



THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

Bimonthly newsletter for
THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

Better Apiculture Through Knowledge

Volume 45 Issue 4

August/September 2008

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Fire! Be Careful with your Smoker!

29th ANNUAL BEEKEEPER'S FIELD DAY
At C.B. ALEXANDER COLLEGE, "TOCAL"
(between Maitand and Paterson)

Organised by the DPI and the Hunter Branches of the ABA and Apiarist's Association

Saturday, 25th October, 2008

MC:
Bruce White

- 9.15: Welcome and outline of program
9.30-10.30: Nick Annand, Hive manipulation for Beginners. (*In the field*)
10.30-11.00: Morning Tea
11.00-11.30: Doug Somerville, Swarming and Swarm Prevention
(*In field weather permitting*)
11.30-12: Nick Annand, Small Hive Beetle Update (*In Auditorium*)
12.00-12.30: Shona Blair, Update on research progress with anti-bacterial honey
(*In Auditorium*)
12.30-1.30: LUNCH
1.30- 2.30: John Banfield & Don King, Queen breeding—grafting.
2.30- 3.00: John Gollan, Discovery of new Exotic Bee (*In Auditorium*)
3.00- 3.20: About Us – Don King Apiarists' Asso,
Jim Wright, Amateur Beekeepers Asso.
3.20- 4.00: Question & Answer.

THIS IS A FREE DAY, BUT YOU DO NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD!

Remember this summer your bees will need access to water!

Beginning in Bees: Total Course: 13-14 September, Camden 15-16 November
www.profarm.com.au

CONDITIONS CONDUCTIVE TO SWARMING

1. Lack of space for the expansion of the brood nest.
2. Lack of storage room for honey.
3. Crowding of the brood nest.
4. Insufficient ventilation.
5. High temperature.

Hives should be checked every two or three weeks during the swarming season – SOON!

Swarm vacates when queen cells are sealed.

A surplus of under employed nurse bees and wax secreters is one cause of swarming.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - ARTICLES, IDEAS, TIP
CAN ALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER MEMBERS**

Swarm control methods include such expedients as:

1. Increasing the capacity of the brood box.
2. Substituting foundation for old built comb.
3. Removing brood to supers, as in Demaree methods.
4. Increasing the capacity of supers.
5. Adding brood, sealed or unsealed, to the stock.
6. Abstracting a nucleus and filling up with foundation.
7. Separating flying bees from those which have not yet flown.
8. Substituting a young queen for an old one.
9. Relying upon the incidence of nectar flow.

From "Swarm Control and It's Prevention" by L.E. Snelgrove, published 1934 in BBNO (Cornwall, UK)

Reprinted from The Amateur Beekeeper, Jan 1966
Lucerne (Alfalfa) is a crop that bees do not collect pollen from if they can help it, because when they do so the flower is 'tripped' and hits the bee in an uncomfortable sort of way. Mr W. P. Nye and Dr P. Mackensen have now tried a basic - and very difficult - approach to the problem of pollinating lucerne: BREEDING BEES THAT WILL COLLECT POLLEN FROM IT. If this could be done, it would be an exciting advance. THERE IS AN INHERITANCE FACTOR associated with pollen collecting from lucerne. *(Ed - imagine a bee being 'clobbered' by a trigger mechanism on the flower - on entry! No wonder the bee does not always like the welcome and tends to avoid it. But some bees do not mind and are the sought-after strains of 'pollinating bees'. The work is much under study in USA, USSR, France, Germany etc.*

PURE BEESWAX WANTED
Contact Richard Foote
(02) 9638 5601

BEES WAX WANTED TO BUY
Alex of Axion (02 9872 1819, 0425 350 230)

HIVES FOR SALE
4 8-frame 2-box hives
\$95 each
(02) 9427 4108
(Ring after 15-8-08)

FROM AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE MONTHLY REVIEW

Composed of saturated sugars honey absorbs water thus depriving bacteria of the H₂O they need to multiply and survive. In converting nectar to honey the bees secrete glucose-oxidase an enzyme that releases hydrogen peroxide as it comes into contact with open wounds.

Members joining the ABA from the end of June pay half of the regular rates for both capitation and insurance.

TO COUNTER BEETLE & WAX MOTH PROBLEMS

Keep colonies strong with a good young queen

Use only enough supers/comb for the bees to cover

Extract honey immediately it is removed from hive

Keep you extracting area clean –no hiding places for beetle/moth breeding

Check any stored empty combs regularly

Reduce stress levels on bees

High risk period is a temperature above 30 degrees, humidity over 70%

Honeybee News

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HO-HUM!!

Have a break while looking at the bees?

Before pouring your cocktail use a little bit of honey around the rim of your cocktail glass then dip the rim in coconut?

The objects of your Association are:

- 1. to increase the knowledge of bees and bee culture.*
- 2. to improve the standard of beekeeping among amateur beekeepers and to encourage the formation of branches.*
- 3. to assist in the study of subjects allied and relevant to apiculture.*
- 4. to foster intelligent observation and good practical handling of bees.*
- 5. to afford advice and assistance to beginners.*
- 6. to arrange lectures, discussion, demonstrations and field days for the benefit of members.*
- 7. to assist members in the acquisition of suitable apicultural literature and equipment by purchase or loan from the Association.*
- 8. to seek out and assist people who are interested and qualified to carry out research work on bees and bee culture, and to arrange for assistance in the recognition, control and treatment of diseases affecting bees.*
- 9. to protect the honey and pollen flora and the interests of beekeepers.*
- 10. to encourage the observance of the Apiaries Act and Regulations.*

What is the most valuable thing in a beehive?

FOR YOUR DIARY

Northern Rivers Branch

President/Secretary: Merv McDonald 66283687

Treasurer: Peter Dickson-Smith 66492009

Illawarra Branch

REMINDER: our meeting formats and the commencement times have changed. Committee and night meeting will be held on the same night. The times for these meetings are set out below.

Future Meetings: Please note the changes to our meeting formats and the commencement times. In future the committee and night meeting will be held on the same night. The times for these meetings is set out below.

Future meetings: night meeting Monday 10th August (panel for questions and answers)

Field day 31st August -Clean Bee garden & complete Tony Hill's memorial garden

Night meeting Monday 8th September - film night & if time permits "mistakes we have made when beekeeping"

Field day Sunday 28th September - hive maintenance (new boxes & new frames to be installed)

President: Ken Simpson

Treasurer: Joan Bell 95250552

Central Coast Branch

Meetings held on 3rd Wednesday of the month commencing 7.30pm at SOHIER COMMUNITY HALL, entry off Shirley Rd., Ourimbah, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Starting time 7.30pm. All things relevant for amateur beekeepers. New visitors are more than welcome to attend.

The Central Coast Branch will be at the Springtime Flora Festival from 11-14 September. Our theme for the festival is pollinate or perish. We will have a display frame and talks happening on all 4 days and there will be demonstrations of candle making. All are welcome to come and visit us. The club will be having a demonstration of hive and frame construction at the September meeting on the 17th September commencing 7.30. All interested are welcome to attend.

President: Martin Roberts (02) 43721381

Secretary: Toni Mitchell (02) 43321597

Macarthur Beekeepers Assoc Inc

Meetings at Jack Nash reserve at 7:30pm.

Field days at Campbelltown apiary at 9:00am .

President: Peter Thorley 96056688

Treasurer: Jean Haavasalu 46818540

Secretary: Barry Austen 48 851

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Nepean Branch Inc.

Our foundation making was successful, despite the cold! Brian is now continuing on his own, at home.

Sunday August 10th 9.30 am. Further work on our extractor. Continue work on hive beetle traps. Inspect hives where possible.

Sunday Sept 14th. 9.30 am Inspect hives and adjust for problems arising. Supers may be required. General tuition and discussions.

Meetings are held at Nepean High School. Gt West. H'way, Emu Plains; a 15 minute walk from the station. Bring your suit & veil as well as your lunch.

Leave the gates as you find them please!!! For further info ring Eddie on 4751 3941 or 0408 024 295 or e-mail:

sijnstra@tpg.com.au

President: Eddie Sijnstra (02) 4751 3941

Secretary: Paul Richardson (02) 4739 0381

Hunter Valley Branch

Meetings held fourth Sunday in the month at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.

August meeting Sunday, August 24th at 10am.

September meeting Sunday, September 22nd at 10am

President: Ted Flower (02) 49681483

Secretary: Jim Wright (02) 4959 3138

Parramatta District Branch

2nd Wednesday of month. Field Day on following Sunday.

Meetings held at James Ruse High School Ag Section, Carlingford

Meetings in Agriculture classroom – field days in club apiary – entrance via Baker St

Wednesday meetings 7:30 pm start

Secretary Dave Wilson 94842596 Treasurer: Norm Webb Extractors Claudio Natoli 9629 9621 Ray Szymanski 9869 2400

The Amateur Beekeeper is the newsletter for The Amateur Beekeepers' Association of New South Wales Incorporated.

Contributions to The Amateur Beekeeper are welcome. Material must be submitted, in writing, to the Editor before the 15th of month to be considered for inclusion in The Amateur Beekeeper the following issue or subsequent issues at the Editor's discretion. Articles published do not necessarily contain the views of the Editor unless specifically expressed and whilst every care is exercised, the Editor and/or Council of ABA (individually or corporately) do not hold themselves responsible for errors or omissions. Information contained in this publication is provided as general advice only. For application to specific circumstances, professional advice should be sought. All inserted material must be booked with the Editor and may not necessarily contain the views of the Editor and/or Council of ABA. ©1998 All material in this newsletter is copyright and cannot be reproduced in part or in full without prior written consent.