curious drop in brood growth in many of the hives. The following week, perhaps the strongest hive in the apiary (a nuc) seemed to be lacking bees. When I took a closer look, it was obvious by the dead bees at the entrance and on the ground in front of the hive that something was seriously wrong. In this hive I noticed a huge chalk brood situation, some sac brood, some deformed wing virus and what appeared to be some European Foulbrood. On a couple frames, much of the larvae were turning golden yellow, some were a light tan, while others were a coffee brown. This could also have come from the fact that pollen and nectar were almost nonexistent. Bees naturally shut down their brood rearing and feeding in the case of a shortage of resources

Top left: Larry Peiffer examining the health of a frame of bees and brood; Bottom right: The Hollis SARE yard, surrounded by a precautionary bear fence.



Dead bees in front of hive #33, both on the landing board and on the ground.

in the hive. The bees on the ground that were alive appeared to have acute paralysis. A closer look at the dead bees on the ground showed they each had their tongue out.

My immediate conclusion was a chemical or pesticide hit, but the amount of added problems in the hive made me have second guesses, so I wasn't sure of the situation. I called and notified Tony Jadcak. We discussed the situation and thought it might be PMS, parasitic mite syndrome. This situation also offers a host of hive problems as I had described. Tony planned on coming the following week, but things came up and he had to postpone it until the week after.

The hive during this time was dying-out quickly, from its many problems. I didn't want the survivors drifting to healthy hives and I didn't want to have the hive get robbed out due to its weakness. So I closed it up and removed it from the SARE yard.

Tony came and inspected the hive, but had difficulty coming to a conclusion, as the hive was at least three weeks older than when the main problem was noticed. That coupled with the fact that I'd put it in a trash bag for that time. He was scheduled to work with Erin's hives, so he didn't go to the apiary at that time. Tony came back and spent nearly a day going through my equipment and used his detective abilities to conclude that given the dead bees with their tongues sticking out, it was a chemical or pesticide hit. We noticed how the other hives were also affected. Many had some of the same symptoms—the chalk problem, sac brood and spotty brood. It was quite obvious that the hardest hit were the strongest hives. They had the largest field force that all died off. The field force is close to 30% of a hive's population. Most could be seen on the ground in front of the hives. This created a shortage of pollen/bee bread on top of the shortage of nectar in the hives. This in turn shut down most all brood rearing. So I had to go back to spring brood

building by feeding 1:1 syrup and food patties to invigorate brood rearing once again.

A few of the hives had such concentrations of chalk in frames that I removed them and replaced them with foundation. Several of the hives superseded. It took about a month of babying the hives back to health before they looked like they were going to make it. There are still two hives that look like strong nucs, restricted to a single deep.

The early dearth that hit this part of the state wasn't the best timed—it was just when the hives looked like they were ready to make it on their own again.

So, I fed them all right through the fall. Then I treated for mites and nosema.

I continued to feed until it was late into the season and now have sugar candy on them for the winter.

Presently, the hives look prepared to go through the winter. It will be a test to see how the bees make it through and handle their rough experience. It certainly wasn't a normal season for these poor bees. We hope to hear them buzzing and feeling productive in the spring. 🐝



NOTES FROM NOT-SO-FAR AFIELD

One Beek's View of the 2010 Maine State Beekeepers Annual Meeting

by Geoff MacLean

The University of Southern Maine campus was all a buzz on Saturday October 16th as beekeepers from across Maine swarmed Hannaford Hall the Abromson Center for the second Maine State Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting of 2010 hosted by the York County Beekeepers Association. Last spring, the MSBA Board decided to move the annual meeting from late spring to mid-fall in the hopes that we will have less conflict with beekeepers getting ready for the new spring season, bee schools and the arrival of spring bees. Judging by the turnout and response to the excellent presentations, this will become a fall classic!

Beekeepers started networking and catching up with each other as soon as the doors opened. We were able to scope out scores of raffle items and start tasting 30 or so 2010 Maine raw honey samples entered into the York County Beekeepers Honey Contest.



Maine beekeepers enjoy socializing, snacking, perusing raffle items and sampling honey contest entries in USM's Abromson Center lobby.

After a welcome from MSBA President Erin MacGregor-Forbes, Provincial Apiculturist of Alberta Dr. Medhat Nasr shared his remarks on bee management and health from overseeing the inspection of around 250,000 managed hives in Alberta.

He took us through his bee management puzzle of climate, seasonal management, location/environment, and pest management. His remarks on doing management on-time, in a year when our spring came a month early, caught my ear—circumstances allowed the varroa mite an unfortunate head-start and meant that you may have seen more of your colonies crash this fall because the mites had vectored an extra month of diseases to our colonies by the time we treated for mites in our normal early September time frame.



Above: Dr. Nasr explains his double-jar alcohol rinse method for quickly and easily determining Varroa infestation levels. Below: Dr. Rangel discusses swarming signals as observed inside hives.

Dr. Nasr also demonstrated his double-jar, relatively easy 70% alcohol rinse of 300 bees (one inch in the bottom of the jar) for determining the Varroa infestation. In this sample from a brood frame, more than seven mites is a problem.

Dr. Julianna Rangel, a post-doctoral Associate at North Carolina State University and the program coordinator for a new queen rearing initiative in NC, gave two very interesting presentations. Her first remarks detailed how we can all raise a few queens in our own apiaries from our strong survivor colonies to use for increase and/or dead-out replacement colonies instead of importing package bees and queens from away. What a great way to sustain strong Maine honeybee populations.

Her second presentation took us through her work with observation hives on an island off the coast of our own York County to determine how a colony initiates a swarm departure. Her video of the bees' piping-sound "warm up," buzz-run signal "time to go," worker-shaking signal "get active," and nest site scout waggle dance were fascinating.

After a very tasty lunch, more great networking and honey tasting (it takes awhile to taste 30 samples!) our own State Apiarist,



State Apiarist Tony Jadczak shares his report of Maine apiaries for 2010.

^x Tony Jadczak provided an interesting overview of what he had been seeing in colonies across the state. My notes show that he saw what many of us observed in our own beeyards: an early spring, a great spring flow, a mid-summer dearth and fall colony crashes as a result of a varroa mite with a month's head start. This reinforced the need for successful beekeepers to consider *when* we do what we do; we have to treat for varroa and noseema based on Mother Nature's fluctuations.

This article is just a glimpse of the wealth of beekeeping knowledge that can be gained from the informal networking and expert presentations at the annual meeting. We must be lifelong learners in our beekeeping to keep ahead of all the challenges our bees face. Make it a point to enroll in an intermediate bee school this winter and mark your calendar to attend the next annual meeting in October 2011. Your bees will thank you! 🐝

P.S. Scores of raffle items went home to beeyards across Maine, and the bragging rights for 2010 Best Maine Honey went to Andrew Dewey's wonderful bees in Southwest Harbor (followed by Pam Anderson, Deep Roots Farm, Scarborough; Deb Murray, West End, Portland; and Ian and Beth Munger, North Berwick) Call Andrew's bees for their winning recipe!

New Library Acquisitions 2010 MSBA Librarian: Carole Armatis, 368-4419

DVDs

Bee Removal by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Bees—Tales from the Hive by NOVA/WGBH
Comb Honey Production by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Extracting by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm
Honey in the Comb by Gene Killion [2 copies]

Books

Beekeeping 101: Handbook & Guide for the Beginning Beekeeper by Dana Stahlman
Bees Don't Get Arthritis by Fred Malone [2nd ed.]
Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Dewey Caron [2nd ed. 1999]
Honeybee Democracy by Thomas Seeley
Honeybee Pests, Predators and Diseases by Roger Morse & Kim Flottum [3rd ed.]
In Search of the Best Strains of Bees by Brother Adam [1983]
The Magic School Bus—Inside the Beehive by Joanne Cole & Bruce Degen
Observation Hives by Thomas Webster & Dewey Caron
Putting It Up with Honey by Susan Geiskopf-Hadler
Scientific Queen-rearing by G.M. Doolittle [1899; reprint 2008]
The Soapmaker's Companion by Susan Miller Cavitch



A blind taste test of Maine honey was a popular feature of this fall's meeting, highlighting the incredible variety of flavors found across the state's apiaries. Top honors from the contest went to Andrew Dewey's bees in Southwest Harbor.



Matt Scott is presented with a well-earned Honorary Life Membership by MSBA President Erin MacGregor-Forbes.



Left to right: Schluttenhofer hands out samples of local honey varieties at the Commonground Country Fair; Lisa explains the parts of the beehive to aspiring young beekeepers at Punkinfiddle; Lisa educates visitors about products from the hive alongside the WMBA at the Farmington Fair.



Lisa Schluttenhofer, 2010 American Honey Queen, Lands in Maine

The American Honey Queen was buzzing with facts while on her visit to Maine September 23 - 27. Lisa Schluttenhofer, from Thorntown, Indiana, is serving as the American Honey Queen. In this role, she travels around the United States promoting the honey and beekeeping industry.

While many people connect honeybees with the honey they use for their biscuits, honeybees mean so much more. Honeybees provide the building blocks of our food supply; these important insects pollinate approximately one-third of everything that we eat.

With this message, Lisa traveled to the Farmington Fair to work with Carol Cottrell

and the Western Maine Beekeepers Association. Despite the rainy day, the American Honey Queen spoke to fair-goers about the importance of honeybees that pollinate food like apples, Maine blueberries, cucumbers, and even the cotton for our clothes! In addition, she reached over 5,000 people through a WKTJ radio interview and emphasized varieties of local honey.

On September 25, Schluttenhofer headed south to Wells where she participated in the Punkinfiddle Festival. Working with Larry Peiffer, MSBA Vice President, she helped adults and children explore the world inside of the beehive. By pointing out the queen bee in the observation hive and showing beekeeping equipment, she introduced beekeeping and invited interested festival-goers to attend the local beekeeping class.

At the Commonground Fair in Unity, Lisa promoted using wholesome and helpful honey in the kitchen. She handed

out samples of raspberry, blueberry, clover, wildflower, cranberry, buckwheat, and creamed honey. The American Honey Queen recommended cooking or baking with darker honey varieties to emphasize the flavor of honey in their dishes; to further promote using honey, she handed out recipes. Young and old alike were surprised to find the difference in the unique types of honey! Working with Lincoln Sennett of Swan's Honey, she provided an introduction to beekeeping across America to over thirty new beekeepers.

During her year as the American Honey Queen, Lisa has traveled to 20 states speaking on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation. At all events, the junior at Purdue studying Agriculture Communication encourages people to support the United States' approximately 200,000 beekeepers and to purchase local honey. 🐝



Thank You from Lisa

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Maine State Beekeepers for arranging a fantastic promotion. The different fairs provided a wonderful overview of your state and the different beekeepers' activities; I was thrilled to be a part of it and hope that it furthered the public's understanding of our "sweet" industry. I sincerely hope that you continue to have a Honey Queen or Princess visit your state in the future! Special thanks are extended to Erin MacGregor-Forbes and hosts Lori Harley and Dr. Bob Heinz. Furthermore, thank you to Carol Cottrill, Larry Peiffer, and Lincoln Sennett, who allowed me to work with them throughout the weekend!

*Sincerely,
Lisa Schluttenhofer,
2010 American Honey Queen*

WMBA Doings

by Carol Cottrill

The members of WMBA have had a very busy fall. September 19-25 was our traditional week at the Farmington Fair. Several members volunteered to take time out of their busy schedules to staff the table and share their enthusiasm for beekeeping. Ag Day at the fair is a big hit with the kids each year; they love to see the observation hive and get to touch a real frame of beeswax. We send them all back to school pretty sticky, as we let them sample both comb and extracted honey. A special treat this year was having the American Honey Queen spend a day with us. The day was cold and drizzly, but Lisa brightened the day with her enthusiasm and charm. She was interviewed by the local radio station and walked around the fairgrounds passing out honey recipes and telling anyone who would listen how important honey bees are.

WMBA was also invited to participate at the Fryeburg Fair for the first time this year. We had a table in the new Garden Center building along with Johnny's Seeds and Oxford County Extension. We spoke to thousands of folks who were interested in honey bees, concerned for their well-being or even interested in becoming beekeepers. Fortunately we had a lot of members volunteer, as the pace was fast and furious all week! Thanks to Lisa Burns—one of our new members—for a great job setting up and managing the Garden Center all week!

The fall season came to a close on a very windy October afternoon as we wrapped the club hives and got them ready for winter. Members and their guests then enjoyed a hayride through the fields and woods at Fox Run Farm. The weather was chilly, but everyone warmed up with some chili, hot dogs and hamburgers. We only had a small heated building to escape the cold wind, but everyone took turns going in to warm up and then coming out to cook burgers and chat. We now know how the winter cluster feels moving in and out of the warm center! 🍷



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- B O O K R E V I E W -

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping

by Dewey M. Caron

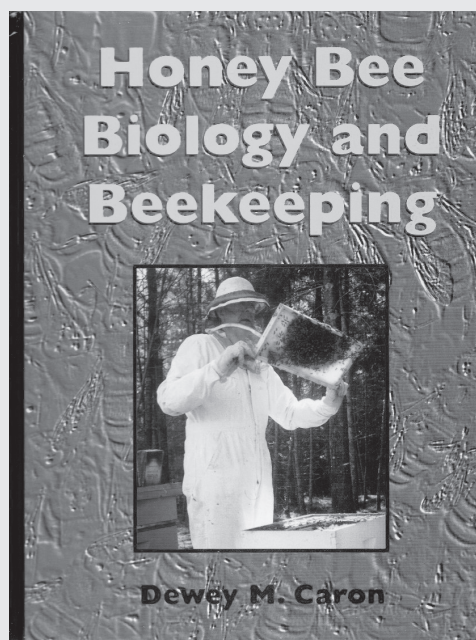
Review by W. Adam Stearns

About the Author | For any of us Beekeepers who have been practicing the art and science of beekeeping for a while, Dewey Caron's name is a very familiar one. Dewey has spoken at meetings for most of the beekeeping clubs to which I belong, and has always been able to provide a new tidbit of knowledge every time I hear him speak. That's the beauty of doing something for as many years as Dewey has played with Bees. Dewey received his PhD in Entomology from Cornell, and now teaches several courses at the University of Delaware. Dewey served as past Chairman for EAS, and continues to stay very busy with beekeeping associations, in the Delaware region and beyond.

About the Book | Dewey wrote this book to serve as the basic textbook for beekeeping courses offered at the college level. As such, it is written in the typical college text format, where topics are discussed, review questions are posed at the end of each chapter, and a listing of additional reading is provided for each topic. He has drawn on the extensive bee biology research of others in the entomology field, such as Mark Winston, and has boiled down the intricate work involved at the PhD level to a point where it is easily understood by those who do not work at that level on a regular basis. It was Dewey's intent to write the book in this fashion so that beekeepers at any level could gain from the body of knowledge contained in this book.

One of the best features of this book is the diagrams. I have not read many beekeeping books where both the quality and quantity

of sketches, charts, and diagrams are equal to what is contained in these pages. From the biological classification of the Honey Bee in the classification of the animal kingdom according to Carl Linnaeus, to the life cycles of tracheal mites and the varroa, and then to how pollination affects the sizes and shapes of fruits; there is a diagram, photo, or a sketch in the book for all of these and many more.



Dewey spends an entire chapter in this book discussing bee communication, and dedicates lots of pages to discussion around bee dances. His description of bee dancing is the best of any books I have read.

The book is broken down into two fundamental parts; the first part discusses basic honey bee biology, and the second part focuses on the practice of beekeeping. While biology in general isn't always the easiest subject to comprehend, both

sections are very easy to understand, and provide the reader with descriptions detailed enough that he or she could use the information to teach another person the basic concepts covered. Subjects in this first section include animal classification, insect/animal sociality, bee anatomy, nest design, communications and pheromones. Dewey also spends time describing the basics of wasps, bumble bees, and ant and termite social living.

The second part of the book focuses on the art of beekeeping and takes the reader through a general year in the apiary, as is done in several other beekeeping books. In this book, however, the reader also has the review questions to conduct a self examination of learning for each section/topic. Subjects covered in this second section of the text include queen rearing, foraging and bee botany, getting started in beekeeping, important events through the calendar year of beekeeping, pollination, pests and poisons, followed by a look into the future.

For the starting beekeeper, this is an excellent book to read after *Backyard Beekeeping* by Flottum, or *Beekeeping for Dummies* by Blackiston. For more advanced beekeepers, this is one of those texts that would be worth having around, should you plan on testing as a master beekeeper at some point. During this colder and more quiet time of the beekeeping year, I highly recommend sitting down next to the fire and reading what Dewey Caron has to offer in these pages, to better understand our beloved honey bee.



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- R E C I P E S -

Stan Brown's Soft Molasses Cookies

Preparation time: 20 minutes

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 c unsalted butter | 1 tsp salt |
| ½ c sugar, plus additional for dusting | 1¼ tsp cinnamon |
| ½ c honey | 1¼ tsp ground cloves |
| ½ c molasses | ¾ tsp ground ginger |
| 2¼ tsp baking soda | 2 large eggs |
| | 3½ c unbleached white flour |

In large bowl cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add molasses while mixing at slow speed. Add baking soda, salt and spices. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each.

Scrape down sides of the bowl, then mix-in flour.

Cover the bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease two baking sheets.

Shape or scoop the dough into 1½-inch balls. Roll each ball in sugar and place on baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches between them. Bake for 10 minutes; the centers will appear soft and puffy. Cool cookies on the pan for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Makes 44 cookies.

According to Stan, these cookies can be eaten every day, and thus a new batch may need to be baked every week!

Pumpkin/Squash Pie

contributed by Karen Thurlow-Kimball

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 c steamed or canned squash or pumpkin | ½ c powdered cow or soy milk |
| 1 c milk | ½ tsp sea salt |
| 4 eggs | ½ tsp ginger |
| ½ c honey | ½ tsp cinnamon |
| ¼ c molasses | ¼ tsp nutmeg |
| | 1 tsp vanilla |

Makes two 9-inch pies.

Prepare and pre-bake two 9-inch crusts at 425°F for 10 minutes.

Combine all filling ingredients and mix until smooth. Pour into the crusts and bake at 375°F for 45 minutes, until center is firm.

[From the *Sunburst Farm Family Cookbook*]

Behind the Veil: Ian Munger



NORTH BERWICK [YORK COUNTY]

BEEKEEPER SINCE: 2009

CURRENTLY 3 HIVES SPLIT BETWEEN 2 RURAL APIARIES;
THESE FROM SEVERAL HIVES COMBINED IN LATE FALL.

DAY JOB: DETECTIVE

BEGINNINGS

I have always been interested in bees. I used to go to the fairs to look at the observation hives. Beth, my wife, was at first hesitant, but now supports my bee habit.

LESSON(S) LEARNED

I tend to always be in a hurry in my daily life. I like to cross things off my list and keep to a schedule. The bees don't seem to read my list and will do things on their own time. As a beekeeper I must be patient and trust the bees. They also have taught me to accept that things will not always be perfect. I tend to try to want the bees to keep their hive organized and overly clean. However, they keep adding propolis to the top cover no matter how much I scrape it off!

GOALS

Next year I plan to expand my apiaries by adding several nucs and raising Russian bees. I hope to also begin raising queens.

VIEW

Attention to detail and the ability to absorb information serves me well as a beekeeper. My computer skills give me ways to store information and help to teach others about bees.

STYLE

I consider myself a natural, but responsive beekeeper.

BEEES

I consider my bees to be pets.

MY SKILL LEVEL: NEWBEE **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** MASTER BEEKEEPER*

*Sometimes I feel my skill level rises to a 6 or 7, maybe even an 8 when my bees are happy and healthy. Then the bees do something to catch me off-guard, and I feel my skill level sliding back to 1.

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THE SERIOUS BEEKEEPER: Time to Begin Master Beekeeper Preparations by Erin MacGregor-Forbes

The Eastern Apicultural Society annual meetings will be held in New England in both 2011 and 2012. Any Maine beekeeper who is serious about expanding their beekeeping knowledge and skill set should plan to attend one or both of these meetings. The 2011 EAS will be held the last week of July in Rhode Island and the 2012 EAS will be held the second week of August in Vermont. Both of these meetings will be fantastic and will have tons of workshops and educational opportunities for all levels of beekeeper, from beginners to extremely advanced apiarists.

As always, EAS will be certifying Master Beekeepers this at the annual conferences. This involves an application process (including recommendations of candidates by Master Beekeepers or recognized professionals in the field of apiculture), as well as a four-part test. The test includes a written examination, a lab exam, a field exam (hive inspection), and an oral exam. The test is currently prepared and evaluated by Clarence Collison (formerly of Mississippi State University) and it is comprehensive and very demanding. Candidates often sit for the exam multiple times before passing. Fortunately once one section is passed, it need not be re-taken.

With the recent increase in the number of backyard beekeepers in Maine, we have a clear need for more involved mentoring beekeepers and the Master Beekeeper program is designed to meet exactly this need. There is certainly demand for at least double the amount of bee schools being taught in our state. Increasing backyard beekeepers has also increased nuisance complaints. We need a strong population of Master Beekeepers to help ease some of these bottlenecks for our bees and our beekeepers. To find out more about the EAS master beekeeper program, see the listing on page 14, as well as the EAS website at www.easternapiculture.org/programs/mb/mboverview.shtml

Maine currently has four Master Beekeepers—myself, Rick Cooper, Carol Cottrill and Theo Cherbuliez. In addition, Larry Peiffer is a current Master Beekeeper candidate having passed all but the lab exam, and Roy Cronkhite has just begun the process and has passed the field exam. I would like to encourage anyone interested in more information about the Master Beekeeper program to contact any one of us!

Erin MacGregor-Forbes
838-4046
queenbee@overlandhoney.com

Rick Cooper
666-5643
rick@bees-n-me.com

Carol Cottrill
364-0917
cottrill136@roadrunner.com

Theo Cherbuliez
865-9016



BEEKEEPING SCHOOLS

Cumberland County CE Intermediate Bee School

Instructor: Master Beekeeper
Erin MacGregor-Forbes

Jan – Feb 2011; Details TBD

Room 303, Payson Smith Hall,
USM Campus, Portland

FMI: Colleen Hoyt, 780-4205
or choyt@umext.maine.edu

5-Week Beginner Bee School

Instructors: Master Beekeeper
Erin MacGregor-Forbes
& Geoff MacLean

Feb – Mar 2011; Details TBD

Room 303, Payson Smith Hall,
USM Campus, Portland

FMI: Colleen Hoyt, 780-4205
or choyt@umext.maine.edu

Knox-Lincoln County CE 7-Week Beginner Bee School

Instructors: experienced KLCB
& MSBA beekeepers

Mar 1 – Apr 12, 2011

(TBA: one Saturday
to assemble hive equipment)

Tuesdays, 7 – 9PM

Knox Lincoln County
Extension Office, Waldoboro

FMI: www.klcbee.com
or Jane Dunstan, 586-6800
or MSAD #40 Adult Ed,
832-5205

Fee: \$60 + \$10 (due at 1st class)
for materials: *Beekeeping Basics*,
pro-rated KLCB membership,
free raffle ticket, certificate
of completion

Rick Cooper 3-Week Beginner Bee Schools

Saturdays, 9AM – 3PM

Class 1: Feb 19,
Mar 5 & 19, 2011*

Class 2: Feb 26,
Mar 12 & 26, 2011*

*Package installation Apr 16

BEES-N-ME in Bowdoinham

FMI: Rick Cooper, 666-5643
or rick@bees-n-me.com

Fee: \$40 for first family member,
\$25 for any additional members

Western Maine Beekeepers

11-Week Beginner Bee School

Jan 19 – Mar 30, 2011

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:45PM

Region 9 School cafeteria,
Mexico

FMI: Carol Cottrill, 364-0917
or wmba@roadrunner.com

Register on Jan 19, 6PM; \$35

Agricultural Trade Show

Jan 11, 12, 13 [T: 9AM-5PM,
W: 9AM-8PM, TH: 9AM-3PM]

Augusta Civic Center

The MSBA needs volunteers
to staff its booth in 3- or 4-hour
shifts, talking to the public about
bees, promoting beekeeping and
the MSBA, and selling honey
and wax products. Interested
in volunteering time, donating
honey/wax products or selling
products on consignment?
Contact Tony Jadcak: 287-7562
or anthony.m.jadcak@maine.gov

UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS

American Beekeeping Federation Conference

Theme: Together
for a Sweet Future

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nity to bring together beekeep-
ers of all levels and from all over
the country and beyond to share
ideas and develop new contacts.

Jan 4 – 8, 2011

The San Luis Resort
Galveston, TX

www.nabeekeepingconference.com

Vermont Beekeepers Association

Tuesday, Jan 25, 2011

Mutuo Club, Barre, VT

Details TBD

www.vermontbeekeepers.org

EAS 2011 Conference and Short Course

The EAS Conference will be
held in Rhode Island in 2011.
Make plans now to spend the
week of July 25 through 29 in
Warwick at the Crowne Plaza
Hotel and Conference Center.
Warwick is an easy 3 ½ hour
drive from Portland and the
beekeepers of Rhode Island
have planned a great week. The
short course—with both novice
and advanced levels—will take
place on Monday and Tuesday.
The Conference begins on
Wednesday and in addition
to lots of interesting speakers
offers workshops on Thursday
and Friday. There are plans for a
barbeque and a clambake during
the week and of course the tra-
ditional banquet on Friday. We
toured the facility in October
and it is really nice. Rooms are
available at a discounted rate
(ask for the EAS rate—group
code BEE) and there are even
camping spots on the grounds
if you have a self-contained unit
(no hook ups).

www.easternapiculture.org

Beekeeping Calendar: December — January

Excerpt from State Apiarist Tony Jadcak's "A Year in the Apiary: Central Maine"
www.mainebeekeepers.org/maine-state-bee-inspector/index.html

December: Leave the bees alone and hope for a January thaw
so the bees can have a cleansing flight.

January: Assemble and repair equipment. Read beekeeping
texts and periodicals. Sign up for a beekeeping course offered
by Extension, Adult Education or local beekeeping association.

February: Order package bees for late April – early May arrival.
Check wintering colonies for honey reserves by hefting the hive.
Feed sugar candy or dry sugar if needed.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family | \$ 270.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Gift Contribution | \$ _____ |

Total Payment \$ _____

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