



WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Mountain State Beekeepers Working Together
 Fall 2009 Newsletter

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The President's Message

Partner Beekeepers,

2008 was not a good year for beekeepers in WV because of dry weather. Now it looks like 2009 will not be a very productive honey producing year, at least in Greenbrier County and other parts according to some I have talked to, because of too much rain. We may perhaps wonder just who is in charge of the weather and not looking out after our very special interests-----honey bees and their very special product and the service they give to farmers, gardeners and others. Probably a greater power.

The WV Beekeepers Association seems to be doing well at this point what with a wonderful Spring Meeting and all of the committee work that continues unseen by many. We had a very good turnout of support for Agricultural Day at the state capital. This organization applauds and supports the continued efforts and success of the queen producers organization headed by Dan O'Hanlon.

I hope that you can make it to our Fall Meeting at Jackson's Mill. I am certain that our program Chairman, Gene Goff, has something planned that will be of interest and help you in your beekeeping efforts.

Troy Holbrook, President, WVBA

2009 is the WVBA's 40th ANNIVERSARY

The WVBA was initially incorporated on Sept. 15, 1917 and then reorganized in 1969.

NOTICE: NEWSLETTER CHANGE:

Great news! Our membership has grown over the years, from 445 members in the Fall of 2005 to 827 members the Fall of 2009. Starting with the Spring edition in 2010, the WVBA newsletter will be sent electronically to members with e-mail

addresses; those without an e-mail address will still receive a hard copy through the mail. It is important to make sure the WVBA Treasurer has your current e-mail address (this address is at the top of the newsletter). Unfortunately, there are still

individuals who do not get a newsletter because of incomplete or erroneous addresses.

This is an exciting change as the newsletter can be placed on the WVBA website, helps reduce the use of paper and helps the WVBA save money – allowing funds to be used for other projects.

SPRING MEETING 2010

The Cabel-Wayne Beekeeping Association will host the 2010 Spring Meeting on April 10, 2010 at Heritage Farms.

ASSOCIATION NEWS:

Barbour County Beekeepers had 8 members attend the Spring Meeting in Fairmont. Two members attend the HAS meeting in Ohio. We had our field day and picnic at the home of member Macky Laulis. Thirty-eight members and guest attended. Discussions included basic hive inspection, finding and marking the queen, among others. We are preparing a booth at the Barbour County Fair.

Kanawha Valley Beekeeper members have been so helpful this year along with the West Virginia Dept. of AG. The interest in beekeeping is increasing as well as our membership.

Membership is up to sixty three and everywhere I go people ask if the honey bee is making a comeback. My answer is with the help of beekeepers and our state agencies they have a better chance... Steve May, President: KVBA

Some of the KVBA 2009 ACTIVITIES:

January – Expo 2009

February-KVBA Bee School, February 10th & 12th.

March: KVBA Participated in the following:

6 & 7th - Tri-county Beekeepers Workshop

10th - Ag day at the Capital

28th – WVBA Spring Meeting

April: KVBA held education program at various libraries for children K through 5th grade.

St. Albans library – Monday 13th.

Dunbar library – Tuesday 14th.

Nitro library – Thursday 16th.

Cross Lanes library – Saturday 18th.

May: Education field meeting in Hurricane.

June: Education field meeting in Saint Albans.

July: KVBA meeting St. Albans.

Upcoming Events:

KVBA participation in the WV State Fair will be August 14-22, the Kanawha County Fair

September 10-13, the WV State Honey Festival
August 29-30, the WV Honey Fest at the Charleston Capitol Market on September 12th.

Marion County Beekeepers again held its annual Beginning Beekeeping school for 23 new members taking the six night course in February, taught by nine experienced beekeepers. The field day was held in June.

The 2009 WVBA Spring Meeting was held on March 28th near Fairmont and hosted by the Marion County Beekeepers with a record attendance of 210 state members. Special guest speaker, Adam Finkelstein, well-known queen breeder who covered subjects such as “Beekeeping Without Chemicals”, “Late Summer Re-queening/Nuc Production” and “Raising Your Own Queens”, impressed all who attended his sessions. Ken Cole, Margaret Reid, Tom Kees, Paul Poling and Wade Stiltner hosted other sessions. Also for the first time a program on “Beekeeping Basics” was open to the public where Dr. Don Trisel, Fairmont State University Botany Professor and Marion County Beekeeper, included general information about honeybees and beekeeping. This year’s program also included a Photo Exhibit and Honey-baking Contest. Thanks to all who participated and made these events successful.

We would also like to specially thank the WV Queen Producers for their assistance in providing Adam Finkelstein as the guest speaker. Adam was the primary instructor for the Queen Producers and conducted the classes on raising queens here in West Virginia. Nancy Postlethwait, Chairwoman, would like to thank everyone who attended and local members who helped make this a fantastic event.

2008 ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

At the 2009 Spring Meeting the 2008 Association of the Year Awards were presented by the President.

The Association of the Year Award for Large Associations for 2008:

First Place - Marion County Beekeepers Association

The John Campbell Association of the Year for Smaller Associations for 2008:

First Place – Jackson County

Second Place – Barbour County Association

HAS (Heartland Apiculture Society) 2010:

Annual Conference---will be held in Tennessee during July. Watch for the announcement of the dates.

THE WVBA MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

The WV Master Beekeepers test will be given on Thursday evening, September 24 starting a 7:30PM. Tests in all 3 levels (apprentice, certified, and master) will be given. If interested contact Janet Clayton at honeylady@yahoo.com or call 304-457-5332.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE WVBA MEMBERSHIP:

This general membership meeting occurs at the Fall Meeting on the Friday evening following the program and dinner at 6 pm.

Make plans to attend as the membership elects the Beekeeper of the Year, two members-at-large to the Executive Board and votes on any business that needs brought before the membership (such as changes to the constitution).

WV BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR (2010)

This honor will be voted at the Fall General meeting on Friday evening, September 18th. Nominations must be in writing and received by the Secretary, Nancy Postlethwait, by Friday, September 12th (See address information on Newsletter top front page). Each local association is encouraged to present a candidate.

Requirements state that the candidate must:

- Own and / or currently manage or maintain honeybee colonies.
- Have an adequate working knowledge of honeybee diseases and their diagnoses and control.
- Have an adequate working knowledge of honeybee management with respect to swarm control, honey production, division, queen rearing, etc.
- Be a member and play an active role in State and local beekeeping association functions.
- Be active in local beekeeping education and honey promotion.
- The nominee's spouse is encouraged to be included.

ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Watch for the application form, which will be sent out the beginning of January 2010 (for the 2009 Year) to all Associations representatives by the WVBA Secretary.

Winners are announced at the Spring Meeting by the President, who also presents the prizes to the winning associations.

WV BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION BOARD

MEETINGS The final meeting date for 2009 is 11/07/09. The 2010 dates are 2/6/10 with a snow date of 2/13/10, 6/05/10, and 11/13/10. The meetings are held from 10 am to 3 pm at The Steer Family Steak House, Market Place, Weston, WV (304-269-7666).

Watch for announcements from the WVBA Secretary, as meeting dates may change.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is time again to pay your annual dues. Membership through a local association is \$6 per year or \$60 for lifetime. If you do not wish to join a local association, membership for At Large members is \$7 per year or \$70 for lifetime.

Local Association treasurers and At Large members please send your dues along with the members NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND E-MAIL ADDRESS to:

Joyce Frey WVBA Treasurer
Rt. 1 Box 226
Moatsville, WV 26405

MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER - Russ Dean:

Your West Virginia Beekeepers website is just that, your website for information, for news and coming events and other items of interest.

Contact me if you want something included and do check out the new items added to the website. Hope your bees have done well this year. I thought mine were not real strong in the beginning of the year but I did manage to get about ten gallons. We've also purchased a building from Lowes to be used mainly as a honey house for next year and I'd

like to see it do more than just my honey. I'd love to try using it to extract others honey as well.

Remember to check out the new items on the website - www.wvbeekeepers.org and contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or comments.

Update on the WV Queen Producers

The WV Queen Producers was the first Agricultural Cooperative non-profit 501c3 corporation formed in WV in over 60 years. In 2008 we organized and sought members who wished to raise local WV queens. We brought in Adam Finkelstein who runs a small commercial queen rearing operation in Maryland and he taught classes at five locations around the state.

We received a \$10,000 grant from Commissioner Gus Douglass and the WV Dept. of Agriculture which we used to pay Adam. We also bought breeder queens and queen raising equipment for our members. Just like raising cattle or horses, having top quality breeding stock is the foundation for success.

This year we received another \$5,000 grant from the WV Dept. of Agriculture and the USDA to continue training our members and buying them additional equipment and queens. Chuck Cienawski and Don Trisel wrote grants totaling \$6,000 to subsidize members of the WV Beekeepers Association getting local queens for \$10. I cannot say enough good things about Chuck and Don and their efforts to spread the great genetics of our queens around the state. Eight of our members sold over 1,000 local queens this year and brought over \$20,000 into the local agricultural economy.

This year, the Board of the WV Beekeepers unanimously voted to support the WV Queen producers with a donation for the next two years. We truly appreciate this partnership which will benefit all beekeepers on WV by helping to put quality genes into drone congregation areas around the state. Because the WV Queen Producers holds their annual meeting during the Spring Meeting of the WV Beekeepers, we have helped to pay for a speaker this year and plan to do the same thing next year. The leadership of the WV Beekeepers has created a win-win situation for us and for you.

In the last two years, the WV Queen producers has brought in over \$31,000 and spent about \$22,000 on training, equipment and breeder queens for our members. We look forward to continuing to grow this new industry in our state and to keep more of our beekeeping dollars in West Virginia.

-Dan O'Hanlon, President – WV Queen Producers

WVBA 2009 Food Specialty Grant

The USDA \$4,000 cost-sharing grant (approved in 2008) was to help WVBA members purchase queens for summer/ late summer requeening.

The grant purchased 400 queens for WVBA members from members of the WV Queen Producers.

The WV Queen Producers helped tremendously by ensuring WV beekeepers obtained quality queens and with the educational programs they sponsored. The success of this grant is in great part to Dan O'Hanlon, his tireless efforts on behalf of the beekeepers in our state, and all the beekeepers participating in the program.

However, there is a last component to this grant, which is required feedback from the beekeepers about the queens. If you received queens and did not yet get the questionnaire, the form and directions will be posted on the website by September 30, 2009. You may also contact Chuck Cienawski at 304-534-3196 for the document.

New 2009 USDA Grant Tom Kees

The purpose of this new grant is to encourage the development of local (WV) package bee industries (especially) and local nucleus colony production. This would cut shipping costs for beekeepers and help slow Africanized genes coming into our area. The grant will be open to all 2009 and 2010 WVBA members. The program will be for the 2010 spring season. The WVBA member-buyer and the package/nuc producer will be responsible jointly for working out details of delivery or pick-up. The packages or nucs **must not be for resale**. The \$4000 Grant will pay \$30 directly to the approved WVBA member- buyer toward the cost of a package or nuc developed from local (WV) bees. Preference will be given to package bee producers. Step 1) Application will be submitted for approval. Step 2) Applicant will be notified regarding approval or denial. Step 3) A copy of paid receipt from producer will be required in order for beekeeper to be reimbursed. Step 4) Approved beekeeper will be reimbursed. Further details and application forms will be available on the WVBA website: www.wvbeekeepers.org by November 30, 2009. Postmark Deadline for applications will be January 15, 2010.

HAS Conference Tom Kees

HAS took place on the historic giant oak-lined campus of Oberlin College, SW of Cleveland, on July 9, 10, 11. Nineteen WVBA members attended. Gabe Blatt will begin chairing the HAS Site committee and Tom Kees will continue as HAS Secretary.

An innovation in scheduling this year provided for two main presentations each day followed by two-50 minute break-out sessions both in the morning and afternoon. Twenty bee supply vendors were on hand at the breaks.

Keeping Healthy Bees and Queen Production were major themes this year. Kim Flottum and Michael Bush gave similar topic presentations with very little overlap, (Tips on Keeping Bees Healthy and 4 Simple Ways to Healthy Bees). Larry Connor concentrated on five different topics related to queen production.

There was a wide selection of topics covered during the conference: Pheromones, Mechanical Varroa Control, Nosema Ceranae, Pollen Traps and Pollen Production, Taking Bee Pictures, Comb Honey, Apitherapy, and Artisan Honey (special to a particular place and time and labeled as such becomes a premium honey). Altogether, there were 64 different topics available.

Additional speakers included Jim Tew, Tom Webster, Roger Hoopingarner, Roy Hendrickson, John Skinner, Dana Stahlman, and Bill and Nancy Troup. (Bill and Nancy made a hit with their Maryland Apiary Department Labrador, Klinker, who has been trained to detect AFB in the fall, winter, and early spring when the bees are not too active.

Next year's Heartland Apicultural Society's program will be held in Cookville, (mid-Tennessee).

EAS Short Course Tom Kees

EAS was held in the quaint village of Ellicottville in western NY state at the Holiday Valley Resort on August 3-7. The Short Course took the first two and a half days and was followed by the EAS Conference for the remaining two and a half days. About seven WVBA members attended the Short Course.

Some of the programs included in the Short Course were: A laboratory program on Microscope use for identifying Nosema with Dr. Nick Calderone. This included the preparation of slides and estimation of

Nosema protozoa. In the bee yard, Dr. Larry Connors demonstrated how to estimate the rate of Queen daily egg laying, using a formula based on the area of covered brood. Dr. Tom Seeley gave two presentations on his monitoring the feral colonies in Cornell's Arnot Forest and his experiments on how scout bees and the swarm determine their new home. Dr. David Tarpy presented his team research on the number of matings by a sampling of commercial queens. (Dr. Tarpy will be the featured presenter at this fall's meeting at Jackson's Mill).

A visit to Merrimack Valley Apiaries in Otto, NY- a short distance from the meeting site- provided an all-afternoon chance to see a commercial beekeeping operation. Part of the time was spent in the bee yard with some of the 25,000 colonies guided by Merrimack's owner, Andy Card, and USDA researcher, Dr. Robert Danka. The USDA has an on-going partnership with Merrimack's queen program. Seeing six double colonies on a pallet and pallets stretching into the distance was humbling. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to touring the extracting and storage facility and hearing explanations of their queen rearing and marketing programs.

Next year's Eastern Apicultural Society's program will be held the first week in August in Boone, NC.

Photo of 15 WV beekeepers at HAS 2009:



Front row: Gerry Fitzgerald, Aretha Kees, Gabe & Rhonna Blatt, Bea Aikens
Second Row: Janet Clayton, Joyce Frey, Dan O'Hanlon, Yolanda & Andy Williamson, Bob Aikens
Third Row: Mark Baker, Tom Kees, Don Trisel, Steve Hamrick

**West Virginia Beekeepers Association
2009 Fall Conference Program
Jackson's Mill
Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26**

FRIDAY

8:00-9:00 AM *Honey Show Entries Accepted---David Rectenwald, Flameway Hall
8:30-9:45 Registration and Refreshments
9:45-10:00 Invocation
 President's Welcome---Troy Holbrook
10:00-11:00 Dr. David Tarpy,-"Fall Requeening"
11:00 -11:45 Janet Clayton-"Honey House"
11:45-11:55 Group Picture
11:55-1:35 Lunch (Cafeteria serves from 12:15-1:15 PM)
1:35-1:50 Tom Kees -New 2009 USDAGrant
1:50-2:00 Dan O'Hanlon-WV Queen Producers Report
2:00-2:50 David Rectenwald "Nucs, the Beekeepers most versatile Tool"
2:50-3:10 Break
3:10-4:10 Dr. David Tarpy,-"Raising your own Queens"
4:10-4:40 WV State Apiary Program Report
4:40-5:00 Legislative Agenda
5:00-5:15 Honey, Wax, Baking Show ---Entries Accepted at Flamway Hall
 Last Call-David Rectenwald, Honey Show Chairman

5:00-5:30 Free Time
5:30-6:30 Dinner (Cafeteria serves 5:30-6:30PM)
6:45-7:30 General Meeting (Vote on Officers, Board Members and 2010 Beekeeper of the Year)
7:30----

SATURDAY

7:30-8:30 Breakfast (Cafeteria serves from 7:30-8:30)
7:45- 8:45 Honey Show Open for Viewing
9:00-10:00 Dr. David Tarpy,-"The Mating Health of Commercial Queens"
10:00-10:45 Nationwide Agribusiness - Brad Snyder
10:45-11:00 Break
11:00-12:00 **Awards, Auction, Door Prizes, Evaluations---Honey Show Awards,
 Master Beekeeper Recognition, Honey and Bake Goods Auction.**

****Please turn in Evaluations*****

12:15-1:15 Lunch (Cafeteria serves from 12:15-1:15)

**CABELL WAYNE APRIL 10, 2010 SPRING MEETING at HERITAGE FARMS
SEE YOU AT THE SPRING MEETING**

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

FALL 2009 PROGRAM NOTES

Troy Holbrook has served as Vice President and State President and once again opens the WVBA Fall Meeting. Troy's easy-going way disguises his sharp grasp of things.

David R. Tarpy, Associate Professor and Extension Apiculturist, our main presenter, B.S. Biology Hobart College (1993), M.S. Biology Bucknell University (1995), Ph.D. Entomology University of California, Davis (2000), Research in honey bee queen behavior, current areas include: Queen rearing and Instrumental insemination, Colony collapse disorder, Mating behavior and reproductive success of queen bees, Regulation of pollen foraging and crop pollination, Competition and lethal fighting among virgin honey bee queens, Teaching: ENT 203 An Introduction to the Honey Bee and Beekeeping, ENT 401/501 Advance Beekeeping, ENT 601/801 Social Behavior of Insects.

Janet Clayton, has served as newsletter editor and is now the director of the WV Master Beekeepers Program. will share her insights on the Honey House.

Tom Kees, Marion County Beekeeper member and administrator of the New 2009 Grant Proposal will give updates on this new USDA Grant

Dan O'Lanlon, Report on the WV Queen Producers Program

David Rectenwald, Vice President and Honey Show Chairman, will share thoughts on "Nucs" the beekeepers most versatile tool.

VENDORS

DADANT

Mark Bennett from the Chatham VA Dadant Branch will be at this year's fall meeting. Mark was at our spring meeting in Fairmont in March. Be sure to visit the Dadant display at Jackson's Mill. To save on shipping, Mark will be glad to bring with him any orders placed by Tuesday, September 22. Call 1-800-220-8325. (You may need to leave a message but he will get back to you.) To save additionally two or more might consider ordering as a group for quantity discounts.

Reid's Apiary

Bill and Margaret Reid will again bring their interesting display of equipment and bee related items, including books and jewelry. If you want to reach them, call 740-643-2925.

WV Honey Producers

Bill Bullion, of Weston, will also be at the fall meeting with a display of beekeeping items. If you wish to speak with Bill before the meeting, call 304-452-8508.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Lodging is available in **Cottage** (older style buildings)

- Private rooms with private bath accommodates 1 or 2 persons at a single cost
- Suitable for handicapped or persons with mobility problems (ground floor entry)

- To compute cost for the Cottage: multiply the (# nights) X \$47.

For example, 2 persons Friday only would be \$47.

Or **Lodge** (modern motel style building)

- Private room with private bath accommodates 1 or 2 persons at a single cost.
- Rooms are ½ floor up or down from ground level
- To compute cost for Lodge: multiply the (# of nights) X \$69.

For example, 2 persons both nights would be \$138.

Meals: To compute cost for meals: Enter the number of persons for each meal desired and multiply the total number of meals in the category (breakfast, lunch or dinner) by base cost for that meal.

ITEM	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	COST
Cottage @ \$47 / night			XXXXXXX XXX	
Lodge @ \$69 / night			XXXXXXX XXX	
Breakfast @ \$6 / meal	XXXXXXX XXX			
Lunch @ \$7 / meal	XXXXXXX XXX			
Dinner @ \$9 / meal	XXXXXXX XXX		XXXXXXX XXX	

Total for lodging and meals		
Registration -- 2 days, \$30 / person	#	
Registration -- 1 day (Saturday) \$15 / person	#	
Surcharge for non member of WVBA \$5 / person	#	
Total		

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____
 Local Association _____

Make check payable to WVBA and send registration to:

WVBA
 c/o Joyce Frey
 Rt. 1 Box 226
 Moatsville, WV 26405

* Registration
 should be received by
 the treasurer no later than
 September 5.

NOTICE to all association Members: You are entitled to a free advertisement.

Deadline for spring newsletter submission is **February 26, 2010.**

Free Ad:

5 SCREEN BOTTOM BOARDS WITH SLIDES, \$8 EACH; 7 SCREEN INNER COVERS, \$5 EACH;
5 CASES OF 1 GAL. PLASTIC JUGS, \$4.50 A CASE
SHALLOW & DEEP SHOW FRAME HOLDERS, \$30 EACH
304 267-2298 or BEABOB61@COMCAST.NET

Free Ad:

Honey bee Healthy, New Beekeeping Books and the DVD, "Sister Bee" will be available at the fall meeting from Tom and Aretha Kees. Questions about particular titles? 304-363-478

Free Ad: ThistleDew Farm Inc. 2010 bee packages see advertisement this page.

Advertisement cost per issue for businesses:

Half page (7 1/2" x 4 5/8" wide) \$40
Third page (3 5/8" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$22
Quarter page-tall (3 5/8" x 2 1/4") \$16
Quarter page-wide (1 3/4" by 4 5/8" wide) \$16
Sixth page (2 7/16" high x 2 1/4" wide) \$12

ThistleDew Farm Inc.

Fine Gifts from the Honey Bee

RR #1, Box 122

Proctor, WV 26055

304-455-1728 Fax 304-455-1740

info@thistledewfarm.com

EDU-TAINMENT! Two great shops in one! Educational and FUN Bee Farm Plus Wooden Toy Shop! Learn about honey. Taste comb honey or Hot Pepper Butter! Play with toys from your past! Live beehive (under glass), Beeswax candles, Cosmetics, Marbles, Gifts & MORE! Uncle Bunk's Pickles, Blue Smoke Salsas, Appalachian Mtn Specialty dressings Bee supplies, foundation, bee related gifts, used bee equipment, SS tanks, WV made honey-soaps, jams, bee jewelry and knick-knacks. Located 40 miles north of Parkersburg and 40 miles south of Wheeling. M-F 9-4, Call for weekend hours

Visit www.thistledewfarm.com

2010 Bee Packages, Reserve in February for April 2010 delivery!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fairmont, WV 26554

Rt. 7 Box 536-C

Sharon Ball, Editor

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