



WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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## SPRING-1997 NEWSLETTER

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### 1996-97 West Virginia Beekeepers Association Officers

**Tim Tennant, President**  
Rt 1, Box 236AV  
Fairview, WV 26570

**Gordon Mead, Vice President**  
#20 Shady Lane  
Winfield, WV 25213-9675

**John Campbell/Sec./Treas.**  
102 First St.  
Parsons, WV 26287

### WVBA President's Message

*Tim Tennant, President*

Well Spring is here and we can be thankful for the mild winter. Since last Fall, I have anticipated this special time of year when the mountains of West Virginia burst into new life. As beekeepers, we can't wait for the longer days and the first blooms of the year. With warmer temperatures just around the corner, we get excited over the chance to visit some old friends that have been away and what a good feeling that is.

WVBA, in support of research, has ordered packages for Jim Amrine. We feel that it is in our best interest to help him with his research on mites. His work with essential oils shows promise, but to confirm his findings, he needs colonies to continue his work. Some local associations (Morgantown Area, Tucker Co., Kanawha Co., and Marion Co.) have each committed to providing a colony for research. If any other locals are able to help in this cause, please contact John Campbell.

At the last board meeting, it was decided to write a letter to the Department of Agriculture in an attempt to make the state apiary in Tucker County available for experiments with essential oils. The board feels that this research is important to the beekeeping industry, and we are fortunate to have Dr. Amrine working so diligently to help beekeepers. This research is necessary to validate treatment with essential oils. Dr. Amrine must have scientific evidence to support his theories before essential oils can be approved as a mite treatment. I hope all of you feel that this is important enough to you personally that you will support these goals.

Hope to see all of you at the Spring Meeting, May 10, 1997, in Tucker County..

## Special Activities at the Spring 1997 Meeting

**Gadget Show/Antique Equipment Show:** Some WVBA members have brought unusual or particularly useful tools and equipment relating to beekeeping to display. This year we are adding antique equipment to the gadget show. Plan to bring your homemade gadgets to share as well as any antique equipment your Grandpa may have passed on to you. A prize will be given for the best gadget based on creativity, workmanship, and practicality. A prize will also be given for the most unique piece of antique equipment displayed.

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As a last minute news item, the Agriculture Committee of WV Senate is or will introduce a bill to provide funds "to help the honey bee". It will be grant, matching funds, or other methods. At this time, is only a preliminary finding. We will be watching this to see what the end results are. I spoke by phone to Senator Mike Ross, and they are requesting data from WV Department of Agriculture on this matter. Senator Ross is very enthused and probably will be the person to present the bill.

### Spring Meeting Announcement

The 1997 Spring Meeting of West Virginia Beekeepers Association will be held on Saturday, May 10, at St. John's Methodist Church which is located in Parsons. Our hosts, Tucker County Beekeepers, have planned a program of interest to beekeepers.

### Program Schedule

#### Morning Events

8:00 A.M.	WVBA Board Meeting
8:45	Registration
9:20	Welcome. Hugh Shiflet, President of Tucker County Beekeepers
9:25	Update from WV State Bee Specialist, Matt Cochran
10:00	View EAS 97 Gadget Show Comments
10:15	Teresa A. Halloron, Marketing Specialist, Foods, WV Dept. of Agriculture
10:40	
11:10	Tim Tennant, Honey Plants W/Slides
11:35	Steve & Ellie Conlon, Report on National Honey Board
12:00	Lunch
1:15 P.M.	Field trip. Be at meeting room

Afternoon program will include two field trips:

1. Mountain State Honey Company packing facility where Paul Poling will show the honey route from the super to the finished product.
2. Visit State Apiary in Tucker County. Matt Cochran, State Bee Specialist will show, hive inspection, queen rearing, along with other aspects of bee management. Bring your personal protection from the bees.

The places are some distance from the church and need vehicle transportation. A map of each place will be provided to cut the chance of getting lost in travel.

Paul and I have ordered fair weather for this afternoon, but in case the weather man doesn't see fit, might be wise to have a rain coat and boots for we might visit the apiary. go and In case of foul weather, programs of interest in beekeeping. will be provided at the church.

Note: Door prizes will be scheduled as program progresses.

West Virginia Beekeepers members first place recipes listed in EAS Journal last year were Honey Bears and White Bread using a food processor. Entered by Jean and Gordon Mead, Members of Kanawha Valley Beekeepers.

Honey-Peanut Butter Crispie Bars entered by Bob and Bea Aikens, members of Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers.

Cherry-Date Cookies entered by Debbie and James Copenhaver, members of Hampshire County Beekeepers.

West Virginia Beekeepers says Congratulations!!

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At West Virginia Beekeepers Association Board of Directors meeting in February, the thought was brought to the floor on purchasing bees for Dr. James Amrine for his studies of mites and their control. Herb Shafer is to contact Dr. Amrine and find out if he is interested in the bees. A motion was made and seconded and passed to purchase two 3-lb. packages, pending Dr. Amrine interests on this matter. Some local chapters expressed interest in adding additional colonies. Herb Shafer did contact Dr. Amrine and he is very interested. As it stands at this time, West Virginia Beekeepers will get 2 3-lb. packages with Kanawha Valley, Tucker County, Morgantown Area, and Eastern Panhandle each to get one 3-lb. package. Marion County will furnish a split, making a total of seven colonies. Should other chapters be interested in joining now or at a later time, get in contact with Dr. Amrine.

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Secretary Glickman of U.S. Department of Agriculture reappointed Stephen A. Conlon, producer, representing Region 7 of the National Honey Board. Mr. Conlon is a member of Tri-State Beekeepers Association. Congratulations Steve!!

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Meet a beekeeper in your area. Thanks to the WV Market Bulletin, WVBA is reaching out to prospective beekeepers with basic information and, more importantly, contact with a local beekeeper.

During its first month (February), four individuals from Grafton, Alma, Culloden, and Mt. Storm have been referred to local beekeepers, sent some basic information, and their names forwarded to the State Apiarist, Matt Cochran, for further bee-related information.

If you would be willing to help a new beekeeper, please let John Campbell know.

There is a last minute cancellation on the program. Tentative plans are Dr. Amrine to discuss his plans on the bee purchased by WVBA and local associations or talk by State Senator Mike Ross on the pending legislation to save the Honey Bee, or other subject. This will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

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## Some Objectives of Spring Feeding

One of the first steps in early season management is feeding colonies. Italian strain especially deplete colony stores due to early brood rearing.

1. To stimulate brood rearing when no natural food is available.
2. To administer medication or drugs for disease control.
3. Because the colony is in danger of starving.
4. When requeening--to give the colony a boost so the new queen will be well cared for.
5. When setting up package bees or swarms.
6. To stimulate rapid build-up in queen rearing programs.
7. To replace or supplement honey that crystallizes in the fall. Aster and goldenrods recipes for syrup.

Spring Feeding--1 to 1 part sugar to water.

Fall feeding--2 to 1 part sugar to water.

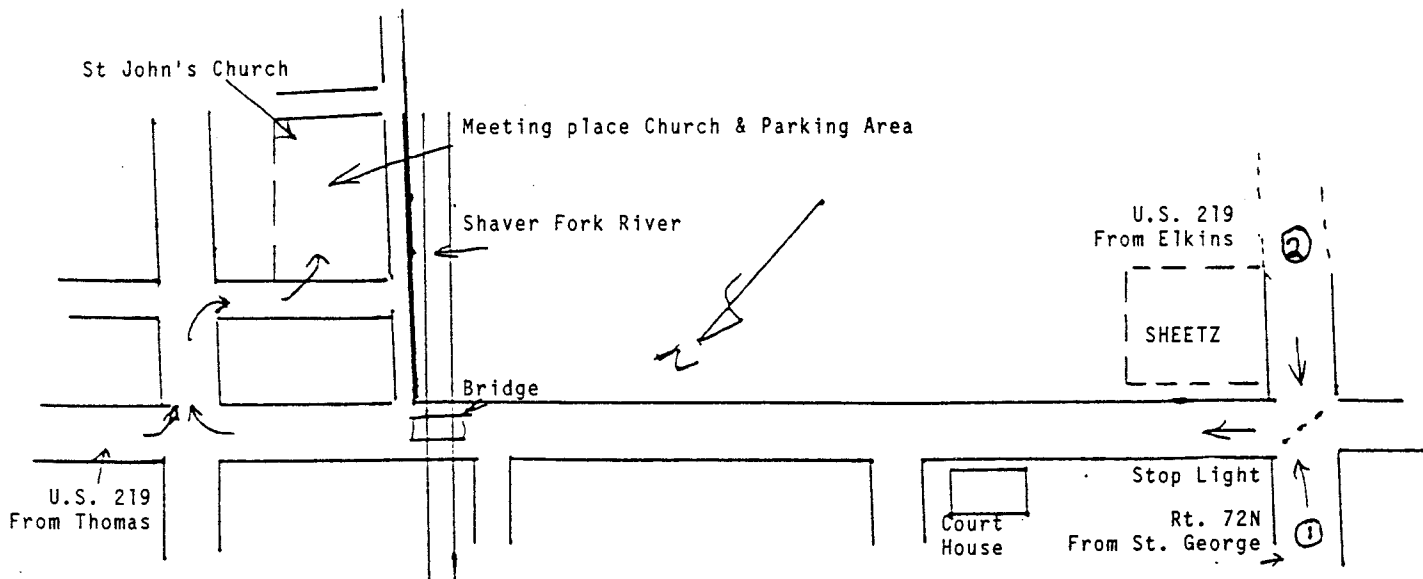
Stimulatory feeding--1 to 2 parts sugar to water

Note: Fall feeding, use 1 tsp. tartaric acid for each 20-30 lb. of syrup to prevent crystallization. One gallon of fall syrup will increase storage significantly.

Never use brown or raw sugar, molasses or sorghum; these contain impurities or carmel (burnt sugar which is toxic to bees) or sugars which bees cannot digest.

### Lodging and Meeting Place Map

- 1) Tucker Country Inn 1/2 mile from stoplights on Rt. 72N towards St. George (304) 478-2100
- 2) Simmons Bed & Breakfast 2.6 miles from stoplights, sign on left at intersection (304) 478-4704. Call for brochure on U.S. Rt. 219 toward Etkins



## Anti-Inflammatory Drugs May End Beekeepers' Immunity to Bee Sting

THE SPEEDY BEE, October 1993

Beekeepers should think twice before taking some anti-inflammatory drugs. The drugs may reverse their immunity to bee stings.

During the last few years, several new nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have been developed to relieve pain and reduce stiffness, swelling and joint pain associated with inflammation. Such drugs include ibuprofen, fenoprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, sulindac, piroxicam, suprofen, and tolmetin.

It is well known that beekeepers develop an immunity to bee stings and it has even been reported that some people get temporary relief from the pain of arthritis if they sustain several bee stings. Two cases have recently been reported of people with an immunity to bee stings taking a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug and suffering serious allergic reactions to bee and wasp stings.

A 66-year-old beekeeper had developed an apparent immunity to bee stings over six years. She was prescribed a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug for osteoarthritis. A few months after taking the drug, she was stung on the wrists while working around the bee hives and within 15 minutes developed heart palpitations, a rash and swelling of the mouth and tongue, making it difficult for her to breathe. She stopped taking the drug 48 hours later when she was stung again, she developed no reaction.

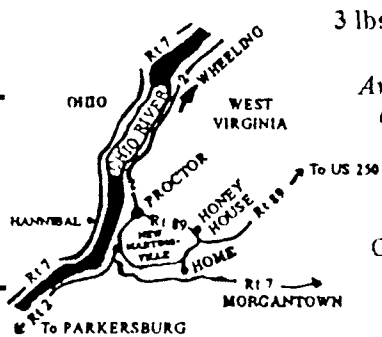
Another report describes a 48-year-old wife of a beekeeper who had been taking a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug for five months for osteoarthritis. She had previously had only skin reactions to wasp stings but one day she developed widespread swelling, red, itchy rash, heart palpitations, and shortness of breath within two minutes of being stung by a wasp. Hospitalization was necessary.

Until more is learned about the reason for these reactions, beekeepers should be aware of the potential hazard associated with these drugs and bee stings. Note: This information has been published in several beekeeper association newsletters. It is taken from the book *Understanding Prescription Drugs* by Dorothy L. Smith, Pharm D., pp. 270-271; *British Medical Journal* 292:378, 1986, *The Loudon Bee* Vol. 14 No. 5. September 1996.

*Thistle Dew Farm Inc.*

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## Dates to Remember

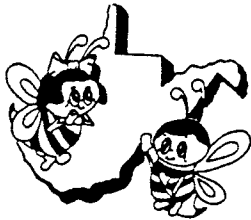
May 10, 1997--Spring Meeting. Parsons, WV. Sponsored by Tucker County Beekeepers.

1997 E.A.S. Conference and Program August 13-15. Short Course--August 11-13. Dover Delaware. Contact Dr. Dewey Caron at 302-831-2526.

EAS has available a 7-minute VHS tape that gives some testimonials and the basic information about our 1997 meeting in Delaware. This tape would be appropriate for your next meeting or to show at a meeting this coming spring. Note Tucker County plans to show this tape if equipment is available at the Spring Meeting.

17th Annual West Virginia Honey Festival, Parkersburg, WV, September 13 & 14, 1997. See ad in Newsletter.

West Virginia Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting, Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV, September 26 & 27, 1997. Contact 478-3675.



## 17th Annual West Virginia Honey Festival

<b>Honey Exhibits</b>	<b>Hive Demonstrations</b>
<b>Entertainment</b>	<b>Live Bee Beard</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	<b>Princess Pageant</b>
<b>Baking Contest</b>	<b>Candle Making</b>
	<b>Honey Sales</b>

**Parkersburg, WV**  
**September 13 & 14, 1997**

For Information: West Virginia Honey Festival  
P.O. Box 2149, Parkersburg, WV 26101 or  
Wood County Visitors Bureau Ph (800) 752-4982

*Located at the Wood County 4-H Campgrounds, Minerals Wells, WV*

### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

You will note in this issue the Chapter of the Year regulations. It will be up to the local secretary of each chapter to keep the score for those who decides the winner each year. It will be my guess that this task will fall to past president when a particular achievement is done on the local level, probably would be best to make a note in the minutes or other ways to document it.

As I receive yearly dues, there are some local organizations that don't include who their chapter representative is to the WVBA Board of Directors. The WVBA secretary needs the president, secretary, and chapter representative--full name, address, and phone number. It is the responsibility of the local organization president to keep tab on the chapter representative or an alternate is present at board meetings. There may be times when the Board Meeting has to be called off or changed due to weather, etc.

## Local Association News

Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association has scheduled a short course for beginners and anyone wanting to know more about bees and beekeeping. Starting Tuesday, February 18 and each Tuesday thereafter to March 25 and ending with a field day, April 12, weather permitting.

Eastern Panhandle has submitted 53 members to WVBA for 1997. A note on an article "How Sweet It Is" dated 1/19/97 relating to James Copenhaver, beekeeping expertise, and a picture showing James brushing snow off beehives, but the person was Hank Hinkes, President of Eastern Panhandle, who goofed. Was it you Bea??

Morgantown Area Beekeepers meet first Tuesday of February, May, August, and November at 7:00 PM in Room 1085, Agricultural Science Bldg. on the Evansdale Campus, WVU. Usually have 11-12 people in attendance. The February meeting program dissected a bee for tracheal mites under a microscope to see why the bees died in a particular hive. Dr. James Amrine is its president and has a lot of knowledge about bees.

Tucker County Beekeepers meets second Monday of odd numbered months (January, March, May, etc.) at 7:00 PM during standard time and 7:30 PM during Daylight Savings Time at Timber and Watershed Lab with 7-10 in attendance, depending on weather condition. Last summer the chapter took orders for its members and purchased Apistan strips. Most of the meeting discussions are mite related. Here we probably fall in line with topics discussed at other chapters. Hugh Shiflett is our president. Mark your calendar for May 10, 1997 Spring Meeting--Tucker County Beekeepers invite you to BEE there.

Kanawha Valley Beekeepers had their first meeting in March and believe they have the youngest dues paying members in West Virginia. Adam and Asa Arbogast, twin brothers, who will be 12 in June are very interested in beekeeping and work with their beekeeper neighbor. Adam and Asa have no bees of their own yet but joined beekeepers so they will be ready when the day comes. Can any local organization top this, maybe by age, but twins??? Kanawha Valley, you have probably made it impossible, Editor)

North Central Beekeepers members and their families met 11/18/96 at Harrison County 4-H Center for their annual Thanksgiving covered dish dinner. Everyone enjoyed the excellent food and fellowship. Paul Poling, State Apiary Inspector, gave an excellent presentation on Spring Management and installation of package bees, approximately 35 were in attendance, many of whom were members and public seeking to know more about beekeeping. County Agent, Clint Hickman deserves special thank you for handling the advertising in the media. April 21 tentative program--hands-on demonstration of wiring foundation in frames. May 19 and September 15 program is still out and will end on November 17 with a covered dish Thanksgiving dinner. Officers are Donald Wikert, President, Bill Kapham, Vice President, and Ruby Wyatt, Sec'y-Treas.

Marion County Beekeepers sponsoring a short course in beekeeping for new beekeepers began Wednesday, February 19 for 6 weeks with 23 new beekeepers registered. It is a 12-hour course ending March 26. Thirty-six 3-lb. bee packages to be delivered to our association the middle of April. A 12-month local bloom and treatment calendar. The calendar (printed on 4 large sheets) available to mailed for 32 cents includes other pertinent beekeeping information.

Tim and Kim Tennant, Fairview, WV, were voted the honor of "Beekeeper of the Year" at the Fall General meeting. Mr. Tennant is president of WVBA and president of Marion County Association.

## WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

### RULES AND POINT SYSTEM FOR LOCAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD.

**THESE MUST BE THE WORK OF THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION. NOT AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ON HIS OWN.**

The award will be based on a calendar year and presented the following year at the fall meeting, i.e. January 1-December 31 award to be presented spring meeting next year.

		<b><u>No. Points</u></b>
1.	Association dues to the WVBA, list of association members, officers, and board representative submitted by March 31.....	10
2.	Community Activities	
	Sponsoring Bee Schools.....	10
	Beekeeping presentations and displays (i.e. schools, libraries, public awareness, fairs).....	2
	Association sponsoring a field day.....	5
	Association sponsoring a spring meeting.....	10
3.	Association on Spring Meeting program.....	2
4.	Association on Fall Meeting program.....	2
5.	Board member or alternate attending WVBA Board Meeting.....	1/Meeting/Member or Alternate
6.	Association activities submitted for Newsletter.....	2
7.	Number of association meetings per year.....	1/Each
8.	Association represented at the Spring Meeting.....	3
9.	Association represented at the Fall Meeting.....	3
10.	Association members serving on an <b>active</b> committee of the WVBA..	2/Member
11.	Association nominating a candidate for Beekeeper of the Year.....	2
12.	Beekeeper of the Year award.....	3
13.	WV Master Beekeepers in the local association.....	3/Member
	WV Certified Beekeepers in local association.....	2/Member
	WV Apprentice Beekeepers in local association.....	1/Member
14.	Participation in the State Honey Show.....	1/Member

### Free Ads

BEEKEEPING IN TENNESSEE, a 48-page, 8 1/2 x 11 book, extremely useful, basic with many illustrations, biology to solar wax melters, only \$2.50 post paid. Tom Kees, Rt. 5, Box 93A, Fairmont, WV 26554-9224.

Wanted: BEESWAX, country-run and/or cappings and WWHoney (bulk). FOR SALE: STAINLESS STEEL Bulk Tanks, new and used bee equipment. Please call Steve or Ellie at 304-455-1728 or 1-800-85HONEY.

### Meals, Meeting, Registration

The meal will be cafeteria style consisting of tavern ham, scalloped potatoes, variety of salads dessert, drinks, etc.

Meeting registration \$9 for meal and \$4 for registration.

For those not eating, registration \$4 and \$4 for facility use.

Last minute walk-ins without the meal \$10 and with the meal \$15.

The secretary would like all to preregister with payment to save time at the meeting.

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**West Virginia  
Beekeepers Association**

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With Nature**

Free Ads are available to WVBA members. Each member is entitled to one ad of 30 or fewer words per issue at no charge. Each additional 30-word ad costs \$1, which must be prepaid with a check payable to WVBA. Send ad copy and payment required to Editor.

Commercial advertisement rates are half page (7 1/2" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$40 per issue; Third page (3 5/8" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$22; Quarter page (2 7/16" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$16; Quarter page tall (3 5/8" high x 2 1/4" wide) \$12; Quarter page wide (1 3/4" high x 4 5/8" wide) \$12; Sixth page (2 7/16" high x 2 1/4" wide) \$10. We do not bill. Businesses receive a complimentary copy of Newsletters in which they advertise. Ad copy and payment should be sent to Editor.

**Spring 97**