

The



Buzz

The Education Hub

For Practical Beekeeping

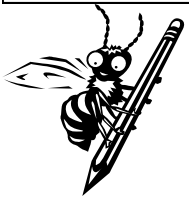
Issue #4, Volume #1

<http://aikenbeekeepers.org>

April, 2008

Editor's Notes

Janice Harmon



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.

ATTENTION ABA MEMBERS We need people to help with articles, photos, fun facts, etc. for our newsletter. This is a way for EVERYONE to get involved. You can e-mail your contribution to Janice at buzz4bees@yahoo.com.

MARCH MEETING NOTES

At our last meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from Shane Gebauer the new general Manager of Brushy Mountain Bee Farm. Shane spoke about hive health and the life cycle of the

Varroa Mite. He also gave a new perspective to CCD in respect to monocultures in the pollination industry. Many of us reaped the rewards of his coming by getting free shipping on our orders. THANKS Shane!

Another interesting segment of our meeting was the video by Debra Sasser of the swarming & reiving of a couple of Charles Lynn's hives. What an delightful pleasure that was!

In The Eye of the "BeeHolder"

Deborah Sasser



*Charles Lynn's
Swarm*

*Deborah Sasser's
Swarm*



*Deborah Sasser's
Hives*



In The News

From our Members

Catch the Buzz

Deborah Sasser

Preliminary Results Concerning the Loss of Honey Bee Colonies over the Winter 2007 -2008. A Survey Conducted by the Apiary Inspectors of America and the USDA-ARS Beltsville Honey Bee Lab.

Prepared by: Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jerry Hayes , and Jeff Pettis.

Note: This preliminary report was prepared for those stakeholders participating in the "Pollinators and Agricultural Security: An Update on Research, Conservation and Legislative Opportunities" round table called by members of the US Senate. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication at a later date.

The Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) commissioned a survey to estimate colony losses across the country between September 2007 and 2008. The USDA-ARS Beltsville Honey Bee Lab conducted a similar survey of beekeepers pollinating almonds in California in February 2008. In total nearly 18% of the country's estimated 2.44 million colonies were surveyed. A total loss of 35.2% of managed honey bee colonies was recorded. This represents a 3.2 point or 10% increase in total losses as compared to last year. The 327 operators surveyed in 2007-2008 lost on average 31.4% of their colonies. [\[1\]](#)

Forty two percent of surveyed beekeepers reported having higher than normal losses. Those reporting abnormally high losses reported having a total loss of 43.7%, while those reporting normal losses reported a 22.9% loss. In other words, beekeepers believed that loosing close to one quarter of their

Continued on Pg. 5

Saturday, March 1, 2008 I attended my first South Carolina Beekeepers Association Spring Meeting in Cayce, SC. It was very informative and well attended.

The Aiken Beekeepers Club had over a dozen members making the trip to Cayce. We were also fortunate enough to win at least six of the door prizes, ranging from Hats, Books, Hive Tools, Bee Brushes and a Case of Jars with the Lids.

They were good practical gifts and I hope everyone sent off your Thank You Cards to the generous vendors that supplied our prizes to show our appreciation.

I think my favorite part of the day was when a group of us went to Marice Barbecue for lunch. We sat around eating and asking lots of questions of our seasoned veterans. It was amazing how much information was passed along in just an hour.

I am so excited to be a new Beekeeper and I am anxious to learn all I can about the Honeybee.

I will make every effort to attend meetings and sop up information like a biscuit to honey.

New Beekeeper

Deborah Sasser



Classifieds

These are not from our members but might come in handy for some people.

5 frame NUCS with NWC queen \$80. Also have Italian/Russian cross. Ltd. quantity available May. 803-799-0900, T. Johnson, 1363 Mt. Willing Rd., Batesburg

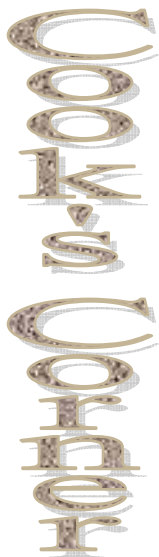
5 frame NUCS Italian queen \$75. Available Apr.-May. 864-878-4273, Mary Bell, 222 Artie Drive, Pickens.

Check the Website for more Classifieds, or to post your own.

Upcoming Events

Next Bee Meeting: **April 22, 7:00 pm:** A look at Aethina Tumida (the Small Hive Beetle)

Farmer's Market Day: May 10, 2008 8am-12pm



Honey Glazed Sweet Potatoes

- 5-6 sweet potatoes, boiled
- ½ cup honey
- ½ 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 degrees about 30 minutes, basting frequently. Serves 6.





THIS MONTH IN THE BEE YARD

May

About once a week, check each hive and determine where the bees are working. If one colony is working in their third and top super and another colony is only working in the bottom of three supers, shift the supers around. This is sometimes called equalizing the supers. Move a super from where it is not being used to a hive where it will be used. Add another super when the bees begin working in the top super. If the super to be added is drawn comb, it may be placed on top of the other supers. If the super to be added is foundation, it should be placed above "their super" and below all other extracting or foundation supers. Toward the end of the month, add an additional super only after the last super added is mostly capped. When the nectar flow stops, remove any unused supers of foundation. This will prevent the bees from chewing and damaging the new foundation, as they will do, when no nectar is available.

Supering at the right time can also have an impact on swarming. Dr. Taylor had this to say on the subject of supering. "Right now I am making the point that if you are late supering, then you are going to get swarms, because that nectar is going to go into brood combs and make them unavailable to the queen for egg laying."

Between the 2nd and 3rd week after completing the first round of checks, all hives are again checked. During this second check only three or four frames with brood are removed from the center of the brood nest.

"Brood Inspection Checklist"

"Inspecting the brood combs of a honey bee colony is a useful way - and sometimes the only way - to determine the health and general condition of the colony. However, you have to know what you are looking at - and what that means - to make the diagnosis.

In general, a healthy brood comb simply 'looks healthy'. The brood cappings have a 'pie crust' color; the larvae are white, glistening and 'fat'. The cappings of the brood cells are uniform and the overall pattern is solid, with few holes or skips. A good queen will start laying eggs in the lower center of the combs and radiate out from there. Once the oldest brood emerges, the queen lays in those cells, and the youngest brood on the comb will now be in the center. Once the brood-rearing cycle gets underway in the spring or following the introduction of a new queen, all stages of brood should be found at each inspection.

THE HOW-TO-DO-IT of BEEKEEPING

How to Stop Worry and Anxiety About Swarming

The first step here is to get yourself in tune with nature. The bees have been swarming since the beginning of time. They will not suddenly stop just because you have taken an interest in them. Therefore, if you are confined to office, classroom, shop or fields, wherever you gain your livelihood, on a warm day in early June when you feel certain the bees may be swarming themselves crazy, put your mind at rest. It will not be the end of the world or the end of your honey crop. The next time you go to your bee yard you will find everything much as before. A check of the supers will suggest that there have been some swarms perhaps, but in two or three weeks it will hardly matter. Nature goes her way-there is no need to fight her-and certainly all your worrying will not make any difference except to your own serenity.



In The News Cont.

One of the symptoms of Colony Collapse Disorder is the complete absence of bees in dead colonies or in apiaries. The AIA survey was not able to differentiate between true cases of CCD and colonies lost due to causes that share the “absence of dead bees” symptom. However, the 36% of operations that reported having at least some of their colonies die with this symptom had a total loss of 41.3% of their colonies. This compares to the 17.5% colony loss reported by beekeepers not reporting losses with this symptomology. At least 71% of all colony deaths can be attributed non-CCD causes, underlying the need for research, not only into CCD, but into pollinator health in general.



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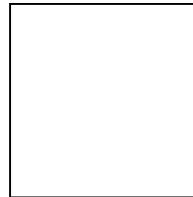
When: April 22nd, 7:00pm
Where: Aiken Agricultural Center,
 1555 Richland Ave, E.

This month we will be taking a look at and discussing the Small Hive Beetle and various ways to control it.

***This Month's
 Bee Meeting***

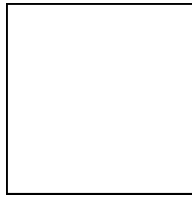
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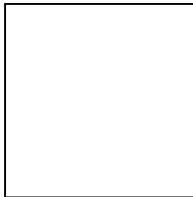
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