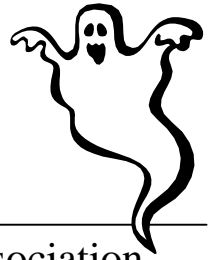


The Honey Pot



October, 2004

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

Editorial - John Seets

October! Already?!? Like as in Fall - almost winter? I had all these things planned for this year and here we are - a short time from the end of the year with less than half done. September was a busy bee month: Making a bunch of needed double screen boards out of pressure treated wood. Pressure treated because it no longer contains arsenic. A big change this year. Requeening a number of hives that didn't produce any honey and hives that exhibited overt chalk brood symptoms – like a bunch of mummies at the entrance. Since there is no established treatment for Chalkbrood, requeening is the way to go. I ordered hygenic Russian/Yugo Carniolian queens from Tabers. They raise drones to flood mating areas and test for 24 hour hygienic. They DO bank queens but if you request queens right out of the nucs, they will send those instead. I've had good results using their queens in past years. AND if there is an acceptance or egg-laying problem, they have, in the past, replaced the queen(s) free of charge. A fine policy. At \$16.55/ea. + ship, not the cheapest you will find, but well worth the cost. What is that per queen? Four to five pounds of sold honey?

Instead of installing menthol for tracheal mites and Fumidil for Nosema this year, I opted to send a sample of bees from each hive to the Bee Research Lab in Beltsville for a diagnosis for Tracheal and Nosema. After all, I had already collected bee samples to sugar roll for Varroa. Instead of releasing them after the roll, I shook some from the jar from 10 of the hives into an envelope and tossed them in the freezer. No sweat. As you can see from the results sheet (following) which was returned in less than a week, there were NO tracheal mites found NOR was there any Nosema. I attribute the “no tracheal” to the hygenic queens in the hives. Great news! Now I don't have to treat and the bees won't be exposed to yet MORE chemicals!! The news made my day! Do yourself a favor. Save time and money and use this FREE service. See the lab's address on the diagnosis sheet.

Mind the squirrels (and the deer) on the roads. They are preparing for winter now. Are you?

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service Bee Research Laboratory Building 476, BARC-East Beltsville, MD 20705 Tel. - 301-504-8821 Internet - http://www.barc.usda.gov/psi/brl/	BEE DISEASE DIAGNOSIS		
	Date Received 09/09/04	Date Notified 09/16/04	Apiculture Number 240467
Apiary Owner: JOHN SEETS SEETS APIARIES 2203 BELLEVIEW RD CATONSVILLE MD 21228			
Sample Information: BEES (10) SAMPLES #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12			
DIAGNOSIS: SAMPLE #7 - VARROA MITE (Varroa destructor) (1 MITE WAS DETECTED IN SAMPLE) ALL OTHER SAMPLES - NO DISEASE OR PARASITIC MITES DETECTED			
Diagnosis By: I.B. SMITH, JR., A. ULSAMER		Date Diagnosed: 09/16/04	
Submitted By: SAME			

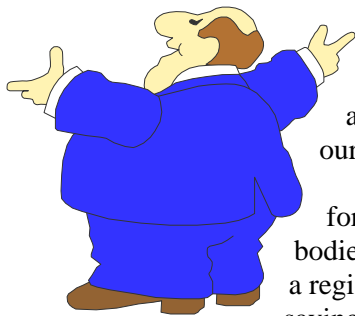


Comments:
 THESE SAMPLES WERE SCREENED FOR VARROA AND HONEY BEE TRACHEAL MITES, AND NOSEMA DISEASE.

Future Directions of MCBA - Dave Bernard

As our longtime leader, George Imirie, steps down 20 years after founding MCBA, we are left with the challenge of continuing his legacy of educational meetings, monthly newsletters, timely advice and support for new beekeepers. Not only are there big shoes to fill in George's absence, but there are many opportunities to shape and mold the future directions and programs of the club. Since George asked me to be the new leader, I've

had hundreds of ideas swirling around in my mind about the kinds of programs and functions that the club could sponsor. For example, the club generally has not engaged in functions outside of our monthly meeting, with the exception of the county fair and the annual short course. One idea I've had is to hold a couple of weekend field days each year at a member's apiary to allow open-hive live-bee teaching opportunities. Bill Troup has



volunteered to host such a session in May at one of his apiaries in the Poolsville area, so stay tuned for further details in future newsletters. Other ideas include visits to other apiaries, a day in the life of the bee inspector, field trips to honey packers, mead makers, and beekeeping places of note. These educational opportunities are natural extensions of our monthly club meetings and I think would serve our membership well.

Another way that the club could serve the membership would be to band together for bulk purchasing discounts. Some items we could purchase in bulk are glassware, hive bodies, foundation, medications, and bee feed. A club member could take the orders, drive to a regional supplier and pick up the merchandise and then distribute it at our monthly meeting, saving on the costly shipping fees. This requires coordination and advanced planning but would directly benefit the members. Another area of service might be to purchase a small extractor and uncapping knife that the club could rent for a minimal fee to those members needing one.

Finally, I've been thinking about the honey sales at the Montgomery County Fair and would really like to have what has been a private sales table turn into a club sales table. With that in mind, I'd like to open the sales table to honey and beeswax items from club members to be sold on a consignment basis. This gives MCBA members an outlet for their honey and encourages participation in our biggest event of the year.

Lastly, George ran the entire club by himself, except for the help of a newsletter editor. I cannot devote that much time to the club and have been thinking about appointing some officers to help me. I think we very much need people to serve as treasurer, secretary, fair coordinator, newsletter contributors, short course coordinator, and more. I've asked a number of people to help in some of these areas and will be looking for more help in the months to come. If our organization is going to grow and evolve, it will be based on the willingness of the membership to invest time and effort to help everyone become better beekeepers.

The Beekeeper's 2004 Calendar



Wednesday, October 13th
7:30PM

Regular Monthly Meeting
Brookside Nature Center
1400 Glenallan Rd., Wheaton

Topics to be presented include: How to take cappings wax and prepare the wax for candle making. Garey Wilmsen will follow with a demo on dipped candles. Garey Wilmsen began keeping a few hives of bees in 1979 in Carroll County, MD. He, along with a few others, went on to found the Carroll County Beekeepers, serving first as treasurer and later as president. More recently, Garey served for eight years as the treasurer of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association. For 10 years, after retiring from NSA as a computer programmer and analyst, Garey sold his hive products at farmer's markets in Columbia, Westminster, Reisterstown and Sykesville. He began selling candles as a use for his accumulating wax and to add variety to his sales table. After trying a variety of molded candles, he came to realize that he could make more candles in less time by hand dipping them. Since then, Garey has specialized in dipped candles, selling them at his markets, and conducting public demonstrations on dipping candles at the annual Carroll County Honey Festival at the Hashawa Nature Center.

Saturday, November 13th

MSBA Fall Meeting
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

The featured speaker will be Charlie Harper. He is the man who runs the Russian breeder-queen operation in Louisiana. The topic of his presentation will be the development of the Russian bee program and the management of Russian colonies. Dr. David Tarpay will speak about bee anatomy and why beekeepers should be familiar with it. Honey and cookery contest and show will occur at the same time. Entry cut-off time is 9 AM so get there early. MSBA members get in free. Non-members: There is a \$10 admission fee per family. Questions or for more details, contact Allen Hayes: 410-489-2835 or hayeshouse4@aol.com.

The Beekeeper's Q & A

Question: I need to move my bees from Baltimore County to Carroll County and I need some pointers. I was told that I need hive staples? Does anyone know where I can get these staples? Has anyone moved a colony before and is willing to give me some pointers, do's and don'ts? (Submitted 9/20/04)

Answer: Just use construction staples, "pedigree" hive staples are not necessary. What I mean by construction staples are not paper staples. These are the large staples and a gun to shoot them that are sold at home improvement places like Home Depot, Lowes, etc. Sears last year came out with a nice staple gun – very easy on the hand to use. Of course, you will want to staple the bottom board to the bottom brood box and maybe the 2 brood chambers together. Usually the propolis between the 2 brood boxes will do the job but some for the 2 boxes would be good "just to be safe".

Before the move, put screen in the entrances after all bees are at home. I think it's best to move at night. Days are OK but the bees do NOT like light and warmth AND being screened in. You can move during day but things can get a bit more complicated. So I recommend moving after dark.

You and a buddy can move the hives manually using the handholds. If you have lots of hives to move, I would recommend a hive carrier. I initially bought 2 of them and settled on Kelly's model. Somewhat more expensive than the other one but well worth it. See the 9/02 issue of *The Honey Pot* for details and testing on the carriers.

If you are transporting the hives in an open bed truck, try to position the hives so that the wind while driving does not blow into the entrances. Tie-down the outer covers to the hives themselves or truck bed so they won't blow off. When I moved some hives in the past, I used an enclosed van. Much better. If the hives can move around during transport, consider immobilizing them using rope or other tie-down material.

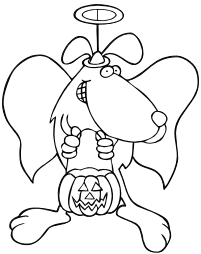
Pull out the screens after the move at night. Don't wait until the next day.

If you move during the day: a) Allow the hives to sit at their new site for an hour or so after the move so they will calm down before you remove the screens; b) If the bees are still really torqued after the move after an hour or so, smoke 'em before removing the screens.

Prepare your new site BEFORE the move. You'll be glad you did. Wear protection. Drive slowly. Turn on your head lights and emergency flashers. Take your time.

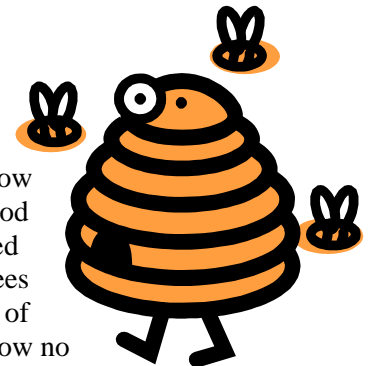
Submit your questions to: John Seets, 2203 Belleview Rd., Catonsville, MD. 21228

Or preferably, e-mail: John.Seets@ngc.com



Hiveworks - The Perfect Hive

The top brood chamber should show mostly capped honey with 2, possibly 3 frames in the center showing some capped brood. In the bottom box, the end frames should be well on their way to being filled with honey and some pollen. The rest of the frames in the bottom box should be brood – all stages but mostly capped. The bright-yellow pollen you can see is from the currently in-bloom goldenrod. Both the Aster and Goldenrod are providing limited amounts of nectar. Don't count on this bloom to provide the required honey for winter stores. Feed 2:1 sugar syrup now while it is still warm enough for the bees to process it. Sixty to seventy pounds per hive is a good number to shoot for. If you hear of any sugar sales at the various grocery stores, spread the word. The perfect hive should show no mite drop or bees with deformed wings (a sure-sign Varroa indicator). There should be no signs of disease or Chalkbrood mummies. Hives that showed Chalkbrood previously should have been requeened with a hygienic queen by now. Unless you have tested for Nosema, add Fumidil to the syrup feed per the instructions.

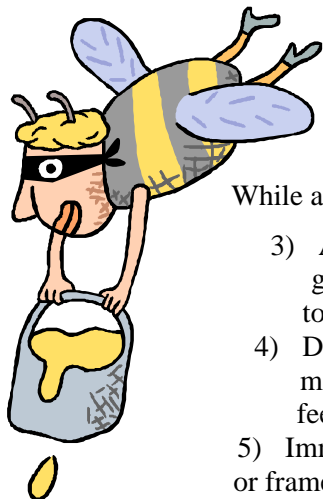


Hiveworks - Some Thoughts on Robbing

Late summer / early fall time of the year, the beekeeper often encounters robbing behavior to some extent or another when working the hives due to the seasonal nectar dearth in this area. This year, in particular, seems to be case-in-point. While making up requeening nucs, the bees seemed to be on a hair-trigger to start robbing. Robbing puts the new nucs and weaker hives at risk. Here are some things I have learned which I hope may be useful to you during your hive ministrations.

Before you open the hive(s):

- 1) An hour or so before, use your hive tool to break apart the brood boxes. Move the top box laterally $\frac{3}{4}$ ". This will allow the bees to clean up any burr-comb broken cells of honey without exposing the inside of the hive to the outside. Do not open the hive at this time.



While a hive is being worked:

- 2) Place a dark empty brood frame about 30 feet from the hives you are going to inspect in the sun. Oftentimes, it is difficult to distinguish robbing behavior when lots of bees are flying due to the hive being worked. If while in a hive and you look over and see a bunch of bees on the empty brood frame, you can conclude that the bees are in "robbing mode".
- 3) A puff or two of smoke into the entrances of all hives within 20 feet from the hive you are going to open will help disorient potential robber bees for a time. Close all entrances down to an inch or so.
- 4) Do not feed the hive the same time you plan to do an inspection or perform other frame manipulations. Feed just before dark. No boardman feeders – use only enclosed hivetop feeders. Screen the top entrances to prevent easy outside access to the feeders.
- 5) Immediately remove from the apiary or enclose any burr comb that you scrape from the boxes or frames whether there is honey in it or not.
- 6) When pulling frames of honey, be very careful not break the sealed honey cappings. Do not leave frames of honey pulled from the boxes in the open. Enclose frames with honey in another box with a cover until they are ready to be replaced back into the brood box. Open honey will initiate robbing almost immediately.
- 7) Advanced / out-of-control robbing is characterized by balls of boiling bees in the grass, on the tops or stands of the hive you are working or adjacent hives. And lots of dead bees. The carnage can be extensive. Exposed honeycomb is depleted rapidly.
- 8) Early morning hive work is preferable because mornings are cooler and the onset of robbing is delayed.
- 9) The only thing to do when robbing starts is to reassemble the hive you have open as quickly as possible. Leave all entrances reduced. Weak hives or nuc entrances should be closed down to allow only a bee or 2 in or out at the same time. Come back and try again later or another day.

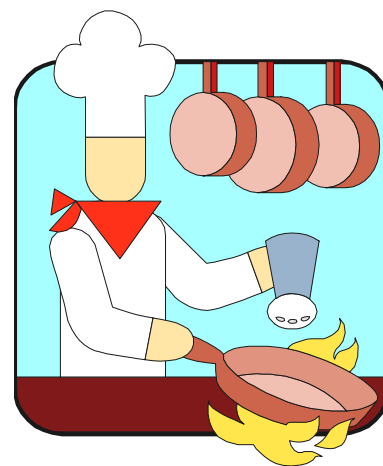
October's Honey Recipe from our chef, MaryEllen Kirkpatrick

What follows is the recipe for the torte that we had at the last meeting. The mousse layer is based on the classical French Chocolate Marquise. To assemble the dessert you will need either an 8 or 9-inch ring mold or a spring form pan. Prepare the mousse only after you have made the torte layer and set it up in the ring mold. If you have the means to weigh your ingredients, this is the better approach for these recipes.

Part 1: Honey-Hazelnut Marquise Tortes*

Ingredients:

- 4 oz butter, unsalted ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup)
- 4 oz sugar ($\frac{1}{3}$ cup)
- 2 oz hazelnuts (scant $\frac{1}{2}$ cup whole nuts)
- 3 eggs
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. honey (2 Tablespoons)
- 2 oz. all-purpose flour (7 Tablespoons)
- A pinch of salt



Lightly toast the hazelnuts. Remove loose skins, but leaving the skins on is fine. Preheat the oven to 325°. Brush a 9-inch pan with vegetable shortening, dust with flour or very fine dry bread crumbs and bang out the excess. Finely grind the nuts with the sugar in a food processor. Beat the butter to soften it using the paddle attachment in the mixer. Add the sugar and hazelnuts and continue to beat until very smooth and light. Add the honey and the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. It is impossible to beat this batter too much at this point. When the batter is very smooth and light, add the salt and fold the flour into the batter until just combined. You can briefly run the mixer to accomplish this, but take care not to let the flour fly out of the bowl. Spread the batter in the prepared pan.

Watch it as it bakes- it takes about 30 - 35 minutes. Cool on a rack for a few minutes, the tort will pull away from the sides of the pan slightly. Remove the layer from pan while it is still warm and finish cooling on the rack.

Part 2: Honey Laced Marquise Mousse*

Ingredients:

- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate
- 4 oz unsalted butter (½ cup)
- 2 oz honey (2 Tablespoons + 1 teaspoon)
- A pinch of salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- A pinch of cream of tartar
- ½ oz sugar (3 ½ teaspoons)



In a bowl over a pan of simmering water, melt the chocolate and the butter. Add the honey and the salt, and remove from the heat. Separate the eggs. Lightly beat the yolks with a wooden spoon and add to the chocolate mixture. Combine the whites with the cream of tartar and the 1/2 oz of sugar and beat to peaks, but not dry. Gently fold the beaten whites into the chocolate mixture.

Putting it all together:

Brush the ring mold with vegetable shortening and coat with granulated sugar. Place the ring over the torte layer and press it in to “cut” the layer to fit inside. Save any trimmings. Generously drizzle the top of the torte layer with honey. Make the mousse and pour it into the ring on top of the torte. Smooth the top with a small off-set spatula, or just tap it somewhat level. Cover the mold with plastic wrap and refrigerate several hours, preferably overnight. To unmold the dessert, remove the plastic and lightly heat the outside of the ring mold with a blowtorch (that you might use to make crème brules) or by wrapping a hot damp towel around it. You should then be able to simply lift the ring off. Just prior to serving, drizzle more honey over the dessert and garnish with chopped toasted hazelnuts and the toasted crumbs from any trimmings that you may have had from the torte layer. This dessert is easy to slice when it is cold using a knife heated in water and wiped with a cloth before and after slicing. It will be difficult to slice if it is room temperature. To use a spring form pan instead of a ring mold, cut the torte layer to size with a knife if necessary and do not coat the pan with shortening and sugar. Use a thin knife around the inside edge of the pan to release the mousse layer, and then smooth around the edges with an offset spatula or the back of a spoon.

Last Meeting's Minutes - MCBA Supercedure, September 8, 2004

- Betsy Klinger

The September 8th meeting was George Imirie's last as president-and-benevolent-dictator of the MCBA. George founded the organization twenty years ago, and served as president for the next two decades, using the considerable force of his energy and personality to educate scores of beekeepers. Many of those have gone on to teach others, giving George reason to feel satisfied with his worker bees and with the health and productivity of the colony he established.

As a parting gift for those of us who were present, George shared the three most important concepts that he learned from his own mentor in the early 1930's, and as promised, he announced his chosen successor. Our short-course teacher David Bernard accepted George's appointment.

David's style seems less that of a dictator than that of a facilitator and he plans to have the members participate more in the work of the association. He also hopes to arrange guest speakers every second month or so to help us all keep in touch with what others are doing and discovering elsewhere. Other ideas David offered were some educational "field trips" he thinks would be valuable, other off-site meetings featuring hive inspections in area apiaries, the purchase of equipment as a group to secure better prices, and some new directions for "The Honey Pot." Members are encouraged to offer their ideas as well. David's e-mail address is amazingbee@verizon.net.

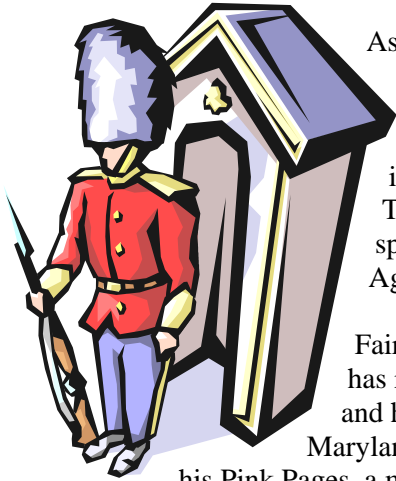
During the remainder of the meeting, Bill Troup and Barry Thompson gave presentations for late summer and autumn management. Barry detailed methods for testing and treating for tracheal mites and varroa. He also described the pros and cons of some alternative mite control products and discussed non-chemical management techniques for mite control. Bill Troup discussed why and how to re-queen weak colonies or combine colonies in preparation for winter. He also demonstrated the use of his favorite bit of equipment, the double-screen board.

The educational exhibit that was MCBA's entry at the Maryland state fair was on display at Wednesday's meeting for all to admire. This exhibit was exceptionally well designed and executed by Barry Thompson and



won the \$100 prize for us for best beekeeping association exhibit. Another treat that members had to be there to enjoy was chef Mary Ellen Kirkpatrick's home-baked raisin bread and the astonishingly light and delicate honey-and-butter spread she concocted to go with it. Definitely worth driving to a meeting for!

Changing of the Guard at MCBA - Marc Hoffman



George Imirie, long time president of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA), turned over the reins to David Bernard at the monthly meeting held on September 8, 2004 at the Brookside Nature Center. George, 84 years old, a certified Master Beekeeper and retired nuclear scientist, has led the MCBA for the last 20 years. He leaves a strong association, with more than 100 members, including more Master Beekeepers than any other local association in the country. The association holds monthly meetings, a free short course in beekeeping given each spring, and engages in many educational activities including the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair.

George has been a constant and memorable feature of the Montgomery County Fair for many years, giving live beekeeping demonstrations inside a screened booth. He has remained active despite 5 strokes that reduced his once booming voice to a whisper, and he has continued beekeeping from the back of the motorized scooter with a courtesy Maryland Beekeeper license plate. George has, for years, been renowned internationally for his Pink Pages, a monthly publication of beekeeping advice and instruction on pink paper. The Pink Pages are a supplement to *The Honey Pot*, the MCBA newsletter, are also distributed internationally through the web and are often quoted in international forums. George recently remarried and is relocating to Williamsburg, Virginia, but has promised to continue writing the Pink Pages and to answer email questions from his admiring public.

The MCBA is open to all people who are interested in beekeeping. Beekeeping is important to Maryland because many crops require pollination by honeybees. During the last 20 years, the presence of various pests fatal to honeybee colonies have made it nearly impossible for honeybees to survive independently. Almost all beekeepers in Montgomery County are hobbyists, and their keeping colonies and selling local honey enrich our lives. Many Montgomery County Beekeepers have gotten their start through the free short course given by the MCBA each March at the Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton Regional Park.

David Bernard, who is taking over from George Imirie, is a research scientist at NIH and lives in Damascus, Maryland. He and his wife are both Master Beekeepers. David said, "George has left the MCBA strong, and I will be continuing his work, with the help of Barry Thompson, Bill and Nancy Troup, and all of our other steady crew. Of course, we have many new ideas we will be exploring. I look forward to discussing them with the membership."



MCBA website:

<http://members.aol.com/wgmiller/mcba/mcba.htm>

Dave Bernard
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Damascus, MD 20872

