



The Piping Queen

December 2010

www.hivetool.com/naba

NABA WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS FOR 2010

Will Akers	Nashville
Ralph & Gail Allen	Nashville
Chelle Baldwin	Nashville
Sam Barnes	Nashville
John Barrett	Nashville
Anthony Bates	Nashville
Mary Canepa	College Grove
Glen, Donna & Samuel Carroll	Greenbrier
M. Cede	Nashville
Amy Cole	Nashville
Ed Counts	Nashville
Gregory Daniels	Brentwood
Dick Davis*	Nashville
Richard DeRosia	Centerville
Rick Deslauriers	Bon Aqua
Alyce Dobyns	Nashville
Michael Duncan	Brentwood
Sterling Earhart	Mt. Juliet
Nancy Evans	Nashville
Melinda Fish	Nashville
Terry Haste	Franklin
Matt Ingham	Nashville
Herb Jones III	Pleasant View
Dave Kaushik	Five Points
Nancy Knox	Nashville
Guy Langford	Flintville
Stacy & Joshua McGuire	Franklin
Michael & Geri Michael	Dickson
Heather, Joshua, Matthew, Rebecca & Timothy O'Bryan	Portland
Lisa Padgett	Nashville
Carole Parmer	Franklin
Phillip Piercy	Nashville
David Pittman	Nashville
Susan Pitts	Pleasant View
Linda Politte	Nashville
Audrey Prebus	Nashville
Ellen Rodrigues	Nashville
Angela Sartore	Gallatin
Jon & Heather Sharp	Spring Hill
Andrew Skipper	Nashville
Ricky Lee Timmons II	Cottontown

New Members Continued

Anthony Tomlinson	Dickson
Philip Tremblay	Nashville
Lewis Walling	Springfield
Deidra Watson	Louisville, KY
Susan & Donnie Welchance	Murfreesboro
Wayne Willis*	Whites Creek

*Returning member



BEEKEEPING, BEES & NABA HAVE A GREAT YEAR

The beekeeping ranks continue to swell as attested by the number of new beekeepers that joined NABA this year. This is not unique to our club since it mirrors a nationwide trend. There are many reasons people take-up the beekeeping craft, but a common thread is an underlying desire to help the "Plight of the Honey Bees". Beekeepers everywhere can be proud in this season of giving because they are helping to insure the survival of this economical, ecological and spiritually important species.

The club has also enjoyed a great year besides seeing the increase in new beekeeper members. The Nashville Lawn & Garden Show was another success due to the efforts of the volunteers who helped with the booth and the skillful guidance of Steve McGee. Success in part is measured by the funds generated for the club by the Show since they largely support many of NABA's programs throughout the year. Those who attended the June Field Day are thanked for their support of that educational event. The State Fair booth managed to squeak in another year and the club is very grateful to the volunteers who helped make NABA's participation in the Fair a success. As always, Danny Ryan used vacation time to conduct honey processing demonstrations during the entire Fair using honey supers produced by NABA's apiary.

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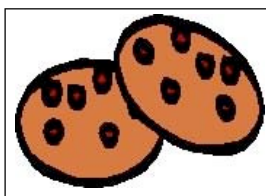
Great Year (continued from page 1)

Of course, this year was not without many personal hardships due to the May floods, and it takes considerable time to heal the emotional impact of any natural disaster. We have a few members, young and more senior, who have been fighting major health battles but there appears to be some hope for all of them. In beekeeping, we also continue to wage our battles against *Varroa* and the Small Hive Beetle. The prominence of the SHB over the years has increased, and any beekeeper that fails to recognize the threat of this pest invites disaster.

Overall, any person that becomes a beekeeper or continues as one should be commended for their efforts in cultivating the craft during some very difficult times for honey bees. We all really care about the bees! Oh! Keep Christmas giving simple. Give a home-made bee-related gift.

Merry Christmas & Have a Happy New Year

Jim



“MEETING REFRESHMENTS”

A big thank you to every one who brought in yummy treats for the meetings. Thanks to

Melanie Campanis, Lynda Correll, Mark & Mrs. Cagle, and others who I have missed.

SUPPORT FOR NABA'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

We thank John Seaborn and Trevor Qualls for their support. John donated a package of bees and Trevor a complete hive as door prizes at the Introductory Course. In addition, John donated two packages to NABA's apiary.

New Board & Officers

At the November meeting, Karla Clarke, Steve McGee, Trevor Qualls, Barry Richards, and Alan Williams were elected to serve as board members for 2011. Paul Campanis and Tirri Parker will be your new President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively.

THREE RIVERS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

John Seaborn and Trevor Qualls have formed a new association that will serve Hickman, Dickson, Perry,

and Lewis counties. Its first meeting will be Saturday, December 18, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Dickson County Library on the Hwy 70 by-pass across from Kroger. The Columbia Area and Nashville Area Beekeeper Associations donated seed monies of \$100 and \$150, respectively. Contact John (931-628-2279) or Trevor (931-670-5138) for more information.

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

INCLUSION OF BEEKEEPING SUPPLIERS ON THE LIST BELOW DOES NOT ENTAIL ENDORSEMENT BY THE EDITOR, NOR IS ANY DISCRIMINATION INTENDED BY OMISSION FROM THIS LIST OF KNOWN SUPPLIERS

WOLF CREEK APIARIES

Offers the popular 5.4 bees and the natural sized 4.9 cell bees. Both sized bees carry the same genetics. They are from wild survivor stock with Russian, Italian and Carniolan strains. Delivery to the Nashville area. Packages, Nucs & Queens Contact: Ruth Seaborn (NABA member) 931-729-9229, Centerville, TN

JOHNSON HONEY FARM

Beekeeping supplies (woodenware, extracting equipment, corn syrup, treatments, etc.) and bees. Packages, Nucs, and Queens.

Contact: Johnson Honey Farm, Ed Johnson, Paula Morton & Robert Johnson (NABA members) 615-859-7253 Goodlettsville, TN

AMISH CYPRESS WOODENWARE

10-frame shallow, medium, deep; 8-frame medium; screened bottom boards, inner covers, tops, etc Contact: (write for equipment available & prices and/or visit) Mose N. Zook, 72 Nutt Lane, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

BON AQUA SPRINGS APIARIES & WOODENWARE

Nucs, 8- and 10-frame hives; frames, beetle traps, feeders, stands, etc. Contact: Allen, Amy, Gail, or Trevor Qualls (NABA members) 931-670-6862, Bon Aqua, TN

PURVIS BROTHERS APIARIES

Queens. Contact: Dan Purvis, Leoma, TN, 931-852-3033

Wib Magli

Currently taking orders. Nucs & various supplies. 615-418-8945, wrmagli@gmail.com

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WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER HOSTS HIVES

NABA new beekeepers, Dganit Eldar and Audrey Prebus, have formed a group named "Dvash" (Hebrew for honey) that has hives for educational purposes at Warner Park. They have created a Wiki page at <http://warnerpark-bees.wikispaces.com> where one can view a log of their hive activities, see what's blooming, be directed to NABA's web site, view the latest *Piping Queen*, and other information. According to Audrey, the nature center this fall used the hives on teaching tours for Metro school children.

Congratulations Dganit and Audrey for your educational efforts in promoting beekeeping and the importance of bees!



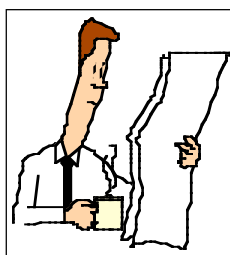
AGRICULTURE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE A BIG SUCCESS

The Museum held its open house on December 2 in which one of the trees was decorated with bee-theme ornaments and items. Ten NABA beekeepers brought bee-related ornaments that were hung with care along with other decorations by Melanie & Sophia Campanis and Karla Clarke. Tirri Parker will open the museum after Sunday's Potluck for people to come view the tree.



NEWS BRIEFS!

Region's honeybees battling bacterial disease Many hives of honeybees in the Upper Cumberland are suffering from American Foulbrood. "In Putnam, Overton and Cumberland County we've found 44 colonies (affected)," said State Apiarist Mike Studer. "It's about a 20 mile long, nine mile wide area." (12/9/10)



Warning that sugar prices could surge to 30-year high Dry Brazilian weather, strong demand and expectations of an impending Q1 2011 trade flow deficit have driven the commodity to new highs. (10/28/10)

Ohio apiculturist takes inventory of lost research James Tew, a beekeeping specialist with Ohio State University Extension, is still trying to accept the loss of his bee barn stung by the tornado Sept. 16. "Everything is utterly destroyed ... you can pick up odds and ends, but it's 99 percent gone," said Tew in disbelief. He compared the bee barn to a library that's been blown away. (9/25/10)

USA- BANNED THE IMPORTATION OF QUEENS AND BEE PACKAGES FROM AUSTRALIA With little public fanfare, the United States has banned the importation of honey bee queens and package bees from Australia. But the halt is not because of the Asian bee incursion in northern Queensland as many expected but because of something called slow paralysis virus. Australian world bee authority Dennis Anderson of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization questions the decision, saying the virus has never been found in Australia. (12/4/10)

Almond Pollination The California almond bloom is the largest annual managed pollination event in the world. Next February, it will take about 1.3 million honey bee colonies and approximately 800 commercial beekeepers to meet the pollination expectations of the 6,000 almond growers who tend more than 740,000 acres. (12/10)

Alaska bee business is California dreaming Things often get sticky for local beekeepers once they've extracted a summer's worth of honey. For most, that's when they face the not-so-sweet prospect of euthanizing their bees before they're exposed to a frigid Interior winter. But Don Winston and Jeff Mitchell at Bee Alaskan Apiaries think they might have found a way around that depressing practice. They're treating their bees to the dream of many Alaskans — a trip to sunny California for the winter. (9/12/10)

Importer of illegal honey gets 18 months in prison In a case that highlighted the practice of so-called honey laundering of adulterated and sometimes even antibiotic-tainted imported honey, the former president of a Chinese honey company was sentenced today to 18 months in federal prison. Young Xiang Yan, 61, pleaded guilty in October 2009 to conspiring to smuggle honey originally from China into the U.S. to avoid about \$4 million in anti-

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News (continued from page 3)

dumping taxes. Yan also was ordered to pay almost \$4 million in restitution. (11/9/10)

The buzz on beekeeping? It's hard to figure out the workers Hobbyists account for 95 percent of the beekeepers in the U.S., estimates the National Honey Board, and another 4 percent of the nation's beekeepers are folks who view it as a part-time job. The approximately 1,600 commercial beekeeping operations in the U.S. account for about 60 percent of the nation's honey production. (10/17/10)

Africanized bees blamed in death of Georgia man Africanized honeybees have been confirmed in Georgia and are responsible for the death of a 73-year-old man, the state's agricultural commissioner said. Curtis Davis of Dougherty County in southwest Georgia accidentally disturbed a colony of bees while he was clearing bush with his bulldozer. He received more than 100 stings. "This is the first record of Africanized honeybees in Georgia," Agricultural Commissioner Tommy Irvin said in a statement about the entomological tests. (10/21/10)

Honey bees with a taste for ice cream sundaes Cerise Mayo's bees, the ones she had been raising in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and on Governors Island since May, started coming home to their hives looking suspicious. Of course, it was the foragers who were showing up with mysterious stripes of color. Where there should have been a touch of gentle amber showing through the membrane of their honey stomachs was instead a garish bright red. The honeycombs, too, were an alarming shade of Robitussin. Turns out the bees were hitting the juice — maraschino cherry juice, that sweet, sticky stuff sloshing around vats at Dell's Maraschino Cherries Company. (11/29/10)

Loveland beekeeper stung by his own shotgun booby trap A Loveland, Co, beekeeper fell victim to his own sting and was wounded by a booby trap he set to protect his hive from a bear. Police said John Frost, 68, suffered injuries to his left hand and left lower leg after an improvised shotgun booby trap he made went off. (11/20/10)

RESEARCH BRIEFS

23 MacArthur Fellows Announced Out of the Blue — \$500,000 — No Strings The recipients just learned, through a phone call out of the blue from the Foundation, that they will each



receive \$500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years. MacArthur Fellowships come without stipulations and reporting requirements and offer Fellows unprecedented freedom and opportunity to reflect, create, and explore. Among the recipients this year: Marla Spivak, Entomologist, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. One of Dr. Spivak's accomplishments are her pioneering studies on honey bee hygienic behavior. (9/28/10)

Robots imitate honey bees for aircraft aerobatics Australian scientists have developed a novel autopilot that guides aircraft through complex aerobatic manoeuvres by watching the horizon like a honey bee. Allowing aircraft to quickly sense which way is “up” by imitating how honeybees see, engineers and researchers at The Vision Centre, Queensland Brain Institute and the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland have made it possible for planes to guide themselves through extreme manoeuvres, including the loop, the barrel roll and the Immelmann turn, with speed, deftness and precision. (12/1/10)

\$1.4 million grant to fund research on alternative pollinators Fruits and nuts are high-value crops in the Mid-Atlantic states and are being heavily impacted by honeybee shortages for pollination. A new \$1.4 million grant from the USDA NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) program to Penn State will look into future impacts on fruit pollination and the development of alternative pollinators to supplement honeybees. (10/13/10)

Bees solve math problem Bumblebees can solve a complex mathematical problem that would keep a computer busy for days, say London university researchers. A bee's brain is the size of pinhead yet they are able to compare the distance between hundreds of flowers to find the shortest route — a task that can keep supercomputers busy for days. (11/23/10)

Iridovirus and Microsporidian Linked to Honey Bee Colony Decline After extensive evaluation of bees involving the analysis of 30,000 markers of disease, a team led by Jerry Bromenshenk, University of Montana, identified a combination of single-celled parasite and a virus as potential perpetrators. The report, in the journal PLoS One, notes that the type of virus (iridovirus) is common in other insects but is rarely detected in the bees. However, the researchers said, the virus is deadly to honey bees only when they also are infected with a microsporidian, single-celled parasite "Nosema ceranae". The finding, according to the research team, reinforces the findings of previous

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Research (continued from page 4)

research suggests that combination of iridovirus (IIV) and "*Nosema ceranae*" as a probable cause of the disappearance of bees in the U.S., Europe and Asia, the report said. (10/7/10)

[Editor's Note: This paper was published in *Plos*, an online scientific route for investigators to publish quickly their studies. Papers submitted to *Plos* are not subjected to critical review for experimental quality and data supporting the authors' conclusions and claims. I suspect that Bromenshenk and colleagues either knew their paper would not be accepted, or maybe even tried, for publication in a journal that carries out rigorous peer review of submitted manuscripts. This is obvious from the shoddy quality and lack of solid data that fail to support the authors' provocative conclusions. However, the news media ran with it for awhile but the lead author, Bromenshenk, is again a target for the media because of unreported affiliations with the pesticide producer Bayer. I doubt that his Bayer affiliation biased his performance of the *Plos* study or interpretation of its findings.]

COMMENTARY

Colony Collapse Disorder: Revisiting old causes of colony mortality

Declining bee populations are not new. Beginning in the late 1800s, bee journals reported major colony losses every 10 to 15 years. The worst years were 1963, 1964 and 1965. Alabama beekeepers experienced CCD in their colonies in 2002. It was brought to the attention of the news media in the winter of 2006-2007. In January 2007, a CCD working group was formed, and in July of that year the USDA released a 27 page action plan for dealing with CCD. In June of 2009, a CCD steering committee released a progress report on attempts to identify the cause of CCD. Their conclusion was "that CCD may be a syndrome caused by many different factors, working in combination or synergistically".

The most talked about factors have been viruses, nutritional deficiencies, impaired immune responsiveness, pesticides, and a fungus. Only a passing mention of *Varroa* is usually offered. Obviously, CCD has turned out to be much more of a challenge to solve than researchers studying this illness, if in fact it is an illness, ever anticipated. Why have investigators in the USA failed to make meaningful progress in identifying the cause of CCD? The answer is largely explained by the way CCD researchers carry out their business. All studies are best

described as being 'descriptive' in nature rather than experimental. What is descriptive research? An example would be analyzing a honey bee from a colony experiencing CCD for viruses. It is like a fisherman casting a line out hoping to catch something. It is not that descriptive research can not be informative but rather the problem is it presents only a snap-shot of what may be occurring during the disease process. It fails to tell you that what you observe is any way related to the cause of the disease.

Experimental research on the other hand is hypothesis driven in which a putative mechanism is proposed and the researcher sets out to prove it experimentally. For example, the researcher proposes that a fungus and pesticides work together to cause the disease. He then designs experiments to test whether the disease, or elements thereof, can be reproduced. I am not aware of any CCD studies in the USA that have been experimental. It seems we have no researchers here who are experimentalists. By contrast, several experimental studies on CCD have been carried out in Spain, the United Kingdom, and Germany, and are responsible for the attention given to *Nosema ceranae* as a CCD-causing candidate.

Recently, a consensus developing among CCD researchers is that a major cause of colony mortality may not be due to CCD. In fact, CCD may rank behind other factors such as starvation, queen-related issues, and parasites, namely *Varroa*. It becomes apparent that if, for example, *Varroa*-caused mortality is not falsely identified as caused by CCD, then weapons exist to fight *Varroa*. Conversely, if other known factors are eliminated, then efforts into CCD research may become more fruitful.

Bee Supplies (continued from page 2)

BACKWOODS APIARY

Queens & bees. Contact: Edwin & Elaine
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