

**Aiken Beekeepers
Association Newsletter**

The Buzz

The Education Hub for Practical Beekeeping

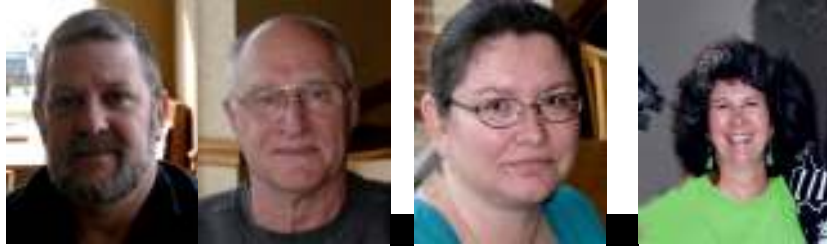
<http://aikenbeekeepers.org> April and May 2010

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Meetings will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm
in the Aiken County Agriculture Building at 1555 Richland Ave. Aiken, SC
Please join us!

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2010 Aiken Beekeepers Officers



**David
McNeely**

**Jim
Irons**

**Karen
McNeely**

**Deborah
Sasser**

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Webmaster	Jon Hill	aikenbeekeeper@gmail.com 803-648-6957

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2010 Dues are due

If you have not paid your 2010 dues, please see Karen McNeely.

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We had a very good turn out for the South Carolina State Beekeepers meeting March 6. We had 12 members present. Aiken Beekeepers were one of the largest represented. The morning was filled with a lot of information on the state of agriculture and honeybees. Master Beekeeper, Mr. Bob Cole presented us with a view of beekeeping around the world. It was amazing to see how other beekeepers work with their bees; it was like the saying –“same but different”. One thing I noticed, was that they have 12 deep frames to collect their honey. Each frame weights about 11.5 lbs each. Imagine trying to pick up those boxes. Mr. Bill Powers gave a lecture on removing bees and some of his experiences.

These are just a couple of examples of what was covered. Mike Hood talk about the State of beekeeping in South Carolina, and told us that there are 1,911 beekeepers in the state with most in the upstate. In Aiken County he has 103 listed.

If possible everyone should try to go to meeting July 15-17th at Clemson. It promises to be a good meeting.

Don't forget to read the Beekeeping Chores to remind you what needs to be done in the bee yard.

Beekeeping Chores

April:

Swarming is also on the horizon. Swarm prevention is easy in theory but difficult in practice. Swarm control is important if you want to capitalize on the main nectar flow. Watch for peanut shaped queen cells on the bottom edges of frames. It's also a good time to make splits and nucs to cut down on over crowded colonies.

Be sure you have extra equipment on hand. If you don't wish to increase your colony numbers, offer to sell your extra bees.

In order to prevent swarming: add supers, spread out the frames with brood, cut out queen cells, limit barriers to bee movement upward into supers.

Consider placing swarm traps in the Apiary to catch any swarms. Make sure all treatments are out of the hive before you add honey supers.

May:

Check your hives weekly and add supers as needed.

Hopefully, your bees didn't swarm, are queen right and healthy and are making honey.



Make sure the colonies have a vigorous queen with a nice brood pattern. Little to no brood or a patchy pattern is a sign of a bad queen. Re-queen her as soon as queens become available. The longer you wait to re-queen the weaker the colony will become. Also be vigilant about swarm prevention and control. Colonies will still swarm even into the late summer months.

Homemade Granola Recipe

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cool Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 cups quick rolled oats, uncooked
- 2 cups bran cereal flakes
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1-1/2 cup raisins
- 1 cup sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 Tablespoon molasses
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preparation: Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Line large pan with parchment paper.

Place rolled oats, bran cereal flakes, sunflower seeds, raisins, sesame seeds, pecans and coconut in a large mixing bowl. Toss gently.

Place oil, honey, molasses and vanilla in a heavy saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, mixing to combine.

Pour the honey mixture over the granola and toss gently until completely coated. Spread the granola evenly over the lined pan.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Let cool to room temperature before storing in airtight containers.

Yield: About 7 cups

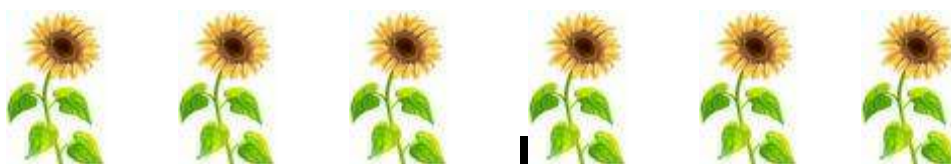
The Great Sunflower Project

We know that pollinators are declining all over the globe. You can help shed light on how to help, by joining the **Great Sunflower Project**.

To learn all about it log onto the website. www.greatsunflower.org

Don't forget to plant some Lemon Queen Sunflowers

Lemon Queen Seed packs are available at many locations, I found them at: Green Thumb West, Lowe's and General Dollar



Today is the first day of March, the last hurrah of winter and the first whisper of spring. Branches that just a few day ago were bare, now blossom with new growth.

This month our over-wintered colonies are bursting out and exploring the new landscape of color and light. However, with all these fresh blooms supplying pounds of pollen and only a trickle of nectar, keep an eye on your colonies food supply. Keep feeding, until you put on your first honey super. They would much rather have “the real thing” than sugar water from a feeder.

Mr. Charlie says now is the time to switch to the 2: 1 water to sugar solution. An easy recipe is 5 quarts of water to 10 pounds of sugar. You do not want the bees to store this sugar water; you want them to eat it. You do not want sugar water honey!

Also offer a local source of water. The farther the bees have to forage for water, the less energy they have to spend on nectar gathering. Do your best to keep them from seeking out inappropriate water sources (like the neighbor’s pool) by keeping a regular water source. There are lots of options. Keep a pan of gravel and water nearby, at all times. Add a pinch of sea salt in the mix. Another is a pan of pebbles kept under a dripping faucet. A lot of people use the plastic entrance feeder. You could also use a chicken watering device available at a farm supply store is another great way to provide your bees with water. Place some pebbles in the tray so the bees don’t drown. Bees are notoriously bad swimmers. Just make sure your girls have an uninterrupted water source.

Mr. Charlie captured his first swarm of the season on February 24, and now has another thriving colony. He is watching several other busy hives he says will swarm any day now. He said everyone’s bees will be swarming with the warmer weather.

Hopefully, we won’t experience a late freeze like last year and instead have an above average nectar flow. According to Kim Flottun, of Bee Culture Magazine 2009 was the worst honey crop on record. . . for everyone except Mr. Charlie, whose girls produced a record crop in the spring and again in the fall. I hope the Girls on SasserFrass Hill will take a lesson from his ladies and 2010 will be everyone’s most productive year on record.

Good luck and happy beekeeping.

Deb Sasser

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South Carolina State Beekeepers Spring Meeting was a big success.

The meeting was well attended, very informative and had lots of great speakers. State meetings are known for great door prizes and this meeting was no exception. Four of ABA members took home door prizes including jars, a hive body and a three pound package of bees. Aiken Beekeepers had a great turn out. It was another successful and informative meeting. It was good to see so many ABA members attending. Thanks to all the vendors that supplied the door prizes.

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Two more meeting in our area you may want to check out:

July 15 – 17th South Carolina Beekeepers meet in Clemson, SC
For more information: www.scstatebeekeepers.org

August 2 – 6th Eastern Apicultural Society Annual Conference in Boone, NC. For more details: www.easternapiculture.org

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Don't forget to support Mr. Langstroth - Write in for a Stamp

Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth known as the “Father of American Beekeeping” He also discovered “bee Space” and his invention of movable-frames in the honeybee hive, changed beekeeping forever.

We need to convince the U.S. Postal Service that a commemorative postage stamp created in honor of his 200th birthday should happen now. We need to write letters and sign petitions encouraging the Postal Service to honor Langstroth in this way at this time.

Write to: Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee

C/o Stamp Development,

U.S. Postal Service

1735 North Lynn Street, Suite 5013

Arlington, VA 22209

Check out this website: www.scifri.org

If you are one of our new beekeepers, don't be overwhelmed, just attentive. Bees are much like having a pet (yet catching a Frisbee may be a challenge) you need to tend to them, make sure they are fed, watered, protected and loved.

It is a little scary but you will figure it out, but in the meantime, attend meetings, find a mentor, ask questions, read and get lots of hands on experience.

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What does the worker bee say before she stings you?



This is going to hurt me a lot more than it hurts you !

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Please send any comments or suggestions for the website to:
Jon Hill - Webmaster aikenbeekeeper@gmail.com

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If you would like to help with articles, photos, fun facts, etc. for the newsletter.
You can e-mail your contribution to Deborah Sasser
dsasser3@comcast.net

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The Association promotes and encourages good beekeeping practices, enhancement in the knowledge base of novice, intermediate and expert beekeepers, production of honey bee products, and public education concerning the honey bee and honey.

Any person who has an interest in honey bees and beekeeping is encouraged to become a member of ABA. Membership is open to anyone; novice or expert, hobbyist or commercial beekeeper, and you are encouraged to join us.

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Please come chat with fellow beekeepers at our next meeting,
Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 7pm
There is always something to learn as we share our knowledge.
I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Deborah Sasser – Secretary – Aiken Beekeepers Association

Happy Easter

