

NEBRASKA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.nebraskabeekeepers.org

June Beeline 2008



President's Message

Greetings once again from Baghdad. Since the last newsletter, I finally got a permanent room in an area near the Embassy. Its nothing more than a two man trailer with each man having a bed, two wall lockers, a night stand and a refer. It adds a whole new meaning to the term trailer park and at night it sure seems like one. The only thing missing is an old dryer on the porch and a truck up on jacks. You have to go one direction for a shower and the other for the bathroom. I thought I'd get Martha Stewarts book on decorating prison cells because it isn't much bigger. But you have to get used to it because that's going to be home for me the next 9 months so I might as well get used to it. I've been in much worse living conditions and made the most of it and it will happen here as well. I did get some of the desert crud that's been going around here that just seems to hang on and you can't shake it. So that had me under the weather for a bit. I do see a bunch of bees on occasion both at the Embassy and at the base I work at about a mile down the road. There's either a whole bunch, a couple or none. So there are hives around here, just don't know where yet. The Ag department kin the State Department is trying to rebuild the beekeeping industry here in Baghdad and from what I understand, there was a large beekeeping operation south of here but Saddam shut it down and built a base there. While watching the bees, I did see a type of Hover Fly, attack a bee on three different occasions, get on its back and carry it off. The Fly was no bigger than the bee itself. I did get pictures of it and but I can get better ones as well as a video. After all, I've got nine more months to go. The rocket attacks are nearly none existent any more. During the dust storms, it would become really bad. One day in particular which was all over CNN. The bad guys aren't very good shots but they do get lucky once in awhile. Two people that came over with us from Ft Benning got their bell rung pretty good from two separate attacks. Their OK though with nothing more than a bad headache and ringing in the ears for a couple of days. This is the real deal folks, and what you see on CNN doesn't even compare to the reality of being here. In time, you get used to wearing the heavy protective gear everyday. You also learn to get used to the rocket attacks. It's probably like hearing a thunder storm for the first time. You hear, you see it, take protective measures and it's back to business as usual. I'll share more about this later but after seeing what I've seen, I can fully attest to the fact that the American service men and women over here are well trained as well as carry a high degree of professionalism and self posture with them. You can't see this on CNN or read it in a book or watch it on a video. You have to experience it in person to really and truly understand. And for those that have been over here as well, they know what I'm talking about. I lived it Desert Storm and now I've experienced it here. I'll get some pictures together and submit. All the best to everyone.

Mike

Secretary's Corner

The Nebraska Beekeepers met Thursday May 8 at 6 pm at Cheryl Osterloh's bee yard. Mike bush demonstrated splitting one hive into two hives. He gave some real good points with this hands on class. Thank you Mike. a potluck supper was enjoyed by 20+ people. The rain held off so it was a beautiful evening. A business meeting was called to order by Cheryl. Old business: a motion was made & seconded to order the honey pots thru Bill Lilly. Bids are still being taken on supplying honey for our state fair sales. The dead line for this is June 15. As stated in the last newsletter the honey must be bottled in an inspected & approved kitchen. New business: a motion was made & seconded to get information on having our fall conference at southeast community college & if that doesn't work to elect to use country inn & suites in Lincoln. We needed to get that decided as advertisements need to be done etc. A motion was made and seconded on donating \$200 to a young person who would like to get into beekeeping. Keith will be their mentor. A motion was also made & seconded for in the future to have young people write an essay on bees & pick a winner for bee supplies to get them started in beekeeping. Next meeting will be June 18 from 6 - 8:30 at Charlie Simonds place for a potluck.

Vice Presidents Message

We had an informative meeting last month in Bennington. Michael Bush gave a great presentation on how to perform a split. A lot of good questions were answered, it was really interesting to look through all the frames, and examine the queen cells.

We selected a potter for the Nebraska State Fair honey pots last month. I would like to thank Bill and Judy Lillie for all of their hard work on this.

As previously mentioned in the NBA newsletter the Nebraska Beekeeper's Association is taking bids for supplying honey for the Nebraska State Fair. The honey must be bottled in a licensed and inspected bottling facility. The winning bidder must also be a member of the NBA. Please submit your bids or inquiries to cheryl.osterloh@gmail.com. The club would like to have honey bids submitted no later than June 15, 2008.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the June 18th meeting at Charlie and Virginia Simonds place, and don't forget to bring a dish to share for the pot luck.

Cheryl Osterloh

Critical Mass

By Marion Ellis

April and May are busy months for beekeepers, and one important task is dividing colonies to create new hives. New colonies can be used to expand colony numbers or to replace winter losses. To be productive, it is important for divisions and their parent colonies to grow rapidly, and rapid growth requires that bees have a critical

In an effort to expand colony numbers, some beekeepers will order queens very early in April, when colonies only have a few frames of brood, and make divisions that contain only one frame of brood and enough bees to cover it. This early start usually results in colonies that take a long time to attain a rapid growth rate. A better result can be attained by waiting until colonies are stronger (after the dandelion flow) to make divisions. Colonies divided before the dandelions flow collect little pollen and nectar from dandelions, because a large portion of the bees in the colony are needed to maintain nest conditions.

mass of bees. For optimal growth rates divisions need to have around 10,500 (about 3 pounds) of adult bees. Colonies made up with fewer bees will develop at a slower rate, and they may not reach the population required to be productive. A frame of brood covered with nurse bees will contain about a pound of adult bees.

To test this point make up 3 colonies with 1 pound of bees each and make another colony with 3 pounds of bees. After 6-8 weeks count the frames of brood and bees in the 3 smaller colonies and compare it to the number of frames of bees and brood in the larger colony. Assuming all three colonies are headed by queens of equal quality, the colony begun with 3 pounds of bees will contain more bees and brood than the combined total of the 3 smaller units. Splitting colonies too early and making weak splits is not a wise strategy to build up colony numbers. It is far better to delay splitting colonies until you can put a critical mass of bees into each unit.

Regardless of the care that goes into making colonies equal strength when splitting them, some colonies will be stronger than others on June 1. If there is a good honey flow, a good way to reduce swarming and make all colonies in the apiary productive is to exchange the positions of the strongest colonies and colonies that are not yet up to honey producing strength. Make the exchange mid day when many of the oldest bees are foraging. If nectar is coming in you should see very little fighting and the colonies will effectively trade field forces. You can achieve a similar goal by moving frames of sealed brood from strong colonies into their weaker neighbors. However, exchanging colony positions is less work, less disruptive, and a quicker way to give all colonies the population needed to be productive. The positive impact of this manipulation on reducing swarming is an added bonus. Exchanging field force populations is much more effective at reducing the swarming impulse than removing frames of brood from colonies that become strong before the main honey flow.

Tracheal Mite and *Nosema* Survey Preliminary Findings

In an earlier newsletter, I requested that NBA members submit adult bee samples for the department of entomology to check for *Nosema* and tracheal mites. To date we have examined 72 samples and some patterns are clearly emerging.

Tracheal Mites: We only detected tracheal mites in 3 of the 72 samples, and in all 3 cases, none of the colonies exhibited infestation rates greater than 5%. Although many of the colonies sampled were in poor condition, the results suggest that tracheal mites are not an important problem in Nebraska apiaries. The wave of colony losses that occurred in the late 1980s due to tracheal mites and their insignificance today suggest that natural selection and selection by beekeepers have produced stock that is not adversely impacted by tracheal mites. It should be noted, however, that beekeepers in some regions still consider tracheal mites to be a problem, especially the Pacific Northwest.

***Nosema*:** The most interesting outcome of the survey has been the high levels of *Nosema* in many apiaries. Almost without exception, samples coming from colonies that were in poor condition contained high levels of *Nosema*. On the other hand, some colonies that were developing normally also exhibited high levels of *Nosema*. When we compared *Nosema* levels in foraging bees and brood nest bees, we found that failing colonies usually had

Nosema levels in brood nest bees that were equal to or greater than levels in foragers. Infested colonies that appeared normal usually had much higher *Nosema* levels in foragers than in brood nest bees.

The high levels of *Nosema* we continue to find in late May suggest that the *Nosema* we are finding is probably *Nosema ceranae*. While our results do not prove cause and effect, they strongly suggest that *Nosema ceranae* is a factor in the poor condition of many colonies. If the phenomena described as Colony Collapse Disorder has a pathological cause, *Nosema ceranae* is a prime suspect. The symptoms of dwindling and adult bees disappearance from colonies are a good match with known *Nosema apis* pathology. *Nosema apis* infection causes the glands that produce brood food to deteriorate prematurely. In addition to being unable to feed and care for brood, infected bees become foragers at a younger age and die younger. If this pathology is also characteristic of *Nosema ceranae* infection, we will have a smoking gun.

What should you do: Samples from beekeepers who have treated their colonies with fumagillin contained much lower levels of *Nosema* than untreated colonies. In many cases, *Nosema* was not detectable in treated colonies. One rounded teaspoon of fumagillin dissolved in 1 gallon of sugar syrup and fed in a division board feeder is the standard recommendation for spring treatment. It is too late to spring feed the drug to colonies that will produce honey in 2008, and until the 2008 survey is complete, we do not know what will happen to colonies with high *Nosema* levels this fall and winter. Fumagillin treatment of infected colonies provides short-term protection, but like tracheal mites, the best solution is to reproduce stock that is not adversely affected.

Help us help you: You can continue to send samples to us to test for *Nosema* and tracheal mites. To collect samples, seal the hive entrance for 5 minutes. Then scoop 25 or more bees from the front of the hive into a jar of rubbing alcohol. Using a piece of note card and a pencil, record your name, county, apiary name, date sampled and a note about the colony's condition and treatment history. We are following the infection in selected apiaries throughout the year to better understand the natural rhythm and pathology, and updates will be posted in subsequent newsletters. Send samples to:

1 Mike explaining reasons to split a hive into two hives



3 Inspecting for queen cells



2 Feral beehive inside decaying center of tree



4 Members watching the split procedure



From Bee Culture “Catch the Buzz”

In the Fall of 2007, the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) in collaboration with the USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Lab conducted a study to help determine the distribution of various bee parasites and pathogens. This is the second part of the analysis from this survey.

- 1) *Nosema* (a gastrointestinal disease) levels tended to be higher in colonies collected from CCD-suspect apiaries
- 2) Mean varroa mite levels over all sampled colonies were approaching critical levels (9.5 mites/100 bees), but levels did not differ between colonies in CCD-suspect and non-CCD suspect apiaries.
- 3) Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV) was found in 9 of the 11 states sampled, and in 47% of all sampled colonies.

The last of these finding begs the question, "What should beekeepers do who are or suspect their colonies are infected with IAPV?" To answer this question a review of both published and the most current data from multiple research efforts is in order."

What do we know about IAPV as of May, 2008?

1. What is IAPV's linkage to CCD?

- a. As published in September 2007 (Cox-Foster et al, Science, 2007)
 - i. Among pathogens, IAPV is the most consistent indicator of CCD
 - ii. Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV), *Nosema apis*, and *Nosema ceranae* are also indicators of CCD
 - iii. Additional "stress" factors may be needed to activate IAPV
 - iv. No cause and effect between IAPV and CCD was demonstrated

2. How many strains of IAPV exist in the US?

- a. At least two strains, or "families", of IAPV are present in the United States (J. of Virology, in Press)
 - i. One lineage is most prevalent in apiaries from the eastern and northwestern U.S. and probably was present before importation of Australian bees into the US in 2005.
 - ii. The second strain is more frequent in sampled colonies from the western U.S. This strain matches more closely to several isolates sequenced to date from Australian package bees.
 - iii. The strain of IAPV found in Israel that defined this newly described species, is distinct from those in the US and Australia.
 - iv. Extensive variation in the genetic sequence of the virus suggests that the virus is rapidly changing in the U.S. or has been present as multiple lineages for some time.

3. What happens to IAPV infected colonies?

- a. On-going research in Israel and the U.S. supports the assertion that IAPV can impact adult bee health and result in rapid mortality of infected bees.
- b. Not all colonies with IAPV are in poor health
- c. Some colonies that have IAPV can "clear" their infection to below detectable levels over time; this is perhaps due to resistance in these colonies to either varroa and/or viruses

4. How can IAPV be transmitted?

- a. IAPV can move from uninfected to infected colonies within an apiary. While not demonstrated for IAPV, other bee viruses (DWV, SBV, BQCV) can be brought to colonies on forager pollen loads, suggesting an outside reservoir for some bee viruses (Singh, et al, poster at Eastern Branch ESA, 2008, from PSU)c. IAPV has been detected in non-apis bees in the vicinity of IAPV positive colonies in 2007. (Singh, et al, poster at Eastern Branch ESA, 2008, from PSU)

5. How widespread is IAPV in the US?

- a. As of Fall, 2007, IAPV was found in at least 19 states; and thus, the virus is widespread.
 - b. IAPV has been present in the US since at least 2002 (Chen and Evans, 2007).
 - c. IAPV seemed to have a more limited distribution in 2004 then at present (Cox-Foster et al 2007).
- Considering all these factors, undue concern over IAPV detection is not warranted. While IAPV's role in colony losses remains a priority in ongoing research, we do know that high levels of other common bee viruses, such as KBV, DWV, and ABPV, have also been linked with certain incidences of high colony mortality or decline in worker numbers. We also know that nearly all bee colonies are infected with at least one type of virus and that all these viruses are potentially pathogenic.

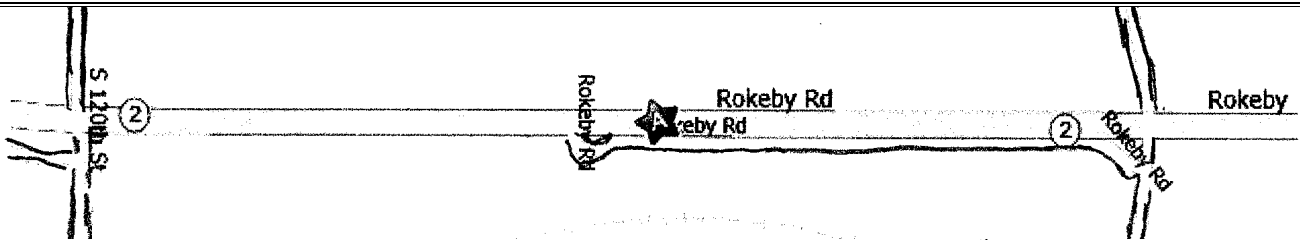
Recommendations for beekeepers

If you have reason to believe that "virus" is negatively impacting your honey bee colonies some general recommendations are:

- 1) Practice hygienic practices
 - a. Do not combine weak colonies with strong colonies without knowing the reason for the weakness as this may transfer disease.
 - b. Do not combine or exchange colony hardware (with other beekeepers or within an operation/apiary) as it may transfer disease.
 - c. Where this is an option, irradiate dead out equipment before reusing. At a minimum, consider storing dead-out equipment as long as possible before re-use. Scientists are actively seeking new and economical methods for reducing the transmission risks of used comb and hive equipment.
 - 2) Reduce colony stress
 - a. Control Varroa: Varroa has been shown to activate virus that were quiescent in honey bee. Use labeled products such as Apiguard, ApiLifVar or Mite away II. **Do not use home made chemical mixtures.**
 - b. Control Nosema: Use Fumagillin according to label directions to control *Nosema apis* and *N. ceranae* in honey bees.
 - c. Control Bacterial Infections: Use labeled products such as Terramycin or Tylan for American or European Foulbrood. These chemicals do not control virus and must be used according to labeled directions to control bacterial infections in honey bees.
 - d. Ensure colonies are well fed, especially with protein supplement, during time of dearth.
- This document was prepared and reviewed by: Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Jerry Hayes, Florida Department of Agriculture; Diana Cox-Foster, Penn State University; Jay Evans, USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Lab; Dave Tarpy, North Carolina State University; and Jeff Pettis, USDA-ARS, Beltsville Bee Lab

[1] A final report will be prepared when all the analysis is complete.

This message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping www.BeeCulture.com



Here are the directions to Charlie Simonnd's house for the next meeting on the 18th of June. From Lincoln take hiway 2 east to 120th street then take first right (south) turn onto Rokeby road and go east to the Honey Bee World Sign. If you are coming into Lincoln from the east you turn Left (South) on 134th Road then right onto Rokeby Rd and go down to the Honey Bee World sign. Map is shown above.

State Fair Honey Bids

The Nebraska Beekeepers Association (NBA) is taking bids for supplying honey for the Nebraska State Fair, The honey must be bottled in a licensed and inspected facility. The winning bidder must also be a member of the NBA. Please submit bids to Cheryl Osterloh by e-mail, cheryl.osterloh@gmail.com or mail to 16114 Brunning St. Bennington, NE 68007. The NBA Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject all or part of a bid. Items and quantity of products used at the 2007 State Fair were: 6500 honey sticks of various flavors, 65 of the 1 oz wax, 10 of the 6 oz wax, Liquid honey, 107 of the 8 oz bears, 126 of the 12 oz bears, 54 of the 1 lb glass jars, 138 of the 24 oz bears, 36 of the 2 lb glass jars, 30 of the 3 lb plastic jugs, 23 of the 5 lb plastic jugs, 13 of the 12 lb plastic jugs, 169 comb honey blocks, 36 frames of comb honey for cut square bites, 12 of the 8 oz pollen, 200 jars of 8 oz cream honey mixed flavors, 300 lbs of honey in pail for ice cream 125 honey suckers

Mike Bush's handout at the meeting on May8th.

How to do Splits

What is the desired outcome?

I would choose my method for doing a split depending on what you want for an outcome.

Reasons for doing a split:

- To get more hives.
- To requeen.
- To get more production.
- To get less production (for people who don't want too many hives or too many bees).
- To raise queens.
- To [prevent swarms](#).

Timing for doing a split:

As soon as commercial queens are available, or as soon as drones are flying depending on if you want to buy or raise queens you CAN do a split. It depends again on what you want for a outcome.

There are an infinite variety of methods for doing a split. Many of these are because of the desired outcome ([swarm prevention](#), maximizing yields, maximizing bees etc.) Some of the variations are also due to buying queens or letting the bees raise queens.

The simple version is to make sure you have some eggs in each of the deeps and put them facing toward the old location. In other words put a bottom board on the left facing the left side of the hive and one on the right facing the right side of the hive and put one deep on each and maybe an empty deep on top of that. Put the tops on and walk away.

There are an infinite number of variations of this.

The concepts of splits are:

You have to make sure that both of the resulting colonies have a queen or the resources to make one (eggs or larvae that just hatched from the egg, drones flying, pollen and honey, plenty of nurse bees).

You have to make sure that both of the resulting colonies get an adequate supply of honey and pollen to feed the brood and themselves.

You have to make sure that you account for drift back to the original site and insure that both resulting colonies have enough population of bees to care for the brood and the hive they have.

You need to respect the natural structure of the brood nest. In other words, brood combs belong together.

Drone brood goes on the outside edge of the brood and pollen and honey go outside that.

The old adage is that you can try to raise more bees or more honey. If you want both, then you can try to maximize honey in the old location and bees in the new split. Otherwise most splits are either a small nuc made up from just enough to get it started, or an even split.

Kinds of splits

An even split. You take half of everything and divide it up. Face both of new hives at the sides of the old hive so the returning bees aren't sure which one to come back to. In a week or so, swap places to equalize the drift to the one with the queen.

A walk away split. You take a frame of eggs, two frames of emerging brood and two frames of pollen and honey and put them in a 5 frame nuc, shake in some extra nurse bees (making sure you don't get the queen), put the lid on and walk away. Come back in four weeks and see if the queen is laying.

A typical split. Same as above, but you either introduce a queen you bought or walk away and let them raise their new queen. If you introduce a queen they will be three weeks ahead of the hive that is raising their own, so you will have to put them in a larger box than a nuc to start with.

Swarm control split. Ideally you want to [prevent swarming](#) and not have to split. But if there are queen cells I usually put every frame with any queen cells in it's own nuc with a frame of honey and let them rear a queen. This usually relieves the pressure to swarm and gives me very nice queens. But even better, put the old queen in a nuc with a frame of brood and a frame of honey and leave one frame with queen cells at the old hive to simulate a swarm. Many bees are now gone and so is the old queen. Some people do the other kinds of splits (even walk away etc.) in order to prevent swarming. I think it's better to just keep the brood nest open.

A cut down split.

Concepts of a cut down: The concepts of a cut down are that you free up bees to forage because they have no brood to care for, and you crowd the bees up into the supers to maximize them drawing comb

and foraging. This is especially useful for comb honey production and more so for cassette comb honey production, but will produce more honey regardless of the kind of honey you wish to produce.

This is very timing critical. It should be done shortly before the main honey flow. The purpose is to maximize the foraging population while minimizing swarming and crowding the bees into the supers.. There are variations on this, but basically the idea is to put almost all the open brood, honey and pollen and the queen in a new hive while leaving all the capped brood, some of the honey and a frame of eggs with the old hive with less brood boxes and more supers. The new hive won't swarm because it doesn't have a workforce (which all returns to the old hive). The old hive won't swarm because it doesn't have a queen or any open brood. It will take at least six weeks or more for them to raise a queen and get a decent brood nest going. Meantime, you still get a lot of production (probably a lot MORE production) from the old hive because they are not busy caring for brood. You get the old hive requeened and you get a split. Another variation is to leave the queen with the old hive and take ALL the open brood out. They won't swarm right away because the open brood is gone.

Confining the queen. Another variation on this is to just confine the queen two weeks before the flow so there is less brood to care for and free up nurse bees to forage. This also helps with Varroa as it skips a brood cycle or two. This is a good choice if you don't want more hives and you like the queen. You can put her in a regular cage or put her in a #5 hardware cloth [push in cage](#) to limit where she can lay. They will eventually chew under the hardware cloth cage, but it should set her back for a while.

Cutdown Split/Combine. This is a way to get the same number of hives, new queens and a good crop. You set up two hives right next to each other (touching would be good). Two weeks before the main flow you remove all the open brood and most of the stores from both hives, and the queen from one hive, and put it in a hive at a different location (the same yard is fine, but a different place). Then you combine all the capped brood, the other queen, or a new queen (caged), or no queen and one frame with some eggs and open brood (so they will raise a new one) into one hive in the middle of the old locations so all the returning field bees come back to the one hive.

Frequently Asked Questions about splits

How early can I do a split?

It's very difficult for a split to build up unless it has an adequate number of bees to keep the brood warm and reach critical mass of workers to handle the overhead of a hive. For deeps this is usually five deep frames of bees with three of them brood and two of them honey/pollen in each part of the split. For mediums this is usually eight medium frames of bees with five of them brood and three of them honey/pollen. I'd say you can split as early as you can put together nucs that are this strong. Later in the year when it's not frosting occasionally at night, you could get by with somewhat less, but you'll still do better with this much.

How many times can I split?

Some hives you can't do any splits as they are struggling and never get on their feet. Some hives are such boomers that you can do five splits in a year, although you probably won't get a honey crop.

How late can I do a split?

What you really need to ask yourself is "when is the best time to do a split". By the bee's example that would be sometime before the main flow so they have a flow to get established on. However this tends to cut into your harvest, so you could do them right after the main flow and probably still have time to build up for the fall, if you make them strong enough and give them a mated queen.

I'm in Greenwood, Nebraska. In a year with a good fall flow, I can do a split on the 1st of August that may build up enough to overwinter in one or two eight frame medium boxes. But if the fall flow fails they may not build up at all.

Michael Bush

Reprinted from www.bushfarms.com

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

Special Request

Hello, I'm a member of the Village Library Committee in Adams, NE. This summer we are having a reading program for kids in the community ages 3-12 entitled "Catch the Reading Bug." I am searching for individuals who would be willing to come and speak to the children or do a project with them about honeybees. I was wondering if your organization could point me in the right direction? Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, comments, etc. I'm open to any ideas suggestions. Thanks. Sincerely, Jenny Kastanek, Phone: 402.988.2444 Email: kastanek@diodecom.net

Wanted Bees

Gerald Kudlaek, Brainard, NE, 402-641-3338, would like a beekeeper to put bees on his property.

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The Missouri State Beekeepers and The Kansas Honey Producers will be having another combined meeting. Mark your calendars for March 6 & 7th, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park KS. Guest speakers will include Clarence Collison (Louisiana State University) and Jennifer Berry (University of GA). We will also have a guest from the USDA Bee Labs but that persons name has not been announced yet. We will keep you updated on additional speakers and information. Warren Nelson

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Upcoming Events:

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

June 19: Deadline for registration of Midwest Master Beekeeping Workshop.

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

March 6 & 7, 2009: Missouri State Beekeepers Association and the Kansas Honey Producers joint meeting at the Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, KS.

Letters to the Editor

Keith,

I want to thank you for sending along your newsletter. You folks do a good job on it, but I especially want to thank you for including the letter from President Mike. I touched base with him and as the opportunity permits for him, he's going to be sending along his Letter From Iraq to us with information on beekeeping there, and in life in general there, and how it's going. I've asked him for a short bio, but I'll bet there is something you could add to the mix so our readers get a good picture of who we are listening to, and also what kind of president he

is, and something about your organization. We're going to try to start this in the July issue so we have some time, but if you have something to add we would appreciate it. Again, thanks for introducing us to Mike...

Kim Flottum ,Editor, BeeCulture

Thank you for another fine newsletter. The only thing that we miss are those great prize winning recipes that you use to publish. I am sending you this message to have you email me the newsletter instead of mailing it to save postage. I wish that we were closer so we could attend some of your meetings as they sound great. Here in central and western Massachusetts we are having a relatively new type of collapse disorder called Bear destruction. About 3 weeks ago a bear entered one of our yards through an electric fence whose battery had died. He or she turned 6 hives into match sticks. We have a new battery and baited the fence with peanut butter. This week a nice set of teeth marks in the peanut butter. Either we got the bear or a guy who really likes peanut butter. If you were a little closer I would show you the photos we took on a beekeeping trip to Poland where we searched for our beekeeping ancestry. Thanks again for a great newsletter.

Jim Metcalf

31 High Street

North Brookfield MA 01535

Dues Reminders

The following members have not paid their dues as of May 31st or their renewal date is close at hand:

Please pay your dues

First Name	Last Name	Paid Thru
Spencer	Hammer	1/1/2008
George P	Remmenga	1/1/2008
Gayle	Duda	1/11/2008
Blaine	Burnham	1/15/2008
Mark	Boellstorff	2/15/2008
Charles	Beardslee	3/1/2008
Bill	Eyster	3/1/2008
Barbara	Hansen	3/1/2008
Brian	McDowell	3/1/2008
Warren	Nelson	3/1/2008
James	Tuttle	3/1/2008
Joseph and Laura	Frey	3/1/2008
Ronald	Mahoney	3/1/2008
Joseph	Strecker	3/1/2008
Mike	Vanarsdall	3/1/2008
Madalyn	Soule	4/1/2008
Mark	Von Seggern	4/1/2008
James	Dieter	5/1/2008
Nancy	Hecht	5/1/2008
Bob	Matlock	5/1/2008
Nancy	O'Connor	5/1/2008
Johnny	Knoche	6/1/2008
Bob	Heringer	6/1/2008
Dave	Powell	6/9/2008
Dave	Hamilton	7/1/2008
Carol J	Kolb	7/1/2008
Helen	Rohrke	7/1/2008

Recipe

Honey-Glazed Snack Mix

4 Cups Rice or Corn Chex Cereal

1 ½ Cups of miniature pretzels

1 Cup of Pecan Halves

1/3 cup Butter or margarine

¼ cup honey

In large mixing bowl combine cereal, pretzels, & pecans: Set aside: Melt butter in a small saucepan. Stir in honey and blend well. Pour over cereal mixture and stir to coat evenly. Spread in a jelly roll pan. Bake at 350° F for 12-15 minutes or until mixture is lightly glazed, stirring once or twice. Remove from oven and cool on waxed paper. Makes about 6 ½ cups.

Submitted by JoAnn Vasko

It has been reported that this is quite tasty and JoAnn has no problem with Rudy finishing what is left.

Nebraska Beekeepers Bee Line May2008

Editorial

In this edition you will find President Mikes column from Bagdad , VP and Secretaries minutes and some things that I gleaned from Mike Bush's web site that he showed at our last meeting, Dr. Ellis presents Critical Mass, and an excerpt from Catch the Buzz at Bee Culture magazine.

Since the last meeting I have had the opportunity to use the techniques that Mike showed us, traveled to Anselmo with Steve Schmidt and Ashley Dort to get her hive started, tour Pat Chandler's new honey bottling facility and bee operation. Pat provided Ashley with a single deep with bees, queen excluder, a second deep with frames of drawn comb, and gloves. Pat made Ashley feel at ease with working the bees as we scouted out a single hive for her and answered many of her questions. We worked out a plan for her hive for the year with Pats advice. Ashley's jacket, smoker, and hive tool was purchased at Honey Bee World. We inspected her hive this last week and it is going gang busters. She is planning on attending our next meeting.

Linda and I have traveled to Scottsbluff to see grandkids and wedding reception, Deadwood, SD to see Linda's brother, and Bingham for my uncle's funeral. Along the way we saw several beehives and a chance to see all of the wildflowers that are blooming. On our way home we watched and listened to the tornado activities in Kearney, Grand Island and Aurora. It is a different perspective from the back side of the storm. I have part of my apiary between Chapman and Grand Island in three different locations so before we went home we checked our hives. Linda can be just a little apprehensive on where I take her car especially after a rain and water running all over the place. Three had the tops blown off and one had a deep turned over. It is another 15 miles to home where my gear is at and it is getting close to sundown and all is wet from the rain. So I decided to reassemble the hives without veil or gloves, I was lucky I only got stung once in the process. Lesson learned is to put some more weight on top of the hives and pray a tornado does not hit them because after seeing the damage at Aurora there is no amount of weight that would hold the tops down.

Keith E. Nielson

Nebraska Beekeepers Association Editor.

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