

News For South Carolina Beekeepers



June 2005

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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS

South Carolina Beekeepers to Meet at Clemson University

The summer meeting of the South Carolina Beekeepers will be held at Clemson University, Clemson, SC on 7-9 July 2005. Registration will begin on Thursday, 7 July at 12:00 noon in the Poole Agricultural Center Lobby. (See program for registration details) The meeting will begin at 1:00 in the Newman Hall Auditorium with session 1 of an intermediate level beekeeping short course. The course is designed for beekeepers with some experience, but everyone is welcome. The short course will break for dinner at 5:00 and session 2 of the short course will begin at 7:00 and end at 9:00 PM.



On Friday morning, we will begin with a general session at 8:00 and workshops will be held in the afternoon. We have several out-of-state speakers on the program including Dewey Caron from the University of Delaware, Jennifer Berry and Keith Delaplane from the University of Georgia, Laurence Cutts from Chipley, Florida, and Bob Cole from Todd, North Carolina. We have several other speakers from South Carolina who will speak at the meeting. For more details, you will find a meeting program in this newsletter. A **special event** is scheduled for spouses on Friday morning. They will visit the nearby town of Seneca.

Beekeeping supply vendors have donated many door prizes which will be given to lucky winners during the meeting. A new honey extractor and holding tank have been donated which will be raffled off.

A barbecue pork/baked chicken dinner is planned for Friday evening at Jimmy Howard's home in Pendleton. Scheduled activities are the annual horseshoe pitching tourney and a tall tales contest. Dinner will be served for \$6.00/plate. On Saturday morning, we will have another general session beginning at 8:00 that will include many interesting topics and the meeting will end at noon.

We will have a honey show and competition at our summer meeting this year. Bring along a container of your best honey. Please do not place a label on your honey containers. Honey classes will be pint and quart

extracted. There will be light and dark classes, so do not be concerned if your honey is dark. A "black jar class" will be included again. This class will be judged on taste only. Small black jars will be provided at the show so bring a sample of your best tasting honey and take this ribbon home. June Ponder from the Oconee Beekeepers will oversee this event. Ribbons will be awarded for each category.

On-campus housing will not be available during the meeting due to dorm renovations this summer. Meals are available on campus at the Harcombe Food Court for Thursday lunch & dinner, Friday bkfst & lunch, and Saturday bkfst. There is also a food court in the new Hendrix Student Center which is about a 5 minute walk from our meeting site. And yes, this is the same place where you can buy the delicious ice cream and blue cheese.

Other accommodations are available off campus in the Clemson area as follows: Clemson Comfort Inn, \$55, (864)-653-3600, includes contl. bkfst and swimming pool; Clemson Sleep Inn, \$55, (864) 653-6000, includes contl bkfst, no swimming pool; Clemson Hampton Inn, \$71, (864)-653-7744, includes contl. bkfst and swimming pool; Clemson Ramada Inn, \$59, (864) 654-7501, includes contl. bkfst and inside pool; Clemson Days Inn, \$56, (864) 653-4411, includes contl bkfst, no swimming pool. **Mention that you are attending the South Carolina Beekeepers Convention to get the University rate.** Most of our speakers will be lodging at the Clemson Comfort Inn where we are getting a special rate.

Our designated parking lot for this meeting is the large commuter parking lot (orange marked parking spaces) behind the Poole Agricultural Center. Please do not park in the employee parking spaces marked green or you will get a parking ticket. You will need to pick up a hang tag for your vehicle at our registration desk immediately upon your arrival on campus and place it on your vehicle.

Let's continue to make the South Carolina Beekeepers summer meeting a great success; invite some beekeeping friends to come along for an educational vacation. If you have questions about the meeting,

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Clemson University Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture and South Carolina Counties. Issued in Furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Public Service Activities

please contact Mike Hood, ph. (864) 656-0346, email mhood@clemson.edu.

STATE FAIR 2005 - The 2005 South Carolina State Fair is scheduled to be held October 5-15, in Columbia. Our beekeeping exhibit at the fair provides us a great opportunity to promote our products and the beekeeping industry. Fair visitors have been fascinated by our attractive displays of honey and other apiary products, including the observation hive and other educational items.

Our hats are off to those who participated in the 2004 fair exhibit, especially Cliff Ward who served as coordinator of our booth. Cliff Ward has agreed to serve again this year as coordinator and will be giving a "State Fair Report" at our summer meeting in Clemson. Beekeepers who worked the booth last year were given the opportunity to sell their honey. I've heard some beekeepers did quite well so come to our summer meeting prepared to sign up to spend a day at the State Fair.

Plan now to enter some of your most attractive products and possibly an exhibit in the competition. Honey will be judged on absence of granulation, cleanliness (absence of lint, wax and foam), flavor, color and brightness, and overall appearance of the container. There will be two classes of honey competition, light and dark. Each class will have the following entry categories: 1 lb. extracted, pint extracted, pint with comb, quart extracted, quart with comb, 2 lb extracted and 1 lb with comb. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner for each category with a monetary prize of \$10, \$8 and \$6 awarded respectively. Other categories include 1 lb beeswax.

A "Best Beekeeping Display" offers the largest monetary prizes (\$75, \$60, and \$40). Displays are judged on educational value, advertizing value, attractive arrangement, originality and variety, appearance, and quality of products.

For more details of our South Carolina State Fair, call Cliff Ward in Columbia at (803) 794-5633.

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD REDUCES FEE FOR HONEY LOCATOR

Board makes Honey Locator Even More Accesible for Industry

Longmont, CO — The Honey Locator (<http://www.honeylocator.com>) is an online source for consumers to find honey and honey suppliers. Because of the Honey Locator's popularity, the National Honey Board, at its February meeting, reduced the fee for a listing on the Honey Locator from \$60 to \$20. The reduced fee is effective immediately. The Honey Locator benefits the entire honey industry by informing consumers about the many varieties of honey.

Effective immediately, assessments paid up to 18 months prior to the time of application qualify the applicant for a FREE year's listing during the calendar year. This is the new policy:

- Anyone who has paid assessments in the 18 months prior to or at the time of application is qualified to participate in the Honey Locator at no additional fee.
- Those who have not paid any assessments in the 18 months prior to the date of application may participate in the Honey Locator with a \$20 fee.
- The new fee is good for the calendar year (For example: if you pay any time in 2005, your listing will be effective until December 31, 2005). Each year on January 1, the new fee will be due for a listing on Honey Locator.

"The Board wants to provide this service to the industry and make it easy and inexpensive. We'd like to see more honey industry people take advantage of it, and providing it free to those who have paid assessments seems like a good way to give something back," said Lee Heine, Chairman of the National Honey Board.

The Honey Locator receives thousands of visitors each year looking for suppliers of specific floral varieties and local honeys. During 2004 there were over 108,000 visitor sessions, up from about 90,000 in 2003. This Web site has been highlighted in magazines, newsletters and online as THE way to find honey. Don't miss out on continuing this great opportunity to have an online presence for your company.

The National Honey Board, through its staff in Longmont, Colorado, conducts research, advertising and promotion programs to help maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets for honey. The Board's work, funded by an assessment of one cent per pound on domestic and imported honey, is designed to expand the awareness and use of honey by consumers, the foodservice industry and food manufacturers.

SOURCE: National Honey Board Industry News Room, <http://www.nhb.org/buzz/>.

WHEN BEES BECOME MORE THAN A HOBBY *by Peter Hildebrandt*

Though South Carolina beekeeper Archie Biering doesn't commute to Charleston anymore, he still lives across the street from a "city" of over a million. However, this city's population sign refers to the bees at a place called *Bee City* that is now one of the most important parts of Biering's life.

Archie Biering did have "regular" work for over three decades. But he admits he would have done things a

little differently. "If I could go back and change things I wouldn't have worked for the federal government for 32 years. Instead, I would have been here doing what I'm doing now, doing what I love – beekeeping and informing the public about bees."

For all those years that Biering worked for the U.S. government he commuted over an hour – each way – to Charleston, where he worked as a welder at the U.S. Navy Shipyard. But even before he had that job, Biering kept bees, as did his father before him.

Archie Biering first started out with five hives. But over 10 years ago, he started to sell his tupelo honey from his house near the Edisto River. As more people came out, Biering and his wife Diane, would decorate empty hives to give his customers something to look at. Eventually, as their hive collection grew and the Bierings saw the need, they built a snack bar and gift shop. With time, as groups grew in size, *Bee City* grew to five acres and included both a small petting zoo and an education building for school groups.

Now, 45 years later, he has 162 hives, all within 10 miles of his Cottageville, South Carolina, tourist attraction. *Bee City* grew from Biering's beekeeping hobby. This "hobby" now provides fulltime work for Archie and his wife Diane. What started out as a few unused hives painted to look like village businesses, (with names like *Bee P Gas*, *Buzz-Cut Barber Shop* and *AppleBee's*), has grown into an educational/tourist destination for numerous school groups as well as anyone looking for a delicious lunch in the 50s café or a jar of Biering's own award-winning tupelo honey from *Bee City's* well-stocked gift shop. Biering's honey has won ribbons in both the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia and the Coastal Carolina Fair in Charleston. For the past two years it has won more ribbons than any other honeys entered in the South Carolina State Fair.

Archie thinks there may be some things different about how he runs his bee operations, compared to other beekeepers. "We all have our own procedures that we go by," says Biering, "Of course I have mine. Everything is unique about it, I feel. I run three different bee yards within a 10-mile distance of *Bee City*. I work my bees in the tupelo tree swamps in this area. I never rent my bees out to farmers for pollination."

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect for Archie Biering since his beekeeping operations have expanded, is the fact that he and his wife Diane have the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of bees and the work of beekeepers. One of the most prominent features of *Bee City* is the interactive classroom. In this area, with its seating capacity of 100, students on field trips can view a number of bee displays including an actual working hive. The Bierings point out the queen and workers, what they're doing and the workings of the hive. A *Bee City*-style attraction is not for all beekeepers. It is an all-consuming job. In addition to their café and gift

shop operations, the Bierings have added a petting zoo with monkeys, pigs, goats, peacocks, llamas, turkeys, a donkey, chickens, sheep and fallow deer. "My advice to anyone starting out in this kind of operation," says Archie, "is for you to do as much of the work as you can up front, by yourself. Things get very expensive when you start hiring other people. There isn't that much money involved when you can do it yourself." It helps to have a wife as dedicated as Diane Biering is to the operations, too.

Archie Biering's second career does show signs of slowing down. "I retired 11 years ago. I am not looking to retire from *Bee City* anytime soon – until I absolutely have to."

SOURCE: Bee Culture, March 2005.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Archie Biering is a long time member of the South Carolina Beekeepers Association and President of the Lowcountry Beekeepers Association. He was the South Carolina Beekeeper of the Year in 1998.

MITE-AWAY II FORMIC ACID PAD REGISTRATION GRANTED BY EPA FOR VARROA CONTROL

Mite-Away II™ - A new varroa and tracheal mite treatment product has been granted Section 3 registration from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. State registrations are underway.

Mite-Away II™ is effective in hives with brood, giving a 93.31 ± 5.50% varroa control(1). It is a single application treatment, remaining in the hive for 21 days. Studies have shown no problem with queen loss. There is no known way for resistance mites to develop. Supers can be put on immediately after treatment period, though no honey can be harvested for two weeks.

Mite-Away II™ works by turning the hive into a fumigation chamber, releasing formic acid vapors into the hive in a controlled way. Hundreds of colonies have been involved in the development and testing of Mite-Away II™, and thousands of colonies have been effectively treated. Formic acid is the active ingredient, but success of this product comes from its formulation and packaging.

Beekeepers have had two concerns with Mite-Away II™: 1) the need for a spacer rim and 2) brood kill at the beginning of the treatment period. Nobody wants to have any extra equipment to deal with, but the rim is required to accommodate the Mite-Away II™ pad on the top of the hive, and it is part of forming the vapor column needed to distribute an effective concentration of formic acid vapors through the colony. Beekeepers can modify their covers so the rim is built in, eliminating the need to handle an extra piece of equipment.

The treatment achieves good efficacy while minimizing impact on the colony. When it occurs the sight of brood kill is unpleasant, sometimes shocking to the beekeeper. However, the brood rearing rebounds quickly, all other colony activities remain normal, and no losses in productivity have been documented, when Mite-Away II™ has been applied according to label.

North to South

Treatments with Mite-Away II™ under northern conditions are well defined. The extreme seasons focus treatment windows on each side of the honey flow. The bees also have specific seasonal physiological cycles, known as summer and winter bees(2).

Each of the two populations of bees has a specific purpose to ensure colony survival. Each needs to be protected from varroa for the colony to prosper. If the summer bees are not protected, reduced honey crop and possible late summer collapse can occur. If the winter bees are not protected, the winter cluster will be so weak survival is questionable.

The pattern for a northern treatment program: Spring treatment can be applied when the temperatures reach the levels set out on the label: daily highs of 50 to 79° F. For beekeepers using screen bottom boards, be sure to remove it and replace with a standard Langstroth bottom board, or close over the screen, returning it to Langstroth standards(3). Keep front entrances fully open. Even very low levels of varroa usually need to be treated because of the rapid build-up through the summer. Check with your State Apiarist for recommended spring treatment levels. After the 21 day of application period, remove the spent pad and perform the usual spring operations – reverse brood chambers if desired, make splits, re-queen, super, etc. Towards the end of summer, check your mite levels to see if mite treatment is required. If it is required, at the end of the summer, remove the crop and apply the Mite-Away II™ treatment right away. This is the most crucial application. The bees should still raise a full brood cycle after the Mite-Away II™ pad has gone on. Those bees will be the stable core of the winter cluster. Time commitment for a Mite-Away II™ program for the year should be about five minutes per hive, in a commercial beekeeping outfit.

For control in the southern States beekeepers can apply two treatments during the cooler months of the year. Applications could be three to five months apart, depending on temperature and honey flows. Two applications of Mite-Away II™ should keep varroa mites at tolerable levels for the year, especially if the stock has some resistance.

For all climate zones, consult with your State apiarist to determine treatment windows and thresholds. Mite-Away II™ is the safest way possible to use formic acid for mite control. It is a great tool for the IPM toolbox, controlling

varroa and tracheal with no residue concerns. Always follow the label directions.

For more information: www.miteaway.com or call 866-483-2929.

(1) Skinner, A., Tam, J., Ross. S. OBA TTP report for 2002, The Sting, vol.21 no.4. Published by the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

(2) H.R. Mattila et al, (2001) Timing of production of winter bees in honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies. *Insectes Sociaux* 48: 88-93.

(3) *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, ©1975 by Dadant & Sons Inc, Third Printing 1976, page 307.

SOURCE: American Bee Journal, May 2005.

THE DANGERS OF BEE STINGS

A reminder about common sense and safety involving honey bees and all stinging insects.

While unusual, bee stinging incidents resulting in deaths are not unheard of. There are occasional reports of such incidents from around the country. There are two reasons an individual may die from bee stings. Just one sting can cause anaphylactic shock and possible death in a person highly allergic to the venom. And, a massive number of stings can cause death of even a nonallergic individual.

Allergic persons can experience illness and possible death from any hymenoptera (stinging insects such as bees, wasps, ants, etc.) not just honey bees. About 10 percent of the population are allergic to hymenoptera of one type or the other, and 10 percent of those allergic to honey bees will also be allergic to other hymenoptera and vice versa.

Anyone who receives an insect sting which results in more than localized pain and swelling should contact a physician. Generalized reactions such as severe swelling of the affected limb or itching could indicate the person may have more serious problems with future stings. Farmers, sportsmen, and other persons who spend a lot of time outdoors, but who are allergic to stings, should keep "sting kits" which include injectable epinephrine with them at all times. In addition, there are desensitization regimens available. Both the sting kit and the desensitization require a physician's orders. Honey bees are not aggressive by nature; when they do sting, they are usually defending their nests. When there is a death, the victim was usually elderly or young or, due to some condition, could not escape from the bees. The best reaction to disturbed bees is to run away from the area immediately; honey bees seldom pursue a person away from the immediate vicinity of their nest.

Even experienced beekeepers should wear protective clothing when working bees. Eye protection is especially

important, since one sting to the lens of the eye can permanently damage eyesight.

The reaction of a colony of honey bees to an intruder can vary widely according to many factors, including the number of bees in the hive or nest, the weather conditions, and the ambient temperature. Also, some bees are naturally more hostile to disruptions than are others.

Single insect stings are often generically referred to as "bee stings," even though the offender may be a wasp or yellow jacket. Honey bee stingers are barbed and will pull out of the bee and are left behind on the victim's skin along with a venom sac. If there is no stinger, the offending insect was a wasp or some other smooth-stinger insect.

Removal of the stinger immediately will lessen the impact. Scrape the stinger away with a fingernail or something similar. Using tweezers or pinching the stinger with your fingers can squeeze more venom into the flesh.

There are various over-the-counter remedies to ease the pain of insect stings; a paste made from meat tenderizer is also supposed to help alleviate the pain.

SOURCE: The Speedy Bee, August 2004.

RECIPES

Honey Cinnamon Bread

7-8 cups bread flour
2 pkg. dry yeast
2 cups milk
½ cup honey
½ cup butter
2 tsp salt
1/8 tsp soda
2 large eggs
water
½ cup sugar
2 tbsp cinnamon



In a large mixing bowl, combine 4 cups flour with yeast – set aside. Heat together milk, honey, butter, salt and soda until butter melts. Cool milk mixture to 120 degrees. Add milk to flour and beat with an electric mixer for 1 minute on low. Add eggs and continue to beat. Beat 3 minutes on high, with a wooden spoon stir in enough of remaining flour to make a stiff dough and transfer bread to a floured surface. Knead bread for 5-8 minutes until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl and turn dough to grease top. Cover and let rise 1 hour or until doubled. Punch down dough. Cut in half, cover and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each piece into a 16 x 8 inch rectangle. Brush surface with water and spring with sugar and cinnamon. Form into a loaf by rolling jello roll style and pinching ends and seam. Place seam side down in greased loaf pan, cover and let rise about 40

minutes. Bake at 350° 35-40 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

GLAZE:

1 ½ cups powdered sugar
½ tsp vanilla
2 tbsp milk

Mix together. Spread over cooled bread.

SOURCE: American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter.

Cherry Honey Nut Cookies

2 cups flour
1 cup honey
1 cup quick rolled oats
½ cup sour cream
½ tsp baking powder
½ cup butter
1 tsp salt
2 tsp vanilla
½ tsp baking soda
½ cup nuts
1 cup dried cherries

In a medium bowl, mix all dry ingredients and set aside. In a large bowl, mix honey, sour cream, butter and vanilla.

Add the first bowl of ingredients to the large one and stir until well blended. Stir in nuts, and dried cherries. Drop by spoonful onto greased cookie sheets. Bake at 325° for 20-25 minutes. Let cool on rack.

SOURCE: American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Michael Hood".

William Michael Hood
Extension Apiculturist

2005 Calendar

July 7-9, 2005

SC Beekeepers Summer Meeting
Clemson, SC

July 14-16, 2005

NC State Beekeepers Summer Meeting
Marion, NC

August 9-13, 2005

Eastern Apicultural Society Meeting
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

2005 SCBA SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday - July 7, 2005

- 12:00 Meeting Registration - Poole Agricultural Center Lobby
\$3 Members, \$5 Family, \$8 Nonmembers
Exhibitor Setup - Poole Agricultural Center Lobby
- 1:00 Intermediate Level Beekeeping Short Course - Session I -- Newman Hall Auditorium
- 5:00 Dinner on your own
- SCBA Executive Committee Meeting**
- 7:00 Intermediate Level Beekeeping Short Course - Session II
- 9:00 Adjourn for Evening

Friday - July 8, 2005

- 8:00 AM "Invocation" - Jack Corbett, Midstate Beekeeper, Camden
- "Welcome to Clemson University" - Joe Culin, Chair, Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences, Clemson University
- 8:10 "Announcements and Introductions" - Mike Hood, Extension Apiculturist, CU, Executive Secretary, SCBA
- 8:20 "President's Address and Business Meeting" - Clyde McCall, President - SCBA
- 8:40 "Legislative Update" – Senator Thomas Alexander, Senate District 1 - Oconee and Part of Pickens Counties
- 9:00 "Eastern Apicultural Society 2005 Meeting Announcement" - Bob Cole, Todd, North Carolina
- 9:05 "State of Health for US Beekeeping- a Reality Check", Dewey Caron, University of Delaware
- 9:45 Break - Visit Exhibitors
- 10:10 Door Prizes
- 10:15 "Transition from Government Position to Commercial Beekeeping", Laurence Cutts, Chipley, Florida
- 10:45 "Varroa Mite Resistance to Pesticides", Keith Delaplane, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 11:15 "Keeping Honey Safe", Mike Hood, Clemson University
- 11:45 Lunch on your own
- 1:10 Door Prizes, Announcements, Cliff Ward - "State Fair Report"
- Workshop Introduction
- 1:30 Concurrent 45 Minute Workshops (Sessions begin on the half hour)
1. "Mite Drops and What They Mean", Jennifer Berry, UGA
 2. "Beekeeping Equipment", Kerry Owen, Bee Well Honey Farm, Pickens
 3. "Swarm Prevention and Control", Dewey Caron, Univ. Delaware
 4. "Two Maladies Often Overlooked by Beekeepers", Keith Delaplane, UGA
 5. "Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist", Laurence Cutts, Chipley, FL
 6. "Beekeeping Gadgets from Around the World", Bob Cole, Todd, NC

7. South Carolina Master Beekeeper Program, Written and Practical Tests (offered last hour only)

4:30 Depart for Evening Activities at Jimmy Howard's Home
Horseshoe Pitching Tourney
Barbecue Pork/Baked Chicken Supper (\$6.00/Plate)
Tall Tales Contest

Saturday - July 9, 2005

8:00 Announcements & Door Prizes
8:15 Results of the Honey Show - Clyde McCall and Gene Rogers, Honey Competition Judges
8:30 "Pollination - Honey Bees Are a Natural", Dewey Caron, Univ. of Delaware
9:00 "University of Georgia Queen Breeding Program Update" - Jennifer Berry, Apiculture Research Coordinator, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA
9:30 "Some Things I've Learned in 65 Years of Beekeeping" - Laurence Cutts, Chipley, FL.
10:00 Break - Visit Exhibitors
10:25 Door Prizes
10:30 "A Look at the Lighter Side of Beekeeping", Dewey Caron, Univ. of Delaware
11:00 "First Aid for Beekeepers", Michael Watson, MD. (Retired), Edisto Beekeeper, Bamberg, SC
11:30 "Small Hive Beetle Management", Mike Hood, CU
12:00 Closing Comments, Clyde McCall, President, SCBA
12:05 End - Have a Safe Trip Home!

SCBA Executive Committee Meeting

SPOUSE'S PROGRAM

Friday, July 8, 2005

8:30 AM Meet at the Poole Agricultural Center Lobby
8:40 Depart for Tour Stop: Seneca
1:30 PM. Return to the Poole Agricultural Center



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