

NEBRASKA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.nebraskabeekeepers.org

May Beeline 2008



President's Message

Hey folks, you haven't got rid of me yet. I got into Baghdad on 31 Mar 08 after spending about a week and a half at Ft Benning, GA getting processed in. I'm still living out of duffle bags until they actually get me a place to stay. Presently working at a base in the Green Zone real close to the Embassy which was Saddam's old palace. I recall seeing some of these blown out buildings on CNN getting blown up during the shock-and-awe. It seems typical around here that the military blows up a building, the Army moves in makes offices and living quarters out of them by installing generators for electricity, a Dining Facility and shower facilities. Yet the building remains blown up. The food is decent and there's lots of it. Just as a side note, one of the guys that came down from Nebraska with me as well is Dave Scheideler who is also on the Nebraska State Patrol and knows Warren, small world but not small enough where Scheideler has ever seen Warren in a bee outfit. It also just so happens that Scheideler works in the same office and sits right behind me about 10 feet away. He doesn't seem too interested in seeing Warren in a bee outfit though. We work 12 hour days with three meals thrown in there and we get two half days off. You basically do your shift from 8-8, go back to the still bombed out

building, maybe watched some Iraqi TV (in a nearby coffee shop) which seems to only play the Iraqi version of MTV of course in Arabic. Go to bed and get up do it over again. We do get some news channels through the Armed Forces Network that's shown in the Dining Facility and the MWR. There are no bees around here and there really isn't any flowering plant either. There isn't any honey to be found around here anywhere, not even in the Dining Facilities. There are bees but mostly in Northern Iraq. One guy from that area tells me that the beekeepers up there feed the bees sugar water since there isn't enough nectar plants. I can't imagine what that would taste like. I do, however, have a bottle of honey that the wife is sending me. My Circle of Freedom clock says I have 327 days to go so I hope it goes as quick as some say it is. Hope all is well with everyone and I'll stay in touch.

Mike Slater

Secretary's Corner

The Nebraska beekeepers met April 12 at 10 am at the ARDC building in Mead Ne. About 45 people attended: many of those new beekeepers and some interested in maybe becoming beekeepers. It was good to see so many new faces.

Dr. Marion Ellis gave a great presentation on bees & their relationship to mankind. there are songs - art - movies about bees not to mention the many products made from honey & wax & the many symbols with bees on them. Thank you Marion! After a short break Marion answered questions on rearing bees. We then went into the next room where displays were set up on bees & bee rearing & members of the club explaining the displays. A potluck followed & was enjoyed by all. New members were asked to bring their smokers outside & Marion assisted them in lighting smokers. Bill Lillie brought a honey pot sample for the board to consider for using for the state fair prizes. If anyone- else has a sample please bring it to the next meeting as we have to decide soon in order for them to get done it time for the fair.

3 honey pots were given as door prizes. Winners were Vera Guittar - Kurt & Denise Kobza & Marcia Regier. Next meeting is May 8 - 6 - 8:30 pm. See the newsletter for directions to Cheryl Osterloh place.

Joann Vasko secretary

Vice Presidents Message

There was an excellent turn out for the Beginning Beekeepers Workshop & Field Day in April. It is great to see so many people interested in getting started in beekeeping. Thank you to our members for bringing fantastic displays and providing demonstrations for the workshop attendees. It is really helpful to be able to handle equipment and get a feel for what may or may not work before you buy.

The State Fair will be here before we know it. If anyone has located a potter interested in designing and crafting our prize winning honey pots for the Nebraska State Fair please bring a sample to the next meeting. In addition the NBA is also looking for a provider for honey at the State Fair. One stipulation is the honey must be bottled in an inspected and approved kitchen. The club would like to have honey bids submitted no later than June 15, 2008.

The next meeting will be 6:00 P.M. Thursday May 8th in Bennington, NE. We will be meeting at my parent's farm, which my apiary calls home. I hope everyone is able to attend. Bring your walking shoes (there will be some trekking around the farm to check out the hives) and Personal Protective Beekeeping Equipment, as we will be poking around in my hives.

Directions:

From the 4 way stop at Bennington Road and 156th Street go East on Bennington Road 4/10th of a mile. Turn South by the brick mail box, the drive way is a ¼ mile long.

15101 Bennington Road
Bennington, NE 68007

I hope to see you all and bring something yummy to share as we will be dining pot luck.

Cheryl Osterloh

Classified Advertisements

For Sale: 5 frame Nuc's available May 1ST, no frame exchange. Price is negotiable. Also available bulk honey. Contact Pat Chandler, Anselmo, NE Phone:308-749-2252

In the late 60's and early 70's my grandparents raised bee's and sold to Sue Bee honey. Recently after cleaning out our old garage up in the loft, I found at least 2 extractors, square honey cans and misc. equipment that could be used. If anyone would be interested in them. Please contact me.

Thank you ,

Mike Tonniges, 1209 RD 18, York, NE 68467 Phone: 402-362-4270 Email: gangrene.survivor05@yahoo.com

BEES WANTED: 5 miles north of Crete at NE 103 and Sawtillo Rd. Has 75 fruit trees of various types. Is negotiable on pollination or leaving them there year round. Call Shahe Kepler at 402-826-5773.

Upcoming Events:

April 12 10:00AM-2:00PM, Beginning Beekeepers Workshop & Field Day, presented by Marion Ellis and others at the Agricultural research and Development Center Headquarters Building, Mead NE, Pot Luck dinner

May 8th 6:00PM-8:30PM Swarm Prevention at Cheryl Osterloh at Bennington, NE. Pot Luck Dinner

June 18: 6:00-8:30PM Prep for the flow, Location TBA.

June 26-28 Master Beekeeping Workshop, Mead NE at the Agricultural research and Development Center Headquarters Building.

July 8: 6:00-8:30PM, Harvest, Mike Bush's at Gretna

July 10-12 Heartland Apiculture Society Conference, Marshall University, Huntington, WV

August 4-8 Eastern Apiculture Society Conference, Murray KY.

August 8: 6:00PM, Varroa Monitoring, Mike Terneus bee yard, presented by Mike Bush & Joe Strecker

August 17-21 Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Info: e-mail: mpitcher@uvic.ca

September 14: 1:00PM Beginners Field Day, at Mike Bush's.

Tenative October 24-26: Bee Keeping without chemicals, Organic Beekeeping, Location TBA.

November 22: 10:00 AM Bee Basics presented by Mike Bush, Gretna Library, Gretna NE.

December 13: 10:00 AM Equipment Basics, Gretna Library, Gretna NE.

January 11, 2009: 1:00 PM, Annual Meeting, Location to be determined.

January 17, 2009: 10:00 AM Equipment Workshop, presenters Mike Bush and others, at Hershel Staats.

February 14, 2009: 10:00 AM presentation by Dr. Marion Ellis, Gretna Library, Gretna NE



2 Mike Bush explaining his queen rearing cage.



1 Marion Ellis explaining the importance of the smoker and what fuels can be used to smoke bees; his preference is white pine needles



4 Bill Lillie explaining the horizontal hive.



3 Dave Hamilton explaining how to embed wire into foundation.



6 Marion Ellis explaining different types of boxes and how to prepare a hive for winter



5 Kurt and Denise Kobza observing bee anatomy that was displayed by UNL Department of Entomology.



7 Warren Nelson displaying beeswax product that he and his wife make. Also displayed was an extractor and a decapping tank.

Nosema Survey Sample Request

Marion Ellis, UNL Apiculture Specialist

There is a growing body of evidence that *Nosema ceranae* is an important factor in the high colony losses experienced by some beekeepers in recent years. *Nosema ceranae* is a single-celled organism that was first described in the Indian Honey Bee, *Apis cerana*, the same bee that was the original host for *Varroa destructor*. How *Nosema ceranae* invaded European honey bees, and how it spread to Europe and North America is unknown, but recent studies have found it to be widespread in both Europe and the U.S.

Beekeepers in the U.S. have lived with another species of Nosema, *Nosema apis*, for many years. At its worse, *Nosema apis* causes winter losses, spring dwindling, premature queen replacement in package bees, and affected bees frequently exhibit dysentery. The level of *Nosema apis* in colonies declines rapidly in wintered colonies when they begin foraging in the spring. In contrast levels of *Nosema ceranae* remain high throughout the year, does not cause dysentery, and it can reach much higher levels than are found in *Nosema apis* infections.

Both species of Nosema attach themselves to the bee's midgut. They absorb nutrients and cause their host to be poorly nourished. As a consequence the brood feeding glands in worker bee's heads shrivel and become ineffective. Affected workers become unable to care for brood, and as a consequence, they become foragers at an early age, and they die prematurely. The biology of Nosema is a good fit with what has been described as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). CCD affected colonies are described as having brood, food stores, and a queen, but they lack sufficient bees to care for their brood and collapse rapidly.

There is no reliable way to diagnose Nosema in the apiary. Bees need to be collected in alcohol (70%) or stronger and taken to a laboratory with a compound microscope for examination. The bee's midguts are excised, crushed in water and the gut contents are loaded into a haemocytometer (used to count red blood cells) for counting.

I am writing this article to request your cooperation in conducting a survey for Nosema in Nebraska apiaries. The overall results will be published in this newsletter, and beekeepers who submit samples will receive a letter with the results for all samples they submit. The results of this survey will be helpful in advising beekeepers about the extent of the problem in their apiaries, and it will assist your cooperative extension service in formulating recommendations for managing the problem. If your samples indicate high Nosema levels, we may contact you to request that you take another sample later in the summer to monitor changes in the level of infection.

To participate, collect samples from May 1 to June 1. Each sample should come from one colony, and the bees sampled should be foragers. To collect samples close the entrance to your colony when bees are foraging. After 10 minutes you will have returning foragers clustered on the hive that you can easily scoop into a jar of alcohol. We recommend that individual beekeepers send 1-10 samples each and that they assign each

colony a colony number. Samples should be identified by writing on a note card in pencil and placing the note card inside the jar with the bees. Information needed on the card includes:

Beekeeper's Name
Date Sample Collected
County
Location (what you call the apiary)
Colony Number

Please include a note with the samples with your contact information (mailing address, phone, email). Also include a note about the colony's recent history (overwintered colony, nuc, package bees) and any information about the colony's condition that you think will be helpful. If you have fed fumagillin to suppress *Nosema*, please note when you fed it in your letter. Send samples to:

Marion Ellis, Professor
University of Nebraska
Department of Entomology
202 Entomology Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0816

This survey provides us an opportunity to collectively do something to improve the health of our colonies by assessing the abundance of an important pathogen in our colonies. Knowledge gained will guide research and extension programs in formulating best management practices and in selecting stock for tolerance to *Nosema ceranae*. We will respond as quickly as we can, but the number of samples we hope to receive may require a delayed response. We expect to have all samples examined and beekeepers notified by mid-August.

The student working on this project will be Louis Chapon, a graduate student at the University of Avignon (France) who is completing a four- month internship at the University of Nebraska. He will accompany me to association meetings, so be sure to greet him and thank him for his contributions to helping us improve the health of our colonies.

Editors Favorite Apiculture Web Sites:

<http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm> (Mike Bush's site)

<http://indianabeekeeper.goshen.edu/mba.html> (Michigan/Indiana Beekeepers Association)

<http://www.beeeculture.com/> (Bee Culture Magazine)

<http://www.rburnshoney.com/nekba.htm> (Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association)

<http://www.honey.com/> (National Honey Board)

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/> (Eastern Apiculture Society)

Nebraska Beekeepers Gear

| <u>Items</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>QTY</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Nebraska Beekeepers T-Shirts | | | |
| <u>Kids T-Shirts</u> | Small 6/8 | \$8.00 | |
| | Medium 10/12 | \$8.00 | |
| | Large 14/16 | \$8.00 | |
| <u>Adult T-Shirts</u> | Small | \$9.00 | |
| | Medium | \$9.00 | |
| | Large | \$9.00 | |
| | X Large | \$9.00 | |
| | XX Large | \$10.00 | |
| | XXX Large | \$11.00 | |
| | T-Shirt Shipping | \$3.00 | |
| <u>Association Wind breakers:</u> | | | |
| Jackets are flannel lined and have straight pockets. There is a choice of yellow w/black lettering or black w/yellow lettering. Our logo is screen printed on the jacket | | | |
| ___ Yellow w/black lettering ___ Black w/yellow lettering | Small | \$19.05 | |
| | Medium | \$19.05 | |
| | Large | \$19.05 | |
| | X Large | \$19.05 | |
| | XX Large | \$22.20 | |
| | Name –Screen Printed | \$4.15 | |
| | Name- Embroidered | \$7.30 | |
| Name lettering | | | |
| <u>Name Tag</u> | Pin Backing | \$15.00 | |
| | Magnetic Backing | \$16.50 | |
| | Shipping | \$2.00 | |
| Name Tag lettering | | | |
| <u>Bee Cards</u> Set of 18 Individually wrapped sets @ \$1.00 each sold in sets of 50 only | \$50.00 | | |
| <u>Bee Cards</u> Bulk wrapped sets of 100 @ \$30.00 per 100 | \$30.00 | | |
| Shipping (If you need cards brought to a meeting, call or e-mail Warren Nelson. Individually wrapped sets can be purchased in lesser quantities) | \$3.00 | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Make checks payable to the “Nebraska Beekeepers Association”. Mail to: Bill Gustafson, 615 Brookside Dr. Lincoln, NE 68506. Thank you for your purchases.

Name _____, Shipping Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Nebraska Beekeepers Bee Line May2008

Editorial

First I would like to thank all who presented and worked the display booths for beginning and not so new beekeepers at the workshop that was held at Mead. The ARDC center was an excellent location for such a meeting, providing the lecture hall and a place to set up displays and seating to enjoy the potluck.

This last month has been a busy month for this beekeeper, starting with the installation of new packages on the 5th of April, feeding the new package each week, and corresponding with new beekeepers about their hives. Keep the questions coming, if I don't know the answer I will direct you to someone who can answer your question.

This afternoon I will be seeding a new crop called Sandhill Sanfoin which will be a nectar source for my bees and an excellent hay crop for my brother's cows. This seeding is taking a leap of faith on the advice of another beekeeper that I meet from Colorado.

About a week ago I collected some bees out of my hive that is a year old, to use in the classroom as pollinators for a Wisconsin fast plant experiment. I decided since I had not tested for the Varroa mite yet I would use the sugar roll test and see what my mite population is in the old hive. Well year old hives that are not near any other hives are susceptible to the mite. Thanks to the advice of Dr. Ellis I will be treating my hive this week.

It is finally getting warm enough in this part of the Nebraska apiary that we finally have trees pollinating. The hardwoods started three weeks ago and the fruit bearing trees started this last week along with the wild plums. Now I can stop feeding my bees for a while.

In this issue you will find a letter from Mike Slater who is in Iraq, and Dr. Ellis has a project that he and a graduate student are studying Nosema Ceranae. Also you will find some pictures from the workshop that was held at Mead. Hope you enjoy this issue.

Keith E. Nielson
Nebraska Beekeepers Association Editor.

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