



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2000

1999-2000 West Virginia Beekeepers Association

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WEST VIRGINIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
MOUNTAIN STATE BEEKEEPERS WORKING TOGETHER

President's Letter

WVBA Research Committee

Since our Fall Executive Board Meeting, November 13th, a Research Committee of seven has been working to improve the WV Beekeepers Assistance Program in three ways: 1) Improve distribution of treatments to beekeepers. 2) Provide more information about the treatments and techniques dealing with tracheal and varroa mites. 3) Promote research to develop bees more tolerant if not resistant to mites.

In meetings with Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass and others in the Department of Agriculture, we have found encouragement and appreciation for our efforts. Through these meetings, we have helped open lines of communication between the Department of Agriculture and the state beekeepers. There are roughly 1,300 beekeepers registered in the State and about 400 of these belong directly or through one of the 17 local associations to the WV Beekeepers Association. Ideally, all 1,300 beekeepers would belong to our State association, but regardless of membership, our association will strive to improve programs of education and treatments for all WV Beekeepers.

MAAREC

(Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium) This is a group of bee researchers from five states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia) that shares its findings within the group and with associations and beekeepers within

this 5-state region. An 8-page newsletter, Bee Aware is sent out quarterly and as of February is being sent to the contact person in each of our 17 WV local associations to be shared with the local membership. The current issue includes a 2-page focus on West Virginia and articles on coumaphos, Lyme disease, selling honey, plus a few other topics. In addition, if you have a computer (or a friend with one) the web site address is: <http://MAAREC.cas.psu.edu>. This site has a wealth of current bee information. Check it out.

My Biggest Personal Concern

Remains the careful application of chemical treatments according to directions. Unfortunately, there are beekeepers who "know more" than the miticide producers, some who feel if recommended dosage is one unit, ten units are ten times better. It will not be low cost honey from China or Argentina that destroys the honey market in America but rather chemical analysis that detects the presence of fluvalinate (Apistan) or coumaphos (Checkmite) in our "pure honey".

Spring 2000 Meeting

I'm proud of all the teamwork that went into preparations for this May 6th meeting sponsored by the North Central Beekeepers. Associations that have put on these State meetings know all the work involved. If you have concerns you feel the State Association should address, please approach Dudley Dodrill, John Campbell or myself at the meeting.

Tom Kees

Coming Events

Eastern Apicultural Society

Salisbury State University, Monday, July 31 to August 4, 2000. Contact EAS 2000 Registrar, David Morris, 9309 Montpelier Drive, Laurel, MD 20708-2553 or e-mail the information to beefriend@aol.com. Telephone (301) 725-6185 evenings; on the Internet, <http://iaa.umd.edu/mdbee/EAS2000.html>

West Virginia Honey Festival

September 9-10, 2000. Take another look at the ad and attend.

West Virginia Beekeepers Association Fall 2000 Meeting

Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Friday, & Saturday (September 29 & 30, 2000). Program and registration material will be part of the Fall Newsletter. Dewey M. Caron, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware, is principal speaker. Mark the calendar and attend.

WVBA Fall 2000 Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron

Our Association has been making a strong effort to bring the best speakers and presenters to our fall meetings at Cedar Lakes. We have had nationally know presenters such as George Imirie, Ann Harman, Bob Cole, and Wyatt Magum—each bringing a special perspective on beekeeping.

This Fall Dewey Caron from the University of Delaware will be our featured presenter. Dr. Caron is well-known and respected as a writer and speaker—one who can speak with the same ease to a novice or most advanced master and make the subject easily understandable.

Bring your notebook, questions, smoker (for the smoker contest), your honey, wax and baking entry and come to Cedar Lakes September 29-30.

The Spring Meeting 2001 is open. Any chapter interested, let the secretary know soon.

Chapter News

Corridor "G" Beekeepers Association

Corridor "G" represents the counties of Boone, Lincoln, and Mingo. We are a new association as of 1999. We have approximately 30 paid members and up to 50 members attending.

The past year has been a bit of a struggle. I am doing the best I can to hold the club together. We had some great meetings with the assistance of Mike Mullins, Regional Bee Inspector. We had a nice picnic in the fall. Our program is off to a good start in the year of 2000.

Kathy Watson

Tucker County Beekeepers Association

Tucker County Beekeepers meet the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We had a loss in membership due to mites and now have up to 12 in attendance at meetings. Most of the meeting discussions are on mite control. Paul Poling does assist the Association on topics of discussion whenever available. George Clutter will be speaker (along with slides) at the March 13 meeting. Don Cathell is President and is putting new life into the meetings.

John Campbell

Hampshire County Beekeepers Association

This year the Hampshire County Beekeepers Association has really grown. With many new members who are very active, we have over 20 families signed up for the March 18 Bee School. We have a Field Day planned for April 15th at Mark Bill's in Purgittsville. We still meet about 4 times a year, but now at the Bank of Romney Community Room on Rt 50. Notices are sent to members and anyone interested.

I will be sending in new dues for new members after the Bee School. Included with the Bee School \$20 fee is State and local memberships. Our WVBA rep is James Copenhaver who is also Chapter President. Mark Bill is Vice President.

Darlene Frederick

Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers Association

Last year we had 4 regular membership meetings with an average of 20 members per meeting. One meeting we had Paul Poling speak on the MAAREC program. We had a 6-week short course for beginners and anyone wanting to know more about bees. We had over 40 people take the short course. Along with the short course, we sponsored 2 field days, one in April and one in August with an average attendance of 25 people. Some members attended an animal awareness day and promoted Beekeeping by giving a talk and answering questions. At the animal awareness day, we also had a table with beekeeping equipment and an observation hive set up for display.

Tom Kershner

Marion County Beekeepers Association

Marion County Beekeepers Association had a beekeepers school in February 2000; five classes and a field day in March with 13 people attending. The course featured instruction in honeybee biology and practical beekeeping, stressing honey production and pollination. Course instructors were Tom Kees and Fred McClain. Several of our members held classes or schools over the past year. Tim Tennant and George Clutter at the 4-H Environmental Awareness day in April. Tim Tennant 6 classes at Miller Jr. High and 3 classes at Mason-Dixon Elementary School; a field day at 2 locations, Tim Tennant's in June and Hill Top Apiary in September and a bee school in March 1999 with 6 classes.

Fred McClain

Morgantown Area Beekeepers Association

In February when our meeting was scheduled the weather was very bad (snowy) and no one showed up for it. The next meeting is in May so no plans for this year have been discussed. Our attendance has been low for some time.

Myrna Huffman

West Virginia Beekeepers Association Spring 2000 Meeting May 6, 2000

Hosted by
North Central WV Beekeepers Association
US 19
Clarksburg, WV

Tentative Program

8:00-8:30	Registration & Coffee
8:30-9:30	Flag Salute-Invocation: Roy Kerns
9:00-9:30	Mat Cochran, WV Apiarist, Condition of Bees of bees, New Regulations & Medication Information for 2000
9:30-10:30	James Copenhagen, Master Beekeeper, Getting Started with Bees, Tools, Equipment, Location, Production, and Sale of HONEY
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-11:30	Paul Poling, WV Apiary Inspector, Research Update and Buckfast Queens
11:30-12:00	Bill Cebik, Helpful Hints
12:00-1:00	Lunch—Invocation: Roy Kerns
1:00-2:00	Mark Bell, a longtime Beekeeper, Slide Program—Nectar Sources in West Virginia
2:00-3:00	Bob Caltrider, NCBA Thanks BEEKEEPERS
2:20-3:00	Closing—Door Prizes
3:00-?	Executive Board Meeting

Lodging

Days Inn Motel	Sleep Inn Motel
I-70 Exit 119	I-79 Exit 119
112 Tolly Dr.	115 Tolly Dr.
Bridgeport, WV 26330	Bridgeport, WV 26330
(304) 842-7371	(304) 842-1919 Ext 25
Doubles \$67.00+	Doubles \$59.00+

Town House Motor Lodge, West
US 50 W.
Clarksburg, WV 26301
(304) 723-3716
Doubles \$37.00+

☛ Now if you should come unregistered or do not plan to eat lunch with us—it will be a cost of \$6.00 per person.

☛ If you are not pre-registered, the price at the door for food and meeting will be \$13.00 each.

☛ NCBA suggest if you pre-register, this will insure enough food for all.

Lunch Menu

COUNTRY HOME COOKING AT ITS BEST HAM-TURKEY-VEGETABLES-DESSERT- DRINKS

Survey for Apistan Resistant Varroa Mites in West-Central WV

By Tom McCutcheon, H.R. Scott, Ed Smolder, and Mike Shamblin

Apistan resistant mites were detected in South Dakota and Florida in 1997. Since that time, resistance has been found in West Virginia. While the exact mechanism by which the Varroa mites gain resistance is still in question, it is due to the sole reliance on Apistan as the only control measure.

In 1998, Drs. J.S. Petitis, H. Shimanuki and M.F. Feldlaufer, USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory, published in American Bee Journal a user-friendly screening tool that can be used to detect Apistan resistance in Varroa mites. For details on the methods and materials needed for the screening process, refer to American Bee Journal 138(7):535-537, July 1998.

In the summer of 1999, WVU Extension agents surveyed 16 apiaries containing a total of 290 hives in a 5-county area of west-central West Virginia. All but two contained 10 hives or more. The apiaries were chosen at random from a list of registered beekeepers. The bee yards location are as follows: Wood County—7 yards, Jackson County—5 yards, Roane County—3 yards, Wirt County—1 yard, and Calhoun County—1 yard. The number of apiaries sampled within each county is proportional to the total number in each county. The original intent was to survey 20 apiaries in the designated area, but due to the severe drought, the WVU Extension Agents were reassigned to drought relief efforts.

The analysis of the results found no resistance in the apiaries sampled. During this process, another determination was made. The screening process was not as user-friendly as one was led to believe. While it is a tool that can be used to screen for resistance in an apiary, the practicality of it being used by hobbyist and commercial beekeepers is in doubt. For the hobbyist, the cost of materials for a small number of hives would be uneconomical. For a commercial operation, the time needed for the screening would be uneconomical. There were also some problems involved with extracting the mites from the bees during the analysis that won't be discussed.

In conclusion, no Apistan resistant mites were found in west-central West Virginia. The screening tool developed by scientist at the USDA, while effective, it's probably better used by researchers than by commercial and hobby beekeepers. Also, with new pesticides and IPM practices now being introduced, Apistan resistant Varroa mites should diminish as a threat to beekeeping.

West Central Beekeepers Association

Seventeen attended the February meeting of the West-Central West Virginia Beekeepers Association. The only item of business acted upon was passing a motion to lower the association dues from \$10 to \$5 and maintaining the State association dues with those monies.

Tom McCutcheon, WVU Extension Agent updated the members on items such as the WVBA legislative activity, Apiculture, Checkmite, the small hive beetle status, and advances in IPM practices for controlling Varroa mites. Bud McCormick, WCWVBA President, presented the program "Spring Management of Bees".

The next meeting is set for March 13 at 7:00 PM in the Roane County High School Vo Ag classroom. The program will involve show and tell of the members different designs of screened bottom boards. All are welcome to attend.

Kanawha Valley Beekeepers Association

Kanawha Valley Beekeepers planned their eight meetings in advance and sent newsletters to each family prior to all meetings. These newsletters provided program information as well as current beekeeping chores to be done. We encouraged participation in upcoming events which resulted in good participation of our members at the State meetings and EAS.

Members continued to give generously their time to present beekeeping programs to schools and civic groups. We took the responsibility of representing the State Beekeepers at Ag Day and presented each of the 134 Legislators with Honey Bears provided by the State Beekeepers.

Central Beekeepers Association

Central Beekeepers Association started the year off by finally getting organized and approving their by-laws. Most of the first 3 or 4 meetings were spent with Matt Cochran and Paul Poling teaching how to raise bees and make honey. In June, we held a field day and Mr. George Clutier, State Bee Inspector, was on hand to teach how to medicate bees. Another field day was held in August to demonstrate how to split a hive.

At the fall meeting of the State Association, Mr. Lenard Conrad's name was submitted for Beekeeper of the Year, to which he was elected. Mary McCune was elected as a member to the Board of Directors of the WV Beekeepers Association. Dudley Dodrill was elected Vice President of WV Beekeepers Association.

All year we have had one or more members at each Board of Directors meeting. We had two members at the Spring Meeting and three at the Fall Meeting.

Dudley Dodrill

North Central Beekeeping Association

North Central Beekeepers Association, Clarksburg, is YOUR host for the 2000 Spring Meeting of the West Virginia Beekeepers Association. We are the first LOCAL association to host such a meeting in the new millenium. Each of the past 3 years or so we have held a "bee school" to help young and older (more experienced) beekeepers to become better beekeepers. Membership is growing and members are doing many, many classes for the local schools. In such instances, we try to be free with "show & tell" as well as with educational materials.

We sponsor picnics, for our beekeeper families, workshops for the "working beekeeper" and "fun projects" such as beeswax moulding and candlemaking. Many members bring DOOR PRIZES to meetings to make them more entertaining. Last year we had a Gospel Sing at one of the picnics. We haven't gotten on the TONITE SHOW, perhaps later!! Way to go Steve.

For YOUR entertainment, we have plans for an observation hive showing two distinctly different races of honey bees. It's our secret until the meeting!! Come to Clarksburg and LEARN with US. You must see it; your neighbor can only describe it!!

One of the more interesting and informative events for our Association was a "field trip" in late September to the Dr. Frank Androczi orchard, vineyard and winery. Dr. Frank is a very informative and knowledgeable person in the "art" of fruit orchard management and wine making. He not only informs, but entertains. I would recommend each

Association plan a fall afternoon with him near Buckhannon.

Evaluation of Formic Acid and a Thymol-Based Blend of Natural Products for the Fall Control of Varroa jacobsoni (Acari: Varroidae in Colonies of Apis Mellifera (Hymenoptera: Apidae)

By Nicholas W. Calderone

Abstract

Formic acid, a thymol-based blend of natural products and Apistan (tau-fluvalinate) were compared as fall control agents for Varroa jacobsoni Oudemans, a parasitic mite of the honey bee, Apis mellifera L. Mite mortality averaged 99% in colonies receiving Apistan, 70% in those receiving the thymol blend, 51% in those receiving formic acid, and 33% in control colonies. Mite mortality in colonies receiving the thymol blend was higher than in the control colonies. The ratio of the coefficient of variation in mite mortality among colonies in the thymol group to the coefficient of variation among colonies in the Apistan group was 67.15. The corresponding ratio for the formic acid group and the Apistan group was 117.65. These results indicate that Apistan is a more effective and a more consistent control agent than the other treatment formulations used in this study. Mortality was independent of the level of mite infestation for all treatments. Overall, 109.52 (5.777 g (43.8%)) of a 250-ml formic acid treatment evaporated during the 33-d treatment period, giving an average daily release of 3.32 g of formic acid, well below that required for effective mite control. For the thymol blend, 26.32 (1.298 g (56.8%)) of the original 80 g of material evaporated during the treatment period, giving an average of .80 g/d. The amount of each material evaporating was positively correlated with ambient temperature. The number of mites collected during the 1st 4 d of the evaluation period was correlated ($r=0.99$) with the total number of mites collected during the entire 34-d evaluation period.

J.Econ.Entomol. 92(2):253-260 (1999)
MAAREC 84, February 2000

Attention Bee Associations and Beekeepers

We are offering Tracheal mite resistant queen cells, raised from imported Buckfast queens. These queens are treated for the tracheal mites and survive the winters without loss to the mites. They are gentle and good honey producers. There is a minimum of 40 cells per order so get your group together and place your order as soon as possible.

Cost per cell is \$3.75 plus tax. Written instructions will come with the cell on how to care, handle, and get them mated. We are also offering tracheal mite resistant queens. The cost is \$11.00 per queen. Available in May. To place an order call the

Mountain State Honey Co. (304) 478-4004.
Quantities are limited so don't wait to place your order

Beekeepers needing supplies, please give the suppliers that advertise with the West Virginia Beekeepers Association consideration.



September
9th & 10th,
2000

Arts & Crafts
Honey Exhibits
Candle Making
Car Show
Entertainment

West Virginia
**Honey
Festival**

Princess Pageant
Talent Contest
The Florida Boys

City Park,
Parkersburg,
W.V.

Live Bee Beard
Honey Sales
Hive Demos.
Baking Contest
Honey & Wax

For Information: West Virginia Honey Festival
P.O. Box 2149, Parkersburg, WV 26102
WVU Wood Co. Extension Service, (304) 424-1960
WoodCo. Convention Bureau, Ph. 1-(800)752-4982, or (304) 428-1130
<http://www.geocities.com/madisonavenue/9495>



Chico, CA	1-877-332-3268
Fresno, CA	1-877-432-3268
Florida	1-877-832-3268
Illinois	1-800-637-7468
Iowa	1-877-732-3268
Michigan	1-877-932-3268
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Ellie and Steve Conlon

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1984 Chevy Bee truck, dually, 4 x 4, Hydraulic tailgate. Complete beehives with Buckfast queen \$110. Also nucs available. Call 304-455-1728 or FAX 304-455-1740. Email thistle@ovis.net
Also, foundation and good used and new bee equipment.

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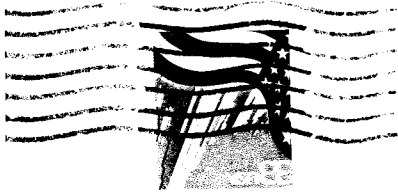
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Commercial Ads and Free Member Ads are welcome.

WVBA membership includes a subscription to the WVBA Newsletter. Local or regional beekeepers' groups which are associate members of WVBA pay WVBA an annual membership fee of \$4 per member. The members of these groups are, therefore, also WVBA members. Those who do not belong to a group associated with WVBA may join WVBA directly by paying \$5 annual dues or \$50 for a Life Membership. Please send name, address, and dues to: WVBA Secretary, John Campbell, 102 First St., Parsons, WV 26287.

The WVBA Newsletter is published in April and August. Ads and articles must be received by March 5 and July 5. Submissions may be edited as needed for clarity, content, and space.

West Virginia Beekeepers Association Newsletter
John Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer (304)478-3675
102 First St.
Parsons, WV 26287



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.

Via US Rt. 50W

Take Davisson Run Exit off Rt. 50 West of Clarksburg, Flashing Yellow Light. (Follow Hospital Signs & Dashes on Map). Just past United Hospital at stop light, turn right on US 19 S. Go past Rosebud Plaza and 4-H Center is on the left, adjacent to Sunny Croft Country Club. It is 3.9 miles from Rt. 50.

