

**Aiken Beekeepers  
Association Newsletter**

# The Buzz

**The Education Hub for Practical Beekeeping**

<http://aikenbeekeepers.org> February and March 2010



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!



## **2010 Aiken Beekeepers Officers**



**David  
McNeely**

**Jim  
Irons**

**Karen  
McNeely**

**Deborah  
Sasser**



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### **Membership Dues are now due for 2010**

ABA dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per family (Checks should be made out to the Aiken Beekeepers Association) Payments may be made at any of our monthly meetings.

State Dues are an additional \$10 per person or \$20 per family

Karen would like to send the dues to Clemson in February so please pay as soon as possible.

**McNeely**

I would like to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president. I know I do not have as much experience being a beekeeper as many of you.

As a beekeepers association we are here to help each other become better. To this end, I will be calling upon many to provide input and guidance during this tenure.

I would like for our association to become more active in our county and working with surrounding bee associations. I also want to encourage our members to become more active in support of the state organization.

Most of the research suggests that if honeybees are to be saved, it will be by the hobby beekeepers.

Your elected officers have had their first meeting and gotten our ideas for the first quarter put into place. We want to help the Aiken Beekeepers Association to be the best stewards of the honeybee.

**Beekeeping Chores**

**February:** Check your hives for stores and feed, if necessary.

Remember the hives are beginning to build up for the spring nectar flow. Medicate as needed.

Finish repairing old equipment and construct new. Prepare sites for new hives; remove dead colonies and the equipment associated with them.

It is also a good time to plant White Dutch clover seed and sow it everywhere you can.

Do some reading. There are lots of informative books full of great information.

So when the weather breaks you will be ready to tackle any problem.

Order Queens and / or packages.

Guys DO NOT FORGET VALENTINE'S DAY.



**March:** As a rule, you should avoid opening a hive when the ambient temperature drops below 50 degrees, but check hive for stores and feed if necessary.

If you medicated remember to remove medications in time for the nectar flow.

Monitor hives to be certain they are queen right and not preparing to swarm.

Install nucs and packages.

Feed and monitor them.

Check hives for making splits and be prepared for swarms.

**“My New Year resolution is to eat more Honey”      Deborah Sasser**

I have made lots of unrealistic resolution throughout the years...such as eating less and exercising more, I even made a resolution not to make any New Year's resolutions. But this year I think I will be able to keep my resolution. With all the

health benefits of honey and knowing my girls made it, “eating more honey” should be one of the healthiest and easiest New Year resolutions I have ever made.



### **Honey Valentine Cookies**

**Valentine’s Day Cookie Recipe** Ingredients required are:

**1/4 tsp almond extract, 3/4 cup honey, 2 1/2 cups flour, 3/4 cup butter, softened and 1/2 cup finely chopped almonds.**

#### **Steps of Preparation:**

- Seeking the help of electric mixer – prepare the mixture by beating butter, honey and almond extract.
- Add flour to the mixture, a little at a time and keep blending till the mixture becomes soft.
- Add almonds to the mixture.
- Cut prepared dough into heart shapes and place on baking sheet
- Bake at 300 degrees for approximately 20 minutes (ovens vary)
- Let it cool for few minutes and enjoy!!
- Share with your sweetie.

#### **To use honey in any of your favorite baked goods, follow these tips:**

- Because of its high fructose content, honey tastes twice as sweet as sugar, so start by replacing up to half the sugar called for with honey.
- For every cup of honey, reduce the total liquid in the recipe by 1/4 cup.
- Because honey is acidic, add 1 tsp of baking soda for each cup of honey used.
- Reduce oven temperature by 25-F degrees to prevent over-browning.

**Honey has marvelous keeping qualities due to its ability to absorb and retain moisture. This retards drying out and the staling of baked goods. Cakes and cookies in which honey is an ingredient stay fresh and moist much longer than those made without it.**

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### **South Carolina State Beekeepers Meeting**

The South Carolina State Beekeepers Spring Meeting is coming up March 6, 2010. It will be held at the Farm Bureau Building in Cayce, S.C. The meetings are very informative and they always have great door prizes. Please plan to attend. You will be glad you did. Check out the [www.scstatebeekeepers.org](http://www.scstatebeekeepers.org) for more details.

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### **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**. All you need to do is plant Lemon Queen Sunflowers and count the number of bees that come.

To learn all about it log onto the website. [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org)

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**Mr. Charlie Says.....**

**Deborah Sasser**

“And now let us welcome the New Year...Full of things that have never been.”

Rainer Maria Rilke

I love that quote and I love the anticipation I feel for the New Year.

As we welcome 2010, I look forward to my second winter with my girls.

I hope to come out of the winter with nine strong hives.

We have just had our first real taste of winter. With the temperatures dropping into the teens and low 20s at night and barely reaching into the 40s during the day for weeks now. It is frigid, windy and wet. Not a good combination for bees.

Bees gather their firewood just as we do. They collect it, season it and conveniently store it nearby. Rather than wood or natural gas, the bee's firewood is capped honey. Bees gather their unseasoned fuel (nectar), season it (convert it to honey) and then store it (place it in capped honey combs.) Honey is the specialized fuel burned by the colony's furnace. Each little cell of honey can figuratively be compared to a miniature barrel of fuel oil or a few sticks of firewood.

Where is the hives heating furnace?

It's within each individual bee. Each bee consumes honey, metabolizes it (burns it) at the cellular level and produces heat and muscular energy. Each individual bee's heat is contributed to the cluster and communal heat is produced. Individual bees are cold blooded, but a healthy cluster of bees within a hive with lots of honey has a great deal of control over its group temperature. Bee cluster can withstand a bitter amount of cold for many weeks. Some authorities feel coldness suppresses bacterial spread.

With all that said I still want to help my girls conserve as much energy as possible...

so I went to the Fabric Shop and purchased thick vinyl and wrapped my hives.

(Leaving the entrances open.) I had some vinyl left from last year, but since I doubled my hives I had to double my materials.

I feel if I can save the bees any energy and warmth, why not help them out.

The girls on SasserFrass Hill appreciate all the help they can get.

Mr. Charlie says... when this cold snap is over we should start feeding the girls the 1:1 sugar solution. The Queen will start laying and building up the colony... and it won't be long before the spring nectar flow . . . and we are optimistic for a bountiful season.

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### **Write in For a Langstroth 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 200<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.scifri.org)

## CATCH THE BUZZ

Bee Culture Magazine comes out once a month, but news and information is constant. To get you the very latest information from the world of beekeeping and all the things we touch as fast as possible, Catch The Buzz came to be. We routinely post articles of interest, news releases and other informational bits and pieces that never make it to the magazine. Maybe not daily but at least a couple times a week. If you'd like to automatically receive these FREE POSTINGS via email, bee sure to subscribe to Catch The Buzz ... Only From Bee Culture, the Magazine Of American Beekeeping.

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If you have not tried the Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Vanilla Honey Bee It is quite tasty. I tried it for the first time and love it, and I also love the idea that Haagen-Dazs is putting their money where their mouth is, by giving millions for bee research to help our petite pollinators. They also have a very educational and interactive web site at: [helphoneybees.com](http://helphoneybees.com)

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### **Bee decline linked to falling biodiversity**

By Richard Black Environment correspondent, BBC News website

**Bees fed pollen from a range of plants showed signs of having a healthier immune system than those eating pollen from a single type, scientists found. UK and the Netherlands reported that the diversity of bees and other insects was falling alongside the diversity of plants they fed on and pollinated. Research has traced a possible link between the diversity of bee's diets and the strength of their immune systems.**

**They found that bees fed with a mix of five different pollens had higher levels of glucose oxidase compared to bees fed with pollen from one single type of flower, even if that single flower had a higher protein content. Bees make glucose oxidase to preserve honey and food for larvae against infestation by microbes – which protects the hive against disease. So that means they have better antiseptic protection compared to other bees, and so would be more resistant to pathogen invasion.**

**Bees fed a five-pollen diet also produce more fat than those eating only a single variety - again possibly indicating a more robust immune system, as the insects make anti-microbial chemicals in their fat bodies.**

**A possible conclusion of the new research is that the insects need to eat a variety of proteins in order to synthesize their various chemical defenses; without their varied diet, they are more open to disease. Bees often do better in urban areas than in the countryside, because city parks and gardens contain a higher diversity of plant life.**

To read more log onto: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature>

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

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](mailto:dsasser3@comcast.net)

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.

Please come chat with fellow beekeepers at our next meeting,  
Tuesday, February 23, 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

Day

Happy Valentine's



