

News For South Carolina



President's Message

Here we are entering a new millennium, February 2000. Time for fresh beginnings. Lots of snow and ice are forcing many of us to stay indoors making it a good time to plan for a busy spring. It gives us time to look through the wish books, magazines, and catalogs, make a list and order bees and equipment. With the anticipation of a great spring when this ice and snow leaves, we need to assemble new hive bodies, frames and foundation to ensure that we are prepared when the warm days bring flowers (pollen and nectar) and a big honey flow.

This is a time for caution. Make sure the hives have an adequate food supply. You may have to feed some sugar. Medicate early in order to have the proper time intervals before the honey flow.

Many local beekeeping organizations are sponsoring beginning beekeeping courses. You are to be congratulated and encouraged in your efforts. I am particularly please when I hear about programs that involve our youth. We need the youth in beekeeping and in an effort to interest them in beekeeping, I would like to put together a small pamphlet or booklet outlining the pleasure of beekeeping as a hobby and the opportunities for a rewarding part or full time vocation. Your help is needed to make this more meaningful and interesting. Please send photographs, helpful articles, suggestions of all kinds. What advice would you give? What works for you in your area? Photos of your honey house, bees, bee yard, special equipment, anything related to beekeeping will be useful. Please attach your name so I can give you credit if I use a photo or suggestion. If you don't want your name used please say so. Thank you in advance for your help; this is very important to me and beekeeping.

Local associations should be thinking about

nominations for Extension Agent of the Year and Beekeeper of the Year. This is a chance to recognize the people who have been outstanding in your organization. Don't forget to put it in your local newspapers.

Thanks to Mike Hood, the other officers and directors, the program for our spring meeting will be one you will not want to miss. The best way to have a great year is to start the year with the latest up to date information. It will also be a chance to see old friends and make new ones. The spring meeting will be March 4th at the SC Farm Bureau in Cayce, West Columbia.

Thank you for being part of the SC Beekeepers, may God bless you and give you a safe trip to our Spring 2000 meeting!

William F. Childers

President of the South Carolina Beekeepers
7552 Charlotte Hwy, York, SC 29745
803-684-6345 E-mail: scbee@hotmail.com

South Carolina Beekeeping Update

South Carolina Beekeepers Spring Meeting

- The South Carolina Beekeepers will hold their spring meeting Saturday, March 4, at the Farm Bureau Building, 724 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce, (West Columbia) SC. The meeting site can be reached easily from I-26 by taking the Airport Exit; go north toward Columbia which will run into Knox Abbott Drive. The building is on the left approximately 3 miles from I-26. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the meeting program will get under way at 8:45. Registration cost is \$2 per person or \$3 per family.

Mr. Spann Leitner, who celebrated his 90th

birthday in November and is a Life Member of the SCBA, will begin our meeting with an invocation. After president Bill Childers makes his opening comments, South Carolina House of Representative Bill Riser from West Columbia will give a "Legislative Update." Guest speakers include Steve Taber from Elgin, SC, who will speak on "Observations on a Small Hive Beetle Research Project in South Carolina" and Fred Rossman from Rossman Apiaries, Inc, Moultrie, GA, who will speak on "Economics of Honey Sales." Other speakers include Kurt Herbst from Circle "B" Ranch, Round O, who will speak on "Foul Brood Prevention" and Cliff Ward from West Columbia, who will give a report on the "South Carolina State Fair." Diane Biering of Cottageville will give a presentation on "Activities Around Bee City." Fred Singleton, apiary inspector, Clemson University Department of Plant Industry, will give a "Regulatory Update" and Mike Hood, extension/research apiculturist, Clemson University Department of Entomology, will give reports on "Small Hive Beetles and Varroa Mite Control." Huck Babcock from Blue Ridge Apiaries in Cayce will give an entertaining presentation titled "Beekeeping Tales, Some True and Some Not True."

All beekeepers or anyone interested in beekeeping are invited to attend for a good time of education and fellowship. For further meeting information, call Mike Hood, Executive Secretary SCBA, (ph. 864-656-0346).

Small Hive Beetle - South Carolina received approval of the renewal of Check Mite+® Beehive Pest Control Strip (AI. 10% Coumaphos) for small hive beetle and varroa mite control on January 18, 2000. Currently, there is no EPA registration number for this product. All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the proposed product label submitted by the state must be followed. A maximum of 150,000 strips may be sold in SC till the label expiration date, January 18, 2001.

Some additional beekeeper use restrictions have been added to this current label. 1) Remove honey supers before application of Check Mite+® and **do not replace supers until 14 days after the strips are removed.** 2) Leave strips in hive for **up to 45 days.** 3) For varroa mite control, do not treat hives more than twice annually. 4) For

small hive beetle control, do not treat hives more than four times annually. 5) **Sale of comb honey from hives treated with coumaphos is prohibited.** Read and follow all directions on pesticide labels.

This the second year that South Carolina has sought and received the use of coumaphos impregnated in plastic strips to be hung in beehives to control varroa mites and small hive beetles under a section 18 of FIFRA. The decision of whether future requests for this use are approved will depend, in part, on progress made towards registration. We thank Don Adams and other members of the Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation and Public Services for the role they played in processing our registration package request for this Section 18 label.

Treatment of small hive beetle infested colonies with Check Mite +® should be limited to periods when daytime temperatures are 65° F or higher. At lower temperatures, beetles may not be active enough to come in contact with the strips. No treatment thresholds have been developed to recommend to beekeepers as to what beetle levels warrant treatment. A general guideline is - treatment is not recommended when few adult beetles are present in a colony. When many adult beetles are present and/or when beetle larvae are present, treatment is recommended. Ground treatment below colonies with Gard Star® or similar "site treatment materials" is recommended to disrupt the beetle life cycle. Ground treatment is not recommended as a preventive measure for small hive beetles.

Beekeepers should practice good bee management to reduce colony stress which could lead to major small hive beetle problems. Stresses which may lead to beetle problems are the presence of European foul brood, mite problems, queen failure, insufficient food, excessive swarming, and over-supering. Any factor that reduces the ratio of the colony bee population to its comb surface that the bees are no longer able to protect this comb surface adequately may lead to serious beetle problems.

Beekeepers should practice good sanitation in and around the honey house. Wax cappings should be melted and processed timely and slum gum removed from the area. Supers of honey

should be extracted within a day or so and not stored in the honey house for long periods.

Small hive beetle discoveries have now been confirmed in 20 of the 46 South Carolina counties including: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Lexington, Orangeburg, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, and Sumter.

Formic Gel Approved

Bob Stevens, President of Apicure, Inc. announced in December that the formic acid gel packs, used to treat honey bee colonies for tracheal mites, and for additional control of Varroa mites are being shipped. Distributors include B & B Honey, Dadants, Midcon, Brushy Mountain Bee Supply, Glory Bee and Apicure. Beekeepers may purchase this product in boxes of 24 individual units if buying by mail, or singles if picking up packages. "Because this is considered a hazardous product by UPS" Stevens said, "we have to have the boxes we send them in registered. That's why we picked a 24 unit package". Smaller supply operations can purchase packs of 24 for resale, or can personally pick up lesser amounts for resale he added. Shelf life is stated to be at least 2-3 years, so a purchase of 24 packs will last for several treatment periods. Recommended treatment time from the label is in the spring.

The price for a single half-pound treatment is \$1.95, plus shipping. The gel comes in a 3 layered plastic pouch, made of 3 different types of plastic. The beekeeper simply lays the 4 1/2" x 8" packet on the top bars of the hive, cuts the bag on the premarked X on the bag with a utility knife, places the inner cover and cover on and that's it Stevens said. Formic acid is heavier than air and settles out of the colony leaving via the front door. All materials in the bag are food approved, that is the formic acid and the gel it is in so honey contamination will not be a problem. Colonies that use migratory covers will have a problem because of the 3/8" thickness of the pack.

"Beekeepers are going to have a learning curve using this material", Stevens said, "because every colony, and every apiary location is

different. And this material is definitely geography oriented. Evaporation rates will vary according to exposure to the wind and other weather factors that will vary year by year. However, when used to its fullest capacity, it gives essentially complete control of Tracheal mites, and good control of Varroa, sometimes control as effective as Apistan or Checkmite+", he added.

Source: **Bee Culture** — January 2000

Methyl Parathion (PennCap-M) Use on Many Crops is Canceled

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has canceled the use of methyl parathion for many crop uses effective December 31, 1999. The cancellation that will have the most affect on beekeepers is that methyl parathion in the form of PennCap-M (a microencapsulated formulation of the pesticide) for use on apple orchards is among the canceled uses.

According to a news release from the EPA, "Methyl parathion is one of the most toxic organophosphate pesticides. The organophosphate can overstimulate the nervous system causing nausea, dizziness, confusion, and at high exposures, respiratory paralysis and death." EPA's risk assessment showed that methyl parathion could not meet the FQPA (Food Quality Protection Act) safety standard as the pesticide is currently registered. The acute dietary risk to children ages one to six exceeded the acute population adjusted dose (or amount that can be consumed safely in one day or less) by 88%. To mitigate the high dietary risk to children, EPA accepted voluntary cancellation of those crops that contribute most to the children's diet. These



honey bee on aster (#8931, ESA Ries Memorial Slide Collection).

anceled uses represent 90% of the dietary risk to children. Removing these crop uses brings the estimated dietary risk down to 78% of the reference dose, making the risk from food acceptable for children and all others in the U.S. population.

The cancellation of the organophosphate, methyl parathion, was primarily a response to food safety for children but there also was other considerations. Worker safety (people working in the fields and orchards with the pesticide) was another concern. In addition is the fact that methyl parathion is used in a microencapsulated form in fruit orchards where it has caused severe bee poisoning problems in North Carolina and other states. The microencapsulated product is formulated so that it is about the size of pollen grains, and the pesticide can remain toxic for periods of six months or more. Honey bees and other insects will actually collect the pesticide as if it were pollen and take it back to the hive where the pesticide can kill young nurse (adult) bees and bee larvae for months after the pesticide collection.

The cancellation of methyl parathion (PennCap-M) use in fruit orchards is a significant improvement for N.C. beekeepers who have apiaries near apple orchards in that the beekeepers will no longer have to worry about PennCap-M problems. At a time when our beekeepers are forced to deal with introduced mite pests and the newly introduced small hive beetle, this is good news.

Following is a list of the canceled uses of methyl parathion:

- Canceled Children's Food Uses: All fruit (apples, peaches, pears, grapes, nectarines, cherries, and plums), carrots, succulent peas, succulent beans, and tomatoes.
- Other Canceled Food Uses: Artichokes, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, collards, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard greens, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

- Canceled Non-Food Uses: Ornamentals, grasses grown for seed, mosquito use, and nursery stock.

The following uses of methyl parathion have not been affected by the cancellation and can be used on the specified food crops:

- Uses Remaining: Alfalfa, almonds, barley, cabbage, corn, cotton, dried beans, dried peas, grass, hops, lentils, oats, onions, pecans, rape seed (canola), rice, rye, soybeans, sugar beets, sunflower, sweet potato, walnuts, wheat, and white potatoes.

The cancellation of methyl parathion on most food crops is effective as of December 31, 1999. The pesticide may be used to treat crops until that date. After that date the pesticide may not be used on any of the listed (canceled crop uses) products. application of methyl parathion for the canceled uses will be prohibited for the 2000 growing season. Many of the manufacturers of the pesticide have announced that they will repurchase remaining stocks of the product.

Beekeepers should take special note that methyl parathion (PennCap-M) will not be labeled for use on fruit orchards after December 31, 1999. However, the product may still be used in crops such as corn. Beekeepers with apiaries near such permitted crop uses are advised to check with neighboring growers to see if those growers will use methyl parathion (PennCap-M), and be prepared to deal with any problems that arise from such uses.

The ENN CEE Bee Buzz — October 1999.

Pollinator Declines and Changing Pollination Patterns

By ESA members Howards S. Ginsberg and Vincent Tepedino

The possibility that pollinator populations are declining has raised increasing concern in recent years.

The book *The Forgotten Pollinators* drew attention to disconcerting evidence of declines in pollinators, including bees, birds, and bats.

The society for Conservation Biology published a position paper that recognized potential declines in various pollinators and called for increased attention to pollination trends, including monitoring and systematics of invertebrate pollinators.

Are these declines real? Do they represent broad scale declines in natural populations, or are they simply anecdotes based on local observations? If pollinator numbers are indeed dwindling, the implications for natural systems and for agriculture would be profound.

Potential causes of declines in bee populations are easy to identify. Among the possible causes: habitat fragmentation and loss, pesticide use, introduction and the spread of alien species, including plant species.

Although these possible effects may be obvious, solid evidence of pollination pattern changes is harder to come by. For wild species and even feral honey bees there are no standardized monitoring programs that could provide convincing evidence of trends in bee populations. Pollination pattern trends of wild plants are similarly difficult to document.

The need to address these possible trends has generated interest in the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture (DOI and USDA).

This past May, a joint USDA/DOI workshop on declining pollinators was held at the USDA bee laboratory in Logan, Utah. The workshop included academic and museum scientists as well as researchers from the two agencies.

Recommendations from the workshop included establishment of long-term monitoring programs for feral honey bees and selected native species, surveys of pollinator populations along a cline from urban to suburban, agricultural and natural areas, as well as systematics.

Also, research was recommended on the roles of pollinators in natural systems, the agricultural value of wild pollinators, and methods to restore extirpated or artificially modified pollinator populations.

The release of the meeting's final report is due in the spring.

In October, a meeting sponsored by the National Science Foundation was held at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, California, at which 20 bee researchers, pollination biologists, and statisticians focused on the technical issues associated with detecting trends in populations of bees and other insect pollinators. The results of this workshop will be published electronically in 2000.

The increased interest in potential pollinator declines is encouraging, but the end result of these efforts is difficult to predict.

Perhaps DOI lands, including national parks and Fish and Wildlife Service refuges, can play a role in maintaining the diversity of bees and other insects and in providing needed corridors for migratory vertebrate pollinators.

Even highly developed lands can potentially support pollinator populations by providing floral resources during periods of natural dearth or suitable nesting sites for selected bee species.

Programs of this type require basic knowledge of pollination trends and of the biology of pollinator species. Therefore, it is important for entomologists and ecologists to perform the studies needed to establish trends in pollinator populations, and to devise methods to restore and manage these species.

The dual roles of many of these species as crop pollinators and as wild pollinators in natural communities assure their importance to all of us. As entomologists, we can contribute to the understanding of these organisms, and can help develop ways to preserve them.

Contacts: **Howard S. Ginsberg**, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at the University of Rhode Island, hsgnsbg@uriacc.uri.edu, and **Vincent J. Tepedino**, USDA-ARS Bee Biology & Systematics Laboratory at Utah State University, andrena@cc.usu.edu.

Sources:

Buchmann, S., and G. Nabhan, 1996. *The Forgotten Pollinators*. Island Press, Washington, DC.

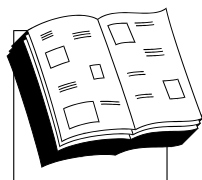
Allen-Wardell, et al. 1998. *Conservation Biology* 12: 8–17.

Pollination Information

S.E. McGregor's 1976 publication, "Insect Pollination of Cultivated Crop Plants," is available at the USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center's [website <gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov>](http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov), where it has been re-arranged and is being revised.

The book is out of print; so, the Bee Research Center took on the projects when the beekeeping industry expressed interest in updating the information in the book, and making the publication more widely available. It is now available to anyone with internet access.

Currently McGregor's book contains information on over 100 crops. The Web Page has arranged the book into Chapters on specific groups of crops, such as "Tree Fruit and Nut Crops" and "Legumes and Relatives." This allows information on any crop to be found quickly by



simply moving the pointer to the crop name, and clicking the mouse. The entire book or just the information in specific chapters can be downloaded and printed. As the chapters are updated, they will replace the

original write-up on the crop. New chapters will be added as information on crops not included in the original publication become available. This will make McGregor's book a living document that can be easily updated with the latest pollination information. Anyone who would like to write a chapter can do so by contacting either Dr. Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman or Dr. Eric Erickson.

Source: The Speedy Bee — Nov./Dec. 1999



In-depth...

The NHB is proud to offer the honey industry the most up-to-date information we can at our industry Web site www.nhb.org. (We also have an award-winning site for consumers, www.honey.com). Every day, we receive information that is important to the honey industry. A few short years ago, we spent a great deal of time and expense creating masses of mail, only to realize that by the time the information reached people, it was already old news. The internet has revolutionized this process. Visit our site frequently and you'll be in the know like never before! **Go to www.nhb.org and click on the "Honey Industry" link on our home page (www.nhb.org/industry).**

What can be found at www.nhb.org?

- Statistics on the U.S. honey supply with dozens of graphs, reports, articles and resources on domestic honey production, plus honey import activity and assessed pounds of honey. Additionally, you'll find honey pricing data, including graphs for prices by floral source and container type.
- Statistics on the international honey supply with graphs that illustrate which portion of the country's honey is exported to the U.S. You'll also find forecasts from the Foreign Agricultural Service, annual reports from various countries and prices by country.
- Business "How To." featured items include sections from the recently released Official NHB Marketing Kit, the *NHB Specialty Item Catalog*, the *PRIDE* brochure and many informative reports regarding quality control, promotion and business aspects of the industry.
- Honey research articles and kits. Download a copy of the *Honey Hotline Newsletter*, the *Home Brew Kit* or the *Honey Information Kit*. One click can take you to the NHB Food Tech site or the NHB Pressroom.
- Information on legislation that may affect the honey industry. Learn the specifics of the Act and order for the NHB, plus find articles and notices about the referendum and other legislative activity (such as organic standards and honey loans).

- Bee research and information about pollination and pesticide use, plus links to various bee labs.
- “Stats at a Glance.” Information and resources that will give you a quick overview of industry statistics and the National Honey Board.

Source: National Honey Board News — Dec. 1999

More News from the National Honey Board

- On January 4, 2000, PBS broadcasted *Tales from the Hive*, a Nova episode that was literally filmed inside a beehive. The program followed bees in flight to capture close-ups of honeybee behavior. Visit Nova’s Web site at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/> and see the Anatomy of a Hive, the Buzz about Bees, Dances with Bees, the Making of the Film, plus a listing of additional film resources (including a link to our www.honey.com Web site).
- The National Honey Board selected “Honey I Love You” as the theme for its new recipe cards. The cards feature timeless simple and sweet honey recipes as well as honey storage and use tips. We’ll distribute the recipe cards to retailers, food editors, consumers and beekeeping associations. **If you’d like free copies of your own, call (888)421-2977 and press 7 when prompted.** Leave your name, address (no P.O. boxes, please) and phone number, along with the number of recipe cards (up to 500 are free to assessment-paying producers) you would like to order. You’ll receive your cards in six to eight weeks.
- Food Industry News reports that projected sales of kosher products are likely to jump to about 10% this year, to a total of \$50 billion. The report adds that American kosher food manufacturers are increasingly targeting non-Jewish customers.
- After reviewing export forecasts, the editors of the December 1999 *Kiplinger Agriculture Letter* concluded that: “[Farmers] can no longer rely solely on bulk commodities for income. Consumers will demand foods with specific qualities to fit their tastes. High-value products are the keys to boosting income in years

ahead. Co-ops, supply chains, and strategic alliances will provide a way for farmers to produce high-value goods to fit consumer needs at lower risk and cost.”

Source: National Honey Board News — Vol. 4, No.1 — January 2000

2000 Calendar

Mar 4	S.C. Beekeepers will meet in Columbia, SC
Mar 3-4	N.C. State Beekeepers will meet in Lumberton, NC
Jul 13-15	S.C. Beekeepers will meet in Clemson, SC
Jul 20-22	N.C. State Beekeepers will meet in Burlington, NC
Jul 31- Aug 4	Eastern Apicultural Society will meet in Salisbury, MD

SOUTH CAROLINA BEEKEEPERS
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bill Childers	(803)684-6345
Vice President: Kurt Herbst	(843)769-0321
Secretary/Treasurer: Katherine Price	(803)794-1442
Executive Secretary: Mike Hood	(864)656-0346
Past President: Ron Taylor	(843)835-2482
Directors: Cliff Ward	(803)794-5633
Ron Moore	(843)493-2143
Steve Genta	(864)243-9013
Tommy Grant	(864)972-3399
Charles Ford	(803)324-7027

Respectfully submitted,



William Michael Hood
Extension apiculturist



2000 SOUTH CAROLINA BEEKEEPERS SPRING MEETING
S.C. FARM BUREAU BUILDING, CAYCE, SC
MARCH 4, 2000

- 8:00 am... Registration & Coffee
Meeting Registration Fee - \$2/person or \$3/family
- 8:45. . . . Invocation - Spann Leitner, Life Member SCBA, Fairfield County
Welcome & President's Comments - President Bill Childers, York Co.
Introductions & Announcements - Mike Hood, Exec. Sec. SCBA
- 9:00. . . . SC Legislative Update - Representative Bill Riser, District 69, Lexington County
- 9:15 Regulatory News - Fred Singleton, Apiary Inspector, Clemson University Department of Plant Industry, Summerville
- 9:30 Status of the Small Hive Beetle and Their Control - Mike Hood, Dept. of Entomology Clemson University
- 9:50 Break
- 10:15 . . . **Door Prizes**
- 10:20 . . . Business Meeting - Bill Childers, President SCBA
- 10:35. . . . South Carolina State Fair News - Cliff Ward, Director SCBA, West Columbia
- 10:45 . . . Economics of Honey Sales - Fred Rossman, Rossman Apiaries, Moultrie, GA



- 11:10 . . . Beekeeping Tales, Some True and Some Not True - Huck Babcock, Blue Ridge Apiaries, Cayce
- 11:30 . . . Word from Our Vendors
- 11:45 . . . **Lunch On Your Own**
- 1:10 **Door Prizes**
- 1:15 Activities Around Bee City - Diane Biering, Cottageville
- 1:45 Observations on a Small Hive Beetle Research Project - Steve Taber, Retired USDA Bee Scientist, Kershaw Co.
- 2:15 Foul Brood Prevention - Kurt Herbst, Circle Bee Ranch, V. President SCBA, Round O
- 2:45 Varroa Mite Control - Mike Hood, Clemson University
- 3:05 Final Comments - Bill Childers, President, SCBA
- 3:15 **END - Have a Safe Trip Home & See You in Clemson on July 13-15.**
SCBA Executive Committee Meeting



Layered Taco Dip

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup Honey | 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese |
| 8 oz. cream cheese | 1/2 cup chopped tomato, green pepper |
| 8 oz. sour cream | and black olives |
| 1 cup salsa | |

Beat honey, cream cheese and sour cream together until smooth. Spread on the bottom of a 9-inch square dish. Layer remaining ingredients in order given. Refrigerate. Serve with tortilla chips.