

11/25/08

Editor's Notes - Janice Harmon

I need people to contribute to the newsletter!

I would love for the members of the Association to suggest ideas, questions, articles, know-how, etc. that you would like to possibly see in the newsletter.

This is a way for EVERYONE to get involved. You can e-mail your contribution to Janice at buzz4bees@yahoo.com.

Aiken
Beekeepers
Association

Oct. Meeting Notes

Jim Irons was our speaker this month & did a wonderful presentation on the History of Honeybees & Honey. Jim is a very knowledgeable beekeeper and provided a lot of interesting information. Thank you, Jim!

Approval of a \$5 increase in association (Aiken) dues has passed making the cost \$15 per year (state association dues have also been raised from \$5 to \$10, therefore both memberships cost a total of \$25. *State dues are optional*). The club has purchased a refractor that is available for the use of any club member.

Clemson University has been awarded a research endowment & you could win \$75 from Brushy Mountain for naming the fund.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Party!

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, 7:00pm @ the Clemson Ext. Building. Please bring a covered dish, dessert, or something to drink.

Beginners Beekeeping Course

January 26 - March 16, 2009. See *First Lessons in Beekeeping* on Pg. 2

Joint Meeting NC & SC Beekeepers

March 6-7, 2009 in York, SC



The Buzz & aikenbeekeepers.org

I'm sure you've noticed The Buzz's new look. We hope this new format will make the newsletter easier to read, and also much easier for the editor to manipulate.

Also, If you've visited aikenbeekeepers.org lately you've probably noticed that it is a state of neglect (primarily in regards to posting the newsletter,) I do apologize for not keeping up with this. However I would like to announce that as of January 2009 the website will be maintained by Deborah Sasser, and if anyone else would like to help out please contact me (beehaven2@bellsouth.net). Our goals for the website in 2009 are:

1. To be a place of reference and information about ABA to the public
2. To announce meeting and special event information
3. To regularly post The Buzz every month

-Nathanael Beach (V.P.)

First Lessons in Beekeeping - Beginner Course '09

It's time again to start gearing up for a new year, and in keeping with our tradition, the Aiken Beekeepers Association will kick off 2009 by holding our annual beginner beekeepers course. This year the course is patterned after Dadant's classic *First Lessons in Beekeeping*, which will be the text for the course. We feel that after its 2007 revision by Keith S. Delaplane, this book has become one of the best for beginning beekeepers. Each session will focus on one or two "lessons" from the book, covering all eight in this seven session short course. Teachers will include Dr. Mike Hood of Clemson University, Jonathan Hanger, Nathanael Beach, Carey Mathison, and Jim Irons. Once again our goals for the course are to thoroughly teach participants to successfully get started in their beekeeping endeavor, and equip them with resources with which they can reference in the future. Additional course details are listed below:

Dates: Every Mon. from Jan. 26th to Mar. 16, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Note: we will not hold a session on Feb. 16th, Presidents Day

Price: \$40.00/Adult, \$60.00/Couple, \$25.00/Teen (12 - 16).

Registration includes ABA membership, a text book, session handouts, and light refreshments. To sign up see Carey Mathison at the meeting, or call: (803) 649 - 6297 ext. 0



Mr. Charlie Said *by Deborah Sasser*

Mr. Charlie and I were at the flea market a few weeks ago selling the last of our fall honey. A woman in a wheelchair came by and was looking for local honey. She looked at our photo album and said she was a photographer also. She was charming, friendly and funny.

She told us she's been battling Multiple Sclerosis for over five years and asked if we were familiar with bee venom therapy? I told her I had read a lot about it online and I did think bee venom stimulates the body's immune system in a way that relieves certain symptoms of disease, but neither of us had done any bee sting therapy.

She said her mother had seen a program on PBS and the person in the video had great success. Erika said she would be willing to come over and get stung to see if it could help her walk and help alleviate her pain.

I decided to videotape her sessions and produce a documentary on Bee Sting Therapy: One Multiple Sclerosis Patient's Journey .

Erika was a documentary producer in California before being diagnosed with MS. She thought it was a great idea and has been keeping detail records of her symptoms and reactions after being stung.

She's been over three times and has received many stings. She said she could tell a big difference in her ability to walk shortly after being stung and it has helped with the pain in her back and knee as well.

Mr. Charlie skillfully picks up a bee. The bees little butt comes up in the defense mode as he places or it on Erika's leg or back.

Erika said, "It hurts a little, but compared to the big needle I have to inject myself with daily for MS.... It's really not that bad."

When I became a beekeeper just a few months ago I had no idea I would be involved in bee sting therapy. Even Mr. Charlie says ... he is pleasantly surprised with this new journey we have embarked on with our bees.

Cook's Corner - Honey Glazed Sweet Potatoes

5-6 sweet potatoes, boiled
1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup orange juice
1/3 cup butter
1 tsp salt



Arrange peeled, sliced potatoes in a greased casserole dish, spooning the combined remaining ingredients between layers. Bake at 375* for about 30 minutes, basting frequently. May also be cooked in heavy griddle on top of range.

Serves 6

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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